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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO  
PRESIDING OFFICER

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

County Executive and Legislative Building  
1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

Monday, January 24, 2022  
1:15 P.M.

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2     A P P E A R A N C E S:

3

4     LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

5             Presiding Officer

6             9th Legislative District

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8     LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

9             Deputy Presiding Officer

10            7th Legislative District

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12    LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

13            Alternate Presiding Officer

14            4th Legislative District

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16    LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS

17            Minority Leader

18            1st Legislative District

19

20    LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

21            2nd Legislative District

22

23    LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES

24            3rd Legislative District

25

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2     LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

3             5th Legislative District

4

5     LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

6             6th Legislative District

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8     LEGISLATOR JOHN GIUFFRE

9             8th Legislative District

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11    LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP

12            10th Legislative District

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14    LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

15            11th Legislative District

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17    LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

18            12th Legislative District

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20    LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT

21            13th Legislative District

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23    LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

24            14th Legislative District

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2     LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

3             15th Legislative District

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5     LEGISLATOR ANDREW DRUCKER

6             16th Legislative District

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8     LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER

9             17th Legislative District

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11     LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

12             18th Legislative District

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14     LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

15             19th Legislative District

16

17     MICHAEL PULITZER

18             Clerk of the Legislature

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Call this  
3 meeting of the legislature to order. I would  
4 ask everyone to please rise for the Pledge of  
5 Allegiance and please remain standing  
6 afterwards for a moment of silence.

7 I'd like to have a moment of  
8 silence for the two NYPD officers who were  
9 ambushed in Harlem on Friday night. Officer  
10 Jason Rivera, 22 years old. Officer Wilbert  
11 Mora who is 27. Officer Rivera passed away.  
12 Officer Mora is, as we sit here, fighting for  
13 his life. I would ask that we all keep them  
14 and their families in our thoughts and prayers  
15 in the coming days. Thank you.

16 Mike, could you call the roll  
17 please?

18 MR. PULITZER: Thank you  
19 Presiding Officer. Deputy Presiding Officer  
20 Howard Kopel.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

22 MR. PULITZER: Alternate Deputy  
23 Presiding Officer Denise Ford.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

25 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Siela

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2 Bynoe.

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

4 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Carrie

5 Solages.

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

7 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Debra

8 Mule.

9 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

10 MR. PULITZER: Legislator C.

11 William Gaylor III.

12 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

13 MR. PULITZER: Legislator John

14 Giuffre.

15 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.

16 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Mazi

17 Melesa Pilip.

18 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

19 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia

20 DeRiggi-Whitton.

21 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

22 Here.

23 MR. PULITZER: Legislator James

24 Kennedy.

25 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

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2 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Thomas  
3 McKevitt.

4 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

5 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura  
6 Schaefer.

7 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

8 MR. PULITZER: Legislator John  
9 Ferretti.

10 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

11 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold  
12 Drucker.

13 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

14 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Rose  
15 Marie Walker.

16 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Joshua  
18 Lafazan.

19 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

20 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Steven  
21 Rhoads.

22 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

23 MR. PULITZER: Minority Leader  
24 Kevan Abrahams.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

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2 MR. PULITZER: Presiding Officer  
3 Richard Nicoletto.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

5 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum  
6 sir.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
8 very much. We are honored today to be  
9 recognizing our top cops, and today we have a  
10 presentation by the Detectives Association and  
11 I'd like to invite up president John Wighaus  
12 as well as Commissioner Ryder.

13 MR. WIGHAUS: Thank you Presiding  
14 Officer Nicoletto, Minority Leader Abrahams,  
15 the full legislative body for your support of  
16 law enforcement and also for recognizing the  
17 two NYPD officers who were ambushed on Friday  
18 night. They are in our prayers as well.  
19 Thank you for recognizing them.

20 Today we have detectives Michael  
21 Shreve, Dakota Clark from the Fifth Squad, Joe  
22 Albergo from Gang Unit and Bobby Rescigno from  
23 Electronics Squad.

24 On October 12th at approximately  
25 11:30 p.m. Fifth Precinct patrol units were



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2 dispatched to a house in Lakeview for a call  
3 of a suspicious and unusual occurrence. The  
4 911 caller witnessed a disturbing video on  
5 Snapchat where a man was being tortured. The  
6 victim of this assault was shown on video  
7 being kicked multiple times and attacked by a  
8 pit bull. The injuries depicted in this post  
9 showed that the victim's health status was  
10 getting progressively worse.

