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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO  
PRESIDING OFFICER

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

Friday, April 1, 2022  
10:18 A.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

7

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

15

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

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2       LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE  
3               5th Legislative District  
4  
5       LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III  
6               6th Legislative District  
7  
8       LEGISLATOR JOHN GIUFFRE  
9               8th Legislative District  
10  
11       LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP  
12              10th Legislative District  
13  
14       LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON  
15              11th Legislative District  
16  
17       LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY  
18              12th Legislative District  
19  
20       LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT  
21              13th Legislative District  
22  
23       LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER  
24              14th Legislative District  
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2     LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

3             15th Legislative District

4

5     LEGISLATOR ANDREW DRUCKER

6             16th Legislative District

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8     LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER

9             17th Legislative District

10

11     LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

12             18th Legislative District

13

14     LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

15             19th Legislative District

16

17     MICHAEL PULITZER

18             Clerk of the Legislature

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Let's go  
3 right into the full legislature. Mike, you  
4 want to call the roll again, sir.

5 MR. PULITZER: Yes sir. Roll  
6 call. Deputy Presiding Officer Howard Kopel.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

8 MR. PULITZER: Alternate Deputy  
9 Presiding Officer Denise Ford.

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

11 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Siela  
12 Bynoe.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

14 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Carrie  
15 Solages.

16 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Debra  
18 Mule. Okay.

19 MR. PULITZER: Legislator C.  
20 William Gaylor III.

21 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

22 MR. PULITZER: Legislator John  
23 Giuffre.

24 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.

25 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Mazi

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2 Pilip.

3 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

4 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia

5 DeRiggi-Whitton.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

7 Here.

8 MR. PULITZER: Legislator James

9 Kennedy.

10 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

11 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Thomas

12 McKevitt.

13 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

14 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura

15 Schaefer.

16 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: Legislator John

18 Ferretti.

19 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

20 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold

21 Drucker.

22 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

23 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Rose

24 Marie Walker.

25 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

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2 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Joshua  
3 Lafazan. We will come back there.

4 Legislator Steven Rhoads.

5 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

6 MR. PULITZER: Minority Leader  
7 Kevan Abrahams.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

9 MR. PULITZER: Presiding Officer  
10 Richard Nicoletto.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

12 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Josh  
13 Lafazan. He's on. Okay. Sir, we have a  
14 quorum.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Okay.  
16 First order of business is a motion to suspend  
17 the rules. Moved by Deputy Presiding Officer  
18 Kopel. Seconded by Legislator Walker. Any  
19 debate or discussion on suspending the rules?  
20 Hearing none, all in favor of suspending the  
21 rules signify by saying aye. Those opposed?  
22 It passes unanimously. The rules are  
23 suspended.

24 One item we have again is  
25 resolution number 51. It is a resolution to

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2 appoint Matthew J. Bruderman as a director to  
3 the board of the Nassau Health Care  
4 Corporation.

5 Motion by Legislator Kennedy.  
6 Seconded by Legislator Schaefer. It puts the  
7 item before the legislature.

8 I would ask Mr. Bruderman if he  
9 would like to approach the podium. I  
10 understand he has a statement. He's going to  
11 be sitting at the table here. We're going to  
12 hold for a second. I guess the remote  
13 connection by our Microsoft Team is not  
14 working at the moment. Give it a couple of  
15 seconds.

16 I have received a number of slips  
17 for people who want to make some public  
18 comment. If you are interested in doing so  
19 and haven't submitted a slip already we have  
20 the slips up by the clerk's table. Fill one  
21 out, hand it to the clerk and we'll make sure  
22 we call on you at the appropriate time.

23 Welcome to the legislature. We are  
24 waiting for the remote connection to  
25 reconnect.



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2 We're back on. Our legislators are  
3 connected again. We have Mr. Bruderman at the  
4 table. Welcome. And I understand you have a  
5 statement that you would like to read.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: Yes, I do. Thank  
7 you. First of all, I wanted to say that I'm  
8 aware that there is something being passed or  
9 voted on in Albany on behalf of the state I  
10 think on Monday. And so, I just wanted to say  
11 I hope after today, should I be made chairman,  
12 that my chairmanship lasts more than a day so  
13 I can do, finally, the good work I've been  
14 trying to do.

15 I also wanted to point out I  
16 questioned whether or not I should come today  
17 because the effort and things that I had to  
18 sacrifice to be here were great. And I was  
19 thinking is it worth me taking the time to  
20 come down here if I'm not going to be in the  
21 seat and able to do the work come Monday  
22 anyway? So, I'm hoping that after we get  
23 through this that the county legislature and  
24 the people in the community realize what can  
25 be done if you get the right person and people

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2 in the job.

3 I wanted everyone to know that  
4 today I violated a cardinal rule personally in  
5 my family, and that is, if anyone knows me,  
6 the way I organize my life, which is crazy,  
7 not as crazy as I personally am, is that I  
8 prioritize first my family. I fell in love  
9 with my wife in 11th grade. First time I saw  
10 her in the cafeteria. I tell my daughter,  
11 like my wife, it's amazing how I could  
12 actually love them more every day. I think I  
13 love them so much and then the next day I love  
14 them more.

15 My daughter is looking to switch  
16 schools and is spending a day away, and I was  
17 with her last night and she's up there today  
18 with her mom without me. And anyone, again,  
19 that knows me, knows that my family comes  
20 first. Then actually my sports and my  
21 activities that I love to do and then  
22 business. I have enough money. I can support  
23 myself and my family. So, I don't need to  
24 chase a ton of money like a lot of people that  
25 I know. So I have the luxury of being able to

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2 say family and friends first, then my sports,  
3 which I love, and then worry about my  
4 investments.

5 So, today I got up at four o'clock  
6 in the morning and I drove all the way down  
7 here all by myself in the rain. All by myself  
8 in the dark. And my daughter now is going on  
9 a tour without her dad. So, I hope that's not  
10 in vain.

11 The other thing I would like to say  
12 is that I would like to say thank you to my  
13 old friends, especially John and Ricky, who  
14 are in the front here, who when they saw what  
15 was being written in the newspaper wrongly,  
16 twisted, wrong, not only did they call me and  
17 say it's wrong but they said I want to be  
18 there. I said I don't want to get into a race  
19 situation and have my friends of color there  
20 as if they're tokens. And you know what they  
21 said to me? I have real friends. They said  
22 we're going to be there no matter what. These  
23 guys love me. I love them. And they're here  
24 to support me.

25 Again, I hope that they're care for

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2 me, they stopped their jobs, they took off  
3 from work and they came in here and they were  
4 like I'll fight for you. Again, I hope that's  
5 not in vain.

6 I also want to thank all of the  
7 other people that have come here. My new  
8 friends. Nurses, doctors. I haven't seen Dr.  
9 Boutin but I understand he's here. Fabulous  
10 people that have embraced me coming out of the  
11 gate.

12 I think before I get into my speech  
13 here, you know, again, I just wanted to thank  
14 everyone for embracing me and I want to sort  
15 of set the table with, you know, to me,  
16 there's been like this crazy attack. I've  
17 never seen it in the history of NUMC. I know  
18 that people came and went and this and that.  
19 But I want everyone to ask themselves why in  
20 three days of me being nominated and me being  
21 at NUMC one day asking very hard questions,  
22 why was it so important that people race to  
23 file temporary restraining orders restraining  
24 me from being in a seat and acting as a  
25 chairman? Why? Why so urgent? This guy's in

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2 for three days. What's he going to do? Ask  
3 yourselves that question.

4 Why did they send restraining  
5 orders and legal documents to my home? Why do  
6 they run into court and then fight appeals.  
7 One guy. Am I that special? Why are people  
8 instead of on Monday instead of you've got an  
9 organization that's been messed up for like 40  
10 years. Certainly of recently there's tons of  
11 press. Press is written about it. Why the  
12 urgency for the state to not speak to the  
13 constituents in the community? Not come to  
14 the county? Not hear what the people and the  
15 doctors and nurses have to say. Not talk to  
16 me. Why would the state urgently have to take  
17 control? They already had control.

18 There's eight seats on the board  
19 that were appointed by the state and there are  
20 seven seats that were appointed by the  
21 county. Coincidentally enough, nobody wants  
22 me to talk about politics. But guess what?  
23 This hospital is burdened with politics.

24 So, the last four years, I don't  
25 even know because I don't follow politics, in

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2 the last four years I understand that the  
3 county and the state were democratic and the  
4 county and the state appointed all the other  
5 board members and the chairman.

6 So, to me -- and especially the  
7 twisting of words. Like one paper said  
8 directly Matthew Bruderman has no health care  
9 experience. Did the reporters check their  
10 facts? If you Google me the first thing that  
11 comes up says I'm a health care investor and I  
12 own a health care company now. Did they care  
13 about the facts? No, I don't think so.

14 They've listed me as GOP donor  
15 instead of a health care investor and a  
16 turnaround expert. Why? Again, I think  
17 there's agendas here that are very problematic  
18 and systematic. And until that's fixed NUMC  
19 will never thrive. It will never work.  
20 Because it is politicized.

21 And I have solutions even for that,  
22 which I'm hoping I get to propose to the  
23 county and to the state so that way it's fixed  
24 forever not just now.

25 As I told Bruce Blakeman when he

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2 asked me to serve -- by the way, I know I'm  
3 answering a lot of questions, prior to five  
4 months ago you can check political records I  
5 never donated a penny. I don't care about  
6 politics. People that know me know I'm a  
7 fiscal conservative because if an economy has  
8 money it can do good works. And if it doesn't  
9 it can't help itself much less others. So,  
10 yes, I'm a fiscal conservative and I've been  
11 very aggressive about backing fiscal  
12 conservative good people.

13

So, yes, I have poured my money  
14 first and now my time because my heart is in  
15 fixing the inner city community and the crisis  
16 that goes on there and getting young people  
17 jobs and giving people an opportunity.  
18 Helping the poor. Helping the homeless.

19

So, on top of my money, people like  
20 Bruce Blakeman asked me if I would do sort of  
21 the ultimate thing and spend my time, take the  
22 time from my family and try to use my skills  
23 and experience and relationships to fix a  
24 broken institution in an important area. I  
25 stepped up to do that.

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2 And in exchange I've been  
3 persecuted. My good friends tell me you're  
4 crazy. What are you doing? You're totally  
5 successful. You don't even go to work. And  
6 to be clear, I wakeboard and water ski and  
7 hunt and fish every day with my kids. I just  
8 for the first time with my son figured out how  
9 to make maple syrup. If you guys want to come  
10 over you can. I'm sacrificing that. People  
11 tell me that they're going to assassinate my  
12 character because they couldn't stop me  
13 potentially at the board level with temporary  
14 restraining orders and they may not be able to  
15 stop me at the state level.

16 So what are they going to do?  
17 They're going to burn me at the stake.  
18 They're going to write what they want. A  
19 false narrative. I heard about that. But God  
20 is it terrifying to actually live through it.

21 Again, I say this because I don't  
22 care about politics. I have all the friends I  
23 need and I have a lot of new ones. So I don't  
24 care what they put in the press. But what I  
25 care what the press does in undermining saving



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2 a lot a hospital for people that need it  
3 desperately.

4 So, that's why I care and that's  
5 why I'm here and that's why I got up at four  
6 a.m. today so I could subject myself to more  
7 punishment that will be twisted in the press.  
8 But I'm not running like I told everyone in  
9 the hospital. I'm never running. I was  
10 raised that you don't walk past a crime. You  
11 don't walk past bullying. And you can dig up  
12 every kid I went to school with and they'll  
13 tell you, if a kid was being bullied I would  
14 beat their ass. I don't tolerate it.

15 Here I feel like I'm in that  
16 situation. This community is being bullied.  
17 The community and the hospital are being  
18 exploited. And the reason people are upset  
19 with me is because I'm pulling back the  
20 curtain. In the first day I pulled back the  
21 curtain and that's what people don't want to  
22 happen because people are going to be  
23 embarrassed. I'm sorry about that. I'm not  
24 doing it politics.

25 Again, I live in Nassau County. I

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2 was born in Nassau County and I'm going to  
3 commit my time to help Nassau County. Now I  
4 will read my speech.

5 Good morning everyone and thank you  
6 for considering my nomination to the board of  
7 Nassau University Medical Center. I'm honored  
8 to be here and truly humbled by the confidence  
9 that Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman  
10 has placed in me to not only serve NUMC but to  
11 lead the effort to save this vital  
12 institution.

13 NUMC means so much to so many. In  
14 fact, I wasn't even aware of it. This health  
15 care facility employs more than 4,000  
16 dedicated people. It provides critical care  
17 to thousands of patients each year. Many of  
18 whom have nowhere else to go. Nassau County  
19 residents deserve this hospital to be fiscally  
20 sound. Sustainable for the long term and  
21 provide first class health care.

22 Over the past three decades I have  
23 worked across finance, health care, consumer  
24 products, retail, media and other industries.  
25 As an investor, an entrepreneur, the

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2 difference there is you started not bought it,  
3 and an advisor. I have advised many health  
4 care companies. In fact, people wanted to  
5 come stand by my side but I said I don't want  
6 to bring you into in this situation.

7 From Fortune 500 companies to  
8 start-ups my goal in each case has been to  
9 build better, more resilient enterprises.  
10 Today I'm the majority shareholder in more  
11 than 80 companies.

12 In the health care industry I have  
13 been involved in many capacities. M and A  
14 advisor, owner, operator and investor in more  
15 than a dozen health care service companies  
16 including physician practice management,  
17 diagnostic imaging, rehabilitation, health  
18 care IT, health and wellness services and  
19 durable medical equipment.

20 The long-standing challenges of  
21 NUMC threaten its ability to keep our promise  
22 to the people of our communities to provide  
23 them access to high quality health care. The  
24 hospital suffers from financial mismanagement  
25 and it has for some time. I've already begun

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2 work on a long-term strategic plan to turn  
3 around the hospital's finances and have  
4 already identified several operational and  
5 management deficiencies. That once rectified,  
6 can go a long way toward assuring we achieve  
7 the goal of everyone here today. And that is  
8 to turn, finally turn this hospital around.  
9 By the way, I fixed it already.

10 I believe with my extensive  
11 experience in finance and management I can  
12 insure NUMC is a place that every Nassau  
13 resident can be proud of. I believe in  
14 transparency. I believe in harnessing  
15 innovation. I believe in cultivating the best  
16 talent, and I believe, most of all, in the  
17 people of NUMC that I've already had the  
18 pleasure of meeting. And I believe in their  
19 capacity to take our shared vision for this  
20 hospital and carry it forward.

21 I look forward to working with  
22 Dr. Boutin and my fellow board members to  
23 create a financially sound, leading edge and  
24 thriving medical center.

25 My parents instilled in me an

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2 important work ethic. But more importantly,  
3 they instilled in me compassion for my fellow  
4 man. I've been personally involved in  
5 philanthropy, quietly, for many years.

6 But as you may know, this is the  
7 first time I have chosen to serve the public  
8 in this way. Some people get involved in  
9 public service because they want to be  
10 someone. Others do it because they want to do  
11 something. I assure you I view this not only  
12 as a public trust but as a personal mission,  
13 and I will work day and night to save the  
14 hospital.

15 Now, I know my passion for problem  
16 solving for this mission has gotten some  
17 attention of late. Thanks to a poor choice of  
18 words on my part, they regrettably created  
19 some misunderstanding and I'm sorry for that.  
20 It may surprise you but I'm not a trained  
21 public speaker. Actually I feel like I'm  
22 doing pretty well right now. I am, however,  
23 absolutely committed to ensuring that NUMC is  
24 known for diversity including -- and as a  
25 place of every member of the community.

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2 That's what's in my heart. It's who I am.  
3 It's who I've always been. I don't need to do  
4 this job. I want to do it for the community.

5 A hospital is a place where hard  
6 work, dedication and human compassion combine  
7 in ways that serve to inspire us. I believe  
8 that my expertise and the help of many others  
9 will ensure that a nurse can go home after a  
10 long shift with a peace of mind that she'll  
11 have a job at NUMC. That the patient from  
12 Hempstead who comes into the emergency room  
13 will feel cared for and comforted. That the  
14 first responder will know that this county  
15 will remember their sacrifice and appreciate  
16 it. That the mother will have confidence her  
17 child is in the best possible hands. And all  
18 of us will know the reward of having done  
19 God's work by doing our part to make this all  
20 happen.

21 Thank you for your time and your  
22 consideration.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
24 Mr. Bruderman. Any questions? Minority  
25 Leader Abrahams.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How are you  
3 Mr. Bruderman?

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm well. Thank  
5 you.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Good to  
7 hear. It's our fiduciary responsibility to  
8 ensure that the hospital, for multiple  
9 reasons, that provides patient care to our  
10 residents. That basically many of our  
11 residents also, through the county budget,  
12 have a debt that is paid by our county  
13 residents. So it's in our fiduciary  
14 responsibility to make sure that we appoint  
15 members to the body that are going to ensure  
16 the best interest of the people of Nassau  
17 County.

18 So, our questioning today, I'm not  
19 too sure if the majority has questions, but  
20 our questioning today is not deemed to be seen  
21 as personal or vindictive or trying to put you  
22 in a tough spot. But I do want to clear up  
23 the record on a couple of things you just  
24 said. But before I do so, I will say that you  
25 have quite the crowd today. I've never seen a

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2 crowd for one item today.

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: I thought it was  
4 a little light.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Many of the  
6 faces I see I'm curious because I'm not too  
7 sure of their role with the hospital that are  
8 county workers. But that's okay. I'm not too  
9 sure if they were asked to be here or they're  
10 friends to you personally or anything along  
11 those lines.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: I think people  
13 care about the county.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm sorry?  
15 I think everyone in this room cares about the  
16 county Mr. Bruderman. But I think what the  
17 point is if they're being paid as county  
18 workers today the responsible thing to do  
19 would be to take the day off. Wouldn't you  
20 agree?

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: I think we should  
22 arrest them all.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We're going  
24 to get off to a very good start. You had  
25 mentioned that you felt there was some level



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2 of politics that was played into this process  
3 in regards to the state legislation that was  
4 filed?

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: Yes, sir.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I took a  
7 look at the bill and as funny things would  
8 happen, the bill was introduced on February  
9 18th. I don't know if you were aware of that.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: I was not.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The bill  
12 was filed on February 18th. The Newsday story  
13 that announces your pick, the county  
14 executive's pick for you to head NUMC was on  
15 March 6th. So how do you reconcile some type  
16 of vindictive thing by the state legislators?  
17 They filed their bill before they knew about  
18 your pick.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: I don't have to  
20 reconcile it. But what it could be, as long  
21 as you're opening up the door, which everyone  
22 told me don't talk about -- which is just like  
23 at Thanksgiving dinner -- don't talk about  
24 politics, religion and certainly not race.  
25 Particularly if you're White. But I'm going

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2 to touch all of those for you today.

3 And what I would say is that the  
4 county and the state were both democratic. So  
5 they didn't know that I would come in there  
6 and yank back the curtain and expose  
7 everything and embarrass people. So maybe  
8 they didn't know it was specifically me but  
9 maybe they were more concerned about who a  
10 great man Bruce Blakeman was going to bring to  
11 the table. So they were just seizing control  
12 because the county gets to appoint the  
13 chairman even though the state has more  
14 votes.

15 And so, yeah, what do I think?  
16 You're asking my opinion only and my opinion  
17 would be that, well, they lost control of the  
18 county and they want to keep people out of  
19 there because it might be embarrassing what  
20 they find. Maybe it wasn't me. Maybe I'm  
21 flattering myself. I just still think it was  
22 political. I think they're really pissed now  
23 that's it's me though because as you can tell  
24 I'm not afraid of a fight.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't

1

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2 think it was either actually. I don't think  
3 it was political. The hospital, as you  
4 probably well noted, the hospital has been  
5 rooted in levels of patronage and deception  
6 that has gone on throughout the management for  
7 years and decades quite frankly. It has  
8 carried over through multiple county  
9 executives, democratic and Republicans alike.  
10 And for that matter, we are now at a point  
11 where we have a fiduciary responsibility where  
12 the state feels they need to do something more  
13 serious to address the matter.

14

MR. BRUDERMAN: Because they did  
15 such a bad job before?

16

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I haven't  
17 cut you off. I've let you speak. That being  
18 said, I think they decided to introduce this  
19 bill. I don't think it has anything to do  
20 with you quite frankly. It's evident it  
21 doesn't because the bill was introduced on the  
22 18th. They didn't learn about your pick until  
23 March 6th. But that's beside the point.

24

You had also mentioned that you are  
25 a health care investor and owner of a health

1 Full - 4-1-22  
2 care firm. I would like to you elaborate on  
3 that because I would like to understand how  
4 those relationships would continue at those  
5 particular entities or those particular  
6 practices while you are chairman of the NUMC  
7 hospital which is also a health care facility.

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: I, right now, am  
9 not working. Do not do transactions as an  
10 advisor generally anymore. I wouldn't  
11 undertake one except for free on behalf of the  
12 hospital because I think you can buy up a lot  
13 of nice things and put them in that wonderful  
14 physical plant. So, I'd be your free  
15 investment banker.

16 As it relates to the holdings that  
17 I have in health care, we own one company  
18 right now, which would be fully disclosed.  
19 Only one. I have no management role in it  
20 whatsoever. And if it came anywhere near NUMC  
21 of course, unlike other people that I've  
22 already found on the board, I'd fully disclose  
23 it. But I don't anticipate where we would do  
24 any business with NUMC. The facility we have  
25 now does outsourced -- basically it's an

1 Full - 4-1-22  
2 outsource sleep apnea testing and diagnosis  
3 for hospitals. Doesn't do it for NUMC and I  
4 don't think we need to. If we did I'd  
5 obviously disclose it.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What's the  
7 name?

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'd rather not  
9 say. It's out there on the Internet. But I  
10 don't want to drag company names either that I  
11 own or that I have owned or anything else into  
12 this fire pit that people have created in the  
13 media.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Do you plan  
15 to disclose it?

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: Anyone can go and  
17 research it. It's out on the Internet. Let  
18 me just be clear about something too.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: From an  
20 ethical standpoint don't you feel it's --

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm putting it on  
22 my disclosure. Of course. On my disclosure  
23 schedule there's an oath that you take.  
24 There's bylaws that I read. I don't know if  
25 anyone else did. But I can tell you before

1 Full - 4-1-22  
2 the first day, in fact when I sat down with  
3 the county executive, I think he and the  
4 deputy executive were impressed, I probably  
5 knew more than anyone else knew in the whole  
6 hospital before I got the job. So I'm very  
7 aware of the bylaws and the disclosure  
8 obligations and of course they would be  
9 adhered to.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We will  
11 speak to counsel but we would need you to  
12 disclose it. It's important to be disclosed.  
13 You're going to serve in a capacity where --

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm saying it  
15 will be disclosed.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Then we're  
17 good.

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: By the way, I  
19 just wanted to point one other thing out  
20 before we get into the questions that, again,  
21 I was advised to be very limited in scope  
22 because they're concerned that, again, people  
23 can only use what I say against me. Already  
24 they've said, you know, Matt said blah, blah,  
25 dot, dot, dot and then they put something

1 Full - 4-1-22  
2 else. But I wanted to come in here  
3 fearlessly. But I wanted everyone to know  
4 why. I didn't come in here to answer  
5 questions openly and truthfully, fully,  
6 knowing that people have a character  
7 assassination attempt here and they're telling  
8 me that they got a witch-hunt and they're  
9 going to punish me and they're going to twist  
10 everything around, which they've already  
11 done.

12 I wanted to take this opportunity  
13 to say this month is actually a very special  
14 month. Today I think is the first day of  
15 Ramadan. Passover begins soon. And I'm  
16 Christian and Easter is this month as well.  
17 So, what I wanted to come here and say is, in  
18 my religion and Jesus they say was tortured,  
19 carried his cross and then was hung on it.  
20 So, I want everybody to know here that I'm not  
21 here today as a guy that doesn't need to be  
22 here taking the abuse because I'm ignorant or  
23 stupid. I'm here because I look at this as  
24 carrying my cross.

