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6 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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8 RICHARD NICOLELLO

9 PRESIDING OFFICER

10

11 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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13 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

14 CHAIR

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16

17 Theodore Roosevelt Building

18 1550 Franklin Avenue

19 Mineola, New York

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21

22 May 9, 2022

23 2:26 P.M.

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

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4 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

5 Chair

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7 LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

8 Vice Chair

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10 LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP

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12 LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI

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14 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

15 Ranking member

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17 LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

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19 LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: At this time I
3 will call Public Safety Committee to order and
4 I will ask the clerk to call the roll.

5 MR. PULITZER: Thank you madam.
6 Legislator Debra Mule.

7 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

8 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Siela
9 Bynoe.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

11 MR. PULITZER: Ranking member
12 Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
14 Here.

15 MR. PULITZER: Legislator John
16 Ferretti.

17 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

18 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Mazi
19 Pilip.

20 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

21 MR. PULITZER: Vice-chairman
22 Steven Rhoads.

23 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

24 MR. PULITZER: Chairwoman Denise
25 Ford.

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

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

5 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
6 much sir.

7 There are three items on the agenda
8 today which are clerk items numbers 133-22,
9 142-22 and 144-22.

10 Clerk item 133-22 is a local law to
11 amend Section 21-29.10 of the Nassau County
12 Administrative Code with respect to catalytic
13 converters.

14 May I have a motion. Moved by
15 Legislator Pilip. Seconded by Legislator
16 Rhoads. The item is before us.

17 This proposed legislation is
18 introduced by Legislators Gaylor, Giuffre and
19 Pilip. It's purpose is to prevent the theft
20 of catalytic converters by implementing
21 certain reporting requirements with respect to
22 their sale.

23 I'm going to hand this over. I'm
24 going to allow Legislator Pilip to continue
25 with this as she was one of the sponsors

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2 sore.

3 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Thank you
4 Legislator Ford. According to the National
5 Insurance Crime Bureau, catalytic converter
6 robbery increased by 325 percent between 2019
7 and 2020. This has been the case in my
8 district. These robberies simply to commit
9 take merely seconds to complete and very
10 costly and requiring victims to spend over
11 \$1,000 in repairs.

12 As Deputy Presiding Officer Ford
13 stated, Nassau County must do everything in
14 its power to stop these crimes. With the
15 passage of this proposed local law potential
16 catalytic converter robbery will stop and if
17 it is happening the police will be able to
18 track where the stolen device came from.

19 Thank you again. I'm hopeful that
20 this proposed local law receives bipartisan
21 support. Thank you.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you
23 Legislator Pilip. It's interesting to note
24 that when you speak with the officers who tell
25 us about the theft of these catalytic

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2 converters it can be done in a matter of
3 seconds, if not even -- seconds basically.
4 They've had I think videos where a car can be
5 at an intersection, people jump out, the next
6 thing you know the catalytic converter has
7 been removed from the car causing a lot of
8 cost to the car owner. Anywhere from \$1,000
9 to even like sometimes \$8,000. Recently they
10 took them out of school buses.

11 So, this is a crime that's on the
12 rise and it is something that is very
13 concerning to all of us. So, with this
14 legislation we're hoping that we can help
15 curtail this crime by requiring that anybody
16 who is going to buy these, I guess these
17 junkyards and other places that deal with auto
18 parts that they know who they're buying from
19 and trying to get everything registered so we
20 know exactly who's selling it and where it's
21 coming from.

22 Any other comments? Legislator
23 Mule.

24 LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you madam
25 chairwoman. I certainly recognize the need

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2 for us to do something. I just want to make
3 sure that we're doing exactly what needs to be
4 done. So, I just have a couple of questions.

5 Who can make requests for
6 inspections? Is it limited to Department of
7 Consumer Affairs and the police department or
8 can anyone make those requests?

9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Under the law
10 it's those two specific departments. However,
11 we can request, if you wanted to as a
12 legislator, if you are advised of a particular
13 complaint you can request that those two
14 departments make an inspection.

