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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, September 7, 2022  
1:08 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

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16    LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS

17            Minority Leader

18            1st Legislative District

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20    LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

21            2nd Legislative District

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23    LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES

24            3rd Legislative District

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3     LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

4             5th Legislative District

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6     LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

7             6th Legislative District

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9     LEGISLATOR JOHN GIUFFRE

10            8th Legislative District

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12     LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP

13            10th Legislative District

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15     LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

16            11th Legislative District

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18     LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

19            12th Legislative District

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21     LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT

22            13th Legislative District

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24     LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

25            14th Legislative District

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3     LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

4             15th Legislative District

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6     LEGISLATOR ANDREW DRUCKER

7             16th Legislative District

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9     LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER

10            17th Legislative District

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12     LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

13            18th Legislative District

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15     LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

16            19th Legislative District

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18     MICHAEL PULITZER

19            Clerk of the Legislature

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1 Full - 9-7-22

2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm going  
3 to call the full legislature to order and we  
4 are going to reconvene our meeting of August  
5 8th. I'd ask Legislator Ford to lead us in  
6 the pledge of allegiance and please remain  
7 standing after.

8 A moment of silence for Kalil Jones  
9 who is the son of Dawn Wood Jones who is a  
10 member of our Office of Legislative Budget  
11 Review. Kalil tragically lost his life at 25  
12 years of age. Please keep Kalil and his  
13 mother in your thoughts and prayers. Thank  
14 you.

15 First order of business is a point  
16 of personal privilege that all 19 of us are  
17 going to join in. This is the final day of  
18 our stenographer, Frank Gray, who is  
19 retiring. Yes, it is. After 23 years Frank  
20 is going to call it a day. Please prepare a  
21 resolution barring him from retiring.

22 Twenty three years is an  
23 extraordinary length of service. I'm not sure  
24 that anyone will ever do that again or anyone  
25 in their right mind anyway. He's been taking

1                   Full - 9-7-22  
2   transcribing our meetings for all of those  
3   years. I can't count the number of times that  
4   we went late when some people said it was  
5   going to be a short meeting. I can't count  
6   the numbers of times there were verbal  
7   disputes where Frank had to throw his hands up  
8   because there were five or six of us yelling  
9   at the same time.

10                   He has had to endure filibusters by  
11   Legislator Rhoads. Frank has taken down  
12   enough hot air that can fill several  
13   Hindenburgs.

14                   In all seriousness, Frank, it's  
15   been a pleasure to have you. You've been  
16   serving us consciously for all those years.  
17   You have sat there for hours on end without  
18   requiring breaks and you've been there and  
19   available whenever we had a meeting or hearing  
20   or whatever it was he was doing. We all thank  
21   you very much for your service and wish you  
22   all the best in your future endeavors.

23                   Minority Leader Abrahams.

24                   LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:     Thank you  
25   Presiding Officer. Frank, I remember the

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2 first day I served in the legislature at the  
3 old building and you've been a part of our  
4 institution from the very beginning. And I  
5 guess older guys like Rich and I that have  
6 been serving for 20 plus years know the amount  
7 of sacrifice you have made. The late night  
8 meetings. The times where legislators go on  
9 and on. I mean, you're a steward of  
10 everything that is good about this  
11 institution. I hate to see you go but I know  
12 in life it's a part of the times. I know  
13 you're looking forward to is it retirement.  
14 When you just said yeah do you stenograph that  
15 too?

16 But all in all, Frank, you are a  
17 genuine person and you've put this institution  
18 first every single time and I just want to  
19 wish you the best on behalf of our caucus and  
20 the entire legislature for your tremendous  
21 amount of service that you've given to this  
22 county and more importantly also to this  
23 legislative body. But thank you Frank.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: Frank, I have  
25 to say also I remember when I first started

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2 and we were over at West Street and I think  
3 about the marathon of the meetings that we  
4 had, especially during budget time when we had  
5 a budget hearing on each and every single  
6 committee and it gave people an opportunity to  
7 drag those hearings out for eight hours, nine  
8 hours. And how many times did we sit here  
9 until, Kevan, remember, like one o'clock, two  
10 o'clock in the morning.

11 So and your patience and good  
12 natureness always came through. God bless  
13 you. I can't believe I've been working with  
14 you now almost 19 years. We were like young  
15 kids at that time.

16 Just even the fights that people  
17 had. I think it actually is the district that  
18 Steve Rhoads is in because Dave Dennenberg was  
19 another one that really just loved to like  
20 carry things on to the end.

21 Whatever it is you decide to do  
22 well deserved. I have to say I don't know  
23 what we're going to do without. Thank you.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone  
25 else? If not, you're going to have to tear



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2 yourself away from that for a moment. We have  
3 a presentation.

4 In terms of the reconvened meeting,  
5 I'm going to be calling now calendar numbers  
6 36 through 41 and resolutions 151 through 156  
7 of 2022. These are resolutions authorizing  
8 the county attorney to compromise and settle  
9 the claims of petitioners as set forth in the  
10 actions entitled Fortuna LA L.L.C., Board of  
11 Managers at Stratford at North Hills  
12 Condominium, Board of Managers of Hamlet East  
13 Condominium, Board of Managers of the  
14 Wharfside Condominium, Rockaway Realty  
15 Associates and Seasons at Mitchell Field.

16 We need a motion and a second.  
17 Motion by Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel.  
18 Seconded by Minority Leader Abrahams. Any  
19 debate or discussion on these items? Went  
20 through committees at our last meeting in  
21 August. Any public comment? Hearing none,  
22 all in favor signify by saying aye. Those  
23 opposed? They carry unanimously.

24 Now we have an emergency or was it  
25 two? One emergency. Mike, could you call the

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2 emergency?

