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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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RICHARD NICOLELLO

7

PRESIDING OFFICER

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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County Executive and Legislative Building

14

1550 Franklin Avenue

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Mineola, New York

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Monday, May 20, 2019

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1:14 P.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

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16 LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS

17 Minority Leader

18 1st Legislative District

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20 LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

21 2nd Legislative District

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23 LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES

24 3rd Legislative District

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3 LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

4 5th Legislative District

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6 LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

7 6th Legislative District

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9 LEGISLATOR VINCENT T. MUSCARELLA

10 8th Legislative District

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12 LEGISLATOR ELLEN BIRNBAUM

13 10th Legislative District

14

15 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

16 11th Legislative District

17

18 LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

19 12th Legislative District

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21 LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT

22 13th Legislative District

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24 LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

25 14th Legislative District

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3 LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

4 15th Legislative District

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6 LEGISLATOR ANDREW DRUCKER

7 16th Legislative District

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9 LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER

10 17th Legislative District

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12 LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

13 18th Legislative District

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15 LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

16 19th Legislative District

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18 MICHAEL PULITZER

19 Clerk of the Legislature

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: As we
3 always do, we start with the Pledge of
4 Allegiance and I ask Legislator Bill Gaylor to
5 lead us in the pledge.

6 Thank you everyone for joining us
7 today. It's an overflow crowd. I know that
8 many of you are here for the Office of
9 Asian-American Affairs and appointments to the
10 counsel. So, we are going to do things a
11 little out of order today to accommodate this
12 large crowd. We will lead off with a point of
13 personal privilege by Legislator Ford. We
14 will move into our top cop presentation and
15 there will be a point of personal privilege by
16 Legislator Walker. Then we are going to the
17 Rules and the full legislature to approve
18 those appointments with respect to the
19 Asian-American Affairs Counsel and to the
20 executive director. We are moving that up to
21 the beginning of the calendar. We will do
22 public comment after that. Let's get started.

23 To lead things off, Legislator Ford
24 has a point of personal privilege.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very

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2 much Presiding Officer Nicoletto. Today I
3 have with me and I'm very happy to introduce
4 everyone to some of the students from the
5 seventh grade at the Long Beach Middle School
6 and they are here with their teacher Mrs.
7 Laura Swan. They are here in support of the
8 Styrofoam ban legislation that we will be
9 voting on later today. I hope all of you can
10 give them a warm welcome.

11 It's very important that when we
12 listen to our constituents it's very, very
13 good but it's even more important when we
14 listen to our children. I think today they
15 have a message that will be quite clear, and I
16 think that all of you will appreciate the
17 effort that they have put into this and their
18 reasons why they support the ban on
19 polystyrene.

20 Without further ado, I'd like to
21 introduce and call upon Laura Swan who will
22 introduce everybody.

23 MS. SWAN: I'm more than honored
24 to be here. I'm a resident of Long Beach, New
25 York for my entire life. I've swam in the

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2 ocean. I'm a lifeguard. I'm honored to
3 represent my seventh grade middle school
4 students who are representing the Stewards of
5 the Sea efforts and the initiatives that
6 follow our school's month of March. We went
7 to what is cardboard trays versus Styrofoam
8 trays. And I'd like to introduce the director
9 of food and nutrition services, as well as
10 Mike Devito to come down and take a moment to
11 speak to their initiative in our district.

12 MR. CAMLET: Hi. Steven Camlet
13 director of food and nutrition at Long Beach
14 schools.

15 MR. DEVITO: Michael Devito,
16 assistant superintendent of Long Beach public
17 schools.

18 MR. CAMLET: With the support of
19 Mr. Devito and the Long Beach administration
20 in the school district, I had come to them
21 about a year or so ago trying to make a change
22 in some of the products that we use. The
23 Styrofoam trays, plastic straws and plastic
24 water bottles. The story starts, I'm a scuba
25 diver and my favorite area in the world to

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2 dive is the Long Island waters. And every
3 time I go down 200, 300 feet to go to a wreck
4 invariably I come up with a trash bag full of
5 plastic Styrofoam bottles, paper, plastic
6 bags. I love this area and I want to make
7 sure we keep it clean, healthy and safe for
8 our children.

9 MS. SWAN: I would like to thank
10 them both for their initiatives this month.
11 If you'd like to say your peace.

12 MR. DEVITO: I just want to thank
13 everybody for giving us the time to speak here
14 today and I also want to thank all the
15 students for all their advocacy efforts and
16 for Ms. Swan for her hard work and Mr.
17 Camlet. It's an initiative that we feel very
18 strongly about. Living in Long Beach and
19 being part of the school system the
20 environment is extremely important to us. So
21 anything that we can do to take the lead to
22 make it a healthier environment for all of the
23 residents and especially for our students is
24 of utmost importance to us.

25 So on Earth Day this year we

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2 decided to abandoned all of our Styrofoam
3 trays and go forward with the cardboard trays
4 for the rest of the school year as an
5 initiative to take the lead on this. So
6 thanks again for your time.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
8 much Mr. Devito. As assistant school
9 superintendent you are helping us lead the way
10 and I'm sure now we are going to hear from
11 your students.

12 MS. SWAN: Thanks again. The
13 truth about Styrofoam. It may keep your
14 coffee warm and hot without burning your hand
15 but plastic foam, more commonly known as
16 Styrofoam, is one of the most harmful
17 materials around when it comes to the
18 environment. This petroleum-based plastic has
19 gained a lot of negative attention in recent
20 years prompting bans in many cities such as
21 New York City, Washington D.C. And recently,
22 not on my paper, but Maine. So we are really
23 exciting to be part of this movement here.

24 My students are going to come up
25 and read the fact sheet about Styrofoam and

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2 the little known secret is the term Styrofoam
3 is actually a trade name. It's polystyrene
4 foam that's created by the Dow Chemical
5 Company which nearly everyone calls
6 Styrofoam. So it's actually not Styrofoam at
7 all.

8 So I'm going to call up one of my
9 students and we are all prepared to read
10 something today. This is Anthony.

11 ANTHONY: It is known as a
12 hazardous substance. Like all plastics,
13 Styrofoam is a petro chemical. It comes from
14 petroleum, which is know to cause
15 developmental humanlogical, renal and
16 immunological disorders.

17 Styrofoam is made of puff number
18 six plastic polystyrene, made of many
19 styrenes. Styrene is classified as a known
20 hazardous substance and has many ties to
21 cancer. It's hard to conclusively tag
22 distinct chemical to cancer because cancer is
23 still very difficult to understand and testing
24 is done on animals.

25 Styrofoam is also made up of other

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2 hazardous substances like benzene. The scope
3 of the ramifications of these toxins on the
4 human body are still unclear but however,
5 effects on nonhuman animals are unanimously
6 harmful. And people who use and work in an
7 environment with high concentrations of
8 styrene have higher instances of cancer
9 neurological issues, headaches, depression
10 fatigue and more.

11 MS. FRIETAG: My name is
12 Jacqueline Frietag. It leaches into your food
13 and drink. Especially when paired with liquid
14 and heat a Styrofoam container has toxins like
15 benzene and styrene seep into the contents.
16 Even with dried food contact with Styrofoam is
17 unhealthy. A huge portion of our food contain
18 styrene contamination. It's in the air and on
19 your skin. The most common route of exposure
20 to these harmful chemicals is simply
21 inhalation. You also get exposure each time
22 you touch it since the chemicals can seep into
23 your body through the skin.

24 MS. PATTON: My name is Re Re
25 Patton and Styrofoam is toxic just to make

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2 it. The industry ranks the fifth largest
3 creator of toxic waste in the USA. That
4 includes liquid and solid waste. That's
5 gross.

6 Styrofoam is a principal litter
7 meaning it's everywhere. Because Styrofoam is
8 so light and crumbles easily, it is almost too
9 easy for it to end up out in our woods, rivers
10 and prairies. Once it's there it's there to
11 stay. Styrofoam will break down into
12 microscopic styrenes and other harmful
13 chemicals and they will linger in the soil and
14 water for centuries to come. It's an
15 especially serious problem in our world's
16 oceans.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And it
18 still depletes the ozone layer. You may
19 remember the ruckus around banning CFCs in the
20 '90s. Well, Styrofoam now utilizes this
21 chemicals cousin instead, which still does
22 harm to the ozone layer. Styrene has a way of
23 evaporating it's fumes into the air, which is
24 bad for our lungs as well as the ozone layer
25 that protects us from the sun's cancer causing

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2 rays.

3 MR. SILVIA: My name is Yenna
4 Silvia and I will be reading to you about
5 Styrofoam. And here, just like with oil,
6 there are spills. Styrene and benzene related
7 illnesses occur in much higher concentrations
8 at spill sites. What's worst, the full
9 affects of exposure to spillage are still
10 unknown.

11 Even in the landfill it's not safe
12 according to the EPA as styrene leaches from
13 landfills into our drinking water. It causes
14 liver, kidney or circulatory system problems.
15 Minorities and people living in poverty are
16 more likely to live near landfills and
17 factories and are disproportionately affected.

18 MS. SWAN: Stewards of the Sea.
19 Take a stand everybody.

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: I want to thank
21 our students and school administration for
22 these enlightening remarks. I think it's very
23 important that we hear even scientific
24 knowledge in regard to Styrofoam or
25 polystyrene as we call it.

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2 As you can see, there are Stewards
3 of the Sea. And if they turned around you
4 will see that it's hashtag no foam. The only
5 foam we want to see is from the waves itself.
6 That's the only foam we want to see.
7 Especially living on the barrier island.

8 For each of the students I have a
9 citation for you, a certificate of
10 recognition. And I will just read basically
11 that I'm representing Nassau County's Fourth
12 Legislative District to hereby present this
13 certificate with heartfelt appreciation for
14 all your hard work and the inspiration you
15 provide to your fellow students and society.
16 And that is why the Nassau County Legislature
17 is proud to applaud your efforts as
18 environmental ambassador.

19 So each of the students, for the
20 hard work you've done in your advocacy, you
21 are ambassadors. Spread the word and let's
22 get Styrofoam banned in our communities.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
24 very much. We will be considering the
25 legislation later. However, the students have

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2 to go back to school, much to their chagrin.
3 We are going to the beginning of the calendar
4 Legislator Ford is going to take them
5 outside.

6 At this point I would like to
7 invite up James McDermott, the president of
8 the PBA for the purpose of presenting this
9 month's top cop.

10 MR. MCDERMOTT: Good afternoon.
11 Thank you once again for inviting us to do the
12 top cop. Legislative top cops for May 2019
13 are Third Precinct police officer Eileen White
14 and Brian O'Sullivan.

15 On April 17 at approximately 7:20
16 p.m. Third Precinct officers were dispatched
17 to Searingtown for a 15 year old male in
18 cardiac arrest. Police officer Eileen white
19 was a block away from where the call was
20 dispatched. When officer White arrived at the
21 scene, the 15 year old was in full cardiac
22 arrest, not breathing, without a pulse.
23 Officer White radioed for assistance and
24 immediately began CPR.

25 Officer O'Sullivan arrived at the

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2 scene shortly after and together both officers
3 continued lifesaving CPR. Officers then used
4 a defibrillator, which delivered a shock to
5 the 15 year old's heart. The aided regained a
6 pulse but the aided was still not breathing on
7 his own. Both officers continued CPR until
8 Nassau County ambulance arrived at the scene.
9 Police officer White then drove the ambulance
10 to Cohen's Children's Hospital at LIJ, while
11 officer O'Sullivan assisted police medics
12 inside the ambulance.

13 While at the hospital the 15 year
14 old was stabilized and began breathing on his
15 own. Good story. The 15 year is expected to
16 make a full recovery thanks to the fast and
17 quick actions of officers White and O'Sullivan
18 as well as the cooperation and teamwork with
19 the Nassau County Police medics. That is why
20 we are happy to name them both legislative top
21 cops for May 2019. Thank you.

22 MS. WHITE: I would like to thank
23 the legislators and the PBA for nominating us
24 for the top cop award. Thank you.

25 MR. PALMER: On behalf of the

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2 Commissioner who could not be here today, I
3 just want to say thank you to the public at
4 large for their continued support, for the
5 legislators here today and for the time taken
6 out of everybody's day and time to just honor
7 these cops for a job well done. Thank you
8 very much on behalf of the department.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
10 very much. It is, as always, incredibly
11 inspiring to hear what our police officers are
12 doing on a regular basis in Nassau County. I
13 know to get to the point where you were able
14 to administer CPR takes years of training,
15 years of skill, years of dedication. But
16 beyond that, to be able to think and act in an
17 emergency situation is something that is truly
18 awesome. We always wonder what you would do
19 in a situation like that and most people would
20 have difficulty thinking clearly and doing the
21 right thing. But the fact that you did so
22 with utmost professionalism and skill to save
23 this young man's life we are very proud of
24 you. Congratulations. I would invite you up
25 to the dais. We have a citation to present to

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2 you.

3 We have another point of personal
4 privilege which is by Legislator Walker.

5 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you
6 Presiding Officer. Laura Schaefer and I and
7 actually Arnold Drucker also represents a part
8 of Hicksville. So we certainly couldn't be
9 prouder of our Hicksville Fire Department and
10 our medics, EMTs and all they do for the
11 Hicksville community.

12 On April 4th at approximately 7:47
13 in the morning the Hicksville Fire Department
14 was notified of a house fire with persons
15 trapped at 54 Park Avenue in Hicksville.
16 Immediately upon arrival, chief of the
17 department, Robert Chiz, transmitted a signal
18 ten, working house fire, thereby summoning
19 mutual aid. Chief Chiz then assessed the
20 scene, located a neighbor and ascertained a
21 resident remained trapped inside.

22 At this point Hicksville paramedic
23 Scott Dipino arrived on the scene. Whereby
24 Chief Chiz and Scott Dipino attempted entry
25 through the front doorway. Due to

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2 deteriorating conditions, the first entry was
3 unsuccessful. A second entry was immediately
4 attempted through a nearby side door, at which
5 point the trapped occupant was visualized
6 through a window and Chief Chiz and our medic
7 Dipino got her through the window and saved
8 the woman from being trapped in that fire.

9 The occupant, an elderly female,
10 suffered smoke inhalation and minor
11 lacerations. She was transported to NUMC and
12 received medical attention there. And as far
13 as we understand, the woman has made a full
14 recovery.

15 We have Chief Chiz here and our
16 medic Scott Dipino. If they would please come
17 forward. We also have a lot of the members of
18 the Hicksville Fire Department and I can't
19 thank them enough for all of them being here.
20 And just before I have Chief Chiz and Scott
21 speak, we really had a tough time in the
22 Hicksville Fire Department over a very short
23 span of time. Shortly after this event
24 occurred there were several other serious
25 house fires. They were also very involved in

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2 the very serious fire over by our wonderful
3 Francesca's Bakery on 107. Legends of
4 Broadway. It's right there. That whole strip
5 of stores. They were very involved in that
6 fire. Although technically it's a Bethpage
7 fire district that covers it. Hicksville was
8 very, very involved.

9 The day after that serious fire we
10 had a very bad fire in a commercial business
11 on West John Street in Hicksville and that
12 building ended up being totally destroyed.
13 But once again, every single occupant was safe
14 and we cannot thank the fire department enough
15 for that. I'm going to let our chief and
16 Scott speak. They can say a few words. But
17 we owe you all a tremendous debt of
18 gratitude.

19 Just a reminder, when our fire
20 fighters are out there, leaving their homes,
21 and you really see how serious it is. I
22 happened to be at the fire over by Legends. I
23 was also at the fire on West John Street. And
24 you see what could very easily happen and any
25 of our fire fighters being trapped in a

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2 situation or getting hurt very, very badly.
3 And a reminder that they do this
4 volunteering. There is no pay other than the
5 gratitude they get and the wonderful feeling
6 that they helped save many times property and
7 certainly human life.

8 So Chief if you would like to say a
9 few words and Scott.

10 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Legislator
11 Walker if I can say one word. I also want to
12 thank you because having grown up a couple of
13 miles down the road in Plainview the
14 Hicksville Fire Department has always been
15 legendary. You were one of the pioneers in
16 fire fighting in Nassau County for almost 100
17 years. Growing up I always remember all of
18 the tremendous incidents of bravery and
19 heroism that you guys performed on a day in
20 day out basis. We are so grateful for your
21 bravery and what you do to keep us safe every
22 single day and every single night. And to
23 echo Legislator Walker, it's been a rough
24 couple of weeks for you guys. You guys answer
25 the bell each and every time with such

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2 bravery. It's just so overwhelming to me. I
3 also want to extend my gratitude and thanks to
4 all of you as well.

5 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Legislator
6 Ford.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'm sorry I
8 wasn't here for your full presentation. But
9 as you know, we were celebrating our young
10 children and I know that many of you when you
11 were younger you probably dreamed of growing
12 up to be fireman. So welcome.

13 When we talk about your bravery it
14 is unprecedented. The jobs you go to you
15 never know what's facing you. When you are
16 riding to someplace it may seem like it's
17 going to be an easy fire. The next thing you
18 know it's like something totally engulfed.
19 Just some of the tragedies that you come
20 upon. But I think that for me, the one that I
21 will always remember even about the Hicksville
22 Fire Department is after 9-11 when the New
23 York City Fire Department was faced with
24 burying 343 of their own. How do you do it on
25 a limited company? And all of our fire

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2 departments within Nassau and Suffolk County
3 stepped up, helped out, helped their brothers
4 during this tragic time. I will never forget
5 the hospitality, the warmth and the kindness
6 that you showed. And you truly made us all
7 remember and realize what a family the fire
8 services are.

