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6 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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8 RICHARD NICOLELLO

9 PRESIDING OFFICER

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11 RULES COMMITTEE

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13 LEGISLATOR RICHARD NICOLELLO

14 CHAIR

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17 Theodore Roosevelt Building

18 1550 Franklin Avenue

19 Mineola, New York

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22 Monday, January 10, 2022

23 6:02 P.M.

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

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4 LEGISLATOR RICHARD NICOLELLO

5 Chair

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7 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

8 Vice Chair

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10 LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

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12 LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

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14 LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS

15 Ranking member

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17 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

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19 LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

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1 Rules - 1-10-22

2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Calling
3 the Rules Committee to order and I'll call the
4 roll. Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel.

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
7 Rhoads.

8 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
10 Schaefer.

11 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Minority
13 Leader Abrahams.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
16 DeRiggi-Whitton.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
18 Here.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
20 Bynoe.

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
23 you. We are all here.

24 Item three of 2022 is an ordinance
25 to be known as the Hiring Our Heroes Act

1 Rules - 1-10-22
2 amending Section 6 of Ordinance 180-2016 to
3 exempt active duty and military veterans from
4 the payment of civil service examination
5 fees.

6 That's moved by Legislator Bynoe.
7 Seconded by Legislator Rhoads. Any debate or
8 discussion? Hearing none, all in favor
9 signify by saying aye.

10 Item four of 2022 is a resolution
11 that's authorizing and directing the treasurer
12 of Nassau County to assign certain tax lien
13 certificates in connection with property
14 located in School District 11, Town of
15 Hempstead.

16 That item is moved by Legislator
17 Schaefer. Seconded by Legislator Rhoads.
18 It's before us. It just went through Finance
19 a few moments ago. I'd asked that the minutes
20 be incorporated by reference into this
21 committee. Anyone have anything further to
22 add on this item? Legislator Bynoe.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you
24 Presiding Officer. I just want to make a note
25 that to say that it's to the full extent and

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2 best interest of the county I think is, in
3 this moment, is premature to make that
4 statement. Aside from all the other questions
5 that are open on the floor and aside from the
6 fact that our inspector general has stated
7 that she has open issues, I think really can't
8 make a determination if it's in the best
9 interest of the county when we don't even know
10 how many units would be developed. The
11 granular details that would be necessary to
12 really make an informed decision are lacking.

13 So, I would argue that we'd have to
14 have to a lot more information as to how that
15 property would be developed, how many units,
16 how many affordable units, all of those things
17 before it would be the right move for the
18 county's residents for us to even consider
19 something that appears to be against the ad
20 code.

21 There's a lot of things here in
22 play and I don't think that in any time that
23 we would either discount land in sale or any
24 of that we would do that without having full
25 understanding of what type of project would be

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2 developed on that land.

3 So, in the interest of the county
4 residents, I will be voting no on this item.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
6 think it's been common practice of this body
7 in the past whenever our inspector general had
8 any outstanding questions or concerns we
9 always respected that with tabling the item.
10 I think this has been our -- what we've done
11 in a bipartisan way and I would hope to see
12 that continue in the future. I think this is
13 the first time I can remember where the
14 inspector general had a question and we didn't
15 move to table it and we didn't table it.

16 So, look, I think at the end of the
17 day, having the inspector general not only
18 protects the county it protects us. And I
19 really hope that we continue with that pattern
20 of listening to her advice and acting
21 accordingly.

22 I would like to make another motion
23 to table when we're ready to do so and try to
24 do that at least on the Rules Committee to try
25 to stop -- it's bad practice to go against

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2 what the inspector general says.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I just
4 want to make a statement before you make the
5 motion. I would echo that I think there was a
6 point made in the Finance Committee that the
7 responses that we are seeking both legal and
8 the details about the development have to be
9 provided to the legislature before the full
10 legislature. We're not looking to have
11 someone come up and give us explanations on
12 the 24th. We want that information before the
13 24th.

14 Nick, I hope you take that back to
15 your -- to the county attorney. Again, so
16 that we're clear, we want the information
17 before the meeting. Anyway, go ahead,
18 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, make the motion.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: And
20 again, more than just this item, just
21 basically our common practice of abiding by
22 the recommendations of the inspector general I
23 now would like to make a motion to table this
24 item.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second?

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2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Second.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Seconded
4 by Legislator Bynoe. All in favor of the
5 motion to table signify by saying aye. Those
6 opposed? The motion to table fails by a vote
7 of four to three. Does anyone else have any
8 other comment? Legislator Rhoads.

