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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING

RICHARD NICOLELLO, PRESIDING OFFICER

SPECIAL MEETING

BUDGET

MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN 2023-2026

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Friday, October 28, 2022 11:25 a.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELO
PRESIDING OFFICER
9TH Legislative District

LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL
Deputy Presiding Officer
7th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD
Alternate Presiding Officer
4th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS
Minority Leader
1st Legislative District

LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE
2nd Legislative District

LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES
3rd Legislative District

LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE
5th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR, III

6th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JOHN J. GIUFFRE

8th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP

10th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

11th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

12th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT

13th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

14th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

15th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR ARNOLD W. DRUCKER

16th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

17th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

18th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

19th Legislative District

MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

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A L S O A P P E A R E D :

PUBLIC COMMENT:

BETH FINKEL

DORIS SHARPE

RON ROEL

KEN LARSON

MERYL MANTHEY

GEORGE DELLER

BERNARD MACIAS

PAT BOYLE

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Welcome
3 to the Nassau County Legislature. We're
4 going to call this meeting of the
5 Legislature to order and ask: Legislator
6 Colonel Bill Gaylor to lead us in the
7 Pledge of Allegiance.

8 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you,
9 Presiding Officer.

10 (Whereupon, the Pledge of
11 Allegiance is recited.)

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay,
13 Mike, could you please call the roll?

14 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
15 Presiding Officer. Deputy Presiding
16 Officer Howard Kopel?

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

18 CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Presiding
19 officer Denise Ford?

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

21 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.

22 Legislator Siela Bynoe?

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

24 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Carrie
25 Solages?

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LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Debra
Mule?

LEGISLATGOR MULE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.
William Gaylor, III?

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, sir.
Legislator John Giuffre?

LEGISLATOR GUIFFRE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Mazi Pilip

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Delia
Deriggi-Whitton?

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
Kennedy?

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Thomas
McKevitt?

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura
Schaefer?

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

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CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John
Ferretti?

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
Drucker?

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
Legislator Rose Walker?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Joshua
Lafazan?

LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Steven
Rhoads?

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader
Kevan Abrahams?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Presiding Officer
Nicolello?

LEGISLATOR NICOLLELO: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
sir.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank

1
2 you very much.

3 We're going to be opening the budget
4 hearing in a moment. I just want to let
5 you know that if you want to speak with
6 respect to the budget, you need to fill
7 out a slip which the clerk's table has
8 right here. Submit it to the clerk's
9 table and we'll put you on the list to
10 speak. I have a number of slips already.

11 So the first item is Clerk Item
12 number 306 of 2022. It is ordinance 71 of
13 2022. And it is the hearing on the Nassau
14 County Budget. Motion to open the
15 hearing, Legislative Rhoads moves to open
16 the hearing seconded by Minority Leader
17 Abrahams. All in favor of opening the
18 hearing signify by saying aye.

19 (Whereupon, all members of
20 the Nassau County Legislature
21 respond in favor.)

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So the
23 hearing is open. First speaker is Beth
24 Finkel.

25 MS. FINKEL: Well, good morning,

1
2 everyone. Thank you so much for having us
3 here today. I'm Beth Finkel. I'm the
4 state director for AARP New York. AARP
5 has got two-and-one-half-million members
6 in New York State, and right here on Long
7 Island, we have almost a half a million
8 members. And as you can see, our members
9 and our volunteers are pretty passionate
10 about what goes on in their county and in
11 their community and really for very good
12 reason, because Nassau County is really
13 exemplary in so many ways about how it
14 works with its older adults in the 50
15 plus and trying to make this community in
16 AARP speak as age friendly as possible.
17 So Nassau County actually is part of the
18 age friendly designation of the United
19 Nations, and AARP nationally oversees all
20 the age friendly communities or tries to
21 support them across the country.