25 So, whatever you do or you say or

1 Full - 4-1-22  
2 twist I don't care because Jesus carried his  
3 cross and I'm here to carry mine. All I want  
4 to spread, especially in light of this special  
5 month, is love. And so I'm going to tell you  
6 everything and I'm going to tell you the  
7 truth. And if people want to use it against  
8 me and harm me that's okay. I get to carry my  
9 own little tiny cross. But go ahead.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.  
11 Bruderman, I have to tell you no one's here to  
12 harm you.

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: That's not what  
14 the papers say.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I didn't  
16 know who you were before March 6th to be  
17 honest.

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: Nobody did.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: From that  
20 standpoint I'm taking no interest. Everything  
21 that we might have commented on is in response  
22 to something that you said.

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: Sure. No, but  
24 I'm just saying that I was warned that if I  
25 say too much they're going to take those words



1 Full - 4-1-22  
2 and clip them together and put really bad  
3 stuff out there. So I'm supposed to -- my  
4 advisors who are trying to protect me from  
5 myself want me to be very closed lipped. But  
6 I'm not because I feel like there are things  
7 that have to be said to protect the community  
8 that I care about and to protect that  
9 hospital.

10 So, I'm going to take the hits so  
11 that way hopefully people can have jobs and  
12 people are held accountable and that community  
13 is health care. So, I'm going to answer  
14 openly and freely because I don't want people  
15 to think that I'm hiding or not being clear.  
16 I'm not going to try to protect myself, which  
17 I should. I'm going to be selfless and I'm to  
18 answer fully. And just when everything's  
19 twisted up in the papers later I just want  
20 everyone to know that cares that the truth is  
21 what we're saying here today and they know my  
22 heart.

23 But again, I'm just not going to  
24 listen to my advisors and be short winded and  
25 don't talk about race, religion or this or

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2 that and I'm going to answer fully. So go  
3 ahead.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I sure hope  
5 that you're going to answer fully and  
6 honestly. We appreciate that.

7 So, I do want to dive into a little  
8 bit of your -- so from what I understand from  
9 your bio, I never got an actual resume but I  
10 did get your bio in terms of your financial  
11 interests and your investment firm and it's  
12 been headed up and has been transcended down  
13 through family and generations and done a good  
14 job with that. But your comment in regards to  
15 the board -- at your financial firm do you  
16 build consensus? When you're looking to do  
17 investments do you build consensus?

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: Of course.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If the  
20 consensus cannot be met how do you figure your  
21 way out through that?

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: I was going to  
23 mow everybody down with my lawn mower.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You see  
25 where I'm going with this. What I'm trying to

1 Full - 4-1-22

2 say is, why would you not apply the same  
3 consensus building that build -- such a great  
4 firm. I saw in your bio it's been around  
5 since 1879?

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: That's right.  
7 And you know what? On my mom's side we came  
8 here before there was a country.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm going  
10 to cut you off. There's a proper decorum  
11 here.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm trying.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'll try  
14 not to cut you off. You try not to cut me  
15 off. We'll go well.

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: It's my first  
17 rodeo. No disrespect meant.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What I'm  
19 trying to understand is if something that is  
20 built quite frankly over a century and a  
21 half --

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: We don't have to  
23 talk all about my family. I think you can get  
24 to your point of getting a consensus is that  
25 what you want to know?

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We're  
3 talking Mr. Bruderman. I appreciate you not  
4 cutting me off.

5 That being said, if something is  
6 built over the last century and a half such a  
7 strong financial background and it was built  
8 off of consensus, as you just said, why would  
9 you say in your first days as being appointed  
10 to the board, why you would you say if you're  
11 not with me, you're on my other side, I'm  
12 going to mow you down? That doesn't seem like  
13 a comment that you would make coming from your  
14 background where consensus has worked for over  
15 a century and a half versus being there for  
16 three days.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm so glad you  
18 asked me. Is it my turn?

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Sure,  
20 Mr. Bruderman, it's your turn.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: First of all,  
22 what you're doing is quoting -- and  
23 unfortunately most people they only read the  
24 headlines -- did you listen to the entire both  
25 the open and the executive session?

1 Full - 4-1-22

2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It wasn't  
3 provided to us.

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: So you don't have  
5 that. I said a lot of great stuff in there.  
6 And guess what else I did? I met with the  
7 former chairman. And to show you how I  
8 entered into this, I met with the former  
9 chairman. Sent me an email. He actually said  
10 hey, I would like to meet with you and help  
11 create a smooth transition. Wow. Wonderful.  
12 So I met with him. I talked to him. I met  
13 with Dr. Boutin my first day. And five  
14 minutes after that meeting I'm in possession  
15 of text or emails, whatever, they were mixed  
16 up somehow with the press, I don't why he's  
17 talking with the press, but we're in  
18 possession of texts and emails doing the exact  
19 opposite.

20 So, if you want go ahead and you  
21 want to do your job, go get the information,  
22 listen to it and look at what the former  
23 chairman sent me something saying I want to  
24 create a smooth transition. That was the  
25 chairman. And then what he did is he went to

1 Full - 4-1-22

2 frustrate it completely. Not just not help  
3 with the transition but he frustrated it  
4 completely.

5 So, then I asked for a meeting with  
6 him and we sat down. I said to him, I said  
7 look, I don't mess around. If you lie to me  
8 once you'll lie to me always. Everything that  
9 you've done now today is forgiven. There's  
10 more Democratic appointees here than me. And  
11 I'm supposedly a Republican which I'm not.  
12 I'm a fiscal conservative with a bleeding  
13 heart with my own time and money. So, I have  
14 a passion for this. I think the outcome  
15 should be the same because in my heart I'm a  
16 bleeding liberal.

17 So, all of those social agendas of  
18 the Democratic party I am a vicious defender  
19 of. Because I'm not a politician. I don't  
20 have to play both sides. Nobody has to vote  
21 for me.

22 So, I sat down with him and said  
23 look, let's put it behind us. Let's work  
24 together. And as the general counsel of the  
25 hospital will tell you and Dr. Boutin will

1

Full - 4-1-22

2

tell you because they were there. By the way,

3

I also like to have meetings with other people

4

in the room. Not only did I encourage him to

5

work with me but I also asked him to be my

6

vice chairman. I also told him that because I

7

am a busy man with a beautiful, lovely family

8

that I don't want to be here for five years.

9

I told Bruce and Bruce will tell you too.

10

Said yeah, I'll sign up for five years. But

11

I'm out of here in less than one. Because I'm

12

going to come in hot. I'm going to fix this

13

place up. I'm not going to make any friends.

14

I said maybe when they talk to him about it

15

maybe I'll sit on the board but somebody else

16

has to be chairman.

17

And again, one of the things on my

18

agenda is actually fixing the board because

19

that place will never thrive if you don't fix

20

how it works.

21

So, I started with the chairman

22

privately. I did what I said. He lied.

23

Period. There's no other way to say it. He

24

lied. He went to completely frustrate not

25

create a smooth transition.

1 Full - 4-1-22

2 If you read the hearing, the  
3 original hearing before people riled me up  
4 because of my passion for the community,  
5 before they riled me up I said look, I'm going  
6 to be, and this is where things get  
7 manipulated, I said look, we can fight about  
8 my appointment but the fact is is that County  
9 Executive Blakeman said I'm chairman. And if  
10 it's not in this seat, which, by the way, I  
11 didn't care, I didn't even know but I think  
12 there was like some balance of what people  
13 thought were Republicans versus Democrats, I  
14 didn't care because I do get consensus one way  
15 or another.

16 So for me coming in I said to the  
17 board, if people would actually listen to what  
18 I say, I'm sure, again, they're going to take  
19 snippets here and make it say that I said that  
20 like the planet's flat.

21 When we were there I opened up and  
22 said look, we can fight over what seat I'm in,  
23 but if the county executive said he's putting  
24 me in another seat anyway, which is why we're  
25 here today, he's good to his word, why are we



1                   Full - 4-1-22  
2   going to waste our time? Let the courts  
3   rage. Let's just do that. But like let's get  
4   down to the -- why don't we put our efforts  
5   into the business of the hospital and not  
6   fight over this.

7                   And then I had like barrages of  
8   lunatics, which I don't mind saying. Because  
9   even lunatics are either going to agree with  
10  what I propose or they're going to look  
11  foolish and divisive and destructive because I  
12  only propose things that are freaking smart,  
13  that are freaking good, that are right.

14                  So, you can be a total jackass on  
15  the board and if you and say no, I'm voting  
16  against it I'm going to call you out and ask  
17  you why. And if your answer is because I  
18  don't like you, it's not going to hold water.

19                  So, yeah, so I get things done one  
20  way or another. And when I start off and ask  
21  for people's cooperation and care, I even said  
22  let's not make this about yourselves, your  
23  political career or why ever you're here. Put  
24  that aside for the people. Be selfless not  
25  selfish.

1 Full - 4-1-22

2 You know what they did? Dove right  
3 into like you can't even vote. You can't be  
4 here. Blah, blah, blah. Like idiot  
5 children.

6 So yeah, if everybody by the way,  
7 because I am a good Christian and I forgive,  
8 if everybody wants to show up on Monday and  
9 say let's get down to fixing it I'll tell you  
10 like I told them. They can have all the  
11 credit and I'm out of here. The faster we fix  
12 it the faster you're rid of me. So yeah, I  
13 know how to get things done and I assure you I  
14 will.

15 If we want to talk about the  
16 hospital instead of this stuff, I'll tell you  
17 everything right now. By the way, keep in  
18 mind I only went to the hospital once and I  
19 can talk to you about any part of that  
20 hospital. Why it's broken. And I have a plan  
21 to fix it sitting here today.

22 And, in fact, what no one wrote was  
23 that the hospital has -- actually I take it  
24 back. Newsday wrote, I quote Newsday, check  
25 it out, Newsday wrote that in 2020 the

1 Full - 4-1-22  
2 hospital had an operating deficit of \$20  
3 million. You can put me under oath if you'd  
4 like. But in the very first day I found 22  
5 and a half million dollars roughly. It wasn't  
6 billed. It wasn't collected. And at my press  
7 conference that no one covered, the part where  
8 Bruce Blakeman, county executive, brought me a  
9 check for nearly \$13 million for a hospital  
10 that was -- had a \$20 million operating  
11 budget.

12 By the way, do you know the only  
13 reason why I can say 2020? Because when I  
14 walked in the door I was shocked that a  
15 hospital system this big, their most recent  
16 financial information was from November of  
17 2021. November. It's April. How do you  
18 operate a company like that? How do you  
19 operate a business like that? That's  
20 negligent. That's ridiculous.

21 So, yeah, it can be fixed. And  
22 again, I'd love to talk about those things. I  
23 can tell you where it was. This will let you  
24 know how I operate and how smart I am and I  
25 how I know what I'm doing. Frankly, it's

1 Full - 4-1-22

2 easy. So easy to fix the hospital because you  
3 couldn't try harder to screw it up.

4 The first day I walk in and I say  
5 all right, give me financials. We don't have  
6 any. All right. Give me the budget. How do  
7 you have a budget with no financials? We  
8 don't have a budget either. I said can you  
9 bring the CFO in? We don't have a CFO. I'm  
10 like this is a joke. Are you kidding me? How  
11 big is this institution? What are my revenue  
12 streams? How do we make money? Tell me about  
13 like the ER. Procedures. We have this. We  
14 have that. We have a nursing home.

15 Oh yeah, we also have a contract  
16 with the prison system. It's my first day.  
17 Okay. So how much is this? How much is  
18 that? How much is this? Because they still  
19 had some finance people there that could  
20 answer some questions. They didn't have  
21 oversight by the way. Which is why there was  
22 an arrest last week from someone in the  
23 finance department. How do you have an arrest  
24 in the finance department? Because you have  
25 no checks and balances. No one's got a

1 Full - 4-1-22  
2 budget. No one knows where the money is or  
3 where it's supposed to be. So how easy is it  
4 to steal \$120 million. Embezzle \$120  
5 million. Real easy. I have no boss. There's  
6 no CFO. They have no budget. So, sure, you  
7 can wire money out of here.

8 So, again, I see why people are  
9 really upset about me walking in the door.  
10 So, by the way, keep in mind too it's my first  
11 day. So, it goes like this it. We're not  
12 sure. There's a contract with the prison. I  
13 said can someone go find out? Hour later or  
14 whatever it was. Uh, uh, uh. What? By the  
15 time I peeled the onion what I found was is  
16 that -- and I got excuses like, you know --  
17 and by the way Curran couldn't have fixed this  
18 either. No one could until someone really  
19 came in and grab the reigns. But they tell me  
20 oh, like, Curran didn't sign something. She  
21 was going to renegotiate. Whatever it was.  
22 I'm like just give me the numbers.

23 And again, because they threw me  
24 out the next day, I never went back, in my  
25 recollection, which I will clarify and I'll

1 Full - 4-1-22

2 finish my job when you let me back in, my  
3 recollection was on a rolling 12 months, in  
4 other words, not just in '21 but between the  
5 time they stopped paying in '21 until about  
6 today it was about 22 and a half million  
7 dollars. Which is why Bruce, probably Bruce  
8 and his guys were able to run the numbers and  
9 brought me a check at the press conference for  
10 \$12.78 million. Which is probably through the  
11 end of '21.

12 So, again, like what does that  
13 say? I walked in the door. I ask good  
14 questions. I got horrible answers.

15 I'll tell you some the other things  
16 I asked. I said, you know, I'm coming in here  
17 as the new chairman. And a lot of hospitals  
18 survive based on contributions from the  
19 community. People that deem financial gifts.  
20 So, I wanted to know, coming in as chairman,  
21 when there's something like a hospital that  
22 has a philanthropic side to it it's common  
23 knowledge -- the common term is give, get or  
24 get off.

25 So, anyway, look, I came in. No

1 Full - 4-1-22  
2 one had donated any money for the last two  
3 years to the hospital. Not one board member.  
4 I could be wrong but that's what I could  
5 find. So not one board member gave one dollar  
6 in the last two years. So I was trying to  
7 triangulate like how much should I be giving.  
8 If I'm going to be chairman I probably should  
9 make a donation.

10 I also started asking for things  
11 like their conflict of interest forms.  
12 Because coming in I did my homework. I read  
13 the bylaws and I read what was expected of me  
14 and what my duties and responsibilities are.  
15 Which made me think. Hey, everybody's talking  
16 about corruption. Let me pull their conflict  
17 of interest forms. The only couple that I got  
18 before I left had nothing written down. Which  
19 would be very interesting as we continue our  
20 work.

21 So, look, I kind of ran on there  
22 and everything but go ahead.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You said a  
24 lot Mr. Bruderman. I'm not too sure where you  
25 were going with everything.

1 Full - 4-1-22

2 MR. BRUDERMAN: I was going with  
3 the hospital is a disaster and I'm showing you  
4 how much I learned and how good I am at fixing  
5 it.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:  
7 Mr. Bruderman that wasn't my question. You've  
8 invoked a couple of times that you're a  
9 Christian. I am too. And the Christianity  
10 that I follow, I don't think I would say and  
11 stand by it if you want to get on the other  
12 side of me I'm going to mow you down. That  
13 doesn't sound like a very Christian remark.  
14 Now, normally, we generally don't bring up  
15 religion when we discuss government. But that  
16 being said, you brought it up.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: Yes, sir.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It doesn't  
19 seem like a very Christian remark.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You  
21 started out this thing by saying you're not  
22 going to make it personal and you just did.

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: Hold on. I'm  
24 happy to answer.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You can



1 Full - 4-1-22

2 answer all right. But you said you're not  
3 going to make it personal --

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It's not  
5 personal.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: -- the  
7 first thing -- oh, you're talking about his  
8 faith.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No. I'm  
10 bringing up in his faith that the Christianity  
11 that I follow, I'm a Christian as well, and  
12 the Christianity that I follow --

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: What does  
14 that have to do with him running the  
15 hospital? If this is not personal.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding  
17 Officer, he brought that up.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: There's no  
19 reason for you to talk about his faith. You  
20 said you weren't going to make it personal.  
21 Don't make it personal.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding  
23 Officer, I never brought up his faith. He  
24 chose to bring that up.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: He chose

1 Full - 4-1-22

2 to bring it up. You don't have to ask  
3 questions about his faith or make points about  
4 his faith it up.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So, now I  
6 see the sideshow that's getting ready to begin  
7 here because we're trying to get to the  
8 fact --

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: No. I'm  
10 going to keep you away from going personal.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No. We're  
12 trying to create a sideshow. Which I'm sure  
13 that we're trying to create this enamor that  
14 we don't want to focus on and Mr. Bruderman  
15 we're going to try to create an assassination  
16 of what I'm asking.

17 The bottom line is, if you don't  
18 want to talk about it don't bring it up. I  
19 was never going to bring up Christianity or  
20 religion or anything along those lines until  
21 Mr. Bruderman brought it up Mr. Presiding  
22 Officer. So if you want to restrict what I'm  
23 going to ask restrict what he's going to say.  
24 That's where it comes from.

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: I have a quick

1 Full - 4-1-22

2 answer.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm not  
4 going to restrict. If it's personal, I did  
5 this while Republicans questioned Democratic  
6 witnesses, the previous administration. I'm  
7 going to do it here. If you get personal it's  
8 not going to happen.

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: All right, but  
10 I'd like to answer the question anyway. There  
11 was a problem with the question I would like  
12 to tell you about it.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You're  
14 going to tell me what's wrong with my  
15 question?

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: No. I want to  
17 address it. I want to answer it.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I  
19 understand. Go ahead.

20 MR. BRUDERMAN: Again, you're  
21 taking a quote out of a newspaper or somewhere  
22 else. You said you didn't read the entire  
23 transcript of listen to the whole thing.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So you  
25 didn't say it?

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: No, no. Can I  
3 finish?

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I let you  
5 finish before when I asked --

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: You asked me  
7 about why would I say such a thing if I'm a  
8 Catholic or Christian.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I asked you  
10 a direct question before --

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm answering it.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Can I  
13 finish? I asked you a very direct question  
14 before and you went on for five minutes  
15 explaining a whole bunch of other things,  
16 which we plan to ask you about in terms of  
17 what's wrong with the hospital. But you went  
18 into a whole bunch of other things. So --

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: I was trying to  
20 explain like getting a consensus and there's  
21 different ways that you get there.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay, but  
23 we need to understand -- so you're saying  
24 either you said this or didn't say it. And if  
25 you did say it, is this the best practice on a

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2 very diverse board of people that make up all  
3 different backgrounds and experiences and  
4 qualifications, is this the best way to get  
5 consensus? That's what I asked you. And then  
6 you gave me a whole long-winded answer about a  
7 whole bunch of other stuff. Which is your  
8 prerogative. You're here. You're giving your  
9 testimony. You're capable of doing that.

10 But that being said, that doesn't  
11 get us to where we want to go. The bottom  
12 line is where we want to go, we want a  
13 hospital that functions, that is good for our  
14 patients, that is good for our residents and  
15 good for our employees and good for our  
16 workers. That's what we want.

17 I want to get into asking you about  
18 the service lines at the hospital. I want to  
19 get into asking you about Medicaid part C. I  
20 want to ask you all those things in terms of  
21 how you --

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: I want to answer  
23 it.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: -- and your  
25 understanding of that. But I can't get to

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2 that if I can't even get a straight answer out  
3 of you in regards to your mow down comment.

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm trying to  
5 answer it. Can I answer it?

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Are you  
7 going to answer it directly?

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: Are you going to  
9 answer it for me or can I answer it?

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No. I'm  
11 asking you, Mr. Bruderman, without elaborating  
12 on a whole bunch of stuff that we didn't ask  
13 you, can you answer this question directly?

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: I promised myself  
15 I would come with love today. If you need a  
16 hug I'll give you one and I love you.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you  
18 Mr. Bruderman.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: And I'll love you  
20 after no matter what you do to me.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I love the  
22 residents of Nassau County.

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: You can kick me  
24 down and I'll still love you.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I love the

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2 residents of Nassau County but thank you. But  
3 if you could answer my question I'd appreciate  
4 it.

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: If I may. What  
6 you're quoting, and it's not your fault, was a  
7 portion out of context. And yes, I had a poor  
8 choice of words because I'm a funny guy and  
9 I'm a little bit of a maverick. And it was a  
10 slang term. Again, the people frankly that  
11 were there were acting like such lunatics,  
12 that felt like I had to step down to their  
13 level. Which my wife yelled at me for. But I  
14 lost my cool. The reason I lost my cool was  
15 because I love a community in particular. I  
16 love people and want to help people.

17 When you get to a place in life you  
18 can afford to just do good stuff. I don't  
19 know about other people but for me I don't go  
20 to bed at night saying hey, I got more money.  
21 I go to bed at night being like I made an  
22 impact. I made their lives better. I helped  
23 them. I get high on it. I love it.

24 So, I'm impassioned about the urban  
25 crisis. Not Black people or Hispanic people

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2 or White people or this person or whatever.  
3 It's people in need. Poor people. That  
4 didn't maybe have the opportunities that I  
5 had. So I want to give back. I want to help  
6 them. I want to uplift every person on the  
7 planet. I want to take away every person's  
8 suffering and I do in my own way quietly.

9 In this case I want to answer your  
10 question. I used that language incorrectly  
11 because I stepped down to a level that I never  
12 thought I would be at.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So you  
14 misspoke?

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: No. But what I  
16 said was -- I used the wrong terms. But what  
17 I meant was is that I would not relent and I  
18 would push aside and push through resistance  
19 for the punch line of that mow down was, I  
20 will mow anyone down that impedes the progress  
21 of fixing this hospital. I will mow down  
22 anyone that is not going to protect this  
23 community and leave these jobs and these  
24 people physically at risk. That's what I was  
25 willing to mow people down for.



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2 By the way, I'll go get my lawn  
3 mower and run them over if you'd like. But I  
4 just meant it in a different way. It was for  
5 the people not for me. Again, Newsday wrote,  
6 you brought the topic up, Newsday wrote  
7 Matthew Bruderman mow down whatever. By the  
8 way, I've learned something. You can teach me  
9 a trick. Dot, dot, dot, I will be chairman.  
10 You think I need this freaking job? Come to  
11 my house. In fact, I invite you to. Because  
12 you know what? I want to fill you with my  
13 love and I want you to feel my love. I want  
14 to work with you. I want to work with  
15 everybody to fix this community. So yeah, I  
16 said I will mow people down that got in the  
17 way of fixing the hospital. But it was a poor  
18 choice of words.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So we're  
20 not here to chastise you over your comment. I  
21 just want to make sure I understand your  
22 comment because your comment, in my opinion,  
23 is in conflict of your past practices of  
24 running a very successful financial firm.

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: There's different

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2 ways to do it. Sometimes with force.

3 Sometimes we use force in business believe it  
4 or not.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But you  
6 answered my question when I asked you earlier  
7 have you built consensus in building a  
8 financial firm --

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: I have, yes.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: -- that has  
11 developed -- not a lot of things exist for 150  
12 years that's not successful.

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: You know my  
14 great, great grandfather came here 150 years  
15 before it was a nation and my great  
16 grandfathers fought in the Revolutionary War.  
17 Fought in the Civil War for the north and my  
18 grandfather died serving in World War II. And  
19 I'm here, just like they served, I'm serving.  
20 So, keep it coming.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We thank  
22 your forefathers for their service.

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: Thank you.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What I said  
25 before is that consensus that has been built

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2 doesn't transcend to what your comments were.

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: I disagree but  
4 okay.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You can  
6 disagree but obviously even your comments just  
7 now --

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: I fixed the  
9 hospital the first day. Why are we still even  
10 talking about it?

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Why are we  
12 even here?