9 And I want to thank you very much
10 because I think sometimes we forget to say it
11 and you were thanked once before. But I think
12 something like this we should always remember
13 to always be grateful for everything that you
14 do. Thank you.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you
16 Legislators Ford. Legislators Rhoads.

17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I just wanted
18 to add my congratulation as well. As many of
19 you know, I have been a fire fighter in the
20 Wantagh Fire Department for the last 27
21 years. I had the honor of being a line
22 officer for nine of those years. What you
23 don't see is the hundreds if not thousands of
24 hours of training that each of these fire
25 fighters go through every single year to

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2 enable them to perform the duties they perform
3 so heroically. In doing that, you always hope
4 that in that moment you will be equal to the
5 task.

6 In the case of these amazing
7 individuals we are so grateful you were equal
8 to the task. The one dream that you have and
9 the reason that everybody gets involved in the
10 fire service is the opportunity to be able to
11 save life. The fact that you've accomplished
12 that and done it in such an amazing fashion is
13 a true testament to your professionalism.
14 This is a volunteer fire service. They do it
15 without pay. But they are every bit of
16 professional as anyone in any department who's
17 compensated to actually perform that work.

18 The members of the Hicksville Fire
19 Department, the members of all of our
20 volunteer fire departments take tremendous
21 pride in the work that they do and the service
22 they provide to their community.

23 And so incidentally, since I know
24 that some of the departments are out now doing
25 their fund drive walk, if somebody shows up at

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2 your door in a fire department uniform please
3 make sure you make a contribution. Because
4 they do their work to protect you every single
5 day.

6 But for the members of the
7 Hicksville Fire Department here, as a member
8 of the service, I cannot be more proud of each
9 and every one of you for what you accomplished
10 at this alarm and for the professionalism you
11 demonstrate every single day. It is what
12 everyone gets into this profession to do and
13 you've done it so tremendously well. So
14 congratulations and God bless.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you
16 Steve. I just too would like to add before we
17 have our chief and Scott speak. Many of your
18 wives or your daughters are involved in the
19 ladies auxiliary. I happen to be a member
20 almost ten years in the ladies auxiliary of
21 the Hicksville Fire Department and I couldn't
22 be prouder to be a part of that organization
23 and to be able to help you out whenever we
24 possibly can.

25 But again, I want to thank them,

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2 because all the families, all your families
3 give up a lot so that you can do what you do.
4 I just want to add too, not only are these
5 wonderful honorees part of the Hicksville Fire
6 Department, but Chief Chiz works over at OEM
7 for us here in the county and Scott is one of
8 our police medics. So they wear multiple hats
9 and I cannot thank them enough and I am very,
10 very blessed to call you all my dear friends.
11 So Chief Chiz.

12 MR. CHIZ: Thank you everybody.
13 I wish to thank all of the legislators for
14 their kind words for presenting these
15 presentations for us today. I'd like to thank
16 the members of the Hicksville Fire Department
17 that are here supporting us. My family. And
18 like you said Rose, OEM which is very special,
19 they treat me excellent over there and help me
20 a lot. Thank you very much everybody.

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Scott.

22 MR. DIPINO: Nice to see you
23 guys. You guys have been one of the greatest
24 supporters of the emergency services
25 throughout Nassau County. And as the chief

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2 said, we can't thank you enough. Every time
3 we come to you guys you answer back with how
4 can we help. We hope that continues through
5 to the future. Thank you for the recognition
6 and thank you for being a part of our service
7 as much as we try to support you guys on the
8 other side. Have great day.

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I'm going to
10 ask of you to go out back to the side and take
11 group photos and your families can all join us
12 too please. Thank you so much.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:
14 Mr. Pulitzer call the roll for the full
15 legislator and then call the roll for Rules
16 after that.

17 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.
18 Deputy Presiding Officer Howard
19 Kopel.

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

21 MR. PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
22 Presiding Officer Denise Ford.

23 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

24 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Siela
25 Bynoe.

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2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

3 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Carrie
4 Solages.

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

6 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Debra
7 Mule.

8 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

9 MR. PULITZER: Legislator C.
10 William Gaylor the Third.

11 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

12 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Vincent
13 Muscarella.

14 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

15 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Ellen
16 Birnbaum.

17 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

18 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia
19 DeRiggi-Whitton.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

21 Here.

22 MR. PULITZER: Legislator James
23 Kennedy.

24 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

25 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Thomas

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2 McKevitt.

3 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

4 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura

5 Schaefer.

6 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

7 MR. PULITZER: Legislator John

8 Ferretti, Jr.

9 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

10 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold

11 Drucker.

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

13 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Rose

14 Marie Walker.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

16 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Joshua

17 Lafazan.

18 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

19 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Steven

20 Rhoads.

21 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

22 MR. PULITZER: Minority Leader

23 Kevan Abrahams.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

25 MR. PULITZER: Presiding Officer

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2 Richard Nicoletto.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

4 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Now would
6 you please call the Rules Committee.

7 (Meeting was recessed at 1:43 p.m.)

8 (Meeting was reconvened at 1:50
9 p.m.)

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm going
11 to call all the appointments together. You
12 will be able to speak on each and every
13 appointment after we have called them and they
14 are before the legislature. Here we go.

15 Item 60 Resolution 79. Item 61
16 Resolution 80. Item 62 Resolution 81. Item
17 63 Resolution 82. Item 64 Resolution 83.
18 Item 65 Resolution 84. Item 66 Resolution
19 85. Item 67 Resolution 86. Item 68
20 Resolution 87. Item 69 Resolution 88. Item
21 70 Resolution 89. Item 71 Resolution 90.
22 Item 72 Resolution 91. Item 73 Resolution
23 92. Item 75 Resolution 94. Item 76
24 Resolution 95. Item 77 Resolution 96. Item
25 78 Resolution 97. Item 79 Resolution 98.

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2 Item 80 Resolution 99. Item 81 Resolution
3 100. Item 82 Resolution 101.

4 Item 60 is a resolution confirming
5 the county executive's appointment of Farrah
6 Mozawalla as executive director for the Office
7 of Asian-American Affairs. We will be
8 bringing Farrah up in a couple of moments but
9 I want to call the other items first.

10 Item 61, resolution confirming the
11 county executive's appointment to the
12 Asian-American Advisory Counsel of the
13 following individuals. Ammad Sheikh,
14 Christine Liu, Rajiv Jadhav, Rocky Singson,
15 Sadia Chaudhury, Dr. Isma Chaudhry, Abdul Aziz
16 Bhuiyan, Sunita Manjrekar, Tess Ma, Satnum
17 Parhar, Vanna Ye, Bhavani Srinivasan, Jamillah
18 Abdul-Kareem, Nisha Bhalla, Jensen Ambachen,
19 Esquire, Abraham Thomas, Bryant Lew, Jasbir
20 Singh, Guodong Zhang, Naeem Bawla, Esquire and
21 Juleigh Chin.

22 Moved by Legislator Schaefer.
23 Seconded by Legislator Birnbaum. So now they
24 are all before the legislature. I have a
25 number of slips. I saw that Farrah was

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2 approaching the podium. Do you want to join
3 us Farrah?

4 MS. MOZAWALLA: Would it be okay
5 if we kept the doors open because there's a
6 lot of people outside and I know they won't be
7 a part of this.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You seem
9 to have a lot of friends here. Let me ask
10 you, what district do you live in.

11 MS. MOZAWALLA: I live in
12 Legislator Solages'.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm glad
14 it's not mine that's all. Go ahead.

15 MS. MOZAWALLA: First off, I
16 would like to thank the county executive for
17 my nomination and for the entire board's
18 nomination. I would like to thank the
19 Presiding Officer and the entire legislative
20 body for putting this up for nomination and
21 approving it hopefully and just to give us a
22 platform and a voice.

23 But most of all I would like to
24 thank the entire community. This community is
25 so supportive and we have so much potential.

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2 And we need to rejoice in the fact that we
3 have this potential and we need to work
4 together and become united because our unity
5 is our power. I'm hoping this office can
6 provide a platform for us and for our needs.
7 Because we really needed this. I'm so glad
8 that the legislative body has approved us and
9 will approve us and approve this entire
10 office.

11 I thank you all for taking out your
12 time. I thank you all for coming here and
13 knowing that Nassau County is diverse, that it
14 has your back and you should be proud of this
15 diversity, be unapologetic for who you are and
16 hold you head up high and your back straight
17 and know that Nassau County has your back.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
19 very much Farrah. And I could not think of
20 anyone who would be better suited to be the
21 first executive director of the Office of
22 Asian-American Affairs. We've worked with
23 Farrah for the last year and a half.
24 Tremendous amount of passion for Nassau County
25 and its residents. Especially the

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2 Asian-American community. But all residents.
3 Energy is off the charts. Skill and
4 knowledge. So I think she's going to do a
5 wonderful job.

6 I have a number of slips. I will
7 be calling them now. Dr. Isma Chaudhry.

8 MS. CHAUDHRY: It's not fair to
9 go after Farrah. Farrah you are a rock star.
10 Where ever you are how did you gain so much
11 support? Definitely this is a testament to
12 your hard work and your commitment to Nassau
13 County and all communities of Nassau County.
14 For the protocol, my name is Isma Chaudhry,
15 resident of Manhasset. A physician by
16 profession. Professor Department of Health
17 professions and director of public health
18 programs at Hofstra University. Chair Islamic
19 Center of Long Island and board member of
20 Muslim Community of Nassau County.

21 I want to thank the county
22 executive and her administration, Presiding
23 Officer Richard Nicoletto and all the
24 legislators for the support for this long
25 overdue department of Asian-American agency.

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2 In the previous administrations
3 there were informal counsels and boards of
4 Asian-Americans. However, this is the first
5 time that a department has been formalized and
6 formed.

7 I would specifically like to thank
8 Presiding Officer Richard Nicolello for
9 writing the charter of this office which
10 recognizes the Asian-American communities with
11 respect and relevance. This charter ensures
12 that the Asian-American communities are
13 provided resources and opportunities to try as
14 residents of Nassau County. And we support
15 this charter in its entirety. All residents
16 of Nassau County should have equal access and
17 opportunities and resources.

18 The Asian-American communities,
19 just like the other minority communities,
20 contribute economically, academically and
21 culturally to Nassau County. It is imperative
22 that we all work together in collaboration
23 with each other. An economically stable and
24 culturally vibrant Nassau County is a success
25 for all of us. I thank you for your time.

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2 Thank you.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
4 Dr. Chaudhry. And thank you. This initiative
5 is largely something that Dr. Chaudhry moved
6 along in the county. So the fact that we are
7 creating it now is largely due to your work
8 and the work of those that are with you.
9 Thank you.

10 Toufique Horan.

11 MR. HORAN: My name is Toufique
12 Horan. I live in Albertson, New York. As a
13 South Asian-American who recently bought a
14 house and call Nassau County my home with my
15 wife and two young daughters, they love
16 growing up here and I'm so excited and I fully
17 support the appointment of Farrah Mozawalla,
18 such a young dynamic leader, and all the
19 community members being appointed to the
20 counsel. This is going to attract more young
21 families like mine to Nassau County. It's
22 going to grow our tax base. It's going to be
23 a great thing for Nassau County. And you are
24 guys are setting a great example for other
25 counties to follow. Thank you so much.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Ammad
3 Sheikh.

4 MR. SHEIKH: Hi. How are you?
5 My name is Ammad Sheikh. I'm the founder of
6 the South Asian Sports Network. We are one of
7 the largest sports leagues in Nassau County
8 with over 1500 players. I'm also a board
9 member of Alignus, a mentorship program and a
10 board member of the Domestic Harmony
11 Foundation, which deals with battered women.

12 I want to specifically thank
13 Presiding Officer Rich Nicolello for
14 establishing the charter of the Asian-American
15 Affairs. I want to thank the county
16 legislature for supporting this counsel. And
17 I wanted to thank county executive Laura
18 Curran for having us in this position today.

19 We as a community support this
20 counsel and its charter in its entirety. We
21 support Farrah Mozawalla as the executive
22 director. The Asian community of Nassau
23 County are thrilled to have a younger director
24 of the department. Why? As a youth leader in
25 the community we need a leader who speaks in

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2 our tone, in our language, who knows our
3 issues. And I would thank the dozens of
4 organizations who are here supporting this
5 initiative today and this capacity crowd.
6 It's a great day for Nassau County. Thank you
7 very much.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mufti
9 Forher Hughel.

10 MR. HUGHEL: Good afternoon
11 everyone. On behalf of the Muslim clergy of
12 Nassau County, I myself represent as the
13 executive director of Islamic Center of Long
14 Island in Westbury, the director of Muslim
15 Center in Bethpage and also the consultant for
16 Islamic Center of South Shore Valley Stream we
17 are extremely grateful and thankful for the
18 entire legislature for the formation of the
19 Asian-American agency. We support the charter
20 in its entirety and we are very happy with
21 your appointment of Farrah Mozawalla as the
22 executive director. We are truly thankful to
23 our Presiding Officer Rich Nicoletto for
24 writing this charter for us. And of course,
25 the entire legislature for making this happen

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2 and truly grateful for the county executive
3 Laura Curran for making this happen. Thank
4 you very much.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
6 you. Habeeb Ahmed.

7 MR. AHMED: Good afternoon. My
8 name is Habeeb Ahmed and I am a resident of
9 Searingtown. And I'm the president of Islamic
10 Center of Long Island, the largest mosque in
11 Nassau County. And also I am the founding
12 member of Muslim community of Nassau County,
13 an organization of all the different mosques
14 in Long Island.

15 We, the Asian-American communities
16 of Nassau County, thank the Presiding Officer
17 and thank him for the charter which is fair,
18 providing equal opportunity to all
19 minorities. We support the charter in full.

20 Now a word about Farrah Mozawalla.
21 As an acting director of the Asian Advisory
22 Board she has done a tremendous job in such a
23 small period of time, and I'm sure that she
24 will do a wonderful job as executive director
25 and we thank the presiding officer, the whole

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2 legislature and also county executive. Thank
3 you so much.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
5 Habeeb. Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan.

6 MS. SRINIVASAN: Good afternoon.
7 I am Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan. I am a
8 pediatrics, public health and acupuncture
9 practitioner and I'm also a member of the
10 American Association of physicians of Indian
11 Origin. Which is the largest physician group
12 after the AMA. I reside in Plainview, which
13 is in Nassau County. And I've also been past
14 president of a number of cultural and medical
15 organizations here.

16 Many community friends are here who
17 support and many more are seeing patients in
18 their offices. I want to thank you in
19 particular, Presiding Officer Rich Nicoletto,
20 for giving us the chance to speak and thank
21 all the legislators here in this chamber for
22 creating the charter, which I support in its
23 entirety. Thank you for giving the
24 Asian-American community a voice. And I'm
25 delighted that charismatic Farrah Mozawalla

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2 will be heading this particular group. I also
3 wish to thank our County Executive Laura
4 Curran for this initiative. Thank you.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
6 Abdul Bhuiyan.

7 MR. BHUIYAN: My name is Abdul
8 Aziz Bhuiyan. I am the chairman of Hillside
9 Islamic Center, as well as the president of
10 Nassau County Muslim community.

11 Today I cannot help but thank all
12 mighty God for making us feel as a part of
13 Nassau County. Aren't you guys all excited
14 about it? As a minority, Asian-American, it
15 is idea of minority is never lost in us. We
16 will always consider ourselves minority. But
17 this time, with an added advantage, that we
18 are recognized as an Asian-American minority.
19 Thank you very much county executive Laura
20 Curran and our presiding officer. And I live
21 in your district, you know that right? We are
22 neighbors.

23 Farrah Mozawalla, I have had an
24 opportunity to work with her during the time
25 of the previous Asian advisory board and in

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2 private life we are friends. She is a
3 tremendous asset to Nassau County. She is a
4 great leader for the community and we all
5 support her wholeheartedly. And we cannot
6 thank you enough for giving us such a
7 beautiful legislature. And we also want to
8 make sure everybody understands and all the
9 minorities understand, we are not competing
10 with each other. We are complementing each
11 other. In all capacity we will be
12 complementing each other to make things happen
13 for Nassau County. Not for individual any one
14 of us. This will be as a group. We will
15 contribute towards the betterment of Nassau
16 County. Thank you very much.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
18 you. Christine Liu.

19 MS. LIU: Good afternoon
20 everyone. My name is Christine Liu. I'm a
21 resident of New Hyde Park and former assistant
22 chief counsel for the Department of Homeland
23 Security. I'm also a board member of the
24 Chinese-American Association of North
25 Hempstead. I'm also a proud Girl Scout troop

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2 leader. Softball coach for Albertson-Herricks
3 Little League and hopefully a freshly
4 appointed Asian-American Advisory Counsel
5 member.