22 One of the reasons we're here today
23 is because we want to make sure that you
24 know that we support it here. There are
25 eight domains of age friendly. Among them

1
2 is housing, transportation, education,
3 financial, being able to find work,
4 parks, healthcare. And as I say them, I
5 mean, I'm sure you're all sitting up tall
6 because, honestly, Nassau County is a
7 leader in so many of those areas.

8 There are areas that I think we all
9 know we'd like to see improve and AARP
10 wants to be helpful with that. We're
11 really happy about the County Exec's
12 proposed 5.5 increase to the Health and
13 Human Services because we know how much
14 that's going to help Senior Services,
15 which are foremost in our minds. But we
16 also want to make sure that you
17 understand, and I think you do, because
18 you are us, your families and your
19 communities and your neighbors are us.

20 People love Nassau County. They want
21 to age in place here, but they have to be
22 able to have the environment that allows
23 them to do that. Older adults have built
24 these communities by volunteering, by
25 working here, by paying their taxes and

1
2 by voting.

3 We just did a some data collection
4 in the last election from the Board of
5 Elections, and we found that in Nassau
6 County, almost 80% of voters in the last
7 primaries were 50 plus; 80%. And, in
8 fact, consistently that's been across the
9 last four general elections also. So they
10 get out and vote, but they get out and
11 volunteer.

12 And again, you can see the passion
13 of our volunteers behind us. And I know
14 you're going to be hearing from some of
15 them. So I just really want to reiterate
16 again that Nassau County 50 plus people
17 are very dedicated to their community,
18 and we as a group want to be a willing
19 partner to help make life even better for
20 them. So thank you for all you do, and I
21 hope you'll call on us. Thank you so
22 much.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
24 you very much. Doris Sharpe.

25 MS. SHARPE: Good morning. My name

1
2 is Doris Sharpe from Hempstead. Respect
3 and social inclusion. Everyone wants to
4 feel valued. Intergenerational gatherings
5 and activities are an excellent way for
6 young and older people to learn from one
7 another. Honor what each has to offer and
8 feel good about themselves.

9 I am an active legislative officer
10 out of Local Chapter 5234, chapters and
11 other local organizations that bring
12 young and older people together. It's
13 critical to any community so we can learn
14 from each other but contribute and give
15 back to our communities. Thank you.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Well,
17 thank you for your remarks, Miss Sharpe.
18 And we approve the hat, by the way
19 (applause).

20 MS. BRADFORD: Good morning. My name
21 is Elizabeth Bradford, and I'm going to
22 be talking about social participation
23 having to do with AARP.

24 Regardless of a person's age,
25 loneliness is often as debilitating a

1
2 health condition as having a chronic
3 illness or disease. Sadness and isolation
4 can be combated by having opportunities
5 to socialize and the availability of
6 access, affordable and fun social
7 activities for all types of people who
8 could not really leave their home, they
9 could get a personal connection with a
10 friendly face. AARP has many programs on
11 the line that they could learn to do and
12 keep them busy from being lonely.

13 AARP definitely helps combat
14 isolation through virtual programming.
15 Now, an added bonus was for the young
16 people that were in the house with those
17 that were isolated, they could now do
18 things together. Doing virtual things
19 together is an excellent way for the
20 generations to learn together from one
21 another and contribute and give back to
22 our community.

23 It is a pleasure to be an AARP
24 volunteer and continue to grow. I'm sure
25 no matter what the future holds, AARP

1
2 will be in the know and continue to be a
3 vital service. Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
5 you, Ms. Bradford.

6 Ron Roel.

7 MR. ROEL: Morning, folks. Ron Roel,
8 Glen Cove. Going to speak quickly. I've
9 got two domains to talk about. One is the
10 work in civic engagement. Next is
11 community and health services.

12 So first, work in civic engagement.
13 Why must work be an all or nothing
14 experience? An age-friendly community
15 encourages older people to be actively
16 engaged in community life and has
17 opportunities for residents to work for
18 pay or volunteer their skills. So I know
19 about this personally. I'm involved in
20 the Age-friendly Council in Glen Cove. I
21 know that it's an important part of the
22 community. It's growing there. It has
23 affiliations with the local government
24 and non-profits.

