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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RULES COMMITTEE

LEGISLATOR RICHARD NICOLELLO CHAIR

Theodore Roosevelt Building
1550 Franklin Avenue Mineola, New York

Monday, May 10, 2021
1:25 P.M.

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    A P P E A R A N C E S:
    LEGISLATOR RICHARD NICOLELLO
        Chair
    LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL
        Vice Chair
    LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS
    LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER
    LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS
        Ranking member
    LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON
    LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE
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LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Call the meeting of the Rules Committee to order and ask Legislator Steve Rhoads to lead us in the pledge.

Thank you Steve. Mike, could you please call the roll.

MR. PULITZER: Yes sir. Thank
you. Rules Committee roll call. Legislator Siela Bynoe.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.
MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia
DeRiggi-Whitton.
LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
Here.
MR. PULITZER: Ranking Member
Kevan Abrahams.
LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.
MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura
Schaefer.
LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.
MR. PULITZER: Legislator Steven
Rhoads.
LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.
MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairman
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Howard Kopel.
LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.
MR. PULITZER: Chairman Richard Nicolello.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.
MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum sir.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We will handle, as is customary, the contracts portion of the Rules calendar first, and I'm going to call the following contracts. B-17, B-18, B-21, B-22 of 2021 . These are resolutions authorizing the county executive to award and execute contracts between the county and Posilico Civil and J. Anthony Enterprises.

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E-51, E-62, E-63, E-64, E-65, E-66
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E-67, E-68, E-69, E-72, E-73, E-74, E-75,
$$

$$
E-76, E-77, E-78, E-79, E-80, E-81, E-83, U-2
$$

2021. Resolutions authorizing the county executive to execute personal services agreements or amendments to personal services agreements between the county and Louis K. McLean Associates, Liro Engineers, Arthur Gallagher Risk Management, Liro Program and

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Construction Management, Lockwood, Kessler and Bartlett, Spector Group II, H2M Architects and Engineers and Land Surveyors, Armand Corporation, Gannett Fleming, QED National, Jackson Lewis, $N$ and $P$ Engineering, Cuomo L.L.C., Leadership Training Inc., Devitt Spellman, Elegant Enterprise-Wide Solutions, Affanato Marut L.L.P.

Those contracts are moved by Minority Leader Abrahams. Seconded by Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel. Before we start to go into the contracts individually we need a motion to untable the following, E-21, E-60, which are resolutions authorizing the county executive to execute personal services agreements or amendments to personal services agreements between the county and the Safe Center Long Island and Bonadio and Company L.L.P.

Moved by Legislator Rhoads.
Seconded by Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton. All those contracts are before us. Let's start off with the Public Works contracts.

MR. ARNOLD: Good afternoon. Ken
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Arnold, Public Works. The first contract, B-17, is a construction contract for the resurfacing phase 67. This is a state-funded project. Eighty percent reimbursement. We had five bids. Posilico was the lowest responsible bidder. The MWBE is at 15 percent.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any questions? $B-18$.

MR. ARNOLD: B-18 is a contract for pavement, traffic safety and pedestrian improvements for Manorhaven Boulevard. There were seven bids received. J. Anthony was the lowest responsible bidder. One bid was not opened as it was not submitted as per required in our bid specifications. J. Anthony's bid was below the engineer's estimate and determined to be acceptable. MWBE is at 11 percent.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I just had a question. Many of the aspects of this are streetscaping, installation of benches, lighting, transfer receptacles, bus shelters etcetera, which is obviously something that's

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very positive but we usually don't see this in public works contracts.

MR. ARNOLD: It's also part of resurfacing. So, it was all-encompassing project. Similar to the Bellmore streetscape project you'll see next month I hope where we're addressing not only the pavements but also other conditions around the road that we're looking to be done.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So once a project involves repaving or resurfacing then it may include these other streetscaping?

MR. ARNOLD: It was the other way around. It was brought to our attention there were traffic safety concerns. So we look at pedestrian safety and then we held off resurfacing until we did the whole project.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm sure everyone of us think that's a good idea.

MR. ARNOLD: It was a separate capital project approved in the capital plan also.

> LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:

Any
questions? Let's go to B-21.

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MR. ARNOLD: $B-21$ is a
resurfacing contract for Middle Neck Road. It also has a traffic safety improvement at Barstel intersection where we had a fatality a number of years ago. Five bids were received and Posilico was determined to be the lowest responsible bidder. The bid came in at the engineer's estimate and the MWBE is at 17 percent.

## LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any

questions? No. B-22.
MR. ARNOLD: $\quad B-22$ is another
construction contract called the Bolden Complete Streets which is a traffic improvement on Grand Avenue from Merrick Road up to Stanton I believe. There were three bids received. J. Anthony was determined to be the lowest responsible bidder. The bids did come in above the engineer's estimate and were found to be acceptable at that higher level after our review. We did work with New York State DOT and was able to receive additional funding that covered the additional cost of the project. The current federal

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share is at $\$ 4.7$ million. MWBE for this project is nine percent.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Questions?
Keep going.
MR. ARNOLD: E-61. There's a number of projects I'm going to group together to make it a little easier. On today's calendar we have six contracts for the CM services associated with various GOSA construction contracts that were before this body in the last session. These contracts were all done under a single solicitation. This solicitation resulted in 14 responses. The technical review committee determined that the top technically ranked firms are all capable of completing the work. As such, the technical review committee determined to select the lowest cost proposal for each one of those contracts.

So for $\mathrm{E}-61$ the CM services for Bay Park East Rockaway drainage improvements LKM was the highest technically ranked with the lowest cost. MWBE at 30 percent.

For E-62 that's the Lido drainage
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improvement contract. Liro was again the highest technically ranked firm and lowest cost. The MWBE was zero percent for this work. They're self-performing all the work. It's a much smaller contract.

E-63 is the Island Park Transit Development GOSA project. Again, Liro was the highest technically ranked firm at the lowest cost. MWBE at zero percent. Again, they are self-performing. Very small project. All in-house.
E-64 is a GOSA drainage project for

Lawrence. Liro was the highest technically ranked firm with the lowest cost. In this case MWBE is at 31 percent.

E-69 is a drainage project for Cedarhurst. Again, another GOSA project. Liro was the highest technically ranked firm at the lowest cost. MWBE at 29 percent.

And finally E-77, I jumped out
because I just wanted to group them all together, is a GOSA CM contract for Silver Lake. Nelson and Pope was the highest technically ranked firm with the lowest cost.
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MWBE at zero because it's all being
self-performed. A small contract. I'd like to note that all six of these contracts are 100 percent GOSA funded.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
you. Is the GOSA program going to be ending at some point?

MR. ARNOLD: Yes. There's only one other contract that will come to this body on GOSA which is the park and beach project where we had a county project that we're supplementing with GOSA funds. That's out to bid currently. But this is the last of those projects.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So there's no danger of us moving ahead with these projects and not getting funded by GOSA? Once we've approved the projects then we're in the program?

MR. ARNOLD: Yes. We have worked with them in great detail. The county does have to deliver the project on a timely schedule. But other than that we should be fine with funding.

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LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone
have any questions on these six contracts? No. Go ahead, E-66.

MR. ARNOLD: E-66 --
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Actually
is it 66 and 68 are both related to the family court?

MR. ARNOLD: Yes. I believe so.
E-66 and 68, as you mentioned, are both amendments for contracts associated with the family mat court. $\mathrm{E}-66$ is with our construction management firm for phase one. E-68 is with our design firm for both phase one and phase two.

Both of these amendments are retroactive and are associated with delays associated with both the contractor and COVID and to catch them up on their payments and moving forward to the completion of the project.

Just as a note, we did default the contract in February on this project and we issued notice to proceed to phase two in April.

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LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The family court project commenced years ago, correct?

MR. ARNOLD: Correct.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I
understand that there were some delays because of the contractor's performance as well as COVID. But the frustration that many of us have is that this has gone on for years and years and years. It's not as big an issue now with remote court appearances and things, but people are going to start going back to courts. And if they have to go back to the facility in Westbury the people are literally just piled on each other. So, there's a great need for this to be done.

And my other life, my law office, the building looks out on Nassau Community College and I've seen the police academy go up and near completion and this family court is just moving along at a glacial pace. When are we going to get this thing done?

MR. ARNOLD: What happened is, as we were ending -- before COVID we were transitioning from phase one to phase two. We
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had put the bid out. We were all set to go. We had some hiccups with getting the contract through the IG's office which delayed it. Which we resolved that. And then we were ready to issue notice to proceed and COVID hit. It was determined at that point we were going to delay the notice to proceed because of cash flow in the county until we understood both balancing cash flow for a couple of very large capital projects, which was the college cluster $C$, the police academy and then also Bayville Bridge and the family court. At that time we determined to hold off issuing notice to proceed until April.

When we did bid the job we understood that there was a short time frame. So this job is an 18 month contract. Which we reduced it from 24 months to try to get the job done sooner. We did not anticipate any delays on waiting until April because we had to finish phase one and we were working with the phase one contractor to get to that point. The phase one contractor became unresponsive not only due to COVID but because

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of other reasons which I don't want to get into because we may end up in litigation down the line.

So, the department, working with the county attorney, determined to issue a default letter to the contractor. That default letter we are looking to pick up all the additional work through the phase two contract as a change order. We withheld enough retainage to cover this work in the phase two contract and the department, working with the county attorney and the comptroller, had conversations that will let us proceed on that path.

We are now working -- in April we started phase two. 18 month contract. We will continue to push that along.