3 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. An  
4 emergency resolution declaring an emergency  
5 for immediate action upon a local law to amend  
6 Section 6-2.2 and 6-2.4 of Title A of Chapter  
7 6 of Chapter 272 of the Nassau County  
8 Administrative Code in relation to increasing  
9 the maximum income eligibility level for the  
10 real property taxation exemption for certain  
11 persons with limited income and for persons  
12 with disabilities and limited incomes pursuant  
13 to Section 467 and 459-C of the real property  
14 tax law.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank  
16 you. We need a motion to establish the  
17 emergency. Moved by Legislator Rhoads.  
18 Seconded by Legislator Drucker. All in  
19 favor? Any debate or discussion on the  
20 motion? All in favor of establishing the  
21 emergency signify by saying aye. Those  
22 opposed? The emergency is established.

23 Now I will call the item. Clerk  
24 items 286 and 287 of 2022. A local law to  
25 amend Section 6-2.2 and Section 6-4.2 of Title

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2 A of Chapter 6 of Chapter 272 of the Nassau  
3 County administrative code in relation to  
4 increasing the maximum income eligibility  
5 level for real property taxation exemption for  
6 certain persons with limited income and  
7 persons with disabilities and limited incomes  
8 pursuant to Section 467 and 459C of the real  
9 property tax law.

10 Motion by Legislator Rhoads.

11 Seconded by Legislator Bynoe. The item is  
12 before us. This is the action that will opt  
13 in to increases in the income levels permitted  
14 for the senior citizens and disabled tax  
15 exemptions.

16 Recently the state changed the law  
17 to allow localities to opt into increased  
18 limits. In particular the minimum amount to  
19 be eligible. Actually, you have to have at  
20 least under \$50,000 to be eligible for the  
21 exemption. Then there's a sliding scale as  
22 you move up. But previously we were limited  
23 to providing these exemptions to those earning  
24 \$28,000 or less.

25 This increases both the limits for

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2 the senior citizens exemption as well as the  
3 exemption for those with disabilities. It  
4 does not, however, unfortunately, increase the  
5 exemption to what New York City can currently  
6 offer. We have been advocating for years now  
7 that Nassau County be permitted to increase  
8 the income limits up to the same amounts that  
9 the city has which I believe is \$58,000. That  
10 may not be for the senior citizens, correct? It  
11 goes up to 50. The city has a higher number.

12 Check that. But we are increasing  
13 the income limits for these two exemptions.

14 Anyone else want to speak to this?  
15 Legislator Rhoads then Minority Leader  
16 Abrahams.

17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I couldn't be  
18 more excited that this is finally happening.  
19 For years we had been decrying the fact that  
20 our seniors here in Nassau County and Suffolk  
21 County are being treated differently from  
22 seniors in the city of New York. We are one  
23 of the most expensive places to live. Our  
24 residents pay among the highest amount of  
25 taxes any place in the state. Really any

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2 place in the country. And with inflation  
3 running rampant, with our economy suffering as  
4 a result of the pandemic and the shutdown, any  
5 relief we can offer to our seniors is  
6 something that we're interested in offering.

7 We have been calling for an  
8 increase in the limits since 2019 and it took  
9 three years for the state legislature to  
10 actually move forward and put our seniors,  
11 treat our seniors the same as the seniors in  
12 the city of New York. That finally happened  
13 when the governor signed the bill about three  
14 weeks ago. And while it took the state  
15 legislature three years to put our seniors on  
16 parity, it's going to take this legislature  
17 about three weeks to do the same thing.

18 I'm excited that this is being  
19 advanced. I want to thank the presiding  
20 officer for moving this ahead so quickly and  
21 I'm happy to vote in favor of the bill.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Minority  
23 Leader Abrahams.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you  
25 Presiding Officer. Again, we are in support

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2 of the bill for obvious reasons. It's going  
3 to be able to help our seniors and our limited  
4 income residents and households as well. I  
5 think of no -- right now the current  
6 thresholds of \$26,000 -- I'm roughing it -- to  
7 \$34,000 is helping generally about 9,000  
8 people. When we are now increasing thresholds  
9 to \$50,000 and \$58,000 you would think  
10 conceivably we will be able to double the  
11 amount of people that are eligible. But  
12 that's really based off of the applicants that  
13 are being asked. So I want to encourage --  
14 assuming upon passage of this legislature and  
15 the county executive signing this into law --  
16 I just want to make sure that we are doing a  
17 full court press to make sure residents are  
18 aware of the higher incomes than in the past  
19 that they should be applying.

20 I think everyone in this  
21 legislature should be imploring the county  
22 executive to use every resource he has to  
23 insure that those residents that weren't  
24 eligible in the past are aware of these new  
25 thresholds so that we can even maybe exceed

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2 that doubling based off of the income levels  
3 alone. But thank you.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I think we  
5 will do the same as legislators trying to  
6 reach as many people as possible. Maybe not  
7 as directed because we would not have access  
8 to whom might be eligible. But if we can use  
9 social media as well as other means to let  
10 people know that they may be eligible for this  
11 exemption. As with all exemptions, they have  
12 until the end of this year to apply. We will  
13 be making that push.

14 Anyone else? Any public comment?  
15 Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying  
16 aye. Those opposed? Carries unanimously.

17 That was all of our business for  
18 the recessed meeting. Now I need a motion to  
19 adjourn. Moved by Legislator Ford. Seconded  
20 by Legislator Walker. All in favor of  
21 adjourning the legislature signify by saying  
22 aye. Those opposed? The legislature is  
23 adjourned and now we will go right into the  
24 Rules Committee.

25 (Meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.)

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4 CERTIFICATION

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

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

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have  
15 hereunto set my hand this 11th day of  
16 September 2022

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19 -----  
20 FRANK GRAY  
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