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: I don't know.  
14 Give me the keys and I'll fix it.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Oh, you  
16 will fix it.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: No, no. It's  
18 done. I found 22 and a half. But someone's  
19 got to shake down Blakeman for the other \$10  
20 million.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How do you  
22 plan to fix the --

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: I gave him a lot  
24 of money. Did you see that in the papers?  
25 He's gonna listen.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I  
3 understand what you're saying but there are  
4 structural problems which we will get into.

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: I do love you by  
6 the way.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: There's  
8 structural deficit issues as well as there are  
9 one-shots which you may be looking at too as  
10 well.

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: No, no. I'll  
12 talk about all of them. I'll tell you exactly  
13 how to fix it right now. Don't forget, I was  
14 there for a day. That's pretty damn good.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: One day, I  
16 got it. So, from that standpoint, I want to  
17 get into the next level of -- before we get  
18 even get into your ideas, this body, this  
19 legislative body actually we hold things in  
20 terms of character to a very high standard.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: Me too.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Not saying  
23 that we are coming to conclusions on your  
24 character based off of Newsday's comments, but  
25 we have to ask the very difficult questions in

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2 regards to your character, in regard to those  
3 comments. I can tell you your comment in  
4 regards to good racism I don't think I've ever  
5 seen that in my 20 years in office.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: Me neither.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So you  
8 never said it?

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: I totally said  
10 it.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm not too  
12 sure why you would say me neither.

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: I can't believe I  
14 said it and I didn't even know what the hell I  
15 was saying and I didn't realize how much of a  
16 situation it created. I'd love to explain it  
17 if you'd like.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yeah. What  
19 did you mean by good racism? I'm just  
20 curious. What does that mean to you.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: Again, I'm not a  
22 good public speaker. I feel myself actually  
23 getting better as I do this. I'm not a good  
24 public speaker. It was a storm of, again,  
25 like I've never been in those situations. It

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2 was like, I don't want to say it but I will, a  
3 shit show. So, I was like grasping at words  
4 and trying to make a point.

5 What I meant by good racism was I  
6 thought that racism meant making a decision or  
7 treating someone differently based on race.  
8 So, to me -- by the way, I Googled it, the  
9 current version. Racism is a negative  
10 connotation. And I didn't mean anything  
11 harmful or negative by saying that. Again, I  
12 was like under fire in a disastrous  
13 situation. I'm trying, actually, to defend  
14 Dr. Boutin is how I stepped on that electrical  
15 wire. What I meant by good racism was, you  
16 can make decisions based on race for a good  
17 reason. I'll give you one.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.  
19 Bruderman, you're trying to explain --

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Let him  
21 finish.

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: Can I finish?  
23 I'm explaining good racism, aren't I? I want  
24 to say how.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Your

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2 clarification is almost as offensive as the  
3 comment of racism.

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: So why don't you  
5 let me finish? Again, no one wants to hear  
6 what I have to say. They just want the piece  
7 they want to shoot me with.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's go  
9 down this path.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: We can get the  
11 cross. I'll climb up on it.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's go  
13 down this path.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Let him --  
15 Mr. Bruderman --

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's go  
17 down this path.

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: Can I please  
19 answer?

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Go ahead  
21 and answer.

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: To me, I used the  
23 wrong word. I didn't mean to say anything  
24 that was harmful or disrespectful or  
25 negative. What I was trying to say is that

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2 people can make decisions based on race for  
3 good reasons and obviously bad reasons. In my  
4 head, the bad reasons are discrimination and a  
5 lot of other terrible things.

6 But in a good sense that you might  
7 make a decision based on race is what like  
8 President Biden did in appointing Ms. Brown  
9 Jackson, the first black female justice.

10 And so what I was trying to say is  
11 that there are reasons, which I would love to  
12 expand upon, reasons for making decisions  
13 based on race that can be good or bad. And  
14 so --

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So are you  
16 trying --

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Will you  
18 stop? Hold on a second.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: Go ahead. I'll  
20 be fine.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.  
22 Bruderman, are you trying to parallel --

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Your  
24 microphone is off. Your microphone is off.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Sorry.



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2 Presiding Officer, are you trying to  
3 parallel --

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Your  
5 microphone is off.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Are you  
7 turning it off?

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I am.  
9 Here's how this is going to work.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, no.  
11 You're not going to stand up to those  
12 comments? He's going to create a parallel to  
13 Judge Jackson and the appointment of the  
14 president to good racism?

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: No, no.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Wait Mr.  
17 Bruderman.

18 You have two sets of standards.  
19 Did you notice earlier when you started to  
20 interrupt one of his questions how affronted  
21 he got? Oh, my goodness. You can't interrupt  
22 me. I'm the minority leader. I'm Kevan  
23 Abrahams.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I didn't  
25 say anything to that magnitude.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Now if you  
3 say something and you're explaining your  
4 answer and he won't let you finish.

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: He only wants  
6 only the part that sounds racist.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Kevan, I  
8 have the chair. This is not how this is going  
9 to work. You're going to ask him a question.  
10 He's going to finish.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding  
12 Officer, you're trying to tell me that there's  
13 anything that anyone can say from that floor  
14 we're going to accept and allow him to  
15 finish? Especially when they say something as  
16 offensive.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We're  
18 going to let him finish.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: Oh my God.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Every  
21 other person that comes before this body --

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Oh, so you  
23 can pretty much say anything disparaging about  
24 anyone?

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: There's nothing

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2 disparaging. You're making an assumption  
3 here.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Now we're  
5 going to do that.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: Hold on. Can I  
7 finish?

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We have  
9 heard -- Mr. Bruderman -- we have heard some  
10 pretty noxious stuff coming from that podium  
11 about us and they never said a word.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: No but I have to  
13 answer. Hold on. Gentlemen, gentlemen.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Now  
15 they're up on their high horses. My goodness.

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: We need love. We  
17 need love. We need love.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I've  
19 heard --

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: This is  
21 how this is going to work.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:  
23 Mr. Presiding Officer you're wrong.

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: You guys are  
25 nuts.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And I'm  
3 looking at my colleague Legislator Howard  
4 Kopel. Someone made a very offensive comment.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: One time.  
6 Oh my goodness. How many times --

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: When have  
8 you done it? You haven't done it once.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I've done  
10 it multiple times during the Curran  
11 administration.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You haven't  
13 done it.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here's the  
15 story. The bottom line is I am the chair. I  
16 have the floor. You don't have the floor.  
17 This is how this works. You ask questions.  
18 He answers the questions. He gets his full  
19 and fair opportunity to answer. You can ask  
20 your next question. You're not going to  
21 interrupt him. It doesn't work that way  
22 here. Go ahead. Continue with your  
23 questions.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We're not  
25 going to accept --

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: If you  
3 interrupt him --

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We're not  
5 going to accept that you're going to try to  
6 dictate to us what we should hear and what's  
7 allowed here.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's the  
9 way democracy works my friend.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No.  
11 Democracy allows -- it does not allow to be  
12 dictated to you.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: This is  
14 how democracy works.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You are  
16 dictating to us what we should deemed as  
17 offensive.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: When the  
19 majority of the legislature --

20 MR. BRUDERMAN: So let me  
21 continue to explain myself.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: When the  
23 majority of the legislature chooses a chair,  
24 all democracy, the chair has the right to  
25 dictate the calm in the chambers.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And I have  
3 a right to basically --

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You have a  
5 right to ask questions. You don't have a  
6 right to interrupt witnesses or I will stop  
7 you.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding  
9 Officer, we all have the right --

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You don't  
11 have a right to interrupt witnesses.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding  
13 officer, we all have the right when this  
14 legislature is disrespected by saying  
15 something as offensive as what he just said --

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: He did not  
17 disrespect the legislature. It's ridiculous.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes, he  
19 has.

20 MR. BRUDERMAN: Mr. Abrahams, put  
21 aside -- listen, go with love. Put aside your  
22 own agenda Mr. Abrahams.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The  
24 parallel to make between --

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: Let me finish.

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2 Let me finish.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: No, no,  
4 no. Wait. Before you finish, Mr. Bruderman,  
5 here's how it works. Legislators are going to  
6 ask you questions. You have a right to finish  
7 what you're saying.

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: I very much  
9 appreciate that.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: When they  
11 interrupt you I'm going to stop them. Could  
12 be them. It could be our side. It doesn't  
13 matter.

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: That's your role.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's be  
16 clear from the outset. You're going to  
17 interrupt me because you're trying to push  
18 through your candidate of choice.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: No. He wants me  
20 to finish what you asked me.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We're not  
22 going to do anything that's going to disparage  
23 Mr. Bruderman.

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: You're trying to  
25 make me look like a racist. Can I tell you

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2 why I even went there? You don't care that I  
3 love everybody. You don't want me to explain  
4 why I said it?

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You're  
6 trying to create an atmosphere for the person  
7 that you want to vote for by --

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: I was protecting  
9 Dr. Boutin. Do you want to know what I  
10 doing. Do you know why I went there?

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.  
12 Bruderman, let me say this. The bottom line  
13 is very clear.

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: Whatever you want  
15 to say is clear.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: There is no  
17 universe, no universe, where good racism is  
18 seen as a positive thing.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: I got it. Done.  
20 I agree. I got it. What else? I agree. You  
21 are right.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You got  
23 it?

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: I started to  
25 saying I Googled the definition after and I



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2 realized I was a jackass for saying it.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.

4 Bruderman --

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: I didn't know

6 what it meant.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.

8 Bruderman, that's not --

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: I Googled it.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.

11 Bruderman, I understand --

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: I told you what I

13 was thinking not my words. Judge me on my

14 actions not my words.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.

16 Bruderman, we're glad that you have that

17 epiphany now. But the bottom line is you want

18 to run a hospital that serves in a very

19 diverse county and you didn't even know the

20 proper definition of racism. How can you

21 serve in that capacity?

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: Can I explain

23 myself and finish my answer?

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No sir.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Wait,

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2 wait, wait. No, no, no. There you go.

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: You're trying to  
4 paint me being a racist. What is this?

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I just  
6 struck a nerve.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You don't  
8 want him to explain.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How can he  
10 serve in the capacity as chairman of the  
11 hospital?

12 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Can I say  
13 something?

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: I said I thought  
15 racism meant making a decision about someone.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We're  
17 taking a break.

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: No, no. I want  
19 to read something from Dr. Martin Luther King  
20 Mr. Abrahams. Can I read something that Dr.  
21 Martin Luther King said?

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Don't  
23 even. Mr. Bruderman, you want to be able to  
24 serve in the capacity of --

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: You just want to

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2 call me a racist. Get the cross out. Go  
3 ahead. Ask Ricky. Why don't we bring up  
4 Ricky? Don't ask me about me. Why don't you  
5 ask Ricky and John about me.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.  
7 Bruderman -- why don't you let me finish?

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.  
9 Bruderman --

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: Why are you  
11 torturing me like this and making me sound  
12 like a racist?

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.  
14 Bruderman, no one's saying that --

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: I said I'm  
16 bringing love. You're bringing darts. Shoot  
17 me. Shoot me. I'll take all the darts for  
18 the community.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay.  
20 That's your playbook. Play to audience.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: I love the  
22 community. What have you done for the  
23 African-American community yourself?

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.  
25 Bruderman --

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: Huh? What have  
3 you done?

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yeah.  
5 Okay.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: Yes. Stop it  
7 right now. It's wrong. You're being  
8 divisive. You're creating racism and you're  
9 wrong. And I don't care if you're  
10 African-American. You're doing the wrong  
11 thing. I'm bringing love. I want to uplift  
12 that community and you want to push me out.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm  
14 calling a recess.

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: I have a lot of  
16 power and goodness to bring and you're not  
17 chasing me away. I am not a racist and I want  
18 to read what Dr. Martin Luther King said.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I have a  
20 problem with the fact that you're muting my  
21 micro but you're not muting his.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I can't.

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: Dr. Martin Luther  
24 King said --

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:

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2 Mr. Bruderman, I'm calling a recess.

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: I have a dream --

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mr.

5 Bruderman, I'm calling a recess.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: -- that my four  
7 little children.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mr.

9 Bruderman --

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: -- will one day  
11 live in a nation where they will not be judged  
12 by the color of their skin.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mr.

14 Bruderman --

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: -- but by the  
16 content of their character.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mr.

18 Bruderman.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.

20 Bruderman, we're not going to allow you to  
21 invoke Martin Luther King.

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: Really? Why?  
23 Because I'm white?

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We're  
25 calling a recess.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We're not  
3 going to let you get away with something that  
4 you said good racism is like saying good  
5 cancer. The good tumor. You can't get away  
6 with it.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I remember  
8 way back when we started we weren't going to  
9 make this personal.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: There's  
11 good cancer now? Really.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Folks,  
13 you're not on the record. We are going into  
14 recess.

15 (Meeting was recessed at 11:28  
16 a.m.)

17 (Meeting reconvened at 11:48 a.m.)

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We are  
19 back in session. Minority Leader you have the  
20 floor.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding  
22 Officer, I'm going to allow for my colleagues  
23 to ask questions of Mr. Bruderman and I'm  
24 going to reserve my comments and questions for  
25 a later point in time.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Who from  
3 the Minority wants to go? Right down the  
4 aisle.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Good  
6 afternoon.

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: Hi.

8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We  
9 have a few mutual associates let's put it that  
10 way. I want to start off by, first of all,  
11 acknowledging that I'm happy that half of the  
12 paid employees of Nassau County have returned  
13 to do their jobs. There were people here from  
14 Parks, from TPVA and you said you are a  
15 financial conservative, I say I'm a financial  
16 conservative. The tens of thousands of  
17 dollars that were wasted here in that one hour  
18 is just the wrong precedent.

19 If you would join with me in asking  
20 anyone else that's on the payroll -- we  
21 understand your support, he's going to get  
22 appointed -- I would really love for you to go  
23 back to work. It would just make me feel  
24 better as a fiduciary responsibility of this  
25 county, and I do have the right to say that, I

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2 really think it's time. We got your point.  
3 I'm glad that you support him. We got it.  
4 But I would love for the doctors and nurses  
5 especially to go return to our patients. Can  
6 you back me up on that?

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: Yeah. I mean,  
8 again, I'm actually not chairman right now so  
9 I can't even tell them what to do.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: But  
11 as a person, I think as a fiduciary --  
12 conservative financial --

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: Fiscally  
14 responsible person.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:  
16 Fiscally responsible. Which I really believe  
17 I am. I would really appreciate anyone who  
18 has not clocked out. We understand you have  
19 your support but we would really appreciate  
20 going back and serve the community.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: By the way, to  
22 answer your question, to me, as a financial  
23 advisor, I think going back to the hospital  
24 that's paying them would be a good idea. But  
25 personally they may want to stay here to help



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2 ensure that they keep their jobs. I'm not  
3 telling them what to do.

4 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I  
5 think that their point is made. We have  
6 doctors and nurses. We had -- actually a lot  
7 of them left, which I'm very grateful for.

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: I think that's  
9 good. I think if they need to get back to  
10 work they should. Can we talk about the  
11 hospital?

12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Let  
13 me just say a couple of things.

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: Sure. Please.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:  
16 Again, I know of you. I respect the business  
17 mind, I do. I happen to have a lot of respect  
18 for the business world. I think a lot of us  
19 were in the private sector before we came here  
20 and there are certain things that the private  
21 sector does that we try to bring into the  
22 government. But government's a little  
23 different because when you are going to run a  
24 big department such as the hospital you're  
25 acting on behalf of the county. Okay? We're

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2 liable for what you say and do. And I get  
3 your personality. I get what maybe you might  
4 consider humor in your mind.

5 But in this world we spend so much  
6 money on sensitivity training in this county.  
7 We just went through two years of real changes  
8 for the better in so many ways to be sensitive  
9 to everyone's feelings. Even calling people,  
10 in my opinion, less than professional names  
11 that are on the board. It just sets a tone  
12 that I'm afraid not only is it the wrong tone  
13 socially, and I don't want to get in religion,  
14 but morally correct. Financially we could be  
15 responsible for your miss, you know, mistakes  
16 in choosing the words, in choosing the name  
17 calling, in choosing the tactics. Which might  
18 be acceptable, which probably shouldn't be in  
19 my opinion, on Wall Street. But when you're  
20 working for a public sector, especially the  
21 hospital, you could be sued and guess who's  
22 going to pay for it?

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'll be much more  
24 careful about the choice of words now. I  
25 learned a valuable lesson today.

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2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

3 Look, you're going to be appointed. These  
4 guys are going to vote for you. It's a done  
5 deal. What we want to do is just what you  
6 just said. You're going to represent a county  
7 that we love. I used to work in the private  
8 sector. We all made more money in the private  
9 sector than we do here. It's a love for this  
10 county. It keeps us going. It puts us in  
11 this position.

12 So, I want you to -- the fact that  
13 you just said that is a big movement in my  
14 mind and I appreciate it. I think there might  
15 be a little bit more room for improvement  
16 there but it's a step in the right direction.  
17 Again, it's not just you now. It's not just  
18 you now with a whole bunch of money --

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm learning  
20 that. I'm learning that.

21 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: It's  
22 all great. You were lucky. You picked your  
23 parents well. But you are dealing with  
24 everyone in our community and you need to  
25 respect everyone.

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm going to be  
3 much more careful about my choice of words. I  
4 learned a valuable lesson stepping into this  
5 environment.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I  
7 want to tell you one thing. I'm not bringing  
8 up religion in a bad way but pride is a tough  
9 thing. I know you're very proud of the  
10 accomplishments you've had. And I'm sure  
11 monetarily and everything else sounds like you  
12 love -- I respect the fact that you have a  
13 wonderful family and you're proud. But pride  
14 is always the one thing that we got to keep in  
15 check sometimes because pride can cause you to  
16 say things that you think you're entitled to  
17 say not thinking the person that is receiving  
18 them and it could be the wrong way.

19 So, again, I'm happy to hear you  
20 say that. I know you're going to be  
21 appointed. We want the hospital to be saved  
22 yes. Financially, yes. We approved the \$12  
23 million. And I'll tell you something, Laura  
24 Curran lost the election in the November. So  
25 the fact that there hasn't been any payments

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2 in four months is Bruce Blakeman's fault.

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: It's not four  
4 months.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:  
6 Three months.

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: It's more.

8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:  
9 Since November.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: No, it's not  
11 since November. They don't have financials  
12 since November. So they have no idea what  
13 they're operating because they don't have any  
14 financial results.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:  
16 Let's be clear. It's because there's a change  
17 of administration. It does take a few months.

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: No. I'm talking  
19 like, I mean, I don't have it in front of me,  
20 but from what I understand it's like nine  
21 months of 2021.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I  
23 can't see that being possible.

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: Certainly six.

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We

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2 also approved the jail contract. You're a  
3 separate entity but we keep an eye. We keep a  
4 close eye.

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: Somebody didn't  
6 look too closely.

7 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We  
8 know about the jail contract. Other people  
9 are going to address the other avenues of  
10 revenue. But again, when you're criticizing  
11 not have a report for four months and there's  
12 a new administration for three of those four  
13 months it's really not fair to the new  
14 administration. That's my only point.

15 I do want you to take the good of  
16 the private sector and use it here. The good  
17 is transparency and the good is keeping an eye  
18 on every dollar.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: Amen.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: But  
21 being sensitive to the fact that you screw up  
22 we have to pay. And as a legislator you're  
23 making me nervous because I can see dollar  
24 signs. I've seen it before.

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: I will make the

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2 hospital a lot of money and I will be very  
3 fiscally responsible and I have a passion for  
4 the community that we're talking about. I'll  
5 be much, much more careful. Again, I'm  
6 untrained. I don't analyze -- I'm going to be  
7 much more careful about how I choose my  
8 words. But I can tell you that my heart is  
9 good and that I really love people, everyone,  
10 and I'm trying to do the right thing.

11 Again, I've asked everybody judge  
12 me on my actions and not my words. I'm  
13 working on my words. I've learned a valuable  
14 lesson of how bad words can distract from good  
15 things. In trying to get some good things  
16 done I'm going to be super careful. And  
17 you'll see.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I  
19 grew up in a political family. My father was  
20 the last republican mayor in Glen Cove. I was  
21 told as a kid you have less rights than anyone  
22 else. Because whatever you say is going to  
23 represent the government and the family. And  
24 you know what? I tell my kids the same  
25 thing. You have less rights because I'm

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2 connected with the government. My father's  
3 connected with the government.

4 Even the position you're getting  
5 you think, yeah, I'm giving a great gift to  
6 Nassau County. We're giving you a huge gift  
7 if we give this to you because we're giving  
8 you our trust in a very important thing. Just  
9 respect that and represent it well. Because  
10 one or two of those comments that you make  
11 could cost a lot more money than the money  
12 you're going to save. It could. Lawsuits are  
13 crazy now. Believe me, one payout could wipe  
14 out all the good you're trying to do. So  
15 don't let that happen.

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: I will be very,  
17 very careful.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator  
19 Bynoe.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you  
21 Presiding Officer. Mr. Bruderman, I got to  
22 tell you I'm exhausted and I'm saddened.

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm sorry.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm saddened  
25 by the antics that I witnessed here in this



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2 chamber this morning. We are sitting here  
3 talking about the lifeblood of this county and  
4 an institution that serves this county, the  
5 greater region I would say because even folks  
6 from Suffolk come here to Nassau for care at  
7 NUMC. One of the best trauma hospitals in the  
8 area.

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: Yes ma'am.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm saddened  
11 this morning that we'd be sitting here and  
12 what I saw here this morning and what I  
13 witnessed and heard on that tape, on the  
14 digital copy of that public session of the  
15 meeting, is troubling to me that you would  
16 even be here this morning. You may have done  
17 wonderful work in the places you have served,  
18 but I can't imagine that this morning we'd be  
19 here, after what we all witnessed in that  
20 space in that hospital, when you were in that  
21 board meeting. It lack, to me, it lacked even  
22 the concept of having a work space where there  
23 was an environment set for business to take  
24 place.

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: I agree.

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2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It was a place  
3 where there was lack of control, decorum. It  
4 was a space where workplace violence -- you  
5 would have failed miserably in that space.

6 Listen, we're all human and we all  
7 have erred in our time. But I'm going to go  
8 further then because not only did I think it  
9 was not the right leadership image that we as  
10 a body should be voting on today in that  
11 moment, I think what you did when they had the  
12 press conference and you came out and you were  
13 so angry at the press because you alleged that  
14 they twisted your words that you couldn't  
15 handle yourself in a way that allowed you to  
16 be representative --I'm speaking -- to be  
17 representative of somebody who would be in  
18 leadership of the hospital. You turned your  
19 back on the press.

20 I argue that morning you turned  
21 your back on the good people of Nassau County  
22 because you were angry because you, and you  
23 admit it today, you used the words good racism  
24 and bad racism. And I'm going to tell you, I  
25 don't think you could ever, it's clear to me,

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2 clear that up for me in a way that I can  
3 reconcile to what you said.

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: Sorry about that.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: The fact that  
6 you now come here in this space and say you  
7 looked up the word racism. You had to look it  
8 up.

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: They change.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: No. Racism  
11 doesn't change. May change forms.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: Definition.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: No. I'm  
14 speaking. It may change forms but racism  
15 doesn't change. It's hate at its core. It  
16 doesn't change.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: Which I'm  
18 against.

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm speaking.  
20 I'm going to ask you to stop speaking over me.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: Sorry.

22 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Because the  
23 same rules apparently don't apply when I'm  
24 asking. The antics that you have displayed in  
25 the short span of time leaves me with no doubt

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2 that you're not the right man for this time.  
3 Not only because I'm concerned about your  
4 professionalism but because I'm concerned  
5 about where we are as a country. The  
6 divisiveness in this country. And the mere  
7 fact that your appointment would create such  
8 divisiveness that they would think in good  
9 conscious that they would send down employees  
10 of this county to heckle this body as we  
11 speak, as we question you, as we vet you is  
12 concerning to me. I think you are not the man  
13 for this time. Okay? I don't think you're  
14 the man for this institution nor for this  
15 time.

