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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO,
Presiding Officer

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ROSE MARIE WALKER,
Chairwoman

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, July 12, 2021
5:35 P.M.

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2 A P P E A R A N C E S:3 ROSE MARIE WALKER,
4 Chairwoman5 JAMES KENNEDY,
6 Vice Chairman

7 LAURA SCHAEFER

8 C. WILLIAM GAYLOR, III

9 DELIA DeRIGGI-WHITTON,
10 Ranking11 ARNOLD DRUCKER (Substituted by
12 Legislator Birnbaum)13 JOSHUA LAFAZAN (Substituted by
14 Legislator Mule)15 MICHAEL PULITZER,
16 Clerk of the Legislature

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LIST OF SPEAKERS

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4 MARYELLEN LAURAIN 12

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1 Health Committee/7-12-21

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

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

9 (No verbal response.)

10 LEGISLATOR MULE: I am subbing in
11 for Josh.

12 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.
13 Substituting for Legislator Arnold
14 Drucker will be Legislator Birnbaum.

15 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

16 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.
17 Ranking Member Legislator Delia
18 DeRiggi-Whitton?

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
20 Here.

21 MR. PULITZER: Legislator C.
22 William Gaylor, III.

23 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

24 MR. PULITZER: Substituting for
25 Legislator Laura Schaefer is Legislator

1 Health Committee/7-12-21

2 McKevitt?

3 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Present.

4 MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairman

5 James Kennedy?

6 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

7 MR. PULITZER: Chairwoman

8 Rosemarie Walker?

9 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Here.

10 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum,
11 ma'am.

12 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you.

13 We have three items on the
14 addendum 223-21, 224-21, 225-21.

15 Clerk Item 223-21 is a local law
16 to amend the Nassau County
17 Administrative Code to create a special
18 revenue fund to assist Nassau County to
19 combat the opioid epidemic.

20 Can I have a motion?

21 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: So moved.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
23 Second.

24 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Moved by
25 Legislator Kennedy, seconded by

1 Health Committee/7-12-21

2 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

3 The item is before us.

4 This local law is to establish
5 this special revenue fund so that any
6 of the monies that we collect from the
7 opioid settlements will go into the
8 special revenue fund and will be used
9 to fight the opioid epidemic whether it
10 be used educationally, in prevention,
11 treatment, whatever ways it's best
12 used, but there will be a special
13 revenue fund setup and the monies will
14 only go towards fighting the opioid
15 epidemic.

16 Does anybody else want to add
17 anything to that?

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I am
19 just happy that we're doing this so I
20 think it's a very good idea. I think
21 this whole opioid crisis has cost the
22 county so much, not just financially,
23 but emotionally, and I am glad these
24 companies are paying a little bit.

25 These companies made so much

1 Health Committee/7-12-21

2 money off this crisis so I think the
3 whole thing is positive, so thank you.

4 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: I agree and
5 it's sad because we were making head
6 ways, unfortunately due to COVID, we
7 really had a setback in fighting that
8 opioid epidemic.

9 I can tell you I know personally
10 a number of people that did overdose
11 and pass away during that time and many
12 others are fighting to keep moving
13 forward.

14 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Sure.
15 Absolutely. Thank you, Madam
16 Chairwoman.

17 You have got my support on this
18 one. This is another example where I
19 think we have to do more at our local
20 level, county level because the state
21 continues to fail us and, you know, we
22 understand that marijuana is a gateway
23 drug to opioid use, yet the state
24 representatives let us down by voting
25 in favor of passing the marijuana law.

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2 So this is just the right thing
3 to do. The opioid epidemic is with us.
4 It's amongst us. It effects us in our
5 communities. It effects many in my
6 district, our youth, and we work well
7 with the Rockville Centre Coalition for
8 Youth and there have been numerous
9 overdoses over the last two years in
10 our district that this bill will
11 hopefully help to prevent in the
12 future.

13 So thank you for, one,
14 introducing it, and thank you for
15 allowing me to say a few words and you
16 have got my support.

17 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you,
18 Legislator Gaylor. Legislator Kennedy.

19 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Thank you,
20 Legislator Walker. I would just like
21 to say I am 100 percent behind this,
22 obviously my support is there.

23 I just wanted to say that we have
24 seen over the course of the last
25 approximate 15, 16 months, this

1 Health Committee/7-12-21
2 pandemic has caused tremendous stress
3 on so many people and I think that
4 maybe sometimes it hasn't been talked
5 about just how much people have been
6 impacted and in ways that we don't even
7 know yet. I think that it's so
8 important.

