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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

13

14 LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

15 CHAIR

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17

18 Theodore Roosevelt Building

19 1550 Franklin Avenue

20 Mineola, New York

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22

23 March 7, 2022

24 2:25 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 MAZI MELESA PILIP

8 Vice Chair

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10 LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

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12 LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR

13

14 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

15 Ranking member

16

17 LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER

18

19 LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

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2 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Call the
3 Health Committee to order and ask the clerk to
4 please take the roll call.

5 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. Health
6 Committee roll call. Legislator Joshua
7 Lafazan.

8 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

9 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
10 Drucker.

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

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

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
15 Here.

16 MR. PULITZER: Legislator C.
17 William Gaylor III.

18 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

19 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura
20 Schaefer.

21 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

22 MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairman Mazi
23 Pilip.

24 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

25 MR. PULITZER: Chairwoman Rose

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2 Marie Walker.

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

4 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum
5 ma'am.

6 LEGISLATOR WALKER: There are
7 four items on the agenda today. The first is
8 clerk item 61-22 which is a resolution to
9 authorize the transfer of appropriations
10 heretofore made within the budget for the year
11 2022.

12 Can I have a motion please?
13 Legislator Gaylor. Seconded by Legislator
14 Drucker.

15 MR. GIULIANO: Good afternoon
16 members of the committee. Gerard Giuliano,
17 Nassau County Department of Health.

18 There are items 61-22 represents
19 two budget transfers. First one is for
20 \$36,506 for STD disease intervention
21 services. Moving monies from fringe and
22 supplies into salaries. This program
23 investigates reports of STDs, confirms,
24 identifies individuals who are at high risk.
25 There were some additional dollars that were

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2 left over from fringe and supplies and we're
3 looking to move it into salary.

4 The second item on this agenda is
5 for the children with --

6 LEGISLATOR WALKER: You know
7 what? We didn't call that item. Which is an
8 ordinance -- that's 67-22, correct?

9 MR. GIULIANO: Yeah. Everything
10 here though is 61-22.

11 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Is the first
12 one.

13 MR. GIULIANO: Is the first one
14 and that consists of two budget transfers.
15 One is for the STD disease intervention
16 services and the second is for the children
17 with special health care needs. That second
18 request for a budget transfer resulted for
19 this important program which deals with
20 children with exceptional health care needs,
21 developmental chronic physical or behavioral
22 who require additional health services.

23 There are some iPads that were
24 ordered that we were told they were going to
25 be late. And what happened is, we moved the

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2 money into next year's budget, but then the
3 monies came in this year's budget. That's for
4 a total of \$4,175. These are two budget
5 transfers asking for in this item.

6 LEGISLATOR WALKER: In the one
7 item?

8 MR. GIULIANO: It's one item that
9 contains two transfers.

10 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Are there any
11 questions or comments from the legislators on
12 that item? Any public comment? Hearing none,
13 all those in favor of clerk item 61-22 signify
14 by saying aye. Any opposed? That will move
15 on to Finance.

16 The next is clerk item 63-22 which
17 is an ordinance supplemental to the annual
18 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
19 health department.

20 May I have a motion please. By
21 Legislator Schaefer. Seconded by Legislator
22 DeRiggi-Whitton.

23 MR. GIULIANO: For this
24 particular item, 63-22, regarding the rabies
25 program. This is a supplemental

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2 appropriation, a grant that is being given to
3 us by the New York State Health Department in
4 the amount of \$20,360. These are for rabies
5 prevention services in the county control --
6 services in the county exposure, treatment,
7 consultation, vaccine and other things that go
8 on with our rabies program.

9 There's no impact to our budget
10 with this. This covers the grant in our
11 rabies program. So, we ask that this
12 committee pass this matter and accept the
13 funds from the state.

14 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
15 or comments from the legislators? Any from
16 the public? All in favor of clerk item 63-22
17 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? This one
18 also will move on to Finance.

19 Clerk item 65-22 is an ordinance
20 supplemental to the annual appropriation
21 ordinance in connection with the medical
22 examiner's office.

