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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO
PRESIDING OFFICER

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

Monday, April 11, 2022
6:20 P.M.

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

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4 LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

5 Presiding Officer

6 9th Legislative District

7

8 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

9 Deputy Presiding Officer

10 7th Legislative District

11

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

25

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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

25

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2 LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

3 15th Legislative District

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5 LEGISLATOR ANDREW DRUCKER

6 16th Legislative District

7

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 MR. PULITZER: This is the roll
3 call for the Nassau County Legislature.

4 Deputy Presiding Officer Howard Kopel.

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

6 MR. PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
7 Presiding Officer Denise Ford.

8 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

9 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Siela
10 Bynoe.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

12 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Carrie
13 Solages.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

15 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Debra
16 Mule.

17 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

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

20 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

21 MR. PULITZER: Legislator John
22 Giuffre.

23 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.

24 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Mazi
25 Pilip.

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2 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

3 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia

4 DeRiggi-Whitton.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

6 Here.

7 MR. PULITZER: Legislator James

8 Kennedy.

9 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

10 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Thomas

11 McKevitt.

12 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

13 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura

14 Schaefer.

15 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

16 MR. PULITZER: Legislator John

17 Ferretti.

18 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

19 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold

20 Drucker.

21 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

22 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Rose

23 Marie Walker.

24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

25 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Joshua

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2 Lafazan. Josh.

3 Legislator Steven Rhoads.

4 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

5 MR. PULITZER: Minority Leader

6 Kevan Abrahams. Kevan.

7 Presiding Officer Richard

8 Nicolello.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

10 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum

11 sir.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We are

13 just going to wait a few minutes until we are

14 live and then I will introduce the county

15 executive.

16 Ladies and gentlemen, it's my

17 privilege to introduce the county executive of

18 Nassau County Bruce Blakeman.

19 MR. BLAKEMAN: Thank you very

20 much. If nothing else I think I've improved

21 the musical selections here in the county.

22 First, I want to thank Presiding

23 Officer Nicolello and Minority Leader Kevan

24 Abrahams and members of the legislature for

25 hosting me tonight. I also want to thank God,

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2 Hashem, for giving me the strength to be
3 county executive, and I pray that God gives me
4 the wisdom, courage and compassion to be a
5 good and just county executive. We are in a
6 very holy month with Easter, Passover and
7 Ramadan. I want to wish everybody in the
8 county a blessed holiday.

9 We have come through some difficult
10 times. This is probably the most difficult
11 period in the history of mankind. COVID-19
12 has affected us in unimaginable ways. Thank
13 you to our police, fire fighters, first
14 responders, doctors and nurses for the courage
15 and dedication you displayed in helping us all
16 navigate these troubled waters.

17 In the past few weeks I have
18 consulted with members of the legislature,
19 County Comptroller Elaine Phillips,
20 supervisors Clavin, Saladino and Desena and
21 our budget advisors on how we as a county can
22 help our middle class residents and those that
23 are at or below the poverty level.

24 Tonight the county legislature will
25 consider, in a special session, a joint

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2 proposal to freeze the gas tax at 2020
3 levels. Thus providing immediate gas tax
4 relief to residents during this inflationary
5 period caused by Albany and Washington D.C.

6 After further consultation with
7 Suffolk County Executive Steven Bellone and
8 Suffolk County Presiding Officer Kevin
9 McCaffrey, we will propose a regional approach
10 to cut the gas tax at the same amounts.
11 Thereby, Nassau County and Suffolk County and
12 all of Long Island will be united in our
13 endeavor to cut the gasoline tax.

14 We are moving forward in keeping
15 our county open and free and at the same time
16 providing important tools to combat COVID-19
17 such as free test kits, free KN95 masks for
18 teachers, so they will have no excuse not to
19 come to work, and free vaccines.