6 I would like to say that we, the
7 long-standing Asian-American communities and
8 organizations in Nassau County are united and
9 would like to thank the full legislature for
10 voting to pass the creation of the
11 Asian-American Affairs in Nassau County. We
12 look forward to working with this newly-formed
13 office to address the needs and concerns of
14 our Asian communities in Nassau. We have
15 reviewed the language of the charter that will
16 establish the Office of Asian Affairs and we
17 wholeheartedly agree with the charter in its
18 entirety. We are encouraged that our
19 legislators have decided to provide
20 Asian-American communities with equal and fair
21 access to all the county offers. Thank you
22 very much.

23 In this room, we have our Asian
24 community members and many of us, yes, we're
25 doctors, we're lawyers, but the majority of us

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2 are teachers, are nurses, stay-at-home
3 parents, home care providers, beauticians
4 manicurists, custodial and maintenance staff,
5 restaurant workers and owners and so much
6 more. What I'm trying to say is that we are
7 proud to make up the fabric of Nassau County.
8 We appreciate this new platform for the
9 growing Asian population in Nassau and we look
10 forward to working with every one of you, as
11 well as the Office of Asian Affairs and of
12 course Farrah Mozawalla, our rock star
13 director, thank you so much for your undivided
14 support.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
16 Christine. Dr. Farah Haider.

17 MS. HAIDER: Hi there. My name
18 is Dr. Farah Haider. I reside at 40 Carriage
19 Road in Roslyn. I have been a resident of
20 Nassau for the last 22 years. Let me
21 introduce myself as a doctor. My profession,
22 a practice manager and event planner and a
23 philanthropist. I'm a wife of an internist,
24 mother of three beautiful kids who have become
25 adults living in the Herricks School

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2 District. My kids are now a doctor, to be a
3 lawyer in year to hell and the youngest junior
4 in Hofstra.

5 I thank Presiding Officer Mr. Rich
6 Nicoletto to be instrumental in creating this
7 charter, of creating this department of
8 Asian-American to give fair and equal
9 opportunity to us, the minorities of Nassau
10 County. We and my friends are present today
11 to support this charter off the creation of
12 this Asian-American department, and this is
13 good for all the Asian minorities. We support
14 this charter in entirety. Thank you.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
16 Dr. Haider. David Chang.

17 MR. CHANG: Good afternoon. My
18 name is David Chang. I'm a resident of
19 Manhasset and a proud parent of three little
20 children in Manhasset School District. I'm a
21 stay at home dad and I teach my kids about
22 inclusion. So I think what the legislature is
23 doing today is an act of inclusion. So I
24 think that the history will look upon this
25 legislature as a wise legislature to include

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2 all the Asian-American community in Nassau
3 County. We, as a community, here in Nassau
4 County is a mosaic and I think that each piece
5 adds to the big picture. I'm very proud to be
6 a resident of Nassau and very proud of the
7 legislature and also Laura Curran for
8 appointing Farrah as the director. We support
9 this legislature in its full -- sorry. Also
10 I'm president of the Chinese-American
11 Association of North Hempstead. Thank you so
12 much.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
14 David. Jamillah Abdul-Kareem mill.

15 MS. ABDUL-KAREEM: Peace and
16 blessings everyone. My name is Jamillah
17 Abdul-Kareem, Hempstead resident, and I'm a
18 chaplain at Nassau County Corrections and a
19 member of New York State Chaplain Task Force.
20 Along with other titles and a community
21 catering to humanity.

22 I'm here today to speak on behalf
23 of the creation of the Office of
24 Asian-American affairs and in support of the
25 nomination of Farrah Mozawalla as the

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2 executive director of this agency. First, I
3 would like to thank all the legislators,
4 especially Legislator Solages, for appointing
5 me to the Asian-American Advisory Board.

6 I have been to several hearings
7 where this agency has been discussed. I know
8 that there has been concern about the
9 redundancy between the offices. What I would
10 like to say as a native Cherokee Indian and
11 African-American woman, is that when it comes
12 to representation of minority populations,
13 redundancy should be the least of our
14 concerns. There's a need and a priority of
15 this office and I support this charter in its
16 entirety. We have collectively been
17 underserved for so long that we need every
18 opportunity possible to make our communities
19 aware of opportunities that may benefit us. I
20 am confident that the two offices will work in
21 collaboration with each other and not in
22 competition with each other. For our
23 communities to grow we need to continue
24 working together and supporting each other,
25 not feeling threatened and in competition with

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2 each other. Together we have voice and
3 together we can make a difference for the
4 change and making history for Nassau County.
5 I am grateful for this blessing from the
6 Lord's bounty. I thank the creator for the
7 legislator who sponsored me for a seat on the
8 board. There shouldn't be any redundancy now
9 that I have a seat and we should all be in one
10 accord. Thank you.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Is there
12 any other public comment on these
13 appointments?

14 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday,
15 Nassau County resident, long-standing advocate
16 and usually one of the only few voices that
17 sit on this side of the room. So I'm happy
18 that there's standing room only here.

19 First of all, let me say that I
20 have been in support of Farrah's nomination
21 when her name was presented for the Office of
22 Minority Affairs. Which, by the way, is the
23 initial charter from which most of the detail
24 was, as it was stated earlier, redundantly
25 placed into this charter.

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2 Notwithstanding, the Asian-American
3 community has been underserved in this county
4 as have the other communities of color. As I
5 see that CASA is finally going to get the
6 recognition it deserves in a statement that
7 was brought up two weeks ago finally be
8 brought up out of the basement.

9 As one of those voices that people
10 may think I'm in opposition, that is so far
11 from the truth since my whole life has been
12 committed to diversity and inclusion. And as
13 I wear my shirt today for the Tuskegee army
14 nurses, first and foremost a priority for me,
15 is the ongoing outrage that is impacting our
16 veterans. As I'm looking to this pressure to
17 open the VA shelter. Let's not talk about the
18 abysmal conditions of the VA hospital and the
19 abysmal conditions that our veterans in Nassau
20 County continue to face, with the Long Island
21 being the largest population of veterans in
22 New York State and the northeast region. But
23 I digress for a reason.

24 I have no problem with this
25 office. As I said two weeks ago, my problem

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2 continues to be that the Office of Minority
3 Affairs is still underfunded, it's not fully
4 operational, it does not have an executive
5 director. So, I would hate for anyone else to
6 have the expectation that things are going to
7 happen when they will not if you do not
8 continue, if you do not remain here after you
9 take the photos, to fight for this office and
10 to fight for Farrah and stand behind her and
11 fight you will be in the same position I was
12 when I drafted the Veteran-owned Business Act
13 in 2014 that was put on the books in 2016.
14 And as I stand here in 2019 still has no
15 funding. So our veteran-owned businesses are
16 still underrepresented and underserved.

17 So, for any of those who think that
18 I'm here to speak in opposition no, but it's
19 important that you have a reality check. As a
20 person of African-American, native American
21 descent, and if there is anyone, any
22 organization and any constituent group that is
23 fully underrepresented it truly is the Native
24 Americans. But don't think African-Americans
25 who have stood in the forefront are getting

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2 what we justly deserve as well. So if you
3 want to work together let's work together.
4 But stick around after you take the photos.
5 Thank you.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone
7 else want to speak on the appointments. Mr.
8 Prophet.

9 MR. PROPHET: My name is Jack
10 Prophet. I would like to state one, I created
11 the Office of Minority Affairs. But there's
12 some confusion that I have, maybe one of you
13 lawyers up there can help me. Can you erase
14 something that's done by referendum by simple
15 resolution? Can you do that? Can anyone
16 answer that question for me?

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I think I
18 know the answer but that's a legal answer and
19 have to defer to counsel. Why don't you
20 continue with your comments.

21 MR. PROPHET: It's good enough as
22 long as we know. As long as we can discuss it
23 later. I'm not here to stop nobody from doing
24 nothing. But I protect what's mine and like
25 all of you, I respect the law.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
3 sir. Anyone else want to speak on the
4 appointments? Any legislators want to weigh
5 in on the appointments before we move ahead?

6 The only thing I would like to add
7 is we are all proud to be part of forming this
8 board. We are proud that this counsel be
9 formed as well. We are proud to vote on these
10 nominees. But ultimately, after today, then
11 the future of this will be in the very capable
12 hands of Farrah Mozawalla and all the members
13 of the advisory counsel. So all of you will
14 be determining how this proceeds, and I
15 couldn't think of a better group of nominees
16 going forward. It is a nominee from different
17 cultures, different faiths, different
18 backgrounds. And I can see by the way you
19 have worked together and that you've come
20 together on this I think it's going to be
21 tremendously successful. I'm very proud to be
22 associated with it. Anyone else want to say
23 anything? Legislator Bynoe.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you
25 Presiding Officer. So, I feel that I need to

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2 take a moment to put some of my thoughts out
3 there for context. Very early in this year I
4 was contacted and requested to support the
5 creation of the Asian Advisory Committee,
6 which is now the Asian Advisory Affairs
7 Department. I, without any type of
8 hesitation, signed a letter, created a letter
9 and signed a letter supporting the creation of
10 the Asian Affairs Department.

11 However, when the charter came to
12 me and it was very clear to me that the
13 charter was duplicative of the Office of
14 Minority Affairs I raised a question. Not of
15 being divisive but more of what is the actual
16 division of labor between the two
17 departments? Because there is redundancy.
18 And in the interest of good government, I
19 don't think redundancy is ever appropriate.
20 Not in today's climate where our tax dollars
21 are being stretched to the degree that we are
22 currently facing.

23 Moreover, the Office of Minority
24 Affairs has failed to ever meet its goals or
25 its mission. I believe that is because it has

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2 not been funded correctly. I believe that
3 decentralizing the procurement aspect of the
4 Office of Minority Affairs will not allow for
5 uniformity, standardization but more
6 importantly its success. So I am concerned
7 about the division of labor. It's a difficult
8 conversation. I know that. I understand
9 that. It's not comfortable to have the
10 conversation. But I think for the benefit of
11 this greater community, Nassau County at
12 large, it's one that's necessary to have.

13 I think that we would be missing an
14 opportunity to make sure that we move forward
15 in decency and in order. And for that reason
16 I am unapologetic about raising the issue. I
17 support the office of Asian-American Affairs.
18 But what I do not support is us not sitting
19 down at the table and having the difficult
20 discussion so that all of the ethnicities that
21 are served by these departments are served
22 well and that the greater Nassau County can
23 benefit from it.

24 With that, I will be supporting the
25 nominations. With that, the nominations of

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2 the members to that committee and I will
3 support Farrah Mozawalla. I support her
4 work. I think she's doing a great job. I
5 will support her. But what I will not support
6 is the charter as amended when it's going to
7 be voted on later today. I will be voting
8 against that charter amendment because it
9 fails to really put this process in a way that
10 it will actually succeed. We are set up to
11 fail if we do not address this issue. Thank
12 you.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I don't
14 see the same conflict that my colleague sees
15 on this and I don't see it setting up to
16 fail. But ultimately once this counsel is
17 formed and once we have this leadership in
18 place, I would like to hear from them.
19 Ultimately it's their counsel. If they want
20 to sit down and discuss changes to it we will
21 certainly be all ears. But it should be
22 something that they decide.

23 Anyone else like to make any
24 comments? Hearing none, all in favor of all
25 of these nominations signify by saying aye.

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2 Those opposed? They all carry unanimously.
3 Congratulations to all of our appointees
4 today.

5 There is that one item that
6 Legislator Bynoe was referring to, the purpose
7 of which is to change the membership from 20
8 to 24 to accommodate what we are doing today.
9 What we will do is take care of that piece of
10 business right now and then we will move on to
11 the couple of items. I have a number of slips
12 regarding Styrofoam as well as the SPACE
13 legislation and move on to those as well. And
14 we will get to the public comment as well.

15 Let's jump into one with respect to
16 the Asian-American Advisory Counsel. That
17 would be item five which is a local law to
18 expand the membership of the Asian-American
19 Advisory Counsel.

20 A motion to open the hearing.
21 Moved by Legislator Gaylor. Seconded by
22 Legislator Lafazan. The hearing is open.
23 Again, all this does is change the maximum
24 number of members of the Asian-American
25 Counsel from 20 to 24. Any discussion? Any

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2 public comment?

3 MS. MEREDAY: I'm just asking in
4 terms of why this change was brought about.
5 You mentioned earlier that this was late. I'm
6 just curious as to you went from 20 to 24.
7 Initially what was the situation with that?

8 Also, as it concerns your
9 statement, Presiding Officer Nicoletto, about
10 letting the committee decide. You are letting
11 the committee decide on information that is
12 faulty and potentially can lead to
13 litigation. So, I find it quite disingenuous
14 that you are going to let it ride even though
15 once again it has holes in it considering the
16 number of settlements that continue to come up
17 on the agenda for the legislature. The
18 legislative calendar.

19 Many residents, as I said, since
20 there's usually an echo in the room when it
21 comes down to decisions that are made with
22 this body with the budget that's close to \$3.1
23 billion, yes, I said \$3.1 billion, and I know
24 everybody is all excited because now you have
25 your counsel in place and all good things are

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2 going to happen. But again, reality is going
3 to bite and going to bite real soon. If we
4 are going to work together to try to get it
5 right I think we all need to be well aware of
6 what the issues are on the table.

7 And for those who kind of stood
8 silently by that I'm facing and the election
9 is coming up, and for those of you who are
10 new, some of you are new because other people
11 may not be standing before you, but there are
12 people who are watching and who are listening
13 in terms of what is happening today.

14 As I said earlier, I was in support
15 of Farrah when there were other people from
16 other communities that were not in support of
17 her when she was nominated for the Office of
18 Minority Affairs because I felt strongly about
19 having diversity and inclusion and I will
20 still stand by that. But I will not stand and
21 I should not and a taxpayer should not in all
22 good conscious and those of you who are
23 elected stewards of our tax money should not
24 stand and sit there in silence and allow the
25 fact that you have misrepresentation that

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2 you're just going to allow people to use as
3 their basis to make decisions as those who've
4 made comments earlier are like well, we stand
5 on the charter as it is because as it is isn't
6 incorrect.

7 So, the same way I stood here when
8 you made other decisions that impacted
9 residents, their safety and the fiscal
10 responsibility that you held and
11 accountability, including consolidating police
12 headquarters and things of that nature, I will
13 stand here again. Hopefully others, who I'm
14 looking at, will speak up. Thank you.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
16 you. Minority Leader Abrahams.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So, let me
18 start by saying this. I think it's everyone's
19 intent that's up here supports the need as
20 well as the going forward of the Office of
21 Asian-American Affairs. I know there was some
22 correspondence between the county executive
23 that wrote to the Presiding Officer requesting
24 more clarity on Sections 3b and 3c. And I
25 think I understand the county executive's

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2 concern as she's trying to fund to ensure that
3 the office has everything that it needs. I
4 think the county executive's letter is
5 referencing as part of the charter of when the
6 Office of Minority Affairs was created,
7 Section 3b of the charter indicates of the
8 Minority Affairs provide the county executive
9 with county legislature as well as minority
10 community impact assessments of budgetary
11 actions and policies.

12 And then 3c also indicates provide
13 access and opportunity for minority
14 participation in county contract and
15 procurement programs.

16 Now, I do see the letter from your
17 counsel, Presiding Officer, that indicated you
18 wanted to see this on a going forward basis.
19 But I think I need some clarity from the
20 county attorney's office on whether or not the
21 legislation violates this section of the
22 charter. So, is there someone here from the
23 county attorney's office that can speak on
24 this particular topic? Because the last thing
25 we want to do is do something that violates

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2 the charter and this can all become unraveled
3 pretty quickly. Nobody wants that because
4 everybody believes that establishing this
5 office serves the Nassau County residents the
6 best way.

7 MR. HERTZFELD: Paul Hertzfeld
8 from the County Attorney's office.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Paul, I
10 don't know if you heard everything, I know you
11 were in the back, maybe you didn't. I'm
12 looking at two pieces of correspondence. One
13 is a letter the county executive drafts on May
14 13th that indicates that she wants some type
15 of clarity. I'm paraphrasing. If you go to
16 the third paragraph of her letter it
17 references that there are Sections 3b and 3c,
18 not to paraphrasing, she writes, In order to
19 move forward with the budget development and
20 planning we would appreciate knowing whether
21 the Majority is contemplating removing Section
22 3b and 3c which relates to county contracts.
23 I'm guessing she's talking about from the
24 charter.

25 That being said, I did see a letter

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2 from legislative counsel from the majority
3 indicating that -- I'm summarizing again --
4 that they would like to see the counsel
5 engaged to see what direction they want to go
6 in. Obviously we are amending the provision
7 as it pertains to creating the office today.
8 But in that effort are we somehow in violation
9 of Sections 3b and 3c as the county executive
10 writes this?

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Just for
12 the record, the county executive did not sign
13 the letter. One of her staff members sent the
14 letter to me. Mr. Santeramo sent the letter.
15 It wasn't County Executive Curran.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You are
17 right Presiding Officer. It's written on
18 county executive letterhead. So I'm assuming
19 Mr. Santeramo has the authority from the
20 county executive to put this letter into
21 writing. Go ahead.

22 MR. HERTZFELD: Legislator, I
23 haven't seen that letter and I'm not --

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Would you
25 like to?

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2 MR. HERTZFELD: Sure.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Again, I
4 can't emphasize more that I'm in support, like
5 everyone else is, of creating this office. We
6 just don't want to do anything that could
7 unravel. And I guess Mr. Santeramo, on behalf
8 of the county executive, makes a point which
9 I'm glad is being discussed today.

