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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, May 23, 2022
6:51 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

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8 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

9 Deputy Presiding Officer

10 7th Legislative District

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12 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

13 Alternate Presiding Officer

14 4th Legislative District

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

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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

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11 LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

12 18th Legislative District

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14 LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

15 19th Legislative District

16

17 MICHAEL PULITZER

18 Clerk of the Legislature

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm going
3 to call this meeting of the Nassau County
4 legislature to order and ask Legislator
5 Colonel Bill Gaylor to lead us in the Pledge
6 of Allegiance.

7 Please remain standing for a moment
8 of silence for the victims of the despicable
9 attack in Buffalo about a week or so ago. As
10 well as the victims of the horrendous car
11 crash in New Hyde Park over the weekend. 16
12 year old girls. If you would keep them and
13 their families in your prayers we'd
14 appreciate. As well as actually we lost a
15 longtime legislator, good friend, Joe
16 Scannell.

17 Thank you very much.

18 We have a color guard here which we
19 should have processed them before the pledge
20 but I would like to have them process in with
21 our nation's flag. It's Company D of the 41st
22 Armored Infantry Regiment from the Long Island
23 Living History Association.

24 On behalf of the legislature and
25 the county I want to thank our hosts for this

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2 evening, the Museum of American Armor, Gary
3 Lewi, Lawrence Kadish show actually
4 established this place. Mike Sappicone is
5 here. This is a remarkable facility for our
6 county. It is a piece of living history for
7 our residents, especially our children, and we
8 really appreciate that you hosted us tonight.
9 All the efforts that you made with my staff to
10 set this up for a legislative meeting. Thank
11 you all. Have a nice round of applause.

12 I also want to thank HBO. We will
13 hear a few words from Jay Roewe in few
14 moments, the senior vice president of
15 productions at HBO. They gave us, the
16 legislators, our staff, a tour of the Guilded
17 Age set on top of the hill. Extraordinary
18 facility. It is a wonderful place. It is a
19 beacon for productions of the same time but
20 also as importantly, the production has
21 brought tremendous amount of economic value to
22 our county. Just in the time alone in which
23 they were filming there we raised over \$12
24 million in economic activity. So they've done
25 a fabulous job and thank you Jay and thank you

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2 HBO. Mike would you like to say a few words.

3 MR. SAPPICONE: Thanks Rich.

4 Before we go with protocol I just want to
5 thank everyone for being here at this great
6 facility. All our guests this evening to see
7 what a great job you do here. Actually show
8 the county and the world what living history
9 is really here. So thank you all for being
10 here.

11 Permit me to welcome the members of
12 the Nassau County Legislature to a powerful,
13 compelling tribute to the American GI. In
14 2013 the legislature approved the creation of
15 this Armor Museum on the grounds of Old
16 Bethpage Village Restoration. By doing so,
17 you not only added yet one more reason for
18 families to visit this park and historic
19 preserve, but you created an extraordinary
20 living history environment that touches every
21 visitor.

22 Today it serves as an educational
23 destination. Hundreds of students were here
24 earlier this month participating in a unique
25 field trip that will expand their appreciation

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2 of those who have defended our freedom.

3 Today Nassau County is home to one
4 of the largest veteran populations in the
5 United States. The Blakeman administration,
6 its parks commissioner and the legislature
7 have allowed this museum to grow and fulfill
8 its potential.

9 In closing, I want to publicly
10 thank Lawrence Kadish for creating this museum
11 and the Nassau County elected officials who
12 recognize the importance of the mission and
13 who continue to support its role aside Old
14 Bethpage Village. Thank you very much guys.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Again, I'd
16 like to thank HBO. Several years ago the
17 legislature approved the permit for the use of
18 the field next door which was just an empty
19 field at the time and it is wonderful for all
20 of us to see what has been accomplished there
21 and what you're still going to be
22 accomplishing over the next few years.

23 MR. ROEWE: Thank you Officer
24 Nicolello. It's very nice to be here and
25 continue the journey that started with you

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2 all. It's nice to be able to share, as we did
3 with the tour today, to see where I came with
4 Gary. The fruits have been very successful.
5 We thank you for that partnership.

6 As you can see from the tour today,
7 the adjacent Guilded Age backlot was created
8 by scenic designers, carpenters, operating
9 engineers, electricians, stagehands and the
10 digital wizards who work magic in their post
11 production and electronics. Many of whom live
12 here in Nassau County.

13 None of this could have happened
14 without your direct support and endorsement of
15 many Nassau County government agencies. Both
16 executive and legislative branches saw the
17 advantages of the Guilded Age backlot on the
18 grounds of Old Bethpage Village Restoration.

19 Our initial challenge was to find
20 sufficient acreage near Gold Coast Studios
21 here in Bethpage to build a bustling part of
22 Manhattan circa 1880s. But also needed to be
23 secure and accessible to crew and cast.

24 But in identifying the property
25 adjacent to the Armor Museum, we recognized

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2 that we needed to bring something more than
3 just brick and mortar to Nassau County. With
4 the help of Gary Lewi we were able to make
5 this happen with you.

6 We needed to bring a strong rate of
7 economic return to the county and its
8 residents. We needed to demonstrate that the
9 creation of a 19th Century avenue in Manhattan
10 would bring a 21st Century benefit to your
11 bottom line. The production delivered on
12 these goals.

13 During its first season the Guilded
14 Age filmed a total of 44 days in Nassau
15 County. Investing over \$12.6 in payroll and
16 vendor expenditures in the local Nassau County
17 economy. This included supporting 34 local
18 businesses and government agencies. Spending
19 over \$4.6 million alone in location and permit
20 fees, catering, lumber, transportation and
21 more.

22 We also needed to create a strong
23 partnership with educational institutions so
24 that we can provide students with career
25 insights and opportunities. This included

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2 partnering with Hofstra and many other local
3 education and art groups here in Nassau
4 County.

5 By allowing us to create the
6 backlot on this property you've also allowed
7 us to work in partnership with the
8 professionals here at Old Bethpage Village
9 Restoration and the Museum of Armor. The
10 partnership has also extended, as we saw
11 today, with PSEG Long Island to help us
12 install a very unique power drop, very unique
13 for our industry, right here on these
14 grounds. This was a very new, innovative
15 approach. We will be using it and sharing
16 this with our productions all around the world
17 and it's starting right here in Nassau
18 County.

19 Together we have created a series
20 that has won critical acclaim, an enormous
21 audience and the continuing promise of a story
22 well told. Also bringing Nassau County's
23 attention to a lot of people. Maybe they
24 didn't know that before.

25 From all of us at HBO and the

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2 entire cast and crew of the Guilded Age, thank
3 you all for making this possible. Greatly
4 appreciate it.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
6 Jay. Legislator Drucker and Legislator Rhoads
7 were wondering if you needed an extras for
8 this.

9 Mike could you call the roll
10 please.

11 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. Deputy
12 Presiding Officer Howard Kopel.

13 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

14 MR. PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
15 Presiding Officer Denise Ford.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Siela
18 Bynoe.

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

20 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Carrie
21 Solages.

22 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

23 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Debra
24 Mule.

25 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

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2 MR. PULITZER: Legislator C.

3 William Gaylor III.

4 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

5 MR. PULITZER: Legislator John

6 Giuffre.

7 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.

8 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Mazi

9 Pilip.

10 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

11 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia

12 DeRiggi-Whitton.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

14 Here.

15 MR. PULITZER: Legislator James

16 Kennedy.

17 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

18 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Thomas

19 McKevitt.

20 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

21 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura

22 Schaefer.

23 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

24 MR. PULITZER: Legislator John

25 Ferretti.

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2 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

3 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
4 Drucker.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

6 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Rose
7 Marie Walker.