11 At the end of this three-minute  
12 video, the victim is observed unconscious with  
13 shallow breathing, bound, naked and covered in  
14 his own blood. The 911 caller did not know  
15 the name of the person who posted this video.  
16 She only knew him as Danny from Hempstead.

17 The 911 caller provided this video  
18 and Snapchat screen name to Fifth Squad  
19 detectives Michael Shreve and Dakota Clark.  
20 These detectives conducted multiple checks and  
21 conferred with Gang Squad detective Joe  
22 Albergo. A short time later detectives Shreve  
23 and Clark were able to determine that "Danny  
24 from Hempstead" was in fact Danny Harrell.  
25 Mr. Harrell is known as a Crip member from

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2 Hempstead.

3 Due to this, Gang Squad detective  
4 Joe Albergo joined the investigation and these  
5 three detectives worked side by side in search  
6 of this victim and the subjects. These  
7 detectives coordinated the search of multiple  
8 locations from Hempstead to Uniondale to Long  
9 Beach. Assisting in these numerous searches  
10 were detectives from the First Squad, Third  
11 Squad and Hempstead Police Department.

12 Detective Bob Rescigno, from  
13 Electronics Squad, responded and coordinated  
14 the digital forensic search for this subject.  
15 Detective Rescigno was in constant  
16 communication with Snapchat and was able to  
17 obtain the possible location of this subject  
18 as being in a large apartment building located  
19 in Schenectady, New York.

20 With this information, these  
21 detectives contacted the Schenectady Police  
22 Department and advised them as to the events  
23 of this heinous act. The Schenectady Police  
24 Department immediately responded to this  
25 apartment building and conducted a large-scale

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2 search going door to door and utilizing  
3 critical information provided by these  
4 detectives to locate the apartment where this  
5 assault had transpired.

6 Schenectady police officers were  
7 able to gain entry into this apartment and  
8 rescue the victim, who was found inside of a  
9 closet still bound, naked and near death.  
10 This victim was immediately transported to a  
11 local hospital where he was in critical  
12 condition. The attending physician stated  
13 that if this victim wasn't found when he was  
14 he would have succumbed to his injuries.

15 Due to the swift action of these  
16 four detectives from three separate detective  
17 squads in Nassau County, the life of this  
18 victim was saved and three evil individuals  
19 were arrested.

20 The following contraband was  
21 recovered by Schenectady PD from this  
22 apartment. Two illegal handguns and a large  
23 quantity of Fentanyl, heroin and crack  
24 cocaine. Two of these subjects were from  
25 Hempstead and one subject is from Uniondale.

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2 They were charged with kidnaping, attempted  
3 murder, criminal possession of a weapon and  
4 possession of a controlled substance.

5 Thank you for recognizing these  
6 detectives today.

7 COMMISSIONER RYDER: So, first,  
8 I'd like to thank you for that moment of  
9 silence for the officers in New York City and  
10 the entire NYPD. We are all one family. We  
11 bleed the same. We go out there and we do the  
12 battles every day. This past weekend alone we  
13 took five guns off the streets in Nassau  
14 County. Five. Due to the work of our  
15 narcotics bureau, our CERT, COPE, aviation was  
16 involved, canine. There were foot chases  
17 involved. Officers were injured. That's one  
18 week in Nassau County.

19 These residents that you just heard  
20 that did this horrific act lived in Nassau  
21 County. These are the people that sometimes  
22 get mixed up in our communities, our good  
23 communities, and we go out there and we find  
24 them and weed through to find out who they are  
25 and take them out of that environment so the

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2 environment get healthier.

3 39 years doing this, I have never  
4 ever in my life seen a video like I had to  
5 watch with this act and what this poor man was  
6 done is basically fed to the pit bull and the  
7 pit bull going after him ripping his flesh  
8 from his body. It was the hardest thing I  
9 ever had to watch. My detectives had to watch  
10 it over and over and over again to figure out  
11 who they are.

12 Our specialty and our technology in  
13 Electronics Bureau had to step in. Our gang  
14 members had to step in. They work together as  
15 a team to take these individuals out. To get  
16 them out of the environment so we can have our  
17 healthy environment here. This is a thing  
18 that goes on every single day and you saw it  
19 in New York City this weekend.

