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6 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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8 RICHARD NICOLELLO

9 PRESIDING OFFICER

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11 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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13 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

14 CHAIR

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17 Theodore Roosevelt Building

18 1550 Franklin Avenue

19 Mineola, New York

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21

22 November 15, 2021

23 2:48 P.M.

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

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4 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

5 Chair

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7 LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

8 Vice Chair

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10 LEGISLATOR VINCENT MUSCARELLA

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12 LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

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14 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

15 Ranking member

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17 LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

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19 LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: Good
3 afternoon. At this time I will call the
4 Public Safety Committee to order and ask the
5 clerk to call the roll.

6 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. Public
7 Safety Committee roll call. Legislator Debra
8 Mule.

9 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

10 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Siela
11 Bynoe.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

13 MR. PULITZER: Ranking Member
14 Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
16 Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: Rose Marie Walker
18 substituting for John Ferretti.

19 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

20 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Vincent
21 Muscarella.

22 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

23 MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairman
24 Steve Rhoads.

25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

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2 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. And
3 Chairwoman Denise Ford.

4 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

5 MR. PULITZER: Thank you ma'am.
6 We have a quorum.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
8 much sir. There are three items on the agenda
9 today which are clerk item numbers 383-21,
10 384-21 and 388-21. Clerk item number 383-21
11 is an ordinance supplemental to an
12 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
13 district attorney.

14 May I have a motion. Moved by
15 Legislator Walker. Seconded by Legislator
16 Bynoe. The item is before us. Good afternoon
17 sir.

18 MR. MCMANUS: Bob McManus,
19 district attorney's office. This item
20 appropriates \$180,000 in funds received by the
21 US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice
22 Assistance. Funding will be used for the
23 second year of a community-based initiative
24 which utilizes technology and intelligence to
25 identify areas or zones where resources are

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2 needed to reduce crime.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: Any questions
4 from the legislators? Any public comment? I
5 see none. Thank you. All those in favor of
6 passing this item please signify by saying
7 aye. Any opposed? The item passes
8 unanimously.

9 Clerk item 384-21 is an ordinance
10 supplemental to an appropriation ordinance in
11 connection with the police department.

12 May I have a motion. Moved by
13 Legislator Walker. Seconded by Legislator
14 Rhoads. The item is before us. Good
15 afternoon.

16 MR. FIELD: Good afternoon.
17 William Field, inspector with the police
18 department.

19 Item 384-21 is a supplemental
20 appropriation of \$720,000 in funds received as
21 part of the assistance to fire fighters
22 grant. The funds will be used to purchase
23 three new ambulances to replace three
24 ambulances that are no longer operatable. The
25 match the county is required is 15 percent and

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2 will be funded by capital funds.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you.

4 Happy to see that we're getting three new
5 ambulances, and I guess also included in this
6 would then also be -- are we going to replace
7 a police booth or is it just to demolish?

8 Legislator Rhoads is it in your area?

9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: It's actually
10 in Legislator Kennedy's area. My
11 understanding is it's a police booth that was
12 inundated and damaged as a result of Super
13 Storm Sandy which I believe is being
14 replaced. Is that correct, inspector?

15 MR. FIELD: I believe it's a
16 destruction and reconstruction. It's Merrick
17 Road and Seaford Avenue.

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: I do want to
19 say I'm very happy that we're finally getting
20 license plate readers in the Five Towns.
21 That's something that I know both Legislator
22 Kopel and I have been advocating for. So
23 thank you very much.

24 Any other comments from the
25 legislators? Any public comment? I see

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2 none. All those in favor of passing this item
3 please signify by saying aye. Any opposed?

4 The item passes unanimously.

5 Clerk item 388-21 is an ordinance
6 supplemental to an appropriation ordinance in
7 connection with the medical examiner.

8 Moved by Legislator Walker.

9 Seconded by Legislator Rhoads. The item is
10 before us. Good afternoon.

11 MR. PERSICH: Good afternoon.

12 Andy Persich, Office of Management and
13 Budget. This item is a supplemental
14 appropriation in the amount of \$5,000 for fire
15 prevention and control in the arson lab at the
16 medical examiner's office.

17 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you. Any
18 comments? Any public comment? I see none.
19 Thank you very much. All those in favor of
20 passing this item please signify by saying
21 aye. Any opposed? This item passes
22 unanimously.

