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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
(Reconvened from 6-28-21)

RICHARD NICOLELLO,
Presiding Officer

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, July 12, 2021
1:34 P.M.

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2 A P P E A R A N C E S:3 RICHARD NICOLELLO,
4 Presiding Officer5 HOWARD KOPEL,
6 Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer7 DENISE FORD,
8 Alt. Deputy Presiding Officer

9 STEVEN RHOADS

10 DEBRA MULE

11 C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

12 VINCENT MUSCARELLA

13 ELLEN BIRNBAUM

14 LAURA SCHAEFER (Not present)

15 THOMAS MCKEVITT

16 KEVAN ABRAHAMS,
17 Minority Leader

18 ROSE MARIE WALKER

19 JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

20 JOSHUA LAFAZAN

21 ARNOLD DRUCKER (Not present)

22 JAMES KENNEDY

23 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

24 CARRIE SOLAGES

25 SIELA BYNOE

26 MICHAEL PULITZER,
27 Clerk of the Legislature

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LIST OF SPEAKERS

SEAN SALLIE	5
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DAN GREGWARE	52
KATIE HORST	55

1 Full Legislature/7-12-21

2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Let me
3 reconvene the June 28th meeting. We
4 will start with the Pledge of
5 Allegiance which will be lead by
6 Legislator Vincent Muscarella.

7 (Whereupon, the Pledge of
8 Allegiance was recited.)

9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: We have four
10 items to be considered by emergency
11 today and reading the information, the
12 resolutions, it will take a while to
13 read the resolutions themselves, so I
14 would ask the minority to consent to
15 waiving the reading of the emergencies.

16 Agreed to by Minority Leader
17 Abrahams.

18 So with respect to Clerk Items
19 250, 251, 252, 253, we will need a
20 motion to establish the emergency.

21 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So moved.

22 LEGISLATOR MULE: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
24 Legislator Ferretti, seconded by
25 Legislator Mule. All in favor of

1 Full Legislature/7-12-21
2 establishing the emergency signify by
3 saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 Those opposed?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 The emergencies are established.
8 Now I guess we have to call the items.

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
12 Legislator Ford, seconded by Legislator
13 Muscarella. That puts all four of
14 these items before us and is there
15 someone from the administration who is
16 here to speak on them?

17 MR. SALLIE: Good afternoon,
18 legislators. Sean Sallie, Deputy
19 Commissioner of Nassau County,
20 Department of Public Works.

21 I'm here today to describe and
22 answer any questions regarding the four
23 proposed requests for authorization to
24 amend contracts with relation to the
25 county's ARP funding implementation

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2 plan.

3 The four authorization
4 resolutions pertain to departments
5 and/or agencies, Office of the Aging,
6 Office of the Youth Services,
7 Department of Social Services and
8 Office of Mental Health.

9 These four packages are meant to
10 allocate and program a portion of the
11 county's ARP funds and specifically the
12 portion that was appropriated two weeks
13 ago again at approximately \$60 million
14 into existing contracts that the county
15 has with certain service providers that
16 work in the space of health and human
17 services and social services that are
18 consistent with the mission of the ARP
19 funds and the federal authorization.

20 As you will see in the
21 resolutions, there are a number of
22 contracts that pertain to each one of
23 these offices or divisions that would
24 be granted additional funds and
25 additional scope again to perform

1 Full Legislature/7-12-21
2 services to aid the public in COVID-19
3 pandemic recovery.

4 I'm happy to sort of explain how
5 the intent or the plan for how these
6 funds will roll out to these
7 contractors as well as other vendors
8 that may want to do business with or
9 contract with the county to provide
10 these services, but I will first just
11 get into a little more detail with you
12 of each one of these authorization
13 resolutions.

14 I will start with the Department
15 of Social Services. There are
16 currently 19 contracts with 14 distinct
17 vendors. The authorization would allow
18 the administration to increase the
19 current funding amounts of each one of
20 those contracts from between 10 percent
21 and 20 percent of their existing
22 contract amounts. Those funds would be
23 solely ARP sourced totalling
24 approximately \$1.16 million.

25 Office of the Aging, there are 31

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2 contracts with 16 distinct vendors/not
3 for profits. Funding would be
4 increased in various amounts based on
5 those individual vendor capacities.
6 Again those funds would be specifically
7 ARP sourced and, in aggregate, they
8 total to approximately two million.

9 Office of Youth Services there
10 are 39 contracts that would be
11 increased at 20 percent each. All of
12 that funding is ARP, in aggregate that
13 ARP tranche is roughly \$6.38 million.

14 Office of Mental and Behavioral
15 Health, there are 52 contracts with 36
16 distinct vendors. Those contracts
17 would be increased at \$60,000 each in
18 ARP funds for a total of \$2.16 million
19 of ARP funding.

20 So, in aggregate, we're looking
21 at about \$6.6 million of the \$62
22 million that was appropriated about two
23 weeks ago. So about \$6.6 million of
24 that appropriation to be put into these
25 contracts again to support the COVID 19

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2 pandemic recovery in the spirit of the
3 ARP legislation.

4 I can tell you this is only one
5 step in the process as I'm sure you are
6 all aware. These contracts would
7 essentially setup the conduit to allow
8 the ARP funds to go from the county to
9 the service provider so that mechanism
10 would be setup through this
11 authorization.

