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6 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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8 RICHARD NICOLELLO

9 PRESIDING OFFICER

10

11 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

12 COMMITTEE

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14 LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

15 CHAIR

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17

18 Theodore Roosevelt Building

19 1550 Franklin Avenue

20 Mineola, New York

21

22

23 September 13, 2021

24 2:47 P.M.

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

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4 LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

5 Chair

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7 LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

8 Vice Chair

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10 LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

11

12 LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR

13

14 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

15 Ranking member

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17 LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER

18

19 LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm going
3 to call the meeting to order and ask
4 Legislator Bill Gaylor to lead us in the
5 Pledge. Please remain standing after the
6 Pledge of Allegiance.

7 This weekend was the 20th
8 anniversary of 9-11 and all of us spent time
9 going to various ceremonies remembering that
10 day. So I would like all of us to have a
11 moment of silence for the 2977 people who died
12 in the Twin Towers, including the 412
13 emergency responders of which 343 were FDNY,
14 as well as all who have passed away since.
15 And please remain standing after that. Thank
16 you.

17 Also I would like to have a moment
18 of silence for our former presiding officer
19 and longtime legislator, very good friend to
20 all of us, Judy Jacobs, who passed away five
21 years ago today. Thank you.

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Good
23 afternoon everyone. At this time I will call
24 the Health and Social Services Committee to
25 order and I will ask the clerk to call the

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2 roll.

3 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. Health
4 and Social Services Committee roll call.
5 Legislator Joshua Lafazan.

6 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

7 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
8 Drucker.

9 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

10 MR. PULITZER: Ranking member
11 Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
13 Here.

14 MR. PULITZER: Legislator C.
15 William Gaylor III.

16 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

17 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura
18 Schaefer.

19 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

20 MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairman
21 James Kennedy.

22 MR. ARNOLD: Here.

23 MR. PULITZER: Chairwoman Rose
24 Marie Walker.

25 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

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2 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum
3 ma'am.

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.
5 Before we begin, since there is an addendum, I
6 will ask for a motion to suspend the rules.
7 By Legislator Gaylor. Seconded by Legislator
8 DeRiggi-Whitton. All in favor signify by
9 saying aye. The rules are suspended.

10 The first item is clerk item number
11 303-21, which is a local law to establish the
12 Nassau County Advisory Council on People with
13 Disabilities.

14 May I have a motion please. By
15 Legislator Schaefer. Seconded by Legislator
16 Lafazan. The item is before us.

17 Nassau residents of all ages and
18 abilities deserve a voice in county
19 government. This proposed local law provides
20 such a voice to people with various
21 disabilities by creating the advisory counsel
22 on people with disabilities within the
23 Department of Human Services to advise both
24 the legislature and county executive. This
25 counsel consists of 15 members with a term of

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2 three years appointed by the county executive
3 and subject to the confirmation by the
4 legislature as follows.

5 Five recommended by the presiding
6 officer. Three recommended by the minority
7 leader and seven having one or more
8 disabilities or being a representative of an
9 organization that provides services to or
10 advocacy on behalf of people with such
11 disabilities as intellectual, developmental
12 disability, physical disability, blindness,
13 legal blindness, deaf or hard of hearing,
14 mental health disability, autism and learning
15 disabilities.

16 Further, seven representatives from
17 various county departments serve as an ex
18 officio nonvoting member of the counsel. The
19 counsel will meet regularly and advises and
20 makes presentations to the county executive in
21 an array of areas related to people with
22 disabilities, legislation-funded priorities,
23 the county's capital budget and the county's
24 budget and plan and the county park and
25 preserve infrastructure.

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2 Nassau County residents of all ages
3 and ability deserve a voice in county
4 government. This proposed local law provides
5 such a voice for people with various
6 disabilities by creating the advisory counsel
7 on people with disabilities within the
8 Department of Human Services.

9 Any legislators have any comments?
10 Legislator Gaylor.

11 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you
12 Madam Chairwoman. So, we are here today to
13 announce the formation of a legislative
14 advisory board that discusses different ways
15 that Nassau County can work better as a
16 government for those with disabilities and to
17 make recommendations for this legislature as
18 well as the county.