8 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

9 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Joshua
10 Lafazan.

11 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

12 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Steven
13 Rhoads.

14 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

15 MR. PULITZER: Minority Leader
16 Kevan Abrahams.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

18 MR. PULITZER: Presiding Officer
19 Richard Nicoletello.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

21 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum
22 sir.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
24 you. We will be getting to the public comment
25 portion of our meeting in a few moments.

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2 Anyone who wants to speak in the public
3 comment portion or during the two hearings
4 that we're having please submit a slip to the
5 clerk's office which is the table all the way
6 to my right. I have two slips so far.

7 But as is our custom before going
8 to public comment portion of our meeting we
9 have our celebration and recognition of our
10 top cops. To lead things off I would like to
11 invite up the president of the PBA Tom
12 Shevlin.

13 MR. SHEVLIN: Good afternoon
14 everybody. It's a pleasure to be here with
15 you. As always, thank you for honoring us. I
16 want to share an amazing story with everybody
17 tonight.

18 On March 9, 2022 Fourth Precinct
19 officers were dispatched a call in Oceanside
20 for a 14-year old boy not breathing and in
21 cardiac arrest. Police officers Apath,
22 Mantovani were first on the scene and observed
23 the aided on his bed. He did not have a pulse
24 and was not breathing. They placed him on the
25 floor and started CPR. Officers Apath,

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2 Mantovani and Drechsel also attached the AED
3 while continuing CPR.

4 Police medics Sutton and Santiago
5 arrived on the scene and attached their
6 equipment to the child. After a shock they
7 got a pulse back. The child did then start to
8 breathe. The breathing was shallow. The
9 child was intubated and medics gave him
10 medicine and fluids. The officers then
11 transported him to South Nassau Hospital for
12 further treatment.

13 The child was transferred to LIJ
14 Cohen's Children Hospital. He was intubated
15 for several days and eventually was
16 discharged. He amazingly made a full
17 recovery. The child was diagnosed with a
18 heart defect and had a defibrillator
19 implanted.

20 If not for their quick response and
21 calm under pressure the situation could have
22 had a very different outcome. It is my honor
23 to announce police officers Apath, Mantovani,
24 Drechsel and police medics Sutton and Santiago
25 as legislative top cops for May 2022.

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2 And I am also honored and so proud
3 that we are here joined by Jonathan, the 14
4 year old boy.

5 MR. J. RODRIGUEZ: My name is
6 Jonathan Rodriguez, and I just wanted to give
7 big thanks to the cops and the first
8 responders and the aides that really helped me
9 throughout this whole situation. I was in the
10 hospital for two weeks and the only people I
11 could really thank is God and my family for
12 always being there for me every day in the
13 hospital. And luckily now I'm alive and just
14 really big outcome from all this. Very
15 happy. I'm glad. I'm blessed.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hi everybody
17 here. I was surprised tonight. I was raised
18 here all my life. I can't believe it. I'm
19 really surprised the police, the medics and
20 ambulance. I remember 3:25 a.m. in the
21 morning my daughter case closed so quick. Not
22 even one minute, two minutes, almost 20
23 police. I'm blessed. I can't believe it.
24 They saved my son's life. I'm really happy
25 all the service of Nassau County police. It

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2 is the best medical police service and I
3 really surprise at police. They do all of
4 Nassau County. I'm really so happy.
5 Certainly they do amazing for the service they
6 do. Amazing to save my son's life. Thank you
7 so much.

8 COMMISSIONER RYDER: We always we
9 sit here and say thank you for the tools and
10 the training that you give all of us. All of
11 our members. You see what it comes to and
12 what it does. HBO should -- this is what a
13 movie is made of. This is what they should
14 film. Real heroes doing real things. And I'm
15 really jealous of this kid's hair.

16 We're very happy and thankful for
17 everything that you've given us. Thank you.

18 MR. DRECHSEL: I'll keep this
19 very brief. I just want to first thank the
20 Nassau County legislature, Commissioner Ryder,
21 PBA top cop committee, PBA president Shevlin
22 and executive board members. And on behalf of
23 myself, officer Mantovani, officer Apath,
24 police medic Sutton and police medic Santiago
25 we thank you for this honor.

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2 Good to see you again.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
4 Ford then Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel would
5 like to say a few words.

6 LEGISLATOR FORD: Good evening.
7 Once again we are here to recognize our police
8 officers and medics who demonstrated their
9 professionalism and keen ability to respond to
10 an emergency. Their efforts and teamwork
11 helped with the young man's life. Our
12 officers never know what they will face when
13 they go out on a call. Their ability to
14 determine what is needed to be done in a split
15 second underscores how well trained they are.
16 Whether as a police officer or medic you are
17 the best of the best and I thank you very
18 much.

19 I'm sure that I could hear from the
20 father how important that all of this -- how
21 it transpired and what it really means to you
22 for you.

23 For you, I guess you're in high
24 school now. Are you in Oceanside High? What
25 grade? So, here you go. Looking forward to

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2 summer vacation, right?

3 All right. But all of you once
4 again, thank you very much and let us all just
5 remember how important our first responders
6 are to us and let us always celebrate the work
7 that they do and the people who they are.
8 Thank you.

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: The Fourth
10 Precinct and my district largely coincides and
11 as someone who lives in the Fourth Precinct
12 and is protected by the Fourth, by the fine
13 officers of the Fourth Precinct, I'm very
14 gratified to see how diligent you are and it's
15 not a surprise to me because I see it every
16 day. I see it all the time. We live in a low
17 crime area. You guys just provide exemplary
18 protection and service. I'm just very
19 grateful for everything that you do.

20 Jonathan second chance at life.
21 You're destined for great things, right? I
22 want to see great things from you.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I just
24 wanted to add, month after month we see when
25 we do these recognitions the incredible work

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2 that our law enforcement does. But this time
3 you're also seeing it from the perspective of
4 the family. I think we can all put ourselves
5 in your shoes Mr. Rodriguez to have that
6 situation in your house and to have that many
7 officers show up and their skills and their
8 techniques, thank God for what they do.

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I would just
10 like to add too that as you were speaking, as
11 our officers were speaking and portraying that
12 night, Jonathan, seeing your dad behind you
13 and the tears flowing down. Because he
14 relives that moment every day, every minute.
15 If wasn't for the men and women behind you,
16 our officers our medics, you truly, all of
17 you, are angels on earth. You kept this young
18 angel here with us because of all the work you
19 do. God bless you all. Jonathan, to see you
20 here tonight just touches my heart. God bless
21 and good luck.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We will
23 have to do this a little bit differently. You
24 want to stand in the front and we'll gather
25 behind you and take that photo.

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2 Our next presentation will be by
3 the SOA, Superior Officers Association. I'd
4 like to invite up the president Ricky
5 Frassetti.

6 MR. FRASSETTI: That's a tough
7 one to follow. Good evening everyone. I'm
8 Ricky Frassetti, president of the Nassau
9 County Police Department Superior Officers
10 Association.

11 Presiding Officer Nicoletto,
12 legislators, once again thank you for taking
13 the time to honor our men and women of the
14 police department. As policing gets harder
15 and harder this is a very nice symbol of
16 appreciation. So thank you again.