12 Each one of these vendors as well
13 as other vendors who may not have a
14 current contract in this space with the
15 county will need to formally apply
16 through the county's portal that will
17 be launched very shortly, similar to an
18 online application format. That portal
19 will accept applications from these
20 vendors, again, vendors that currently
21 have contracts as well as those who do
22 not, for how they intend to use the
23 funding.

24 In very specific terms, the cost
25 to render those services in detail,

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2 whether they are financial or their
3 capacity and organization, their
4 financials, so and so forth, that
5 information will need to be submitted
6 through this portal so that the county
7 and its supporting team of compliance
8 consultants can vet these funding
9 applications before any funding is
10 essentially, you know, put out the door
11 to these vendors.

12 You know, the goal here is to get
13 that money on the street as quick as
14 possible and make sure that it stays
15 out on the street and it doesn't get,
16 or that it not out on the street,
17 again, compliance is a major aspect of
18 this that will be facilitated through
19 the county's portal but as sort of a
20 precursor or a first step. The county
21 is seeking, the administration is
22 seeking authorization to amend these
23 existing contracts so again the vehicle
24 to program and obligate this funding is
25 created so that they can then, these

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2 organizations, can then apply formally.
3 I'll mention again, there's
4 remaining funds in all of these buckets
5 so that we will be encouraging vendors
6 who do not currently have a contract
7 with the county who operate in this
8 space to apply as well through the same
9 portal, the same process, for those
10 applications to be vetted.

11 So I can stop there and I'm happy
12 to answer any questions of the team
13 from the county here to get into any
14 details that you would like but I guess
15 I will stop here.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Okay.
17 Legislator Kopel.

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you,
19 Presiding Officer. Good afternoon,
20 Sean.

21 MR. SALLIE: Good afternoon.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So when we met
23 here a couple of weeks ago when we
24 first passed these through the
25 committees, the administration was

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2 going to get back to us with more
3 information on how the process was
4 going to go in terms of where the money
5 was going to go exactly, to which
6 vendors, and so forth. I haven't seen
7 anything.

8 I need some clarifications if you
9 don't mind. The normal contracting
10 process is that a contract comes before
11 the Rules Committee and we examine it.

12 Is this seeking to avoid that
13 process to circumvent that process? In
14 other words, are we simply issuing,
15 will we be issuing a bum check? You
16 have got these buckets of money as you
17 call it and you can simple just
18 distribute it as you want?

19 MR. SALLIE: So my understanding
20 is some of these DSS and HHS contracts
21 have come before the legislature, some
22 do not as I understand just based on
23 the county's process and requirements,
24 but the request here is to authorize
25 the County Executive to increase

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2 essentially the maximum amount in each
3 of these contracts.

4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Right. I got
5 get that but, as I said, that is not
6 how we work here.

7 MR. SALLIE: I think the --

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I mean, if you
9 want to increase these contracts that
10 we all have to look at, why don't you
11 do it that way?

12 MR. SALLIE: I've been given the
13 urgency to get the funds on the street
14 and in the, you know, in the --

15 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Well, we'll
16 look at it.

17 MR. SALLIE: But I think grouping
18 these contracts by agency by existing
19 contracts I think there is the
20 opportunity to bundle them, make sure
21 that there's scrutiny by the
22 Legislature so it's clear what the
23 funds can be used for the eligibility
24 buckets and the maximum amount.

25 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: The scrutiny

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2 would only be for the buckets, it would
3 not be for individual contracts, that's
4 a blank check?

5 MR. SALLIE: Legislator, it would
6 be for the individual contracts. There
7 is an attachment to the resolution in
8 the form of a spreadsheet listing all
9 of the contracts, their existing
10 maximum amounts, their terms and then
11 the proposed additional ARP funds for
12 each of those contracts.

13 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: And what about
14 for new vendors?

15 MR. SALLIE: Right. Well, we
16 don't have contracts yet. We will be
17 soliciting you know those vendors to
18 apply, but I would defer to the county
19 attorney and my colleagues here with
20 respect to -- for vendors that we do
21 not currently have contracts with,
22 would those contracts come before the
23 Legislature. My understanding is --

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: It would be
25 less to some extent. I mean we are not

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2 looking at anything specific, well,
3 actually, we are, as you said. How
4 much of the money will be set aside for
5 the new vendors?

6 MR. SALLIE: I can go through
7 each of the tranches of the
8 suballocations. So for the behavioral
9 health support, we are proposing,
10 obligating roughly \$2.1 million so
11 roughly \$1.2 million would be
12 remaining.

13 Explanation of youth services, we
14 are planning on obligating
15 approximately \$1.2 million. There
16 would be about 122,000 remaining.

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: That's not
18 much.

19 MR. SALLIE: The explanation of
20 the Office of Aging Programs, there are
21 about \$2 million being obligated.
22 About 60,000 remaining.

23 Then Health and Social Services
24 grant programs, we started with \$10
25 million. We are seeking to obligate

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2 about \$1.1 million and it would be
3 about \$8.8 million.

4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I'm sorry,
5 what was that last category?

6 MR. SALLIE: Health and Social
7 Services. So that's your DSS.

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So what we're
9 saying is that it seems like what's the
10 only bucket in which there's any
11 significant money available for
12 applicants?

13 MR. SALLIE: Behavioral health
14 support is about 1.2 million. So of
15 the 17.9 million that has been
16 appropriated for this program, this
17 tranche, about 11.2 million would
18 remain for vendors who currently do not
19 have a contract with us in this space.