20 Five guns off the streets. One of  
21 the officers was killed was 22 years old. My  
22 son is 22 year old. Just started the police  
23 department. It starts you thinking. We have  
24 to do more for the respect of our law  
25 enforcement.

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2 I thank every one of you, both  
3 sides of the aisle, who always respect law  
4 enforcement in this county and will continue  
5 to do that forward while we all along respect  
6 our communities. Thank you.

7 MR. CLARK: I want to thank you  
8 guys for the award and thank you for the  
9 continuing support of law enforcement from the  
10 leg. Thank you.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Deputy  
12 Presiding Officer Kopel.

13 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So, while I'm  
14 not in -- my district and this precinct don't  
15 coincide we're very close. It's very  
16 comforting to know that we have such vigilant  
17 and actually smart people working to protect  
18 us. It's quite remarkable that you're able to  
19 take something like a video and ultimately  
20 figure out that somebody else is being harmed  
21 in Schenectady. That's just an amazing and an  
22 astonishing thing.

23 We're lucky of course that some  
24 evil doers are dumb enough to post things  
25 online. We're lucky that we have citizens

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2 here in Nassau, who, having seen that, alerted  
3 the police. That's a terrific thing.

4 But as I said, I'm just astonished  
5 that you were able to figure this out and  
6 ultimately save this man's life. I  
7 congratulate you. And on behalf of everyone,  
8 I think I'm sure on behalf of everyone, we  
9 thank you. We thank you and appreciate all  
10 that you do for us not only this time but  
11 every day.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I would  
13 just add to that I think Howard hit the nail  
14 on the head. The fact that you were able to  
15 take a Snapchat video and then through  
16 detective work, incredible detective work,  
17 connect it to a victim and perpetrators in  
18 Schenectady is truly extraordinary. To do it  
19 in a fashion and a timeliness that you were  
20 able to save a man's life, I mean, we are very  
21 proud of you. Wonderful job you've done.  
22 Anyone else? Legislator Bynoe.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Good  
24 afternoon. I echo the sentiments of my  
25 colleagues. This is extraordinary police work

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2 done by an extraordinary police department. I  
3 thank you all for your service. You did not  
4 give up on the trail. You kept going. And  
5 even when it took you outside of your  
6 jurisdiction you kept going. So, for that I  
7 say thank you for your tenacity and your  
8 perserverance. You saved this man's life and  
9 you may have saved countless lives by making  
10 sure that those criminals, who were from  
11 Nassau County up in Schenectady, will be  
12 incarcerated and they will have to pay the  
13 fine and pay for justice for this young man  
14 that they harmed sounds like horrifically.  
15 When I read this account it was horrible. To  
16 see that they would take a dog and sic it on  
17 this person like that without any regard for  
18 human life. So, thank you for all that you  
19 do, what you did in this situation and what  
20 you do every day.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator  
22 Schaefer.

23 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I also echo  
24 the sentiments of all my colleagues. This may  
25 sound silly in light of everything but what



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2 happened to the dog in that situation?

3 Usually do they remove a dog that's been or  
4 no?

5 MR. SHREVE: I think they put it  
6 down. But they actually had taken DNA from  
7 the victim from the dog's mouth that they  
8 tested and actually found it. So the dog was  
9 actually a big part of the case.

10 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Thank you.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We'd like  
12 to invite you up here. We have presentation  
13 for all of you.

14 We are going to the public comment  
15 portion of our meeting and the first speaker  
16 is Claudia Borecky.

17 MS. BORECKY: Hello everybody.  
18 I'm Claudia Borecky, codirector of LI Clean  
19 Air Water and Soil. Also known as CAWS. I  
20 gave copies of our letter, our December first  
21 letter, to you and should be in front of you.

22 I've been advocating for the  
23 establishment of a public authority to take  
24 over New York American Water's Long Island  
25 operations for over a decade. To that end,

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2 our state representatives passed legislation  
3 last June that established water authorities  
4 for both the north shore and the Town of  
5 Hempstead. The county legislature has now had  
6 over six months to prepare for appointments.

7 We then pushed our new governor to  
8 sign the two bills, which she did, on November  
9 3rd. The new South Nassau Water Authority is  
10 to be governed by a board of directors  
11 consisting of five members. Three members  
12 appointed by the Town of Hempstead, two  
13 members appointed by the Nassau County  
14 Legislature. The board shall receive no  
15 compensation for their services.