15 LEGISLATOR MULE: If that
16 happens, if someone loses their catalytic
17 converter due to theft they would go to the
18 police department or the Department of
19 Consumer Affairs? How does that work?

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: If someone
21 were to lose their catalytic converter, if
22 their catalytic converter was stolen?

23 LEGISLATOR MULE: Was stolen,
24 yeah.

25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Yes. I'm

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2 assuming that they would be reporting that to
3 the Nassau County Police Department. The
4 police department would have the opportunity
5 obviously to be able to check the registry of
6 dealers. That's certainly within their
7 purview. But yes, those would be the two
8 departments that would have enforcement
9 responsibilities under the legislation.

10 LEGISLATOR MULE: Do we have the
11 necessary resources to make sure that this
12 gets handled?

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: The police
14 officers can do an investigation. Also with
15 consumer affairs, there are time when we may
16 call you up, like you may get -- somebody may
17 say that when I go shopping I think that
18 they're overcharging me for whatever I'm
19 purchasing. So, they'll go out and do an
20 inspection on weights and measures and things
21 like that. So, this would be the same type of
22 enforcement. That they would then go out to
23 be able to check the records of the people in
24 regard to the catalytic -- if they're selling
25 catalytic converters they have to make sure

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2 that they know where they got them from.

3 LEGISLATOR MULE: We certainly
4 have been in conversations with regards to the
5 Department of Consumer Affairs and their
6 backlogs. That's why I'm asking the
7 question. To make sure we're not creating a
8 law we can't properly enforce. This is a very
9 necessary thing to have happen. I just want
10 to make sure that we're properly resourced.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'm with you on
12 that one because I think that we need to bring
13 more people in to make sure that whatever laws
14 we are passing that they are effectively
15 enforced.

16 LEGISLATOR MULE: Legislator
17 Rhoads do you want to say anything else? No?
18 Thank you.

19 LEGISLATOR FORD: Legislator
20 Bynoe.

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you
22 madam chair. I'm going to support this bill
23 but I am concerned that it really is going to
24 drive the folks, the criminals who are
25 stealing these catalytic converters, just to

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2 sell them in Suffolk and sell them in Queens.
3 They're going to sell them right outside of
4 Nassau.

5 We still have to be vigilant and we
6 still have to implore the police to do as much
7 as they can on this issue. Because this is
8 not going to stop folks. They've hit the gold
9 mine here. They understand that they can sell
10 these things at tremendous amount of revenue
11 for themselves. And I understand just the
12 other day they stole two out of a van, I think
13 in your neck of the woods, in Glen Cove, and
14 the resale on it is like \$11,000 for the both
15 of them. That's what they reported on News
16 12.

17 So, like I said, I'm going to
18 support this but it's really only going to
19 drive the sellers of these things outside of
20 Nassau. And if I our friends to the east and
21 west don't get on board to do something here
22 or the state at some level we're really not
23 solving the issue. But thank you.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: I agree with
25 you Legislator Bynoe. I think it has to be a

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2 combined effort. Especially even in the
3 state. Because yeah, what's going to stop
4 them from like running into Suffolk and
5 selling out there? It's crazy. The next
6 thing you know they're going to make these
7 things with GPS on them so we know where the
8 catalytic converter is. It just is amazing.
9 I'm not a car person. I couldn't tell you
10 where it is. Underneath. Thank you.
11 Legislator Rhoads.

12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: To Legislator
13 Bynoe's point, we actually have reached out to
14 Suffolk County. I believe we've also reached
15 out to the City of New York and Westchester
16 County as well to see if we can get them to
17 adopt a regional approach specifically as a
18 result of your concern. It certainly makes
19 sense.

20 I think that this is really is an
21 effort for us to reposition consequences that
22 have been removed, in my opinion, as a result
23 of cashless bail and criminal justice reform.
24 There's no coincidence behind you seeing an
25 uptick in this type of crime with the removal

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2 of consequences. And even though the
3 consequences now are being placed on the
4 dealership, if that's the only avenue we have
5 the opportunity to be able to place those
6 consequences.