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: And how fast
21 would the administration be able to
22 review and deal with the new vendors as
23 they come in through this portal, is
24 the portal done?

25 MR. SALLIE: So the portal is

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2 complete. It's undergoing some final
3 tweaks by our IT department and final
4 compliance checks by our consultants.
5 We want to make sure that once its
6 live, you know, it's what it should be
7 and that we don't have to go back and
8 adjust it, but it is complete and we
9 expect to have it on the street in the
10 next couple of days.

11 It's actually a pretty simple
12 portal, generated by our IT department,
13 simple online form. It's about four
14 pages of form, but, again, it's very
15 straightforward and we expect to have
16 it out on the street in the next couple
17 of days.

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay. Thank
19 you.

20 MR. SALLIE: And then, if I may,
21 expand on that, that portal will be the
22 intake for the program applications.
23 There will be a robust portal for that
24 back and forth once those applications
25 are submitted for the vetting process,

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2 vetting the application the statement
3 of work or scope of work to make sure
4 clients with ARP, but also vetting the
5 contractor or the vendor in accordance
6 with the county.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: And how
8 quickly do you anticipate getting
9 those, getting that vetting process,
10 the vetting and contracting process
11 done?

12 MR. SALLIE: Sure. I think there
13 is an urgency there. I would stop
14 short of giving a hard deadline but our
15 focus is on getting the phase one
16 portal on the street so we can start
17 collecting these applications, but I
18 would think in the next couple of weeks
19 that second portal is operating and
20 we're reviewing and vetting
21 applications.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So you said
23 you could have had this stuff before
24 and here I am. All right. So how was
25 the decision made in terms of

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2 allocating money to existing programs
3 versus new?

4 MR. SALLIE: So, in consulting
5 with our with deputy county executives
6 and their associated department heads,
7 the capacity of these existing vendors
8 was taken into account as well as the
9 funds that they're able to spend,
10 capacity, right, the funds they are
11 able to spend in a certain amount of
12 time. We are trying to get this money
13 out on the street as quick as possible.

14 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Not only out
15 on the street but it's got to be
16 productive. It's easy to get money out
17 on the street and get it spent.

18 MR. SALLIE: Good point.
19 Absolutely.

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay.

21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
22 and thank you for the presentation and
23 I want to congratulate you and your
24 wife on the birth of your son, Harrison
25 John.

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2 MR. SALLIE: Thank you very much.
3 I appreciate it.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: You look
5 remarkably awake.

6 MR. SALLIE: I'll let you in on
7 my secret.

8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
9 Rhoads and then Legislator Ford.

10 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you,
11 Presiding Officer. How are you doing,
12 Sean?

13 MR. SALLIE: Well, how about
14 yourself?

15 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Good. Just a
16 couple of quick questions. To Deputy
17 Presiding Officer Kopel's point, we
18 were told that these items would come
19 back to us at the time that we were
20 actually going to be allocating funds
21 so that we would be able to review and
22 look at the specifics regarding the
23 individual proposals which we didn't
24 have at the time we considered the
25 \$62.9 million globally.

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2 One question that we had at the
3 time and that we still have is, has any
4 effort been made on the part of the
5 administration to confirm that the
6 money that's actually going to be
7 spent, the functions that are going to
8 be performed by these individuals
9 contractors are actually consistent
10 with the guidelines?

11 MR. SALLIE: Yes, legislator. So
12 we have a team working on the
13 compliance aspect of this program.
14 That team is actually monitoring the
15 federal guidance to ensure that the
16 programs that these vendors, the
17 services that they would provide are in
18 fact eligible and eligible not only
19 from a problematic standpoint but also
20 the beneficiaries of the funds are also
21 eligible beneficiaries.

22 I think it's a little bit, I
23 guess complex is not the right word,
24 but it's complicated because there's
25 the agency that's authorized to

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2 administer the funds through ARPA and
3 then there is the end user or
4 beneficiary that also has to be an
5 eligible end user.

6 So we have, again, our team of
7 compliance reviewing the federal
8 guidance to make sure that we
9 understand who exactly and what
10 organizations are eligible, what types
11 of actions are eligible so that when we
12 receive these applications through the
13 portal, we make sure that that review
14 process is in line with the compliance.

15 I can tell you that there are a
16 few questions that are unresolved in
17 the latest interim final rule from the
18 treasury.

19 The treasury has a deadline of
20 this Friday to submit questions and we
21 will be submitting at least two
22 questions to the treasury for
23 resolution.

24 I would imagine there would be
25 continuous communications with the

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2 treasury to ensure that, you know, any
3 of these sort of gray areas are
4 clarified but in total here, we're
5 really trying to move this or put this
6 funding in the hands of those who need
7 it as quick as possible, but at the
8 same time making sure that the end
9 users and beneficiaries are in fact
10 eligible.

11 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I would have
12 liked to have had some sort of
13 confirmation. I know that there is a
14 process in place whereby they are going
15 to be reviewing but I would have liked
16 some affirmation from the
17 administration as we are voting on it
18 that it had already been reviewed and I
19 understand the desire to get the money
20 out into the hands as quickly as
21 possible, and we share that desire,
22 but, for example, in the backup
23 material, for example, for the portion
24 for youth services, you know, there is
25 a list in appendix A of uses for the

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2 money, one of those uses is listed as
3 suspension disparities student
4 educational rights.

