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6 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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8 RICHARD NICOLELLO

9 PRESIDING OFFICER

10

11 FINANCE COMMITTEE

12

13 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

14 CHAIR

15

16

17 Theodore Roosevelt Building

18 1550 Franklin Avenue

19 Mineola, New York

20

21

22 June 14, 2021

23 3:05 P.M.

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

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4 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

5 Chair

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7 LEGISLATOR VINCENT MUSCARELLA

8 Vice Chair

9

10 LEGISLATOR TOM MCKEVITT

11

12 LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

13

14 LEGISLATOR ELLEN BIRNBAUM

15 Ranking member

16

17 LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER

18

19 LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

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2 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Mr. Pulitzer
3 would you be so kind?

4 MR. PULITZER: Yes Chairman.
5 Thank you. Legislator Joshua Lafazan.

6 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

7 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
8 Drucker.

9 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

10 MR. PULITZER: Ranking Member
11 Ellen Birnbaum.

12 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

13 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Rose
14 Marie Walker.

15 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I think
16 Legislator Schaefer is substituting for her.

17 MR. PULITZER: In for Ms. Walker
18 is Legislator Laura Schaefer. We'll come back
19 to that. Legislator Thomas McKevitt.

20 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

21 MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairman
22 Vincent Muscarella.

23 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

24 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura
25 Schaefer.

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2 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

3 MR. PULITZER: Thank you

4 legislator. Chairman Howard Kopel.

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I am here.

6 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum

7 sir.

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.

9 Before we start I'm going to entertain a
10 motion to suspend the rules and that motion is
11 made by Ms. Schaefer and seconded by
12 Ms. Birnbaum. All those in favor of
13 suspending the rules please say aye. Any
14 opposed? The rules are suspended.

15 Now we're just going to deal first
16 with several items that have gone through
17 previous committees. Questions have been
18 asked. They've been passed through and we're
19 going to bulk them up and consider them
20 together.

21 Those items will be item 169, 184,
22 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 205. And on the
23 addendum -- we don't have one on the
24 addendum. All those in favor of those items
25 please signify by saying aye. Are there any

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2 opposed? We don't have a motion. Motion on
3 those items is made by Mr. McKevitt. Seconded
4 by Mr. Drucker. All those in favor of all
5 those items please say aye. Any opposed? The
6 items pass unanimously.

7 Number 177 is an item to amend the
8 miscellaneous laws in regard to the imposition
9 of a public safety fee and driver
10 responsibility fee for violations. That
11 motion is made by Mr. Muscarella. Seconded by
12 Mr. Lafazan. Ms. Birnbaum.

13 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I'm in
14 support of this and I feel that when there's a
15 public safety issue we're charging the public
16 just for the public safety issue. But I know
17 a few years back this legislative body did add
18 on an administrative fee when it came to the
19 red light cameras. At that time I was opposed
20 for the same reasons that I don't think that
21 drivers need to pay an extra public safety fee
22 of \$55 and a responsibility fee of \$45.

23 So, I am glad that today we have an
24 opportunity to do the right thing when it
25 comes to the safety involving school buses and

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2 cars behaving when the arm goes down on a
3 school bus. But I still am not happy that we
4 have the extra fees tacked on to the red light
5 cameras and I'm sorry that this body passed
6 that.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you for
8 those comments. Anyone else? Hearing none,
9 all those in favor of this item please so
10 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? That
11 item is passed unanimously. Thank you.

12 Number 185, a supplemental to the
13 Board of Elections, supplemental appropriation
14 for the Board of Elections. That motion is
15 made by Ms. Schaefer. Seconded by
16 Ms. Birnbaum.

17 MR. NEDELKER: Larry Nedelker
18 from the Board of Elections. This is a
19 \$483,090.01 grant we're getting from the state
20 board of elections for cyber election, cyber
21 security remediation. It's a reimbursable
22 grant.

23 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any
24 questions? Hearing none, all those in favor
25 of number 185 please say aye. Any opposed?

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2 That item is unanimous. Thank you.