17 On April 26th, sergeant Ben
18 Schuerlein, Ryan Surillo and detective
19 sergeant Thomas Kananowicz were all working
20 together and assigned to the Fifth Precinct
21 and Fifth Precinct detective unit. These
22 three supervisors, while having some knowledge
23 of possibly a person that carries a loaded
24 gun, had been looking for this subject for
25 quite a while. These supervisors working

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2 together came up with a strategic plan to
3 cover the highly traveled roadways in hoping
4 to locate the subject.

5 Sergeant Schuerlein noticed the
6 subject's vehicle which had numerous VTL
7 violations and he notified the other
8 supervisors who were close by. Sergeant
9 Schuerlein then pulled the vehicle over to a
10 safe location.

11 The other supervisors immediately
12 showed up. During this time the subject
13 started becoming irate, was continuously
14 moving around and was verbally combative to
15 the supervisors. The subject was then placed
16 in handcuffs and placed in the back of the
17 police car. The subject's vehicle was
18 impounded and during this impound the vehicle
19 was searched for an inventory search. Which
20 at that time a loaded firearm was recovered
21 from the vehicle. This gun was determined to
22 have been stolen from Alabama. These
23 supervisors did an excellent job in
24 coordinating their efforts.

25 While knowing they might be

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2 encountering an armed subject without fearing
3 for their own safety and putting the residents
4 of Nassau County first they took a loaded
5 handgun off the streets of this county.

6 One of the most dangerous things
7 that police officers do are car stops. You
8 never know who you're pulling over. If the
9 person in that car is wanted. If the person
10 is armed. Our officers put themselves in
11 harm's every day. We have officers every day
12 getting injured in this job.

13 Crime is on the rise in Nassau
14 County and New York City is falling apart. We
15 are not immune to what is going on.

16 So, Presiding Officer Nicoletto and
17 all of the rest of the legislators that
18 support us I want to thank you again. And I
19 want to congratulate sergeant Ben Schuerlein,
20 Ryan Surillo and detective sergeant Thomas
21 Kananowicz for taking another gun off the
22 streets of Nassau County. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Again, thank
24 you. We ask our supervisors every day to lead
25 our very young department. Sixty percent of

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2 our police department has less than five years
3 on patrol. They're kids. And it's no better
4 way to show somebody but to lead by example.
5 That's what they do every day. Our
6 supervisors think outside the box. They come
7 up with new initiatives. Staying within the
8 guidelines that they have to deal with. Which
9 are harder and harder every day and they're
10 still taking guns off the streets and they're
11 our leaders.

12 So, again I thank you for that. I
13 congratulate all of them. Sergeant Schuerlein
14 is going to speak.

15 MR. SCHUERLEIN: Thank you
16 commissioner. Representatives of the Nassau
17 County legislature, on behalf of myself, my
18 fellow supervisors and the members of the
19 Nassau County Police Department, thank you for
20 having us here today for your recognition and
21 for presenting us with this award. It's truly
22 an honor to be standing here before you
23 representing our department and to showcase
24 the work the police officers of the Nassau
25 County Police Department do each day.

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2 A police department is nothing
3 without the help of the community and its
4 local officials. We sincerely thank you for
5 having our backs and supporting our efforts to
6 keep our community safe. Thanks.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
8 Giuffre.

9 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Thank you
10 Presiding Officer. So, gentlemen, the stories
11 that we don't read about are what you
12 performed that night. That's a gun taken off
13 the street. A combative suspect arrested.
14 That's a shooting that never took place. So,
15 to serve and to protect you live that every
16 day. We thank God for you. Keep up the great
17 work.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Would you
19 like to join us for a presentation. I did
20 notice one thing though. You know you're
21 getting old when the police officers look like
22 high school students. Now you have
23 supervisors looking like college students.
24 Great job guys. Wonderful.

25 We also are privileged to have a

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2 presentation today on behalf of the Detectives
3 Association, Inc. Mike is it you? Mike
4 Maloney is going to do the presentation? Tim
5 Malone.

6 MR. MALONE: Good evening. On
7 June 20, 1969 a young man from Valley Stream,
8 barely 21 years old, raised his right hand and
9 was sworn in to the Nassau County Police
10 Department. This man now became patrolman
11 Gary T. Ferrucci, shield number 2230. Upon
12 completion of his training Patrol Ferrucci he
13 was assigned to the Fourth Precinct in
14 Hewlett.

15 In 1971 Gary was assigned to the
16 Nassau County Highway Patrol Bureau and would
17 spend the next ten years patrolling the Long
18 Island Expressway. This is where patrolman
19 Ferrucci began making a name for himself.

20 During his tenure in highway, Gary
21 wrote tens of thousands of traffic tickets and
22 made over 1100 DWI arrests. Speeding
23 motorists and drunk drivers feared patrolman
24 Ferrucci. They either slowed down, stopped
25 drinking or completely avoided the LIE. This

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2 was if they were lucky enough to not have
3 their car impounded by Gary.

4 Now, I'm not sure if this is true
5 but there's a rumor that the revenue created
6 from the tickets Gary issued had kept the
7 Nassau County budget balanced during the
8 1970s.

9 On December 16, 1979 Gary's life
10 had changed when his close friend and partner
11 police officer Daniel Greer was killed in the
12 line of duty after being struck by a drunk
13 driver. Gary's loyalty to his partner still
14 remains and to this day he has kept in contact
15 with officer Greer's family. Present here
16 this evening is Colleen Greer. Colleen has
17 never met her grandfather but thanks to Gary
18 Ferrucci she is able to hear stories about his
19 life and his job as a Nassau County police
20 officer. Because of Gary, Colleen can and
21 will continue to keep police officer Daniel
22 Greer's legacy alive.

23 In January of 1981 Gary was
24 assigned to the detective division and worked
25 in the third squad for the next ten years.

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2 From here on out he was no longer patrolman
3 Ferrucci, shield number 2230, but detective
4 Ferrucci shield number 165. In case you're
5 wondering, this was not necessarily good news
6 either for people driving in Nassau County.
7 Because when Gary wasn't investigating cases,
8 he was out looking for speedy motorists and
9 drunk drivers continuing to write thousands of
10 tickets.

11 In 1991, after a decade of working
12 in the third squad, Gary was assigned to the
13 homicide squad. Specifically the vehicular
14 crimes and reconstruction section, now known
15 VCAR. It was here where Gary would combine
16 his experience from the third squad and his
17 love for highway patrol.

18 The VCAR section investigates
19 serious auto accidents and vehicle-related
20 deaths. While some of these death
21 investigations are tragic accidents, many are
22 criminal cases that involve driving under the
23 influence of drugs and alcohol amongst other
24 crimes.

25 Many times these investigations

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2 become high profile and newsworthy cases
3 also. Whether an investigation is criminal in
4 nature or not there is not one case that is
5 more important than another. Each victim's
6 family demands answers and deserves closure.
7 This cannot happen without a thorough
8 investigation. It takes a dedicated
9 individual to work in this office and for Gary
10 it was the perfect spot.

11 From 1991 to present detective
12 Ferrucci has been the lead investigator in
13 more than 700 vehicle-related deaths.
14 Including two of our own Nassau County police
15 officers who were killed in the line of duty.

16 One of the duties of an
17 investigator in the homicide squad is to make
18 death notifications. Notifying someone about
19 the death of their loved one can be a very
20 difficult task. It makes a person's worst
21 nightmare become a living reality.

22 It was Gary who had the
23 responsibility to notify a family member that
24 one of their loved ones was killed while
25 coming home from school or work. If a child

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2 went for a bike ride and was killed by a drunk
3 driver it was Gary who carried the burden of
4 telling a parent that their son or daughter
5 will never be coming home. Whether this was
6 in the middle of the night or on Christmas
7 morning Gary had done this over 700 times.
8 Each time with dignity and compassion. Gary
9 is an expert at what he does and takes great
10 pride in his work.