19 As we heard Legislator Walker
20 mention, it will consist of members that
21 either are physically disabled or living with
22 Down Syndrome or autism or hard of hearing,
23 the blind and so many more different
24 categories. It's such a great opportunity for
25 us to be better informed and better advised by

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2 people with disabilities or those that
3 represent the disabled.

4 So, this piece of legislation is
5 definitely worthwhile. It's one that I
6 wholeheartedly support. I thank my fellow
7 colleagues, including Legislator Steve Rhoads,
8 who was a big impetus in pushing this forward
9 to get this here today. It's really simple.
10 It's goal is, as I simply stated, to make
11 Nassau County work better for those living
12 with disabilities. Thank you.

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Legislator
14 Lafazan.

15 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Thank you
16 Madam Chair. For a number of years I've
17 worked to make sure that we care for our most
18 vulnerable in the community, and I want to
19 thank Legislator Gaylor for this bill. I
20 think it's an exceptional idea.

21 Quite frankly, the statistics speak
22 for themselves. 61 million adults, 61 million
23 in the US have a disability. 26 percent or
24 one in four adults in the United States have
25 some type of disability.

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2 We in Nassau County are making a
3 strong statement that this county serves all
4 residents regardless of ability and that a
5 government should always be judged based on
6 how it cares for those most vulnerable
7 residents in our community. I look forward to
8 voting yes for this bill and i urge my
9 colleagues to do the same. Thank you
10 Legislator Gaylor.

11 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Legislator
12 DeRiggi-Whitton.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can
14 I ask you one question. Would you consider
15 adding those with chronic disease as a
16 possible member? I just think sometimes it's
17 important to be aware of all the different
18 whether it's diabetes or just things that
19 maybe the public should also be aware of. I
20 don't know if you would consider that. It
21 just wasn't listed on here.

22 It might already be covered as a
23 disability but I think it would good just to
24 have, you know, because sometimes some pretty
25 severe disabilities are kind of not obvious

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2 and I think it would be a good view just to
3 make people aware. If we can do anything to
4 make it easier. If it's training with the
5 police when someone's pulled over with
6 diabetes or I just think it's a good idea to
7 include some things that might not be.

8 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: If I may? I
9 think that's a very good idea. I think it's
10 something that we can definitely look into.
11 I'm not speaking out of turn I hope and madam
12 chairperson will take it from here. What we
13 are focused here are those with diagnosed
14 disabilities. Whatever category they may be
15 in. So, if somebody with diabetes is also
16 diagnosed as disabled because of diabetes then
17 they are within this committee and its
18 recommendations. But we can always turn this
19 over to the committee once it's formed and let
20 them consider if there should be additional
21 classes of people that are incorporated within
22 the umbrella of this committee.

23 So, I definitely think it's
24 something we should look into. I'll just
25 leave it at that. Thank you Madam

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2 Chairperson.

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.

4 Thank you Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton for
5 bringing that point in. Legislator Gaylor
6 also.

7 I think up until now without having
8 this committee we've depended on those with
9 disabilities often to reach out to us as
10 individuals and address certain issues. I
11 know I've done that in my district often and
12 reached out to various departments how they
13 could help. But, you know, having this
14 advisory council would bring things to us
15 before even a resident hopefully had to bring
16 it to us. Thank you very much.

17 Any other legislators have any
18 comments? We have public comment from first
19 Elizabeth Treston would like to speak. Who do
20 you have with you besides yourself? Who is
21 your service dog.

22 MS. TRESTON: My service dog is
23 Mcgyver number two.

24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Welcome
25 Mcgyver also.

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2 MS. TRESTON: First I'd like to
3 thank Legislator Ford and Matthew Dwyer for
4 letting me know about this committee.

5 Good afternoon colleagues. I truly
6 did not expect to speak today. My intent was
7 and is still to ask you to pass this overdue
8 task force for the county and all of its
9 residents. If this task force was currently
10 in place I would not have had the experience I
11 had an hour before. I went to park in what I
12 refer to as my spot. It's located near the
13 shade tree and the waste disposal bin. First,
14 there's road work going on so the road to my
15 spot was closed. I backed out and went out to
16 the do not enter way to go into the other side
17 which says do not enter to get to my spot.