7 So, now there's going to have to be
8 a registry. Now the dealers are going to have
9 to be responsible for maintaining it. If it
10 turns out that they are not there's going to
11 be there consequences behind them doing that
12 as to what the source of the catalytic
13 converter is.

14 So, again, I think this is just
15 another example of us trying to react to a
16 problem that has largely been created by the
17 state as a result of cashless bail and
18 criminal justice reform. But we're going to
19 continue to try and find ways to address these
20 problems to the extent that we can. But we're
21 attempting to take a regional approach as you
22 correctly note.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: On topic, yes,
24 I do believe that that's what we should be
25 doing.

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2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can
3 I say one thing? I know that there are VIN
4 numbers on seven parts of the car. Like the
5 doors have VIN numbers. It just makes sense
6 to me that they would put them on.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Legislator
8 Ferretti.

9 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you
10 Legislator Ford. I want to thank the sponsors
11 of this legislation. Of course Legislator
12 Pilip and Legislator Giuffre and our Colonel
13 Bill Gaylor.

14 I share some of the concerns.
15 Legislator Bynoe, I think you're right. It's
16 a shame that even have to really be passing
17 something like this. I know in my community
18 car thefts are skyrocketing. I had one right
19 on my block. There was another one in Wantagh
20 that I read about in Legislator Rhoads'
21 district just a couple of days ago. It was
22 actually at gunpoint. Which, I hate to say
23 that that's a relief, but at least if it's at
24 gunpoint they're not let out with an
25 appearance ticket.

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2 So, look, I think that this is
3 something that is unfortunately necessary. I
4 want to thank the sponsors for. I will
5 support it. But i think that we do need a
6 regional approach as it relates to bill. But
7 what we really need is a statewide overhaul on
8 some of the reforms that were put in place
9 which are causing us to have to have these
10 discussions and put these local laws in place
11 to begin with. Thank you.

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: Legislator
13 Rhoads.

14 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: To Legislator
15 Ferretti's point and I know we're getting a
16 little far afield here, but not only did we
17 have the carjacking in Wantagh, but we also
18 had a stolen vehicle in Merrick.

19 And just to illustrate the
20 absurdity of the example, they were
21 actually -- the police, through outstanding
22 police work, was able to actually capture the
23 individual and get back the stolen vehicle.
24 When the suspect was actually apprehended he
25 had keys to three other vehicles on him that

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2 were not his. This individual was released on
3 an appearance ticket. When I talk about
4 problems that the state is creating and us
5 having to do deal with the consequences that's
6 what I'm talking about.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Anyone else?
8 All those in favor of passing this item please
9 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? The item
10 passes unanimously.

11 Clerk item 142-22 is an ordinance
12 supplemental to the annual appropriation
13 ordinance in connection with the traffic
14 safety board.

15 May I have a motion. Moved by
16 Legislator Bynoe. Seconded by Legislator
17 Ferretti. The item is before us. Good
18 afternoon.

19 MR. ARNOLD: Ken Arnold,
20 commissioner of public works. This item is a
21 supplemental appropriation for \$1.121 million
22 to be put into the traffic safety budget.
23 It's funded through fines received by the
24 state for DWI and this funding is passed along
25 to various agencies to implement a DWI

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2 program.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: Any questions
4 from the legislators? Any public comment? I
5 see none. All those in favor of passing this
6 item please signify by saying aye. Anyone
7 opposed? The item passes unanimously. Thank
8 you.

9 Clerk item 144-22 is an ordinance
10 supplemental to the annual appropriation
11 ordinance in connection with the police
12 department.

13 May I have a motion. Moved by
14 Legislator Pilip. Seconded by Legislator
15 Mule. The item is before us. Good afternoon
16 sir.

17 MR. FIELD: William Field,
18 inspector with the police department. Item
19 144-22 are several grant appropriations. The
20 first one, which ends in 02, is a supplemental
21 appropriation of \$96,061 in funds received
22 from the United States Department of Justice
23 related to the JAG grant justice assistance
24 grant. This is to prevent and control crime.
25 It can be used for state and local

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2 initiatives, technical assistance, training,
3 personnel, equipment, supplies and other
4 support. Do you want me to do them all or
5 individually?