10 MR. HERTZFELD: Legislator
11 Abrahams, I really in order to answer you in
12 an intelligent and accurate fashion I'm going
13 to have to need to look at this and come back
14 to you with an informed answer.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If you can
16 spend some time looking at I believe it's,
17 like I said, it's Section 3b, c that creates
18 the Office of Minority Affairs. In Section B,
19 which I don't think is in that letter, but it
20 clearly states that the Office of Minority
21 Affairs, as you are reading through their
22 powers and duties, Section B references that
23 they provide the county executive and the
24 county legislature with minority community
25 impact assessments on budgetary actions and

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2 policies.

3 Now, I think Legislator Bynoe
4 stated it very clearly, that's not being done
5 on the level of frequency that the legislature
6 I can speak for is seeing it. And to add that
7 additional requirement to the Office of
8 Asian-American Affairs, while it's necessary
9 to some degree, if it's not being done with
10 Minority Affairs is there going to be
11 budgetary allotments to ensure -- you can't
12 answer this of course -- would there be
13 budgetary allotments that allow them to do it
14 for an office that has three or four and
15 they're not doing it.

16 The second question is, in 3c,
17 provide access and opportunity for minority
18 participation in county contract and
19 procurement programs. Again, the Office of
20 Minority Affairs, which has three or four
21 people, is not doing it. So, is there going
22 to be a budget allotment to ensure that that
23 is going to be covered in the Office of
24 Asian-American Affairs? If it is, then we
25 would need to see how all this is going to be

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2 paid for by the county executive or maybe the
3 majority has ideas on how they plan to pay for
4 it. The bottom line is I think it all should
5 be done but I think it has to be done in the
6 context of how this is exactly going to go
7 forward.

8 MR. HERTZFELD: Again, Legislator
9 Abrahams, I understand your point I think. I
10 don't think there's a necessary inconsistency
11 between having this responsibility in the
12 Office of Minority Affairs as well as in the
13 Asian --

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You don't
15 think it violates the charter having dual
16 sections?

17 MR. HERTZFELD: No, I don't think
18 they're inconsistent. I think they can be
19 harmonized and complementary.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I
21 appreciate you doing that because I know you
22 haven't had a lot of time to review everything
23 that we are asking you. So I appreciate you
24 being able to get up and talk a little bit
25 about it. Thank you.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Ma'am just
3 state your name.

4 MS. MOORE: Marian Moore. I'm
5 here for another reason but I couldn't help
6 but get up because I was here in 1980. I was
7 an accountant for the Nassau County Youth
8 Board and something similar, not like this,
9 this is a big thing going on here, but I was
10 the accountant who stood up and as a result
11 not really fired but I had to give up my
12 office. I was the accountant for the Nassau
13 County Youth Board. Somewhere check your
14 records in 1979 let's say. Many years ago.
15 Similar thing happened on a smaller scale
16 maybe. Nassau County Youth Board was funding
17 minority events or facilities. Minority at
18 that time were basically people of color.
19 Black people. I was a black person who was an
20 accountant in Nassau County.

21 What happened was, and that's why I
22 think you're on the spot Mr. Abrahams, you are
23 on the spot. Check it out. What happened is,
24 we were funding majority, mainly minority
25 youth groups. Black. At that time everybody

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2 thought minority youth groups as predominantly
3 black. One day we were told that we were
4 going to move some money from the black youth
5 groups to a youth group in Mineola. If I get
6 the place wrong forgive me. I'm now 78.
7 Going to be 79 this week.

8 But what happened is we took a
9 majority of the money that was assigned to
10 black youth groups in the Nassau County Youth
11 Board and we decided to fund a youth group in
12 Mineola. Just keep this in your mind. The
13 youth group they decided to fund in Mineola
14 was considered a minority group. But they
15 were basically, if I have it right, they
16 looked white but they were Portuguese. That
17 is a minority group. You can do anything you
18 want and call it right. But that money was
19 geared to the black community and it left the
20 black community and went to a Portuguese group
21 in Mineola. So be careful. Just check it out
22 Mr. Abrahams.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
24 Bynoe.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you. Is

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2 somebody here from OLBR? Maurice?

3 Mr. Chalmers.

4 MR. CHALMERS: Maurice Chalmers,
5 OLBR.

6 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Good day. I
7 have a memo that was created out of your
8 office. It's not dated unfortunately. But it
9 references the Asian-American Advisory
10 Counsel. So I suspect this was a memo that
11 was I guess issued prior to the charter being
12 created and filed that then makes this the
13 Office of Asian Affairs. Which then tasked
14 this department with the same work that is
15 required of the Office of Minority Affairs.
16 Which is then funded by I believe, I can't be
17 exact, I don't have the budget book, it's
18 funded at a level of let's say half a million
19 dollars to do the work -- and I don't want to
20 go through the whole charter -- but to do the
21 work of the charter. Right?

22 So now, the Office of
23 Asian-American Affairs, which will now be
24 tasked with that same work, what would be the
25 fiscal impact in the event that now they have

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2 to have the same level of staffing as the
3 Office of Minority Affairs to do the
4 contract -- maybe just for this purpose I will
5 read C and D of the charter of part three.

6 So it says, Provide access and
7 opportunity for minority participation in
8 county contract and procurement programs.
9 That's C. Then D says develop and improve the
10 county's women and minority business
11 enterprise programs to afford greater
12 opportunities to participate in public
13 contract bidding procedures as well as
14 exploring ways and means to assure their
15 participation.

16 So, I believe that's the most
17 expensive part of the work. It's the one that
18 generates the most expense out of that
19 office. So, I'm reading a fiscal impact
20 statement that says there will be no fiscal
21 impact. I don't know how that could be
22 possible if they're going to be doing the same
23 work and we know that that's a heavy work.

24 MR. CHALMERS: In terms of
25 funding the triple A, the Asian-American

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2 Affairs, I would probably have to say that the
3 funding should be very similar to what the
4 Minority Affairs and CASA is probably going to
5 be determined by the county executive with
6 input from I guess her main staff.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. So now
8 for clarity I was given the advisory counsel
9 initially which was not to have any fiscal
10 impact. But now a later memo, I guess from
11 you, that addresses this as the Asian-American
12 Affairs Counsel states it would be somewhere
13 probably around half a million dollars. Is
14 that accurate?

15 MR. CHALMERS: Yeah. All depends
16 on what the size of the department is going to
17 be. What we did is we mirrored similar to
18 what the Office of Minority Affairs and CASA
19 would do. Of course it could change. It all
20 depends on what the county executive and I
21 guess the main staff of the new department
22 decide.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Under the
24 original concept there was going to be no
25 fiscal impact but now the charter has been

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2 created to mirror that of the Office of
3 Minority Affairs. We're now saying it will be
4 about a half a million dollars.

5 MR. CHALMERS: We don't think the
6 counsel will have a fiscal impact. However,
7 the department, in and of itself, will have
8 staffing and that --

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. Could
10 you parse out and figure out for me what C and
11 D would cost in terms of the procurement
12 contract process would cost specific to
13 creating the Asian-American Affairs Department
14 to take on those tasks?

15 MR. CHALMERS: Our best estimate
16 is probably going to have to be using the
17 Office of Minority Affairs as an example and
18 then we can pull out those staff and see how
19 much they have budgeted.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Those staffers
21 would cost?

22 MR. CHALMERS: Yes.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: That would be
24 helpful if you were able to do that. Thank
25 you.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Let me
3 just say that to the extent that the Minority
4 Affairs Office is not functioning the way it
5 should be is inexcusable. It should be fixed
6 immediately. This has gone on for too long.
7 It should be fixed. However, the Office of
8 Asian-American Affairs should be funded. It
9 should be funded to the extent it needs to
10 perform its function. I think we should all
11 get behind funding that office.

12 Again, we keep bringing up the
13 Office of Minority Affairs. It apparently is
14 not working correctly. You can't get a
15 director in place. It's inexcusable. Fix
16 it. But it has nothing to do with whether
17 this new office functions properly. I think
18 we should all again be in support of funding
19 it to the extent that they need the staff to
20 do what their mission is.

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So Presiding
22 Officer, what I believe is occurring here is a
23 decentralized process that will further
24 disenfranchise those individuals who are
25 reliant on the services of the Office of

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2 Minority Affairs. I believe that when we talk
3 about good government, because that's all I
4 hear us continue to say and all kind of
5 literature that goes out, I can't see why we
6 would have a duplicative process in place. It
7 doesn't make sense. I think that there is a
8 role for that, for the Asian-American Affairs
9 to function and exist and do a great work
10 without having to be responsible for that
11 contracting and procurement piece. And
12 centralizing it and making sure it's uniformed
13 and standardized, I believe that is the exact
14 definition of good government.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I think
16 you're exactly wrong. I think the more eyes
17 that look at this issue the better it is. I
18 think the fact that one group is tasked with
19 doing it does not mean that no other group or
20 no other individual in the county can look at
21 it. What I'm saying is that if we're not
22 doing enough of this then have more people
23 look at it. Have more people get involved.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: What you're
25 saying is as Nassau County grows, because it

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2 will continue to grow and different
3 ethnicities start coming to our county, we are
4 going to start parsing out this role amongst
5 all of those departments? That just doesn't
6 make sense to me. Not the contracting piece.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here's the
8 thing. As we've mentioned before, the
9 Asian-American population is now ten percent
10 of the population in the county. So it's not
11 just some small group that's coming here.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I didn't say
13 they were small.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's
15 true. You did not say that.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I did not say
17 that. Don't do that to me. I'm very capable
18 of saying what I mean to say.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm
20 agreeing with you. Listen Mr. Prophet, we are
21 having a discussion among the legislators.

22 MR. PROPHET: When you talk you
23 got to look at Section 2112 of the charter and
24 it expresses that view doing analysis, which
25 you call utilization analysis, impact

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2 statements, where you get money from the state
3 and federal government. That money, 15
4 percent of it, goes toward management and
5 performing its duty. There's no added cost.
6 If you look at the things first and with some
7 people you choose you will see it welcomes
8 this idea. It doesn't repulse it.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
10 Mr. Prophet. Anyway, Legislator Solages.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Where are we
12 in the process of selecting a new executive
13 director for the Office of Minority Affairs?

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Hold on a
15 second. This is a hearing. This is a hearing
16 on whether we move 20 to 24 members. We are
17 increasing it to 24 members so that we can get
18 four spots from the minority. If you don't
19 want that to go forward let me know. Because
20 we will then rescind the three slots that you
21 have and we'll stick with 20. It's a very
22 simple thing that we are doing today. We are
23 trying to blow this up into something it's
24 not. This is very simple. We are increasing
25 the number. That is it. We are doing that

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2 because we want to make sure that your side
3 gets representation on this board. If you
4 want to stop this then let's stop it and we
5 will rescind it.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't
7 think you need to say that. I don't think
8 anyone wants to see this get blown up. I
9 think everyone supports the concept and idea
10 of this office. I think what you're hearing,
11 which is always good is to have debate and
12 discussion, what you are hearing is a concern,
13 and it's grounded in Section 2112 that's in
14 the charter. That's why I tried to bring up
15 someone from the county attorney's office just
16 so we have clarity as we move forward. That's
17 our job. No one is trying to blow it up.

18 We appreciate the fact that we are
19 going from 20 to 24 because it includes many
20 of the appointments that we would like to see
21 as a part of this counsel, as we all represent
22 very diverse communities throughout our
23 districts. So I think from that standpoint
24 that's all we were trying to get is more
25 clarity on how we move forward. That's it. I

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2 think that's fair not just to the Office of
3 Minority Affairs but it's fair to the newly
4 created Office of Asian-American Affairs as
5 well.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I got
7 you. Okay. I just when we start talking
8 about getting into the Office of Minority
9 Affairs and who's appointed and who's not, I
10 think we are beyond the scope of what we
11 should be here.

12 MS. CHIN: My name is Julie Chin.
13 I am number 24 on the legislative book. I'm
14 also coordinator of volunteer services for LIJ
15 and president of the board of education in
16 Herricks School District. I came here today
17 in support of this Asian Advisory Board. I
18 didn't know about it except that the work that
19 it was trying to put forth, and I truly can
20 appreciate all the discussions that have taken
21 place today.

22 My own feeling is that we have to
23 move forward. We must have a growth line
24 set. If there is a need for something we have
25 to meet that need where it is. Obviously

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2 there's a need for the Asian community to be
3 represented. And if this advisory board is
4 the way to do then I think that's the way it
5 should be supported.

6 I understand that maybe the
7 minority office is not working to its fullest
8 potential. That is not the fault of the Asian
9 board as Richard Nicoletto had mentioned. I
10 think it's obvious from every person that's
11 come up here, whether they are for it or not,
12 we need something to work. So I think the
13 minority office should actually be more in
14 support because you are now having more people
15 who are passionate and who are bringing their
16 smarts and their backgrounds and everything to
17 this county to give it their all. We're not
18 getting paid. We're not getting recognized.
19 All we want to do is help the constituents of
20 this county to make it better.

21 Now, I'm on the school board for
22 Herricks. By no way is the budget as big as
23 yours. We have five members of our board.
24 When we have our board meetings if we have
25 four or five people in our public it's a big

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2 day. But for the fall we have our budget vote
3 tomorrow. Tomorrow is the budget vote. And
4 part on the budget for us we are implementing
5 a new fencing team in the fall for boys and in
6 the spring for girls. That's not to take away
7 from the other sports that are there. It's to
8 add to the people who might not have a
9 different outlet to go.

10 And I understand that that might be
11 a very minor and does not have anything to do
12 with this, but in the simplest verbiage it
13 really has everything to do with it. Because
14 we are trying to reach out to every single
15 person in this county and make every single
16 person count and have their voices heard.

17 So I'm going to ask again as
18 respectfully as I possibly can. Let's work
19 together. Because I think that's what
20 everybody wants at the end of the day. We
21 want to support each other to make it a better
22 county.

23 MS. BERNARD: My name is Nadine
24 Bernard. I'm the acting chair of the Minority
25 Affairs Counsel. With regards to the triple

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2 A, Asian-American Advisory Committee, we have
3 concern regarding the charter. As it states
4 now it appears to overlap some of the
5 functions of the Office of Minority Affairs.
6 I know Legislator Siela Bynoe expressed some
7 of the concerns we have and I spoke to
8 Legislator Solages in person. I know the
9 intent was not to create a conflict. But as
10 it appears now that's the impression that we
11 are getting that there's a conflict as to the
12 way the charter is drafted. That's a concern
13 from my counselor and the people we
14 represent. I know sometimes it's hard for us
15 to sit back and see that we have made an error
16 or potential error but stay back and look at
17 what we created so we will not have a conflict
18 going forward and we can work together. Thank
19 you.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
21 very much. So I'm going to entertain a motion
22 to close the hearing. Moved by Legislator
23 Walker. Seconded by Deputy Presiding Officer
24 Kopel. All in favor of closing the hearing
25 signify by saying aye. Those opposed? The

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2 hearing is closed.

3 Now I'm going to move to a vote on
4 item ten which is a local law to expand the
5 membership of the Asian-American Advisory
6 Council. Moved by Legislator Gaylor.
7 Seconded by Legislator Mule. This is again
8 increases the membership from 20 to 24. All
9 in favor of this item signify by saying aye?
10 Those opposed? Carries unanimously. I'm
11 sorry.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: On the vote I
13 would like to make a statement. Again, it's
14 not against adding new members to the counsel
15 or against the counsel. I'm voting against
16 the amendment because it failed to include
17 language that I had provided to the majority
18 in an attempt to understand and create a
19 division of labor between the two
20 departments. Thank you.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
22 you. Anyone else? I think we already had a
23 vote. I think the vote is 18 to one.
24 Correct? Thank you very much and thank you
25 for all of those who are here to speak on

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2 public comment and been waiting patiently
3 since we started at one o'clock. We will go
4 to public comment. I have four slips that are
5 general slips. After that we will move to the
6 hearings. First will be the Styrofoam issue
7 and then we will do the other hearings. I
8 know there are several people to speak on
9 PACE. We will try to get to this as quickly
10 as possible.

11 I want to thank all the folks from
12 the Asian community who came out. You don't
13 have to stay. We appreciate you being here
14 today.

15 We will do the consent calendar
16 first, then we will do public comment. This
17 should only take a couple of moments. It
18 allows people who are here waiting for items
19 that are not going to be discussed today to be
20 able to go on their way.

21 We move to the consent calendar.
22 These are items that went through committees a
23 couple of weeks ago and were debated and
24 discussed at that time. It's been agreed by
25 the majority and minority that these items can

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2 be passed without any further discussion at
3 this point.