16 Last time the towns of Hempstead  
17 and Oyster Bay reestablished a water authority  
18 they invited the public to go through a  
19 screening process which took nine months from  
20 the time they made an announcement to when  
21 they made its appointments. The state this  
22 time made sure that the governing bodies would  
23 not be allowed to procrastinate. The South  
24 Nassau Water Authority will go into effect on  
25 February 1.

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2 I'm here today to urge the  
3 legislature to take immediate steps to appoint  
4 knowledgeable, capable, independent  
5 commissioners with varied financial,  
6 municipal, environmental, civic and legal  
7 experience to the authority so that the Nassau  
8 County Water Authority is fully established by  
9 February 1, 2022 as ordered by the state.

10 This is the county's last meeting  
11 in January and we've yet to see appointments  
12 up for a vote, which means the Nassau County  
13 Legislature must appoint the water  
14 commissioners within the week in order for the  
15 Nassau County Water Authority to be  
16 established by February 1.

17 As I'm sure you're aware, Liberty  
18 Utilities recently purchased New York American  
19 Water's stock. CAWS opposed such sale mainly  
20 because we believe the purchase price to be  
21 inflated and we expect Liberty Utilities to  
22 want to make a profit on their investment if  
23 they sell it to the new authorities in the  
24 short term.

25 As part of the settlement

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2 negotiations, CAWS made sure that the Public  
3 Service Commission require Liberty or New York  
4 American Water to negotiate in good faith with  
5 the new South Nassau Water Authority to  
6 acquire its Hempstead operations. We made  
7 sure that this was included with the hope that  
8 an agreement will be reached without having to  
9 go through eminent domain.

10 As a specific time frame forming  
11 this organization is included in their sales  
12 agreement, it is imperative that the Nassau  
13 County Legislature and the Town of Hempstead  
14 acts expeditiously in appointing commissioners  
15 to the South Nassau Water Authority. The  
16 South Nassau Water Authority will supply water  
17 to 114,000 customers serving approximately  
18 250,000 of your constituents.

19 I have a few minutes left. I can  
20 read them off. The following legislators  
21 represent communities served by Liberty.  
22 Legislator Abrahams, Roosevelt. Legislator  
23 Bynoe, Lakeview. Legislator Solages, Valley  
24 Stream, Inwood, Lawrence and North Woodmere.  
25 Legislator Ford, Atlantic Beach, East Atlantic

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2 Beach.

3 MR. PULITZER: Miss, your time  
4 has expired.

5 MS. BORECKY: I'm sorry. It  
6 looked like I had a minute left.

7 MR. PULITZER: There was a mixed  
8 up communication. Sorry.

9 MS. BORECKY: Okay. Just one  
10 question. What has been done so far to  
11 appoint the new water commissioners to the  
12 South Nassau Water board?

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: My  
14 understanding is that the legislation actually  
15 becomes effective on February 1st and  
16 therefore the appointments cannot be made  
17 until after February 1st.

18 MS. BORECKY: Town of Hempstead  
19 is making their three appointments tomorrow.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Well,  
21 then, apparently they're jumping the gun but  
22 that's fine.

23 MS. BORECKY: Have you done  
24 anything to start even interviewing people?

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you

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2 Ms. Borecky. We appreciate you being here.

3 MS. BORECKY: That's my answer.

4 Thank you.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Richard  
6 Clolery.

7 MR. CLOLERY: To the members of  
8 the legislature. I would like to congratulate  
9 those that got voted in even though I voted  
10 for Democrats. Without being Democrat of  
11 Republican, I am here because I would like to  
12 see what your plan is to increase funding for  
13 the buses. You're concerned about getting  
14 people to stay on the island. You're worrying  
15 about businesses failing and also concerned  
16 about increasing tax revenue. But one major  
17 expense for any person is their car. Whether  
18 it's gas for it, insurance, repairs, whatever,  
19 it adds up. Especially when they have to buy  
20 their car now because of the pandemic because  
21 of high prices.

22 One way to cut this is dedicated  
23 funding for the buses. Without matching funds  
24 from the state bus lines got cut. Like the  
25 N-50, N-73, 74 etcetera. So please help

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2 everyone not just the drivers but everyone who  
3 can't drive. Thank you.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank  
5 you. Pat Boyle.