11 When Gary signs off duty and leaves
12 the office he's not actually going home. From
13 locating and interviewing a witness, to
14 viewing surveillance video, he's following up
15 on his cases. Gary does this almost every day
16 and has never asked for any overtime or
17 compensation. He does this because he cares
18 about his victims and he cares about their
19 families.

20 Throughout detective Ferrucci's
21 career he's been awarded countless meritorious
22 duty and life saving awards. He's also
23 received three medals of commendation and a
24 purple heart which was awarded to him in
25 2003.

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2 In 2021 Gary was recognized for his
3 service and designated a first grade
4 detective. This prestigious designation is
5 solely based on merit. Nobody in the entire
6 department deserved this more than him.

7 Gary Ferrucci's public service does
8 stop with law enforcement. Since 1965 he's
9 been an active member of the Valley Stream
10 Fire Department. Gary's also been an EMT
11 since 1972. And for the past 35 years he's
12 been a certified New York State EMS instructor
13 training thousands of EMTs for free on his own
14 time.

15 Gary's public service and
16 unwavering commitment to both the police
17 department and the residents of Nassau County
18 will always be appreciated.

19 On June 9th detective Ferrucci will
20 be turning in his shield and retiring from the
21 police department. Over the course of his
22 53-year career Gary Ferrucci has worn many
23 hats, including being a police officer,
24 detective, fire fighter, EMT, educator,
25 husband, father, grandfather and a friend. We

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2 thank detective Ferrucci for his service and
3 wish him the best on his retirement.

4 This is archived in our photo
5 section. This is a picture of Gary that was
6 taken June of 1969.

7 MS. GREER: So, my name is
8 Colleen Greer. I am Daniel Greer's
9 granddaughter. Gary was my grandfather's
10 partner. He was with him the day that he
11 died. I didn't know this. My family didn't
12 know this for a long time. This year in
13 December I was looking at my grandfather's
14 memorial page online, and I found a comment by
15 Gary and first something said call and I just
16 Googled Nassau County Police Department. I
17 said hi. Does anybody know who this is? And
18 within an hour he called me back and he told
19 me all these stories about my grandfather. It
20 was just so amazing. A couple of days after
21 Christmas he came all the way to my house in
22 Miller Place. I remember saying to him "Are
23 you sure you want to come?" He said "Well,
24 the car's got four wheels. It's fine." He
25 came and he met with my kids and my husband

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2 and myself and he presented my grandfather's
3 citation.

4 So, I'm so happy to be here for him
5 to get his because I know my grandfather is
6 here with him and looking down on him and my
7 family cannot be more thoughtful for what Gary
8 did. He gave us closure and he gave us peace
9 we never had for a long time.

10 Just today they passed it in the
11 senate of New York State that a bridge on
12 Sunnyside over the LIE is going to be named
13 after my grandfather and that wouldn't have
14 happened without Gary.

15 MR. FERRUCCI: Ladies and
16 gentlemen thank you. It's a very tough thing
17 for me to do. However, there are some names I
18 would like to name that I remember every day.
19 Being up on the Long Island Expressway and
20 being a detective in the Nassau County Police
21 Department there are names that stick in your
22 head forever.

23 Matt Giglio. Matt was in the
24 rescue company with me. I brought him in.
25 Matthew was shot on Hempstead Turnpike after

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2 the young punk shot him in the chest. And
3 Matty languished in Mercy Hospital for more
4 than two months before he passed. I had the
5 chance to go to the family, talked to them and
6 be there every time there was some sort of a
7 court presentation for the defendant to be
8 released. Never happened. He's already at
9 this time deceased because he hung himself in
10 jail.

11 Danny Greer. What more can I say
12 about Danny Greer? The diesel chaser. We
13 used to all have a name on the expressway
14 about what we do and Danny was just
15 incredible. Funniest laugh that you would
16 ever hear.

17 That day things didn't go well. We
18 had just had breakfast at the Holiday Inn and
19 he went east and I went west. A few minutes
20 later there were people who were yelling we
21 need help. We need help. Came back and I
22 found him in a ditch along side the Long
23 Island Expressway.

24 Danny, even in death, was able to
25 help solve his case because it was the first

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2 time ever in the United States where an ear
3 impression was used to show that the vehicle
4 was the vehicle that left the scene. His ear
5 impressed into the vehicle and Danny was able
6 to tell us what kind of car. About three days
7 later the defendant was found and charged.

8 Mike Califano, highway patrol
9 bureau. Mike was stopped at exit 33 and was
10 telling a young lady to get back into truck of
11 your car, excuse me, because it's too
12 dangerous here.

13 At that time a truck carrying three
14 other vehicles drove up on top of Mike's car
15 and trapped him in the vehicle. I got to the
16 scene and I was told that Mike is deceased.
17 He's not. I'm a medic for many, many years.
18 I teach it in the Nassau County EMS academy.
19 He was not dead. We transported him to NUMC
20 and at that time he was pronounced dead.

21 The reason is because people, the
22 family need to have some opportunity to say
23 this was just not just an auto accident.

24 Artie Lopez. Another gentleman
25 that I met one night while he was towing a car

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2 for me in the emergency bureau and he was just
3 an excellent, excellent officer. A few days
4 later we were on the Cross Island Parkway
5 where he was shot by a person who just didn't
6 know him. Nassau County police and New York
7 City police were able to find him, the driver,
8 a passenger and bring him to justice.

9 Geoff Breitkopf. We met in
10 Massapequa Park. He was walking up to a scene
11 and was struck and shot by another officer.
12 It was simply something that happened. But I
13 was at the scene and we gave him every
14 opportunity to live. That's what my job was.
15 What it still is.

16 It's hard for me to say good-bye.
17 I'm not saying good-bye. What I'm saying is
18 thank you to everyone who I've had the
19 opportunity to work with, talk with and give
20 them some civility. Thank you tonight. Thank
21 you all. Please be safe and I appreciate the
22 opportunity to be a Nassau County detective
23 thank you.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
25 Gaylor.

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2 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Each month
3 gather to recognize Nassau's finest for the
4 actions they've taken while serving the
5 citizenry of Nassau County. The stories may
6 be different but one thing is always
7 constant. That's the heroism and bravery
8 exhibited by these incredible men and women.
9 These incredible men and women who put their
10 lives on the line each and every day.

11 In this instance, we are here
12 recognizing and honoring first grade detective
13 Gary Ferrucci. Who lives not too far from
14 where I live. I can attest to the fact that
15 it's absolutely true that Gary is never off
16 duty. On his way home back to Valley Stream
17 it's not uncommon for Gary to pull someone
18 over in Lynbrook on Merrick Road or anywhere
19 else in the county when he observes something
20 that just doesn't seem right.

21 Your career is one worth taking
22 time and pausing to recognize. It spans more
23 than 50 years. More than half the people up
24 here aren't even 50 years old yet. You served
25 this county very well. Forty years as a

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2 detective you have investigated thousands of
3 cases as we've heard. Involving all types of
4 incidents from homicides to traffic violations
5 and everything in between.

6 What's most significant is the list
7 of achievements that is truly something to
8 marvel at. Eight excellent police duty
9 awards, 12 meritorious police awards, one life
10 saving award, three medals of commendation,
11 one purple heart and multiple top cop awards.
12 Truly impressive.