The difference between family court and the police academy is the police academy was a new construction which eliminated a lot of the headaches. If I had to do it over again $I$ would just knock down 101 County Seat Drive and build it from scratch. It would have been much easier but I did not have that

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choice. I was not commissioner at the time. Moving forward we hope to keep the project on schedule. This will have hurdles as we go through the project because it is an existing building. And the Family Justice Center part of the project will go out to bid this month and will be reconciled to finish at the same time as the family court contract. LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The phase two is estimated 18 months is that what you said?
MR. ARNOLD: It's an 18-month
contract, yes.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Assuming
that phase two takes 18 months, where will we be 18 months from now? Will it be completed? Will we be on to phase three or something else?

MR. ARNOLD: No. We are lining up both phase two and the Family Justice Center to finish at the same time. So in 18 months we should be in the process of moving people in and starting to occupy the building. LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So you're
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talking about the end of 2022?
MR. ARNOLD: April of 2022, six months, yes. That's a good time frame.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Just ask you that you focus all efforts of your department on making sure that this goes as quickly as possible. Again, once courts reopen it's grossly unfair to the litigants, to the families that have to go to family court in Westbury. It wasn't made for the volume that we see now.

MR. ARNOLD: Understood.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone else have anything? Legislator Schaefer. LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Hi commissioner. Just to clarify, phase two is going to start now or are we waiting for something?

MR. ARNOLD: We issued notice to proceed April 5th I think it was. So the contractor started work. He's doing all his submittals. He's starting to do construction activities and we have 18 month schedule to finish the project.

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LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Thank you. LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other questions? Let's go on to E-67.

MR. ARNOLD: E-67 is a
retroactive amendment associated with
construction management services for traffic safety expansion phase six. This amendment expands the contract until January of ' 21 , which is one additional year, and increased the cap by $\$ 425,000$. This contract is now completed. We did all the work. The CM company is helping us with the close-outs with New York State DOT.

Delays associated with this were
both they had issues with their
subcontracting. We had a delay with the start of the job because of DOT and there were some COVID issues as we were proceeding with the closing of the project.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: What's the
reason why we're getting an amendment that expired in January?

MR. ARNOLD: I asked my team a bunch of questions. They were late in getting
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back to me. I did not want to process until I understood the total impact of why we were doing this. That's part of it. We also had trouble getting some of the paperwork out of the contractor because of COVID. He was not in his office full time. I do apologize. I wanted to make sure I understood this before I sent it to the body and I delayed it. LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions? Go to E-72, right?
MR. ARNOLD: Yes. E-72 is a contract amendment for the department's program management services contract for all our GOSA work. Armand was brought on to assist the department to make sure we got our reimbursements and we follow all the GOSA rules as we followed through with the seven projects I mentioned earlier. There are no additional funds needed. Just a term extension to coincide with completion of the construction work. All this work was 100 percent funded through GOSA. We are extending this contract through September of 2022.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any

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questions?
MR. ARNOLD: This is a minority business firm also.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I did notice with respect to the GOSA contracts especially I noticed that the MWBE numbers seem to be going up.

MR. ARNOLD: We have a
requirement, that's why I point out the ones that were zero because the jobs are so small. We will to make up that requirement in the construction work as we go through the process.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: All
right. Any questions on this one? Why don't we do to the next two together E-73 and E-74.

MR. ARNOLD: These two items are two of the five on-call contracts for environmental design services. These services include smaller package projects for the waste water facilities and storm water permit implementation projects and also other environmental needs. The MWBE for both of these will be based on the task orders

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assigned. E-73 is with Gannett Fleming and E-74 is with H2M Engineering.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions?
MR. ARNOLD: I think my last one
is E-83. E-83 is a construction management services contract for the Grand Avenue Baldwin Complete Streets project. We had ten firms submitted proposals of which two were determined to be technically superior. The highest technically ranked firm, also having the lowest cost, was selected which is LKB or Lockwood Kessler Bartlett. Their MWBE is at 22 percent.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions? Legislator Bynoe.
LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you
Presiding Officer. Good afternoon Ken. Just a quick question. The numbers, and I was writing down some of these numbers with the MWBE and they were good. They were nine and ten percent. This one is at 22 percent. You mentioned that there's a requirement.

So, the same energy that we put
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towards making sure that we get these higher numbers when there's a requirement, why can't we put that same energy towards the regular contracts that don't have a requirement but only have a best effort by way of the county?

MR. ARNOLD: That's the whole reasoning behind the diversity study is currently I can't force a contractor to pay more to bring in a minority firm if it would cause them to lose the bid. So, if it's not a requirement they're going to do their best efforts but they also have a shared concerned about being the lowest responsible bidder. That's why --

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: You're talking about the disparity study?

MR. ARNOLD: Yes. The disparity study will have a retrigger, repivot that and may give the county requirements or something else in the future that will change how we do this. Right now I can't force a firm to lose a bid by hiring a minority. LEGISLATOR BYNOE: You answered the question for me by saying, backwards, by

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saying that there's a -- based on the requirement that you actually might be spending more on those contracts because we are actually ensuring that we meet our requirements by requiring the vendor to find a minority subcontractor?

