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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO,
Presiding Officer

VETERAN AND SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JOHN FERRETTI, Chairman

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, July 12, 2021
5:56 P.M

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

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4 JOHN FERRETTI ,
Chairman5 C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III
Vice Chairman

6

ROSEMARIE WALKER

7

STEVE RHOADS

8

9 DEBRA MULE ,
Ranking

10 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

11 ELLEN BIRNBAUM

12 MICHAEL PULITZER ,
Clerk of the Legislature

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LIST OF SPEAKERS

VICTORIA CASO.....	6
DENNIS MCDERMOTT.....	6
KATIE HORST.....	13

1 Veteran Sr. Affairs/7-12-21

2 CHAIRMAN FERRETTI: At this time
3 I will call the Veteran and Senior
4 Affairs Committee to order. I will ask
5 the clerk to call the roll.

6 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
7 Veteran and Senior Affairs roll call.
8 Legislator Ellen Birnbaum?

9 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

10 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Delia
11 DeRiggi-Whitton?

12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
13 Here.

14 CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
15 Debra Mule?

16 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

17 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
18 Steven Rhoads?

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

20 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
21 Rosemarie Walker?

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

23 CLERK PULITZER: Vice Chairman C.
24 William Gaylor III?

25 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

1 Veteran Sr. Affairs/7-12-21

2 CLERK PULITZER: Chairman John
3 Ferretti?

4 CHAIRMAN FERRETTI: I'm here.

5 CLERK PULITZER: We have a
6 quorum, sir.

7 CHAIRMAN FERRETTI: Thank you,
8 Mr. Clerk. There is one item on the
9 agenda, Clerk Item 244-21. It's an
10 ordinance an ordinance to amend Section
11 2 of ordinance 73-2014 to extend to
12 members of the active military,
13 reserves and National Guard the
14 discounts to facilities and activities
15 of the Department of Parks, Recreation,
16 and Museums that are currently provided
17 to veterans.

18 May I have a motion?

19 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So moved.

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.

21 CHAIRWOMAN FERRETTI: Moved by
22 Legislator Gaylor, seconded by
23 Legislator Rhoads. The item is before
24 us. Who is here from the
25 administration to speak about this

1 Veteran Sr. Affairs/7-12-21

2 item?

3 MS. CASO: Victoria Caso from the
4 Department of Parks. 244 is an
5 ordinance amending number 73-2014,
6 Section 2 as amended to provide our
7 active military reserves and National
8 Guard discounts in acknowledgment of
9 their service for various parks,
10 activities, and services by including
11 them within the definition of veterans.

12 All of these individuals entitled
13 to these discounts would present their
14 common access card to receive the
15 available discounts.

16 CHAIRMAN FERRETTI: Legislator
17 Gaylor.

18 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you,
19 Chairman Ferretti.

20 Good evening. Could you just
21 tell me what does it mean active
22 military reserves and National Guard,
23 how is that defined.

24 MR. MCDERMOTT: Good afternoon.
25 Dennis McDermott, deputy county

1 Veteran Sr. Affairs/7-12-21
2 attorney. The definitions for active
3 military are anyone who has use of the
4 common access card and the National
5 Guard and reserve, they are using the
6 state definitions.

7 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So I just
8 wanted to get some clarification.

9 So this would include all active
10 military. Would it include retired
11 military such as myself who has a
12 retired military Department of Defense
13 card?

14 MR. MCDERMOTT: Yes, sir.

15 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Would it
16 include those active reserve and
17 National Guard members that have been
18 called to active duty status?

19 MR. MCDERMOTT: Yes, it would.

20 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: And would it
21 also include those that are not
22 currently on active status, they have a
23 CSE card?

24 MR. MCDERMOTT: I believe the
25 intention was that they would be

1 Veteran Sr. Affairs/7-12-21
2 included.

3 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So it's
4 anybody who has a --

5 MR. MCDERMOTT: CAC card.

6 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: CAC card or
7 some other form of retired
8 identification?

9 MR. MCDERMOTT: Correct.

10 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: What about
11 those veterans that have gone down to
12 the Nassau County Clerk's Office and
13 registered their DD Form 214, were
14 issued by the County Clerk a veteran's
15 card?

16 MR. MCDERMOTT: Well, the
17 veteran's are already covered under
18 this ordinance.

19 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Got it.

20 MR. MCDERMOTT: This is just
21 adding --

22 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: The tweak on
23 the 2014 bill.