13 On top of that, somehow you found
14 time to serve as a volunteer with the Valley
15 Stream Fire Department for 57 years now.
16 Impressive. An EMT technician since 1972. A
17 trainer in the EMT field training our young
18 men and women how to be EMTs. These lines of
19 work have earned you countless other awards as
20 well.

21 I'm touched to learn about your
22 commitment to the family of your former
23 partner and close friend Daniel Greer, who
24 lost his life in the line of duty. And
25 Ms. Greer standing next to you is truly

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2 blessed to have come to know you recently.
3 Come to be a friend. Come to accept you as
4 family as well as the entire Nassau County
5 Police Department as her family. That's a
6 true testament to your greatness. Your
7 heroism.

8 If you turn around and look to all
9 the people that were here to be part of this
10 presentation tonight that's truly a sign of
11 your greatness. There's nobody that really
12 serves this long on active duty in the police
13 department any more. More than 50 years.
14 That is quite an accomplishment.

15 Many young men and women who are in
16 law enforcement will continue to look up to
17 you for a long time. I know that. So, it's
18 truly a distinctive honor that we can be here
19 today to recognize your lifetime of service to
20 the Nassau County Police Department, to your
21 hometown of Valley Stream, to the entire
22 Nassau County family and you've been a shining
23 example to everyone in this county.

24 So, my sincere congratulations. We
25 have a giant certificate or a citation

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2 certificate of accomplishment for you today.
3 I truly want to say thank you for all that
4 you've done. And we know that you're not
5 going to end this retirement. Still be active
6 in our community. Thank you for all those
7 years of service. Thank you for the service
8 still to come. God bless you and God bless
9 the entire Nassau County Police Department.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I have two
11 slips for public comment. First David Stern.

12 MR. STERN: Good evening. That's
13 a hard act to follow, and I want to thank my
14 fellow county employees, the police, for the
15 great work that they do.

16 My name is Dr. David Stern. I'm a
17 full professor of the Physical Sciences
18 Department of Nassau Community College and was
19 elected as classroom vice president of the NCC
20 Federation of Teachers.

21 I want to thank Legislators
22 Nicolello, Ford, Rhoads and Giuffre for taking
23 time out of their busy schedules to tour our
24 campus and learn firsthand about our dedicated
25 faculty's proposed initiative to keep the

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2 college viable. Including the need for
3 additional operating funds to hire new
4 replacement faculty and capital improvements.
5 Including a new performing arts building to be
6 the cultural hub within the Mitchell Field
7 hub.

8 I also want to extend another open
9 invitation to any legislator that would like a
10 tour. We would welcome such an opportunity.

11 Since it's opening in 1959 in the
12 west wing of the building that you usually
13 meet in, when it was called the old county
14 courthouse, NCC has often been described as
15 the jewel of Nassau County in New York State's
16 community college system. We have been one of
17 the prime economic engines for the county and
18 a magnet for attracting residents.

19 It is time to reinvest in the
20 college so that faculty can offer continued
21 quality academics, programs and curriculum to
22 prepare students of the 21st century.

23 The college will now go into it's
24 15th year without a funding increase for its
25 operating budget from Nassau County. This,

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2 along with a decade-long cut in state funding,
3 has led to the shrinking of full-time faculty,
4 increases in tuition and cuts in student
5 services. Along with the college's failure to
6 develop and offer new programs and
7 initiatives.

8 Yet, our own board of trustees
9 won't ask for an increase in our operating
10 budget. Where other community college board
11 of trustees regularly ask for and receive one
12 to two percent increases for their operating
13 budget ours has not. This isn't sustainable.
14 The college board of trustees will not ask for
15 an increase unless they believe that you will
16 approve it. It's a Catch-22 situation that
17 results in stagnation of the college
18 enrollment and missed opportunities to serve
19 our community.

20 Accordingly, we ask the legislature
21 to send back the current proposed college
22 budget and ask the board of trustees and the
23 administration to work with the faculty and
24 revise the budget to reflect an increase in
25 the county's contribution and to use that

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2 increase as investment to initiatives
3 identified in the college's academic master
4 plan and also by its departments chairs. It's
5 past time for the county to increase its
6 investment in the college.

7 Nassau Community College students
8 tend to stay in the county. They are rooted
9 in the community. They form part of the
10 needed workforce. Become our accountants, our
11 lawyers, our small business owners. Even
12 legislators. I know many of you are alumni.
13 Yes, they stay on to become our valued
14 neighbors and taxpayers.

15 In sum, Nassau Community College
16 students are our future. In asking the county
17 to return the proposed zero budget and offer
18 to raise the college's operating budget we are
19 in reality asking the county to invest in its
20 residents, its businesses and its future. The
21 benefits are limitless. We trust that you
22 share our belief that a great county deserves
23 a great community college. Thank you.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
25 Mr. Stern. Meta J. Mereday.

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2 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday.

3 Good to see you. Good evening. Seems strange
4 to say good evening but I hope that we have
5 more evening meetings just possibly not at
6 this location. I did enjoy the field trip. I
7 had been here when the facility first opened.
8 It's not difficult for me but maybe for other
9 constituents to be able to come and
10 participate in this. It was definitely
11 heartwarming just from the tributes to our
12 hard working law enforcement officers and the
13 support staff.

14 So, I don't think it's robbery in
15 the sense to speak about an issue that's
16 always been near and dear to me, our seniors.
17 As we sit here among the artifacts that salute
18 and support our brave fighting men and women
19 of wars in the past, I almost feel like I need
20 to possibly talk to my friend Gary Lewi to
21 borrow maybe a tank and drive down with a sign
22 on Hempstead Turnpike to portray another
23 jewel, a missing opportunity for Nassau
24 County, which is NUMC.

25 So, it is my hope that we can move

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2 forward in 2022 to look at what we can do to
3 revamp, revitalize and just reinvest in that
4 all important facility that seems to get
5 tossed around again like an unfortunate hockey
6 puck because of the opportunities that it can
7 present to our long-suffering veterans. Those
8 that are living.

9 Just looking at recent legislation
10 as late as Wednesday that the senate reached a
11 deal to pass sweeping military toxic exposure
12 legislation later this summer that paved the
13 way for millions of veterans exposed to burn
14 pit smoke and other battlefield toxins.

15 Being a 9-11 first responder and
16 having been exposed to many of those similar
17 toxins, as a civilian I'm trying to basically
18 encourage those who are helping to rebuild our
19 city. Good, bad or indifferent it is still
20 our city.

21 We need to focus on what we can do
22 here in Nassau County through NUMC to better
23 serve our veterans and their families. There
24 is great opportunity there. The location is
25 apropos. There are many things that

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2 particularly this legislature can do almost
3 immediately to upgrade our very hard working,
4 very committed veteran services organization.
5 We can step it up to an agency which would
6 increase its opportunities and access to state
7 and federal funding.

8 We can also look at developing
9 projects. Maybe setting up a research
10 facility within NUMC that would bring in some
11 of this funding for the toxic fumes that will
12 bring support to our Vietnam veterans. It
13 would help us because we have a large
14 constituent of war widows that live in Nassau
15 County and Long Island. We can have a family
16 support and resource center. Similar to what
17 they do upstate.

18 It seems that we have a lot of
19 resources in New York State that support our
20 veterans in locations that have much smaller
21 veteran populations.

22 So, I'm hoping that I don't have to
23 reach out to my friend Gary to borrow that
24 tank. But as many of you know, where there's
25 a will for me I can probably make a way.