18 On auto pilot, my trusty sidekick
19 and I walked through the parking lot when I
20 realized the road closure sign was not going
21 to allow me to pass. I came back, passing the
22 two waste disposal collection bins, and past
23 the ramp because, yes, you guessed it, there's
24 no sign indicating ramp access this way.

25 We went up the ramp, pushed the

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2 round access button that typically opens
3 doors. Pushed again. Pushed again. And for
4 good measure pushed again. Mr. Pulitzer and
5 Mr. Belinskie was passing with peer and he
6 opened the door saying I needed to go the
7 other way. His peer noted I couldn't go that
8 way because, you know, there's stairs. Now
9 the three of us made our way to Neil. We all
10 know Neil. He protects and serves.

11 Three people to get one person into
12 this chamber that makes laws that should
13 protect and enhance the lives of every county
14 resident.

15 So, thank you for addressing this.
16 And next time I come I know that the task
17 force will have provided all of you with
18 policies that will prevent this from
19 happening.

20 And also I ask in the future that
21 you learn to reframe your language. We are
22 not vulnerable. We are strong. We are
23 individuals. And if we turn your idea around
24 and join us we will have excellent policies
25 for all. Thank you very much.

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2 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you
3 Elizabeth. Laura Nugent Carter.

4 MS. CARTER: Good afternoon
5 legislators. My name is Laura Nugent Carter.

6 First, I want to thank you for
7 giving me the opportunity to speak with you
8 today about the proposed bill to create the
9 advisory counsel on people with disabilities.
10 I'm a lifelong Nassau County resident. I grew
11 up in Merrick and currently reside in
12 Baldwin. I come to you today because I
13 envision a world where wheelchair users in
14 Nassau County can live as freely as able
15 bodied people. I lived the first 37 years of
16 my life as an able bodied person. Actually an
17 athlete and a competitive ballroom dancer.

18 However, in 2017, I was hit by a
19 vehicle racing and driving recklessly while
20 riding my motorcycle and today I walk with two
21 prosthetic legs, which it has taken me years
22 to achieve. The challenges I have faced over
23 the last 14 years reach far beyond my physical
24 capabilities. As a result, I was unable to
25 continue my career and needed temporary public

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2 assistance.

3 In addition, I had to navigate
4 inaccessible housing and infrastructure,
5 medical expenses, transportation challenges as
6 well as emotional, mental and spiritual
7 distress.

8 In the last 14 years I had to
9 reinvent myself. I made a decision to
10 dedicate my life to disability advocacy and
11 just graduated from Stony Brook University
12 with a masters in social work with a
13 concentration in public policy. I volunteer
14 with the Office of the Physically Challenged
15 and work with County Executive Curran to raise
16 awareness for wheelchair accessibility and
17 disability issues.

18 I was blessed to have tremendous
19 support from friends and family but not
20 everyone is as fortunate. I'm excited and
21 moved to know that Nassau County wants to
22 improve the lives of its disabled residents
23 who are often not seen or heard. This
24 potential life-changing bill is a great
25 start. It's my hope and prayer that it will

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2 result in specific tangible benefits.

3 Like most able bodied people, I had
4 no clue how difficult and far reaching living
5 with a disability is. Therefore, the bill
6 must require the council to include a
7 substantial number of actually disabled people
8 to represent the wide variety of physical,
9 intellectual and mental disabilities covered
10 under the bill. I am here asking to be
11 considered for a position on the advisory
12 council on the people with disabilities.

13 I thank you for your time and I
14 look forward to working with you to create a
15 more inclusive community for Nassau County
16 residents.

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you so
18 much Laura. Gina Barbara.

19 MS. BARBARA: Good afternoon. My
20 name is Gina Barbara. I reside in Wantagh.
21 I'm a constituent of Legislative District 19.
22 I come before you today as first an individual
23 with a disability, but more importantly, as
24 and advocate.

25 A few weeks ago a legislation was

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2 filed by the Majority, legislation 303-21, to
3 form a Nassau County disability council. This
4 has been advocated for constantly over many
5 years and sadly was never introduced. It
6 should be noted that Suffolk County has had a
7 disability council since August of 1975 and
8 this council was amended again in August of
9 2002.