6 MR. BOYLE: Hi. How is  
7 everybody? My name is Pat Boyle. I work with  
8 Gateway Youth Outreach in Elmont but I'm also  
9 here representing the Coalition of Youth  
10 Service agencies.

11 Two very quick things. One is  
12 welcome back everybody that was voted back  
13 into your seat. I look forward to working  
14 with you again. And also too welcome to the  
15 people who have been newly elected to the  
16 seats. Those are the people who we really do  
17 want to speak with so that way we can get an  
18 opportunity to explain to you what youth  
19 programs in Nassau County are.

20 They're not just bats and balls  
21 like some people would think. We throw out a  
22 ball and say go have fun. That's not what  
23 we're all about. We're here to be able to  
24 help and to be able to teach kids on many,  
25 many different levels. As well as provide

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2 counseling for those youngsters. Which is a  
3 very important component right now because  
4 unfortunately we're starting to see a lot in  
5 the way of depression with regard to kids. A  
6 lot in the way of social issues. All due to  
7 the isolation that they've had to go through  
8 with COVID.

9 As you can imagine, if you are a  
10 parent or if you remember having children if  
11 they were younger, parents are going a little  
12 bit on the bonkers side as well too. That's  
13 not a technical term. But they're going a  
14 little bit crazy as well too because it's  
15 tough. It's tough having kids around all day  
16 and not being in school and things of that  
17 nature and that's already happened. It's just  
18 really starting to show itself in fruition  
19 now.

20 So, I do welcome you and I  
21 especially welcome John Giuffre because he  
22 will be representing part of the district that  
23 we're in and I look forward to speaking with  
24 him.

25 The second thing I just want to



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2 talk about a little bit was is let's think  
3 about what's going on as far as finances in  
4 the county go. You all know, who've been  
5 here, that youth services is kind of the  
6 bottom ladder in the funding chain and now  
7 might be an opportunity to be able to do  
8 something about that. There are ARP monies  
9 out there -- ARP is federal monies -- that  
10 they promised to give us 20 percent of our  
11 regular contracts. We were supposed to  
12 receive that money in September. I think it's  
13 a little late.

14 So, one of the things that we'd  
15 like to do is to be able to work together.  
16 And I think the new administration is starting  
17 to go in the right direction with regard to  
18 this. But we'd like to be able to work  
19 together to be able to provide that funding  
20 for agencies. The main reason being that we  
21 had higher expenses because of COVID. When  
22 you do individual programs it makes it that  
23 much more expensive. We can talk about these  
24 types of things when the time comes up and my  
25 six seconds are left. Thank you very much for

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2 listening and I look forward to speaking with  
3 you all.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
5 Pat. Meta Mereday. Meta, let me express our  
6 deepest condolences on the loss of your  
7 father. We are very sorry for your loss.

8 MS. MEREDAY: Thank you so much.  
9 On behalf of my family we accept your  
10 condolences and I want to thank my legislator  
11 for her lovely card.

12 But as they say, the work goes on.  
13 And as the Reverend Dr. Vernon Johns, who was  
14 the predecessor to Martin Luther King at  
15 Dexter Avenue Church in Montgomery, he said if  
16 you see a good fight get in it. So, I'm going  
17 to continue to be in the fight. Particularly  
18 for our veterans and for all who are  
19 underserved in this county.

20 My concerns as we're going into the  
21 new year with a new administration, I want to  
22 say, I want to actually say my hope as we go  
23 into a new year and new administration, that  
24 we take a better look, a deeper dive and  
25 actually get some action items in place as it

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2 pertains to our veteran support services.

3 I've been asking with regard to a  
4 review of the particles at the NUMC, the  
5 medical center, and the empty spaces that  
6 could be effectively utilized and better  
7 served for our veterans for a wide range of  
8 particular services.

9 I note that there is an ordinance  
10 here as it pertains to Hiring Our Heroes Act.  
11 I'm all for anything that is providing support  
12 services to our veterans. But just to exempt  
13 the fee for the civil service exam and not  
14 provide them with jobs, credible jobs, so that  
15 they can live in Nassau County, which  
16 continues to rank among the highest in  
17 property taxes in the country, is a  
18 disservice.

19 There is a law that's still on the  
20 books with regard to service disabled veteran  
21 businesses and contracting that still is  
22 gathering dust.