23 MR. HAHN: Timothy Hahn, medical
24 examiner's office.

25 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I'm sorry.

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2 Motion by Legislator Schaefer. Seconded by
3 Legislator Drucker.

4 MR. HAHN: This is a supplemental
5 appropriation related to an increase in
6 funding for the New York State Department of
7 Health's enhanced postmortem toxicology grant
8 in the amount of \$29,651. It's used to
9 support the effectiveness and accuracy of
10 postmortem toxicology testing related to death
11 investigations. In particular for those
12 related to the opioid and Fentanyl and
13 designer benzodiazepines drugs.

14 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
15 or comments from the legislators? Any public
16 comment? Tim, just while you're here I just
17 want to thank you for all your department has
18 done. I know during COVID you were really
19 pretty much bombarded and many of your staff
20 had to go out doing things that they normally
21 wouldn't have had to do. So, I thank you for
22 that and dealing with this issue, the opioid
23 issue, it became really quite a difficult
24 problem during COVID too because so many
25 people were shut in. Just thank you for all

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2 you've done and all your department has done.

3 MR. HAHN: We appreciate that.

4 Thank you.

5 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any other
6 questions or comments? Then all in favor of
7 65-22 signify by saying aye. Any opposed?
8 This one will move on to Finance also.

9 And the final item is 67-22 which
10 is an ordinance supplemental to the annual
11 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
12 health department.

13 Motion by legislator -- I was going
14 to ask -- Legislator Gaylor, that's fine. And
15 Seconded by Legislator Pilip.

16 MR. GIULIANO: This is item
17 number 67-22 a supplemental appropriation. It
18 covers four grants. I'll take them one at a
19 time.

20 The first one is the immunization
21 action plan for \$302,000 from the state health
22 department to Nassau County. The Nassau
23 County Health Department which provides for
24 immunizations of children, adolescents and all
25 services related to trying to increase

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2 immunization and making sure that that doesn't
3 occur here in Nassau County. As soon as
4 children are born their lives, educational
5 services as well as outreach. There will be
6 no impact to the budget as far as this
7 appropriation is concerned and it covers
8 fringe as well.

9 The second appropriation is for the
10 TB prevention and control program. This aims
11 to eliminate tuberculosis in Nassau County
12 through surveillance, education, case
13 management, control, investigations all the
14 way through what we call directly observed
15 therapy. Which is where we make sure those
16 individuals who are taking tuberculosis
17 medications to take their medications.
18 Various ways to do that.

19 So the \$418,578 is being
20 appropriated by the state to the Department of
21 Health will cover salary, fringe benefits,
22 mileage, travel programs, supplies and things
23 of that nature. The department asks that you
24 accept that one as well.

25 The third one is in the amount of

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2 \$294,343. Again from the state to the Nassau
3 County Department of Health for the adolescent
4 tobacco use prevention. This goes into paying
5 for our compliance checks, our certification
6 checks of those who attempt to sell tobacco
7 products to anyone under the age of 21. Also
8 covers complaint investigations and all things
9 related to that.

10 The fourth appropriation coming
11 from the state is for the expanded partner
12 services. These are services provided by the
13 department for STDs and things of that nature
14 in terms of surveillance, verification of
15 treatment, contact investigations. Which take
16 a long time. It's in the amount of \$155,000.
17 So this will help fund our administrative
18 costs. No matching funds required for this
19 appropriation from the state and we ask that
20 the committee pass all of these
21 appropriations.

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
23 from the legislators? Legislator Schaefer.

24 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Just a
25 quick question for you. What is the

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2 prevalence of TB in the county?

3 MR. GIULIANO: There is
4 tuberculosis in the county. It waivers from
5 year to year. And we find this to be true in
6 many counties as well. There is prevalence
7 and it keeps us very active. We run the
8 program year round. It is staffed by a couple
9 of members who run it full time. Contact
10 investigations take a very long time.
11 Sometimes they get complicated when
12 individuals don't want to take their
13 medications. So there is some prevalence. It
14 is well under control, I'm happy to say, but
15 it is under control because of all if the
16 actions taken by the health department
17 basically on a daily basis.