10 I strongly support this legislation
11 and urge for a vote in the affirmative on
12 September 27th and hope for bipartisan
13 camaraderie and implementation to assist all
14 residents of Nassau County. Together, let us
15 make Nassau County the place to work, play and
16 raise a family. Thank you.

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you so
18 much Gina. Legislator Rhoads.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you
20 Madam Chairwoman, and I appreciate the
21 courtesy of allowing me to speak even though
22 I'm not a member of the committee.

23 Gina, I wanted to thank you for
24 your advocacy and for your leadership on this
25 issue. As you and I have spoken, my dad,

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2 John, had multiple sclerosis. For the last 15
3 years of his life he was confined to a
4 wheelchair. It was a tough adjustment for
5 someone who was the first starting quarterback
6 in Jericho High School's very first class, to
7 being someone who by the end of his life only
8 had, out of his four limbs, couldn't use his
9 legs, couldn't use his left hand and only had
10 partial use of his right hand.

11 It was a tough adjustment for him.
12 And from a family standpoint, I don't think
13 you can ever really realize the challenges to
14 accomplish the simple, ordinary daily tasks
15 and activities of daily living that we simply
16 take for granted that all of a sudden become a
17 major undertaking and in some circumstances
18 become impossible.

19 My dad was an avid Met fan for
20 example. We didn't go to -- he didn't go to
21 see a ball game at Shea Stadium because Shea
22 Stadium wasn't -- you could get in but it was
23 very difficult to be able to move around that
24 ballpark. It wasn't until Citi Field and the
25 new amenities that after weeks of planning on

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2 how we were going to get there, how he was
3 going to get around and how he was going to be
4 able to use simple things like being able to
5 use a rest room. Thankfully in the new
6 facility it had those amenities.

7 The reasons that this council is so
8 important is because we don't have the
9 perspective and it's a perspective that you
10 can only get from someone who is living the
11 fight. My hope with the disability council is
12 that this is going to add an important voice
13 from people who are living that fight every
14 single day of their lives on how we can make
15 Nassau County open, how we can make Nassau
16 County more accessible and how we can make
17 Nassau County live up to the promise that we
18 made that we're going to make it a great
19 county for all of Nassau County residents to
20 be able to enjoy.

21 My hope is that whomever winds up
22 serving on this council and whatever work this
23 council does that it's geared towards making
24 sure that in every way, whether it's our
25 parks, whether it's NICE bus, whether it's

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2 access to government buildings, whether it's
3 additional services that we can be providing
4 that we are doing everything we can as a
5 county to optimize the opportunities for
6 individuals with disabilities to be able to
7 enjoy as full a life as possible. And your
8 voices are incredibly important.

9 I said at the time that we
10 introduced this bill that as elected officials
11 we spend a lot of time talking. This is an
12 opportunity for us to do some listening and
13 it's well past time that we did that.

14 So, I want to thank you Gina for
15 being an inspiration behind the bill, and I
16 believe we have one additional speaker is
17 going to talk to it, but I appreciate the
18 chairwoman giving me this opportunity to be
19 able to say thank you to all of you who came
20 out to support it and I would urge my
21 colleagues on the Health Committee to join in
22 that support. But thank you.

23 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you
24 Legislator Rhoads. Darryl Godfrey.

25 MR. GODFREY: My name is Darryl

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2 Godfrey. It's my first time here. I'm hard
3 of hearing. Disability is in all shapes, form
4 and the problem is I don't have a translator
5 here. I have to sit here. No interpreter.
6 Nothing. I would like to know what's going on
7 just like everybody else. We are civilians
8 and we are Americans. I believe that
9 disabilities should be taken seriously.

10 You might have went over some of
11 the things that I'm asking today as far as
12 disability, as far as everybody is not just
13 somebody in a wheelchair, with one arm, person
14 who's blind person, person who's deaf person,
15 person who has mental problems. All forms of
16 disability. I'm surprised that you don't have
17 anybody here that can interpret for my
18 disability. I'm surprised. This is not a
19 government that just opened up today or
20 yesterday. This has been a law. Federal
21 government has said that you always must
22 comply with federal government and New York
23 State that you must have a sign language
24 interpreter at all events. And unfortunately,
25 we're not getting anything. I don't know

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2 anything about this.