5 Now I think I know what that
6 means and I'm not commenting on whether
7 or not it's a worthy goal of course,
8 but I don't know how that would be in
9 any way related to COVID. So you were
10 being asked today to approve the
11 contract based on performing this
12 function, but I have no idea if it's
13 ever going to be approved and have
14 those funds to it and how those funds
15 are to be spend and then have the
16 federal government turnaround and say,
17 you can't use it for that, you owe us
18 back X number of dollars.

19 Do we know what that is and how
20 are we going to resolve that?

21 MR. SALLIE: We can get that
22 answer for you absolutely. If I can
23 just clarify and, I apologize, I should
24 have mention that up front.

25 The additional scope of services

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2 that are mentioned in these global
3 resolutions are services that these
4 providers already are contracted to
5 deliver so it's sort of the catchall,
6 if you will, but as you are saying that
7 particular task may not be ARPA
8 eligible so when they --

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: We have
10 someone new in the --

11 MS. BOYLAN: My name is Dana
12 Boylan. I am the executive director of
13 the Office of Youth Services. I am
14 happy to answer questions related to
15 the disparities, educational rights
16 concerns that you have raised.

17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: How would it
18 be related to -- do we know it's
19 related to COVID?

20 MS. BOYLAN: Our position is that
21 it is actually, in fact, related.

22 As you know, many kids are, our
23 youth, are disconnected from schools
24 and from the educational systems due to
25 COVID. We have seen the research

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2 across the nation that young people are
3 disappearing because they have been
4 taught from home and they have had to
5 try to acclimate to remote learning.

6 Educational rights has to do with
7 the right to be educated, to get
8 services, to actually ensure that your
9 young person no matter where they are
10 in the county actually are getting the
11 educational services that they need.

12 We have agencies that actually
13 are, an agency in particular that we
14 currently fund, the Long Island
15 Advocacy Center, that's strictly
16 focused on that. These are attorneys.
17 These are educational advocates that
18 actually focus on insuring that kids
19 get computers, they gets books, if they
20 are disabled that they get the services
21 needed in the event we have to revert
22 back to the experience we had in 2020,
23 or, now that we are returning back to
24 school, to ensure that they're being
25 brought up to speed by all the

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2 districts across the county and so
3 that's what we classify as COVID
4 recovery related to educational rights.

5 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I appreciate
6 that. Thank you for the explanation as
7 to how it ties into COVID.

8 It may not be a fair question to
9 ask you, do we know whether all of
10 these listed scope of work descriptions
11 have at this point actually, at least a
12 preliminary review has been undertaken?

13 MS. BOYLAN: Absolutely. I was
14 actively involved with that. We do
15 oversight for over 39 not for profits
16 that we fund.

17 We are a well aware of the gaps
18 that exist in the county with respect
19 to kids. We are well aware of the gaps
20 that have been brought on with respect
21 to COVID, that COVID has brought on
22 with respect to youth, and all of our
23 agencies, those 39 agencies or more
24 that are to receive the 1.2 or 1.4
25 million are fully aware of the gaps.

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2 They have been doing this for 30 years.
3 We do oversight annually with them,
4 sometimes twice a year.

5 We know what they are coming back
6 to the table with and we know what they
7 are saying, that kids are disconnected,
8 that they're experiencing mental health
9 issues, experiencing concerns about not
10 being able to have computers, broad
11 band. They're experiencing issues
12 related to simply being at home for
13 more than a year with little to no
14 recreational outlets because they have
15 been confined.

16 So, yes, I was intimately
17 involved with the determining of those
18 gaps that we suggest that our agencies
19 do focus on.

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So at least
21 as far as youth services is concerned,
22 you are confident that the scope of
23 work description as provided is, every
24 component to the scope of work
25 description that's provided for youth

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2 services is something that would be ARP
3 eligible at this point?

4 MS. BOYLAN: Not only are we
5 confident we actually conferred with
6 the folks who have been creating the
7 portal. I was on a call with them and
8 we went through line by line why these
9 services are needed. How do they
10 connect back to COVID recovery.

11 So the question same question you
12 asked suspension disparities and
13 educational rights, we vetted and went
14 through them and I was able to explain,
15 well, this is why educational rights
16 and advocacy is important and is
17 aligned with COVID recovery and ARPA
18 guidelines.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you. I
20 appreciate it. This may not be a
21 question for you, do you we know if the
22 same analysis is taking place for
23 example with the Office of the Aging
24 and with respect to other offices,
25 agencies, who will be receiving funds?

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2 MS. BOYLAN: Well, respectfully,
3 our Deputy Commissioner is here and he
4 can answer directly questions relating
5 to the Office of the Aging.

6 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Great. Thank
7 you.

8 MR. MARTINEZ: Good afternoon,
9 everyone, my name is George Martinez.
10 Deputy Commissioner, Nassau County
11 Human Services, Office For the Aging.
12 Mr. Rhoads, how are you?

13 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Good to see
14 you.

15 MR. MARTINEZ: With respect to
16 the Office of the Aging, it's a little
17 bit different. I have not been
18 involved in the details of all the
19 items but it will all fit in in the
20 means of the centers.

21 As you know, Nassau County is
22 readily becoming one of the oldest
23 counties in the country, so what we are
24 looking at in the center -- sorry I
25 keep not seeing you there, like the old

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2 TV, you can adjust the channel.

3 So what we are looking at is to
4 get the seniors back to the centers as
5 quickly as possible, get them back. As
6 you can imagine, last year, our seniors
7 a lot of them lost the basic, just to
8 get out and socialize. There's a lot
9 of services so we are looking to make
10 sure this money is spent not only to
11 get the seniors back but make sure they
12 provide the programs including
13 significantly increase the technology
14 and services.