20 Nassau is the first county in New
21 York State to remove mask requirements
22 throughout the whole county. We have lead the
23 fight to give parents choice as to whether to
24 mask children. We parents should be the sole
25 arbiters of what is best for our kids. Long

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2 after COVID ceased to be a serious health
3 concern, mandates to mask school children were
4 cruel and materially affected their education,
5 growth and social well being. I knew it was
6 wrong and I led the statewide fight to stop
7 it.

8 We have continued to provide free
9 vaccines to all those who want them without
10 mandating vaccinations for first responders
11 and county workers. How could we, in good
12 conscious, ask our first responders and health
13 care professionals, who in the height of the
14 pandemic and at the most dangerous time went
15 to work with no vaccine available, and yet
16 some municipalities threatened and did fire
17 these same heroes for not being vaccinated.
18 It's wrong, it's unfair and I will never do
19 that to our local heroes.

20 We successfully negotiated a
21 longevity settlement with all five county
22 unions. For the past 11 years the county and
23 its five unions have engaged in litigation
24 regarding longevity. This grievance brought
25 by our five unions was scheduled to be

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2 arbitrated in March. Knowing that the
3 arbitration could have gone either way, I
4 determined to test whether a reasonable
5 settlement could be found. The five unions
6 and I agreed to mediation. It took many
7 meetings and hard work but we have come to a
8 settlement that is fiscally prudent yet fair
9 to our workers. I'm happy to report that all
10 five unions have ratified the settlement.
11 This settlement wipes away tens of millions of
12 dollars in exposure to our taxpayers and
13 closes a sad chapter in management-labor
14 relations.

15 We also negotiated a settlement
16 with LIPA to avoid potential liability to
17 taxpayers of hundreds of millions of dollars.
18 Facing a potential liability of hundreds
19 millions of dollars, LIPA's lawsuit against
20 the county was scheduled for trial in the
21 court this May. An adverse judgement
22 threatened to bankrupt the county. I am happy
23 to report that we have agreed to settle the
24 LIPA lawsuit with no liability to county
25 taxpayers. Zero refunds to LIPA.

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2 To not settle on these terms would
3 be gross malpractice on the part of all county
4 officials. We understand and we are
5 sympathetic to the two school districts
6 affected by this litigation.

7 Through my direct intervention,
8 LIPA has upped offers to the school districts
9 and I'm happy to report today LIPA settled
10 with the North Shore schools. I will continue
11 to fight for the Island Park school district.
12 But there is no choice but for the county to
13 settle now. I'm happy to report today this
14 settlement passed the Finance and Rules
15 Committee of the legislature. So thank you to
16 my colleagues for taking the path of courage
17 in order to protect our taxpayers.

18 As promised, I went to Albany and
19 demanded repeal of the dangerous cashless bail
20 law and forced the county to finally admit and
21 our elected officials in Albany and our
22 governor to finally admit that the law was
23 terribly flawed. I continue to force the
24 issue as I did the other day in my
25 conversations with Senate Leader

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2 Stewart-Cousins.

3 Crime is out of control throughout
4 the whole state. My message to Albany is to
5 repeal the get-out-of-jail-free law and make
6 us all safer.

7 Our police commissioner, Patrick
8 Ryder, stood with me as we inventoried over
9 100 illegal weapons seized by our great police
10 department. Over ten percent of those illegal
11 weapons were seized from criminals released
12 without bail. Enough is enough.

13 We have forge alliances with
14 federal homeland security and law enforcement
15 partners to take a regional approach to
16 fighting crime and reducing gang activity.
17 Last week we met with Homeland Security
18 officials. And we have toured their
19 facilities in New York City and they have
20 toured our's and we pledge to work together to
21 rid the county of the dreaded gang activity
22 that threatens our most vulnerable people, our
23 kids.

24 We have confronted opioid addiction
25 head on with the appointment of a new

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2 substance abuse director to strategize ways to
3 improve treatment options, to educate our kids
4 and to put drug dealers in jail.