16 You, Mr. Bruderman, I don't doubt  
17 you speak of love and you seem to be  
18 humorous. But this is not a time for humor.  
19 This wasn't a time to bait the rest of your  
20 supporters to make this a sideshow. This was  
21 an opportunity to see if maybe it was a lapse  
22 of just judgement when you made those  
23 comments. And I'm going to say right here  
24 definitively it was not a lapse of judgement.  
25 It's deep-seated. Because even in this space

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2 you couldn't hold yourself together.

3 I don't know how in good conscious  
4 we could consider you. In my eyes, you have  
5 wasted your time coming here today because you  
6 didn't come here with the serious work and  
7 with a serious nature of doing the good work  
8 and unraveling all of what has occurred from  
9 the time you stepped foot in that hospital  
10 that one day. That one day has led us here in  
11 a space that I'm saddened to be in.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator  
13 Solages.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you  
15 very much Presiding Officer. Good afternoon  
16 sir. How are you doing today?

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: Good afternoon.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Continuing  
19 the line of questioning from my colleague, I'm  
20 going to ask you a series of questions. I'm  
21 going to ask you to answer just yes or no.  
22 Keep this focused. Okay? Yes or no. Is  
23 there such a thing as good racism?

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: No.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Wait,

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2 wait, wait. This is not an interrogation.

3 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm asking  
4 him questions. I'm entitled to ask him  
5 questions. You're not a judge yet.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Hold on.  
7 Hold on. Hold on.

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Do not  
9 interrupt please.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: He's  
11 allowed to answer in as many as words as he  
12 wants. You do not have to say yes or no.  
13 This is not a courtroom. You're not being  
14 interrogated. Go ahead Mr. Solages.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Excuse me.  
16 I'm a lawyer. I can't help it. Who said  
17 that?

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: Honestly, could  
19 we have some love here and talk about the  
20 hospital?

21 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: One second.  
22 Please. Who said it? You're not man enough  
23 to say it? You're a coward. Please. I was  
24 interrupted. Let me continue. Thank you very  
25 much.

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2 Is there such a thing as good  
3 racism, yes or no sir?

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: I don't think I  
5 should be sitting here and we should be  
6 talking about divisive things like racism. I  
7 think if you want to come and meet me --

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Is there  
9 such a thing sir --

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: Why don't you  
11 come have a coffee with me?

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Is there  
13 such a thing as good anti-Semitism? Yes or  
14 no.

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: This is like some  
16 guys are putting me on the cross.

17 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: So there is  
18 a good racism but there isn't good  
19 anti-Semitism?

20 MR. BRUDERMAN: Do you want to  
21 hear what's in my heart? What's in my heart?  
22 Do you want to hear what I think about  
23 racism?

24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm asking a  
25 simple question.

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm not going to  
3 answer any questions about racism. I'm not a  
4 racist. I love everyone.

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm asking  
6 you a question.

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: And I invite  
8 everyone that wants to talk about racism to  
9 meet me for coffee and spend some time. But  
10 this is just divisive.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Xenophobia.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: This is very  
13 divisive.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm asking  
15 you simple questions, right? You said before  
16 that you learned to ask questions. So, I'm  
17 asking you a question. Yes or no, is there  
18 such a thing as good racism.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: This is  
20 shameful.

21 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm asking  
22 you a question. You're placing your own  
23 judgement.

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: We should do the  
25 work of the hospital.



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2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Is there  
3 such a thing as good racism?

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: I didn't come  
5 here to get questioned about racism.

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You said no  
7 before. Why don't you just repeat your  
8 answer?

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: I came here to  
10 talk about my qualifications --

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yes or no  
12 sir.

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: -- and the  
14 hospital.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: He's not  
16 answering the question.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm not answering  
18 questions about racism.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: He's  
20 allowed to answer the questions.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm not answering  
22 racism questions. I'm not a racist and I'm  
23 not going to have you paint me one.

24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Answer the  
25 question then.

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm not answering  
3 it.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Okay.  
5 Before you could but now you won't.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: Is your name  
7 Corry? Is that spelled --

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Are you  
9 mispronouncing the cultural heritage of my  
10 name by mispronouncing my name?

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm asking you  
12 how to pronounce your name.

13 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Carrie  
14 Solages. I know you're educated enough to say  
15 the accent on the E. Carrie Solages. Please  
16 say it.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: Carrie?

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yes. Carrie  
19 Solages.

20 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm being  
21 respectful in asking you how to pronounce your  
22 name.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: No, you're  
24 not. You mispronounced my name. That's like  
25 calling me boy.

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: Oh my God. This  
3 is so wrong.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Come on  
5 Carrie.

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Answer the  
7 question.

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: My opening  
9 statement was I knew I would be hung here.  
10 People would want to put me on the cross.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: If you  
12 cannot pronounce that then how could you be --

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: Here I carry my  
14 cross and I'm doing it for the community. I'm  
15 carrying my cross for the community. You're  
16 not chasing me away. If I'm not in the  
17 hospital I am going to uplift Hempstead. I am  
18 coming into Hempstead and I am uplifting that  
19 community not just the hospital. I am going  
20 to bring in jobs and help people and you can't  
21 stop my shine.

22 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm going to  
23 ask simple questions.

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: Go ahead. Think  
25 about yourself. Not yourself for a second.

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2 Think about your community. Think about our  
3 community.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm asking  
5 simple questions.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: Think about  
7 what's good for the community and love. Stop  
8 spreading more hate. Stop being racist. Stop  
9 it.

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Stop  
11 accusing me. Just stop accusing me.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: Talk about the  
13 hospital. You should love your fellow man.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You're not  
15 here to be the DA. You're here to be the head  
16 of the medical center. I'm asking you simple  
17 questions.

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: No. I'm not  
19 going to allow people to do things based on  
20 race and throw this all around. Me or anyone  
21 else. I'm here to serve a community.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Not here to  
23 cross-examine him. He doesn't have to answer  
24 yes or no.

25 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you.

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2 Stick to real estate.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL:

4 Mr. Bruderman --

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: This is  
6 embarrassing for this whole court or whatever  
7 you are. I'm here to fix a hospital.

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What is a  
9 service line.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: You guys should  
11 be ashamed of yourselves.

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: No. You  
13 should be ashamed of yourself. Don't you dare  
14 say that to me.

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: By the way, when  
16 people find out who I am as a man and what I  
17 do for the poor community and people in need  
18 you're going to embarrass yourself. You're  
19 going to ruin your own political career.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mr.  
21 Bruderman --

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm a loving man  
23 here trying to help.

24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Do you know  
25 the service lines of the medical center? I'm

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2 asking you a question pertinent to your job.

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: Ask me a  
4 question.

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What are the  
6 multiple service lines of the medical center?

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: Do you mean like  
8 modalities such as like physical therapy,  
9 orthopaedics?

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yes. What  
11 are the multiple service lines?

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: By the way, I was  
13 in my seat for one day and again, of course, I  
14 know.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You're there  
16 for a time and --

17 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: This is  
18 funny.

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What are the  
20 service lines for the medical center sir?

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: The hospital has  
22 the number one, it's a level one trauma  
23 center. In fact, I don't know if everyone  
24 knows that, but as far as I knew if the  
25 president of the United States was shot --

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2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: It's my  
3 understanding that's not a service line.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Why don't  
5 you let him finish?

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: All right.  
7 But he's saying incorrect information.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: If he's  
9 correct, incorrect he's allowed to.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: I asked you, are  
11 you talking about modalities?

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What are the  
13 service lines.

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: Do you know what  
15 a modality is?

16 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What are the  
17 revenue service lines? For example, when my  
18 children were born we went to the Cohen's  
19 Children's Medical Center because they're  
20 known for having provided the best services.  
21 What are the service lines for this medical  
22 center?

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: I can tell you  
24 what I know. So coming in I know that there  
25 is the best trauma center on Long Island.

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2 It's a wonderful trauma center that I'm told  
3 if the president was shot he would go there.  
4 We have operating rooms --

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: How about  
6 for children?

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm sorry?

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: How about  
9 for children?

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Just let  
11 him finish.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: What are you  
13 asking me? Yes, they treat children, yes.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: When  
15 children experience trauma are they sent to  
16 the medical center or do they go to the other  
17 hospital?

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: I don't know that  
19 yet. That's why I have Dr. Boutin. Dr.  
20 Boutin's a brilliant physician. He's my guy.  
21 Dr. Boutin probably has every answer. I'm not  
22 there yet. I'm not in medicine.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: He's my guy  
24 too, all right.

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: All right good.



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2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Now tell me,  
3 you said that we fixed already and that you  
4 identified \$22 million in accounts receivable.

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: No, they weren't  
6 accounts receivables. Nobody even billed.

7 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: How would  
8 you address that problem sir?

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: I would bill and  
10 I would collect.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: How would  
12 you create oversight to do that sir?

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: The first thing  
14 you do in any organization of any size bigger  
15 than a deli would be to hire a chief financial  
16 officer, which the hospital doesn't have. I'd  
17 run a search to find the best candidates in  
18 the country, and I would bring them in and  
19 have them build out a financial team that has  
20 simple checks and balances or complicated  
21 checks and balances and oversight. Which  
22 would have easily prevented, and I can tell  
23 you myself, the person that was just arrested  
24 for embezzlement would never have existed in  
25 any organization that I have and probably 99

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2 percent of the organizations in the country  
3 because there are clearly checks and balances  
4 where you have one person prepares something  
5 and the other person does the checks and  
6 balances. So that way it takes two or three  
7 people to do a crime. Which is much harder to  
8 do. So I would prepare the wire for the  
9 person leaving. Then the other person would  
10 check the paperwork. And then another person  
11 would actually initiate the wire with all the  
12 signatures on it. So clearly, and I haven't  
13 dug in there because again I was there for one  
14 day, if you had a CFO and you had good  
15 oversight that never would have happened. It  
16 would have been very difficult for that to  
17 have happened.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you  
19 for answering the question sir. Tell me, if  
20 in the position you do discover and find  
21 examples of waste and fraud and perhaps  
22 criminality would you refer that to the  
23 inspector general or the district attorney  
24 office? What would you do?

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: Again, in

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2 government, I'm not sure exactly what that --  
3 I would think we would have an obligation to  
4 report it to the general counsel of the  
5 hospital. Who then in turn would probably  
6 bring it to the district attorney. But I'm  
7 not exactly sure. I really haven't had  
8 anybody arrested yet.

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: In this body  
10 when we learned of examples of waste and fraud  
11 we, in fact, and I thank the minority leader,  
12 led a charge for the creation of the inspector  
13 general. And I see that there are some  
14 members of that department are here and I'm  
15 asking that if you do discover that that you  
16 please use the resources of that office.  
17 Because that office was very successful in  
18 helping to find waste and fraud that led to  
19 federal prosecutions. So, I'm asking to  
20 please use the resources at your disposal.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: I absolutely  
22 will. And I can tell you that I am, based on  
23 everything I heard, looking very carefully at  
24 fraud. One of my initiatives in my own notes  
25 of what I intend to do is I'll also go out and

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2 source every single contract in the hospital  
3 and make sure, again, through my resources,  
4 which are pretty vast and relationships, I  
5 would go out to a lot of different  
6 institutions. I would get multiple bids. As  
7 many as I could. Make sure that they were the  
8 cheapest.

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Lowest bid;  
10 is that correct?

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: Of course.

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Not the  
13 politically connected bid; is that correct?

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm not  
15 politically connected. No. I can assure you  
16 and look I'd love to have you come in there.  
17 I want to fix this place. Everything that I  
18 do will be public. And I am going to rip  
19 through. I already have -- the first day I  
20 went home with the food service contracts.  
21 I'm going to look through every penny there.  
22 You know why? This is where I benefit because  
23 I get to show off. I get to show that in less  
24 than a year I'm going to fix it. So, why  
25 don't you guys let me have like nine months

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2 and see where I'm at. If you like it, pat me  
3 on the back. If you don't, put the next clown  
4 in who's ran this thing for the last 40 years.

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Again, I  
6 appreciate these statements and it goes back  
7 to what my colleague from Glen Cove said. We  
8 have to be very careful with name calling here  
9 because, unlike business, here in government  
10 we hold ourselves to a standard and we must be  
11 held accountable. If you're in an official  
12 capacity sir and you make such statements the  
13 county could be sued. And we all know from  
14 our previous executive sessions we can't  
15 afford to be sued anymore. We can't. So  
16 you're --

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: I didn't say that  
18 about a person.

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: With all due  
20 respect, your reckless tongue will get us in  
21 problems. In trouble.

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm going to work  
23 hard at it. I'm not doing this too long. I'm  
24 working.

25 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: There is a

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2 level of decorum that I, as a legislator, and  
3 colleagues in government engage in and we have  
4 to carry that decorum. Yes, as a nation we  
5 all have seen the decorum go out the window.  
6 And I'm not going to blame anyone in  
7 particular, Trump, but we have to carry  
8 ourselves with a level of decorum. I went to  
9 Georgetown University School of Foreign  
10 Service and there is a level of decorum that  
11 you must not --

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: My dad went to  
13 Georgetown too. They would never let me in.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: So, can you  
15 please forward it to us, a copy of your  
16 resume?

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: Sure.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'd  
19 appreciate that. I'm not going to stick on  
20 the whole good racism comment but let's go  
21 back to the comment of mow down. As a  
22 Christian, fellow Christian, we have to be  
23 careful in certain language. What did you  
24 mean by mow down? I would be very fearful to  
25 work with someone who said hey, I'm going to

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2 mow you down. So what did you mean by that  
3 sir?

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: I wanted to say I  
5 was going to get my lawn mower but.

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: That's even  
7 more frightening sir.

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm kidding.  
9 What I meant was getting that when I was  
10 talking about getting the hospital into a  
11 fiscally sound situation I was talking about  
12 the community at large and my intention and  
13 efforts to effect change, real change. And  
14 that if people got in the way of that and  
15 impeded that, kind of like they impeded my  
16 coming on to the board, that I was going to  
17 push and assert an agenda that's responsible.

18 And that, for example, what I meant  
19 specifically is if there were 15 board members  
20 and we have an outstanding solution, like we  
21 got a food service company that cut our food  
22 service bill in half, and because people are  
23 so divisive and politically driven or whatever  
24 crazy things are going on, they might vote all  
25 against cutting the food in half and maybe I

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2 stumbled across somebody's pal that had the  
3 contract.

4 What I was trying to say was, hey,  
5 if I'm bringing good, logical things here and  
6 this seems to be I'll use the word  
7 dysfunctional, again, dysfunction can be from  
8 neglect or negligence or bad behavior and  
9 people can be dysfunctional intentionally for  
10 nefarious reasons.

11 So I was just saying, look, I'm in  
12 here and I'm going to get this job done. And  
13 again, my opening statements to the board were  
14 I want to work with all of you and we'll all  
15 get the credit. But, and again, yes, in  
16 business and in life sometimes you have to be  
17 aggressive.

18 Just like this whole room  
19 degraded. It degraded in here to a place that  
20 none of us should be. Just like you say the  
21 decorum but we had none in this room. The  
22 same thing happened. I had people on Zoom  
23 yelling at each other. Screaming. I actually  
24 don't live in that. I live in an environment  
25 where people are allowed to speak and things



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2 get done. And like I've offered many times  
3 when people are talking to me about racism or  
4 everything else, I get it out of that  
5 situation. Say, hey, if you really want to  
6 know what's going on sit down with me. Let's  
7 talk about it. That is how you fix things.

8 So, the mow down thing was, I was  
9 going to fight for the community and fight for  
10 the employees and fight to fix it and if  
11 people were going to be divisive, difficult or  
12 just get in the way I wasn't going to tolerate  
13 it.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Understood  
15 sir. But do you understand how the comment  
16 mow down could be led to the connotation that  
17 you're going to impose physical violence on  
18 someone or you're going to do an unlawful  
19 firing. Which all could lead us once again,  
20 as fiduciaries of Nassau County, in a very  
21 difficult financial situation. But yet you  
22 defined yourself as a fiscal conservative. So  
23 do you understand how your behavior and your  
24 self-defined fiscal conservative mind set is  
25 actually in conflict? Do you understand that

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2 sir?

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: You know what I  
4 understand? All people have weaknesses and  
5 strengths. I've been made aware through this  
6 process. I always say too that there is  
7 always a silver lining. God works in  
8 mysterious ways. God put me here for a  
9 reason. And some of my biggest faults and  
10 problems, and some of the biggest mistakes  
11 that I've made I've learned the most from. So  
12 maybe part of the reason I was put here was so  
13 I'm more careful about what I say and the  
14 choosing of words. Because you know what? I  
15 do kind of live in my own ecosystem and I am  
16 outside of that and it's different.

17 So, I think I have to learn, which  
18 I've already learned. Again, I got to change  
19 bad habits. But I think my choice of words  
20 and the way that I acted wasn't always  
21 appropriate and I'm going to be much more  
22 careful. And I think that's one of my  
23 weaknesses. I get excited for people and I  
24 get excited to do good and excited to help.  
25 And I need to make sure I'm careful about

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2 keeping that excitement in check and being  
3 careful about the words I choose.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Understood.

5 Thank you. I'm all for second chances as  
6 well. You can ask commissioner Capece, who is  
7 right behind you. I voted for his  
8 appointment. I believe in second chances as  
9 well. So, I respect that.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: Thank you.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: But please,  
12 I'm not done yet counselor.

13 Secondly, my colleague from Glen  
14 Cove also made a good statement about  
15 sensitivity training. Would you consider the  
16 opportunity of having some sensitivity  
17 training?

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: I would do it  
19 myself. Heck yeah. I'll even pay for it.  
20 But honestly, if you have resource for that I  
21 would love to have sensitivity training. I'm  
22 obviously like a little weak there.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: In addition,  
24 I would appreciate that there are many  
25 workers. I'm Haitian-American and one of the

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2 first fields that immigrants from Haiti work  
3 their way up to rise up the ladder in America  
4 was the medical field. Many Haitian-American  
5 doctors like Mr. Boutin --

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: Is your name  
7 French origin.

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: One second  
9 sir. Please.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: Sorry.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Many  
12 professionals in the Haitian-American  
13 community are in the medical field. Like  
14 Mr. Boutin.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: So, it is  
16 very important --

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: Dr. Boutin.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm not  
19 asking you to learn French but it's very  
20 important to learn French names. If you had  
21 called Mr. Anthony Button instead of Boutin  
22 that would be a problem, right?

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: I wasn't sure how  
24 to pronounce his name either. I am very aware  
25 of the Haitian community and the French

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2 origins.

3 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: But then  
4 again you mispronounced my name.

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: I didn't know you  
6 were Haitian. But again, I was just trying  
7 to --

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: If you know  
9 many people in the Haitian-American you would  
10 have known at least my name could be of French  
11 background with the accent on it.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: There's no  
13 accent.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: On there I  
15 understand that. But if you haven't done your  
16 research sir, I am Haitian-American and there  
17 are many Haitian-Americans in Nassau County.  
18 I'm asking you if you're walking through the  
19 hallways of the medical center just consider  
20 that they could be Haitian-American and to not  
21 mispronounce their name. Is that fair?

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: By the way, I  
23 didn't want to mispronounce your name by  
24 accident which people do to me all the time.  
25 So I wanted to be super polite and ask you how

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2 to pronounce your name rather than butcher  
3 it. People call me Bruderman.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You did  
5 butcher it and mow down it initially so I'm  
6 asking you to just ask questions.

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: Butcher what?  
8 I'm sorry?

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You  
10 butchered my name before.

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: I asked you how  
12 to say it.

13 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: No. You  
14 said your name is Corry?

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: Well, I asked. I  
16 asked you. Anyway, look, I apologize.

17 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I forgive  
18 you. Furthermore, you mentioned that you  
19 fixed it already. Again, that sounds nice but  
20 what does it really mean? What specific  
21 policy recommendations did you have in black  
22 and white in writing rather than just spout  
23 off something that sounds nice?

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: I can read you my  
25 notes if you'd like.

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2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Please do  
3 sir. Because I'm very concerned about the  
4 medical center. I need to see a plan. I  
5 don't want to see the antics. I need to see a  
6 plan sir.

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'd rather be  
8 living my beautiful, wonderful life with my  
9 beautiful, wonderful family.

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Sir --

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: And I want to be  
12 successful.

13 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I want to  
14 make a lot of money as well. So I don't need  
15 all this stuff as well.

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm working for  
17 free.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I understand  
19 that sir but I'm asking you sir what is your  
20 plan?

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm just telling  
22 you I want to be successful.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What is your  
24 plan?

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: You made a

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2 comment.

3 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: And then you  
4 started talking about your beautiful life and  
5 your wake boarding.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: No. You said you  
7 wanted to be successful and I said I do too  
8 because I don't want to come here in vain. I  
9 want to be successful. I'll read you some of  
10 the points. Please, take into account that I  
11 was there for one day. But already in one  
12 day, and this is not a fait accompli, right,  
13 French, this is not set in stone. This is my  
14 honest and transparent and potentially not  
15 right because I haven't been there long enough  
16 to fully be sure, certain, but to answer your  
17 question in one day what did I learn and what  
18 do I think I would do. Again, unqualified. I  
19 have to qualify it with data which is what I  
20 do. With black and white. With research. I  
21 have to talk to people. Get more numbers,  
22 more information, and evaluate a lot of  
23 different angles before I can recommend a  
24 decision. But on the surface in the first day  
25 these are some of the things I think I have to



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2 consider undertaking.

3 I would hire a chief financial  
4 officer that was highly qualified. Someone  
5 that worked in a hospital system. That  
6 understands the uniqueness of a hospital in  
7 billing, collections and third-party payers.  
8 For people that don't know what that means,  
9 it's you can get paid from the government for  
10 things like Medicaid, Medicare. You can get  
11 paid by commercial payers like Oxford. You  
12 can have cash pay. You can have no pay. But  
13 someone that understands that.

14 Also, when you're in health care  
15 there are billing codes. So depending on the  
16 payor, the third party that's going to pay it,  
17 you have to have different billing codes based  
18 on what the procedure is. That's a very  
19 tricky thing to do. So, you really got to  
20 make sure you do it right. So, what I would  
21 do is really bring in the best possible person  
22 we could attract.

23 I want to make a point here. With  
24 the craziness and suggestions of corruption in  
25 the newspaper and the fighting and even what

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2 went on here today or went on with my -- I  
3 need my sensitivity training -- my board  
4 meeting, think about this. If you really care  
5 about the hospital, I recruit people all the  
6 time. How easy is it to get someone to quit  
7 their job at like the number one health care  
8 company and come work for NUMC? Do you know  
9 how hard that is? How could I as the chairman  
10 or Dr. Boutin as CEO say yeah, come work with  
11 us. It's safe. It's good. People always  
12 say, when you're hiring someone, you're backed  
13 by private equity. You have the money. This  
14 hospital has been in and out of -- it's going  
15 to be closed down. On Monday the state's  
16 going to vote on taking it over. The paper is  
17 saying corruption and this and that.

18 So what I want to bring, besides a  
19 CFO, is that stability. Where people will  
20 actually come and work there that are highest  
21 caliber. So I'm going to go and do that. Or  
22 at least try.

23 The other thing that I would do is  
24 I would -- I already spoke to Dr. Boutin about  
25 it, again, in the first day and he agreed. I

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2 recognize that a CEO in a company is like the  
3 gas pedal. And a CMO in medical business,  
4 which is a chief medical officer, or in like a  
5 financial firm a chief compliance officer, a  
6 CMO is the brake. It's the person that says  
7 hey, are we treating the patient too much?  
8 Can we just fix it with physical therapy? Do  
9 we have to cut him? If they have physical  
10 therapy, how many is too many treatments? Is  
11 the industry standard somewhere around eight  
12 to 12 and we're treating a patient 40 times.  
13 Or are we treating a patient three times and  
14 they're not getting sufficient good care.  
15 They need to be treated more times to be  
16 successful.

17 A CMO is like the cop. He's like  
18 internal affairs. They're risk averse  
19 people. They're different than a CEO. Even  
20 like if you met one. You want someone that  
21 isn't a big risk taker. That's covered  
22 about -- to your points -- about the liability  
23 of someone like me and how I speak. You want  
24 them to be really careful about that.