3 Number 186 is to adopt the Nassau
4 County budget for the community college for
5 the fiscal year commencing September 1, 2021
6 and ending August 31, 2022. The motion on
7 that is made by Mr. Muscarella and seconded by
8 Mr. Drucker. Is there anybody here for the
9 college?

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Jermaine
11 Williams, president of Nassau College. I'm
12 joined by vice president Izquierda, vice of
13 finance, and vice president Adrian Kerrigan.

14 I'd like thank the legislature for
15 their continued support of the college
16 throughout the years. We also appreciate the
17 opportunity to meet with members of each
18 caucus over the past few weeks as well as to
19 respond to any follow-up questions that you
20 might have had.

21 We are excited to present a budget
22 today. You have seen it. You are aware. I
23 want to share no student tuition and fee
24 increases as we are diligently working to meet
25 the needs of county residents who have been so

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2 adversely economically impacted by COVID-19.

3 The document that you have in front
4 of you includes several points regarding the
5 college's plan for the future. So, hopefully
6 you all have the slide deck. It represents
7 information that we have presented in the
8 past.

9 We are more than happy to answer
10 any questions and/or receive any comments from
11 the legislature. Again, we are very much
12 appreciative of your continued support and
13 looking forward to that.

14 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you
15 Mr. Williams. We appreciate having received
16 all that information in advance. We've all
17 had a chance to peruse it.

18 Are there any questions from
19 legislators? Hearing none, all those in favor
20 of this item please so signify by saying aye.
21 Any opposed? That item is unanimous. Thank
22 you.

23 Number 191 is authorizing the
24 county to file an application for federal
25 assistance with the US Department of Housing

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2 and Urban Development. Motion on that is made
3 by Mr. McKevitt. Seconded by Ms. Birnbaum.

4 MR. CREAN: Kevin Crean, Nassau
5 County Office of Community Development.

6 As the item said, item 191-21 is
7 the annual action plan submitted by the Office
8 of Community Development to the US Department
9 of Housing and Urban Development. The plan is
10 the second year in our five year consolidated
11 plan and it includes funding under three
12 federal programs funded by the US Department
13 of Housing and Urban Development.

14 Pieces of the block grant program
15 at roughly \$14.1 million. The home investment
16 partnerships program 2.4 million. The
17 emergency solutions grants program at \$1.2
18 million.

19 The Office of Community Development
20 held two public hearings in establishment of
21 the plan on January 21st and on May 19th. We
22 also held a 30 day public comment period on
23 the draft plan which ran from May 7th through
24 June 7th. And the funding under each of the
25 different programs is categorized and itemized

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2 in the package that should be before you.

3 If you have any questions I will be
4 happy to answer them and I thank you for your
5 attention to the item.

6 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any
7 questions? All those in favor please so
8 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? That
9 item is unanimous.

10 Andy, will you be on the next
11 bunch? Transfers of appropriations. Would
12 that be you? No. Okay. 200, transfer of
13 appropriations. Katie would that be all the
14 same person? Motion on item 200 is made by
15 Mr. McKevitt. Seconded by Mr. Drucker.

16 MR. FIELD: Good afternoon.
17 William Field, deputy inspector with the
18 police department. Item 200-21 is a request
19 for a budget transfer. The police department
20 would like to transfer \$2,397 coming from the
21 AA, B, BB and DD lines to the AA line. This
22 is for the arson bomb squad 2017 grant. The
23 transfer funding is needed due to a decrease
24 in fringe rate which would allow us to
25 maximize our funds for maximum reimbursement

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2 for the county.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.

4 Any questions? Do you have any other items?

5 MR. FIELD: No. I don't believe
6 so.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.

8 All those in favor of item 200 please so
9 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? That
10 item is unanimous.

11 Number 201 is another transfer of
12 appropriations. Motion by Ms. Schaefer.
13 Seconded by Ms. Birnbaum.

14 MS. LAURAIN: Good afternoon.
15 Mary Ellen Laurain, Department of Health.
16 Item 201-21 is a board transfer. It's in the
17 amount of \$150. This is a New York State
18 funded program. There's no impact on the
19 budget as it's to maximize grant
20 reimbursement.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Have you any
22 other items?

23 MS. LAURAIN: Yes, I do. Item
24 202.

25 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Which are the

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2 other items?