3 As a person who is disabled, that
4 lived in Nassau County all my life, I was born
5 and raised disabled, I want to be part of
6 America. I'm proud of it. It's unfair for
7 us. Unfair for people who are disabled and
8 need help. People who doesn't have any
9 disability at all can just push us to the side
10 like we don't even exist.

11 So if you're going to form a
12 committee for people who are disabled at least
13 have a committee with everybody, all forms,
14 talk to all forms of types of people with
15 disability so you can understand and know it
16 better and what you can put in place to try to
17 help them. We don't want handouts. We want
18 help. We want to be part of the decision
19 making as well as anything.

20 So, I apologize if I probably went
21 off because I couldn't hear everything that
22 you said. Probably said everything that I
23 said but I couldn't hear so I don't what was
24 said. I'm sitting in this meeting and if it
25 wasn't for my wife telling me, she's hearing,

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2 she's telling me oh, they called your name and
3 I have to stand up and speak. But if I didn't
4 have my wife today you would be calling my
5 name forever. I mean, I need a little bit
6 more understanding from everybody. We all
7 need understanding. It's not just a person
8 with a wheelchair. Today it's all forms of
9 mental, everything disability.

10 We have to understand we want to be
11 part of the decision making too. We want to
12 be part of this committee. We don't want to
13 just be, you know, just sitting on the side.
14 Okay, here's a penny. Go sit down and be
15 quiet. We want to be part of this decision.

16 So, I'm asking, if you're going to
17 have this committee, I know you probably have
18 family members that have some type of
19 disability, but you still need people who are
20 disabled to understand what disabilities,
21 being disabled is about. You can never put
22 yourself in my shoe, her shoe or anybody until
23 you ask them to live their life and you
24 understand what they go through on a daily
25 basis.

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2 This is not just here. This is
3 everywhere in my life. Work, home,
4 everywhere. Going out to an outing. We just
5 want to be understood. That's all I have to
6 say. I just hope that this committee coming
7 in it will make it better and easier for
8 everybody in Nassau County who are disabled to
9 be able to enjoy living and loving around
10 people in Nassau County. But thank you very
11 much for giving me the opportunity to speak on
12 this and wish you well on this matter. Thank
13 you very much.

14 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Darryl, thank
15 you very much. Thank you. Our final speakers
16 are Clinton Brown and Kim Brussell.

17 MR. BROWN: Thank you for
18 inviting us to appear and having us here to
19 speak on this very important topic. My name
20 is Clinton Brown. I've been a lifelong
21 resident of Hicksville and I've known
22 Mrs. Walker for quite a number of years.

23 I attended the Viscardi school
24 growing up. Went to Hofstra University. Love
25 Nassau County. Graduated with my bachelor's

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2 in finance and banking and I have worked in my
3 career with Cablevision and Altice for 18
4 years now. I own my own home with my wife and
5 my little boy Logan, who is 14 months old.
6 He's a little person as well and so is my wife
7 and we both work full-time jobs. We are
8 advocates and we want to see the community
9 better for Logan when he's a teenager than it
10 was when I was a teenager.

11 I think it's a wonderful idea. I
12 think we should have representatives across
13 the board of people with disabilities.
14 Varying types of disabilities. Varying races,
15 ethnicities, agendas. So we have a
16 cross-section, intersectionality is very
17 important to have on any council that's
18 created.

19 It's been 30 years since the ADA
20 was passed and like the great Judy Heumann
21 said, who staged the 504 sit-in in the '70s,
22 nothing for us without us. Those are very
23 powerful words as we sit here today.

24 There are issues in the county that
25 we can address. Voting accessibility,

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2 transportation, increased employment, more
3 opportunities in jobs and accessibility in our
4 public buildings where we have forums such as
5 this to make sure that everybody can attend on
6 an even playing field.

7 I love Nassau County and I plan on
8 staying here a long time and I really hope
9 that one day I can help make this county
10 awesome for people with disabilities. Thank
11 you for creating this and I look forward to
12 hopefully working all together to make some
13 really positive, terrific changes. Thank you
14 very much.