4 Consent calendar. Item 11

5 Ordinance 30. Item 13 Ordinance 32. Item 14
6 Ordinance 33. Item 15 Ordinance 34. Item 16
7 Ordinance 35. 17 Ordinance 36. 18 Ordinance
8 37. 19 Ordinance 38. 20 Ordinance 39. 21
9 Ordinance 40. 22 Ordinance 41. 23 Ordinance
10 42. 25 Ordinance 44. 26 Ordinance 45. 27
11 Resolution 46. 28 Resolution 47. 29
12 Resolution 48. 30 Resolution 49. 31
13 Resolution 50. 32 Resolution 51. 33
14 Resolution 52. 34 Resolution 53. 35
15 Resolution 55. 36 Resolution 55. 37
16 Resolution 56. 38 Resolution 57. 39
17 Resolution 58. 40 Resolution 59. 41
18 Resolution 60. 42 Resolution 61. 43
19 Resolution 62. 44 Resolution 63. 46
20 Resolution 65. 47 Resolution 66. 48
21 Resolution 67. 49 Resolution 68. 50
22 Resolution 69. 51 Resolution 70. 52
23 Resolution 71. 53 Resolution 72. 54
24 Resolution 73. 55 Resolution 74. 56
25 Resolution 75. 57 Resolution 76. 59

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2 Resolution 78. Any debate or discussion on
3 these items? Any public comment? We need a
4 motion.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:

6 Superintendent Dr. Marti Hazelton wanted to
7 come up and talk about item 30 resolution
8 49-2019.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: As she is
10 coming up I'm going to have Legislator Drucker
11 make a motion for these items. Seconded by
12 Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer Ford. They
13 are all before us.

14 MS. HAZELTON: Good afternoon.
15 Dr. Marti Hazelton, superintendent of schools
16 Roosevelt Union Free School District. Just
17 briefly I wanted to say thank you to
18 Legislator Abrahams and the entire legislative
19 chamber for this item that you are going to
20 vote on, item 49. This will fund a shuttle
21 bus for the Roosevelt School District. We are
22 a nonbusing community and this will be a
23 collaboration between the school district and
24 our senior citizens in the community. And I
25 just wanted to extend my sincerest thanks to

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2 you all.

3 This will strengthen the
4 partnership between the community and the
5 school with our elders. I have a few of our
6 senior members of the community that would
7 like to extend their thanks as well and to say
8 a few words.

9 MS. WATSON: My name is Lillian
10 Coggins Watson and I was an employee for the
11 Roosevelt School District for nearly 40
12 years. I'm retired now. And I was a
13 principal for 21 years. It was an awesome
14 experience to be an employee in our school
15 district. I am, as I said before, a
16 resident. And I'm so thankful for the
17 outstanding leadership that we have, our
18 legislator, ranking member Mr. Abrahams, thank
19 you so much.

20 And of course we have our
21 superintendent of schools, Dr. Hazelton, who
22 is unbelievable, and I thank you so much for
23 us having the opportunity to even collaborate
24 with the school district. So many of my
25 parents would say they could not come because

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2 of transportation. May seem minor but it's
3 huge for us and we thank you for it. We can
4 now, as my superintendent stated, it's a
5 collaboration. And we even brought along with
6 us two students who did what we did when I was
7 in college, to really contribute to the
8 transformation of the universe. And these
9 leaders are truly contributing to the
10 transformation to not only Roosevelt but of
11 the universe. Thank you so much.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you
13 Ms. Watson.

14 MR. WATSON: I'm Percy Watson, the
15 other half that just spoke. She's a little
16 older. I'm sorry. I just want to thank you
17 for providing transportation for the seniors
18 in Roosevelt. Thank you so much.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I want to
20 thank Dr. Hazelton for bringing this idea to
21 the forefront to our office and working with
22 our office on this and I want to thank my
23 colleagues and the legislature as well for
24 supporting this initiative as well. I'm sorry
25 Ms. Moore, did I cut you off?

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2 MS. MOORE: I think I should say
3 something since I'll be 79 in two days.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: 79 is the
5 new 59. You're not a senior yet.

6 MS. MOORE: I hope I make it.
7 But God is good. I'm here because I'm a
8 volunteer in Roosevelt. I'm retired from the
9 comptroller's office since 2012. So I have
10 been blessed. I'm here to say that bus is
11 going to be a great help to us. I drove here
12 myself today. I'm 78 years old and I couldn't
13 hardly find a spot. Some man told me to go
14 there and somebody else to me to go over
15 there. But if we had a driver to bring us
16 seniors to meetings like this and other places
17 things that would be educational to the
18 elderly, you know, if we had a bus like that,
19 which you are making it possible, all I can
20 say to you is thank you, thank you very much.
21 We appreciate it.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you.

23 MS. HAZELTON: Lastly, I would be
24 remiss Dr. Michelle Rivers, this is our
25 director of grants and she is the genius

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2 behind all the writing for this grant. I just
3 wanted to publicly thank her and thank you
4 once again for your continued support of the
5 Roosevelt School District.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Dr.
7 Hazelton, Robin just reminded me to make sure
8 you are aware of the process is that once you
9 receive the signed IMA paperwork then you can
10 go forward with purchasing the bus and then
11 the county can reimburse you for that
12 purchase. You're welcome.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
14 Walker.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Kevan, I just
16 wanted to reach out to one of the gentleman
17 here today. Percy, I have to give you a big
18 thank you too because Percy and I still get to
19 do those basketball games together. I know
20 Percy is a basketball official and he does a
21 lot of games that I do and I have to give him
22 a shout out. Percy, I hope you can still get
23 to those games.

24 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday
25 Baldwin resident but proud alum of the

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2 Roosevelt School District. So I do echo the
3 thanks for that. And I am one of those
4 emerging leaders that came out of that square
5 mile community. Growing up I was in the
6 middle of -- initially we had buses to go to
7 school and then because of funding shortages
8 we were told you are in a square mile so you
9 don't need a bus. So they instituted
10 neighborhood schools. So we pretty much had
11 to walk. I had to walk. I had to walk from
12 one end of the corner to the other end of that
13 square mile to get to the high school. But it
14 again, it was a teaching moment and I'm always
15 proud to say I was born and raised and
16 educated in the Roosevelt School District.

17 I'm also applauding item 45 with
18 regard to the Tuition Reimbursement Program at
19 Nassau Community College. I definitely think
20 that that was a long time in coming in
21 providing those resources for our military as
22 well as their families and surviving --

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That was
24 not called. We have some issues we have to
25 work out with them.

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2 MR. MEREDAY: You were going so
3 fast I thought that was called. So there's
4 still some issues with that?

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Yes.

6 MR. MEREDAY: Do I need to
7 retract that thank you? You know I will be
8 back if it doesn't get straight.

9 Let me just ask. Was 47 approved
10 by consensus or is that one an issue too?
11 We're good on memorials and putting up
12 signage. So is Heroes Way is that good to
13 go? I thank you for that one. I'm hoping
14 that it's broader in terms of who is
15 classified as heroes.

16 But lastly, I just hope that we can
17 again if we're talking about that whole
18 diversity and inclusion, if we're looking at
19 these procurement items, if at some point
20 during the course maybe of my lifetime with
21 my 9-11 conditions that would possibly shorten
22 that, if we could include in these procurement
23 contracts whether the approved contractor is
24 in fact an MWBE or service-disabled veteran.

25 Again, if you're going to practice

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2 it we need to start doing that as quickly as
3 possible. And that's not something that has
4 to be decided by the majority or the minority
5 side. That comes out of procurement. So if
6 we can do that it would be beneficial for all
7 of us to kind of see that we are trying to go
8 in a forward thinking direction and maybe I
9 can spend less time here trying to get you all
10 to try to do the right thing and get back out
11 in the public and try to get more contracts
12 and try to keep veterans in their homes, try
13 to get more diverse business in contract
14 opportunities here in the county. Thank you.

15 So, are we going to talk about 45
16 today?

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Not today.

18 MR. MEREDAY: But it's going to
19 be soon?

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: It will be
21 soon. I have no problem talking to the
22 college presidents to get the waivers that I
23 had to do prior to Sandy. Just let me know.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thanks.

25 I'm going to call the consent items for a vote

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2 at this time. All in favor signify by saying
3 aye. Those opposed? They carry unanimously.

4 Go back to public comment. We have
5 four slips that are not specific to an issue.
6 First is Liz Treston.

7 MS. TRESTON: Elizabeth Treston.
8 I am from Long Beach, New York. Thank you
9 this morning for the Styrofoam and the kids
10 from the middle school. But I'm here on a
11 different reason. I come before you this
12 afternoon once again to be the voice of the
13 voiceless. Victims. A word I rarely use.
14 Victims of contractor fraud in the rebuilding
15 after Sandy. We are coming up on seven years
16 and no one appears to want to take on this
17 much needed steps to protect your
18 constituents.

19 We were hoping that Consumer
20 Affairs would be able to protect us and future
21 residents working hand and hand with the
22 Nassau County District Attorney. That is not
23 happening. Consumer Affairs does not have the
24 resources to investigate. This has is not
25 been the case. We are told by the district

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2 attorney that they are bad businessmen. They
3 have taken hundreds of thousands in dollars
4 and sometimes millions of dollars in taxpayer
5 money. This is not bad business. These are
6 crimes.

7 In other states, these men,
8 primarily men, go to jail. Why not us? Where
9 is our justice? Where is the communication
10 between county officials? Between all of
11 you? Is seven years not enough? Seven years
12 is enough time to make one change. Your
13 constituents have depleted their 401s. Their
14 children's education funds to return home. We
15 have zero recourse. No attorney will touch
16 fraud cases. Your system is broken.

17 Many of us received this letter,
18 which I would like to give to you, from the
19 District Attorney's Office to placate us. We
20 have liens on our unfinished homes that we
21 continue to pay our mortgage and increasing
22 taxes upon. You cannot kick this can any
23 further. We are at a dead end. There can be
24 no more passing the buck between the Consumer
25 Affairs Department and the district attorney's

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2 office. Frankly, there are no more bucks to
3 pass. Thank you very much. And you may
4 return that letter after you all make copies
5 to Denise Ford's office who I trust will
6 return it to me. My number is (516) 304-6452
7 16, 30464.

8 LEGISLATOR FORD: Liz, you didn't
9 have to worry. We would have let you go
10 beyond three minutes.

11 MS. TRESTON: I'm from the city of
12 Long Beach.

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: And you're
14 conditioned to follow the rules. Thank you
15 very much. Because I think we all need to
16 hear from somebody who not only has been a
17 leader in the community, because she is with
18 COAD, Communities Organization Active in
19 Disasters.

20 Liz, not only has advocated and
21 helped so many of our residents over these
22 past six and a half, almost seven years, all
23 while her house was destroyed. She then had
24 to go through the process of getting a
25 contractor who actually did the same thing to

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2 her, took advantage of her and all the pain
3 and the money that she had to spend to try to
4 get back home.

5 You've got to ask yourselves if you
6 couldn't return to your home for three or four
7 years and if you had to find out that you had
8 to pay your mortgage, not only that, but you
9 then had to pay rent on mortgage and taxes and
10 then rent, and you don't know when you're
11 going to get home and then you find out that
12 all of that money that the contractor took
13 your money and now you have to like take out
14 your savings there have been too many people
15 that have reached into their IRAs, their
16 pensions, everything. They are left
17 devastated.

18 And even now we have homeowners
19 that are still in this boat. That they have
20 found out that their contractors have taken
21 their money. We have appealed to New York
22 State and Governor Cuomo to increase the
23 funding for those who have suffered this
24 hardship so that the state can front the money
25 so the people can get this money so they can

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2 rebuild. We have been trying. And I have to
3 say, Consumer Affairs has tried but we are
4 limited on the county level.

5 Next week we are going to have a
6 Super Storm Sandy hearing, on Tuesday, and we
7 are going to discuss this issue. And at this
8 time we have Consumer Affairs will be there.
9 We have asked New York Rising to attend. We
10 have sent a letter to the DA Madelyn Singas.
11 We are still waiting to hear if she will show
12 up or if any one of her representatives.

13 This is an important issue. What's
14 even worse now are those people who had their
15 money taken from them and they can't rebuild
16 are faced with a deadline. New York Rising
17 has set June 1st as its final inspection
18 date. And by December of this year, of 2019,
19 every resident who has participated in the
20 New York Rising Program must have their homes
21 not only in the air, not only completed, but
22 all their paperwork. And if they do not have
23 this done, New York Rising will take back the
24 money that they have given.

25 So if a resident has been living

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2 outside their home for four years finally gets
3 back in and they miss a deadline and New York
4 Rising gave them \$80,000 or \$120,000 they have
5 to give it back. Nobody goes after the
6 contractors to give the money back. But our
7 residents are being punished constantly by our
8 governments and we thought the storm was bad
9 enough, deal with the government on this issue
10 and you will see.

11 MS. TRESTON: Thank you very much
12 Ms. Ford.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
14 Ms. Treston. Eileen Corina.

15 MS. CARINA: Good afternoon. My
16 name is Eileen Corina. I'm the president of
17 Pulse Center for Patient Safety Education and
18 Advocacy. We were founded in 1996 as a
19 support group for survivors of medical injury
20 and have been doing workshops and meetings
21 since 1996.

22 The Pulse Professionals for Patient
23 Safety dinner meetings have been encouraging
24 casual conversations at the diner in Freeport
25 since 2014. Here patients and caregivers can

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2 get objective information and suggestions on
3 how to be a patient. What questions to ask
4 during a medical care or following a diagnosis
5 or what to know when approaching the complex
6 health care system.

7 Additionally, health care workers
8 can share their concerns about patient
9 safety. Conversations are expected to be
10 constructive and focus on process
11 improvement. One example, is an x-ray
12 technician came into the diner and after
13 dinner shared with the group that her boss was
14 bully and intimidated her and other staff
15 while treating patients. In patient safety
16 training this is called disruptive behavior.
17 And experts teach health care professionals
18 who work in administration how to address
19 disruptive behavior.

20 Another example is a husband and
21 wife who came recently to ask about the wife's
22 mother's discharge from the hospital. They
23 felt it was too early for her to be
24 discharged. They were not ready to take the
25 mother home. Another woman came to talk about

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2 her concern for the medications her husband
3 was given. Addressing these concerns is
4 taught to the medical professionals who make
5 policy but not the patients.

6 At Pulse Center for Patient Safety
7 education and advocacy we don't give advice
8 unless it's asked for. We only share what has
9 worked because we are looking for solutions to
10 the complexity of the health care system and
11 services.

12 If no one has had the experience we
13 ask if they want one suggestions. At any
14 given time at the PPS meetings and dinners you
15 might find a hospital pharmacist, a retired
16 nurse who owned a home care agency, a nurse
17 who works in quality measures, an elder care
18 attorney, medication researcher, crisis
19 planner, a social worker, professional patient
20 advocates, a doctor, a health insurance
21 expert, a nursing home advocate.

22 These are some of the participants
23 who attend regularly. Caregivers and the
24 public are welcome to attend our meetings to
25 hear about chosen topic of the month or to

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2 open up one that can be shared and discussed
3 for them. There is no charge to attend but
4 buy your own dinner. It's very informal and
5 people support each other in learning to be
6 patients or working in the complex health care
7 system. Medical errors are the third leading
8 cause of death in this country. I'd like to
9 know what Nassau County is doing to keep
10 patients safe. And just wondering where
11 Nassau County comes in in supporting this
12 public safety issue. Thank you.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
14 Ms. Corina. Appreciate it. Ruthanne
15 McCormack.

16 MR. MCCORMACK: Good afternoon
17 legislators. Thank you for being here. I'm
18 here to address the youth vaping epidemic that
19 right now everyone across the United States is
20 experiencing. I dropped off a handout that I
21 delivered to our businesses in Rockville
22 Centre concerning Juul vapor pods and the fact
23 that Juul pulled these pods from all retail
24 establishments in November of 2018 and
25 notified over 90,000 brick and mortar retail

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2 stores that they were not to be selling these
3 flavored pods anymore.

4 So I did a surveillance check the
5 end of the April and found that all of the
6 shops in Rockville Centre that are selling
7 vaping materials are still selling these
8 flavored pods. They admitted that they didn't
9 know about it and they blamed it sometimes on
10 their distributors, which are located in
11 Farmingdale. I said to them please contact
12 your distributors. They did get notice of
13 this. In fact all retail establishments did
14 get notice of this.

15 My work was published in the
16 Herald, and I also reached out to Newsday for
17 them to publish my findings and urged other
18 communities to do the same thing.

19 I'm wondering if Nassau County can
20 take this a step further and help expand my
21 surveillance and compliance with the Juul
22 flavored pods as our youths are addicted to
23 Juul and vaping. I know that this is a huge
24 concern in our schools and starting as young
25 as ten or 11 year olds are doing this.

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2 We do have a shop in Rockville
3 Centre that was closed down due to the fact
4 that they were selling devices and pods to
5 underage youth.

6 Is there anything Nassau County can
7 do to help me in my efforts? Can you send out
8 maybe an informational mailing to retail
9 stores about what Juul did to pull these from
10 the shelves?

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: One of the
12 things we can do is contact our Consumer
13 Affairs Department and see what they're doing
14 to enforce the laws, and I guess in this case
15 would be to provide the information to the
16 retailers. I think we can follow-up on that.
17 And then if any action needs to be taken
18 beyond that, then we can start considering.

19 MS. MCCORMACK: I also saw
20 Legislator Drucker at the Drive Recovery
21 Center opening on Thursday. It's a fabulous
22 facility. All of you please spread the word
23 in your community about this important
24 resource. He mentioned that he's also working
25 on something himself to address the Juul

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2 flavored pods in Nassau County.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:

4 Mr. Drucker.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you
6 Presiding Officer. We are very much aware of
7 what's going on and my office is earnestly
8 trying to formulate some kind of legislation
9 that we can deal with this in a proactive
10 way. Because it is a problem. And Juul, I
11 don't think, is rather honest in a lot of the
12 things they're doing.