25 Essentially, it's important for

1
2 people to maintain a sense of purpose and
3 commitment later in life and have a lot
4 to contribute. I know about this
5 personally because I'm now a little
6 farther north of a traditional retirement
7 than I expected.

8 But still, it keeps you vital. It's
9 important that you contribute all the way
10 through life. And part of that is also
11 being able to vote. As Beth Finkel
12 mentioned, we found out that 80% of those
13 who participated in the primaries earlier
14 were 50 plus. And so, you know, 50 plus
15 life is something which I call an
16 important part, as when I started the Act
17 two section of *Newsday*, and that is that
18 I like to think about making the second
19 half of life even better than the first.
20 So that's a work in civic engagement.

21 The second is quickly community and
22 health services. Again, at some point,
23 every person of every age gets hurt,
24 becomes ill, or simply needs some help,
25 while assistance and care must be

1
2 available nearby, it's essential that
3 residents have access to affordable
4 healthcare. This is something I think we
5 all recognize increasing is important,
6 especially as we get older. And I know
7 personally, too, from from taking care of
8 my mother with my brothers for many
9 years, that caregiving is part of that.
10 So having affordable support in terms of
11 healthcare is critical. It keeps you
12 vital.

13 It also cuts down on other services
14 that you need. People have appropriate
15 healthcare. They can do a lot of things
16 and be productive in life. And again,
17 part of that is not medical care, but is
18 support from families and from our system
19 in general.

20 And so certainly families are always
21 an important component of caregiving. But
22 having a support system in place that
23 that helps families and also provide
24 services and resources. And I know that
25 Nassau County is involved with their

1
2 Department of Aging, so it's important to
3 have this kind of support. Because if
4 you if you have this kind of support, it
5 cuts down other government services. And
6 so I think it's critical that we maintain
7 this framework to really do this kind of
8 work. Thank you very much.

9 MR. LARSON: Good morning. My name
10 is Ken Larson and I'm from Westbury. My
11 topic is outdoor space and building
12 access, unlike my colleague here, I'm
13 well into retirement, so I appreciate the
14 need for access and accessibility.

15 Outdoor space has been very
16 important to us as we've battled COVID.
17 Thankfully, the worst part of COVID, we
18 hope, is behind us. But it does highlight
19 the need for accessibility because
20 there's nothing like face-to-face
21 meetings when you have a relationship
22 with the people, you can see them. It
23 takes away your feelings of isolation or
24 loneliness. And so we're advocating for
25 that in a big way.

1
2 From my own experience, I have
3 enjoyed a lot of the outdoor activities
4 with some of our friends who are active,
5 who are retired. We have a lovely park.
6 We play we played bocce all before the
7 COVID and we're starting it up again,
8 hopefully soon.

9 We're advocating for buildings that
10 are accessible: Stair rails, elevators,
11 escalators. And we think it's we think
12 it's important to keep our age group
13 active. The Town and the County have
14 been generally very supportive of us. We
15 and AARP appreciate that. It's critical
16 for us to be able to meet with our
17 friends or colleagues or associates. And
18 and the best way to do that is have
19 buildings that are accessible to us, to
20 all of us.

21 As I say, I've been very lucky. I've
22 maintained my health. I tend to be
23 active. I enjoy the parks, especially
24 with my children. Not so much my
25 children, actually, my grandchildren are

1
2 the ones I enjoy it with. I see all of
3 you laughing up there. You know where I'm
4 coming from. And again, we appreciate all
5 of your support, all of your help. And
6 thank you very much.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
8 you, Mr. Larson. Meryl Manthey.

9 MS. MANTHEY: Hi, everybody. I am
10 from Levittown. I grew up in Wantagh. I'm
11 going to talk about housing.

12 AARP surveys consistently find that
13 most older adults want to reside in their
14 current home or community for as long as
15 possible. Doing so is possible if a home
16 is designed or modified for aging in
17 place, or if a community has housing
18 options available or suitable for
19 different incomes, ages and life stages.