15 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: The ultimate
16 question is, are we confident that the
17 scope of work and the monies that were
18 we're actually allocating today will be
19 eligible under ARP?

20 MR. MARTINEZ: Yes, we are
21 extremely confident with that and we
22 are looking closely with the vendor and
23 the agencies on a daily basis, we are
24 in contract with our managers to see
25 what's going on but, most importantly,

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2 what we plan on doing going forward.

3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I appreciate
4 it. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
6 Walker.

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I really had
8 just had a question relating to every
9 aspect of it, but due to COVID many
10 other children from many other
11 different school districts, different
12 senior groups or whatever, those
13 seniors who don't actually belong to a
14 senior club or whatever have been
15 effected drastically. Are they
16 reaching out to all those other school
17 districts, you know, maybe they didn't
18 work with them before but now they need
19 to, or how are we reaching out to
20 seniors who don't technically belong to
21 a senior group or senior club or senior
22 center? They could benefit also by
23 what we're doing here.

24 MR. SALLIE: We want to be as
25 inclusive and expansive as possible.

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2 We do have a process for outreach that
3 will be put in place as part of ARP to
4 ensure that those individuals that may
5 not be connected with a group are
6 engaged and we do have actual
7 consultant support for that as well.

8 But I think we could we could use
9 your assistance in suggesting some ways
10 that we can do that or help us with
11 making sure that we're reaching
12 everyone who needs to be reached.

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Because I am
14 sure there are many out there, again,
15 students being drastically affected,
16 and our kids know how to use the
17 system, there is, you know, many of
18 them, oh, constantly my camera doesn't
19 work, my system doesn't work, and have
20 fallen behind in many ways, and
21 everything that we can do to bring
22 everybody up to where they should be.
23 I would be happy to work with you in
24 any way that we could.

25 MR. SALLIE: Thank you. We do

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2 have part of the \$62 million, the
3 assistance to school districts; that's
4 more on the insuring that they
5 capitalize on all of the federal
6 funding that they're entitled to as
7 part of COVID, but we can certainly
8 expand that outreach using those
9 channels to ensure that those students
10 are part of that of our case as well.

11 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Okay. Thank
12 you.

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
14 questions?

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can
16 I just ask a question?

17 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Yes.
18 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
20 Congratulations. Do you feel confident
21 that you will be able to reach other
22 agencies that don't participant in the
23 county with the remaining funds?

24 MR. SALLIE: I think we will be.
25 I think we will be successful. A lot

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2 of stock is being put into this portal
3 that will be, you know, it will be easy
4 for us to really publicize that portal
5 to, you know, last that out to all who
6 deals within this space. Now that this
7 is that we are using an online platform
8 I think that through our outreach
9 offices and the other organizations
10 that do work with us, I think we will
11 be able to cast a very wide net and,
12 again, the portal will be extremely
13 simple to utilize. So we're confident
14 that it will reach broad and wide.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Just
16 a suggestion. I printed out something
17 regarding Boost Nassau businesses
18 downtown and I have been going into
19 businesses just to hand it to them. If
20 you could do something like that and
21 send it to all 19 of us, I think that
22 we each know different smaller or maybe
23 not so small, you know, agencies that
24 can probably really benefit from this.
25 If you give us the correct information

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2 to disseminate, I think we can really
3 help with that effort.

4 MR. SALLIE: Thank you that's a
5 great suggestion. Thank you,
6 legislator, I will do that.

7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
8 questions?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 Debate or discussion?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 Hearing none, thank you very
13 much, Sean, we appreciate it. All in
14 favor signify by signify aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 Those opposed?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 Those items carry unanimously.

19 There are two items from the
20 legislative calendar from June 28 that
21 we are going to take up at this time.
22 One is Item 7, local law to amend
23 Article 10 of the Nassau County
24 administrative code to require written
25 notification to towns, villages, cities

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2 and school districts of agreements
3 proposed to be entered into by Nassau
4 County for the operation of multi unit
5 shelters. I need a motion to unable.

6 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

7 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
9 Legislator Walker, seconded by
10 Legislator Kennedy.

11 All those in favor of untabling
12 signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 Those opposed?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 The item is un-tabled.

17 At the last meeting a
18 typographical error had been identified
19 in the legislation that was corrected
20 or is being corrected by way of an
21 amendment in the nature of a
22 substitution, so I need a motion to
23 amend the items.

24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

25 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.

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2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
3 Legislator Walker, seconded by
4 Legislator Kennedy.

5 All those in favor of making this
6 amendment to correct the typographical
7 error please signify by saying aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 Those opposed?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 The amendment passes unanimously.

12 Any further debate or discussion
13 on this item? Legislator Bynoe.

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Can you
15 specify the amendment, please?

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Yes. I
17 mean, this amendment was in reference
18 to a statute I think, it was amended,
19 which required -- supposed to be an
20 amendment to a county law or regulation
21 and was unfortunately there was a
22 mistake.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: This
24 specifically deals with the definition
25 of what is a multi use shelter, right?

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2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Yes.

3 Actually we had made that amendment
4 back on the 28th, so we did give it
5 more detail and more specificity in
6 terms of what a multi unit shelter was
7 but specifically with the amendment we
8 just passed that.