13 We need, what the Presiding Officer
14 indicated, we can get Consumer Affairs to look
15 into this and report back to us. But we are
16 also thinking of other alternatives to deal
17 with this crisis with the pods, the flavored
18 pods.

19 MS. MCCORMACK: I also am
20 advocating for Albany to take steps to outlaw
21 the flavored pods in New York State. So I
22 will let you know how that goes as I'm working
23 on that project too. Thank you.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
25 you. Richard Clolery.

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2 MR. CLOLERY: To the members of
3 the legislature, I would like to tell you
4 about a story what happened to me and a
5 friend/counselor Mark. We were just about to
6 enter the Walmart in East Meadow. You know,
7 the one next to the shopping center where I
8 work. We heard a lot noise. We turned around
9 and saw a beige car backing into a truck so
10 hard that it bent its front wheel. The
11 truck's wheel mind you.

12 I was stunned as it drove away as
13 if nothing happened. Then I realized he or
14 she was not stopping. So I started screaming
15 for people to stop the vehicle. Do you know
16 what stopped the car? Running twice into
17 another car that was about to leave the
18 parking lot area facing Newbridge Road.

19 You know something else? The
20 driver that was causing all these accidents
21 was an elderly person suffering a stroke as it
22 was happening from what I gathered from the
23 people at the time. So that poor fellow was
24 well aware of what was going on at the time.

25 What do you suppose is going to

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2 happen if he or she recovers? If I was his
3 kid I would probably have to insist that this
4 person that for his or her safety and those
5 around this person that he or she should
6 surrender his keys and license.

7 But in this instance it would be
8 with a heavy heart for now I would have to
9 decide this person's fate. Whether to put
10 them in a nursing home or bring this person to
11 my place, where if I'm lucky I can hire a
12 nurse and a driver for this person.

13 But for a lot of senior citizens
14 here in Nassau County the loss of their
15 driver's license is synonymous with a slow
16 death. Because, if I'm not mistaken, they
17 have limited options, if any, to get to the
18 place where they need to be.

19 This is one of the main reasons I
20 fight for more effective bus service and the
21 restoration of bus service here in Nassau
22 County. I don't just fight for myself, my
23 former colleagues and my old residents. I
24 fight for those who can't or won't drive. I
25 want you to think on this as you hopefully

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2 find ways to increase funding for the buses
3 next time you have a budget meeting. Thank
4 you for your time.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
6 Richard.

7 Item one, a hearing on a proposed
8 local law to prohibit the use of polystyrene
9 foam containers in Nassau County to create a
10 special revenue fund for environmental
11 investigation and cleanup of Nassau County
12 properties.

13 That is moved by Legislator Ford.
14 Seconded by legislator Mule to open the
15 hearing. All in favor of opening the hearing
16 signify by saying aye. Those opposed?
17 Hearing is open. Legislator Ford.

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
19 much. So, actually this came before us and we
20 know that we are sort of following Suffolk and
21 New York City in passing legislation to ban
22 Styrofoam or polystyrene within Nassau
23 County. This is going to primarily impact I
24 guess a lot of the food service
25 organizations. We do not want them to

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2 continue using Styrofoam cups or plates. It
3 will also not allow stores to sell these types
4 of products to consumers within Nassau
5 County.

6 So, we see already just based on
7 this alone, we've seen Dunkin' Donuts has
8 moved from using Styrofoam cups. They're
9 going to start using something different.
10 Something that is not as detrimental. For me
11 it's an important day because I think that
12 environmentally -- even when we heard from the
13 students that were here earlier -- that this
14 is really going to help our health as well.
15 Styrofoam really doesn't have any benefits in
16 my eyes.

17 So I look forward to working with
18 my fellow legislators in helping to get this
19 legislation passed. I want to thank both
20 Legislator Schaefer and Legislator Mule for
21 joining me in sponsoring this legislation. I
22 think it's really important that we have both
23 sides of the aisle that were in unison on
24 this. And I know how important it is for all
25 of us. So I just want to hand it over first

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2 to Legislator Schaefer and then Legislator
3 Mule.

4 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Thank you
5 very much. I obviously also am very happy
6 that this is happening here today in Nassau
7 County. As you already heard, it's already
8 been passed in New York City and in Suffolk
9 County. While we are a little behind the
10 eight ball we are catching up and I think
11 that's important. If you know anything about
12 Styrofoam, you don't know anything about
13 Styrofoam it's really there's nothing good
14 about it other than it's holding your cup of
15 coffee and maybe some of your takeout food.

16 But there are other substitutes
17 that are already being used out there.
18 Starbucks you don't see Styrofoam. And many
19 other places. So I think this is a wonderful
20 thing to do for our environment. We have to
21 pay attention to these issues when they come
22 up, because other areas pass them because
23 they're making a negative impact and we have
24 to make sure we do something about it here in
25 Nassau County as well.

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2 So, I want to say thank you also to
3 Legislators Ford and Mule for cosponsoring
4 this bill. I think it's a wonderful thing
5 we're doing. Thanks.

6 LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you. I
7 want to thank Legislators Ford and Schaefer
8 for allowing me to be a cosponsor on this.
9 This was your initiative. But I
10 wholeheartedly support it. I said hey, can I
11 join? And you said okay. So that was great.
12 I would have supported it regardless because I
13 think it is so important. I represent a
14 waterfront community and we know about the
15 dangers of all different types of garbage.
16 But talking specifically about Styrofoam, we
17 know it doesn't degrade. It's something that
18 we need to get rid of.

19 There are alternatives. We have
20 access to a cost benefit analysis -- I know
21 that was raised during committees -- which
22 shows that the financial impact to businesses
23 is minimal. This is something that's too
24 important to not go forward on. As Legislator
25 Schaefer said, we are a just a little behind

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2 but we are here and it's so important that we
3 do this. Thank you.

4 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you.

5 When you look at this type of legislation and
6 we heard from the children and we know that
7 Styrofoam is here to stay forever and ever.

8 Over the Christmas season we had a
9 party and somebody brought a present and it
10 had Styrofoam packing in it. Little toddlers
11 decided to play with it. The next thing you
12 know you had little Styrofoam beads all over
13 my living room floor. It was as if it snowed
14 in my house. I realized when I looked at this
15 this stuff doesn't go anywhere. You can't
16 even crush it. The only thing you can do is
17 hope you can vacuum it up and somehow dispose
18 of it.

19 When you think that it can break
20 down and can be ingested by fish, by birds, by
21 wildlife that really it's something important
22 to me that I needed to realize we need to get
23 this out of our landfills. What's there now
24 is going to stay forever I guess. But to
25 start reducing it. We have to start reducing

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2 our waste because it's starting to become a
3 problem.

4 Anybody who ever participated in
5 beach cleanups or marsh cleanups or
6 neighborhood cleanups will know how much
7 Styrofoam, whether or not it's cups or bowls,
8 you see these portable coolers that just -- we
9 have so many other alternatives, things that
10 can be used. So, it is important and I think
11 this is a step in the right direction for our
12 environment.

13 And I thank the Presiding Officer
14 for allowing us to bring this to the
15 forefront.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I have a
17 number of slips from the public so I want to
18 get to that as soon as possible. Joseph
19 Varon.

20 MR. VARON: Good afternoon
21 honored legislators, ladies and gentlemen and
22 especially the esteemed students who already
23 left. My name is Joe Varon and I'm a resident
24 of West Hempstead, Long Island. I am the past
25 president of the New York State Marine

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2 Education Association. A volunteer for Long
3 Island chapter of Food and Water Watch and a
4 retired New York City special ed teacher of 36
5 years.

6 I'm here to voice my strong support
7 for the proposed local law to prohibit the use
8 of polystyrofoam foam containers and hopefully
9 cups in our county.

10 As the Lorac spoke for the trees
11 I'm here to speak for our marine, fish, birds
12 and mammals who unfortunately cannot be here
13 this afternoon. Single use polystyrene
14 containers and cups are overrunning our
15 oceans, bays, river beds, streams and
16 neighborhoods. Our planet is facing a crisis
17 of climate change and an enormous part of it
18 is our litter. Our single use plastics and
19 poly Styrofoam are major culprits.

20 As a marine educator I am very much
21 aware that poly Styrofoam easily breaks into
22 smaller pieces and many marine mammals and
23 other creatures mistake it for food. It does
24 not biodegrade. Many marine creatures and
25 birds ingest it and they get impacted in their

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2 digestive systems and then they die.

3 Indeed we read of dead whales,
4 dolphins and porpoises who were found with
5 their stomachs impacted with such plastic
6 debris.

7 I know that banning poly Styrofoam
8 foam is not going to stop and eradicate all
9 litter, but it is a very critical first step.
10 By banning foam products we can work to ensure
11 that such harmful material is greatly reduced
12 from entering the environment. Indeed our
13 beautiful island's pristine beaches must be
14 protected.

15 To be naive enough to think that
16 placing such products in the garbage will make
17 it disappear it doesn't. They go somewhere.
18 Many wind up in our landfills and blow into
19 our beautiful ocean and waterways.

20 I hope that Nassau County will be
21 an environmental leader and ban this
22 unnecessary and detrimental product. Such a
23 ban will send a loud message to Governor Cuomo
24 and the New York State Legislature to follow
25 suit. Both Maryland and Maine have passed a

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2 ban on Styrofoam containers as New York County
3 and Suffolk County. Thank you for your
4 consideration.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
6 Mr. Varon. Joanne Moore.

7 MS. MOORE: Joanne Moore and I'm
8 a member of All Our Energy. All Our Energy is
9 a nonprofit 501(c)3 environmental advocacy
10 organization. I want to speak on two things.
11 One on the Styrofoam and also on PACE. So I
12 first want to thank Legislators Mule and
13 Schaefer and my Legislator Ford for their
14 bipartisan collaboration on this bill. All
15 Our Energy supports legislation such as this
16 bill to decrease polystyrene foam.

17 Personally I want to say I'm a
18 renter in Long Beach and my landlord was
19 having the driveway repaved and some other
20 repairs made. I was pleased that the workmen
21 separated out their water bottles, soda
22 bottles and put them in our recycling bin.
23 But they also put Styrofoam containers in that
24 bin. Their coffee cups and takeout. With a
25 ban this would not happen. That will improve

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2 the quality of recycling material that is
3 collected.

4 Also on PACE, Property Assessed
5 Clean Energy Program, All Our Energy supports
6 new local laws to authorize a newly revised
7 commercial PACE program. A cornerstone of
8 making renewable energy work is energy
9 efficiency. This type of program will save
10 money on reduced energy bills for the
11 corporations and commercial ventures and will
12 also stimulate economic development. Climate
13 change is real. The planet is at a
14 precipice. This cannot wait. Thank you.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Shelly
16 Goldman.

17 MS. GOLDMAN: Hello. My name is
18 Shelly Goldman and I live in Merrick. I am
19 also a volunteer with All Our Energy. I am
20 here to support the proposed local law
21 prohibiting the use of Styrofoam in Nassau
22 County. I want to thank Legislators Ford,
23 Schaefer and Mule for taking the steps to look
24 out for our environment here in Nassau
25 County. I am happy that we have some

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2 legislators here that are willing to take
3 steps to improve environmental conditions that
4 have deteriorated over the years.

5 I ask other legislators to support
6 these efforts and then move on to other items
7 like plastic straws and paper bags that also
8 unnecessarily add to waste disposal and litter
9 that can easily be avoided. Other counties
10 and municipalities have taken steps to
11 eliminate these items with great success.

12 I believe waste disposal is a
13 critical issues that will require all of us to
14 make behavioral changes. We can longer depend
15 on other countries to take our waste. So we
16 must take responsibility as individuals and as
17 a society to rethink ways in which we can
18 reduce, reuse and recycle.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Leslie
20 Raynor.

21 MS. RAYNOR: Good afternoon. My
22 name is Leslie Raynor from Glenn Head, and I'm
23 here to speak on behalf of two different
24 nonprofit environmental groups. I'm on the
25 board of directors of the Coalition to Save

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2 Hempstead Harbor which has been dedicated to
3 identifying and eliminating environmental
4 threats to Hempstead Harbor and surrounding
5 communities since 1986.

6 I am also a volunteer with All Our
7 Energy successfully campaigned in Long Beach
8 and in Sea Cliff to eliminate single use bags
9 that harm our waterways and environment.

10 I'm going to skip over all the bad
11 things about polystyrene because that's
12 already been covered in depth. But having
13 participated in multiple beach cleanups, I
14 have seen firsthand how polystyrene containers
15 are polluting our parks and waterways and how
16 they disintegrate into minuscule pieces that
17 are impossible to pick up and which then
18 permeate our environment. The small bits can
19 be mistaken for food by fish or turtles and
20 can be deadly.

21 This proposed legislation and other
22 measures we need to take to protect our
23 environment will not necessarily be easy for
24 us. There may be complications for merchants
25 and consumers. Merchants may face added costs

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2 and new legislation must be followed by
3 adequate campaigns to educate the public.

4 However, now is the time to have
5 the courage to make the decisions necessary to
6 ensure the health of our planet in the long
7 term. I wished the proposed legislation could
8 go even farther. Ideally, we should ban all
9 uses of polystyrene. But while scientists and
10 entrepreneur take up the challenge to develop
11 a safer placement, a partial ban is a good
12 first step and I urge you to support the
13 proposed legislation. Thank you.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Adrienne
15 Esposito.

16 MS. ESPOSITO: Good afternoon
17 members of the legislature. I know you've had
18 a full day already but we're going to do one
19 more. Thank you so much for Legislator Ford,
20 Legislature Mule and legislator Schaefer for
21 being bold and brave and sponsoring the ban on
22 Styrofoam. You won't be shocked to know the
23 Citizens Campaign for the Environment supports
24 this legislation. We have 40,000 members on
25 Long Island, 20,000 of which reside here in

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2 Nassau County.

3 You know and you've heard it
4 already, but Styrofoam degrades our
5 environment. It harms public health and it
6 doesn't biodegrade and it's not recyclable.
7 It's a triple societal threat. One that we
8 can just do away with.

9 Now some people are going to talk
10 to you about cost. But frankly saying it's
11 going to cost more might have been true five
12 years ago but it is no longer true today.
13 It's no longer true today because 100
14 municipalities across our nation so far have
15 approved a Styrofoam ban. Meaning that the
16 compostable materials that they are now making
17 have come down in price because they're made
18 more in bulk now. And actually, for you,
19 we've put together a chart illustrating that
20 the cost is either zero or negligible. By
21 negligible it's defining it by .01 to .05
22 cents. Fairly negligible.

23 So, we used to today say growing up
24 in Brooklyn cheap is expensive. Styrofoam might
25 be cheap but it's expensive for the

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2 environment, expensive for the public health
3 and expensive to pick out of our recyclables
4 as well.

5 There are hidden costs as well
6 associated with Styrofoam. You've already
7 heard people say that it leaches. It leaches
8 the carcinogen styrene. Which one of you have
9 never put a half filled cold cup of coffee
10 back in the microwave to be nuked up? Or took
11 those leftovers that you brought from last
12 night's dinner at the restaurant and heated
13 them up either in the oven or the microwave.
14 You not only got coffee with cream and sugar
15 but unfortunately you got an unhealthy dose of
16 styrene as well. This is an avoidable
17 exposure. One that we can avoid by passing
18 this legislation.

19 So out of those 100 municipalities
20 that passed it includes as you know New York
21 City, Suffolk County, Albany County, Ulster
22 County. We are not asking you to be the
23 first. We're asking you not to be the last.

24 And how is New York City doing?
25 They're doing fine. They're doing great.

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2 They implemented this in January. Patchogue
3 Village implemented it last September. You
4 can't even get a parking space downtown to go
5 to dinner there.

6 Industries are not hurt.
7 Industries understand they have to make a
8 change. And you know when a place like
9 McDonalds and Dunkin' Donuts are already on
10 the verge of changing or have transitioned,
11 they are not known for their leadership in
12 environmental change, but yet even they are
13 making the change.

14 So we thank you for considering
15 this bill. We look forward to watching you
16 vote yes and we appreciate your interest and
17 your work on this issue. Thank you so much.
18 If anybody wants this chart let me know.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Can you
20 submit it to the clerk please? Raymond
21 Smith.

22 MR. SMITH: Thank you for
23 allowing me to speak before you today. My
24 name is Raymond Smith and I am a long time
25 resident of Long Beach and now a current

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2 business owner. When we opened our business,
3 Blacksmith Spreads, we designed as many
4 aspects as possible to be environmental
5 conscious. This came surprisingly easy.

6 When Surfrider approached us to
7 become the first Long Island restaurant to be
8 designated as ocean friendly, we related to
9 discover we had already met all of their
10 requirements without even knowing what they
11 were one such requirement is that polystyrene
12 is not to be used.

13 We have built a successful business
14 based on the notion we can prepare and serve
15 quality food without much sacrifice to our
16 environment. Including the use of toxic
17 Styrofoam. Years of kitchen experience has
18 taught me that there are countless ways to
19 save money. The ways in which we count our
20 pennies has left us with the ability to make
21 better choices. One such example is the use
22 of compostable supplemental to-go wares.
23 Items that do come at a higher cost.

24 I can honestly say that by taking a
25 closer look at our expenses the price

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2 difference to contributing to a cleaner, safer
3 earth is negligible.

4 With bans to the east and west of
5 us, we, the residents of Nassau County, should
6 not be the ones dragging our feet to arrive to
7 the same conclusion.