MR. ARNOLD: Yes.
LEGISLATOR BYNOE: That's the answer. Thank you. I appreciate it.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other questions? Thank you Ken.

Next contract is E-65 with the Office of Management and Budget.

MR. NOLAN: Chris Nolan, Office of Management and Budget. E-65 is a contract with Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services to act as the county's insurance broker. The term of the contract is five years.

As the county's broker of record Gallagher will review policies up for renewal, present options and recommendations for coverage and engage negotiations with carriers and bond coverage.
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For the placement of the insurance, Gallagher will receive a nine percent commission to be paid by the carrier. Additionally, under the contract we have the opportunity to spend an additional $\$ 10,000$ annually for consulting services unrelated to the placement of insurance.

The county is in need of their expertise and consulting services related to federal grant awards received for federally declared disasters. These federal awards have clauses that require recipients of the funds to obtain and maintain insurance for damaged facilities and assets that were repaired or replaced with the federal award dollars.

Gallagher will assist the county by reviewing the awards under this scope. They will assist us by reviewing the awards, scope of damages, gathering additional information and data on the properties and formulate an affordable insurance program that will satisfy federal guidelines.

Gallagher was selected pursuant to an RFP issued by the county. They were one of

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two firms that responded to the RFP. A
selection committee compromised of staff from the Office of Management and Budget and the county attorney reviewed the proposals, solicited best and final offers and ultimately recommended award to Arthur Gallagher.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
for that presentation. Anyone have any
questions on this? No. I think we're good.
Thank you.
Next two are with Information
Technology. E-75 QED National, E-81 Elegant Enterprise. Let's do QED first.

MS. STANTON: Good afternoon.
Nancy Stanton. E-75 QED National. This new contract is for supplemental staffing services. Contract term is three years with two one-year renewals for a total of five years. We are encumbering $\$ 25,000$ at this time. This vendor is woman-owned.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Nay
particular area that this is assigned to or is this generalized stuff?

MS. STANTON: General. If we

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have a project that we need some help with.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions on E-75? Legislator Schaefer.
LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Hi
commissioner. How are you? Just curious. I know we've talked in the past about the IT department shifting their work from outside vendors to in-house. Is this not work that we can do? I know you said it was kind of general.

MS. STANTON: This is just to
have a vendor on standby in the event we need help with something that we can't do in-house.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Any
particular area?
MS. STANTON: No. Across the
board. Help us with a lot of things.
LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: In your experience how often do we generally need to use on-call contractors?

MS. STANTON: Primarily we've been using them for People Soft, which I'm trying to get away from. Rare do we use these contractors but there are times that we do.
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We're using them in GIS right now, one person. We have someone in assessment and we have someone in the web group working on different projects.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Okay.
Thank you.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other
questions? Go on to the next one, E-81.
MS. STANTON: E-81-21, Elegant
Enterprise-Wide Solutions, Inc. This new contract is for recruitment services to assist the county in attracting and hiring candidates. Contract term is three years with two one-year renewals for a term of five years. Ceiling is $\$ 40,000$. This vendor is minority owned.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Do they provide any supplemental staffing, Elegant Enterprise Solutions?

MS. STANTON: No. We do not have anyone from this vendor at this time. This is a new vendor for us.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I know we had approved one of these contracts at the

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last Rules Committee. Why would you need to have additional?

MS. STANTON: It's nice to have a variety to send statements of work to to get other candidates. It opens the arena up for us.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions? Legislator Schaefer and Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER:
Commissioner Stanton, it also works in such a way as we are only paying if you get a candidate that you accept?

MS. STANTON: That's correct. LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Just
confirming.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
DeRiggi-Whitton.
LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
may be missing it but what exactly is the term for the $\$ 40,000$ ? Like how long?

MS. STANTON: Contract is a three year term with two one-year renewals.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: And

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the total of that is $\$ 40,000$ ?
MS. STANTON: The ceiling is $\$ 40,000$.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Even with the two renewals your limit is $\$ 40,000 ?$ MS. STANTON: Yes.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other questions? Thank you. Next four contracts are with the county attorney's office.

MS. MOLINARES: Good afternoon.
Chief Deputy County Attorney Jessica Molinares.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: E-76
Jackson Lewis.
MS. MOLINARES: E-76 is a special
counsel contract with the firm of Jackson Lewis. This contains three matters, two of which are now settled. You will see that the contract is retroactive. That relates to an outstanding invoice on one of the settled matters and in order to effectuate that payment we'd have to backdate to the end of the contract.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I missed

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some. Can you explain that again? MS. MOLINARES: This particular contract is for special counsel services on three matters. It's a case specific contract. So we went from a prior qualified areas contract which was for general services to a case specific. Of these three cases two of them are now settled, so they're closed. However, we had to make this particular contract retroactive in order to close out one remaining invoice on one of those settled matters.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: All
right. Any questions? That's why it appears in the backup that the retroactive date is nearly two years ago? MS. MOLINARES: Correct. There was an advisement in order to pay out under the prior contract. To pay all outstanding invoices. However, that advisement did not cover the full amount and because of that outstanding invoice in order to have a mechanism to pay we do have to backdate the contract.