25 What I discussed with Dr. Boutin

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2 was that he is the CEO. The gas pedal. In my  
3 opinion I don't think he should be CMO. And  
4 then also I understand and I don't have it  
5 qualified but I believe he sees patients as  
6 well. So if he's CEO and seeing patients  
7 that's totally fine. But how do you sort of  
8 regulate or oversee yourself?

9 For that reason, he totally  
10 agreed. He explained how he ended up being  
11 CMO because they lost the other one. Probably  
12 because of all the bad press and people are  
13 worried about working there. So, in any case,  
14 I would hire a CFO to put in fiscal  
15 responsibility. I would bring in a CMO to  
16 make sure that we have the right level of care  
17 without being too aggressive.

18 I'm uncertain about who we have as  
19 COO. So I would evaluate that position. I  
20 would cancel any bogus contracts. Contracts  
21 that I found -- I would look to find any  
22 contracts that I thought look like highly  
23 irregular or really priced out of the market.

24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Like the  
25 Armor contract?

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm sorry?

3 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Never mind.

4 Go ahead.

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: Like for an  
6 example. Like if I put something out to bid  
7 and there's a contract that's saying we're  
8 paying five times the price that the market  
9 is, I would root out and figure out why is  
10 that contract like that? How did that  
11 happen? Again, as you can tell, I'm not  
12 worried about taking hits. I would really dig  
13 it out. And even if there was corruption or  
14 there was nefarious stuff or political  
15 whatever, again, I have a job to be successful  
16 here and maintain my image and deliver what I  
17 said I would do. It's not about politics.  
18 For me I would root it out, Republican,  
19 Democrat, this, that, if I find something I'm  
20 going to try to get rid of it.

21 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Absolutely.  
22 It's not about Republican or Democrats it's  
23 about doing the right thing. If I may, I look  
24 forward to seeing your plan. I have two more  
25 questions. Then I'm going to wrap it up.

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: By the way, I  
3 have another long list here. Again, I  
4 encourage anybody that wants to talk to me. I  
5 really want to fix the hospital.

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Please  
7 forward me that list please. Two more  
8 questions.

9 I've talked to our EMT  
10 professionals. I think they're the best and  
11 the brightest that we have here in the  
12 northeast. And they tell me that when a child  
13 suffers trauma they don't go to NUMC, they go  
14 to like another hospital. I would like to ask  
15 you, respectfully, how do we get more  
16 treatment for children in trauma at NUMC?

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: I don't know.  
18 And I'll just again speak very candidly. I  
19 think that NUMC would do a lot more  
20 business -- again, I can't speak as medically  
21 about the trauma center for children. But  
22 what I can speak to, and again we would have  
23 look at that, what I can speak to is, I know  
24 in the community as I've poked around and say  
25 hey, I'm thinking about doing this, that it's

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2 got a really bad reputation. And to me --  
3 which I think unfair because it's an amazing  
4 hospital, amazing doctors and nurses and  
5 whatever. So to me, part of this, me pushing  
6 an agenda here and fixing it, is that I feel  
7 like the hospital deficiencies have been in  
8 the board and politics and the management.  
9 But I think the health care is excellent.

10 So, when the people aren't bringing  
11 children there I worry on the surface that  
12 maybe they're saying hey, that place has a bad  
13 reputation. I'm not taking my child there.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: My  
15 question --

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: Parents get to  
17 make the choice of where their child goes.  
18 But if we're in an accident and we're close by  
19 they're probably just bring us here. There's  
20 probably a lot of parents saying like hey,  
21 don't bring Billy there.

22 Again, I don't know, unqualified,  
23 but that may be the point. But I would  
24 certainly get to the bottom of that. In fact,  
25 I want to bring a lot more business into the

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2 hospital. There's a lot of space there that  
3 can be utilized to generate more revenue.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Understood.

5 Last question then a comment. I mentioned our  
6 EMT professionals, our hard-working CSEA  
7 employees. What do you foresee as your  
8 relationship with the unions that work with  
9 the hospital?

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: Anybody, the  
11 unions, anything else, like I said, I came  
12 here to get beat up because I don't care. I  
13 can take it. So far the unions seem to be  
14 receptive because I think I can deliver what  
15 unions usually want and that is good, fair  
16 compensation in a community that I care about  
17 and jobs. I know I can increase jobs not  
18 decrease jobs.

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: However, you  
20 say you're a fiscal conservative. Say if you  
21 see a contract with the union as not being  
22 fiscally conservative what would you do?

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: Sit down with  
24 them and fix it.

25 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Lastly, as a



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2 lawyer in law school we learned that there's a  
3 rule and an exception. We as humans have a  
4 rule where we reduce people's lives to an ugly  
5 moment. You've seen some people here today  
6 try to reduce your fabulous, beautiful life to  
7 an ugly moment. But the exception to that,  
8 right, to every rule there's an exception, the  
9 exception to that is getting to know that  
10 person. Do you believe in that rule and  
11 exception?

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: You know, I want  
13 to be careful to like answer a trick  
14 question.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: It's not a  
16 trick question. That was a softball.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: Look, I think  
18 everybody, like I said, if you get to know my  
19 heart and you get to know my heart and I don't  
20 hate you. In fact, even Kevan, you know, you  
21 guys are trying to do a job. And there's a  
22 lot of crappy stuff in the press. I believe  
23 you guys are impassioned about your  
24 community. I would actually be on your side  
25 being as hard on me as you are. You're

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2 protecting your constituents. You're  
3 protecting your community.

4 And to your point I think where you  
5 were going frankly, is that you're going to  
6 realize that I am an exception. That I love  
7 people. I want to uplift the community. And  
8 even though I'm a fiscal conservative  
9 Republican, I don't give a shit about  
10 Republicans.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Sir, decorum  
12 please.

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: I gotta get out  
14 of that. I'm sorry. You're getting me  
15 sensitivity training though.

16 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yes, we are.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'll pay for it  
18 at my expense at your expense. I promise.

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you  
20 very much. No more questions Presiding  
21 Officer.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator  
23 Drucker.

24 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I'm a little  
25 exhausted to be honest with you.

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: Me too.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I want to  
4 thank you because what you have enabled us, or  
5 what you have done for us in past two and a  
6 half hours, you've really given us a chance to  
7 get to know you. You may not think we got to  
8 know you but we got to know you pretty well.  
9 We got to see all of your sides. We got to  
10 see your anger, we got to see your kindness,  
11 we got to see your sense of humor, we got to  
12 see your serious side. And even though it was  
13 done in a rather raucous type of forum here,  
14 it served a purpose. I thank you for that  
15 because that's really what we wanted to do  
16 here. We wanted to get to learn more about  
17 you so that we had a better understanding of  
18 what we're doing. What type of person we're  
19 putting in that very, very important  
20 leadership position.

21 I've been a lawyer for more than 35  
22 years. I have a lot of my colleagues and  
23 friends here on the dais here are lawyers  
24 too. One of the things in law is you learn  
25 early on that compromise is the only way to

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2 go. If you want to take out the hammer every  
3 single time it's not always going to be the  
4 best result. And we've learned through years  
5 of practice that you work with your adversary,  
6 you work with your team, you work with  
7 organizations and you come up with a  
8 consensus. You come up with ideas. You work  
9 together. That's how you progress.

10 In leadership positions, more so  
11 than anything else, you need to be able to  
12 rely on other people to provide you with  
13 different perspectives. Different  
14 viewpoints. Different ideas.

15 And, you know, one of the things  
16 that has struck me today about you is you may  
17 be a little resistant to that and that  
18 concerns me. Because I don't think anyone in  
19 this room today could doubt for one second  
20 that you are a man that's chock full of  
21 confidence. Chock full of self-esteem.  
22 Positivity about yourself. Which is great.  
23 That's certainly something that's needed for a  
24 leadership.

25 But I also am someone who believes

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2 strongly in humility. I believe in being  
3 humble. I believe in making others, lifting  
4 up others who may not be the same as you but  
5 you lift them up to make them feel that  
6 they're the same as you if not better.

7 One of the things that I noticed,  
8 for example, when any of us assumes a new  
9 position, even if we have a very experienced  
10 background like yourself, you know, when you  
11 assume a new position day one, you're there  
12 for one day, at least in my experience as a  
13 lawyer for many years, I was also a trustee on  
14 the Nassau Community college board. I see my  
15 friend Eddie Powers here. We worked  
16 together. Maybe we have different political  
17 affiliations. But when I came in I didn't  
18 know a lot about college education. But I was  
19 smart. I was smart enough to learn. But I  
20 relied on other people. So it struck me that  
21 your first day at those meetings you walked in  
22 there right off the bat saying I'm the  
23 smartest man in this room.

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: That's not true.

25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: It seemed to

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2 me what we've heard and what we've heard today  
3 is that you talked about you felt bad because  
4 you had to go down to their level. I didn't  
5 like the phraseology there. You went down to  
6 their level. What kind of level is that?

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: Like it degraded  
8 here. Same thing. I think we should all be  
9 embarrassed about how this degraded in this  
10 chamber. Same thing. It fell apart. Like  
11 everyone. And I was included in it.

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: But you used  
13 words I went down to their level. So that  
14 they were beneath you.

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: No. I went in  
16 there offering partnership and communication  
17 and working together and I was met with an  
18 attack. That's not true. In fact, I've said  
19 time and again, the people here that have  
20 challenged me, and like I said right out of  
21 the gate, I respect what they're doing. I  
22 have no malice. And I want to work with  
23 them. So that way they're sure about for  
24 their constituents that I'm not a Republican.  
25 I'm not running for office. I'm here to fix

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2 the hospital.

3 So, if people really care they can  
4 fight with politicians or whatever else and  
5 they can be politicians. But I'm here to fix  
6 the hospital and I'm here to uplift that  
7 community.

8 I'm going to be announcing things  
9 in the coming weeks that I've been working on  
10 before the pandemic that you've never seen in  
11 Nassau County. So, you're going to see what  
12 I'm bringing to Nassau County's people that  
13 need help and need to be uplifted and you're  
14 going to go oh, my God, I had no idea.

15 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Let's stop  
16 there.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: So, I'm going to  
18 work with everyone. I can't do a thing by  
19 myself. And I am humble but not when I'm  
20 being attacked. And when I'm being attacked  
21 and I'm defensive it's because I'm concerned  
22 that if I fail a lot of people in the  
23 community, 70 percent of which roughly  
24 identify as people of color, that need that  
25 hospital and as importantly need those jobs.

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2 So I'm defensive because I'm trying  
3 to get that done. And people aren't  
4 challenging me based on fact. They're  
5 challenging me based on nonsense and that's  
6 frustrating to me.

7 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I don't want  
8 to go back over the language that you used  
9 about I'm going to mow you down. You did try  
10 to explain it by saying I have a vision for  
11 how this hospital should go and if you're  
12 going to impede my ideas, if you're going to  
13 stand in the way of what I think the path that  
14 we should have I'm going to mow you down. I  
15 understand you regret using those terms. But  
16 the point is this --

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: It's not what I  
18 said either.

19 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: The point is  
20 this. You said, even today, you said I don't  
21 want people to be an impediment to my --

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: Not my, our. The  
23 hospital's. I said here today I would work  
24 with people. I need those people. But we  
25 fought over like crazy things about choice of



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2 words and this and that and the seat that I  
3 was sitting in. And I was just begging people  
4 to say let's start pulling out contracts and  
5 figuring out if we're paying too much and  
6 let's fix it.

7 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: My question  
8 to you is, do you equate someone who has a  
9 different vision, a different idea of how the  
10 hospital should go --

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: That's how I do  
12 everything.

13 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Can I finish  
14 my question?

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: Please.

16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: That's  
17 really been the problem I would say all this  
18 morning. Let us finish our questions. That  
19 ensure a much smoother dialogue. I assure  
20 you.

21 So, you said if there are people  
22 who have a different view, a different  
23 viewpoint, a different philosophy than yours  
24 on how the hospital should go, the path it  
25 should take, do you interpret that as they're

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2 an obstacle to you and you want to just  
3 obliterate them? Or do you feel there's a  
4 possibility that you could work with them and  
5 reach some sort of compromise on it? It's not  
6 one way or the other. It's not my way or the  
7 highway. As much as you've made it seem today  
8 that that's the way you work. It's my way or  
9 the highway.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: Is there a  
11 question?

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I asked that  
13 question.

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: What's the  
15 question?

16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Do you think  
17 that there are people who have a different  
18 viewpoint than you on the path that you  
19 perceive the hospital to be, are they  
20 obstacles and impediments to you and you're  
21 going to not work with them? Or do you feel  
22 there's room for compromise? There's an  
23 ability as a leader that we're trying to put  
24 you that you can work with people and reach  
25 maybe a result that's not exactly in line with

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2 the way you wanted it? It might be a little  
3 different. It might be a variation.

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: Can I speak now?

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Yes.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: I don't actually  
7 do anything. Other people do. What I am, I  
8 am a very good negotiator. They say proof is  
9 in the pudding. I've done many, many deals.  
10 I've bought and sold many companies and I have  
11 many employees. The only way I ever do  
12 anything and the only thing that I am is  
13 everything that other people have told me,  
14 given me, taught me. What I am good at is  
15 building an accord. Listening deeply to what  
16 people are telling me. Understanding them.

17 I am most known in my circles by  
18 friends and business people, my super power is  
19 empathy. And to have empathy is to feel what  
20 the other person feels. I feel it at a level  
21 that's unnatural. That's why I'm a bleeding  
22 heart liberal. That's why I want to help  
23 every person.

24 They say my biggest downside,  
25 besides my inability to publicly speak and not

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2 put my foot in my mouth, is that I try to help  
3 everybody.

4 So, yes, like I said from the  
5 people that were most aggressive with me, I  
6 forgive their aggressive behavior. I'm sorry  
7 for mine. And I want to meet them right away  
8 to talk about what do they know. All these  
9 people in the hospital know everything about  
10 the hospital. So, if I speak to them all and  
11 I listen to them all, listen intently, then I  
12 can help come up with solutions to fix it.  
13 And I won't be fixing anything.

14 So, yes, I'm very empathetic and I  
15 can make any deal happen. And I can be your  
16 friend and your friend and your friend and we  
17 can do amazing things. And while I let you do  
18 something wrong, like I said, my mow down was  
19 hey, this is an institution with a reputation  
20 for corruption and wrongdoing. I haven't seen  
21 it really. I'm there a day.

22 But if I find corruption or  
23 exploitation to me it's robbing the  
24 community. It's robbing people that don't  
25 have another place to go. No, I'm not done.

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2 There's 4,000 jobs in this  
3 community. Those 4,000 jobs support 4,000  
4 probably families. I'm a business person.  
5 I'm an economist. It's not that easy to get  
6 4,000 more jobs. I'm trying to uplift  
7 Hempstead and Uniondale and these  
8 communities. I want to help. Because I know  
9 I can help. And I want to help the hospital.

10 This hospital goes away you can't  
11 get 4,000 jobs that fast. And yes, doctors  
12 and nurses and stuff will find some. But  
13 there will be time. But the lowest paid  
14 people are going to be the most challenged.  
15 That's my sense of urgency. That's my concern  
16 of risk is that those people lose those jobs.

17 As much as people want the health  
18 care, I want the jobs. Because I am  
19 empathetic and I know what it's like. Again,  
20 no one knows me. I put my way through  
21 school. I didn't eat for three days. How do  
22 you like that? You guys should know who  
23 you're talking to. I wouldn't take money from  
24 my family. I built my own fortune and I  
25 didn't eat for three days. I know what it's

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2 like.

3 I was a busboy. I was a valet car  
4 parker. When I got on to Wall Street I went  
5 to school full time. I waited tables in New  
6 Jersey while I went to Rutgers. I came back  
7 to Long Island and worked at tending bar in  
8 Publicans. In the mornings I got up and did  
9 what they call two loops, which is carry golf  
10 clubs, two 18 holes in a row. And I worked at  
11 Publicans again at night. Did it again on  
12 Sunday. Drove back to New Jersey and put  
13 myself through school. So I know what it's  
14 like to not eat.

15 I have friends that worked next to  
16 me as busboys and waiters. I don't treat  
17 myself or think as any different from anybody  
18 based on race, color, how much money you  
19 have. If you met anybody that knows me  
20 they're tell you themselves. I don't need  
21 to.

22 So for me, yes, I understand that  
23 if those 4,000 jobs are lost it's not so easy  
24 to get a paycheck. What good is help if you  
25 can't buy food.

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2 So, I'm here with a passion.

3 That's why I said I'm not a dumb man. You're  
4 wrong if that's what you're thinking. So, I  
5 came in here knowing I was putting myself at  
6 risk. Frankly, the people that are, whether  
7 it's Democratic or this or whatever it is, the  
8 people that don't want to see me appointed or  
9 don't want to, you know, or want to see  
10 New York take over on Monday or whatever, if  
11 you really care about your constituents and  
12 you really care about your fellow man, people  
13 with children, grandparents, I'm your guy.

14 You can hold me accountable. But  
15 you've got to give me the bat and let me hit  
16 the ball. My heart is as pure as they come.  
17 My mission is as pure as they come. My  
18 passion is as pure as they come. My words are  
19 terrible. See I didn't say a bad word that  
20 time. But I'm willing to learn and I'm  
21 willing to work with people. And I know the  
22 hospital can be fixed.

23 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I don't  
24 think anyone here ever for moment thought that  
25 you were dumb. The question is, do you think

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2 you're the smartest person in the room?

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: No.

4 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: You're  
5 familiar with the demographics that make up  
6 the patients at NUMC, right?

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: Yes, sir.

8 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So you talk  
9 a lot about how independently wealthy you  
10 are. You have no worries about supporting  
11 your family. You only want to help people.  
12 Are you aware of the health care disparities  
13 in the Black and Brown communities and can you  
14 describe them?

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm looking to  
16 equalize and uplift the community that you're  
17 talking about.

18 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: How?

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'll give you  
20 some examples. And again, like Dr. Boutin and  
21 all the other brilliant people around the  
22 hospital and all the other relationships, like  
23 giving you a specific answer on that. Like  
24 one of the things I think is really core is  
25 that you can't get good food. One of my



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2 missions that I haven't figured out yet is  
3 when you want good health, right, I think in  
4 the poorer communities it's really the food  
5 options aren't fantastic. There's a lot of  
6 fast food. Cheap, sugar-filled things that  
7 are inexpensive. So, I think that's one thing  
8 I think that helps with that situation.

9 And again, the whole reason I'm  
10 here is because what's so amazing about NUMC  
11 is that you can go there without worrying  
12 about the ability to pay. So, like that's my  
13 passion. That's it right there, is making  
14 sure that that community -- and again, to me,  
15 I really don't see race. I don't see  
16 religion. I don't care if you have purple  
17 hair. I'm weird. So, like, I don't judge  
18 people on their appearance.

19 Like I was trying to say with Dr.  
20 Martin Luther King before, who would love to  
21 hear his words come out of my mouth and have  
22 them said many, many times over and over, that  
23 this community it's not about even race. It's  
24 about how they identify.

25 It's a poor community generally

1

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2 that doesn't have a lot of other options and  
3 they can't get good care. So I want to work  
4 with smarter people than me to help give --  
5 this gentleman went to Georgetown. Georgetown  
6 wouldn't even think about me. But you know  
7 what I did? I learned what I know. Somehow  
8 or another from a gift of God I'm really good  
9 at one thing and that's business and that's  
10 making things work. That's the proof in the  
11 pudding.

12

13 All I'm saying is I want the  
14 opportunity to do it. And again, my mission  
15 is pure. I want to help people that can't  
16 help themselves. And that's why I'm fighting  
17 like hell and risking my otherwise anonymous  
18 reputation because I want to help that  
19 community. I don't need kickbacks and I don't  
20 need to be a politician. I don't need to be  
21 someone. I can do it purely for passion for  
22 those people. And I'm your guy. And if you  
23 want to help those people I'm your guy.

24

25 And yes, sometimes I'll fight like  
hell. But I'm impassioned about that  
community and it needs that hospital and it

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2 needs those jobs and I'm going to fight,  
3 fight, fight. Like I said, if I'm not  
4 chairman I'm still on the board. If I'm not  
5 on the board I'm your favorite community  
6 activist.

7 So, we're going to make sure people  
8 have great health care and great food and  
9 great medicine and jobs.

10 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I'm done.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other  
12 legislators would like to ask questions? Why  
13 don't we go to public comment. Sorry.  
14 Legislator Walker.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I just had  
16 one quick question. I don't necessary expect  
17 you to have the answer to this but NUMC has a  
18 state-of-the-art cath lab. But unfortunately  
19 the state did not certify the cath lab there.  
20 Many people could use it. Many people that  
21 don't have insurance and have to go to the  
22 hospital because that's the hospital that they  
23 would go to. But many of us that do have  
24 insurance and have to utilize the cath lab and  
25 it's closer and it's in our vicinity. Instead

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2 we're going to other places. And I can tell  
3 in some of those other places it wasn't the  
4 best place to be either. I mean, their  
5 equipment might have been spectacular but  
6 where it was located, even within the  
7 hospital, wasn't the best.

8 So, like I said, I don't expect you  
9 to know this answer but would you fight very  
10 hard to make sure that NUMC gets that  
11 certification and would have another thing  
12 that would be wonderful, besides the burn unit  
13 and the trauma center and every other aspect  
14 that the hospital serves, but that would be a  
15 tremendous asset to the hospital. And I can't  
16 even comprehend why the state would not have  
17 certified that.

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: To answer your  
19 question, I was aware of the cath lab and I'm  
20 aware of other great opportunities for the  
21 hospital. I want to make another thing  
22 clear. Again, I'm not here to make friends.  
23 I'm not here to make political friends. I  
24 don't care what the newspaper writes other  
25 than them impeding my ability to say this

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2 hospital and save these jobs. That upsets  
3 me. But that aside, they can write whatever  
4 they want all day. Just let me be chairman.  
5 Let me make moves. Let me make this hospital  
6 better.

7 So that aside, I do look at it and  
8 I say there is too much politics in it. I  
9 think about it. I go, right now I know the  
10 hospital 23 percent of the billings are not  
11 collected.

12 So, I'm a business guy. We open up  
13 a deli. Does a million dollars a year in  
14 revenue. You try to put ten percent to the  
15 bottom line. So \$100,000. So ten percent is  
16 a good goal in the business world. A 20  
17 percent margin to the bottom line, 20 percent  
18 profit line margin, is very difficult. So if  
19 you have an institution that 23 percent of  
20 your revenue is never paid then it's very  
21 difficult to try to survive.

22 But in the hospital's case those  
23 people are mostly American. There are some  
24 illegal immigrants and there's mechanisms for  
25 that including the fact that they don't have

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2 pay. But a big chunk of that I think you can  
3 sign people up for Medicare and Medicaid and  
4 you can fill that gap.

5 I think that other people know that  
6 too. So if you think about it, if 20 percent  
7 of the billings are never collected, but I  
8 think it can get down a lot lower, into the  
9 single digits. Let's say it's just 20. Where  
10 does the other 80 percent of service go if the  
11 hospital goes away? People there's just not  
12 going to have hip surgery. They're not going  
13 to do whatever procedure. They're going to go  
14 somewhere else.

15 So, to me, with all the politics  
16 and the hospitals, I was asked by Dr. Gersey  
17 to sit on the board of Saint Francis Hospital  
18 years ago. I said no. They don't need my  
19 money. They don't need my help. Now I sit  
20 here today and I signed up to help out because  
21 I think this hospital does.

22 So, I think there's a lot of things  
23 that, again, I'm going to push like heck on  
24 where I'm not going to say okay to the county  
25 and this to you guys, you're going to have to

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2 pay your bills. And to the state you're going  
3 to have to pay your bills. And federal  
4 government you got to pay your bills. If we  
5 need a cath lab or we need this or we need  
6 that I'm going to beat their brains in.  
7 Republican or Democrat. You know why?  
8 Because I don't have to run.