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2 I think it would also be
3 interesting for HBO to set up possibly doing a
4 documentary about the revitalization of the
5 Nassau County Medical Center or NUMC or
6 whatever name someone decides to change it
7 to. Because I think it would also boost not
8 only the economy, and I'm really interested as
9 to where that \$12 million actually is going
10 that we earned from the Gilded Age. Because
11 I'd like to see more of it distributed evenly
12 within our diverse businesses.

13 Because I was very disappointed at
14 the committee meeting that there weren't more
15 questions with regard to the contracting that
16 incorporates or should incorporate when you're
17 talking about federal funds the state mandates
18 and federal mandates for inclusion by service
19 disabled veterans, minority and women
20 businesses. Just to get an answer that yes,
21 we know there are guidelines is not enough.
22 Can someone give me the names of at least
23 three service disabled veterans that have
24 contracts in Nassau County? Veterans hire the
25 majority of other veterans. That again is an

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2 opportunity for us that we continue to miss
3 out. Minority and women businesses hire from
4 their own community.

5 Again, it's an opportunity that
6 continue to miss out on. We need to focus on
7 really addressing the need for diversity,
8 inclusion and equity in Nassau County.

9 I'm glad that I was able to make it
10 out here. It was an interesting field trip.
11 But let's just try to focus on having these
12 meetings at locations that are more accessible
13 for all residents of Nassau County. Thank you
14 so.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
16 Meta. Mike could you call the emergency
17 please?

18 MR. PULITZER: Thank you
19 Presiding Officer. This will be an emergency
20 resolution declaring an emergency for
21 immediate action upon a resolution requesting
22 the legislature of the state of New York to
23 enact and the governor to approve an act to
24 amend the retirement and social security law
25 in relation to establishing an accidental

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2 disability retirement pension for deputy
3 sheriffs employed by Nassau County.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Motion to
5 establish an emergency by Legislator Ford.
6 Seconded by Legislator Rhoads. Real quickly
7 on the emergency. This is truly an
8 emergency. If this is going to be passed in
9 this session of the state legislature it is
10 going to committees tomorrow in Albany. It
11 has to be done tonight.

12 Any debate or discussion on the
13 emergency? Hearing none, all in favor signify
14 by saying aye. Those opposed? The emergency
15 passes unanimously.

16 Now I will call the item. It's
17 155, 2022. It's a resolution requesting the
18 legislature of the state of New York to enact
19 and the governor to approve an act to amend
20 the retirement and social security law in
21 relation to establishing an accidental
22 disability retirement pension for deputy
23 sheriffs employed by Nassau County.

24 Moved by Legislator Walker.
25 Seconded by Legislator Schaefer. It's puts

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2 this before us.

3 Just real briefly again. The
4 Nassau County deputy sheriffs are classified
5 as police officers pursuant to state law and
6 attend the same police academies and perform
7 very dangerous work at times.

8 Deputy sheriffs are currently
9 entitled to an accidental disability
10 retirement of two-thirds of their final
11 average salary. This amount is less than what
12 is available for police officers and paid fire
13 fighters who receive a three quarters
14 accidental disability retirement.

15 If the bill is enacted this year
16 the annual contribution would increase for
17 Nassau County by \$10,000 for the fiscal year
18 ending March 31, 2023. And also with respect
19 to past service the cost would be \$58,800.

20 Any debate or discussion on this?
21 Again, hearing, none all in favor signify by
22 saying aye. Those opposed? That carries
23 unanimously.

24 Before we move on I want to thank
25 deputy county executive Walsh, who is here

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2 tonight, to make sure we get this done and get
3 it signed so this can be taken up to Albany
4 immediately. And also thanks to Bob Marcello
5 for bringing it to our attention.

6 Now we will go into the consent
7 calendar for the legislature. These are items
8 that went through committees and it was agreed
9 by the minority and majority that no further
10 debate or discussion is needed on these items
11 at this time.

12 Item five, Ordinance 28. Six,
13 Ordinance 29. Item 7, Ordinance 30. Item 8,
14 Ordinance 31. Item 9, Ordinance 32. Item 10,
15 Ordinance 33. Item 12, Resolution 89. Item
16 13, Resolution 90. Item 14, Resolution 91.
17 Item 15, Resolution 92. Item 16, Resolution
18 93. Item 18, Resolution 95.

19 Motion by Minority Leader
20 Abrahams. Seconded by Deputy Presiding
21 Officer Kopel. Any debate or discussion? All
22 in favor signify by saying aye. Those
23 opposed? Carries unanimously.

24 Now we are going to a hearing on a
25 proposed local law which is item number one.

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2 It's a local law to amend Section 21-29.10 of
3 the Nassau County administrative code with
4 respect to catalytic converters.

5 This item is moved by Legislator
6 Rhoads. Seconded by Legislator McKevitt.
7 It's before us. Again, this went through
8 committees a couple of weeks ago. I don't
9 know if the commissioner is still, yes. I
10 would like to invite the commissioner up to
11 speak about it for a moment.

12 COMMISSIONER RYDER: First of
13 all, thank you always for the bills that come
14 forward that we support. As you know, we're
15 asking that the yards that, scrap yards,
16 register, get the proper identification so
17 that we can solve it. We're getting killed
18 with catalytic converters. It takes all of
19 five minutes underneath the car. They cut it
20 out and the three precious metals that are in
21 there sell for about at the end of the day
22 \$2,100. They're stealing them, selling them
23 for two to \$300 to the scrap yards.

24 By getting the scrap yards to
25 register these items and who brought them to

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2 them helps us develop leads so we can
3 eventually close out these cases.

4 They don't do one in the
5 nighttime. They do 15, 20. And these poor
6 people get up in the morning, they go to start
7 their car, it will start but it will sound
8 funny and then start having problems. Again,
9 thank you if you're supporting this and we
10 appreciate it going forward.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
12 commissioner. From the statistics that I've
13 been given between 2019 and 2020 nationwide
14 the increase in catalytic converter thefts was
15 over 325 percent. We've also seen a
16 substantial increase in these thefts in Nassau
17 County. The cost to replace these, not the
18 cost these thieves are getting from the scrap
19 metal dealers or elsewhere, black markets, but
20 the cost to replace them can be several
21 thousand dollars. Because, as you said, they
22 damage the exhaust system. You have to find
23 the catalytic converters on the market. And
24 with the supply chain issues it's sometimes
25 difficult to do this. This is a major issue

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2 affecting our residents.

3 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Absolutely.

4 The two crimes that plague us the most right
5 now are stolen cars and catalytic converters.

6 Thankfully our violence is not up. Our
7 violence is down. We've done a great job.

8 You just saw the heroes that were before us.

9 But by doing this it gives us a tool in the
10 tool box that we can actually go out and find
11 somebody. If they keep scrapping the stuff
12 and there's nobody behind it, we don't know
13 who it is, we can't find them.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone
15 else? Any legislators?

16 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Thank you.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
18 commissioner. Any public comment on this
19 item?

20 MS. MEREDAY: As I said in
21 committee weeks ago, I definitely support
22 this. I'm just again, I just want clarity
23 with regard to this overall registration
24 process. Who's monitoring that? We all
25 understand what the end game is. But at the

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2 end of the day we still have to focus on the
3 implementation process and making sure that
4 we're not adding another responsibility
5 directly to the police officers at the end of
6 the day who have to be responsible for
7 tracking now all of these scrap yards.

