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6 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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8 RICHARD NICOLELLO

9 PRESIDING OFFICER

10

11 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

12 COMMITTEE

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14 LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

15 CHAIR

16

17

18 Theodore Roosevelt Building

19 1550 Franklin Avenue

20 Mineola, New York

21

22

23 March 9, 2020

24 3:24 P.M.

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2     A P P E A R A N C E S:

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4     LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

5                     Chair

6

7     LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

8                     Vice Chair

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10    LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

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12    LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR

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14    LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

15                     Ranking member

16

17    LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER

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19    LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

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2 LEGISLATOR WALKER: At this time  
3 I will call the Health and Social Services  
4 Committee to order and ask the clerk to call  
5 the roll.

6 MR. PULITZER: Thank you madam.  
7 Health and Social Services roll call.  
8 Legislator Joshua Lafazan.

9 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

10 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold  
11 Drucker.

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

13 MR. PULITZER: Ranking member  
14 Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:  
16 Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: Legislator  
18 Ferretti.

19 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

20 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura  
21 Schaefer.

22 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

23 MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairman  
24 James Kennedy.

25 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

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2 MR. PULITZER: Chairwoman Rose  
3 Walker.

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

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

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.

8 There are five items on the agenda today which  
9 are clerk items 58-20, 59-20, 60-20, 70-20 and  
10 71-20. Clerk items 58-20 through 60-20 and 71  
11 are ordinances supplemental to the annual  
12 appropriation ordinance in connection with the  
13 health department. And item 70-20 is an  
14 ordinance supplemental to the annual  
15 appropriation ordinance in connection with  
16 Human Services.

17 May I have a motion please. By  
18 Legislator Schaefer. Seconded by Legislator  
19 Drucker.

20 MS. LAURAIN: Good afternoon.  
21 Mary Ellen Laurain, Department of Health.

22 Item 58-20 is a supplemental  
23 appropriation in the amount of \$418,578.  
24 Sorry. I was running. This is for the  
25 tuberculosis program. This is grant funded

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2    through New York State Department of Health,  
3    and the mission is to protect the public  
4    against tuberculosis.

5                   LEGISLATOR WALKER:     Any  
6    legislative comments?  Next item.

7                   MS. LAURAIN:     Item 59-20 is a  
8    supplemental appropriation.  It's in the  
9    amount of \$20,360.  It's for our rabies  
10   program.  It's 100 percent funded through the  
11   New York State Department of Health and its  
12   mission is to protect the public against  
13   rabies.

14                  LEGISLATOR WALKER:     Any  
15   legislative comments? 60-20.

16                  MS. LAURAIN:     60-20 is a  
17   supplemental appropriation.  It's in the  
18   amount of \$294,343.  It's for the Adolescent  
19   Tobacco Use Prevention Act.  This is funded  
20   through New York State Department of Health  
21   and does inspections and compliance for  
22   tobacco sales to people less than 21 years of  
23   age.

24                  I see the backup.  I just spoke to  
25   our fiscal unit to make sure they do change

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2 the backup. The law went into effect in  
3 November. I will make sure they change the  
4 backup to 21. The state still calls it though  
5 the adolescent tobacco. They have not changed  
6 that name. I did ask that question but they  
7 have not changed that yet.

8 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Could I just  
9 ask, Mary Ellen, if you could submit that  
10 backup to the clerk please.

11 MS. LAURAIN: For this item or  
12 just for the next grant cycle?

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: For this  
14 item. Between now and the full leg just so we  
15 have the updated.

16 MS. LAURAIN: Sure we will do  
17 that. Yes.

18 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Just throwing  
19 something else on your plate that you have to  
20 worry about.

21 MS. LAURAIN: That's quite okay.  
22 I understand.

23 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.  
24 Legislator Drucker.

25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you

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2 Madam Chairwoman. We worked pretty hard to  
3 get the tobacco age raised to 21. It is  
4 important to get that changed. Any  
5 possibility of getting it to include checking  
6 for licenses for vaping retailers?

7 MS. LAURAIN: We are doing that.  
8 We do compliance checks for vape. You mean in  
9 the backup?

10 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: There's  
11 \$294,000 that's funded. Can it be included  
12 while they're checking these places they're  
13 probably the same places that sell the vape  
14 products.

15 MS. LAURAIN: We do check that.  
16 Yes, we do.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Will it be  
18 listed all as one of the things that's  
19 certified?

20 MS. LAURAIN: We would have to  
21 check with the state health department as far  
22 as when they send us the award letter. I'd  
23 have to look into that.