3 MS. LAURAIN: I have 202 and 203.

4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: 202 and 203
5 are both transfers of appropriations. Motion
6 is made by Mr. McKeivitt on those two items.
7 Seconded by Mr. Drucker. Why don't you tell
8 us about all of those items.

9 MS. LAURAIN: 202-21 is a board
10 transfer. It's for \$2,033. Again, this is a
11 New York State grant funded program so there's
12 no impact on the budget. It's necessary to
13 maximize grant reimbursement.

14 Item 203-21 is a transfer for
15 \$3,040. This is also a New York State
16 Department of Health grant funded program so
17 there's no impact on the budget and it's
18 necessary for grant reimbursement.

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.
20 Any questions on 201, 202, 203? Hearing none,
21 all those in favor please say aye. Any
22 opposed? Items are unanimous.

23 Number 206 is another transfer of
24 appropriations. That motion is made by
25 Mr. Muscarella. Seconded by Mr. Lafazan.

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2 MS. PETTUS: Kennetha Pettus,
3 Office of Housing.

4 MS. ZIGLER: Zoila Zigler, Office
5 of Housing.

6 MS. PETTUS: This item before you
7 is grant money from New York State. We're
8 just asking for transfer from the DD line to
9 the BB line for equipment. We need to
10 purchase two copy machines. At this time we
11 have zero.

12 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: You're working
13 without copy machines?

14 MS. PETTUS: Yes. It just
15 happens.

16 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: You got
17 stencils or carbon paper?

18 MS. PETTUS: The machines that we
19 have in the office are over 16 years old.

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Those things
21 don't last very long, do they?

22 Any questions? Hearing none, all
23 those in favor of this item please signify by
24 saying aye. Any opposed? Do you have any
25 other items.

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2 MS. PETTUS: No. Thank you.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: 207 is a grant
4 agreement with the Department of Parks. That
5 motion is made by Ms. Birnbaum. Seconded by
6 Mr. Muscarella.

7 MS. KASO: Victoria Kaso,
8 Department of Parks. 207-21 is hotel-motel
9 tax agreement with the Firefighters Museum and
10 Education Center for ongoing operating
11 expenses. Particularly in the amount of
12 \$75,000. This one goes towards allowing free
13 access to the museum for students of special
14 needs.

15 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: 208, 209 are
16 yours and 210 I think.

17 MS. KASO: And 211.

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I'm going to
19 call them. Stick around. 208, 209, 210 and
20 are also grant agreements between parks and
21 Agricultural and, let's see, Garden City
22 Historical Society.

23 Motion is made by Mr. McKevitt.
24 Seconded by Mr. Drucker. Why don't you tell
25 us about the other ones as well.

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2 MS. KASO: 208 is a grant
3 agreement with the Friends of Cedarmere for
4 their ongoing operation program support at
5 Cedarmere in the amount of \$95,000.

6 209 is a grant with the Garden City
7 Historical Society for the renovation of their
8 museum in the amount of \$22,000.

9 210 and 211 are both with the
10 Agriculture Society in connection to the Long
11 Island Fair, which will be September third
12 fourth and fifth of this year. 210 is in the
13 amount of \$50,000 and it is for securing and
14 scheduling performers, shows, petting zoo,
15 entertainment. And 211 is in the amount of
16 \$98,200 for the promotion, the administration,
17 the management, sponsorship and other
18 professional services that would be needed to
19 put on the fair.

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.
21 Any questions? All those in favor of items
22 207, 208, 209, 210 and 211 please so signify
23 by saying aye. Any opposed? Those items are
24 unanimous. Now on to the addendum.

25 212 is a local law to amend certain

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2 miscellaneous laws in relation to changing to
3 60 days the period that a written warning will
4 be issued in lieu of a notice of liability
5 following commencement of the school bus photo
6 violation demonstration program.

7 That motion is made by
8 Mr. Muscarella. Seconded by Ms. Birnbaum.
9 Anyone?

10 MR. RICH: Good afternoon. David
11 Rich, Nassau County Traffic and Parking
12 Violations Agency. The local law would change
13 from 30 days to 60 days the public education
14 period at the beginning of the operation of
15 the county's school bus photo violation
16 monitoring program.