5 In furtherance of fighting crime,
6 we will purchase and install more license
7 plate readers to fight crimes like car thefts
8 and burglaries that are rampant throughout the
9 region and throughout New York State.

10 Reassessment -- excuse me. I
11 missed a line. I have also ordered six new
12 ambulances for our police department to
13 protect our community and more are on the
14 way.

15 Reassessment has been secretive,
16 unfair and unbalanced. I have been meeting
17 regularly with County Comptroller Elaine
18 Phillips to determine through the auditing
19 process what went wrong with reassessment and
20 we will work with the legislature to design a
21 plan to fix broken reassessment of my
22 predecessor.

23 Assessment must be fair,
24 transparent and understandable. No more
25 mansions worth over \$3 million paying no

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2 taxes. That's right. Zero taxes. That's not
3 going to happen anymore. No more gross
4 disparities where identical houses pay vastly
5 different taxes. We didn't create this. We
6 didn't make this problem. We didn't break the
7 reassessment but we together will fix it.

8 We are working with Senator Schumer
9 and Congressman Garbarino to obtain
10 infrastructure funds to rebuild highways,
11 ensure clean water and protect our precious
12 natural resources.

13 With the help of Senator Schumer
14 and Congressman Garbarino we will be providing
15 funding to veteran halls to keep them open. I
16 want to thank our federal partners. Our
17 veterans served us, they protected us and the
18 least we can do is help these veteran halls
19 remain open and vital. Veteran halls are the
20 foundation of our community. Thank you to our
21 veterans for their service.

22 And I want to welcome back my son
23 Avi who just finished a five year tour in the
24 United States Marine Corp. And I also have to
25 brag a bit about my son Arlon who is an

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2 assistant state's attorney. He's a prosecutor
3 fighting crime in Florida. You can give him
4 an applause too. And also saving people's
5 lives through good nutrition my NYU grad and
6 licensed dietitian, Ariel. And thank you to
7 my wife for all that she does to support me.

8 We have important cultural sites
9 here in Nassau County. One of them is the
10 African-American museum. I was shocked to
11 find out that the African-American museum did
12 not have any full-time employees. So, for the
13 first time the African-American museum will
14 have two full-time employees so that we can
15 bring culture to all segments of our
16 community.

17 Sadly, New York State has reduced
18 funding to Nassau University Medical Center by
19 over \$80 million over the last year. It is
20 clear that the state is bleeding it to death.
21 I've appointed a new chairman, Matt Bruderman,
22 to exhaust all resources to keep Nassau
23 University Medical Center and A. Holly
24 Patterson nursing home open to protect our
25 most vulnerable.

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2 In conjunction with the
3 legislature, we have passed legislation to set
4 up a task force to combat anti-Semitism. We
5 are working together with the
6 Hispanic-American chamber of commerce to help
7 small businesses and we will not tolerate any
8 hate crimes. Including those against
9 Asian-Americans.

10 We have recently opened a dialogue
11 with the South Asian-American Small Business
12 Association to improve economic opportunities
13 for young and old alike in every community.
14 I'm happy -- you can clap for that.

15 And I am happy to report that the
16 bond rating agencies upgraded Nassau County's
17 fiscal position under our leadership to stable
18 positive. I will continue to provide quality
19 county services at the most cost efficient way
20 for our taxpayers. That's just in the first
21 100 days.

22 Guess what? We still found the
23 time to get guns and fire fighting equipment
24 to the Ukraine. God bless the men and women
25 of the Ukraine. It's heartbreaking to see

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2 what's happening each and every day and we
3 want you to know that Nassau County stands
4 with you for freedom and liberty.

5 But let's talk about the future.

6 Now we must look at the future. We are
7 planning for a bold and exciting project at
8 the Hub. We have talked to many people who
9 have great ideas and we're talking with the
10 current developers and the operator of the
11 Coliseum. It's been too long and I'm hopeful
12 within the next 90 days we will, in
13 cooperation with the Town of Hempstead, have a
14 plan that is truly exciting. Merging together
15 the Coliseum with Nassau Community College,
16 Museum Row, Hofstra University and the Village
17 of Hempstead we will create a new, vibrant and
18 exciting destination worthy of the name the
19 Hub.