23 So, if we don't create those  
24 opportunities for veteran businesses, which  
25 provide 85 percent of the jobs for veterans,

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2 then what would be the point? You're just  
3 saying okay, we're going to exempt you from  
4 taking a test but we can't give you a job.  
5 That's why we still have such high levels of  
6 unemployment for our veterans and their  
7 families.

8 We have opportunities right here in  
9 this building. Public safety officers do a  
10 commendable job. They need to be supported.  
11 We have veterans among that contingent. That  
12 again is a resource. So we have to look where  
13 we are and do what we need to do.

14 Also transportation, which is an  
15 issue for people who live in Nassau County, to  
16 get to certain jobs. Health care is becoming  
17 a problem with regard to COVID and the  
18 transportation and supports. We have more  
19 seniors actually who need assistance in the  
20 northern part of the county and we have more  
21 workers who are viable in the southern part of  
22 the county. But we have a piss poor and I  
23 mean piss poor transportation modality that  
24 goes north and south. We need to address  
25 that.

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2 There's federal and state funds  
3 that are available. Newsday just reported  
4 that Nassau County lags behind in the number  
5 of grants that it can possible receive in  
6 state and federal funds. That's a problem.  
7 I'm hoping that we can address that.

8 I'm also looking at where were the  
9 changes with regard to the minority business  
10 affairs office? There's some individuals that  
11 I haven't heard anything about. I'm curious  
12 as to where they were because for them to lose  
13 a job in a position where they were not given  
14 any resources we have a problem.

15 Again, I was the one that  
16 distributed the lift every voice lyrics for  
17 everyone. I hope you all get a chance to read  
18 it, to actually look it over and understand it  
19 because black history is not just a month,  
20 it's 365 days a year. Thank you.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
22 Meta. Kevin McKenna.

23 MR. MCKENNA: Good afternoon.  
24 Kevin McKenna Nassau County resident. I  
25 provided a copy to the clerk for the record

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2 and I've also provided it to the authorities.

3 Only seven out of 19 Nassau County  
4 legislators voted to award a massive \$122  
5 million no-bid contract to Motorola in  
6 December of 2020 with the other 12 legislators  
7 not even voting. Seven out of 19 legislators  
8 is not a majority. So Nassau County taxpayers  
9 have two questions. How do 12 legislators  
10 avoid voting for a \$122 million no-bid  
11 contract? And how does a \$122 million  
12 contract become a no-bid contract? I will  
13 tell the Nassau County residents how.

14 Motorola would have to be, quote,  
15 the only entity qualified to provide the  
16 services to allow just seven legislators in  
17 the Rules Committee to vote on the \$122  
18 million contract and to allow that the \$122  
19 million contract become a no-bid contract.

20 Who determines if Motorola is,  
21 quote, the only entity qualified to provide  
22 the services? Well, NIFA did. So, I  
23 submitted a FOIL request to NIFA. I received  
24 a two-page document from NIFA general counsel  
25 Jeremy Wise. It states -- it was to the NIFA

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2 directors from Evan Cohen. Evan Cohen is  
3 NIFA's executive director. This document from  
4 Evan Cohen falsely states that Motorola is,  
5 quote, the only entity qualified to provide  
6 the services. I provided you all a copy of  
7 that.

8 How do I know that Motorola is not,  
9 quote, the only entity qualified to provide  
10 the services? Well, I simply emailed  
11 Motorola's chief competitor L3 Harris and its  
12 representative Natalie Ciao replied, and I  
13 quote, it was completely sole sourced to  
14 Motorola. There wasn't an opportunity for  
15 competitive bid process with other vendors.

16 I provided you all a copy of that  
17 email.

18 If Nassau County never solicited  
19 bid proposals, how can NIFA executive director  
20 Evan Cohen know if Motorola is, quote, the  
21 only entity qualified to provide services.

22 Getting back to the legislature, I  
23 wanted to know which seven legislators voted  
24 and who voted yes. So I submitted a FOIL  
25 request to the legislature clerk Christopher

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2 Leimone and he mailed me back a response  
3 telling me the seven legislators that voted.  
4 I'm going to skip over the names. I provided  
5 you all with a copy of this email from  
6 Leimone.

7 I then emailed NIFA general counsel  
8 Jeremy Wise a request for the contract  
9 approval request form for this \$122 million  
10 contract. Jerry Wise refused to provide that  
11 to me, writing, in quote, it's not available  
12 under FOIL. I provided you all with that I  
13 replied to this email and he refused to  
14 comment any further.