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. A
10 typographical error. The question I
11 have now just for clarity on the
12 record, is this bill now requires that
13 every single shelter in Nassau County
14 must be -- sorry, every single
15 legislator has to be notified about
16 every single shelter that's coming into
17 their district; is that correct?

18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I don't know
19 if it's every single shelter. I
20 believe there is a definition according
21 to this.

22 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Could we speak
23 to the definition a little bit, please,
24 so we understand it?

25 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I guess we

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2 can go into a little more detail. The
3 shelter types are shelters for adults,
4 small capacity shelters, shelters for
5 adult families, and shelters for
6 families as defined by New York State
7 law. Do you need more detail than
8 that?

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So small
10 capacity shelter, that one I would like
11 to have further defined.

12 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: We are
13 getting the definition from the regs,
14 state regs.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Presiding
17 Officer, shelter for adults is defined
18 does not apply to a facility that
19 houses fewer than 20 small capacity
20 shelter, less than 20 adults, shelter
21 for adult families, families that do
22 not include children under the age of
23 18, shelter for families, is pregnant
24 people or families and does not apply
25 to hotels or motels, at least that

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2 provides something of an overview.

3 Those are the definitions that we have.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you. So
5 here's my concern.

6 My concern is that when you look
7 at the shelter structure here in Nassau
8 County, it's clear to me that there are
9 communities that have a proliferation
10 of those type of small shelters and
11 that are tremendously impactful to the
12 quality of life of those residents just
13 as you were concerned about the larger
14 one that was to me a better situation
15 than the smaller capacity shelters.
16 They don't get the direct services that
17 they need there.

18 They are tucked into
19 neighborhoods and I think those should
20 also, we should be notified for those
21 as well. I think they have more impact
22 in the communities that they're
23 currently existing, so I don't think
24 that we should be carving out what a
25 group of the introducers feel is the

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2 proper environment for shelters.

3 I think if you are going to
4 advise a legislator about a shelter it
5 should be all shelters, because I don't
6 think that moving forward basically
7 what you are saying is we will never
8 have a shelter that would provide the
9 wraparound services to the families
10 that are necessary for them to succeed
11 and break the cycle of homelessness.
12 That's what I'm hearing here today.

13 That we are comfortable just
14 tucking them into neighborhoods and
15 leaving them to exist like that.

16 So it is my understanding
17 originally when this bill was presented
18 that we were going to make it so that
19 all shelters were going to be a part of
20 this bill requiring those.

21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
22 Walker.

23 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I hear what
24 you are saying but I disagree. I mean
25 I don't have a problem being notified

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2 whenever there is a shelter anywhere.

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So you don't
4 disagree.

5 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Well, I
6 disagree with the fact that I don't
7 believe this was never the intent to
8 not do a shelter as this hotel would
9 have been, and I truly believe that if
10 it had gone through the right process
11 it would open and providing the
12 services to the families that need it.

13 I do think that we do need
14 shelters that provide much more than
15 just a physical building for them to be
16 in.

17 It breaks my heart to know that
18 those have been in a motel room with a
19 mom and three children, that's how they
20 existed now for three years, and during
21 COVID, we all know that was difficult
22 to deal with in your home, but when you
23 have a small space with four people in
24 that space it's a very difficult
25 situation.

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2 Some of them live in shelters
3 that were also COVID shelters and they
4 didn't even realize people there could
5 have had COVID.

6 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Legislator
7 Walker, respectfully, I just want to
8 bring your attention to what was
9 happening. A single family house where
10 they put families in rooms, in rooms
11 where they share bathrooms and they
12 share the cooking.

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I have those
14 shelters in my community also.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: But there is a
16 proliferation of them in certain
17 communities tucked next door to private
18 residences, and the focus that are here
19 in large numbers who raised a large
20 amount of money to make sure that that
21 shelter in Jericho did not come into
22 fruition are more worried about their
23 property values. Those property values
24 are more impacted than the focus that
25 would have been in Jericho where there

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2 was no real threat to anyone's home
3 because it was in a commercial space,
4 or the one who has a shelter that's
5 next door to their house.

6 I understand what you guys are
7 trying to achieve here which is that we
8 have more transparency to a process.
9 And I don't disagree with that.

10 I am just saying, if we are going
11 to do it, let's do it. It's one for
12 all, all for one. Let's do it for all
13 the shelters so they can all make sure
14 that these shelters are all existing in
15 spaces and communities where they can
16 have the most access to services and
17 that we're putting them in safe
18 positions. I just disagree with this
19 particular approach.

20 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Like I said,
21 I just disagree with the part where you
22 said it was kind of making it so there
23 would be never be a hotel situation,
24 again, I disagree. I think this hotel
25 would be up and running as a shelter if

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2 things were done the right way.

3 Instead it got brought to
4 litigation because of town codes. They
5 didn't follow this coe and that code
6 they didn't follow, and, like I said,
7 that wasn't exactly a safe place for
8 them to be at that time. When they
9 said there cooped up people in there
10 within the two week span of time, there
11 was an empty pool filled with junk.
12 Except for the fire department having a
13 fire call there, they wouldn't have
14 even realized that.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I don't even
16 want to go into what the conditions
17 were or how they were going to deliver
18 the building at the time because there
19 was some time that that building there
20 was some level of construction. I
21 don't want to go into that.

22 The point that I am making is if
23 we are going to have this requirement
24 it be that the Department of Social
25 Services provide transparency to the

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2 process. I think it should be across
3 the whole entire shelter system.