15 MS. BRUSSELL: Thank you
16 legislature. I'm joining Clinton here. I
17 actually work at the Viscardi Center and
18 Viscardi school. I'm here just to speak on
19 behalf of the thousands and hundreds of
20 thousands of individuals with disabilities
21 that the Viscardi Center has served over the
22 past 70 plus years.

23 I just want to leave with you three
24 additional points because I think all of the
25 individuals who spoke here today really did a

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2 wonderful job in really painting the picture
3 of why this task force and this council is
4 needed.

5 But as Clinton said, the ADA was
6 passed more than 30 years ago and there is so
7 much that has been done for individuals with
8 disabilities. But there is so much more to be
9 done.

10 I want you to think about the fact
11 that 83 percent of people with disabilities
12 have acquired their disability throughout
13 their life. Whether it was an accident, an
14 illness, etcetera. To any one of us who
15 consider ourselves able bodied today may be a
16 person with a disability tomorrow. So think
17 about that. That's really powerful.

18 And we are here and talking about
19 all the challenges that these individuals with
20 disabilities have but think about the
21 contributions that they make to our society.
22 As Clinton mentioned, they're parents, they're
23 employees, they're taxpayers, they're
24 homeowners. Their voice needs to be heard as
25 much as anybody else's.

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2 My final comment will just be that
3 the Viscardi Center's vision is to accelerate
4 a more accessible world. We hope that you
5 will join us and this counsel will be formed
6 and all of us can do that together. Thank
7 you.

8 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I want to
9 thank you again Kim and of course a special
10 thank you to Clinton, who I've known, no pun
11 intended Clinton, but since he's a little
12 boy. But he is just an amazing, amazing human
13 being, Clinton, and probably one of the
14 funniest young men you can ever know. And
15 just is involved in so much and what he does.
16 He coaches the Towers basketball team, which
17 is a basketball team made up of little people
18 and they've won championships and represented
19 us all over the world here. He is just a
20 great, great dear friend who I've known his
21 family for a long, long time. And Clinton
22 lives around the corner from my daughter in a
23 beautiful Levitt home that they retrofitted to
24 fit Clinton and his wife and now little Logan,
25 who's a beautiful little boy.

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2 So I thank each and every one of
3 you who came here today. Yes, you came here
4 and you spoke about the need for us to address
5 this and people with disabilities. But I can
6 tell you, each and every one of you have many,
7 many abilities that you can bring forward to
8 us and I cannot thank you enough for all of
9 you being here today. God bless you all and I
10 am sure that this is going to get through this
11 committee very, very well and come before the
12 full legislature in the future. Thank you so
13 much.

14 Let's vote on this one first. Was
15 there any other public comment? Did anyone
16 else have any public comment? Any other
17 legislators have anything that they wanted to
18 add? All those in favor of passing this item
19 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? The item
20 passes unanimously. It will move on to the
21 Rules Committee. There are three other --
22 sure, give it a round of applause.

23 There are three other items on the
24 agenda. Clerk item 304-21, 305-21 and on the
25 addendum was 335-21. And these are all

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2 ordinances supplemental to the annual
3 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
4 health department. May I have a motion
5 please. A motion by Legislator Kennedy.
6 Seconded by Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

7 MS. LAURAIN: Mary Ellen Laurain,
8 Department of Health. Item 304-21 is a
9 supplemental appropriation. It's in the
10 amount of \$19,171,026. That is for the
11 reopening of schools. This is federal
12 pass-through money through the Centers for
13 Disease Control and Prevention to New York
14 State. This grant will provide funds to
15 school districts for the COVID-19 testing
16 responsibilities. Testing remains critically
17 important to identify and appropriately
18 mitigate the spread of illness throughout the
19 community.

20 Tomorrow Nassau County will survey
21 the schools to determine their needs and
22 interests. The county plans to do this
23 through the Boost Nassau vendor. Are there
24 any questions?

25 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions

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2 on item 304?

3 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Hi.

4 Legislator Gaylor. How does it get down to
5 the individual school districts and who
6 decides what school district gets what amount
7 of money?

8 MS. LAURAIN: It's going to be
9 available to all including private, parochial
10 and the plan is for it to be equitable in
11 their distribution.

12 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Based on
13 student population? What do you mean by
14 equitable?