15 And what is unbelievable is that  
16 NIFA general counsel Jeremy Wise, once he  
17 realized the questions I was asking, he had me  
18 blocked from sending emails to him and all the  
19 NIFA individuals. I strongly suggest that you  
20 take a look at the fraud that was purported on  
21 Nassau County and all of you that voted on  
22 this by NIFA director Jeremy Wise. Thank you  
23 very much.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: First item  
25 is ordinance number one of 2022. It's an



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2 ordinance to be known as the Hiring Our Heroes  
3 Act amending Section 6 of Ordinance 180 of  
4 2016 to exempt active duty and military  
5 veterans from the payment of civil service  
6 examination fees.

7 That is moved by Legislator Lafazan  
8 and seconded by Legislator Gaylor. That's  
9 before us. Does anyone want to say a few  
10 words? Any public comment?

11 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday.  
12 First of all, I also want to add my  
13 condolences to NYPD and the families of those  
14 officers. That is something that we have to  
15 definitely focus on and they have to focus  
16 on. And again, also coming from a family of  
17 police officers and other first responders and  
18 being a first responder myself on 9-11 too  
19 often we have to have these types of  
20 scenarios. But we have to focus also on  
21 addressing the needs in these communities  
22 involving housing and homelessness and things  
23 of this nature.

24 Again, I support anything that  
25 provides opportunities and access and takes

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2 away any obstacles for our heroes, our  
3 veterans. But again, I challenge this  
4 legislature that you really have to blow the  
5 dust off of the many initiatives that are in  
6 place that have not been implemented to  
7 benefit the veterans in this community.

8 Nassau and Suffolk combined have  
9 the largest veteran population in the  
10 northeast corridor. But we have, as far as  
11 the results and the focus, even though we have  
12 a very hard working and committed team in  
13 Nassau County veteran services, they continue  
14 to need resources and bodies and just those  
15 supplies in a location that befits the work  
16 that they do.

17 I don't know how many of you and  
18 including the new members on this body have  
19 actually toured their space and the amount of  
20 work that they do within that space. But I  
21 challenge you to look at what is taking place  
22 and what is not happening that's resulting in  
23 so many actions and the despair that's  
24 impacting many of our veterans and those in  
25 service. Our war widows.

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2 We have a lot of work that needs to  
3 be done and this is 2022. I really have other  
4 things that I myself could be doing as opposed  
5 to coming here and challenging you at every  
6 opportunity to step outside of the comfort  
7 zone.

8 I'm tired of Nassau County just  
9 being known for cronyism, corruption, nepotism  
10 and patronage. We've got to get on board with  
11 addressing the homelessness, the hopelessness  
12 that's impacting our veteran community and the  
13 taxpayers and the residents that are here.

14 So, I'm in support of this but this  
15 is not it. It can't be the well, this is the  
16 first step and we have to have a starting  
17 point. No. We've been out of the gate long  
18 enough. Thank you.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator  
20 Gaylor.

21 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I just want  
22 to first of all thank each and every one of  
23 the legislators who do support this bill and I  
24 believe it's unanimous support. Any action we  
25 can to do to support a veteran is an action

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2 that I'm always going to vote for. Whether  
3 somebody deems it significant or insignificant  
4 I don't care. Okay? We're doing something  
5 and we're moving forward to help veterans.

6 So, we're going to keep doing the  
7 little things. We'll do the big things. More  
8 may be able to be done and it will be done as  
9 the issues arise.

10 But, you know, let's not look a  
11 gift horse in the mouth and bad mouth because  
12 someone doesn't think it's significant. Like  
13 I said, this is meaningful legislation, well  
14 thought of. I appreciate the efforts of my  
15 colleague on the other side, Josh Lafazan, for  
16 bringing this before us so that we can work  
17 with it, make it even better. That's how  
18 democracy works. So this is what we're going  
19 to do. We're going to keep moving the little  
20 issues. We're going to move the big issues.  
21 We're going to do what we got to do to take  
22 care of our veterans in Nassau County. So I  
23 appreciate each legislator's support for this  
24 bill. Thank you.