20 In order to keep residential
21 properties in check, we must increase our tax
22 base by recruiting new businesses to Nassau
23 County to provide jobs and establish
24 prosperity for all communities.

25 We have accomplished a lot in the

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2 last 100 days. But the best is yet to come.

3 Again, I want to thank the members
4 of my administration who have worked so hard.
5 I want to thank the legislature for hosting me
6 tonight and I want to say to each and every
7 one of you in this holy month may God bless
8 you all and may God bless the United States.
9 Thank you very much.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
11 Rhoads makes a motion to adjourn. We're going
12 to recess.

13 (Legislature recessed at 6:52 p.m.)

14 (Legislature reconvened at 7:26
15 p.m.)

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Now I'm
17 going to call the full legislature. Item 132
18 of 2022 is a local law -- wait. We need an
19 emergency to establish the emergency.

20 MR. PULITZER: Presiding Officer,
21 an emergency resolution declaring an emergency
22 for immediate action upon a local law to amend
23 Chapter Four of Title Nine of the
24 miscellaneous laws of Nassau County in
25 relation to electing a cent per gallon rate on

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2 sales and compensating use taxes on motor fuel
3 and diesel fuel in lieu of the percentage rate
4 of such taxes pursuant to the authority of
5 Article 29 of the tax law of the state of
6 New York.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We need a
8 motion to establish the emergency. Legislator
9 Rhoads makes the motion. Legislator Ferretti
10 seconds the motion. Any discussion on the
11 emergency? Legislator Drucker.

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you
13 Presiding Officer. I definitely and I think
14 I'm speaking on behalf of my caucus, would
15 support this emergency. However, I'm
16 supporting it with certain reservations
17 because I think that we have an opportunity
18 here to do more. And under the enabling
19 legislation from Albany, the statute, we can
20 do a tax reduction of the gas tax at \$2 per
21 gallon rather than \$3 per gallon. It would be
22 permissible under the law and it's within our
23 budget. We can afford it. The impact that
24 we've been told about certainly fits within
25 that.

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2 I want to support the emergency but
3 I think the Majority should consider our bill
4 which provides greater relief to the taxpayers
5 immediately and why give half of a tax cut
6 when we can give a full tax cut? It's within
7 our budget. We can afford it. With the
8 robust sales tax revenue that we have and
9 other things that we have in our budget we can
10 afford this. I think that we're cheating our
11 taxpayers by not giving them as much relief as
12 we legally can.

13 I will support the emergency but I
14 am going to ask that the Majority reconsider
15 and support our legislation rather than the
16 one that gives half a tax cut.

17 I'm informed that yes, our counsel
18 has reminded me that our bill lasts until
19 March of '23 whereas your bill expires in
20 December. Right?

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone
22 else want to comment? Legislator Rhoads.

23 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: The response
24 to that to be perfectly honest as you just
25 heard during the state of the county address

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2 is that we're taking a regional approach as to
3 how we're doing this.

4 Initially, I'm not convinced that
5 we have the resources to be able to cut it to
6 a \$2 cap. We're taking what we can get now
7 and we have the opportunity to be able to
8 revisit that later if we can establish that we
9 have the funds necessary to be able to do
10 that.

11 In the interim, we are partnering
12 with our colleagues in Suffolk County,
13 including the Suffolk County executive and the
14 majority in the Suffolk County legislature,
15 and we are passing mirror bills of each other
16 at a \$3 cap with an expiration of December 31,
17 2022. The theory behind this being that the
18 county at gas prices that have increased from
19 roughly \$3 now, if you're paying for premium
20 that are going up to \$4.59, \$4.69, \$4.79 a
21 gallon is reaping a windfall and that windfall
22 should be returned to the motorist and that's
23 what this legislation is seeking to do.