8 Again, where is the collaboration
9 with regards to monitoring this situation so
10 that we know everybody is above board? There
11 has to be some kind of underlying process as
12 oppose to just sending out a memo or press
13 release just saying guess what? you have to
14 register the situation. That's where the
15 clarity, at least for me and other residents
16 who are aware of this, and also residents who
17 have lost other parts of their car and also as
18 the commissioner said, their car itself.

19 So, what are the overall components
20 involved with trying to make sure that we are
21 protecting the property of residents? And
22 we're ensuring that we are not adding another
23 burden of responsibility. Again, we are
24 already dealing with, as Legislator Ford said
25 before, we have to deal with trying to make

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2 sure we have officers patrolling. And as
3 Legislator Mule said, many of us in our
4 community are working towards getting crossing
5 guards because the whole traffic issue, as we
6 said earlier, having a moment of silence for
7 the young ladies who died in New Hyde Park and
8 living around the corner from the fatality in
9 Baldwin we have to do something about the cars
10 themselves and people who are operating these
11 cars, people who are doing things to these
12 cars to protect the residents overall.

13 Again, I support this. I just want
14 to make sure that we don't continue to just
15 push things out for a press release and a
16 Newsday opportunity and it's not really having
17 the teeth in it that's going to make it
18 significant. Thank you.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The
20 enforcement end of this is going to be a
21 shared responsibility with the Nassau County
22 Police Department as well as the Department of
23 Consumer Affairs. The burden is going to be,
24 to the extent there is a burden, will be on
25 the scrap metal dealers to maintain these

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2 records. We're not talking about a large
3 universe of entities that will have to
4 follow-up. I would assume that consumer
5 affairs will be enforcing on a periodic
6 basis. But I would also assume that, and I'll
7 ask the commissioner to come back up, that the
8 police will do it on a more targeted basis.
9 So, if there's been a rash of these incidents
10 in a community I would assume the police
11 department will then actively pursue a
12 specific geographic area or dealers in
13 general. Commissioner.

14 COMMISSIONER RYDER: It actually
15 reduces our resources. And thank you for the
16 concern. But the investigators that work in
17 those types of crimes that's special for that
18 unit, our vehicle theft squad, they go out and
19 do. So, it cuts down on time, it saves us the
20 resources that we're not going out and taking
21 the reports and of course it saves our
22 residents if we solve it.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I think it
24 would be more helpful because this
25 specifically requires digital recordkeeping

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2 etcetera. So you're not talking about scraps
3 of paper that these dealers may have all over
4 the place.

5 COMMISSIONER RYDER: 100
6 percent. And it's photo ID and everything
7 else that is required that's going to help us
8 get leads to solve these cases which will save
9 more time.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The only
11 other thing I would add is our counsel has
12 contacted Suffolk County which is in the
13 process of drafting a similar bill and the
14 city of New York, also contacted the city of
15 New York and spoke to a councilman or
16 councilwoman and they are considering
17 something similar as well.

18 COMMISSIONER RYDER: By having
19 our partners on both sides working together
20 with us is going to make it even better.

21 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
22 Commissioner, can I ask you what might be a
23 ridiculous question? But is there anything
24 you can do to lower your chances of your
25 catalytic converter being stolen?

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2 COMMISSIONER RYDER: We gave a
3 lot of times when it came to stolen cars,
4 locking your cars, don't leave your fobs in
5 the car. Now they have this new transmitter
6 that works between the fob and the car if it's
7 close to the window. So we're asking to
8 remove the key further into the house.

9 As far as catalytic converters,
10 no. Well lit areas is the best thing that we
11 can do and more patrols out there. So if I'm
12 not sitting there taking that report of ten
13 more reports I can drive around and actually
14 catch the guys doing it. Or gals.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: This
16 is going to sound silly. It's in the back of
17 the car, right?

18 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Underneath
19 in the back.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: If
21 you back your car in the driveway.

22 COMMISSIONER RYDER: That's a
23 good way to do it also. That's part of our
24 tips online. Thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank

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2 you. Any other legislators? Any other public
3 comment? Hearing none, request a motion to
4 close the hearing. Moved by Legislator
5 DeRiggi-Whitton. Seconded by Legislator
6 Pilip. All in favor of closing of hearing
7 signify by saying aye. Those opposed?
8 Hearing is closed.

9 Go to item three, a local law to
10 amend Section 21-29.10 of the Nassau County
11 administrative code with respect to catalytic
12 converters.

13 Moved by Legislator Kennedy.
14 Seconded by Legislator Schaefer. Any further
15 debate or discussion? Hearing none, all in
16 favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed?
17 Carries unanimously. That's passed.

18 Go back to number two which is a
19 hearing on a proposed local law to amend the
20 county government law of Nassau County in
21 relation to establishing a Nassau County
22 movie, television and digital commission.

23 We need a motion to open the
24 hearing. Moved by Legislator Walker.
25 Seconded by Legislator Mule. All in favor of

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2 opening the hearing signify by saying aye.

3 The hearing is open.

4 Was someone from the administration
5 going to present? I'm sorry, I didn't see
6 you.

7 MR. LEMOINE: Good evening.

8 Chris Lemoine from the administration.

9 Clerk item 148-2022 is a local law
10 that amends the Nassau County charter by
11 establishing a Nassau County movie, television
12 and digital media commission. The commission
13 is being established to take advantage of the
14 economic opportunities offered by the county's
15 unique location and resources in connection
16 with the movie television, streaming and other
17 digital media productions.

18 The commission will consist of 12
19 members each appointed by the county
20 executive. Seven will be directly appointed
21 by the county executive. Three will be
22 appointed by the county executive upon
23 recommendation of the presiding officer. Two
24 upon recommendation of the minority leader.
25 And the county executive will designate one

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2 member as chairperson.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any
4 questions from the legislators? A little bit
5 of history. I was one of the sponsors of this
6 legislation when we created it the first time
7 back 300 years ago.

8 LEGISLATOR FORD: Since we
9 already had a commission, thank you presiding
10 officer, a long time ago what would basically
11 be the responsibilities of the commission?

12 MR. LEMOINE: The intent and the
13 hope is for them to work with the current
14 members of the parks department that handle
15 the permitting and the paperwork process with
16 respect to productions and to be sort of the
17 focal point of contact to these industries in
18 Nassau County to help bring more productions
19 here, more media business here to the county.

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: We do have a
21 movie department within the county. Debra
22 Marcowitz used to be an employee of the county
23 and her main focus at that time, although we
24 didn't have a great presence, but she worked
25 in the county as the presence increased and

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2 someone that worked underneath her in that
3 department. Who is that person now in the
4 county?

5 MR. LEMOINE: My understanding is
6 there is a gentleman that works in the parks
7 department that handles that. He handles the
8 production. Getting productions here. The
9 permitting process. This entity, this
10 commission, this 12 member commission, would
11 act as a resource for the parks department to
12 help them. I think we're doing a good job but
13 we feel we can do better. So that's the point
14 of this commission.

15 LEGISLATOR FORD: So there's only
16 one employee in the county that would be the
17 employee that would work with the movie
18 industry?

19 MR. LEMOINE: As of right now I
20 believe there's only one, yes.

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'll be follow
22 up because I'd like to know who that person is
23 and what their responsibility would be. Then
24 the commission, I know that they used to bring
25 in people who worked in the movie industry

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2 take a look at sites in Nassau County for
3 possible production and stuff like that. Will
4 we still be doing that?