24 MR. MCDERMOTT: Correct.

25 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Got it.

1 Veteran Sr. Affairs/7-12-21

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN FERRETTI: Legislator
4 Rhoads.

5 MR. RHOADS: Thank you, Chairman
6 Ferretti.

7 My understanding is and I got a
8 couple of emails on this is that the
9 Parks Department for active duty
10 military was actually already offering
11 free admission not discounted
12 admission, but free admission to active
13 duty military.

14 This bill that has been submitted
15 by the administration indicates
16 discounted.

17 So I want to make sure while I am
18 fully in favor of expanding the
19 definition, I don't want to be taking
20 away effectively a benefit to active
21 duty military.

22 MR. MCDERMOTT: Good evening,
23 legislator. Yes, the active military
24 and the families have been receiving
25 total waivers of these uncertain things

1 Veteran Sr. Affairs/7-12-21
2 such as pools, but they haven't been
3 really receiving discounts on many
4 other things.

5 It was the intent of the
6 administration that those activities
7 where they already are having their fee
8 waived, that would continue, and it
9 would only be discounts for things that
10 they are currently not receiving any
11 break on.

12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: But that's
13 not what the legislation says. So
14 perhaps between committees and full
15 session we should break out what's free
16 and what's discounted?

17 MR. MCDERMOTT: That can be done.

18 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN FERRETTI: Legislator
20 Gaylor.

21 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: One more
22 question. Maybe between now and the
23 Full Leg we can we make it so anybody
24 serving active duty right now is exempt
25 from any fee for anywhere in any county

1 Veteran Sr. Affairs/7-12-21
2 park. And then discount the rest.
3 That's what I would like to see.

4 MR. MCDERMOTT: We will bring it
5 back to the administration.

6 CHAIRMAN FERRETTI: Legislator
7 Birnbaum.

8 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Yes. So
9 now I am confused because I thought
10 this bill was to add these privileges
11 to the Military Reserves, the National
12 Guard, the same exact privileges that
13 it provided to veterans. So we have to
14 just make it equal.

15 So whatever veterans are getting,
16 they have to get as well. They all
17 have to be the same, right?

18 MR. MCDERMOTT: I do believe an
19 ordinance can make different
20 differentiation between active military
21 and veterans.

22 Legislator Gaylor wants
23 additional preferences, I guess, for
24 the active military as opposed to
25 veterans, but that's really I believe

1 Veteran Sr. Affairs/7-12-21
2 the administration and the legislature
3 you know would have to come to some
4 meeting of the minds as to exactly what
5 discounts and how much would be
6 available.

7 MS. BIRNBAUM: Well, I am not
8 sure what the intent was because to me
9 it sounds like they should all be
10 equal.

11 MR. MCDERMOTT: Well, the intent
12 as drafted was to give the active
13 military the discounts that the
14 veterans are receiving now, and the
15 active military are not, but to
16 continue with the waivers for those
17 certain activities that the active
18 military is currently receiving.

19 CHAIRMAN FERRETTI: Let me ask
20 you. I think Legislator Birnbaum's
21 question may be best answered by maybe
22 Katie or, I mean, it sounds to me like
23 you are asking the intent of the bill,
24 right, I mean that's an administration
25 bill? Sorry Katie to put you on the

1 Veteran Sr. Affairs/7-12-21

2 spot.

3 MS. HORST: It's okay. Katie
4 Horst from the administration. Yes,
5 Legislator Birnbaum, you are correct.
6 Sorry, I can't see you.

7 The intent was to include the
8 active and reserves with what the
9 veterans were already receiving.

10 As to Legislator Gaylor's point
11 that he brought up, I will absolutely
12 bring it back and get the
13 administration's opinion on it.

14 CHAIRMAN FERRETTI: Okay. Any
15 further debate or discussion?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 Do we have any public comment?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 There being none, all those in
20 favor of passing this item please
21 signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Those opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 The item passes unanimously.

1 Veteran Sr. Affairs/7-12-21

2 There is no other business in
3 front of this committee, may I have a
4 motion to adjourn?

5 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: So moved.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

7 Second.

8 CHAIRWOMAN FERRETTI: Moved by
9 Legislator Birnbaum, seconded by
10 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

11 All those in favor say aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 Those opposed?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 The committee is now adjourned.

16 Finance is next.

17 (Whereupon, the Veteran and
18 Senior Affairs Committee adjourned at
19 6:04 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