24 Does not foreclose another
25 possibility at a later time. We want to act.

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2 We were waiting on the state passing the
3 enabling legislation. This is something that
4 we've been discussing over the period of
5 several weeks and we can't wait any longer.
6 It's time for us to move ahead with this.

7 So, I would ask my colleagues in
8 the minority to support the emergency so that
9 we can get much needed relief to our
10 motorists.

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I would just
12 like to respond, Legislator Rhoads, by saying
13 that we have evaluated the approximate impact
14 at \$2 a gallon. It comes out to about -- it
15 was for seven months, if it expires in
16 December it's about \$13 million.
17 Approximately \$13 million. If we extended it
18 until March it's another \$9 million. So about
19 \$22 million. That nine cents a gallon
20 difference is tremendous. We can do that
21 relief now. And it's still at \$22 million is
22 something within our budget. We don't have to
23 wait for Suffolk County to get on board or the
24 state. This is something that we are
25 authorized and empowered to do today,

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2 immediately. So I would just say we have
3 money in our budget to do this.

4 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I know we
5 keep saying that we have money in the budget
6 to do this. I don't know where that money in
7 the budget exists at the moment. That's
8 something we can explore. But in the meantime
9 let's take what we can do today.

10 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: \$80 million
11 is the projected sales tax this year with no
12 growth. \$80 million is what's expected.
13 That's where it is.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone
15 else? Hearing none --

16 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
17 think we're inclined, from what I understand,
18 to give the emergency because we don't want to
19 hold it up. But can we maybe make a date to
20 revisit this? Like maybe June 1st or
21 something? Because I would really love to
22 bounce it up if we can.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I think
24 certainly the intention would be to look at
25 this again to see what else we can do. I'm

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2 not speaking for the administration but
3 certainly it's common sense to take another
4 look.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm sorry. I
6 have a question. So we want to do it at the
7 three percent because we have received
8 confirmation that Suffolk County is doing it
9 at three percent? I'm sorry, I meant \$3.

10 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Yes. That
11 was just announced at the state of the county.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I must have
13 missed that over some of the other stuff that
14 was said. This was negotiated between
15 Suffolk? Because this was filed earlier today
16 before it was announced here. Did we
17 negotiate that as a regional approach is the
18 question?

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I'm not sure
20 exactly what steps the administration took and
21 who they spoke with out in Suffolk County. We
22 filed it at \$3 because that's what we believe
23 to be right. It's our understanding that
24 that's exactly what is being mirrored in
25 Suffolk County. What conversations the

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2 administration may have had to confirm that I
3 know that there is a joint press conference
4 tomorrow for example.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So I suspect
6 it was. Thank you.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other
8 debate or discussion on the emergency? Any
9 public comment on the emergency? All in favor
10 of the emergency signify by saying aye. Those
11 opposed? Passes unanimously.

12 Item 132 of 2022 is a local law to
13 amend Chapter Four of Title Nine of the
14 miscellaneous laws of Nassau County in
15 relation to electing a cents per gallon rate
16 on sales and compensating use taxes on motor
17 fuel and diesel fuel in lieu of the percentage
18 rate of such taxes.

19 Motion by Legislator Rhoads.
20 Seconded by Legislator Ferretti. So the item
21 is before us. Any further debate or
22 discussion on the item? Legislator Bynoe.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you
24 Presiding Officer. I would just implore the
25 county executive to use the full weight and

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2 authority of consumer affairs to ensure that
3 the gas station owners are fairly and
4 equitably and to the spirit of this
5 legislation reducing that tax at the pole. I
6 don't think that we can in any way, shape,
7 form or fashion leave this unenforced. Thank
8 you.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
10 you. Any other discussion?

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm sorry.
12 Apparently we are asking Maurice Chalmers,
13 director OLBR, if he would come to the
14 podium.