23 We normally do not take public
24 comment during committees but I will suspend
25 the rules and allow Mr. Richard Kosowski, if

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2 he is here, to come up and speak. You will be
3 granted three minutes.

4 MR. KOSOWSKI: How are you doing
5 members of the legislature? I'd just like to
6 address some issues in reference to the Nassau
7 County police. In the past they have done
8 some oversight or attempted to do some
9 oversight. I read the, I guess the oversight,
10 all the stuff that they created, whatever they
11 took up.

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: Was it the
13 police reform plan?

14 MR. KOSOWSKI: That's correct.
15 They took use of force policies, vehicle
16 pursuit policies. And I just read it was
17 about 320 pages. And what they did is they
18 just kind of a photocopied everything and said
19 okay, we got major reform. I don't see major
20 reform.

21 Me personally, I was in the
22 politics as some of you may be aware years
23 ago. What happened was I guess I kicked the
24 wrong hornet's nest. So what happens is when
25 you're in the politics sometimes the police

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2 get involved in matters maybe really they
3 shouldn't concern themselves.

4 What happened was, there was a
5 student at Hofstra University and he was
6 digging into the corruption at Hofstra
7 University. Misappropriation of funds. So
8 anyway, what happened was the police got
9 involved and then I decided to protect him by
10 going to the Third Precinct with him. After
11 that they started giving him summons. One
12 after another. Then it snowballed. They
13 started giving me summons. I went to internal
14 affairs. Internal affairs said they were
15 refusing to take complaints. Captain Facenda
16 refused to take complaints. This snowballed
17 for many years. This is about 20 years in the
18 process. There is documentation inside the
19 internal affairs indicating multiple
20 complaints and I have two witness to these
21 events. Multiple events.

22 Now, what I'm asking the members of
23 the board to do is at least exercise a certain
24 level of oversight to combat this police
25 corruption.

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2 I'm not antipolice. As I stated
3 before, Frank Serpico is my role model. He is
4 an NYPD officer that was shot because his own
5 didn't protect him.

6 My objective is this. I'm not
7 against police. I want police to have as much
8 authority as they need to carry out lawful law
9 enforcement activity. But anything beyond
10 that I do not want them to have the authority
11 because it's not prescribed by the
12 constitution.

13 What it is is, as I went to
14 internal affairs to make complaints the Nassau
15 County police have started to snowballed from
16 the Fourth Precinct, I mean the Third Precinct
17 to multiple precincts. What happened is it
18 started to get out of hand. They pulled me
19 over, they issued me summons in multiple
20 things. Bogus summons without lawful
21 justification. When I contacted the internal
22 affairs on different occasions all of a sudden
23 the police would disappear. Couldn't find
24 them anywhere. But meanwhile, just before
25 that they were driving around me as if I was

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2 on a terrorist watch list and they were
3 watching me.

4 So what happened was, later on the
5 village police started -- the police
6 harassment started escalating in the village
7 police. The Hempstead PD pulled me over.
8 They issued me a summons. They pulled me over
9 for fail -- and they charged me with reckless
10 driving for filming them. And what they did
11 is it snowballed and went to the prosecutor's
12 office and then it escalated into
13 prosecutorial misconduct.

14 What I'm asking this board is to
15 exercise an adequate oversight to ensure if
16 what I'm stating is true that it be brought to
17 the light and that justice may prevail for
18 everybody.

19 Also the other issue I see is when
20 I came last September the minority community
21 is treated differently than the white
22 community. That's what I see. I'm a
23 conservative. What I mean by is that if they
24 perceive a minority community, even if it's
25 not true, commit more crimes than others then

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2 they're going to concentrate all their police
3 resources towards that community.

4 I'm just asking if you can
5 intercede and take corrective measures, if
6 what I'm saying is true, can you take
7 corrective measures and rectify the
8 situation? Because if not the next thing is
9 I'm at the public corruption division but
10 there's more corruption there than anything.
11 Next step I have to go to the attorney
12 general's office.

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
14 much sir.

15 MR. KOSOWSKI: Thank you. I
16 appreciate your response.

17 LEGISLATOR FORD: As there is no
18 other business before us, do I have a motion
19 to adjourn? Moved by Legislator Bynoe.
20 Seconded by Legislator Walker. Thank you very
21 much.

22 (Committee was adjourned at 2:57
23 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 18th day of
November 2021.

FRANK GRAY