9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: My
10 recollection is that our common practice is
11 actually to tee up items for the full
12 legislature while we're waiting on additional
13 information. I don't see this as being
14 substantially different from that. I think
15 that the committees, both Finance now and
16 Rules have expressed their concerns about the
17 lack of information that's been provided and
18 have set forth very clear instructions that
19 that information must be provided before it's
20 considered before the full legislature with
21 the understanding that if it's not obviously
22 it will be tabled at that time.

23 So, I don't have a problem voting
24 for the item now with the understanding that
25 we'll get the information before the full

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2 legislature. If we don't receive it we will
3 take appropriate action at that time.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone
5 else.

6 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I don't want
7 to get into a debate, but I can't recollect a
8 time where we did not honor the advisement of
9 our inspector general. She's our chief
10 advisor in the role of making this body aware
11 of any possible misconduct or anything that
12 would be against the charter of this county
13 government. She's who we rely on and we have
14 never once bucked her authority or her role as
15 our chief advisor to tell us that there's
16 concerns about an issue and that she wouldn't
17 even advise that it goes through committee.
18 This is the first time.

19 I'm kind of saddened that we're
20 taking this approach because I really felt
21 that we worked in a very bipartisan way when
22 it came to the county inspector general giving
23 us advice as 19 legislators and responsible as
24 the fiduciaries of this county.

25 So, for us to take a stance today

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2 that to we will just buck here advice I think
3 we're setting a bad precedent and I think this
4 is not the way to start off our first meeting
5 of this term.

6 I really implore my colleagues on
7 this committee to not keep this up because
8 we've never teed these types of items up.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
10 Rhoads.

11 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you
12 Mr. Chairman. I don't see us as bucking any
13 authority of the inspector general. The
14 inspector general indicated that she did not
15 have sufficient information. We've set forth
16 a pathway to obtain that information before we
17 consider it as part of the full legislature.
18 And I would anticipate that if we do not
19 receive that information as indicated we'll
20 take appropriate action at that time.

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I definitely
22 want to change the language and I think I
23 did. Not her authority but her advisement.
24 Here consultation to this body.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: All

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2 right. Any other debate or discussion? Any
3 public comments? All in favor signify by
4 saying aye. Those opposed? It's a vote of
5 four to three that this item moves on -- it's
6 a vote of four to three we will be moving this
7 on, potentially, go before the full
8 legislature.

9 Six of 2022 is a resolution to
10 amend Resolution 112 of 2022 establishing the
11 special legislative task force to combat
12 anti-Semitism.

13 Moved by Legislator Kopel and
14 seconded by Minority Leader Abrahams. Before
15 we do that, I need a motion to suspend the
16 rules of the Rules Committee. Moved by Deputy
17 Presiding Officer Kopel. Seconded by
18 Legislator Schaefer all in favor of suspending
19 the rules signify by saying aye. Those
20 opposed? Carries unanimously.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: At this time
22 I'll talk about clerk item 6-22 which is a
23 resolution to establish a special legislative
24 task force to combat anti-Semitism. This was
25 originally introduced last year and passed

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2 last year unanimously by the legislature. It
3 was introduced by, if I recall, Legislators
4 Lafazan and Drucker, for which I thank them.
5 Somehow the task force never did formally get
6 organized, so we would like to get that done.

7 This resolution simply provides
8 dates upon which the task force A, will be
9 constituted. Which would be International
10 Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27th of
11 this year. And will require the task force as
12 constituted providing recommendations to the
13 presiding officer and minority leader by Yom
14 HaShoah, which is on April 28th. And I simply
15 urge everybody to vote for this and we'll get
16 it done.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other
18 discussion? Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
20 was just asked to make some type of
21 clarification that Minority Leader Kevan
22 Abrahams was one of the --

23 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: One of the
24 original sponsors?

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: On

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2 the task force, yes. He's a member you
3 inadvertently omitted.

4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: He was I'm
5 sorry?

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
7 don't see his name on it. If we could add his
8 name.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Was he a
10 sponsor?

11 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: He
12 was on the task force along with Drucker and
13 Lafazan.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I think
15 she was noting for the record that they were
16 appointed to the task force. You can do
17 that. There's no relevance to this, to
18 actually changing the date which obviously has
19 to be done.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
21 agree. I guess because we mentioned the other
22 two I just wanted to make sure that minority
23 leader --

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I mentioned
25 them as the original sponsors. That's all I

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2 did. I didn't discuss who the members were at
3 all.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other
5 debate or discussion. Any public comment?
6 All in favor signify by saying aye. Those
7 opposed? That carries unanimously.

8 Now we need a motion to adjourn by
9 Legislator Rhoads. Seconded by Legislator
10 Schaefer. All in favor of adjourning signify
11 by saying aye. Those opposed? We're
12 adjourned.

13 (Committee adjourned at 6:13 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 11th day of
January 2022.

FRANK GRAY