9 And I don't care what the papers  
10 say because I don't have to be nice to the  
11 papers because I don't need them to say nice  
12 things about me because I'm not running for  
13 anything.

14 Yeah, I'll fight like hell for that  
15 cath lab and everything else. I'm going to  
16 load the hospital up with so much revenue and  
17 we're going to turn it so fast. And as you  
18 can tell I'm not afraid to go out in the  
19 public and fight like hell for what I believe  
20 in.

21 So, if people think stuffs going to  
22 happen in a back room because -- it's not  
23 happening. Like I said to Bruce, you sure you  
24 want me? because you're letting the genie out  
25 of the bottle. So, I don't care if you're a

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2 Republican or a Democrat I'm coming. I'm  
3 going to make sure everybody's paying. I'm  
4 going to make sure no one's stealing. And I'm  
5 going to make this the best institution Long  
6 Island's ever seen.

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I thank you  
8 for that because we have amazing workers in  
9 that hospital and we have a wonderful,  
10 wonderful county that we need to make sure we  
11 have services there available to everyone. So  
12 thank you.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Robert  
14 Harris, CSEA, Nassau Health Care Corporation  
15 chairman.

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: Thank you all.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
18 Mr. Bruderman. Appreciate it.

19 MR. HARRIS: Thank you for  
20 allowing me to speak. I'm not the chairman  
21 but if you want to give me that it would be in  
22 conflict with Mr. Bruderman again.

23 My name is Rob Harris, CSEA local  
24 830 vice president and A. Holly Patterson unit  
25 president. And as a representative for and a



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2 community activist with some of you guys up  
3 there know that I have spoken to some of you  
4 guys. And I'm not even going to lie. I don't  
5 even know what I was going to get up here to  
6 say. I don't know this whole show. You know,  
7 I thought I saw something when I saw Ketanji  
8 Brown Jackson go through and here I see it  
9 firsthand. I mean, we're here to fix an  
10 underserved community. An unappreciated  
11 community. An unfinanced community. And what  
12 does the community find themselves? Under  
13 attack. We have to stop that. We need to  
14 stop the political jargon.

15 I view myself as a liberal  
16 conservative. I'll let you guys figure that  
17 out. So what I'm saying is, we talk about the  
18 community, which I also have a vested interest  
19 in because I live in it. We're talking about  
20 a safety net hospital.

21 Now, the community which I live in  
22 and everybody is concerned about who's going  
23 to send it to hell? I've been with the  
24 corporation for over 30 years and I don't  
25 think I've seen one person of color in that

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2 position. So now we're concerned.

3 So, what I'm saying is let's put a  
4 lot of this aside and get down to business.  
5 Let's see who can fix it and give him a chance  
6 to fix it because it hasn't been fixed to this  
7 day. I'm going to get off this mic before my  
8 time runs out and you all tell me I got to  
9 leave. Thank you for giving me this time to  
10 speak and I appreciate it.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We have a  
12 question from one of the legislators who's on  
13 remote. Legislator Ford can you hear us?

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: Yes. Can you  
15 hear me? I will be very brief because I think  
16 Legislator Walker sort of touched on some of  
17 the things that I wanted to say and even ask  
18 Mr. Bruderman.

19 But for me, I just want to say I  
20 was very happy to hear that he's looking to  
21 increase revenue to our hospital as it is  
22 much, much needed. I'm hoping that when he  
23 looks at that in what areas he is going to do  
24 that that he keeps in mind that we need to  
25 provide more for our veterans. Especially in

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2 the light that Northport may be on a  
3 proverbial like closing down of some of their  
4 departments and reducing some of the services  
5 to our veterans out in Suffolk.

6 Also the issue of our opioid  
7 addiction. We need to make sure we find a  
8 place to help a lot of these young people as  
9 they go through this horrendous addiction. I  
10 also have a concern even with the burn  
11 center. And then I'm hoping that  
12 Mr. Bruderman, if confirmed, he will then also  
13 look to see how we can enhance health services  
14 for women. But thank you very much.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank  
16 you. Dr. Anthony Boutin.

17 DR. BOUTIN: Good afternoon  
18 everybody. My name is Anthony Boutin. I am  
19 the CEO, the president of the hospital. I'm  
20 also the chief medical officer and I still  
21 work in the emergency department at least once  
22 a month. I've been there for 15 years. I  
23 grew up in the community and I always wanted  
24 to be at the hospital.

25 I am here to support anybody who is

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2 willing to keep the hospital open. In my  
3 short time in meeting with Mr. Bruderman he  
4 has -- it's a positive step and a path where  
5 we want to be able to go. So I'm here to  
6 support him and all my colleagues that are  
7 here.

8 We talked about pediatric trauma.  
9 We had to make a decision at some point  
10 whether to be a level one trauma center or a  
11 pediatric trauma center. We couldn't do both  
12 at the same time. With the resources that we  
13 have we had to choose. And we were great at  
14 being a level one trauma center, so we put our  
15 resources in that. Which also means that even  
16 if you're a kid and you get hurt, you show up  
17 at our doorstep we're able to take care of  
18 you. We may not be able to house you but  
19 we're able to take care of you. The age is  
20 from 13 and above. Anything below that we're  
21 still able to take care of you but you got to  
22 go to a pediatric hospital which is Cohen's.  
23 Thank you.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator  
25 Rhoads.

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Dr. Boutin,  
3 if you wouldn't mind, one question with  
4 respect to that. So, my understanding is the  
5 decision was based on revenue, right? In  
6 other words, the hospital simply didn't have  
7 enough money to be able to sustain being both  
8 a level one trauma center and a pediatric  
9 trauma center.

10 DR. BOUTIN: So at some point  
11 over the last several years the American  
12 College of Surgeons and New York State changed  
13 the rules and you had to go through a  
14 verification process. So, you know our  
15 finances. We're always struggling like all  
16 the other public benefit corporations and the  
17 safety net hospitals. We are great at  
18 trauma. We were great at pediatric trauma at  
19 some point. But the level of resources that  
20 you needed had to be exactly parallel to what  
21 we were doing already. You had to have  
22 exactly the same team on the pediatric side.  
23 Research. The volume and also the manpower  
24 just on the pediatric side. We had eight to  
25 12 adult traumatologists. You'd have to have

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2 the same amount on the pediatric side.  
3 Something that we couldn't sustain and we  
4 don't have the resources to be able to do  
5 that.

6 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So presumably  
7 attempting to fix the hospital's finances  
8 would enable you to revisit potentially that  
9 decision?

10 DR. BOUTIN: Correct.

11 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you Dr.  
12 Boutin.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Sophia  
14 Rubenstein.

15 MS. RUBENSTEIN: My name is  
16 Sophia Rubenstein. I'm the president of the  
17 medical staff at Nassau University Medical  
18 Center and New Health. And I just wanted to  
19 say that on behalf of the medical staff  
20 officers and the physicians at large we're  
21 really concerned about the hospital. We would  
22 like to make sure that it does stay open and  
23 we hope that Mr. Bruderman is able to fix the  
24 finances that it desperately needs in order  
25 for the hospital to stay open. And because of

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2 that we do support Mr. Bruderman as the  
3 chairman of the board. Thank you.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:

5 Ms. Rubenstein.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Dr.

7 Rubenstein, I just want to ask you a quick  
8 question. I've heard it said a couple of  
9 times. I keep hearing the narrative about  
10 closed the hospital. Where have you heard  
11 that? Which elected official? Which  
12 legislation? Which newspaper has referenced  
13 closing the hospital? I'm not trying to put  
14 you on the spot. I'm just curious.

15 MS. RUBENSTEIN: It's the Long  
16 Island newspapers that we all read and there  
17 were a number of articles in the recent past  
18 that addressed that. And more recently  
19 probably one that we're talking about  
20 involvement of the NIFA and different reports  
21 that came out and at that time, I mean, again  
22 from the newspapers that's what they report.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm just  
24 curious. I haven't seen those reports.

25 MS. RUBENSTEIN: Again, we all

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2 read the same newspapers.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What I have  
4 seen, which I hate to say it, it's created a  
5 false narrative, I've heard folks that are  
6 against the state legislation. Which we  
7 haven't opined on that at all. We haven't  
8 talked about that today. Folks that are  
9 against the state legislation have said that  
10 the hospital is going to be closed. That I  
11 have seen. They they're saying that the folks  
12 that are for the state legislation they are  
13 for closing the hospital. But that's just one  
14 person saying something.

15 I read through the legislation. I  
16 didn't see anything in there referencing the  
17 hospital being closed. I haven't heard  
18 anything from chairman Barsky of NIFA  
19 representing that the hospital is going to be  
20 closed. So, I'm not trying to put you on the  
21 spot. You do your job. You do it well. We  
22 are very appreciative of what you do. I was  
23 just curious because I keep hearing that  
24 narrative come up. I just wanted to pick the  
25 brain of an average citizen.



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2 MS. RUBENSTEIN: Again, the  
3 physicians are not really very political. We  
4 just come to the hospital to do our job and to  
5 save patients and help everyone that needs our  
6 help. And again, we get the same information,  
7 like I said, from the same newspapers that  
8 publish those articles and at that time that  
9 was discussed in the newspapers.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you  
11 so much. Appreciate you coming down today.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Grace  
13 Ting.

14 DR. TING: My name is Dr. Grace  
15 Ting. I'm a physician at Nassau University  
16 Medical Center. I'm also the associate  
17 director for the emergency department and  
18 deputy chief medical officer.

19 Nassau University Medical Center is  
20 the best trauma center in Nassau County. It  
21 also I feel is the most diverse hospital in  
22 Nassau County in terms of our employees and  
23 the patients that we serve and we care for.

24 Before I begin, I want to let you  
25 know that everyone here from the hospital,

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2 including myself, are here on our own times.  
3 The county will not be charged for our time  
4 here today.

5 I'm here in support of Mr. Matthew  
6 Bruderman's nomination to the board of  
7 directors and Nassau Health Care Corporation  
8 for his expertise and passion for the survival  
9 of the only safety net hospital in Nassau  
10 County. The staff employees at the hospital  
11 are eager and ready to work with the board of  
12 directors in Nassau County and New York State  
13 to fulfill our mission of quality health care  
14 to all without regards to their ability to pay  
15 and also education of our next generation of  
16 health care workers.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
18 Ms. Ting.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I  
20 just want to say thank you for verifying that  
21 everyone is using personal time. I know that  
22 that's something that's public and I'm sure  
23 you wouldn't say it without making sure  
24 everyone here is using personal time. Again,  
25 I think that that's very important because we

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2 want to obviously have your representation but  
3 we don't want the public to feel we have a  
4 room full of people that were still on the  
5 clock. Thank you for the work you do.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Quan Brown  
7 Thomas. Dr. Riggs.

8 DR. RIGGS: I'm Dr. John Riggs.  
9 I promise to be brief because I tell my  
10 residents all the time never miss a meal and  
11 I'm starving right now. I promise to be  
12 brief.

13 I've been at Nassau University  
14 Medical Center for past seven years. I'm also  
15 a fellow alumnus of Georgetown's. Appreciate  
16 that. School of Foreign Service the best in  
17 the country. I know that.

18 I'd just like to say that I hold  
19 many hats at Nassau University Medical  
20 Center. One of which is the deputy chief  
21 medical officer along with Dr. Ting and Dr.  
22 Pipia and we fully support Dr. Boutin in  
23 everything he's done. I'd like to just say  
24 two major accomplishments. There's many I  
25 could talk about but the main thing is we just

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2 recently, in October, got accredited for three  
3 years by the joint commission without any  
4 major citations. Which is a huge  
5 accomplishment for the limited resources that  
6 we have.

7 And also, I challenge any hospital,  
8 not only in New York but anywhere in the  
9 country, that had a better response over the  
10 last two years to the COVID surge and all the  
11 problems that occurred and how many lives we  
12 saved and it was all led through Dr. Boutin  
13 and getting resources when we didn't have  
14 any. It was amazing how we all came together  
15 as a team and we worked together as a team.

16 Amongst my other many hats besides  
17 that, I'm the safety officer of the hospital.  
18 Which means all I care about mainly is patient  
19 care and safety. And I know we can match  
20 anybody anywhere when it comes to that. We  
21 have some of the most qualified physicians  
22 that take care of these patients and you  
23 wonder why because we need the best physicians  
24 to take care of problems which for many  
25 hospitals in our area come to us that are so

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2 diverse and major complicated cases that they  
3 don't want to deal with but we take them all.  
4 No matter whether they can pay or not.

5 The other thing is, I'm also the  
6 credentialing officer. When it comes to  
7 credentialing, we make sure that we get the  
8 best possible people coming. We vet  
9 everybody. When it comes to that, I'm also in  
10 charge of physician recruiting.

11 Now, the obstacles that we're  
12 facing, and I really welcome Matt Bruderman,  
13 who I've never even had a conversation with,  
14 however, we welcome because we need  
15 resources. Not just philanthropy, finances,  
16 advertising. You name it. We've done some on  
17 our own whatever we can. We made a lot of  
18 major changes at the hospital to improve. I  
19 welcome Matt Bruderman to come because I can  
20 see he's passionate. May not be politically  
21 correct all the time but I know he's  
22 passionate and he cares and this is exactly  
23 what we need to move forward for this  
24 hospital. Thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Ron

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2 Gurrieri, president of the CSEA.

3 MR. GURRIERI: Good afternoon.

4 Thank you Presiding Officer Nicoletto for  
5 letting me speak today.

6 First of all, I've come here to  
7 speak on behalf of Matt Bruderman. I have met  
8 with him once and I saw the passion and the  
9 fire in his belly for this job. I'm appalled  
10 at what went on today. It was definitely an  
11 S-H-I-T show. I didn't want to get in trouble  
12 like you did.

13 He is definitely different than we  
14 are. He's definitely different than I am. I  
15 probably couldn't afford his shoes. But I  
16 welcome him now at the medical center. We've  
17 had many, and I've probably been there when  
18 there have been ten to 15 CEOs because I've  
19 been around a long time, 42 years in the  
20 county, that have come and gone in the medical  
21 center. I'm willing to give Mr. Bruderman a  
22 chance to make that the best hospital on the  
23 island and we're not far from it.

24 There are things that he shouldn't  
25 have said. There are things that he said that

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2 were not right. That I do not agree with.  
3 But I think it shouldn't have been used as a  
4 time to rip him to shreds when he came here  
5 looking to have a job at the hospital.

6 Siela, I thank you. You've always  
7 been involved in the hospital. You've been  
8 there before. I thank you for coming around  
9 to the hospital.

10 Legislator Drucker, you've also  
11 been at the hospital and come around. But  
12 I've really never any of the other legislators  
13 at the medical center. You might have been  
14 there. I'm saying I have never seen you  
15 there.

16 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, I think  
17 that was disrespectful for you to talk about  
18 the employees and the number of people that  
19 were in this audience. You don't know whose  
20 taking off today. You don't know who's using  
21 their own time today to come here. And  
22 because it got out of hand with -- ah, let me  
23 finish.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I'm  
25 letting you finish.

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2 MR. GURRIERI: When it got out of  
3 hand with people clapping and whatnot before  
4 you took a chance to send people back to  
5 work. Never in my 42 years in this county has  
6 that ever happened. Never in my 28 years of  
7 leadership in CSEA has a sitting legislator on  
8 the other side of the aisle said that. Nobody  
9 has ever said that. Now, you were the first.  
10 Okay. So I'm taking it out on you being the  
11 first. That is totally disrespectful for the  
12 people to be here to come here and support the  
13 hospital and to come and support Mr. Bruderman  
14 or just to come and support you as  
15 legislators.

16 Also, we should not forget about A.  
17 Holly Patterson Nursing Home. I'm glad vice  
18 president Harris came up to speak about it.  
19 It's a world class nursing home. We cannot  
20 forget about that and Mr. Bruderman will also  
21 be in charge of that.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can  
23 I respond? Are you finished?

24 MR. GURRIERI: I am now.

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: As



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2 you know, I consider you someone that I've  
3 respected and my request was that we noted  
4 that they were here and there were people from  
5 DPW and parks and things like that that I felt  
6 if they were on the clock, and I thought my  
7 financially conservative possible candidate he  
8 totally agreed with me. That at this point --  
9 if you added up the hours of people sitting  
10 here and judges from traffic court playing on  
11 his phone the whole time, the bottom line is  
12 this is taxpayer money. This isn't your  
13 money. It's not my money. Yes, we got their  
14 message. But we have a fiduciary  
15 responsibility. I'm really shocked at you  
16 right now for a number of reasons. But the  
17 number one reason is --.

18 MR. GURRIERI: Go for it. Tell  
19 me. Why are you shocked at me?

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I  
21 understand the position you're in let's leave  
22 it at that. But I think that you normally do  
23 respect the fact that we don't own this  
24 money. This isn't my company. It's not your  
25 company. It's taxpayers' money. I will go

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2 after and I will say what I think if I see any  
3 waste. In my opinion, having paid employees  
4 come down here that have absolutely nothing to  
5 do with the hospital is a waste of taxpayers'  
6 money. And look, you're not responsible for  
7 the finances of the county, I get it. But I  
8 am. So if I feel that way I will say it and  
9 if you think you're ashamed of me, I can tell  
10 you something right now, I'm not going to use  
11 that word, but I'm not happy with a couple of  
12 things that I'm seeing today also.

13 MR. GURRIERI: You have every  
14 right to say that but you don't know who was  
15 in the audience on their time off, on their  
16 coffee break, on their lunch break or what  
17 they were doing on their phone. I just found  
18 it disrespectful for a legislator, like I  
19 said, in 42 years, and I've been here at all  
20 the legislative meetings, when they were board  
21 of supervisors, I've never seen that happen  
22 before.

23 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: You  
24 know what? I'm also pretty conservative  
25 financially. I respect taxpayers' money. And

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2 I didn't call out anyone. I said if anyone is  
3 still on the clock -- it was their decision,  
4 I'm not going to look at our, I'm not going to  
5 look up -- although it's available to us --  
6 I'm not going to look up who's on their time  
7 or not today.

8 But the bottom line is, I don't  
9 like to see waste. In my mind, we got that  
10 they support him and so did he. Those are his  
11 new friends. But his new friends are  
12 costing -- if anyone was costing the county  
13 money at that point it's a waste. And I will  
14 absolutely do what I can in this forum or any  
15 other forum to try to protect taxpayers'  
16 money. When you're responsible for our budget  
17 we'll we have a conversation.

18 MR. GURRIERI: I just found it  
19 odd first time in a long time. Fine.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: What  
21 did you say you were, a rebel? There are a  
22 few of us possibly.

23 MR. GURRIERI: I have nothing  
24 else. Thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just a

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2 quick thing Ron and Ron, you and I have known  
3 each other for years. Probably 20 some odd  
4 years. The only exception I take with what  
5 you said is that things that Mr. Bruderman has  
6 said publicly we shouldn't ask him about it  
7 today. Quite frankly, I never knew of  
8 Mr. Bruderman. Never knew him before March  
9 6th when the county executive announced who he  
10 was. I didn't know who he was. Never heard  
11 of his firm. Never heard of him. I have no  
12 personally vendetta against him or anyone  
13 else.

14 That being said, when you say  
15 things in the public record for a public  
16 institution that is taxpayer related I have a  
17 fiduciary responsibility to ask you what you  
18 meant by that. Now, I'm sorry that things  
19 turned to the way things did. But  
20 unfortunately that was the case. But it  
21 sounded like to me -- just correct me if I'm  
22 wrong -- it sounded like to me you were saying  
23 to us that we shouldn't have asked those  
24 questions about what he said.

25 MR. GURRIERI: No. Not at all.

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2 I said the things that he said were totally  
3 100 percent wrong.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I heard you  
5 say that part.

6 MR. GURRIERI: But I just think  
7 we went very, very, my opinion, very far  
8 afield in talking to Mr. Bruderman. And I  
9 have been here for other commissioners. I've  
10 been around for other people that were put on  
11 at the hospital and I didn't think we didn't  
12 get so in-depth with the other candidates.  
13 Now, I'm not saying you did the wrong thing.  
14 I'm just saying, in my opinion, I think you  
15 just might have gone too far.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The only  
17 thing I would say, Ron, you and I are  
18 friends. The only thing I would say is that I  
19 don't think any other candidate that was  
20 seeking a board position has put themselves in  
21 a position of saying things as public that  
22 would in a Newsday paper.

23 MR. GURRIERI: I agree with you.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But we'll  
25 still be friends.

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2 MR. GURRIERI: Anybody else?

3 Thank you.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
5 Ron. Vincent Pinkney.

6 MR. PINKNEY: Good afternoon. My  
7 name is Vincent Pinkney, chief diversity  
8 officer at Nassau County Medical Center. I've  
9 been living in the county for 54 years. I'm  
10 54 years old. I've been working at Nassau  
11 County Medical Center for 27 years. This is  
12 the first time I'm here to support  
13 Mr. Bruderman. It's the first I've seen a  
14 chairman that came into office that really  
15 wanted to support our hospital, that really  
16 wanted to do something for our hospital.

17 So, in my humble opinion, I'm  
18 asking you to give him an opportunity, like we  
19 always do, to improve our hospital. Thank  
20 you.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:  
22 Mr. Pinkney, did you say you were 54 years  
23 old? Could you just tell us what your diet  
24 is. Nina Gavan.

25 MS. GAVAN: My name is Nina

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2

Gavan. I am the CSEA unit president of NUMC.

3

When I talk about the hospital, I've been

4

there since 1987, so I get very impassioned.

5

Sometimes I get a little worked up about it.

6

Really what I'm upset about today was the

7

process. It doesn't really have anything to

8

do with Matt per se. We have so many hard

9

working men and women. I'm a nurse first

10

before I was a unit president. Like I said,

11

I've been there for over 30 years. And I know

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politics has a role in our funding like you

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said, but the current CEO, Dr. Boutin, is

14

doing that work. He is watchdogging all of

15

our funding and making sure things are done

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the right way. We need to give him the chance

17

to let Matt do the work that he is able to do

18

for us.

19

The overreach of government at this

20

time has trickled down to the state and county

21

level. And now Monday we have more of that

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coming from them trying to double the board.

23

Which is another big problem. That has to

24

stop. There's big overreach going on here.

25

And instead of reaching across the aisle to

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2 help each other we're doing it just to tip  
3 power. It's not the right thing. We don't  
4 need a bigger board of directors. We need to  
5 let the ones that are there be accountable and  
6 do the work that they're supposed to be doing.

7 And I do believe that Matt can  
8 start that fire in them to get that going and  
9 we need to give him a chance to do it. And  
10 CSEA will be there watching over that. Should  
11 things be getting done the wrong way or things  
12 are not going the way, you know, for the  
13 employees that we think it should be going  
14 then there will be a different fight and  
15 argument and we'll sit down at the table  
16 together and work it out.

17 But at this time we need to give  
18 him the appropriate time and we need to give  
19 him a chance to work with us. I want to move  
20 forward and I know that's going to happen  
21 anyway. And we need to support the officials  
22 that the constituents elected and let them do  
23 their work and let they them put their picks  
24 in place and not try to overreach and tip the  
25 board to another direction.



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2 I know sometimes people do speak  
3 the wrong way and I've been guilty of it  
4 myself many times. You have to judge people  
5 on what they do for you. Let's see what Matt  
6 does for us. Dr. Boutin is the perfect person  
7 to lead us and we will all be watching and  
8 keeping a close eye. So thank you.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank  
10 you. Legislator Gaylor had a question.

11 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you  
12 Presiding Officer. Just a quick question for  
13 Mr. Bruderman. As most of you know, I'm a  
14 retired lieutenant colonel from the United  
15 States Army. Our veterans. We have a veteran  
16 service agency that's housed within the  
17 hospital. I don't know if you had an  
18 opportunity to visit there yet. I hope you  
19 do. I would just ask that you give it a  
20 careful evaluation. I think that there's much  
21 room for improvement in the facilities in  
22 which this agency is housed. And I would hope  
23 that we could possibly do something to make it  
24 an even better place for our veterans to  
25 attend.