4 I don't see why we wouldn't
5 require that.

6 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I think you
7 are making a good point, Legislator
8 Bynoe and you may be identifying a need
9 for transparency for or having a
10 legislator be notified of these types
11 of shelters that some of us might not
12 be aware of. That's a good thing.
13 That's the whole purpose of this
14 legislation.

15 This, however, has been kicking
16 around for months and what I suggest we
17 could do is perhaps pass this as
18 amended and then revisit this, have the
19 minority and majority counsel speak,
20 and discuss what other types of
21 shelters should be included and look to
22 amend it on the next cycle.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: No disrespect,
24 Presiding Officer, I asked for that
25 specific strategy to take place when we

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2 tabled this the first time. I believe
3 our counsel followed up with your
4 counsel but there was no discussion
5 where there was an opportunity for us
6 to broach our concerns.

7 So to move this forward today,
8 why can't we just leave this open and
9 when we come back in the next meeting,
10 leave this particular full meeting open
11 and deal with it then.

12 I think if we are going to do it
13 let's do it right, let's protect all
14 the communities, not just protect
15 certain communities. I think that's
16 the right way to go forward today.

17 I've sat here before where there
18 were promises made and we revisit a
19 bill and it doesn't happen.

20 So I really today I am asking for
21 this to be tabled and for us to have
22 this opportunity to sit and work on
23 this together. We need to protect all
24 communities.

25 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: All right.

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2 Well, that's not an unreasonable
3 request, but I would ask that going
4 forward, if you feel that your counsel
5 is not getting the answers that he
6 wants or there was not enough
7 conferring on this, that you call one
8 of us and let us know. I don't think
9 from our side --

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I didn't know
11 this was going to be on the table
12 today. I just did not know we were
13 going to have it today.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I understand
15 that. From our side there wasn't that
16 issue but, again, it's not unreasonable
17 to ask that again. The whole purpose
18 of this is to provide as much
19 information as possible to legislators
20 and community leaders as to these
21 placements which will allow
22 legislators, community leaders, to
23 evaluate and bring information to the
24 public, and, again, if the community is
25 being inundated with small shelters, as

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2 you are describing, then it's something
3 that that legislator and the local
4 officials are going to want to advocate
5 and perhaps change.

6 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: We all have a
7 responsibility to have these shelters
8 in our community and we just need to
9 make sure they're placed in locales
10 where they can have access to transit
11 and all these other things that make it
12 a win win situation where we are
13 providing the services to the families
14 that are in need. I just think we need
15 to move forward very deliberately on
16 how we are going to have that
17 transparency.

18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I think we
19 have a meeting on August 2nd.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Can we do it
21 on August 2nd.

22 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Vote and
23 decide. Motion to table?

24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Second.

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2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
3 Legislator Walker, seconded by
4 Legislator Bynoe.

5 All those in favor of tabling
6 signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Those opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 The item is tabled.

11 Let's go to Item 24 that is the
12 resolution authorizing the County
13 Executive to execute an agreement with
14 American Traffic Solutions, Inc. d/b/a
15 Verra Mobility, and two agreements with
16 school districts in relation to the
17 county's school bus stop-arm photo
18 enforcement program.

19 I need a motion to un-table.

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: So moved.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
23 Legislator Ford, seconded by Minority
24 Leader Abrahams.

25 All those in favor of un-tabling

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2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 Those opposed?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 It's un-tabled.

7 MR. GREGWARE: Dan Gregware,
8 Deputy County Attorney. This is a
9 contract with Verra Mobility to
10 install, operate, and maintain a school
11 bus photo violation monitoring system
12 as well as authorize the County
13 Executive to enter into participation
14 agreements for school districts who
15 wish to participate in the stop arm
16 program.

17 I think we last left off at the
18 last legislation session where the
19 vendor was going to -- we contacted the
20 vendor to look for a third party
21 monitor or subcontractor to review the
22 work on the installation of the
23 cameras.

24 The vendor has solicited quotes
25 from potential vendors and they are

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2 committed to move forward with this
3 program with this third party reviewer,
4 but they are still soliciting quotes.

5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Just in
6 terms of the third party review, what
7 type of entity is going to be that
8 doing that, is it identified, is it a
9 law firm?

10 MR. GREGWARE: It's going to be
11 an engineering type firm reviewing the
12 installations.

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: They can
14 proceed?

15 MR. GREGWARE: Sorry. What was
16 that?

17 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: They made a
18 commitment to proceed with that third
19 party monitor?

20 MR. GREGWARE: Yes, they are
21 actively soliciting third party
22 monitors, subcontractors.

23 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can
24 we just ask that as soon as that name
25 is identified if you distributed it to

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2 all 19 of us?

3 MR. GREGWARE: Sure.

4 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
5 would feel better if we had that in
6 place before the contract because it is
7 so important.

8 MR. GREGWARE: They are looking
9 at identifying a vendor for this week.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
11 Okay. So as soon as you get the names
12 just let us know and basically going on
13 good faith that will all come to
14 fruition, so thank you.

15 MR. GREGWARE: Sure.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
17 Ford.

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: I probably
19 should have asked this earlier, months
20 ago, but the vendor that we have
21 selected, they will be used in either
22 union labor to install all the
23 equipment on the buses, or at least
24 have an apprenticeship program?

25 MR. GREGWARE: They will have to

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2 comply with all county requirements
3 related to utilizing the applicable
4 requirements.