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LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Do E-78.
MS. MOLINARES: E-78-21 is for
special counsel services with the law firm of Cuomo L.L.C. This is for a false arrest, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution matter that's currently ongoing. It's relatively new in litigation. That is for services that began January 2, 2021.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Our
counsel indicates that the complaint was filed in September of 2020. The county's answer was due October 2020. So they didn't do any work until January; is that correct?

MS. MOLINARES: We were able to
obtain some adjournments. There was some minimal work that was done by counsel prior to January 2nd. However, they understand that the contract is dated from January 2nd on.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Why would it come to us in May? How come it took five months? Four months.

MS. MOLINARES: The contract was
signed February 17th. It was notarized February 22nd by counsel. The contract, after
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that signing of the contract there was some -obviously the firm then needs to proceed with the vendor portal and the disclosures. So that was all finalized and this contract was routed April 8th.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: It does seem like a long time to get the paperwork to us. It seems like an ongoing issue with the county attorney's office.

MS. MOLINARES: That's something, Presiding Officer, that we are working with and striving to improve as we can with each contract. We're making every effort in that regard.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: All
right. Any questions on this contract?
Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.
LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: It's more of a statement than anything. Just like the term of retroactive contracts it doesn't really exist. It's just something that happens a lot that we hear but there really is no like retroactive wording. It's not a legitimate type of contract.

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I understand the legal process that you have a lot of different -- it's always moving. But $I$ just don't want people to feel that it's acceptable basically to have retroactive. It's really not. It's just a late contract that really shouldn't be happening without the legislative approval.

Again, I'm just making a statement because it's not just you, it's many departments. Basically it's bypassing the legislature to do work and then coming to us and calling it retroactive which doesn't truly exist. I feel as legislator I just wanted to make that clear.

MS. MOLINARES: If I may just take a moment to assure you legislator. Each special counsel is reminded verbally and in writing that until up and until legislative approval is given for this contract there is no mechanism for their payment and essentially they are operating at their own risk because this is all dependent on legislative approval.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I guess just to reinforce it, I just want to say

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I believe all 19 of us believe it's not always going to be automatic. Sometimes it won't happen. So there is a real risk. It's not the way I'd like to see it happen. I appreciate it. I just wanted to, again, it's not just directed at your department. It's just, you know, the entire process. Thank you.
MS. MOLINARES: Understood.

Thank you legislator.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
Rhoads.
LEGISLATOR RHOADS: And the other
concern is that even though these outside counsels are being cautioned that there's the chance that the legislature might reject their contracts and they may ultimately wind up not getting paid, when we're considering these contracts it puts us in a difficult position because we understand that there are firms out there that have been putting their time in, that have been devoting their resources to representing the county and we feel as though there's an obligation in many instances on our
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part to approve these contracts because the work has already been done simply out of fairness.

That's really not the position that we're supposed to be in because it denies us the opportunity to independently evaluate these contracts before the work is done and make a decision as to whether it's something we even want to proceed with. That's really the ultimate concern is that if we made the decision today that hey, why can't we handle this in-house, we don't want to use outside counsel, that choice has already been made for us. Even though technically it hasn't been because everybody's been warned, the reality is we almost have no choice other than to put a firm that in good faith has done the work in the difficult position of not being able to get paid for that work.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other questions or statements? Why don't we move on E-80 Devitt Spellman.

MS. MOLINARES: Devitt Spellman, E-80 particularly, is a contract for special
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counsel services related to the enforcement of open housing provisions. This contract will become effective -- the effective date will be the date that the legislature approves this contract. So no work has been done just yet. There has been no billing on this. This is essentially to assist with, to advise, to enforce to prosecute violations of open housing provisions.

## LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any

questions? Last one is U-2 Affanato.

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\text { MS. MOLINARES: } U-2-21 \text { is for }
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special counsel services with the firm of
Affanato. This relates to a worker's compensation claim that's venued in New Jersey. This also has a retroactive date to November 1, 2021.

This particular claim was somewhat distinct because the current third party administrator for worker's compensation claims does not handle claims in New Jersey. So we did have to proceed with a special bid for a counsel that could handle the claim in New Jersey. Unfortunately, the first firm that
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was selected from the selection process after engaging in the contract process and the vendor portal process the firm actually withdrew its candidacy and we then had to go back and select a second bidder.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Question.
Why is the county involved with a case involving New Jersey compensation law?

MS. MOLINARES: It seems that
that's where that claimant received their services.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions on this? Thank you.
MS. MOLINARES: Thank you.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Probation
Department E-79.
MR. SCHIRILLO: Good afternoon.
Joe Schirillo, fiscal officer Nassau County Department of Probation. This is a one-year contract running from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 to provide educational services at the juvenile detention center.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions? Hearing none, I think we're good.