5 MR. LEMOINE: Yes.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I think
7 primarily this group will be promoting the
8 film industry. I think to the extent that
9 you'll have people from the industry who are
10 involved with this I think it probably would
11 be more effective than a single county
12 employee or two. It should in theory help to
13 encourage. We're doing well with television,
14 filming, with movies, etcetera but I think it
15 would do much to encourage that.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: I would agree
17 it would enhance. But it's also good to have
18 someone work in the area. That's what I
19 meant.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other
21 legislators want to weigh in? I think we're
22 good Chris. Any public comment?

23 MS. MEREDAY: I get that we --
24 again, I support this legislation. I think
25 it's important. I think it's timely. But

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2 once again, I'm hoping, and I'm glad that I'm
3 looking at the majority of the legislators
4 here and I believe Legislator Ferretti is
5 virtual?

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Yes, he
7 is.

8 MS. MEREDAY: I'm hoping again
9 that we have kind of broader outreach and as
10 well as a broader programing format. I watch
11 a lot of -- I don't watch a lot of regular
12 TV. Coming from a media marketing background
13 do not want to be on the commission, okay?
14 But I think it's important that again we focus
15 on the diversity of the effort as well as the
16 diversity of the process. I think it's great
17 that we want to bring out productions and have
18 things done and filmed here. We have
19 beautiful locations. We have a wealth of
20 talent here. I hope Legislator Drucker can
21 become an extra or at least a star in
22 somebody's show.

23 But I think we also need to look at
24 that from a direct production aspect so that
25 we can provide more opportunities for the

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2 creative talent many of whom have been
3 unemployed throughout the COVID process.
4 We're talking about digital and media and
5 streaming. We need folks on -- also we have
6 writers and editors. I think we also have to
7 look at the production aspect. We have young
8 talent coming out of our great colleges and
9 universities that we need to provide some
10 opportunities for them to actually want to
11 stay to do some work here.

12 If you look at the numbers of
13 programs now that come from the Midwest or --
14 there must be a media commission or production
15 team in the state of Georgia that kind of does
16 this 24-7. Because the number of shows that
17 are both educational and some that are
18 ridiculous but just the wealth of talent and
19 the breath of types of programing that comes
20 out of those areas I think we can be
21 exceptional right here where we are to
22 generate that same talent in addition to
23 bringing in outside sources to produce their
24 programs and shows here.

25 I'm always focused on kind of a

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2 local talent, local resource. I think it
3 would be a great opportunity to do those types
4 of things. We have food tastings. We have a
5 number of events, special events that are here
6 on Long Island and in Nassau County
7 specifically that we need to look at in terms
8 of a broader range.

9 And lastly, I'm curious, I just
10 want to put it out there, with regard to who
11 is actually going to be recommended and
12 recruited? I would like to hopefully see a
13 commission that reflects the true diversity of
14 Nassau County. Not just focus on across party
15 lines, budget lines and contribution lines.
16 But again for what they can bring to the
17 table. What they represent. Whether it's
18 young people, seniors. Again, just to bring a
19 wealth of talent that's reflective of who we
20 are and what we want to portray both locally
21 and globally. Thank you.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
23 Meta. Any other public comment? Motion to
24 close the hearing by Legislator Walker.
25 Seconded by Legislator Solages. All in favor

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2 of closing the hearing signify by saying aye.

3 Those opposed? The hearing is closed.

4 Item four is a vote on a local law
5 to amend the Nassau County government law of
6 Nassau County in relation to establishing a
7 Nassau County movie, television and digital
8 media commission.

9 Moved by Legislator Giuffre.

10 Seconded by Legislator Ferretti. Any further
11 debate or discussion? If not, all in favor
12 signify by saying aye. Those opposed?
13 Carries unanimously.

14 Last two items, items 11 and 17,
15 resolutions 70 and 94. These are resolutions
16 to confirm the county executive's appointments
17 of John Ardito and Michael Perry to the
18 Assessment Review Commission. Moved by Deputy
19 Presiding Officer Kopel. Seconded by
20 Legislator Ford. So those two appointments
21 are before us. Are Mr. Perry and Ardito
22 here? Thank you for your patience for
23 sticking around.

24 MR. ARDITO: John Ardito. It's
25 an honor to be before this legislative body.

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2 It's an honor to have received this
3 appointment from our county executive and it
4 was an honor to witness the presentation
5 recognizing our police officers and
6 detectives. It makes one certainly proud to
7 be a resident of Nassau County.

8 If I'm confirmed to this commission
9 it would be my privilege to serve the
10 residents in this capacity. I have served on
11 the Garden City zoning board of appeals for
12 the last 12 years. I've had prior service on
13 the Town of Hempstead Industrial Development
14 Agency and the board of the Water Authority of
15 Western Nassau County.

16 I believe those experiences, my
17 experience as a practicing attorney for over
18 30 years will help me evaluate the issues that
19 come before us on this commission determining
20 the valuations set by the Department of
21 Assessment and also evaluating and determining
22 the grievances filed by our residents.

23 So, I hope this board would confirm
24 my appointment and I look forward to serving
25 the residents. Thank you.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
3 you.

4 MR. PERRY: Good evening. My
5 name is Michael Perry. I'm also honored to be
6 advanced in the process by the county
7 executive and equally honored to be considered
8 by this esteemed legislative body. I come
9 with more than six years of government agency
10 experience with the Town of Hempstead serving
11 as a commissioner of the Civil Service
12 Commission. Also 30 years of business person
13 and business ownership experience in very
14 complex areas of business representing Silicon
15 Valley companies in the technology space.

16 I bring an analytical ability as
17 well as serving on various boards including in
18 the Town of Hempstead the ability to
19 collaborate with my peers. That would be my
20 objective is to collaborate and bring another
21 perspective to ARC and move forward in the
22 mission supporting the community and the
23 county and then commission. I appreciate that
24 consideration. Thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank

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2 you. Do the legislators have any questions?
3 Minority Leader.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you
5 Presiding Officer. Gentlemen, how are you?
6 As everyone here I'm sure we're appreciative
7 of you being able to give your time and
8 service to the county as it pertains to the
9 Assessment Review Commission.

10 However, we have indicated in prior
11 meetings to the county executive that we were
12 looking forward to hearing more about the
13 assessment plan and how he plans to go
14 forward. We've heard many things about in
15 terms of correction and opportunity to make
16 things better but we haven't heard an actual
17 plan.

18 I wanted to let you know that we
19 will be voting against your appointment
20 tonight. It's not a reflection of you. As I
21 said before, we're thankful for you stepping
22 forward and being able to give this level of
23 service. However, not knowing the county
24 executive's plan and how it coincides with
25 your experience makes it a very difficult

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2 chore to affirm your appointment. But we look
3 forward to working with you in the future and
4 from that standpoint best of luck as well.

5 As Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton had
6 mentioned, the ARC commission has not met
7 yet. So we look forward to having that first
8 meeting as well.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other
10 legislators? All in favor of the appointments
11 signify by saying aye. Those opposed?
12 Carries by a vote of 12 to 7. Congratulations
13 to the two of you.

14 That concludes our business.
15 Again, before we break, I want to once again
16 thank the staff leadership here at the
17 museum. Gary Lewi, Mike Sappicone and
18 everyone here for all the work they did. As
19 well as our staff who spent a tremendous
20 amount of time coordinating this and making
21 sure that we could have a meeting with all the
22 resources that we have. So thank you again.
23 Gary thank you.

24 Motion to adjourn by Legislator
25 Rhoads. Seconded by Legislator Walker. All

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2 in favor of adjourning signify by saying aye.

3 Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

4 (Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

I, FRANK GRAY, a Notary
Public in and for the State of New
York, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of my stenographic
notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand this 25th day of
May 2022.

FRANK GRAY