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: That's a good
18 one. Any questions? All those in favor of
19 number 212 please so signify by saying aye.
20 That item is unanimous.

21 I'm just going to jump over 213 for
22 the moment. 214 is an ordinance for a capital
23 expenditure and authorizing \$284,976,622 of
24 bonds. Motion for that will be made by
25 Ms. Schaefer. Seconded by Mr. Lafazan.

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2 MR. ARNOLD: Ken Arnold,
3 Department of Public Works. Item 214, as you
4 stated, is the bond ordinance associated with
5 the 2021 capital program. It's for \$284
6 million general purpose bonds and \$36.8
7 million for storm water and sewer bonding. It
8 will be used to finance upcoming contracts.

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any questions
10 on that item? All those in favor of that
11 item, 214, please so signify by saying aye.
12 Any opposed? That item is unanimous.

13 215 is a memorandum of
14 understanding to the collective bargaining
15 agreement between Nassau and the Nassau County
16 Police Benevolent Association.

17 Motion is made by Ms. Schaefer.
18 Seconded by Mr. McKevitt.

19 MS. FOX: Good afternoon Chairman
20 Kopel, Vice Chairman Muscarella and fellow
21 legislators. Item 215-21 is a memorandum of
22 agreement between the county and the PBA
23 related to the county's implementation of the
24 body worn camera program. In line with the
25 pattern established in the agreement with the

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2 SOA, each active PBA member shall receive
3 \$3,000 annually over 26 pay periods. The PBA
4 has agreed to withdraw the pending PERB
5 action.

6 County anticipates commencing this
7 program this fall, on or about September 30th,
8 with full implementation by the end of the
9 year, December 31, 2021. Currently there are
10 approximately 1700 police officers on board
11 and approximately 350 SOA members on board.

12 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Any questions
13 on this item? All those in favor please so
14 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? That
15 item is unanimous. Thank you.

16 We have a motion to untable number
17 100 of '21 which is a resolution authorizing
18 the county attorney to compromise and settle
19 claims with the parties set forth in the
20 action entitled Matter of the Application for
21 Judicial Dissolution of Friends for Long
22 Island Heritage.

23 That motion to untable is made by
24 Ms. Birnbaum. Seconded by Mr. McKevitt. Now
25 on the item, all those in favor of untabling

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2 please so signify by saying aye. Any
3 opposed? That item is untabled. On the item,
4 the item is moved by Ms. Birnbaum and seconded
5 by Ms. Schaefer.

6 MS. KRETZING: Good afternoon
7 Presiding Officer Kopel and legislators. I'm
8 Laurel Kretzing, deputy county attorney from
9 the county attorney's office. We are
10 proposing to settle this action for \$400,000
11 which will acquire title to all pieces in the
12 collections of the county's various museums
13 that were alleged to be procured by Friends.
14 And if you have any specific questions about
15 the agreement I'm happy to take questions in
16 executive session.

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: We're going to
18 have a motion. I'm going to take a motion for
19 executive session on that and that motion is
20 made by Mr. McKeivitt and seconded by
21 Ms. Birnbaum. All those in favor of going
22 into executive session please so signify by
23 saying aye. Any opposed? We are in executive
24 session.

25 (Committee recessed at 3:25 p.m.)

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2 (Committee reconvened at 3:32 p.m.)

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: We're back.

4 We're finished with our executive session.

5 Therefore, all those in favor of the
6 settlement described in item number 100 please
7 so signify by saying aye. Any opposed? That
8 item is approved unanimously.

9 Now coming back to our last item is
10 number 213, which is supplemental to the
11 annual appropriations ordinance. We're
12 planning on -- come on up Andy -- we're
13 planning on holding a hearing on this. We
14 don't have the precise time and date yet.
15 What we propose to do is to pass this item
16 through on the understanding that we will have
17 a more extensive hearing, which will include
18 the entire legislature. I'm sure other people
19 will have questions on that. We will ask
20 perhaps a few preliminary things but then
21 we'll pass it through.