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Thank you.
We have the two contracts that we had untabled. One is E-21 of ' 21 with the Safe Center. These two contracts had been tabled to allow the IG time to complete her review and she has done so.

MR. MCMANUS: Bob McManus, district attorney's office.

E-21 is a one-year extension of a contract with the Safe Center of Long Island for a 24 hour hotline for victims of domestic violence. If the caller calls the hotline in an emergency situation immediate assistance is provided. In nonemergency situations the callers are referred to services that can provide assistance where it is needed.

This item was tabled due to issues with the vendor's completion of the necessary disclosure forms.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any questions on this one? We're good. Thank you Bob.

E-60, Department of Human
Services.

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MR. HALL: Brian Hall from Human
Services. This is a contract with Bonadio, which is an independent accounting firm that we RFP'd for -- we needed an outside auditor to go over our consolidated fiscal reports we're sending up to mental health and we've not been able to do it for the last few years but we finally got him set up. And what they'll do is review it and sign off on it. And this is required and basically could affect our funding going forward if we didn't have it done. But we're all lined up now and ready to go as soon as possible.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
questions on this one? Thank you.
MR. HALL: Thank you.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That was
the last of the contracts before us so --
LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can
I ask one question back on E-79 I think it was with the probation department? We didn't vote on it yet. I just had a question about the procedure over the last year because have you been teaching them in person or has it been

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remote?
MR. SCHIRILLO: Remote.
LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: All
remote. You're able to do that with laptops and everything for each?

MR. SCHIRILLO: Yeah. Both
desktops as well as iPads that Leadership Training provides into the training center.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
They're prepared to continue that should that be necessary with this contract?

MR. SCHIRILLO: If necessary yes.
LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
Thank you.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We are going to now call for a vote for all the contracts that we have called today that are on the table right now. Any further debate or discussion? Any public comment? Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

We will put the Rules Committee in recess. And what's next? Public Safety. (Committee was recessed at 2:05

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p.m).
(Committee reconvened at 4:43 p.m.)

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            Rules 5-10-21
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LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Calling
the Rules Committee out of recess. I'm going
to be calling the items on the consent calendar. Items that have gone through committees earlier and it's agreed by the Majority and Minority that no further debate or discussion is needed on these items at this time. Actually, before $I$ do that, I need a motion to suspend the rules. Moved by Legislator Rhoads. Seconded by Legislator Schaefer. All in favor of suspending the rules signify by saying aye. Those opposed? The rules are suspended.

Item 148 of 2021. 150, 151, 152,
153, 154, 155, 156, 157. Now to the
addendum. 160, 161, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167. Addendum two. 162, 174. That's it. We're going to add to that list 1722021.

Moved by Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel. Seconded by Minority Leader Abrahams. Any debate or discussion on those items. Any public comments? Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Carry unanimously.

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Go down to item 158 of 2021. A resolution to accept a gift from the Nassau County Police Department Foundation to the Nassau County Police Department. That item is moved by Legislator Bynoe. Seconded by Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton. The item is before us. Inspector Field.

MR. FIELD: William Field, deputy inspector with the police department. I just want to take a quick second to introduce with me hear today deputy inspector Tom Murphy. He's new to PAB and will be helping me out in the future with some presenting.

Item 158-21 is to accept a donation from the Nassau County Police Foundation to the police department in the amount of \$694.48. The Foundation is donating some detergent and ear plugs for use at the department's firearms training unit.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any discussion or questions? I think we're good. Thank you. All in favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

Now we go to the first addendum,

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item 159 of 2021 is a local law further postponing the date of the 2021 sale of tax liens pursuant to Article 2 of title B of Chapter 5 of the Nassau County Administrative Code.

Moved by Legislator
DeRiggi-Whitton. Seconded by Legislator Bynoe. Hey Beaumont.

MR. JEFFERSON: Good afternoon
legislators. This item, this local law further postpones the tax lien sale from a date after May 1st to a date after August 31st of 2021. The tax lien sale is usually held the third week of February. As you may recall, I was here a couple of months ago to request that the date be postponed based on Chapter 104, based on the New York State COVID eviction and prevention -- eviction and foreclosure prevention act. The date for tax lien sales were moved to the date after May 1st and recently they extended that time period to August 31st. So, this local law will permit us to have a lien sale some date after August 31st.

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LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
you. Any questions? I think we're good. All in favor of that item signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

Going to 170 of 2021 . A resolution authorizing the county executive to execute an agreement with the Bayville Fire Company for the procurement of an ambulance.

Moved by Legislator
DeRiggi-Whitton. Seconded by Legislator
Rhoads. Any debate or discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

171 is a resolution authorizing the county executive to execute an intermunicipal agreement with the Bethpage Fire District in relation to purchasing a digital sign and automated CPR equipment.

Moved by Legislator Schaefer.
Seconded by Legislator Bynoe. Any debate or discussion on this item? Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

Addendum two. 168 of 2021, a

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resolution requesting the legislature of the state of New York to enact and the governor to approve an act in relation to authorizing the county of Nassau to transfer ownership of certain parkland to the Village of Freeport.