8 There will be some that will oppose
9 it saying it's going to cost too much. I urge
10 those business owners to consider all the
11 other differences within their own walls where
12 they can save. I urge voters today to
13 consider the true cost of legal pollution. It
14 is extremely important that our financial
15 frugality does not come at a cost to our moral
16 responsibility. Thank you for putting this
17 legislation to a vote today. Thank you.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Eric
19 Goldstein.

20 MR. GOLDSTEIN: My name is Eric
21 goldstein. I'm an attorney with the Natural
22 Resources Defense Council. We're a national
23 nonprofit legal and scientific organization
24 with about 5,000 members in Nassau County. I
25 myself have lived for a decade first in Sea

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2 Cliff and then in Point Lookout and I have
3 seen firsthand the impacts of polystyrene foam
4 on our beaches I want to address the three
5 most common objections raised to the proposed
6 legislation.

7 First, opponents have claimed that
8 polystyrene foam food and beverage containers
9 is only a small part of the overall waste
10 stream. That's true but it doesn't tell the
11 full story. Polystyrene foam, because of its
12 brittle nature, contributes disproportionately
13 to street litter and waterway pollution. It's
14 often used for takeout foods and drinks. So
15 it doesn't find its way into household trash.
16 Instead it breaks into tiny pieces and
17 presents a cleanup problem for our local
18 governments at streets, parks and beaches.
19 The foam also makes its way into surrounding
20 waters as you've heard, breaks down into tiny
21 micro plastics, pollutes the marine
22 environment and it even gets ingested by fish
23 and birds and climbs up the food chain.

24 As Newsday reported the other day,
25 beaches and parks drive our tourism economy.

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2 So it makes sense to take reasonable steps to
3 keep them clean.

4 Second, the plastic industry argues
5 that dirty polystyrene foam food and beverage
6 containers can be recycled. That simply
7 hasn't proven to be the case. There is no
8 real world market for dirty foam. There's not
9 a single large city or county in the United
10 States that has a successful recycling program
11 in place for dirty foam. Not one.

12 Places like Los Angeles tried to
13 recycle foam and abandoned it. So did San
14 Diego. And San Jose, a city with a population
15 similar in size to Nassau County, says right
16 on their website under frequently asked
17 questions that they love recycling, would love
18 to recycle foam containers but they found no
19 markets for the foam and therefore enacted a
20 ban like the one you are considering today.

21 Finally, there's the claim that a
22 foam ban will cause economic problems for
23 restaurants and food service businesses. The
24 experience in well over 100 cities, counties
25 and towns is that more environmentally

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2 friendly substitutes compostable paper,
3 aluminum and less troublesome plastics have
4 increasingly become cost competitive with
5 polystyrene foam.

6 The New York City school system
7 recently replaced the 800,000 foam lunch trays
8 they use every day with compostable cardboard
9 trays with just about a penny a piece
10 difference in cost. And there's more and more
11 jurisdictions switch to substitutes the cost
12 difference is expected to disappear.

13 Jurisdictions like San Francisco
14 and New York City have included a financial
15 hardship waiver provision in their legislation
16 which makes sense for small businesses. Yet
17 they found very, very few waivers have been
18 requested as restaurants and food
19 establishments have generally been able to
20 find suitable substitutes at comparable cost.

21 We thank you Legislators Ford,
22 Schaefer and Mule as well as you Mr. Presiding
23 Officer for advancing this legislation. We
24 hope to celebrate with you later today. Thank
25 you.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Melissa
3 Chiusano.

4 MS. CHIUSANO: Hello. My name
5 Melissa Chiusano. I live in Carle Place and I
6 own a coffee shop, Gentle Brew Coffee
7 Roasters, with two locations in Long Beach.
8 Thank you for taking the time to consider
9 banning Styrofoam in our county.

10 As a small business owner, I am
11 constantly looking for ways to save money but
12 using Styrofoam has never been an option I
13 have even considered. Even though it's the
14 cheapest type of coffee cup and food packaging
15 out there, it isn't worth poisoning my
16 customers or the planet and continuing to add
17 nonbiodegradable petroleum-based products to
18 our waste stream.

19 As you've heard, Styrofoam
20 recycling is very rare and quite toxic and if
21 it's touched food it's contaminated and can't
22 be recycled anyway. Not using cheap Styrofoam
23 and using compostable serviceware instead has
24 always been an easy cost to justify and has
25 never hurt my business's bottom line.

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2 Voting yes today is a no-brainer to
3 reduce or eliminate this awful substance.

4 Thank you.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Margaret
6 Galbrath. She may have had to leave. Amanda
7 Moore.

8 MS. MOORE: I know it's been a
9 long day so I'm going to run up here and also
10 very, very excited to be here.

11 My name is Amanda Moore. I am a
12 resident, single mother and small business
13 owner in Long Beach, New York. I sit on the
14 environmental advisory board there and I'm
15 also the cochair of the Central Long Island
16 Surfrider Chapter.

17 I really can't say anything better
18 than those beautiful kids did here a couple of
19 hours ago. So I won't go into everything that
20 I wrote. Which means I'm winging it. But I
21 do want to express my gratitude to the
22 legislators that penned this and to all of you
23 for considering this vote today. This is a
24 huge step forward for environmental
25 legislation in this county.

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2 It has been referenced that we are
3 a little bit behind in taking a look at our
4 single use plastic usage and waste here and
5 other environmental measures that Surfrider
6 strongly stands behind.

7 I'd like to thank you for taking
8 this step today and any other considerations
9 in the future for things like a fee on other
10 single use bags and possibly looking at straws
11 in the future. Make sure I covered
12 everything. I did.

13 And I'm so happy this includes
14 packing peanuts because I feel in our every
15 day we confront the food packaging. Those
16 packaging peanuts are so annoying and once
17 they float away they are just the hardest
18 thing to get back into our waste stream and we
19 want them gone entirely.

20 Thank you so much for your time and
21 for voting on this today.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Erin
23 Molyneux.

24 MR. MOLYNEUX: Thank you. My
25 name is Erin Molyneux and I am a resident of

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2 Port Washington and I'm here as a board member
3 of an organization called Residents Forward,
4 formally called Residents for a More Beautiful
5 Port Washington.

6 Our mission is to inspire and unify
7 the residents of Port Washington to protect
8 and advance the vibrancy, resiliency
9 sustainability and beauty of our peninsula
10 given that our peninsula exists in Nassau
11 County, we also wish for a vibrant, beautiful
12 sustainable and resilient Nassau County and
13 your vote on this bill can go a long way to
14 helping us get there.

15 I don't want to reiterate the
16 points that were already made. There were so
17 many valid points. I just want to add a
18 slightly dimension to this. In addition to
19 the public health aspects of this and the
20 environmental cleanliness aspects of this, I
21 think it's also a question of good
22 governance.

23 In the Town of North Hempstead our
24 supervisor and town council recently issued a
25 publication to the residents there detailing

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2 what is recyclable and what is not and what's
3 the proper way for us as residents to
4 facilitate our garbage carriers in the proper
5 collection and disposal of these materials.
6 But there's a lot of confusion out there and
7 often times we either through apathy or lack
8 of information, we mix things in in the
9 recyclable content that is not recyclable and
10 it contaminates it and it becomes part of the
11 waste stream.

12 This legislation, by completely
13 eliminating nonrecyclable material such as
14 polystyrene, will help a long way towards
15 having our garbage districts and waste
16 management facilities function better. So
17 thank you. I hope you will pass this
18 legislation.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Elizabeth
20 McCloud.

21 MS. MCCLOUD: Good afternoon. My
22 name is Betsy McCloud a/k/a Elizabeth. A
23 lifelong resident of Nassau County currently
24 residing in Long Beach. I'm also a member of
25 the executive committee for the Surfrider

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2 Central Long Island Chapter.

3 I would like to thank Legislators
4 Ford, Schaefer, Mule and thank you for bag fee
5 for bringing this important matter to a vote
6 today.

7 As you all know, countless studies
8 have been published on the negative impact of
9 this material, both on the environment and our
10 health. The EPA recognizes dangers that
11 Styrofoam impose to the central nervous system
12 such as headaches fatigue, dizziness,
13 confusion, drowsiness, difficulty
14 concentrating. Like we don't have enough of
15 that already in our daily lives.

16 So as far as the environmental
17 impact, due to the barriers for recycling
18 Styrofoam and to it profuse presence in
19 disposable packaging, as well as its tendency
20 to drift away on currents of wind and water
21 Styrofoam has obviously become an abundant
22 form of plastic pollution on land and in our
23 waterways. Especially true in our ocean
24 ecosystem such as Nassau County.

25 Styrofoam is major component of the

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2 plastic debris found on our local beaches and
3 we personally at Surfriders Central Long
4 Island have found over 100 pieces at a beach
5 cleanup on Jones Beach on May 8. Over 15
6 pounds at a cleanup in Long Beach canals on
7 April 27. And five pounds of Styrofoam alone
8 on March 9th. Also in Long Beach.

9 Polystyrene obviously leaches
10 toxins into the ocean and animals like birds
11 and turtles mistake small bits for Styrofoam
12 for food, which causes them to die of
13 malnutrition. Which many of us have been over
14 today.

15 Furthermore, it never biodegrades.
16 Instead it photodegrades into dust and in
17 bodies of water. That dust can absorb other
18 toxins such as PCBs and the pesticide DDT.
19 These toxins are concentrated even more
20 strongly which is consumed by fish which is
21 then consumed by humans. Which is obviously
22 not something we want to consume.

23 So Suffolk, New York City, DC,
24 Maryland and Hawaii have already banned
25 polystyrene. So thank you for acting against

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2 this unnecessary and dangerous material and
3 ridding it from our community.

4 I would also like to take this
5 moment to thank Surfrider's ocean friendly
6 restaurant owners for coming today to support
7 Ray and Mill who have been amazing in our
8 program trying to spread the word. And
9 together as a community we can make a change.
10 Thank you very much.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Neil
12 Lewis.

13 MR. LEWIS: Legislators. Neil
14 Lewis. I am the executive director of
15 Sustainability Institute of Molloy College. I
16 wanted to join in speaking in favor of this
17 important ban on polystyrene single use
18 products. I commend Legislators Ford,
19 Schaefer and Mule for cosponsoring this and
20 bringing it forward. And I'm at a loss for
21 anything I can add for what the students said
22 earlier and really all the great advocacy
23 groups that have come out in support of this
24 measure.

25 For me, I think one of the

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2 calculations when we're talking about
3 something obviously an environmental nuisance
4 is the question are there alternatives that
5 are viable? And of course we are seeing
6 overwhelming evidence that there are viable
7 alternatives. So it makes good sense to
8 charge ahead. And for Long Island, where
9 anybody who does a survey of Long Island,
10 people always identify our waterways as one of
11 our greatest resources. So it's very
12 important to see progress on a measure like
13 this. Congratulations.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: John
15 Budnick. He's the last slip that I have.
16 Need a motion to close the
17 hearing. Moved by Legislator Mule. Seconded
18 by Legislator Schaefer. All in favor of
19 closing the hearing signify by saying aye.
20 Those opposed? The hearing is closed.

21 Now we have to go to item six.
22 Item six is a local law to prohibit the use of
23 polystyrene foam containers in Nassau County
24 and to create a special revenue fund for
25 environmental investigation and cleanup.

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2 Moved by legislator Schaefer.

3 Seconded by Legislator Mule. We are going to
4 amend this but because the amendment came in
5 late we are going to have to do this by
6 emergency. I will invite Mr. Budnick up in a
7 moment to have his say. But in the mean time,
8 we need the clerk to call an emergency.

9 MR. PULITZER: Will do. Thank
10 you. Calling emergency clerk item 102-19.
11 Emergency resolution number 12-2019 declaring
12 an emergency for immediate action upon a local
13 law to prohibit the use of polystyrene foam
14 containers in Nassau County to create a
15 special revenue fund for environmental
16 investigation and cleanup of Nassau County
17 properties.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We need a
19 motion to establish the emergency. Moved by
20 Legislator Mule. Seconded by Legislator
21 Schaefer. All in favor of the emergency
22 signify by saying aye. Those opposed?
23 Carries unanimously. The proposed amendment
24 is to exclude polystyrene containers for fresh
25 produce from this regulation pursuant to the

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2 local law. Basically there will be an
3 exception for fresh produce.

4 Legislator Ford makes that
5 amendment. Seconded by Legislator Schaefer.
6 Any discussion on the amendment? All in favor
7 of the amendment signify by saying aye. The
8 item is amended before us. Mr. Budnick you
9 had something to say.

10 MR. BUDNICK: John Budnick.
11 Speaking as a member of Citizens Campaign for
12 the Environment and Operation Splash, not only
13 am I very much in favor of this, I believe
14 that your enforcement mechanism is not
15 sufficient. You've placed your restrictions
16 solely in Consumer Affairs and made it solely
17 a civil matter. That I don't have any problem
18 with. The problem is Nassau County Consumer
19 Affairs currently doesn't have enough
20 personnel to even begin to try and enforce
21 this law.

22 It is respectfully suggested that a
23 provision of law, not now but sometime in the
24 future, be considered whereby piece officers,
25 police officers, and sanitary and other

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2 personnel in the Department of Health of
3 Nassau County and those also authorized under
4 New York State law to issue appearance
5 tickets, be able to make such violations
6 returnable before the Nassau County Department
7 of Consumer Affairs. You may turn out for a
8 while that you need more hearing officers in
9 Consumer Affairs for a while. But I think
10 that can be finagled. Thank you very much.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We have
12 the item as amended. I will call for a vote
13 on that. All in favor signify by saying aye.
14 Those opposed? Passes unanimously.

15 Next hearing is item two, a local
16 law to amend the Nassau County administrative
17 code in relation to amending the Nassau County
18 Human Rights Law to preclude discrimination
19 against first responders.

20 Motion to open the hearing by
21 Legislator Rhoads. Seconded by Legislator
22 Kennedy. This hearing is open. This is a
23 legislative initiative. Anyone want to
24 comment on this? This is kind of
25 self-sufficient. It follows on the heels of a

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2 similar local law last week that protected
3 veterans against discrimination. Included
4 them in the Nassau County human rights law.

5 Hearing no other discussion, any
6 public comment? None. Motion to close the
7 hearing by Legislator Drucker. Seconded by
8 Legislator Lafazan. All those in favor of
9 closing the hearing signify by saying aye.
10 Those opposed? The hearing is closed.

11 We have to jump to the local law
12 which is item seven, a local law to amend the
13 Nassau County Administrative Code in relation
14 to amending the Human Rights Law to preclude
15 discrimination against first responders.

16 This is moved by Legislator
17 Walker. Seconded by Legislator Bynoe. This
18 local law is before us. Any discussion?
19 Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying
20 aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

21 Item three, a hearing on a proposed
22 local law to repeal Title 83 of the
23 miscellaneous laws of Nassau County and to add
24 a new Title 83 establishing a sustainable
25 energy loan program in the County of Nassau.

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2 That's moved by Legislator
3 DeRiggi-Whitton. Seconded by Legislator
4 Muscarella to open the hearing. All in favor
5 of opening the hearing signify by saying aye.
6 Those opposed? Hearing is opened.

7 Mr. Lewis, do you want to speak on
8 this?

9 MR. LEWIS: Thank you
10 Mr. Presiding Officer. Once again, Neil Lewis
11 representing Sustainability Institute of
12 Molloy College.

13 This issue we had a hearing back in
14 November and we had a little bit of back and
15 forth. To what extent to go through all the
16 details. The bottom line is the state created
17 a program to try and boost and make it easier
18 for businesses to do renovations of
19 particularly older buildings where there
20 wasting a lot of monies on energy bills. And
21 the idea is to provide a mechanism to sort of
22 speed up and encourage renovations of those
23 buildings.

24 So the program is unique in the
25 sense that it ties the loans to the building

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2 which helps convince business managers that it
3 is a good investment to invest in the
4 building. Because if they choose to move in a
5 few years or something the loan stays with the
6 building because the benefit stays with the
7 building. The building is more energy
8 efficient now and it's reducing its
9 expenditures.

10 As I said, we have gone through a
11 little bit of process. You are all familiar
12 with the broad brush of the concepts and we
13 have Mark Thielking here who is also ready to
14 speak and he can always answer more detailed
15 questions.

16 I did want to read into the record,
17 because we did have quite a few groups joined
18 in supporting this. We sent a letter back in
19 March, and I want to thank the Presiding
20 Officer and really all the legislators for
21 their work on this issue. But they've really
22 devoted time of their staffs and teams to
23 understand high finance and really come up
24 with a program that as it stands here before
25 you today we have a way to boost economic

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2 development on Long Island. All the work of
3 renovating old buildings or putting PB solar
4 on new buildings, all that has to be done by
5 local companies. This is a good thing for the
6 economy locally.

7 It's also great for the environment
8 because we are reducing our carbon footprint.
9 These efforts as I say they are supported
10 locally. It's economic development. But
11 let's acknowledge something. The taxpayers of
12 Nassau County, by you approving this, there's
13 no risk to the taxpayers. There's no
14 expenditures to the taxpayers other than the
15 expenditures sort of in-house of this
16 legislative body overseeing the program and
17 the county executive's people overseeing.