15 MR. CHALMERS: Maurice Chalmers,
16 budget review.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So the
18 question is, have you had any time to look at
19 the fiscal impacts to the \$2 versus the \$3
20 threshold?

21 MR. CHALMERS: No. This item is
22 being done by emergency. So, we did not get a
23 chance to do an analysis on it.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: At all?

25 MR. CHALMERS: On this at all.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other
3 questions for Maurice?

4 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
5 Maurice, can you do it?

6 MR. CHALMERS: I mean, once it's
7 passed by emergency it's basically done. I
8 can do it just for information if you would
9 like me to do it.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: It's
11 for information only should we re-address it
12 as we are all kind of hoping we do. Thank
13 you.

14 MR. CHALMERS: Absolutely.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
16 Ferretti.

17 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Look, I
18 think we can, although it's kind of late,
19 hopefully not debate this all night. But
20 whether this money is there as a surplus or
21 not it is still county money. This is still
22 money that's there for Nassau County that can
23 be used for other things. Like possibly a tax
24 cut or whatever. And so really the answer to
25 this problem is for Albany and Washington to

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2 get their acts together and put forward an
3 energy policy where we're energy independent
4 and we can get gas prices back to where they
5 were.

6 While we can debate \$2 versus \$3.
7 Do we have the money in a surplus? That money
8 can be used for Nassau County taxpayers in a
9 positive one way or the other. We shouldn't
10 even be here figuring out how to bail out
11 Washington and bail out Albany because that's
12 what we're doing. They got to get their act
13 together and get gas prices under control.
14 That's the answer. This is all just plugging
15 one hole to make another one.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone
17 else? Legislator Rhoads.

18 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: The fact that
19 we're taking action today and we're taking
20 responsible action today does not excuse
21 Albany from their lack of diligence in doing
22 everything that they can to control gas
23 prices. As Legislator Ferretti just
24 mentioned, it's energy policy in Washington,
25 it's energy policy in Albany that is

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2 artificially driving prices higher that has
3 created this crisis. We are merely addressing
4 a symptom.

5 And while we're here working, our
6 state senators are sitting in their houses
7 instead of up in Albany where they should also
8 be working.

9 And let's take a look at what
10 they've done to Nassau County taxpayers. As
11 you heard during the state of the county
12 address, in the last two years they have cut
13 \$80 million in funding to Nassau County's only
14 safety net hospital, forcing county taxpayers
15 to make up the difference. We are paying tens
16 of millions of dollars in Medicaid, county
17 taxpayers, for a program that is supposed to
18 be administered by the state of New York.

19 Democrats up in Albany, John
20 Brooks, Anna Caplan, Kevin Thomas, Jim Garvin,
21 Todd Kaminski, three of whom stood on the
22 steps of this legislature this morning to
23 demand that we act, have raised spending by
24 \$34 billion in the last two years alone. An
25 18 percent increase on all of the taxpayers of

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2 Nassau County. And while they're coming here
3 telling us what we should be doing, they
4 refuse to cut the petroleum business tax which
5 would cut almost 20 cents a gallon off the
6 price of a gallon of gasoline.

7 So instead of coming down here and
8 showboating, they should get their rear ends
9 back to Albany and get back to work to
10 actually provide some relief for our
11 taxpayers.

12 I'm happy that we're doing what we
13 can do right now. But the problem needs a
14 solution from Albany and Washington not a
15 solution from here in Mineola. I urge my
16 colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Debates
18 over. Any public comment? Nobody is here so
19 there's no public comment. All in favor of
20 this item signify by saying aye. Those
21 opposed? Carries unanimously.

22 Motion to adjourn. Moved by
23 Legislator Rose Walker. Seconded by
24 Legislator Ford. All in favor of adjourning
25 signify by saying aye. Those opposed?

1 Full - 4-11-22
2 We are adjourned.
3 (Legislature adjourned at 7:39
4 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 21st day of
April 2022.

FRANK GRAY