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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO,  
Presiding Officer

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DENISE FORD, Chairwoman

1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

Monday, July 15, 2019  
3:16 P.M

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

DENISE FORD,  
Chairwoman

STEVE RHOADS,  
Vice Chairman

VINCENT MUSCARELLA

JOHN R. FERRETTI

DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON,  
Ranking

SIELA BYNOE

DEBRA MULE

MICHAEL PULITZER  
Clerk of the Legislature

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LIST OF SPEAKERS

TIMOTHY HAHN..... 5

DEPUTY INSPECTOR GREG STEPHANOFF..... 7

ASSISTANT CHIEF JOHN PRIEST..... 11

1                   Public Safety Committee/7-15-19

2                   CHAIRWOMAN FORD:   At this time I  
3   will call the Public Safety Committee to  
4   order and ask the clerk to call the roll.

5                   CLERK PULITZER:   Thank you.

6   Legislator Debra Mule?

7                   LEGISLATOR MULE:   Here.

8                   CLERK PULITZER:   Legislator Siela  
9   Bynoe?

10                  LEGISLATOR BYNOE:   Here.

11                  CLERK PULITZER:   Ranking Member  
12   Delia DeRiggi-Whitton?

13                  LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:  
14   Here.

15                  CLERK PULITZER:   Legislator John  
16   Ferretti, Jr.?

17                  LEGISLATOR FERRETTI:   Here.

18                  CLERK PULITZER:   Legislator  
19   Vincent Muscarella?

20                  LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA:   Here.

21                  CLERK PULITZER:   Vice Chair  
22   Legislator Rhoads?

23                  LEGISLATOR RHOADS:   Present.

24                  CLERK PULITZER:   Chairwoman  
25   Denise Ford?

1                   Public Safety Committee/7-15-19

2                   CHAIRWOMAN FORD:   Here.

3                   CLERK PULITZER:   We have a  
4   quorum.

5                   CHAIRWOMAN FORD:   Thank you.

6   There are six items on the agenda today  
7   which are Clerk Items 236-19, 238-19,  
8   239-19, 240-19, 245-19, 246-19.

9                   Clerk Item 236-19 and 246-19 are  
10   ordinances supplemental to the annual  
11   appropriation ordinance in connection with  
12   the medical examiner.   May I have a motion?

13                  LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA:   So moved.

14                  LEGISLATOR MULE:   Second.

15                  CHAIRWOMAN FORD:   Moved by  
16   Legislator Muscarella, seconded by  
17   Legislator Mule.   The item is before us.  
18   Who is here to speak about this?

19                  MR. HAHN:   Timothy Hahn from the  
20   Medical Examiner's Office.   The first item  
21   is 236, a grant from the New York State  
22   Department of Criminal Justice Services in  
23   the amount of \$102,108.   This grant is used  
24   to improve the quality and the effectiveness  
25   of drug testing in the office and it is used

1                   Public Safety Committee/7-15-19

2       to reduce case backlog.

3                   CHAIRWOMAN FORD:   Any debate or  
4       discussion on this?

5                   (No verbal response.)

6                   Is there any public comment?

7                   (No verbal response.)

8                   How about 246-19?

9                   MR. HAHN:   246 is a similar  
10       grant, the aid to crime labs grant from New  
11       York State Department of Criminal Justice  
12       Services.  It's in the amount \$504,885.  It  
13       is once again used to improve the  
14       effectiveness and timeliness of testing by  
15       the forensic services lab under the ME's  
16       Office.

17                  CHAIRWOMAN FORD:   Thank you.  Any  
18       debate or discussion?

19                  (No verbal response.)

20                  Any public comment?

21                  (No verbal response.)

22                  I see none.  All those in favor  
23       of passing these items please signify by  
24       saying aye.

25                  (Aye.)

1                   Public Safety Committee/7-15-19

2                   Those opposed?

3                   (No verbal response.)

4                   The items pass unanimously.

5                   Now I'm going to call Clerk Items  
6   238-19, 239-19, and 240-19, ordinances  
7   supplemental to the annual appropriation  
8   ordinance in connection with the police  
9   department.

10                  May I have a motion?

11                  LEGISLATOR MULE:    So moved.

12                  LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA:   Second.

13                  CHAIRWOMAN FORD:   Moved by  
14   Legislator Mule, seconded by Legislator  
15   Muscarella.   These items are before us.

16                  DEPUTY INSPECTOR STEPHANOFF:  
17   Good afternoon.   Deputy Inspector Greg  
18   Stephanoff, Nassau County Police Department.

19                  Item 238 of '19 is a supplemental  
20   appropriation for \$250,000 to the federal  
21   forfeiture program, asset forfeiture.

22                  This item is going to go into the  
23   general expense and it's new money coming  
24   in.   This allows us to utilize the money.  
25   You want me to go on to the next item?

1                   Public Safety Committee/7-15-19

2                   CHAIRWOMAN FORD:   Yes.

3                   DEPUTY INSPECTOR STEPHANOFF:

4    Item 239 of '19 is also a supplemental  
5    appropriation for \$250,000 into the general  
6    expense also into the asset forfeiture  
7    program.   This is the 8A program.       The  
8    same thing, this a general expense also that  
9    moves new money in so we are allowed to use  
10   it.