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2 Second point I'd like to just bring  
3 up is that, as was mentioned previously by a  
4 fellow legislator, in the news there's been  
5 discussions about downsizing the capabilities  
6 at Northport VA medical center. I would ask  
7 that you look towards the future. And maybe  
8 not something that could be done within a year  
9 but something that can be surely started by  
10 you within the first year, is a partnership  
11 with the federal government to move to our  
12 facility some of those VA clinics or treatment  
13 facilities and better possibly utilize some of  
14 the vacant spaces within our hospital system  
15 to better accommodate all veterans that live  
16 in Nassau.

17 So, I'm just asking you to consider  
18 those two points. I wish you well in the  
19 future and if you'd like to comment. If not,  
20 I understand. Thank you.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'll just quickly  
22 comment and say that, like I said, my family  
23 is very patriotic. We've served this country  
24 in war. I'm indebted and grateful genuinely  
25 for our armed forces, for the police, everyone

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2 that serves and I think it could be an  
3 opportunity. Again, I don't know enough yet  
4 but we have excess space in our physical  
5 plant. I did hear rumors about the VA in  
6 Northport, and I think that would an  
7 outstanding use of that space. It would be  
8 great to give back to our amazing veterans  
9 that have served us and treat them right and  
10 give them an outstanding facility to go to.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Dr. Steven  
12 Lev.

13 DR. LEV: Hi. My name is Steven  
14 Lev. I want to thank all of you for giving me  
15 this opportunity to speak before you. I  
16 currently hold the position of the chair of  
17 radiology at Nassau University Medical  
18 Center. I just want to address the Honorable  
19 Mr. Abrahams. You mentioned before something  
20 about you heard the hospital was in bad  
21 financial shape or imminently going to close.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Can I just  
23 correct you. It's not that I've heard, I've  
24 known.

25 DR. LEV: I have what's probably

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called some institutional knowledge because I've been at the hospital for 27 years. I'm 58 years old. That's almost half of my life. I left the hospital in 2004 under rumors that were in all the newspapers that the hospital imminently about to close. A lot of us left at that time. They were actually laying off doctors and nurses at that time. I came back, together with a lot of my coworkers. Within a year I came back to NUMC because that's my home and that's I believe where I could do the best good.

I've seen during the 27 years a lot of changes in our hospital. A lot of board changes. A lot of leadership changes. Then every couple of years the whole cycle starts again.

Upon listening to what Mr. Bruderman had to say at some of the introductory meetings we've had, I'm very impressed that finally we have somebody with a solid background in business and finance and I think he's the person who could help ensure our survival and help us to continue our

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2 fundamental core mission. Which is to be  
3 available for people in the community of every  
4 race, every economic status and to serve that  
5 people. That's why we're a safety net  
6 hospital.

7 I also want to let everybody know  
8 is that I think we ranked in the top 20  
9 nationwide for safety net hospitals. To me  
10 that's too low. I think we can be number  
11 one. I want to be given the opportunity for  
12 that. All the doctors here, look around, are  
13 from ethnically diverse backgrounds and we are  
14 here because we choose to be here. We're all  
15 from the top best schools in the nation. We  
16 want to be here. We have a mission to serve,  
17 and I want to give Mr. Bruderman a chance to  
18 allow us to do that. Thank you.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
20 Dr. Lev. Dr. Paul Pipia.

21 DR. PIPIA: Good afternoon.  
22 Couple of things. I'm here in support of  
23 Mr. Bruderman because I'm happy to see that  
24 someone is willing to take and put on their  
25 asbestos suit and get burned. I was on the

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2 board of trustees for the hospital for eight  
3 years. Three of us those under Bruce  
4 Blakeman. Three of those under Judy Jacobs.  
5 The intimidation that came as board member who  
6 worked in the hospital was tremendous. I had  
7 one chairman of the board of trustees who said  
8 he was going to beat the crap out of me  
9 knowing that I have a disability.

10 In 2018 I was back at the hospital  
11 again. I found that the county, under a  
12 democratic county executive, owed us \$48  
13 million. And when I said that they needed to  
14 pay and I also pointed out that a vendor  
15 hospital was supposed to be sending \$850,000  
16 employees to our hospital weren't doing it, I  
17 was told by that chairman, and he was also a  
18 democrat, that I should look the other way and  
19 screamed at the top of his lungs. You know  
20 what happened? After so much intimidation I  
21 stepped down.

22 Let me tell you this. In this  
23 hospital if you have somebody who wants to  
24 take their time and not be afraid, not have to  
25 worry about the intimidation then I think you

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2 got the right guy. I had 28 years in health  
3 care. My 28 years I've always served in an  
4 underserved hospital. 15 of them at NUMC. 13  
5 of them at Downstate in Brooklyn.

6 The problem is there are things out  
7 there that we can take advantage of. One of  
8 our competitor hospitals their budget for  
9 supplies is \$7 billion. Our entire budget is  
10 \$600 million and we got to get supplies out of  
11 that as well.

12 The employees are underpaid in our  
13 hospital. Yet they come to work every day.  
14 And the reason why is because there's a law  
15 that exists that we could get the same rate of  
16 pay as other people but nobody else wants to  
17 let us to do that.

18 Our nearest competitor get three  
19 times the price for every procedure they do in  
20 comparison to what we get. So, if you went to  
21 the grocery store and paid \$6 for a gallon of  
22 milk and the guy behind you got it for \$2 I  
23 think you'd be upset.

24 Just the last thing is, the NIFA  
25 consultant, Marcellus Alvarez, was a place

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2 that went around to our competitor hospitals  
3 and said if we close the hospital could you  
4 keep it afloat? And they said yes. Just make  
5 sure they take care of the psychiatric  
6 patients. I think that's about all I can  
7 actually say now.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Dr. Pipia.

9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Sorry Dr.  
10 Pipia. My understanding was at some point in  
11 time, and perhaps this is something that  
12 Mr. Bruderman, if he's appointed, that  
13 Mr. Bruderman can look into. My understanding  
14 was that the hospital at one point in time had  
15 a relationship with Northwell for the purpose  
16 of being able to get those rates. And to be  
17 honest, and this is my own fault, I have no  
18 idea what happened to that relationship, but  
19 it sounds as though it no longer exists.

20 DR. PIPIA: I'm not fully in  
21 charge of the hospital. One of the deputy  
22 medical doctors. I also run the rehab  
23 department and I also run the neurology  
24 department. Northwell declined to do it  
25 because, to the best of my understanding, they



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2 felt there was an antitrust involved that  
3 could hurt them. But the law clearly states  
4 and it names our hospital that we should get  
5 it. In fact, also, they have the person who  
6 sits on the committee that decides who gets  
7 cath labs and that's why we don't have a cath  
8 lab when other hospitals of lesser, in my  
9 opinion, lesser abilities have a cath lab.

10 Let me tell this. And the chairman  
11 of the board of trustees that came after the  
12 one that was so much on the intimidation  
13 method for me, he contacted the Department of  
14 Health and he said that we didn't need the  
15 cath lab. And he did that without informing  
16 the other board members and he made that as a  
17 unilateral decision.

18 And I know that because I serve in  
19 a lot of capacities in the New York State  
20 Medical Society. I was president of the  
21 Nassau County Medical Society in 2006. I'm  
22 currently the vice president of the state  
23 medical society and in two months I will be  
24 the president-elect of the New York City  
25 Medical Society. I've met so many people up

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2 in Albany and they were the ones who called up  
3 and told me who did it.

4 We can get this stuff. We can do a  
5 good job. We just need somebody to help us  
6 get out of the way. If he's going to take the  
7 heat for it I'm happy to have him on there and  
8 I think everybody else should too.

9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thanks Dr.  
10 Pipia.

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: I was in  
12 possession of a contract with Northwell. I  
13 think it was maybe two and a half years old.  
14 But again, when I was going through all the  
15 paper work I did see something and people  
16 within the hospital commented on that. So,  
17 something there exists. I intend on looking  
18 at it and we'll figure out how that can be  
19 helpful or not or whatever. But you're right  
20 there was something there and it's still there  
21 so I'll take a look at it.

22 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you so  
23 much.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Paul  
25 Occhiogrosso.

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2 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: I'm here for  
3 Mr. Bruderman. I just want to clarify a  
4 couple of things real quick. The EMT comment,  
5 how they don't want to bring them to our  
6 hospital. My daughter suffers from  
7 Bradycardia. And when she had an episode  
8 where do you think they brought her? NUMC.  
9 Dr. Boutin took care of here.

10 The other thing too is, we went to  
11 that precious Cohen's and we were pushed out  
12 the door. This was a month ago. She got a  
13 pacemaker and they pushed her out the door to  
14 save their revenue and their pocket. That's  
15 your precious Cohen's. So now that we got  
16 that clarified.

17 The second thing is, I think you  
18 guys should be ashamed of the way you abused  
19 this man. You're all supposed to be helping  
20 the minority community and you don't do it.  
21 You would get the cath lab for us wouldn't  
22 you? You would get us ambulances. Why does  
23 Northwell ambulance contracted in Hempstead?  
24 Why isn't it NUMC? I think our hospital is a  
25 little closer. Can you answer that?

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2 Instead of asking what he can do  
3 for the hospital why don't you ask yourselves  
4 what can we do to help you do things for the  
5 hospital. Those are questions I got for you.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Are you  
7 done with your time?

8 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: No. You can  
9 ask a question.

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Sir, I'm  
11 very sympathetic to the condition that your  
12 daughter has. My daughter was born two months  
13 premature and I was in the middle of a primary  
14 and I spent the last month there at the  
15 hospital. And I just saw firsthand what they  
16 do for premature children, my daughter.  
17 Again, I'm very sympathetic. Again, if you  
18 took those comments in the wrong way. But I  
19 want you to understand that I was just told  
20 that information by EMT professionals and I  
21 relied upon that.

22 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: Well, you were  
23 informed incorrectly. As long as I corrected  
24 you with that. The other thing too is my  
25 niece is an EMT. The way it works is, anyone

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2 who doesn't have cardiac problems goes to  
3 NUMC. If there's cardiac issues they have no  
4 choice but to bring them somewhere else.  
5 Why? Because we don't have a cath lab.  
6 Something anyone up there can do.

7 The next thing is, I really  
8 appreciate, because I've never seen any one of  
9 you at the board meetings. Excuse me. I've  
10 seen Mr. McKevitt and I've seen Mr. Ferretti.  
11 But as far as anyone else, I don't see you at  
12 the board meetings. They happen monthly. Sit  
13 there. Listen. Weigh in. You're sitting  
14 here judging a hospital that you know nothing  
15 about. You've never walked through the  
16 doors. You don't know anything about the  
17 people there. You're worried about our time.  
18 You sit there and shake your head. But have  
19 you traveled from Glen Cove down to East  
20 Meadow and came in our hospital?

21 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I've  
22 been in the hospital a number of times.

23 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: What happened  
24 at the last board meeting? Where you there?  
25 I didn't see you there. What about the time

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2 after that?

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: The  
4 bottom is line is we are connected with the  
5 hospital.

6 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: You're not.  
7 If you're not at the board meeting hearing  
8 what's going on how are you connected with the  
9 hospital? Explain that to me.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We  
11 are of the financial responsibility. We're  
12 connected with the county obviously. We did a  
13 lot of work with the jail. We were very  
14 involved with that.

15 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: I find that  
16 hard to believe when I've been at every board  
17 meeting for the last four years and I have not  
18 seen anyone's face up there. Everyone that  
19 drilled questions at this man I've never seen  
20 any of your faces there. So explain that.

21 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I'll  
22 explain something to you and I want to give  
23 you a compliment. Number one. I was happy  
24 that you took over with the jail. I think  
25 it's been a huge, huge improvement with the

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2 county. And I was very much involved with  
3 that as my colleagues.

4 I had a very close friend whose  
5 daughter's first communion dress caught on  
6 fire and almost died and was in the burn unit  
7 and I was there I don't know how many times.

8 Two months ago I had an uncle who  
9 was in a nursing home with Parkinson's and  
10 fell and hit his head and that's where he got  
11 tremendous care.

12 I just want to say quickly on the  
13 record, I understand that Mr. Bruderman thinks  
14 he's going to come in and fix everything. But  
15 I think that this hospital and the workers  
16 that we have are amazing and what happened  
17 during COVID was tremendous. I want to thank  
18 each and every one of you from the bottom of  
19 my heart. I lost a close relative. I know  
20 what those last few hours are like. I do give  
21 him -- listen, I wish him the best. I wish  
22 that he does do all this. That was never my  
23 concern.

24 My concern is the responsibility I  
25 have. In a business world you're a risk

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2 because there's a possibility of a liability  
3 which is him saying things that are not  
4 acceptable. And they can hurt someone's  
5 feelings and it can make someone feel  
6 threatened and that is what I wanted to push  
7 on today. Not once did I say I don't think  
8 you're going to raise the money. Oh, I don't  
9 think you're going to know how to -- I never  
10 criticized him.

11 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: With all due  
12 respect, that's the problem with the world  
13 today is feelings. The man's ready to take  
14 care of business.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: No,  
16 it's not.

17 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: We watched  
18 chairman after chairman after chairman,  
19 Northwell chairmans, Northwell picked  
20 chairmans, fail our business. He's a  
21 businessman. Let him take care of business.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
23 sir.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:  
25 Let's wish him the best.



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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator  
3 Mazi Pilip wanted to comment.

4 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Can you hear  
5 me? Hello everyone. First of all, I would  
6 like to thank Mr. Bruderman for willing to  
7 take the opportunity to fix the hospital.

8 For my colleagues for both sides.  
9 Today we were out of control. Maybe I'm new  
10 but it was very hard to watch it. I think we  
11 have to be more respectful.

12 Then for my colleague Legislator  
13 Solages, I don't think when somebody is  
14 mispronouncing your name is always because  
15 he's a racist. I don't think so. I don't  
16 know if you remember when I first time joined  
17 I didn't know how to pronounce three of my  
18 colleagues' names. I couldn't pronounce the  
19 last name. Not every time we have to be too  
20 sensitive about little things.

21 I think it's time for us to see the  
22 big picture. Here we have an opportunity, a  
23 man who is willing to take his time to fix the  
24 hospital. And we should care about our  
25 community. How we can fix this hospital by

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2 providing the best care and really cutting the  
3 health care cost. Let's give him an  
4 opportunity. Let's see the big picture and  
5 let's work together. Thank you.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
7 Mazi. That was the last slip that I  
8 received. On behalf of the legislature, I  
9 want to thank all of the employees of the  
10 hospital who were here today to speak on this  
11 issue. One of the things that gives us hope  
12 for the future is your passion for the  
13 hospital and your mission. So, thank you very  
14 much for being here. We really appreciate  
15 your time to be with us.

16 What we are going to do now is go  
17 to a roll call vote. Legislators will be able  
18 to make comments as the vote on the  
19 nomination. You want to start Mr. Pulitzer?

20 MR. PULITZER: Thank you sir.  
21 Deputy Presiding Officer Howard Kopel.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.  
23 Let me just say that my background, thankfully  
24 my family is in this wonderful country of just  
25 about 100 years. Maybe a little bit more. We

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2 were not exposed at the time of the Holocaust  
3 but I have my wife's family suffered greatly  
4 and I've got some other relatives that did.  
5 I'm very sensitive to any issues of  
6 discrimination of any type.

7 A number of years ago when I  
8 sponsored, well, I had a press conference on  
9 the issue of a certain rock star who happened  
10 to have been a vicious anti-semite and he was  
11 performing at a county facility, my colleague  
12 and good friend, Kevan, stood tall and proud  
13 next to me and denounced the man in his  
14 typically eloquent fashion. So, when Kevan  
15 and some others who have shown some  
16 sensitivity mentioned that or feel  
17 uncomfortable about issues such as racism or  
18 so forth I have to take it seriously and I  
19 have to think about it. And I did.

20 The other thing that I'd like to  
21 say about that is who among us hasn't  
22 misspoken? I know that I'm not prone to be  
23 politically correct all the time. As a matter  
24 of fact, I don't even try to be politically  
25 correct. Obviously we need to be careful

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2 though in what we say. We've got leaders at  
3 the top of our government, both current and  
4 previous, who are prone to saying things that  
5 they ought not to say because they don't know  
6 or they don't think or whatever the reason  
7 is. It happens.

8 I've heard the back and forth  
9 here. I'm prepared to accept Mr. Bruderman's  
10 explanations. I believe that everyone on this  
11 board here has got a good heart when it comes  
12 to things like discrimination and hate. I  
13 truly believe and I hope that there's not a  
14 single racist over here. I don't believe that  
15 that's the case. But we do have differences  
16 of opinion.

17 I'm prepare to accept  
18 Mr. Bruderman's explanations over here. I  
19 don't believe he's a racist. I do believe  
20 that perhaps he needs to be more careful when  
21 he speaks and he said he will. I accept that  
22 as well and I thank for that.

23 Now, moving over to the hospital.  
24 This hospital, as has been mentioned by many  
25 people, serves largely the minority

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2 community. It's a critical facility. And  
3 it's in trouble and we know it's in trouble  
4 and it's been in trouble for a long time. I  
5 happen to be a lawyer but my background is  
6 primarily been in business. But I've been  
7 here also for a number of years. And I've  
8 learned that when government does something  
9 it's the nature of the beast that everything  
10 costs twice as much, it takes three times as  
11 long and doesn't get done right. It's just,  
12 as I say, the nature of the beast.

13 I know in private business if you  
14 run things that way you go broke. You're out  
15 of business. The idea is to minimize costs  
16 and maximize efficiency and deliver the  
17 services so that your customers come back and  
18 are happy and you do what you're supposed to  
19 do. That's, I think, the methodology that has  
20 to be applied to this hospital.

21 If that's the case and that's our  
22 primary concern, I think that we're lucky that  
23 we have a businessman who has been obviously  
24 successful many years. Is willing to donate  
25 his time and expertise ensuring that this

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2 critical facility doesn't go under. Let's be  
3 clear about it. It could go under because  
4 there's not unlimited money that's going to be  
5 dumped into it. Again, that's the nature of  
6 things.

7 For the foregoing reasons I vote to  
8 confirm Mr. Bruderman.

9 MR. PULITZER: Alternate  
10 Presiding Officer Denise Ford.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: I wish  
12 Mr. Bruderman success in helping our hospital  
13 and I urge him to consider his words before he  
14 speaks. I hope he also keeps in mind that a  
15 strong leader can still be compassionate and  
16 soft at times. This hospital is very  
17 important to all of us. I really hope that we  
18 see that he fulfills his promises of bringing  
19 more revenue and helping to build this  
20 hospital to make it number one in the  
21 country. So I vote yes.

22 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
23 Ms. Bynoe.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.  
25 So, while I believe that Mr. Bruderman, while

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2 I have not attempted to characterize him as a  
3 bad person because I do think he's done some  
4 good in his time in serving in many different  
5 capacities, I'm concerned about the hospital.  
6 I'm concerned about the future of the  
7 hospital.

8 My grandmother took her last breath  
9 at A. Holly Patterson. My best friend, Tanya  
10 Abrams, took her last breath at Nassau  
11 University Medical Center about four years  
12 ago. A young woman I missionaried with had a  
13 horrific accident on a Fourth of July morning  
14 and she is now wheelchair bound but I know she  
15 would be dead if not for Nassau University  
16 Medical Center and the wonderful care that  
17 they provided to her. That's why this is  
18 serious for me.

19 It's serious for me because there's  
20 a tone and tenor that I think leadership is  
21 reasonable for. They must set up an  
22 environment of cultural competency and mutual  
23 respect. I didn't judge Mr. Bruderman or  
24 determine where I would stand in this vote  
25 today just on one occasion. There were three

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2 that played out that resonate with me. It was  
3 that public meeting at the hospital. It was  
4 the behavior at that press conference and it  
5 was the behavior here today. And for that  
6 reason I question the ability to lead the  
7 hospital, to serve its employees, the patients  
8 and the residents of Nassau County in the most  
9 appropriate way.

10 Do I believe that given his ability  
11 to build businesses that he probably could do  
12 a really good job at the hospital in making  
13 sure that it could sustain? I believe that.  
14 But I'm wondering at what cost. That's what  
15 I'm left to question today. At what cost?  
16 So, I have to say I vote no and it's a  
17 resounding no. Thank you.

18 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
19 Legislator Carrie Solages.

20 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you  
21 for saying my name correctly. Thank you very  
22 much clerk.

23 Based on the testimony of numerous  
24 medical professionals who appeared here today,  
25 who made statements in favor of the nominee,



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2 these professionals who know more than me when  
3 it comes to saving a life and they know more  
4 than me when it comes to what's going on at  
5 the medical center. And although I have not  
6 attended a meeting, a board meeting, I do  
7 check in regularly with Dr. Boutin and I do  
8 find out from him what actually is going on.  
9 It's hard to attend all these meetings when  
10 you have a family.

11 Based on information that  
12 Mr. Boutin has provided to me, I'm concerned  
13 about the medical center. If the medical  
14 center can gain a helping hand from an  
15 individual who has access to philanthropy, who  
16 has access to business acumen in which he's  
17 shown clear abilities to turn businesses  
18 around I would be foolish not to accept that  
19 help.

20 For reasons I also stated when I  
21 approved the appointment of Mr. Capece at the  
22 consumer affairs office, in which I believe in  
23 second chances, I would support this  
24 nomination on the condition that he completes  
25 anger management and also sensitivity training

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2 and also a cultural literacy course within 90  
3 days. For those reasons I support  
4 Mr. Bruderman thank you very much.

5 MR. PULITZER: Thank you  
6 legislator. Legislator Debra Mule.

7 LEGISLATOR MULE: I've been on  
8 this meeting remotely and I apologize for that  
9 but I've listened to all the testimony. I've  
10 listened to Mr. Bruderman and I also listened  
11 to, as Legislator Solages mentioned, all the  
12 testimony by the medical professionals.

13 But I have to say that I am deeply  
14 concerned by -- it was the way Mr. Bruderman  
15 talked about how he would be running things.  
16 It sounded like a, well, and someone else  
17 brought this up, I know all the answers and I  
18 can fix it. I can do this in one year. And  
19 on the one hand I applaud that very positive  
20 attitude. On the other hand that concerns me  
21 greatly because the people who have worked  
22 there for so many years they definitely have  
23 to be listened to and heard and different  
24 ideas need to be heard.

25 I've learned this over the years

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2 that you come into something thinking I  
3 definitely have all the answers and then you  
4 hear from other people and you realize well,  
5 wait a minute, I was missing a lot of  
6 information about this or that. And I have  
7 always valued listening to what other people  
8 have to say.

9 So, I'm concerned about what I  
10 heard about a lack of humility in what other  
11 people have to say. So I'm concerned about  
12 the way Mr. Bruderman will lead this.

13 Now, I know he will certainly --  
14 the vote will be in his favor and I wish him  
15 well and I hope that he has heard what has  
16 been said here and will learn from it. But I  
17 will be voting no. Thank you.

18 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
19 Legislator C. William Gaylor III. Bill, are  
20 you on? We will come back to him. Legislator  
21 John Giuffre.

22 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: My mother  
23 was a patient at NUMC last year after  
24 sustaining a fall in which she fractured her  
25 femur in three places. She is a former

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2 operating room nurse and was a nurse for over  
3 30 years. When it comes to health care  
4 decisions, my sister and I let her make her  
5 own decisions. When it came time for  
6 rehabilitation she had a choice of where to go  
7 and she chose NUMC and was in the service of  
8 Dr. Paul Pipia.

9 My family and I personally, and  
10 myself as a legislator, want NUMC to survive  
11 and to thrive. And based on the  
12 recommendations of the professional staff,  
13 Dr. Boutin, Dr. Pipia, a number of other  
14 people who came before us today, I am going to  
15 go with those recommendations and vote to  
16 confirm Matthew Bruderman on to the board of  
17 directors. Thank you.

18 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
19 Legislator Mazi Melesa Pilip.