25 MS. MEREDAY: Legislator Gaylor,

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2 I did not bad mouth that if you heard what I  
3 said. I did not bad mouth it. So, I don't  
4 want anything attributed to me that I did not  
5 say.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank  
7 you.

8 MS. MEREDAY: Thank you. I just  
9 wanted to make sure it's correct for the  
10 record. We need to do more big things.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other  
12 legislators? Hearing none, all in favor  
13 signify by saying aye. Those opposed? Passes  
14 unanimously.

15 Item two, resolution one of 2022 is  
16 a resolution to amend Resolution 119 of 2021  
17 establishing a special legislative task force  
18 to combat anti-Semitism.

19 Item is moved by Legislator Mazi  
20 Pilip. Seconded by Legislator Arnie Drucker.  
21 I know that some legislators want to speak to  
22 this but why don't we go through the  
23 procedures and set it up before we do that.  
24 We need a motion to establish an emergency on  
25 this. Moved by Legislator Walker. Seconded

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2 by Legislator Pilip. All in favor of  
3 establishing an emergency signify by saying  
4 aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously. So  
5 the emergency has been established.

6 Now we need a motion to amend which  
7 will allow the county executive or his  
8 designee to be a member of the task force, a  
9 voting member as opposed to ex officio.

10 That is moved by Legislator  
11 Giuffre. Seconded by Legislator Lafazan. Any  
12 debate or discussion on the amendment? All in  
13 favor of the amendment signify by saying aye.  
14 Passes unanimously. The item as amended is  
15 before us. I know Legislator Drucker you  
16 wanted to speak.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you  
18 very much Presiding Officer. I am gratified  
19 by the unanimous bipartisan support that this  
20 legislature has played in the imminent  
21 formation of the special task force to combat  
22 anti-Semitism.

23 The task force is about to embark  
24 upon it's crucial mission and, quite frankly,  
25 we do not have a moment to spare. When I

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2 introduced this legislation back in June of  
3 2021 to create the task force I cited an  
4 alarming and frighteningly persistent increase  
5 in anti-Semitic incidents in recent years.  
6 Based on recent events in our region and  
7 across the nation it is clear that it has not  
8 abated.

9 For example, on January 22nd there  
10 was an arrest of a woman who days before  
11 verbally attacked and spat upon three children  
12 in Brooklyn ages eight, seven and two and  
13 yelled, in sum and substance, that Hitler  
14 should have killed you all.

15 Or the adoption agency in Tennessee  
16 that according to recent reports in the New  
17 York Times refused to allow them to adopt a  
18 child because they are Jewish.

19 And the shock of a horrific hostage  
20 incident at congregation Beth Israel in  
21 Colleyville, Texas last week still weighs  
22 heavily upon my heart. The congregation was  
23 attacked by a gunman who took the synagogue's  
24 rabbi and three worshippers as hostages.

25 While we were all profoundly

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2 grateful and relieved that the four hostages  
3 were released safely, we were haunted by yet  
4 another attack on Jewish people practicing  
5 their faith in America.

6 Through the work of Nassau's  
7 special legislative task force to combat  
8 anti-Semitism, we have an opportunity to  
9 fearlessly confront that question and devise  
10 solutions that will help Jews in Nassau County  
11 worship in peace and live without fearing for  
12 their family's safety. Now is the time to  
13 come together as one Nassau County to pave the  
14 way to a brighter, more inclusive future and  
15 send a clear message that we will never be  
16 silent when confronted with hatred of any  
17 kind. Thank you.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank  
19 you. Any other legislators?

20 LEGISLATOR PILIP: First, I would  
21 like to thank all of my colleagues for not  
22 only recognizing the seriousness of  
23 anti-Semitism but also for the commitment  
24 together, concrete proposal, how to fight this  
25 kind of hate. I'm looking forward to working



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2 with the task force. And talking about the  
3 problem is a great start but this is a time to  
4 do something about this. This is people's  
5 issue and I'm happy that all my colleagues are  
6 with me with this day.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other  
8 legislators? Hearing none, all in favor of  
9 the item as amended signify by saying aye.  
10 Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

11 Motion to adjourn? Legislator  
12 Ferretti. Seconded by Legislator  
13 DeRiggi-Whitton. All in favor of adjourning  
14 signify by saying aye. Those opposed?  
15 Carries unanimously. We have a Rules  
16 Committee coming up next.

17 (Meeting adjourned at 1:59 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.

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FRANK GRAY