18 With that said, I did want to
19 mention the many groups that support this
20 effort including the Sustainability Institute
21 of Molloy College that I represent, the Long
22 Island Progressive Coalition, Vision Long
23 Island, Citizens Campaign for the Environment,
24 which is here again today, the USGBC Renewable
25 Energy Long Island, the Long Island Solar

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2 Energy Organization and the New York Solar
3 Energy Organization, All Our Energy, which is
4 also here today, Students for Climate Action
5 Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club, citizen
6 Climate Lobby, Resident Energy, Sisters of
7 Saint Joseph, the Sustainability Institute at
8 Farmingdale and Empower Solar.

9 Once again I want to thank the
10 leadership in getting this done and let's get
11 some clean energy projects done in Nassau
12 County. Thank you.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
14 you. Mark Thielking.

15 MR. THIELKING: Good afternoon.
16 I was here two weeks ago. I'm the executive
17 director of the Energy Improvement
18 Corporation, the not-for-profit local
19 development authority that manages Open C-PACE
20 for the rest of the state.

21 Open C-Pace, local law that's
22 before you, restates Article 5L of the general
23 municipal law and is meant to address a very
24 common problem, the commercial and multifamily
25 building owners that wish to make significant

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2 energy related improvements to their property
3 very often do not have the capital to make
4 these improvements. These improvements, if
5 they were to occur, allow significant
6 community benefits to accrue, including lower
7 pollution, lower emission, lower dependence on
8 fossil-based fuels, fostering greater local
9 job creation in the energy efficiency and
10 renewable energy space, while lowering
11 operating costs and supporting higher property
12 values.

13 The local law establishes open
14 C-PACE as a public benefit in the county and
15 outlines terms and conditions of repayment,
16 description of the benefit assessment lien
17 that is placed on the improved property to
18 secure repayment and establishes the Energy
19 Improvement Corporation as the entity that
20 works on behalf of the county to fulfil these
21 benefits.

22 Open C-PACE is administered by the
23 Energy Improvement Corporation. There are no
24 administrative or financial obligations of the
25 county in the provision of Open C-PACE.

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2 So what's the difference between
3 open C-PACE and regular loans? Financing is
4 available for Open C-PACE for up to 100
5 percent of the project cost. This is usually
6 a barrier for clean energy improvements.
7 Financing is provided by EIC approved capital
8 providers, which often compete to fund these
9 projects. So we are producing lower interest
10 rates for these projects.

11 Customer loan terms can be extended
12 up to the expected life of the improvement
13 which can last up to 30 years. So many of
14 these improvements which are very deep energy
15 efficiency improvements need that type of
16 financing to actually make them work.

17 And Open C-PACE financing
18 automatically transfers to new owners upon
19 sale of the property which can support deep
20 energy improvements more efficiently and more
21 effectively.

22 The Open C-PACE benefit assessment
23 lien placed on the improved property is
24 subordinate to municipal taxes and senior to
25 other liens. Consent from the mortgage holder

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2 is required and there is no county or
3 administrative obligation in the provision of
4 Open C-PACE once it's enabled. Once Open
5 C-PACE is enabled the member municipality
6 provides the public benefit of PACE, but EIC
7 administers the program and again at no cost
8 or no financial risk to the county.

9 Thank you for considering Open
10 C-PACE and we look forward to working with the
11 county once the local law is passed and the
12 municipal agreement is executed.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Ryan
14 Madden.

15 MR. MADDEN: Good afternoon
16 everyone. My name is Ryan Madden and I'm the
17 sustainability organizer for the Long Island
18 Progressive Coalition grassroots community
19 organization founded in 1979. I actually have
20 a long history of helping to forward clean
21 energy projects including insuring state-wide
22 funding through Green Jobs Green New York for
23 low to moderate income homeowners to access
24 energy efficiency programs.

25 We are now involved in developing

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2 community solar projects focusing on community
3 group purchasing with houses of worship and
4 other nonprofit organizations. And while
5 residential solar has provided a low cost
6 solution to 40,000 homes across Long Island,
7 religious institutions and nonprofit
8 organizations have been left behind due to
9 high upfront cost and the inability to take
10 advantage of tax credits. As a result, a lot
11 of those organizations have been unable to
12 realize all of the benefits from solar
13 energy. We believe that solar energy must be
14 accessible for everyone.

15 So we've actually created a program
16 called Power Up Solar Long Island designed to
17 reduce the cost of solar for nonprofits by
18 bundling multiple projects together making use
19 of tax credits through third-party financing
20 and offering loan options to avoid upfront
21 costs.

22 Accessible, affordable and
23 obtainable financing must be readily available
24 to these institutions who are already facing
25 high barriers to entering the clean energy

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2 economy. While we have managed to work with
3 religious lenders and local banks to finance
4 some of our pilot projects with these types of
5 organizations, there is a dire need for
6 reliable local options to ensure all
7 nonprofits can benefit from solar.

8 This is why we are in strong
9 support of New York State's Property Assessed
10 Clean Energy, PACE, financing and urge this
11 body to pass and implement it here in Nassau
12 County immediately.

13 Neil covered all the rest of my
14 talking points. I will end there and say
15 let's get this done. Thanks.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
17 you. Peter Gollan.

18 MR. GOLLAN: Good afternoon. I
19 appreciate the opportunity to address the
20 legislature on commercial PACE. My name is
21 Peter Gollan. I am a resident of Huntington.
22 I'm also a trustee of the Long Island Power
23 Authority, LIPA, although what I'm saying here
24 is my own opinion rather than LIPA's. I do
25 not speak for the authority but everything I

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2 say I believe is consistent with their
3 policies.

4 I won't repeat what others have
5 told you about commercial PACE facilitating
6 the addition of solar energy and reducing
7 greenhouse gases. You already know that.
8 What I will tell is something you probably
9 have not heard in this context before. It
10 concerns what's claimed to be a problem for
11 Long Island's future.

12 You've seen in the newspaper
13 stories about National Grid saying that unless
14 this Williams pipeline is built it will have a
15 shortfall of natural gas by ten percent in the
16 next few years and the reserves won't
17 accommodate that, so they're going to stop all
18 commercial hookups. I personally doubt that
19 there is such a shortfall but let's take them
20 at their word for a moment.

21 You've also seen columnists writing
22 that if the gas is not supplied building will
23 stop, jobs will be lost and there will be a
24 recession on Long Island. I think we have to
25 address that problem. But we already have the

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2 solution to that problem. The gas that
3 National Grid is seeking is already here.
4 It's being used by existing gas customers.
5 It's just not being used as efficiently as it
6 should be. Replacing inefficient, old gas
7 heating and air conditioning with more
8 efficient units or with electrically powered
9 heat pumps will reduce the use of natural gas
10 by existing facilities. Will reduce it
11 substantially.

12 The renowned Rocky Mountain
13 Institute has shown that retrofits can save up
14 to 40 percent of a building's energy use and
15 make the building less expensive to operate and
16 the occupants more comfortable.

17 So we already have the solution to
18 a problem that you didn't know existed and you
19 have it right in front of you in the
20 legislation. So pass that legislation and set
21 a good example for the county to the east,
22 which in this case is lagging in PACE
23 legislation. Thank you.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's the
25 last slip that I have. Mr. Budnick,

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2 Ms. Esposito.

3 MR. BUDNICK: My compliments to
4 you all on moving this legislation. It is
5 hoped, I understand that there is an
6 optionality for nonprofits, I assume that
7 includes governmental entities. I have a long
8 period of experience in doing this type of
9 work with my deceased uncle who was an
10 environmental engineering, among other things,
11 out in California. What needs to be done is
12 every school district, the county, the towns,
13 the municipalities, the not-for-profit
14 organizations, even group homes need to all be
15 alerted and addressing the utility of heat
16 pumps and of solar use.

17 I think this program will help to
18 do that and it will help each and every one of
19 the entities, like the county, like the
20 community college, like individual school
21 districts, like fire districts and many other
22 organizations to rein in some of their energy
23 expenses and promote more utilization of their
24 resources for providing the necessary services
25 to the entities, the community that they

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2 serve. Thank you. My compliments.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
4 Mr. Budnick. Ms. Esposito wanted to say
5 something as well.

6 MS. ESPOSITO: Adrienne Esposito,
7 executive director Citizens Campaign for the
8 Environment. We also support this
9 legislation. Just to add this is how it
10 begins. Some of you might remember, not many
11 of you as I look around and see how youthful
12 you have become, legislator, but when we first
13 started doing solar on rooftops it took a lot
14 of work to get the 1,000 homes to start. Now
15 we're up to 40,000 homes on Long Island that
16 have solar on residential rooftops. But
17 that's residential. That's going well. What
18 we really need to focus on is that midrange,
19 the commercial establishments, the businesses
20 and this opens the doorway for that. For that
21 area, that segment of businesses and
22 commercial establishments to engage in solar
23 and to engage in renewable energy. This is
24 how we really are going to make a holistic
25 transition from fossil fuels to renewable

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2 energy.

3 So, we appreciate your support. I
4 feel fairly confident you are going to vote
5 yes. No one is going to vote against solar
6 and helping businesses engage in solar. So
7 thank you so much.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
9 to all of our speakers. Meta Mereday.

10 MS. MEREDAY: I'm in favor of
11 legislation but I'm always concerned when
12 someone comes and says that there is no impact
13 and cost are negligible and things of that
14 nature. I'm concerned when I look at the fact
15 that when you are looking at fees for
16 properties and talking about renovations of
17 older buildings or this requires purchases of
18 buildings, what the cost will be for those
19 builders and developers when they find out
20 just how much you have to pay to go to Nassau
21 County with regard to mortgages, deeds, the
22 assessment maps, charges of that nature when
23 I'm working with older families, particularly
24 veteran families, and their looking at upwards
25 of \$1,200 just for recording fees.

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2 This might be something that is
3 beneficial when you look at the budget and
4 let's just say okay, let's just tack on
5 another \$100 for a recording fee or a
6 transcript or a copy. Then let's look at the
7 families that's involved when we say that on
8 the record it says Nassau County's median
9 income is \$90,000 but the actual homeowner's
10 median income that's paying for the salaries
11 that are six digits, particularly those who
12 work for the administration and work for
13 county government, the actual incomes for the
14 taxpayers are closer to \$50,000.

15 We have residents that are
16 struggling. We have families that are
17 struggling. And these types of fees and these
18 offsets when they come back later and say oh,
19 I need a PILOT because I didn't realize the
20 costs were going to be that huge or that large
21 down the road. All this looks goods on paper
22 but what are you looking at to protect the
23 interests of the taxpayer who has to make up
24 the difference when these projects run into
25 cost overruns or into those areas that will

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2 have to be made up some way? Because we
3 cannot continue to expect to carry on the
4 backs of the middle class largely as we
5 increase the zombie homes.

6 So if you want to have more
7 renovations like the resident that was here
8 earlier who talked about the Sandy recovery,
9 I'm also dealing with families that are still
10 dealing with recovery with Sandy who not in
11 their homes and still paying for those taxes.
12 But \$1,200? I mean it's just \$355 for an
13 assessment map. \$355 just for that. That
14 doesn't even go into recording fees for
15 properties and deeds.

16 So for all of you and for those
17 listening from the administration, when it
18 comes down to budget time let's start looking
19 at what these businesses can actually do. I
20 don't want to hear anymore about how it's not
21 going to a cost for the taxpayer and for the
22 county. I want to hear what actual revenue
23 they're going to bring so that it protects
24 more of our residents so that I don't have
25 anymore veterans in fear of being evicted.

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2 Thank you.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
4 to all who spoke on this item as well as the
5 other speakers. That's the last slip that I
6 have. Need a motion to close the hearing.
7 Motion to close by Legislator Drucker.
8 Seconded by Legislator McKevitt. All in favor
9 of closing the hearing signify by saying aye.
10 Those opposed? Hearing is closed.

11 We are going to number eight which
12 is going to be a vote on the local law. It's
13 a local law to repeat Title 83 of the
14 miscellaneous laws of Nassau County and to add
15 a new Title 83 establishing a sustainable
16 energy loan program.

17 Moved by Legislator Birnbaum.
18 Seconded by Legislator Kennedy. Any debate or
19 discussion? All in favor signify by saying
20 aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

21 Last hearing of the day will be a
22 hearing number four on a local law to amend
23 Section 205-a of the county government law of
24 Nassau County to change the name of the
25 Coordinating Agency for Spanish-Americans to

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2 the office of Hispanic Affairs.

3 Moved by Legislator Rhoads.

4 Seconded by Legislator Lafazan. That's a
5 motion to open the hearing. All in favor of
6 opening the hearing signify by saying aye.

7 Those opposed? This is self-explanatory. I
8 don't know that we need any debate or
9 discussion or any comments. Need a motion to
10 close the hearing now. Moved by Minority
11 Leader Abrahams. Seconded by Legislator
12 Walker. All in favor of closing the hearing
13 signify by saying aye. Those opposed? The
14 hearing is closed.

15 We jump to item nine, a local law
16 to amend Section 205-a of the Nassau County
17 government law of Nassau County in relation to
18 changing the name of the Coordinating Agency
19 for Spanish-Americans to the Office of
20 Hispanic Affairs.

21 Moved by Legislator Walker.

22 Seconded by Legislator Bynoe. Any debate or
23 discussion? Hearing none, all in favor
24 signify by saying aye. Those opposed?
25 Carries unanimously. That's done.

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2 We move to item 12 ordinance 31.

3 That is an ordinance to set the compensation
4 for election inspectors, poll clerks and
5 election coordinators pursuant to Section
6 3-420 of the New York State Election Law.

7 Moved by legislator Ferretti.

8 Seconded by Legislator Mule.

9 We want to clarify that the term
10 poll clerk as used in the legislation is the
11 equivalent or is the same thing as chairs,
12 which is the term we are all used to in terms
13 of polling places. So you have chairs,
14 election coordinators and election inspectors.

15 Any other debate or discussion?

16 Mr. Budnick.

17 MR. BUDNICK: I wasn't able to
18 inquire at your committee meeting how much per
19 these various officials is going to be set as
20 the per diem or per hour rate?

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: What was
22 the question? We were trying to get the
23 information that was requested.

24 MR. BUDNICK: What amount per
25 hour or per day, per diem is going to be

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2 provided for these personnel?

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I will
4 give it to you right now. We are trying to
5 search for what the rates were before. But
6 they are going up to this. Election
7 inspectors would be paid \$240 per day. Poll
8 clerks or chairs would be paid \$290 a day.
9 Election coordinators \$250 a day. If an
10 inspector or chair attends a training session
11 they make an additional \$40.

12 What this does actually because of
13 the fact that it's a 15 hour day but they
14 usually get there an hour before an hour
15 after. So you're talking about a 16, 17 hour
16 day. Essentially what this does is give them
17 the minimum wage. I can tell you it is
18 difficult to get people to do this and you
19 often find that polling places have nobody
20 from one side or the other. This is something
21 that's is sorely needed.

22 MR. BUDNICK: I more than agree.
23 I just wanted to make sure that the rates
24 we're paying were consistent with the Nassau
25 County minimum living wage and actually

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2 they're better than that. I commend you
3 because there's a crying need out there. Last
4 year there were numerous vacancies in the
5 election district area where I was working at
6 the McKenna Middle School in Massapequa Park.
7 It created enormous difficulties for
8 everyone. This will try and remedy that
9 situation I hope. My commendations.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:

11 Mr. Nedelka, do you know what the current
12 rates are? I think I know them generally.

13 MR. NEDELKA: Larry Nedelka from
14 the Board of Elections. The inspectors today
15 received \$180. That's about 12 bucks an
16 hour. Poll site coordinator who has a
17 specific duty under the federal laws and the
18 state laws revolving around the Help Americans
19 Vote Act they make \$210 a day as do the
20 chairmen of the individual, chairpersons of
21 the individual election boards. We have about
22 1200 of them. That's it.

23 This is going to bring them in line
24 and put us in compliance with current and
25 emerging minimum wage laws. It's also going

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2 to reflect, as you said Mr. Nicoletto, the
3 number of hours in the day. Plus with the new
4 early voting and some other legislation coming
5 down there's going to be increased duties. So
6 this just all around becomes a nice
7 compensation for people and a way to recruit
8 quality inspectors and retain them.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
10 you. Could not agree more. Anyone else on
11 the legislature? Hearing none, all in favor
12 of this item signify by saying aye. Those
13 opposed? Carries unanimously.

14 Last item on the calendar is item
15 24. It's a resolution authorizing the county
16 attorney to compromise and settle the claim
17 with plaintiff as set forth in the action
18 entitled Kyle Howell versus the county of
19 Nassau.

20 Moved by Legislator McKeivitt.
21 Seconded by Legislator Birnbaum. This item is
22 before us. Let the record reflect that
23 Minority Leader Abrahams and Legislators Bynoe
24 and Solages are recusing themselves. They
25 have left the room. They are not going to be

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2 participating in any debate or discussion or
3 vote on this item.

4 Any debate or discussion among
5 those that are here? Hearing none, all in
6 favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed?
7 Carries unanimously by a vote of 15 to zero.
8 16 zero.

9 I'm going to leave the legislative
10 meeting in -- put it into recess. Not going
11 to close it at this time and we are going to
12 go back to the Rules Committee to finish those
13 three contracts.

14 (Meeting was recessed at 4:29 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 23rd day of
May 2019.

FRANK GRAY