9 I have organizations in my
10 district, Massapequa Takes Action
11 Coalition, the Yes Communities Council
12 Center, Drug Free Long Island, so many
13 groups that are doing so many good
14 things, and I'm so happy that the
15 people can get the help that they need
16 and they continue on a path towards
17 success, and that they can really
18 benefit from this and we can really
19 help people. That's the bottom line.
20 That's it.

21 Thank you, Legislator Walker.

22 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you,
23 Legislator Kennedy. Legislator
24 Birnbaum.

25 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Thank you

1 Health Committee/7-12-21
2 for this opportunity. It's just
3 fortunate that I am subbing in this
4 committee today and I am listening to
5 the statistics about the overdosing and
6 how it increased during COVID but it's
7 as timely as ever because we are about
8 to settle some major lawsuits with the
9 manufacturers of these opioid lawsuits
10 so it's good that we have a fund in
11 place and do whatever the county can do
12 as an entity to combat the opioid
13 epidemic, so thank you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you.
15 Legislator Mule.

16 LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you,
17 Madam Chair.

18 I do fully support this and I was
19 glad to hear in your opening remarks
20 that it would not just be used for
21 treatment but it would also be used for
22 prevention because I think that's
23 incredibly important, but my question
24 is this, how will it be determined
25 which agencies will be getting the

1 Health Committee/7-12-21

2 money? What will be the criteria? Has
3 that been determined and who will make
4 those decisions?

5 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: I believe
6 that's something we really still need
7 to work out and make sure it's going to
8 the best places possible and for the
9 best education possible so we will be
10 continuing to work on that but it was
11 important to set up this designated
12 revenue source so these monies, once
13 these settlements are done, they go
14 right into it, not waiting for them to
15 happen and then all of a sudden we are
16 hurrying and rushing to put something
17 together.

18 LEGISLATOR MULE: I agree
19 completely. Will that be something
20 that's a possible amendment or
21 something the administration will be
22 deciding? How is that going to happen?

23 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Kind of what
24 I was saying before, we can certainly
25 from the executive offices, from the

1 Health Committee/7-12-21
2 Legislature, and even from our
3 departmental offices to see what the
4 best route is for us to move forward on
5 that but those have not been
6 established yet.

7 LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any other
9 legislators have any comments or
10 questions?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 Is there any public comment?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 Next is Clerk Item 224-21 is an
15 ordinance supplemental to the annual
16 appropriation ordinance in connection
17 with the health department. We have
18 Ms. Mary Ellen Laurain. And I will
19 call the other one also, Clerk Item
20 225-21, an ordinance supplemental to
21 the annual appropriation ordinance in
22 connection with the Health Department.

23 MS. LAURAIN: Good evening.

24 MaryEllen Laurain, Department of
25 Health. Item 224-21 is a supplemental

1 Health Committee/7-12-21

2 appropriation.

3 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Sorry, we
4 didn't have a motion.

5 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So moved.

6 LEGISLATOR MULE: Second.

7 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Moved by
8 Legislator Gaylor, seconded by
9 Legislator Mule.

10 MS. LAURAIN: Item 224-21 is a
11 supplemental appropriation and it's in
12 the amount of \$93,750. This is for a
13 sexually transmitted disease program.
14 It is funded through New York State
15 Department of Health and its mission is
16 to prevent the spread of sexually
17 transmitted diseases through
18 identification, treatment, and contact
19 investigations.

20 Item 225-21 is a supplemental
21 appropriation in the amount of
22 \$118,144. It's for the children with
23 the special healthcare needs program.
24 It's funded through New York State
25 Department of Health. It provides

1 Health Committee/7-12-21
2 information and referral to families of
3 children who are under the age of 21
4 who have a special need. Provides
5 information and referral.

6 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any questions
7 from the legislators?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 Any comments? Any public
10 comments?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 Hearing none, all those in favor
13 of Clerk Items 224 and 225-21 signify
14 by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 Any opposed?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 Any abstentions?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 They too will move onto finance.

21 While you are there, I want to
22 thank you for the update on the beach
23 closures.

24 MS. LAURAIN: They'll be more
25 tomorrow.

1 Health Committee/7-12-21

2 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: We are
3 keeping you extremely busy. Just came
4 off the real craziness of COVID into
5 another craziness. So thank you very
6 much for all you do.

7 No other business before us, can
8 I have a motion?

9 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Second.

11 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Moved by
12 Legislator Gaylor, seconded by
13 Legislator Birnbaum.

14 All in favor signify by saying
15 aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 Those opposed?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 We are adjourned and the next
20 committee is Minority Affairs.

21 (Whereupon, the Health and Social
22 Services Committee adjourned at 5:46
23 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