6 LEGISLATOR FORD: Just the one.

7 MR. FIELD: There's three
8 appropriations.

9 The second appropriation ends in
10 03. This is for the 2022 Surveillance
11 Apprehension Vehicle Enforcement Program, or
12 the SAVE grant. This is for an appropriation
13 of \$145,869 from the New York State Department
14 of Criminal Justice. This is to assign police
15 officers and detectives on an overtime basis
16 to investigate and identify individuals that
17 commit the crime of vehicle theft or
18 theft-related crimes.

19 The last appropriation ends in 04.
20 This is a \$79,492.50 from the New York State
21 Department of Criminal Justice. It's part of
22 our live scan project for 2022 to procure new
23 live scan fingerprint machines.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: Any questions
25 from the legislators? Any public comment?

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2 Come right up.

3 MS. MEREDAY: Meta Mereday,
4 county resident. Actually I was just passing
5 through but I'm just a little curious with the
6 previous discussion as it pertained to the
7 catalytic converters, and I agreed with
8 Legislator Mule and Bynoe with regard to the
9 concerns of the implementation and the
10 additional work that's going to be put on the
11 police department with the registration
12 process. I'm definitely for it but there are
13 other parts of cars that are being removed. I
14 don't know if this is like the start of
15 something that needs to be maybe reviewed and
16 expanded upon.

17 I think, as Legislator Rhoads
18 commented, involving Suffolk County as well as
19 New York City I think we need to as opposed to
20 maintaining adversarial aspects with our state
21 and federal representatives for various
22 incendiary reasons we can agree or disagree
23 upon, we need to work better together and come
24 with generalized formats across the region and
25 across the state that's going to be beneficial

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2 for residents. And I think possibly maybe
3 looking into this grant, the surveillance
4 apprehension vehicle process I think that
5 might be something that we could look into
6 that could benefit this process with regard to
7 the catalytic converters.

8 And also with regard to
9 appropriation for the police department. I'm
10 trying to put a plea out again to all of the
11 legislators that we have to address the
12 traffic safety. Living around the corner from
13 the most recent fatality. Literally. The
14 young lady who ran into the -- that was around
15 the corner from my house. I had to call the
16 police department to ask why helicopters were
17 circling my house at six o'clock in the
18 morning just to be told that a 66 year old man
19 got killed by a someone who was driving while
20 intoxicated. We need to address that.
21 Particularly on Grand Avenue.

22 And crossing guards. It's not the
23 responsibility of the police department to
24 take the time away from the work that they
25 have to do and the added work that they get

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2 put on from this body for public safety. I
3 get it. But we have to do a better outreach
4 and appeal to get people to stand up and
5 support efforts to cross our children and our
6 seniors. Short period of time.

7 I stood before this body to
8 advocate getting more money. I'm in my
9 community trying to encourage people to do
10 that. But we need our elected officials to
11 step up to get our police officers back on the
12 patrols, back in the service that they are
13 supposed to do. They have to take away their
14 time.

15 Again, I live right by Grand Avenue
16 and I've almost been hit myself by people who
17 have speeded by and the officer cannot leave
18 their post because they have to cross the
19 children and seniors and our disabled and
20 etcetera.

21 Again, I'm hoping that we can look
22 at how we're getting these grant funds to
23 better serve the community. And again, when
24 it's grant funded it's not coming out of the
25 taxpayers' pockets. I've already said enough

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2 how much taxes we have all pay in Nassau
3 County. I thank you all very much. I wish
4 you all well.

5 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
6 much. All those in favor of passing this
7 please signify by saying aye. Any opposed?
8 The item passes unanimously. Thank you very
9 much everybody.

10 There's no other business in front
11 of this committee. May I have a motion to
12 adjourn. Moved by Legislator Rhoads.
13 Seconded by Legislator Ferretti. All those
14 favor? This committee is adjourned. Thank
15 you very much. Public Works is next.

16 (Committee adjourned at 2:46 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 13th day of
May 2022.

FRANK GRAY