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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO
PRESIDING OFFICER

RULES COMMITTEE

LEGISLATOR RICHARD NICOLELLO

CHAIR

Theodore Roosevelt Building
1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, January 24, 2021
2:02 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 - 1-24-22

2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mike call
3 the Rules Committee.

4 MR. PULITZER: Rules Committee
5 roll call. Legislator Siela Bynoe.

6 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

7 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia
8 DeRiggi-Whitton.

9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
10 Here.

11 MR. PULITZER: Ranking Member
12 Kevan Abrahams.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

14 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura
15 Schaefer.

16 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Steven
18 Rhoads.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

20 MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairman
21 Howard Kopel.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

23 MR. PULITZER: Chairman Richard
24 Nicoletto.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

1 Rules - 1-24-22

2 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum
3 sir.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We have
5 one item on the Rules Committee, clerk item 23
6 of 2022. It's a local law relating to the
7 readjustment or alteration of Nassau County
8 legislative districts subsequent to the
9 decennial federal census of 2020.

10 Moved by Deputy Presiding Officer
11 Kopel. Seconded by Legislator Rhoads.

12 Let me just say a few words of what
13 we're doing here. Nassau County charter
14 requires that the boundaries of the 19
15 legislative districts be redrawn every ten
16 years. Charter provides for a procedure for
17 accomplishing that.

18 This redistricting occurs, again,
19 every ten years after the census is released.
20 Last year, because of COVID, the census was
21 not released until later than usual. It was
22 released on August 12 of 2021. So, for this
23 initial step in the redistricting process has
24 to be done within six months. That means we
25 have a deadline of February 12th. The

1 Rules - 1-24-22
2 six-month deadline is provided by Section 112
3 of the county government law.

4 This local law merely restates the
5 existing legislative district boundaries.
6 This is more of a procedural step to start the
7 process. These lines will never be used
8 again. They were the lines that we have run
9 on since 2013. But after this step they will
10 not be used in the next election.

11 There's another procedure that
12 follows in which it lays out the lines that
13 will actually be used.

14 Again, what we are doing today for
15 these lines those lines will never be used to
16 elect legislators.

17 We are following precedent today.
18 This is exactly what the Democratic majority
19 did, I think it was done in a bipartisan
20 basis -- back in 2002. Again, this is being
21 done pursuant to 112 of the county government
22 law.

23 The next steps are governed by
24 Sections 113 and 114 of the county government
25 law and they set forth the process for actual

1 Rules - 1-24-22
2 redistricting of the legislature. Including
3 the establishment of a temporary district
4 advisory committee which will be charged with
5 holding hearings throughout this county.

6 So, again, that's what we're doing
7 today. Does any other legislator want to
8 speak on the issue? Any public comment?

9 MS. MEREDAY: Yes. Meta J.
10 Mereday. I do appreciate you kind of
11 outlining that but it was a lot to kind of
12 take in. So, I just want to be clear that
13 there will be some additional outreach and
14 information to the community with regard to
15 what's taking place and the rationale behind it
16 as far as the steps that they are involved in
17 terms of meetings.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Yes. 100
19 percent. This is more of just a procedural
20 step because of the way the charter was
21 written. So, again, we're just reaffirming
22 the existing lines. Once that's done then the
23 commission gets formed. The commission has
24 hearings throughout the county and then the
25 process unfolds. These lines that we're

1 Rules - 1-24-22

2 talking about today no one is ever going to
3 run under these lines again.

4 MS. MEREDAY: But these current
5 lines, this is not going to be something
6 that's going to impact possibly making changes
7 that can impact say state and federal
8 elections coming down the road?

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: No. It
10 has nothing to do with the state and federal.
11 This is just the county legislature. And by
12 law, these lines would have to be changed
13 under any circumstances.

14 MS. MEREDAY: And the committee
15 is going to follow pretty much the same
16 guidelines as they did previously with regard
17 to representation from both sides and outreach
18 to the community?

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Yes.
20 Actually those requirements are in the charter
21 itself.

22 MR. MEREDAY: Thank you.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other
24 public comment? Mr. McKenna.

25 MR. MCKENNA: This is the Rules

1 Rules - 1-24-22
2 Committee? I want to make one statement.
3 Kevin McKenna, Nassau County taxpayer. To the
4 Rules Committee, I want you all to know that
5 all five NIFA individuals their term expired
6 years ago. They are not even legally
7 officially NIFA people. Their terms expired.
8 You should be aware of that.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's not
10 germane but those appointments are not made by
11 this body.

12 Any further debate or discussion on
13 the item? If not, all in favor signify by
14 saying aye. Those opposed? Carries
15 unanimously.

16 A motion to adjourn by Legislator
17 Rhoads. Seconded by Legislator
18 DeRiggi-Whitton. All in favor of adjourning
19 signify by saying aye.

20 (Committee adjourned at 2:07 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 25th day of
January 2022.

FRANK GRAY