11                   Item 240 is also for \$250,000.  
12   This is our civil forfeiture funds for the  
13   asset forfeiture program and it moves it  
14   into the general expense.   Some of the items  
15   that we've bought in the past, this is for  
16   future items, but the items have been used  
17   in these programs for take down drug give  
18   aways.

19                   The Great program, the gang  
20   resistance program, emergency service tools.  
21   Also, Too Good For Drugs Program, supplies  
22   were bought for this, so the officers can go  
23   into the schools.

24                   Computer software for asset  
25   forfeiture, they have update licenses for



1           Public Safety Committee/7-15-19  
2     the software they use. Also you heard with  
3     the contracts asset forfeiture is used to  
4     pay for the emergency service training for  
5     repelling equipment and training, repairing  
6     the boats in Marine bureau so the money is  
7     used to further the department.

8           CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I have to say,  
9     you have always used this money very  
10    effectively. It seems like you utilize  
11    every penny wisely. So I thank you very  
12    much. It was good leadership in regard to  
13    this. Legislator Mule.

14           LEGISLATOR MULE: So all of this  
15    money goes into the same account?

16           DEPUTY INSPECTOR STEPHANOFF: No.  
17    There's four asset programs. Two federal, a  
18    state, and a misdemeanor forfeiture, so it's  
19    different programs.

20           LEGISLATOR MULE: And we're  
21    getting this money to go into these  
22    programs?

23           DEPUTY INSPECTOR STEPHANOFF:  
24    It's different programs because the money --  
25    some monies are gotten, there is a state

1           Public Safety Committee/7-15-19  
2   program where it's state cases, two federal  
3   programs, one is for drugs cases that come  
4   in, so that's why there's different  
5   programs.

6           When we partner like with the  
7   federal department, the money comes in for  
8   there and it has to be kept separate.  
9   That's why there's four programs.

10           LEGISLATOR MULE: Do they have to  
11   be used in specific ways?

12           DEPUTY INSPECTOR STEPHANOFF: It  
13   has to be above and beyond the budget. It  
14   can't be used to supplement the budget.  
15   That's one of the general rules. There are  
16   a lot of rules and there's a committee that  
17   approves items that are purchased very  
18   carefully, but one of the general rules is  
19   it can't be applied to something we normally  
20   buy. It has to further enhance the  
21   department.

22           LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you. And  
23   I certainly agree with Legislator Ford that  
24   we are always hearing wonderful things you  
25   are doing with the money. Thank you for

1           Public Safety Committee/7-15-19

2   answering my questions.

3           CHAIRWOMAN FORD:   Any public  
4   comment?

5           (No verbal response.)

6           All those in favor of passing  
7   these items signify by saying aye.

8           (Aye.)

9           Those opposed?

10          (No verbal response.)

11          Carries unanimously.   Thank you.

12          I am now going to call Item  
13   Number 245-19.   It's an ordinance  
14   supplemental to the annual appropriation  
15   ordinance in connection with the fire  
16   commissioner.

17          Do I have a motion?

18          LEGISLATOR MULE:   So moved.

19          LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA:   Second.

20          CHAIRWOMAN FORD:   Moved by  
21   Legislator Mule, seconded by Legislator  
22   Muscarella.

23          MR. PRIEST:   Good afternoon.

24   Assistant Chief John Priest from the Fire  
25   Marshal's Office.   The item before you is a

1           Public Safety Committee/7-15-19  
2       supplemental appropriation for the hazardous  
3       materials and weapons of mass destruction  
4       targeted grant from the Department of  
5       Homeland Security. This grant is shared  
6       between the Fire Marshal, the Police  
7       Department, the Wantagh Fire Department, the  
8       Hicksville Fire Department that have  
9       hazardous materials that make up the Nassau  
10      County Hazardous Materials Consortium.

11           CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Do we have any  
12      debate or discussion on this item?

13                    (No verbal response.)

14                    Is there any public comment?

15                    (No verbal response.)

16                    I see none. All those in favor  
17      of passing this item signify by saying aye.

18                    (Aye.)

19                    Those opposed?

20                    (No verbal response.)

21                    The item passes unanimously.

22      There is no other business in front of this  
23      committee, may I have a motion to adjourn?

24                    LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

25                    LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.

1                   Public Safety Committee/7-15-19

2                   CHAIRWOMAN FORD:   Moved by

3   Legislator Muscarella, seconded by

4   Legislator Rhoads.   All those in favor?

5                   (Aye.)

6                   Thank you.   This committee is now

7   adjourned.

8                   (Whereupon, the Public Safety

9   Committee adjourned at 3:24 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

THAT I attended at the time and place  
above mentioned and took stenographic record  
of the proceedings in the above-entitled  
matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true  
and accurate transcript of the same and the  
whole thereof, according to the best of my  
ability and belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set  
my hand this 31st day of July, 2019.

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FRANK GRAY