Moved by Legislator Rhoads.
Seconded by Minority Leader Abrahams.
MR. MCDERMOTT: Good afternoon
presiding officer and legislators. Dennis McDermott, deputy county attorney. This is a request for the Nassau County Legislature to approve a home rule message in support of state senate bill S-1372 and assembly bill A-7292 authorizing the transfer of Cow Meadow to the Village of Freeport. This transfer would become pursuant to an intermunicipal agreement that would of course be approved by the full legislature.

I think in this instance the village intends on do several expensive capital improvements including installing several ball fields at the park, rehabilitating the arenas to create new and exciting recreational opportunities for both

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the county and the village residents.
According to the proposed bill, county residents would basically have the same use of Cow Meadow as the village residents. If the village residents are charged $X$ amount the rest of the county would only be charged the same thing.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
you. Any debate or discussion on the item? Legislator Rhoads.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Cow Meadow
Park, unfortunately, is a symbol of neglect in the sense that that park has needed upgrades for an extensive period of time. The fields are in terrible condition. The lighting is in terrible condition. The marina is an absolute disaster to the point where it's fenced off as unusable.

Unfortunately, there have been instances where it has been used as a dumping ground, unfortunately, for victims of crime. And it is something that the Village of Freeport has expressed an interest for a number of years. In fact, a previous proposal
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was brought up two years ago to transfer the property to the village so that they can make capital investments. That, unfortunately, did not pass the legislature two years ago. I'm hopeful that it will pass this year.

As a safe guard, however, we are sending a letter to the county executive asking for capital improvements to be included as part of the county's capital plan in case this proposal does not go through. So that the residents surrounding Cow Meadow Park are no longer subjected to the unsafe and dilapidated conditions that they've had to deal with over the course of the last several years.

So, I would urge my colleagues to approve the transfer. It protects and preserves county residents' ability to be able to use that park with the upgraded facilities that are being paid for at the expense of the Incorporated Village of Freeport. I think it is the best for the residents of the village and best for the residents of Nassau County for the transfer to go through.
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I would also add that one of the issues that we have at that particular park is the fact that the Incorporated Village of Freeport has its own police force obviously. However, jurisdiction over that particular park falls to the Nassau County Police Department. So, every time we want to send a car down there to check and make sure that the gates are secured, that the park itself is secured, we wind up taking somebody off the post into the Incorporated Village of Freeport where we they don't usually patrol. So, that also drains the resources of the police department. And this transfer would also put that park under the jurisdiction of the Freeport Police Department where it can be better and more efficiently protected.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
you. Any other discussion or comment? Hearing none, all in favor of this item signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

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173 \text { of } 2021 \text { is a resolution }
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authorizing and directing the Nassau County

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Department of Information Technology to provide legislative staff read only access to the county's electronic contract routing system.

Moved by Deputy Presiding Officer
Kopel. Seconded by Legislator
DeRiggi-Whitton.
Let me just explain what this is about. We have community revitalization grants that take an extraordinary amount of time and have to go through a number of different steps in different departments sometimes multiple times. The legislators are unable to track where these grants are in this process. So, what this would do is allow us to look at the electronic contract routing system to identify a particular grant which may be sitting in an office for an undue length of time and give a push on our behalf. This is for read only. We would not be able to alter in any means or possibility with respect to the system. Katy.

MS. HORST: Good afternoon. Katy Horst from the administration. I've just been

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asked to make a request that these next few items be tabled as they were just filed today and the administration hasn't had a chance to give them a full review.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I think we're going to go ahead with them. We have two weeks before the full legislature and we obviously will be looking forward to your comments at that point and if there are changes that need to be made we can reach agreements on those at that time.

MS. HORST: Thank you.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
DeRiggi-Whitton.
LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
really support anything we can do to help the process of the CRPs. Just within the next two weeks if your counsel and our counsel can meet. There's just a few technical things I'd like to add to this including as far as what department their stuff is at. Sometimes it's the comptroller's office. Sometimes it could be budget office. So I think the more specific we are the better.

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LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We will
definitely do that. Any further debate or discussion? Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

The next item is 175 of 2021, a
local law to propose certain requirements on the Department of Assessment with respect to evidence presented at Small Claims Assessment Review hearings.

Moved by Legislator Rhoads.
Seconded by Legislator Schaefer. Legislator Rhoads, did you want to say a few words?

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Happy to do that Mr . Chairman. Thank you very much.

Obviously we're all familiar with the challenge process. Residents are aware of the fact that they have the ability to file a grievance of their property tax assessment. If their grievance is not accepted the process goes to -- well, once they file their grievance the process goes to ARC. ARC will make an offer. If they do not agree with that offer they have the opportunity to go to SCAR
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which is Small Claims Assessment Review. What we have found is that, particularly pro se filers, are usually mistakenly under the impression that the comparables that are used by ARC will be the same comparables that are used at SCAR. And they are shocked to find out that when they go to present their case at SCAR hearings that the Department of Assessment is using different values and different evidence at SCAR while ARC was reviewing the accuracy of the proposed assessment during the grievance process.