24 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Can you do  
25 that?

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2 MS. LAURAIN: Yes.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: And let us  
4 know?

5 MS. LAURAIN: Yes.

6 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.  
7 Any other legislators?

8 MS. LAURAIN: That was 60,  
9 right? Item 71-20 is a supplemental  
10 appropriation in the amount of \$155,000 and  
11 that is for the HIV expanded service grant.  
12 This is funded through New York State  
13 Department of Health and the mission is to  
14 find people who may not be in care who are  
15 infected with HIV and encourage them back into  
16 care.

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions  
18 from the legislators or comments?

19 MS. LAURAIN: Back to the  
20 tobacco. There are stings being conducted.  
21 We've done them with the police and state  
22 police for vape.

23 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you  
24 very much for that. Thank you. And is there  
25 anyone here from the administration to speak



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2 on item 70-20?

3 MS. HORST: Katy Horst from the  
4 administration. I'm going to do my best.

5 This item appropriates \$348,395 in  
6 funds received from the New York State Office  
7 for the Aging for the period of April 1, 2019  
8 through March 31, 2020. The new name of this  
9 program is Unmet Needs. It is a new revenue  
10 source that is meant to supplement other  
11 already existing programs such as  
12 transportation or housing. The OFA plans on  
13 running a pilot program for the transportation  
14 program for the senior population. This would  
15 provide rides for seniors who need to travel  
16 to the doctor, pharmacy and other  
17 designations. It's 100 percent reimbursable.

18 LEGISLATOR WALKER: This would  
19 cover all of our seniors?

20 MS. HORST: That is all the  
21 information I have but I can get back to you.

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: If you  
23 could. Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: If  
25 you could also, I don't expect you to have it,

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2 I'm wondering what kind of vehicles it's going  
3 to cover? We had an incident where we tried  
4 to get a bus to help in Port Washington and it  
5 wasn't handicapped accessible. Is this going  
6 to go through the NICE system with Able Ride?  
7 I know you don't know. If you could just let  
8 us know what type of vehicle and how it's  
9 going to be distributed. Thank you.

10 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Legislator  
11 Schaefer.

12 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I just  
13 agree. I want to reiterate. There's a lot of  
14 information that would be helpful to know. It  
15 sounds like a great program but a little  
16 unbelievable. It would be great if it's  
17 something that we can do for the entire  
18 county.

19 MS. HORST: Absolutely. We will  
20 get you more information.

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Are there any  
22 questions or comments from the legislature  
23 regarding that item? Is there any public  
24 comment on any of these items? Certainly Mr.  
25 Budnick.

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2 MR. BUDNICK: I just want to  
3 raise an issue about these various health  
4 department supplemental appropriations. We  
5 have a severe problem, particularly in  
6 southeast Nassau County stretching from  
7 Legislator Walker and Schaefer's districts and  
8 it's down threatening Legislator Kennedy's  
9 District. It's called the Navy Grumman toxic  
10 waste plumes. And I do not see that the  
11 health department seems to be in the front  
12 lines trying to stop this problem before it  
13 destroys areas like the Massapequa Preserve,  
14 Tackapusha Preserve and our southern bay.

15 Thank you very much and thank you  
16 for putting up with me.

17 I have one other suggestion with  
18 regard to vaping and smoking. I think we  
19 might need a local law with regard to under 18  
20 year olds that allows petitions to be filed in  
21 the family court as persons in need of  
22 supervision so that people under 18 found  
23 using vaping and tobacco don't have to be  
24 brought up as juvenile delinquents. Thank you  
25 very much for your time and trouble. God

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2 bless you.

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you  
4 Mr. Budnick. Seeing there is no other public  
5 that would like to speak, all in favor of  
6 these items signify by saying aye. Any  
7 opposed? The ayes have it and they will move  
8 on to their next committee.

9 That is all that's on the agenda  
10 today. Just before we do close, I want to  
11 thank Mary Ellen Laurain and certainly the  
12 entire health department for all they're doing  
13 to assist us right now in the county. Thank  
14 you.

15 I didn't make a motion to close the  
16 meeting. All in favor of closing the health  
17 Committee signify by saying aye. All  
18 opposed? Legislator Drucker. Seconded by  
19 Legislator Kennedy. Unanimously agreed upon.

20 (Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.)

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4 CERTIFICATION

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

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

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have  
15 hereunto set my hand this 18th day of  
16 March 2020

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19 -----  
20 FRANK GRAY  
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