20 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Based on  
21 Mr. Bruderman's experience and the support of  
22 the community members who spoke in front of us  
23 today I will vote yes. I also want to  
24 recommend to Mr. Bruderman be more careful  
25 when he chooses to say something because we

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2 have to be sensitive about our words.

3 And then my other recommendation  
4 for the hospital, from my experience in health  
5 care, I do believe by providing quality health  
6 care we can prevent a lot of patients to come  
7 back to hospital for small problems that can  
8 be fixed by physicians in the community. By  
9 providing more physicians in the community I  
10 think we can take a lot of patients locally  
11 without going to hospital and costing so much  
12 money for the hospital.

13 I also agree that we have to have a  
14 better system to collect money. At the end of  
15 the day this is a business and we have to have  
16 a better system to do that. Also by bringing  
17 more service to the hospital, I think an  
18 increase in the revenue and support the  
19 hospital. Thank you. I will be voting yes  
20 for him and wish him good luck.

21 MR. PULITZER: Thank you  
22 legislator. Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

23 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I  
24 have to say that I was curious to meet you  
25 today, and I heard from both sides of the

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2 aisle when they read those comments and it was  
3 a lot of concern. My main question to you in  
4 my mind was we all make mistakes. We all say  
5 the wrong things. But did you feel remorse  
6 and did you realize the impact of your  
7 statements?

8 Honestly, I'm leaving here without  
9 a true answer. But I know you're going to be  
10 appointed and I hope not only morally but also  
11 because we have a financial responsibility, if  
12 you were going to be in charge of Winthrop we  
13 would have no say and good luck. But if you  
14 mess up it's our money, taxpayer money that's  
15 going to have to be responsible for any of  
16 these, what I hope you realize now, are  
17 hurtful, damaging comments.

18 If in one instance when you're  
19 about to say something something flashes in  
20 your mind that Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton or  
21 anyone else said that makes you stop and think  
22 before you say anything, text anything, email  
23 anything, do you want it to be in Newsday.  
24 It's not a criticism to you, it's like an  
25 education and that's what I'm hoping. You get

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2 that sense of pause.

3 But speaking to the hospital  
4 members, I will tell you I also have a child  
5 with a life-threatening condition. I've been  
6 dealing with it for 22 years. I've been to  
7 many hospitals with her in the state and out.  
8 And the work that you do I couldn't do. I  
9 don't know how you got through COVID. You  
10 have a power that I respect and you have a  
11 calling. We not only want you to succeed we  
12 need you to succeed.

13 I want to thank you again and I  
14 also want to say, Mr. Bruderman, prove us  
15 wrong. Do a good job and we will appreciate  
16 it. And again, maybe today wasn't a total  
17 waste because I think that little light will  
18 go off and hopefully it will avoid any risks  
19 that I foresee. I vote no.

20 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. Let's  
21 go back to Legislator C. William Gaylor III.

22 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you  
23 very much. I apologize. That was a technical  
24 difficulty on my end. Although I was there, I  
25 could hear you, you couldn't hear me.

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2 The bottom line, things in life  
3 sometimes we come across as less than  
4 desirable or less than we want to be portrayed  
5 or sometimes we say things in the heat of the  
6 moment that we don't necessarily mean or we  
7 conduct ourselves in a way where we can be  
8 argumentative. I know I'm guilty of that.  
9 Sometimes we become very passionate. But we  
10 learn as we go along. What I heard today is  
11 somebody who is willing to learn and takes  
12 those steps to avoid any misstatements in the  
13 future.

14 More importantly, what I've learned  
15 today is we have before us a businessman who's  
16 sole focus seems to be making this a better  
17 hospital for all of the constituents and all  
18 of the residents of Nassau County and all of  
19 those people that pass through Nassau County  
20 and find themselves in need of some medical  
21 attention.

22 What we've heard today is a  
23 community of health care professionals that  
24 work at the hospital step up forward and say  
25 let's give him a chance. Let's give him a



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2 chance to turn around what's been a failing or  
3 perceived as a failing hospital for many  
4 years.

5 What I also heard today is somebody  
6 who's going to make a commitment to our  
7 veterans community and relook the veteran  
8 service agency and its location. And  
9 hopefully we can move that into a better  
10 location and also possibly partner with the  
11 federal government to provide those necessary  
12 medical services to all the veterans in Nassau  
13 and Suffolk county that find themselves in  
14 need of service closer to home because the  
15 Northport VA medical center is shuttering some  
16 of its services if it does not close down.

17 So, for all those reasons I'm a  
18 resounding yes today in favor of this  
19 nomination and his appointment. Thank you.

20 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
21 Legislator James Kennedy.

22 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Thank you  
23 sir. I'm having trouble getting my video.  
24 I'm just going to say it without video.

25 But the priority for me is this

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2 hospital and I believe Mr. Bruderman will be  
3 the best person to help NUMC based upon his  
4 past experience as well as the supporters  
5 we've heard from today. So I would like to  
6 thank Mr. Bruderman for giving up of his time  
7 to help us along this path, which we very,  
8 very desperately need. And I think that he  
9 will be a great help in assisting throughout  
10 the future. So I support Mr. Bruderman.

11 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
12 Legislator Thomas McKevitt.

13 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: My family  
14 moved to East Meadow 50 years ago this month  
15 and this hospital has always been an integral  
16 part of our community. My grandfather died  
17 there. My father was there for a heart  
18 attack. My brother was there for trauma. I  
19 can't imagine my community without it. And  
20 obviously it's been through some very tough  
21 times. So I encourage Mr. Bruderman to work  
22 with the board, with the medical staff, with  
23 the community to make sure this hospital not  
24 only survive but thrives. I will be voting  
25 yes.

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2 MR. PULITZER: Thank you sir.

3 Legislator Laura Schaefer.

4 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I vote yes  
5 in favor of Mr. Bruderman and I have no  
6 further comment.

7 MR. PULITZER: Thank you ma'am.

8 Legislator John Ferretti.

9 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you  
10 Mr. Clerk. Mr. Bruderman, I'm the legislator  
11 in the 15th Legislative District. Which  
12 actually the medical center lies at the very  
13 westerly part of my district. The vast  
14 majority of my district is Levittown, which is  
15 as blue collar as you can get. So, while we  
16 both speak English, I think you and I kind of  
17 speak a somewhat different version of  
18 English.

19 But that being said, I did read the  
20 comments in the paper and I think we can both  
21 agree that they were wrong. You admitted as  
22 much. You apologized for it and I appreciate  
23 that. I also believe that people make  
24 mistakes. They say things they don't mean or  
25 they shouldn't have said. Just as we should

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2 judge them on what they say, we should judge  
3 them on how they attempt to cure those  
4 mistakes.

5 What we saw today was an education  
6 on cancel culture. That's we saw today. It's  
7 taking something, one thing you said, which  
8 was wrong, forgetting everything else you've  
9 done for the communities that you've live in  
10 all your life and just taking that one thing  
11 and harping on it.

12 And what we see so often with  
13 cancel culture is the proponents of cancel  
14 culture are the hypocrites of cancel culture.  
15 We saw that today. People who that give  
16 second chances to some people but not to  
17 others. People who listen to -- who are  
18 willing to caucus with people who made  
19 mistakes in the past but are not willing to  
20 take your misspoken statement and look at all  
21 the good things you've done. That's a shame  
22 because speaking to that example, the person  
23 I'm referring to did a lot of good things just  
24 like I hope you do. So what I would be asking  
25 for when the vote comes -- obviously we're

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2 voting one by one -- just consistency. I  
3 think that's important.

4 I came here today having read your  
5 statements and also in the paper but also I  
6 did watch the board meeting and I heard the  
7 statements there as well. I came here today  
8 with an open mind. Thinking that you need to  
9 prove two things to me.

10 Number one, that you're not a  
11 racist. And number two, that you can fix the  
12 hospital. After today, I have no doubt that  
13 you are not a racist. No doubt in my mind.  
14 And there's no doubt in my mind that you can  
15 fix this hospital.

16 So, I will be voting in the  
17 affirmative and I thank you for your  
18 testimony.

19 And just before we pass on, I'm  
20 only pointing this out because there was so  
21 much discussion on it, which is insane to me,  
22 but with regard to the name tags, and I'm not  
23 saying this to be smart or anything like that,  
24 but perhaps we should change legislator your  
25 name tag because there is an accent that we

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2 can put above, like Legislator Mule's has an  
3 accent. So we could have possibly avoided  
4 that entire line of questioning if your name  
5 reflected the proper accent that your name  
6 should have. Maybe we can look into that in  
7 the future. Thank you.

8 MR. PULITZER: Thank you  
9 legislator. Legislator Arnold Drucker.

10 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Good  
11 afternoon. Thank you very much. So, our  
12 responsibility as legislators today is to put  
13 in place the best candidate to fill this  
14 important leadership position. That's it. I  
15 don't profess to the know the financial  
16 workings of the hospital, how it's best to  
17 serve. I leave that to other people that are  
18 a lot more qualified and smarter than I am.

19 But our job is to vet and pass  
20 judgement on an applicant and that's what  
21 we're doing today. All the other peripheral  
22 stuff is irrelevant. Yes, we can debate the  
23 words that were used by Mr. Bruderman until  
24 the cows come home. The bottom line for me is  
25 there are three reasons that I will vote in

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2 the negative.

3 One is I think Mr. Bruderman lacks  
4 the necessary health care experience or  
5 hospital administration that I would like to  
6 see for someone to assume a position as  
7 chairman of the hospital board. He has a  
8 tremendous amount of experience in finance, in  
9 owning a lot of businesses. And there's no  
10 question he's probably very, very talented at  
11 that. But if it was me and I want to pick  
12 someone who leads this hospital I want someone  
13 one who has more personal experience in  
14 hospital administration and health care. So  
15 he lacks that in my opinion.

16 Second, Mr. Bruderman has stated  
17 many times that he is apolitical. He's just a  
18 fiscal conservative. But, Mr. Bruderman, your  
19 documented history of political support belies  
20 that. And this hospital needs less political  
21 polarization and not more of it. I for one  
22 don't believe that Mr. Bruderman can present  
23 the neutrality that I would like to see as the  
24 chairman or on the board of the hospital.

25 Third is what concerns me is

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2 Mr. Bruderman's management style. I'll be  
3 quite honest with you. I don't see, what he  
4 has displayed today, I don't see the ability  
5 to work in a cohesive, collaborative and  
6 respectful way with other board members or  
7 administrators. And that's troubling to me  
8 because we need someone who's going to roll up  
9 his sleeves and listen to others who have been  
10 there on this board. You've heard many of  
11 them speak today who's been there for many,  
12 many years. Listen to them. Understand where  
13 they're coming from. Learn and maybe adopt  
14 some of their suggestions.

15 The way I see Mr. Bruderman's style  
16 today is, no, I'm going to listen but then I'm  
17 going to do things the way I want to do them.  
18 And I don't think if that's what's really best  
19 suited for this hospital.

20 Based on that I'm going to vote in  
21 the negative. Thank you very much.

22 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.

23 Legislator Rose Marie Walker.

24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: First of all,  
25 I just have to say that what took place here



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2 today, and I agree with Legislator Pilip, it's  
3 an embarrassment really to all of us. I'm not  
4 a confrontational person. I'd like us to get  
5 along. I'm strong willed. I'm passionate  
6 about things and I will work extremely hard to  
7 fight for all those things. But again, like I  
8 said, I think it's an embarrassment to all of  
9 us. I hate for those looking, that were  
10 watching today that they had to see a display  
11 like that. I believe sometimes we can  
12 probably all go to some type of sensitivity  
13 training because we can all have our moments.  
14 Sometimes we feel like we're pushed to that  
15 point and we do have those moments.

16 Even as a parent sometimes we have  
17 those moments. Or as a grandparent. Well,  
18 not as a grandparent. Whatever the grandkids  
19 do is okay. But again, I think that that's  
20 something we can all learn by.

21 This hospital, although it's not in  
22 my district, I abut the district also from my  
23 home. I have the 17th Legislative District  
24 but I live in Hicksville. I could be the  
25 closest legislator in my home to the

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2 hospital. Legislator McKevitt and certainly  
3 our other legislators are close by also in  
4 Levittown.

5 Many, many times that I do sports  
6 in our school district. I still do  
7 supervision. I do the official book, the  
8 official clock. I've driven in the back of an  
9 ambulance with one of our kids who's gotten  
10 hurt on a field and where are they taken?  
11 They're taken to the medical center. Even  
12 when we're at away games the same thing. And  
13 always treated with such -- and that was even  
14 way before I was an elected official. So it  
15 wasn't like I was in the hospital so often at  
16 that time.

17 But the care given at that  
18 hospital, everyone who was in that hospital  
19 totally amazing. Our fire fighters often go  
20 there for treatment that they need or they're  
21 with patients that they're bringing and how  
22 they're treated there. Our police officers.  
23 Just every aspect of that hospital. Everybody  
24 works so hard. During COVID what they did,  
25 and I said it over and over, whenever I had

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2 the chance we'd bring food to the hospital.  
3 We'd do many different things during COVID.  
4 But the staff in that hospital, the nurses,  
5 everyone, the doctors.

6 You know, we always say they have  
7 to kind of separate themselves from their  
8 patients and that they can't get too  
9 attached. But during COVID they became our  
10 families. They were the ones that held up an  
11 iPad that families could see their loved ones  
12 taking their last breath. Or even though they  
13 might not be able to hear -- their loved ones  
14 might not be able to hear they were there for  
15 them. So they became our families during that  
16 time and they just did a tremendous job.

17 They made sure that our teachers in  
18 our districts that they were able to get their  
19 vaccines quickly so we could try to get them  
20 back into our schools. Just so much they went  
21 over and over and over and above. I cannot  
22 thank them for that.

23 I truly believe that Mr. Bruderman  
24 is going to do a lot to enhance our hospital.  
25 I can hear that from everyone who's here from

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2 the hospital. He's going to make sure that  
3 everything possible that we can do to improve  
4 that hospital financially and even the  
5 services that we have there, he's going to  
6 work to make sure that that's happens. And I  
7 am very happy to vote yes for him.

8 MR. PULITZER: Thank you ma'am.  
9 Legislator Joshua Lafazan.

10 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Thank you  
11 Mr. Pulitzer and I'm sorry I couldn't be in  
12 person today to engage in the  
13 cross-examination. But from what I've heard I  
14 don't have confidence in Mr. Bruderman's  
15 appointment so vote no.

16 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
17 Legislator Steven Rhoads.

18 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you.  
19 The one thing that I know is that if the  
20 hospital were to fail it will not be because  
21 of the medicine. And that's the tragedy of  
22 this. It's because of its organization.  
23 Because of its leadership. And ultimately  
24 that's the issue.

25 We look at the proposal that's

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going to apparently be voted on on Monday at the state legislature and we look back historically on the state's investment in trying to prevent the failure of the hospital. And we see that as recently as 2016 Senator Hannon was able to obtain grants that were used by NUMC for various improvements at the hospital to the tune of that last round \$24 million. And we know that since Senator Hannon is no longer there those grants have essentially dried up. The state's almost treated the hospital in many respects as if it doesn't even exist.

So, I find it curious that two months after, less than two months after a change in administration, when new appointments are going to be made, that all of a sudden now the state has taken the interest to the point where they want to pack the board so that they can control and essentially take over what happens at the hospital. I don't know what their intentions are. What I know is what history tells me, is that that hospital has essentially been abandoned by the

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2 state. And this hospital is too important to  
3 our community. Is too important to our county  
4 to allow it to fail.

5 Whether they intend, I have no  
6 idea, whether they intend to close it.  
7 Whether they intend to privatize it. Whether  
8 they intend to take services away. Whatever  
9 that intention is I think we should have on  
10 behalf of our residents none of it.

11 That brings us to today. I think  
12 we need leadership at that hospital that's  
13 different from the leadership that we've had  
14 before. I think that leadership is what  
15 Mr. Bruderman provides. A background in  
16 finance. Someone who has the passion for the  
17 mission. Which is the important mission of  
18 saving that hospital. Making sure that it has  
19 the resources that it needs to be able to  
20 serve underserved communities both as the only  
21 level one trauma center in our area, with an  
22 exceptional burn unit that treats our fire  
23 fighters. I've been a volunteer fire fighter  
24 for 30 years. We take patients to NUMC every  
25 single day of the week. We're confident in

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2 the care that they receive but they need to  
3 have the support financially to be able to do  
4 that.

5 I believe that Mr. Bruderman has  
6 the expertise and the passion for the mission  
7 to make sure that we succeed in saving that  
8 hospital. So that it cannot only sustain  
9 itself but it can grow and become what it once  
10 was. Not because of anything having to do  
11 with the medicine but because of years of  
12 mismanagement.

13 The one thing that I'm concerned  
14 about, Mr. Bruderman, is that we have to make  
15 sure that the passion for the mission that you  
16 have, you have to make sure that -- you can't  
17 allow yourself to be a distraction from the  
18 passion and from the mission. I think some of  
19 the feedback you've gotten today and some of  
20 the feedback that you've heard, I know you  
21 have taken that to heart and I know that you  
22 are going to make sure that's not the case.

23 But I, as a legislator, am happy to  
24 work collaboratively with you. I wish you the  
25 best of success in your mission. And I truly

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2 hope and pray that you succeed because NUMC is  
3 too important to all of us. I couldn't  
4 imagine it not being there. I will vote in  
5 the affirmative and congratulations.

6 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
7 Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you  
9 Mike. I appreciate it.

10 I was listening to everyone speak  
11 and I was trying to figure out what I wanted  
12 to say and how I wanted to say it. I think  
13 most importantly the folks up here and the  
14 folks out there and the residents that we  
15 serve all need this hospital to be able to  
16 remain open. We talk about it as a safety net  
17 but I think that's more of a terminology.  
18 It's a lifeline for people.

19 If you go into cardiac arrest you  
20 have four minutes to be resuscitated. I don't  
21 know if Dr. Boutin can correct me on that, the  
22 timing, but you have a very limited time  
23 before you could permanently lose some of your  
24 bodily functions.

25 This hospital serves a minority



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2 community that all of us care about. It's a  
3 community that I represent. I've heard from  
4 my colleagues in regards to some of the  
5 commentary that went back and forth. And I  
6 apologize for my part in that. Unfortunately,  
7 some of my colleagues paint it as it was just  
8 one person or one side. Which that's the  
9 problem that occurs many a times on this body  
10 is that we just blame one side. We're all a  
11 part of it.

12 I said some things. Rich, I  
13 apologize to you. Rich said some things and  
14 then obviously Mr. Bruderman said some  
15 things. Collectively we could have done a  
16 better job.

17 But that being said, Mr. Bruderman,  
18 I take your comments to be offensive. I never  
19 would use the word racism and good in the same  
20 parallel. I think from that standpoint it  
21 sounds like to me you've walked back those  
22 comments. But it's not just the walk backing  
23 of the comments. And I've heard Mr. Ferretti  
24 mention cancel culture. It would be one thing  
25 if Mr. Bruderman evolved, if you evolved in

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2 your comment and you said it 20 years ago or  
3 two years ago and you've been a changed  
4 person. If you show and you demonstrated that  
5 you don't really think that way and believe  
6 those things or believed whatever you  
7 believe.

8 There's no vindictive part on my  
9 side. I can speak for myself. As I said  
10 before, I didn't even know who you were before  
11 March 6th. I had no idea. However, if you  
12 are looking to represent this body, this  
13 board, and eventually become the chairman, I  
14 should know who you are and I should care what  
15 you do and what you say. Those words do have  
16 an impact.

17 That being said, when you can make  
18 the reference of good racism, I'm not too sure  
19 why you had to look up racism or Google it. I  
20 would like to think that somebody that's going  
21 to serve in the capacity that you are going to  
22 serve in, serving a diverse, multicultural  
23 multi-ethnic body, I'm sorry, community such  
24 as Nassau County, that I'm not too sure you  
25 would have look that term up. You should know

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2 it. You're getting ready to represent a  
3 diverse population. And as it has been said  
4 before, I'm not sure you're up for this task.

5 This is not a personal attack.  
6 Like I said before, I've never met you.  
7 However, I do hope and wish that you're  
8 successful. And it's not for you per se or  
9 even for the county executive or for this  
10 body. It's important that you're successful  
11 on behalf of the residents of this county and  
12 the patients that need that hospital and the  
13 patients that can't get to a Winthrop or a  
14 South Nassau or a Northwell and they only have  
15 the medical center. Those are the people that  
16 reside all throughout this county and those  
17 people need this to be successful.

18 However, with that being said, I'm  
19 taking the position of voting against your  
20 appointment. That's a big shocker to many in  
21 the room. But I'm doing it for multiple  
22 reasons. And I believe that words and actions  
23 matter. Mr. Bruderman, your comments at the  
24 recent board meeting were completely and  
25 totally unsatisfying from my standpoint. Not

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2 someone that I would see becoming the top  
3 position of the hospital. Your financial  
4 experience definitely bodes well.

5 However, your comments and then  
6 obviously some of the things that you  
7 mentioned today just doesn't seem to me that  
8 you're up to the task. But I hope and pray  
9 that you become more comfortable and more  
10 suitable and obviously choose your words  
11 better going forward in the future. As I said  
12 before, we would want to and continue to wish  
13 you the best in that capacity but I will be  
14 voting no on your appointment today. Thank  
15 you.

16 MR. PULITZER: Thank you  
17 legislator. Presiding Officer Richard  
18 Nicolello.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
20 very much. First I want to say, Kevan, there  
21 was no need for the apology. Things got a  
22 little heated but you certainly didn't say  
23 anything to offend me. However, since you  
24 have apologized to me now I have to apologize  
25 to you so that we're even. It's like favors.

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2 Got to make sure the favors are even. I was  
3 apologizing.

4 In all seriousness, we get  
5 passionate up here, we get heated and we go  
6 back to the business of the legislature and we  
7 leave and we're all friends as we have been  
8 for years.

9 You start out from this  
10 perspective. The mission of this hospital,  
11 and we all agree on this, is absolutely  
12 critical. You serve the underserved. The  
13 uninsured, the underinsured. You serve those  
14 who have economic disadvantages. You largely  
15 serve the minority populations of our county  
16 and you provide services to our first  
17 responders in many ways.

18 The hospital has struggled for  
19 years. It has been mismanaged. That has  
20 threatened that very mission. Even more so,  
21 it's threatened the wonderful work that our  
22 health care professionals are doing there. It  
23 has to change.

24 Now, Mr. Bruderman, you misspoke.  
25 We all do. You came here expressing regret

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2 for your misspeaking. You explained what you  
3 meant to say. I don't think you can do  
4 anything more. You're a successful  
5 businessman. You've done very well in life.  
6 You have a particular set of skills that I  
7 think we could very well use at the hospital.  
8 You are committed to turning this around. I  
9 say let's give you a chance. I vote aye.

10 MR. PULITZER: Mr. Nicoletto, the  
11 vote reads 13 in the affirmative, six  
12 negative.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: It  
14 passes. Congratulations Mr. Bruderman. You  
15 sure you want to say something?

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: All the smart  
17 people. I am long-winded but I won't be. I  
18 just want to thank everyone here and say,  
19 look, I'm prepared. Grill me ten times harder  
20 about my performance and hold me accountable  
21 and watch me go and watch what this hospital  
22 can do when it's got the right leadership.  
23 I'm going to call in the outfield. We're  
24 going to fix it.

25 I want to thank everyone,

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2    especially the people that gave me a hard time  
3    today. But again, for their constituents and  
4    because I gave them good reasons to. But I'm  
5    going to work very hard for everybody and  
6    we're going to fix the hospital. And I thank  
7    you very much for your confidence and I have  
8    taken everything to heart. Thank you.

9                   LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:     Motion to  
10   adjourn. Legislator Rhoads. Seconded by  
11   Legislator Walker. All in favor of adjourning  
12   signify by saying aye. Those opposed?  
13   Carries unanimously.

14                   (Meeting was adjourned at 2:32  
15   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  
April 2022.

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FRANK GRAY