5 LEGISLATOR FORD: And then once
6 the vendor selects I guess whatever
7 firm is going to monitor the equipment
8 and so forth, when do we anticipate
9 that we will be offering it to the
10 school districts to start joining in
11 with us and implementing this program?

12 MR. GREGWARE: I think that's
13 complicated.

14 MS. HORST: Katie Horst from the
15 administration. As soon as we get your
16 go ahead we are going to start engaging
17 the school districts in agreement.

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: I know we have a
19 number of school districts that already
20 agreed to this and I know in my school
21 districts did right.

22 MS. HORST: Some are very
23 supportive, yes.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: Then to be in
25 touch with New York City in regard to

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2 how they're going to monitor the
3 medians, the distance of the medians
4 for the cars going in the opposite
5 directions that may cause a problem for
6 drivers?

7 I know state law only said with
8 the median, but in the city of Long
9 Beach we have medians that actually our
10 signals are timed in such a way that a
11 person is not able to cross from one
12 end of Park Avenue to the other on one
13 cycle for a green light cycle. So that
14 would then compel even a student who
15 gets off the bus, once they get to the
16 center median they will then have to
17 wait for the signal to then turn green
18 again, okay?

19 So for the cars, because of the
20 width of it, the trees and
21 obstructions, will considerations be
22 made, are we going to look at that so
23 that if a school bus stops at the
24 corner of Riverside in front of the
25 post office to let students off and

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2 cars are going eastbound, and then
3 there may be a truck then going north
4 and south that may block the view of
5 the motorists, they do not see the
6 school bus that they let the school
7 children off, that all of a sudden if
8 the light turns green and they can go
9 eastbound, they can very well get
10 ticketed but it would not necessarily
11 be fair because they didn't see the
12 school bus?

13 MS. HORST: Correct. That is
14 being looked at where there is a median
15 to the -- it's a long question but only
16 on the side that the student are there
17 is a median, not ticketing those going
18 in the opposite direction.

19 LEGISLATOR FORD: I think I got
20 it, and of course you can't you know.

21 MS. HORST: And if the camera
22 doesn't pick up the cars then they
23 won't get a ticket. So if there is a
24 truck blocking it and for things like
25 that.

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: All right. I
3 would like that looked at. I know
4 we're going to have 60 days where we
5 will be capturing a lot of this
6 information, so we can then take a look
7 at it as well but it's something that I
8 just want to make sure we keep on the
9 radar.

10 MS. HORST: Yes.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay, thank
12 you.

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
14 questions? Legislator Bynoe and then
15 Legislator Birnbaum.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: You want to go
17 first?

18 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Thank you
19 for telling us about the vendor
20 contracting with the third party to
21 administrate the installation.

22 Will this effect in any way the
23 financial arrangements that we have
24 with this vendor?

25 MR. GREGWARE: No, we can run

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2 that with the vendor.

3 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: So we are
4 still under the obligation to remit a
5 certain percentage back to them for
6 every ticket?

7 MR. GREGWARE: Yes, that's
8 correct.

9 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: And they
10 will absorb the cost of this?

11 MR. GREGWARE: Yes, that's
12 correct.

13 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Thank you.

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I think this
15 is a good way forward. I'm happy to
16 make sure there was a vendor in place.
17 I may have missed this.

18 How often will they be reporting
19 to the county regarding the performance
20 of the vendor?

21 MR. GREGWARE: We haven't gotten
22 to that specifics yet with the third
23 party reviewer, but I mean if the
24 Legislature has specific reporting
25 requirements or what they want to see

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2 in the report or the frequency of the
3 reports.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Yes, I think
5 it would be important to make sure of
6 that.

7 MR. GREGWARE: I think at the
8 last Legislative session we kind of
9 thought there would be some flexibility
10 with that. Obviously that's going to
11 effect the cost that they are going to
12 have to pay this third party reviewer.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: But it's in
14 our best interest. Mr. Cleary, do you
15 have something to add?

16 MR. CLEARY: Robert Cleary. We
17 would have be notified in the event
18 that would identify any problem
19 obviously. There is no reason for a
20 delay if they identify a problem on a
21 bus. It's also going to affect our
22 discussion on whether that bus should
23 be operated depending on the severity
24 of the circumstance. Another issue of
25 these cameras of the effect of the

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2 operation of the bus themselves.

3 Other than that normally we have
4 typically a monthly response from
5 monitors, so I would expect it would be
6 something along those lines.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay, that
8 sound greats and I appreciate this
9 legislative body making sure that we
10 move forward to have this type of
11 oversight because this is an important
12 program for the county and I want to
13 give a shout out -- who is not here
14 today. It looks like we lost mike
15 power the whole thing went out. In any
16 event, thank you.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: The mike is
18 back. In any event, thank you very
19 much for the reporting on this
20 contractor. I think it's important.

21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
22 questions?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 Is there any debate or
25 discussion?

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2 (No verbal response.)

3 Hearing none, all those in favor
4 signify by saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 Those opposed?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 Carries unanimously.

9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I'm going to
10 put the meeting back into recess and
11 plan on calling it at the time of our
12 next legislative meeting, August 2nd,
13 and next is the Rules Committee.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No more
15 than five minutes.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Five minute
17 break and then we will start with
18 Rules.

19 (Whereupon, the Reconvened Full
20 Legislative Committee recessed at 2:31
21 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, STEFANIE KRUT, 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 26th day of July, 2021.

STEFANIE KRUT