Essentially, pro se filers are being sandbagged. That the values that are being used to determine the initial assessment and the values that are being used by ARC in making its decision turn out to be different from the values that are being presented by the Department of Assessment at the SCAR hearing and residents are only finding out about that at the SCAR hearing.

What we're looking to do in this legislation is to provide some fairness and
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balance that would allow homeowners, many of whom have never participated in an adversarial legal process in their lives to have access to the comparables that will be used at the hearing in advance of the hearing so they can prepare their case.

The county has access to several
sources of information that the individual property owner doesn't have. It's only fair to even the playing field to give the homeowner the comparables that are going to be used by the professional real estate attorneys that they will be facing at the SCAR hearing.

We heard from residents that they went to SCAR hearings prepared to address one set of comparables that were discussed at ARC only to find a new set of comparables at SCAR and they don't have the time at the hearing or even Internet access where they can try to look it up on their phones or laptops to see and evaluate those comparables and finding out after the fact that after they get home that there may have been issues with the comparables that were being used to defend
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those values. That they, because they did not have the opportunity to do the research, missed the boat on being able to challenge and present that evidence to the hearing officer at SCAR. They don't feel that it's fair. We certainly agree it's unfair.

This legislation requires that for pro se petitioners who file a SCAR petition that no later than 30 days prior to a hearing on such petition the Department of Assessment must mail a notice setting forth the evidentiary proof that the pro se petitioner may present at the hearing.

No later than 30 days prior to the hearing the Department of Assessment must disclose the evidence that it will present to pro se petitioners. The failure to timely disclose that proof would preclude the department from offering evidence at the hearing. So there's an actual sanction to force them to comply with that.

And it requires the Department of Assessment can only present evidence that it used to determine the assessed value in
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dispute and is precluded from offering any other evidence to support its determination. In this way, throughout the course of the process, we are ensuring due process to the benefit of homeowners that are attempting to grieve their property tax assessment by being upfront, honest and transparent about what our Department of Assessment has done in calculating its value and what it's using as evidence to defend its value which is being brought up at the SCAR hearing.

And by providing residents with 30 days advanced notice of what that evidence will be, it affords them the opportunity to gather their own evidence so that you can have a true, fair, open and honest hearing of the issues that are involved in the grievance. That's what the bill accomplishes and I would urge my colleagues to stand up for residents and approve this legislation.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
you. Anyone else want to comment on this?
Sure, Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.
LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We

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plan on passing it through. But within the next two weeks we're hoping to get a legal opinion from the county attorney's office as to whether or not the state precludes any of these actions. I don't know if they do or not but I would just like to know for sure.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: What we're proposing is placing limits on ourselves. Right? We're not impacting the SCAR process from the state's standpoint. We're not adding any requirement or taking away any requirement from the SCAR process itself. We're saying to our own Department of Assessment this is what you need to do when you are defending your value at a SCAR hearing. This is the disclosure that we're requiring you to provide. Has no broader implication than Nassau County, and we certainly have the ability to restrict what our own departments do. I think that -- certainly go out and get a legal opinion but -LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I support the idea of being as transparent as possible and I think in theory it's a good

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idea. I just again, I've been told that there might be a question as to whether or not it's legal. So, I'd like to try stay in the legal end of it.

## LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Of course.

But I can't imagine that there would be a situation from a legal standpoint we wouldn't be able to impose additional limits on ourselves. It has no broader application than that.

> LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

There might be some reasons that we can't interfere with the SCAR process that I am not aware of and that's why $I$ would just like the county attorney just to review it within the next two weeks.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Understood.
LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other debate or discussion? Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

Last item is 176 of 2021. It's a
local law to amend the Nassau County Administrative Code with respect to vendor

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integrity and disclosure documents for municipal corporations and districts as defined by Section 119N of the New York State General Municipal Law.

Moved by Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel. Seconded by Legislator Schaefer.

This again is directed toward the CRP process. As part of the reforms with respect to contracting, vendor disclosure statements of over six months have to be updated. Which makes sense with a private entity. It does not make sense with a municipality where the elected officials are serving for a term and may serve for many years. So, what was happening is we would have to go back to the municipality every six months because the county had not moved the CRP along into the process quickly enough. So, this will avoid us having to get additional disclosure statements from a municipality in which we know that the relevant individuals are the same.

Any debate or discussion on this one?

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LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Just
that also while we meet on the other one we can meet on this too. Just a couple of little things I'd like to -- for instance, if there is a new election we'll have a process that's put in place to update everything.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Sounds good. Any further debate or discussion? Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously. Motion to adjourn by Legislator Bynoe. Seconded by Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton. All in favor of adjourning signify by saying aye. Those opposed? We are adjourned.
(Committee adjourned at 4:43 p.m.)

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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 17 th day of May 2021.

FRANK GRAY