22 The motion on this item is made by
23 Mr. McKevitt. Seconded by Ms. Birnbaum.

24 So Andy, couple of things that I
25 would like to know and to the extent that you

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2 know you can tell us and otherwise we'll have
3 it at the hearing and some others may have a
4 few questions as well.

5 First of all, we had a press
6 announcement of \$375 going to certain
7 individuals, certain homeowners. It was
8 announced a while ago and it was going to cost
9 \$100 million of these funds, of the funds that
10 are available. Is that still out there and
11 why haven't we gotten it yet?

12 MR. PERSICH: It's still alive.
13 We're still working out some wrinkles. I
14 don't think there's been a final piece to the
15 plan. But I think we should probably table
16 that for the hearing too. But there are some
17 things that we're still working on to get that
18 program out.

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I'd like to
20 know just a few things. The items that are
21 out there, are these going to be permanent
22 type programs? In other words, what I mean is
23 that you're adding money which would entail
24 adding personnel I assume in certain cases and
25 will this continue from year to year?

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2 MR. PERSICH: You're talking
3 about this plan here with the 62 --

4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Many of the
5 items. And again, I'm just asking in a
6 general sense.

7 MR. PERSICH: Most of the
8 staffing that will be will be seasonal or
9 temporary staffing because as the money goes
10 away so does the funding with it. This
11 initial plan has about \$500,000 for seasonal
12 and temporary staff.

13 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So it's not
14 contemplated this will be a new baseline level
15 of funding?

16 MR. PERSICH: No.

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: We're going to
18 probably want to talk about the federal
19 guidelines and how you see it, how the
20 administration sees that the various programs
21 fit within those guidelines. Some are
22 probably easier to understand than others.
23 Some of them on the surface don't seem, at
24 least to my eye, to fit within it. We'd like
25 the county attorney to be available with legal

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2 opinion and perhaps the county attorney might
3 send it to us in advance. That would be very
4 useful.

5 MR. PERSICH: We can get that to
6 you legislator. We did vet this through them
7 you know what I mean. But as far as the
8 details of what the guidance says we will have
9 someone up here for the hearing.

10 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Another thing
11 that I'd like to know is the administration of
12 the various programs. In other words, how
13 would it be determined exactly who gets the
14 money? Will individual contracts come before
15 us? We'd like to know things like that. What
16 if you have too many applications for the same
17 money? How do you determine who gets what?
18 In other words, basically the allocation of
19 funds. And I guess those are the preliminary
20 questions that I would have and I expect to
21 see addressed in the hearing. You look like
22 you want to tell me something.

23 MR. PERSICH: No, no. You're
24 commenting. I was going to say something but
25 I'm just going to -- no.

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2 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Anyone else
3 want to throw their two cents in right now?
4 No. Okay then. Ms. Birnbaum.

5 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: We received
6 an allocation of the different programs,
7 correct, from you? Basically it won't change
8 between now and the hearing? This is what we
9 have?

10 MR. PERSICH: What you would have
11 in front of you if we had to change it or
12 amend it would have to come back to you as a
13 substitution item. So that's what would have
14 to occur.

15 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I see it's
16 divided between so many different --

17 MR. PERSICH: It's a bunch of
18 different programs that have a lot I will say
19 many facets to this program that probably need
20 a little further explanation by all the
21 parties here.

22 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Will there
23 be different people coming here to describe
24 the programs?

25 MR. PERSICH: We will come up

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2 with a team who will be representing on this.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I'm sure
4 you're disappointed that we're not going to
5 beat you up twice just once.

6 MR. PERSICH: Yes.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: We could
8 always decide to go ahead and do it now if
9 you'd like as well.

10 All those in favor of passing this
11 item through for the purpose of holding the
12 hearing and then we'll have a vote later with
13 the full leg please so indicate by saying
14 aye. Any opposed? The item passes
15 unanimously. Thank you Andy.

16 MR. PERSICH: Thank you.

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: There being no
18 further business before this committee we have
19 a motion to adjourn by Mr. Muscarella.
20 Seconded by Mr. Drucker. All those in favor
21 of adjourning please say aye. Any opposed?
22 We're adjourned.

23 (Committee adjourned at 3:40 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
June 2021

FRANK GRAY