18 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I would
19 assume it is because I never really hear about
20 it. Do you know what like percentage?

21 MR. GIULIANO: No, but I can get
22 that to you.

23 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Thank you.

24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: We would
25 appreciate that. Thank you. Legislator

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2 DeRiggi-Whitton.

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I'm
4 sorry, when you were just talking about the
5 item that involved tobacco surveillance and
6 things like that what number was that?

7 MR. GIULIANO: So, this is all
8 along item 67-22. There's four appropriations
9 in one item.

10 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Could I ask a
11 question? For some reason I don't remember us
12 always doing like lumping them all together.
13 I always felt like we did them separate. Is
14 that different or is that what we did and I
15 just have a memory lapse or something?

16 MR. GIULIANO: No. I'm not clear
17 how they have done that in the past in terms
18 of when they bring these items before you.
19 For today's item they were all lumped
20 together.

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: That's fine.
22 And it really doesn't matter as long as we're,
23 you know.

24 Legislator Gaylor.

25 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Easy one

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2 here. Softball. Regarding the adolescent
3 tobacco use, does that include vape products
4 as well? Two part question.

5 Second part being do you work in
6 conjunction with consumer affairs staking out
7 places that sell cigarettes or vape to
8 adolescents?

9 MR. GIULIANO: The answer to your
10 second question for a time we did work with
11 consumer affairs. The only reason that came
12 to an end because this process became a little
13 bit more complicated. We have the state
14 authority that we act under. There's local
15 legislative authority. But then there's been
16 litigation on this. And as a result of the
17 litigation that's taken place really on the
18 state level it's forced us to have to do this
19 program independently from consumer affairs.
20 And so, in consultation with the county
21 attorney's office over the course of last year
22 that was the nature of that conversation. So
23 we, for the most part, we handle this program
24 wholly within the Department of Health.

25 I apologize. Your first question?

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2 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: The
3 adolescent tobacco use program include such
4 things like vape products or is it strictly
5 tobacco in cigarette form?

6 MR. GIULIANO: That's an
7 excellent question. Earlier on it was just
8 the tobacco products. Now that there have
9 been amendments made to the state public
10 health law in regards to Article 13F and vape
11 products those are included too when we do our
12 certification checks and our compliance checks
13 at facilities.

14 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Begs one more
15 question. Does it also include marijuana use
16 now?

17 MR. GIULIANO: I believe once
18 those regulations finally come down from the
19 state and depending on how they're amended in,
20 we have to wait to see how they're going to
21 include that in the services that our grant
22 coverage provides.

23 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Excellent.
24 Thank you very much. Very informative.

25 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I just wanted

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2 to verify that. So, those investigations used
3 to take place with consumer affairs?

4 MR. GIULIANO: There was a short
5 period of time where they were on board trying
6 to assist with places. Taking a visit to take
7 a look to see whether they had vape products
8 on their shelves and things of that nature.
9 But the litigation has gotten fairly complex
10 and sort of carved out the kinds of things
11 that we could do and get reimbursed for doing
12 on behalf of the state and what consumer
13 affairs therefore wasn't able to do.

14 And so, in speaking with the county
15 attorney's office they asked us to completely
16 bifurcate that out, and I believe consumer
17 affairs stop handling those few things that
18 they were doing on their own. That was only
19 as of recent that they started assisting with
20 that to begin with.

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: That goes for
22 the cigarette products also?

23 MR. GIULIANO: In terms of what
24 we do under the state grant that is correct.

25 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.

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2 Any other questions or comments? Hearing
3 none, all in favor of clerk item 67-22 signify
4 by saying aye. Any opposed? This will also
5 move on to Finance.

6 There is no other business before
7 this committee. May I have a motion to
8 adjourn. By Legislator Pilip and seconded by
9 Legislator Drucker. All in favor of
10 adjourning signify by saying aye. This
11 committee is adjourned.

12 (Committee adjourned at 2:40 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 eighth day of
March 2022.

FRANK GRAY