15 MS. LAURAIN: Yes, it's going to
16 be based on population.

17 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: That applies
18 equally to charter schools and private schools
19 in there as well?

20 MS. LAURAIN: Private schools.
21 State-run schools.

22 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you
23 very much.

24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Do they have
25 to apply? Does each school district have to

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2 apply?

3 MS. LAURAIN: We are surveying
4 them. This is brand new. They will get
5 information based on their interest. Some may
6 not be. But yes, they will have to contact
7 and they will have to submit their claims.
8 The CDC has a whole list of what is eligible
9 and what is not. So, they will have to submit
10 those claims, they will have to be approved
11 and submitted to Nassau County.

12 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any other
13 legislators have any questions? Item 305.

14 MS. LAURAIN: Item 305-21 is a
15 supplemental appropriation. It's in the
16 amount of \$948,929. This is for early
17 intervention administration grant. This is
18 funded through the New York State Department
19 of Health and it helps assist with our
20 administrative cost for the program.

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
22 by the legislators? Any public comment? Then
23 lastly item 335.

24 MS. LAURAIN: Item 335-21 is a
25 supplemental appropriation. It's for

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2 \$1,715,912. This is for our WIC Program. WIC
3 is a federally-funded supplemental nutrition
4 program that provides vouchers for food for
5 infants, pregnant women and children who
6 qualify.

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Did we find
8 there was any uptick in that during COVID?

9 MS. LAURAIN: I believe so. We
10 were very successful in doing the program
11 remotely and all of the participants now use
12 like an EB, like a debit type card. Which is
13 nice because there's not a stigma attached.
14 There's no checks. I think there's a little
15 bit of an uptick.

16 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I'm sure some
17 people who might not have needed it before, if
18 they were out of work or whatever they did
19 need that need that.

20 MS. LAURAIN: We were very
21 successful in doing it remotely, which was
22 good.

23 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Again, I want
24 to thank you for all you did during the -- not
25 that we're out of the craziness but I guess

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2 we're not maybe as crazy as we were months and
3 a year back. Thank you for all you've done
4 and your entire department.

5 MS. LAURAIN: It's great team at
6 the department. It really is. Thank you.

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any other
8 questions from the legislators? Any other
9 comments? Any public comment? Hearing none,
10 we will vote on clerk items 304-21, 305-21 and
11 335-21. All in favor signify by saying aye.
12 Any opposed?

13 MS. LAURAIN: Legislator Walker,
14 may I just correct the record? I think I
15 misspoke on item 304-21.

16 MR. SALLIE: Good afternoon
17 legislators. Sean Sallie, Nassau County
18 Department of Public Works. I just want to
19 clarify the legislator's question regarding
20 how funds will be apportioned or allocated to
21 the individual districts and private schools.

22 So, the county is sending out a
23 survey, a brief questionnaire, hopefully
24 tomorrow, to districts and private schools to
25 gauge their need for eligible expenses under

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2 this program. We're not sure if all the
3 districts are going to actually bite on this
4 particularly funding source. So, we're trying
5 to get a sense of who's out there and what
6 type of projects they'd look to fund.

7 Based on that information we will
8 be able to craft a program so that it will
9 either be first-come first-served or a cap per
10 grant so that most, if not all, districts and
11 schools and private schools will get a piece
12 of the funding action. But again, at this
13 point we're not sure how the funding is going
14 to be allocated.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Is it
16 possible for us to get that list that you're
17 going to send out to the district? Like what
18 they might qualify for just so we know
19 perhaps?

20 MS. LAURAIN: I can get that to
21 you. It's the CDC list.

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.
23 So let's go back to all of them.

24 MS. LAURAIN: I will send it to
25 the clerk's office.

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2 LEGISLATOR WALKER: And then the
3 clerk will get it to us. Then all in favor of
4 clerk items 304, 305 and 335-21 signify by
5 saying aye. Any opposed? They will all move
6 on to Finance. Thank you.

7 There is no other business before
8 the committee. May I have a motion to
9 adjourn. By Legislator Schaefer. Seconded by
10 Legislator Drucker. All in favor of
11 adjourning signify by saying aye. We are
12 adjourned and next is Rules Committee.

13 (Committee adjourned at 2:27 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 19th day of
September 2021.

FRANK GRAY