20 Now, I was lucky enough that we had
21 an apartment legally built on top of my
22 mom's house and I was there for ten
23 years. She needed to age in place. We had
24 some experience with some assisted living
25 rehab places that were not good, and

1
2 luckily she had the resources and I was
3 able to be there for her.

4 When she passed, I was in a state of
5 panic. I didn't know where I would be
6 able to go. Luckily, availability became
7 for the Town of Hempstead Subsidized
8 Housing Co-op. It's absolutely fantastic,
9 but I was just lucky to get in there. I'm
10 a realtor and every day I have a friend
11 who says I have nowhere to go. I don't
12 know what to do. I have low income. There
13 are no rentals available, subsidized
14 rentals available in the Town of
15 Hempstead for years, as far as I
16 understand. So this is something that I
17 am very passionate about. And I honestly
18 don't know where to direct people. I
19 direct them actually out of the county
20 sometimes because there's just nothing
21 available here. And of course, taxes have
22 a lot to do with people who are trying to
23 remain in their homes as well.

24 Second issue communication and
25 information. We now communicate in ways

1
2 few could have imagined a decade ago.
3 Age-friendly communities recognize that
4 information needs to be shared through
5 various methods. Since not everyone is
6 tech savvy and not everyone has a
7 smartphone or home-based access to the
8 Internet.

9 In my complex, I'm one of the
10 younger ones that are still working, and
11 when the internet is horrendous, I'm
12 beside myself and the others are like,
13 well, it's not a big deal. I don't care,
14 you know? But they don't have the savvy
15 or the wherewithal to communicate. And if
16 you notice, everywhere you go, every
17 health situation, oh, just go online, do
18 the app, pay it this way, pay it that
19 way, and it just doesn't work for them
20 anymore. So it's just really more of a
21 commentary about that situation. So I
22 don't really know the answer to that, but
23 it's just, like I said, more of a
24 commentary. Thank you.

25 MR. DELLER: Good morning. My name

1
2 is George Deller. I would like to talk
3 briefly about transportation.

4 Nassau County has come a very long
5 way since I was growing up in Levittown
6 in the early 1950s, where there were very
7 few stoplights, very few stop signs, no
8 arrows for left turns and right turns,
9 and so forth. We've come a long way, but
10 we still have a ways to go.

11 Of course, driving is not the only
12 way that we get around. Our pedestrians
13 need sidewalks and safe crossable
14 streets. Walking around here this
15 morning, I was very pleased to see the
16 walk, don't walk signs and the timing. We
17 need more of that in more places. We also
18 can benefit from dedicated bicycle lanes
19 and they benefit the drivers and the non
20 drivers alike.

21 Of course, we have public
22 transportation options as well. Not all
23 from the county, Long Island railroad, of
24 course, but we do have the NICE bus
25 system and what I call Able Ride, which

1
2 was used by several AARP members. When I
3 was doing AARP tax aid, they would be
4 able to get to and from their appointment
5 to have their tax return done.

6 So AARP is going to continue to
7 collaborate with Vision Long Island so we
8 can improve our walkability for
9 pedestrians, no matter the age in all of
10 our communities. And when we do one of
11 those walkability audits, we pick the
12 neighborhood. We actually walk the
13 streets, you come to a major
14 intersection. Is there a walk/don't walk
15 sign if there is one. Does it actually
16 have the time counting down? If it's a
17 two lane road or a six lane road,
18 obviously, someone is going to need a
19 longer time to cross that six lane road
20 than the two lane road. When we do those
21 walkability audits, we come with people
22 in wheelchairs, we come with canes and so
23 forth. The fast walker -- I like to still
24 think I can be a little bit of a fast
25 walker -- can go across the street in no

1
2 time. But that person with the cane or
3 the wheelchair or the walker definitely
4 needs more time. So we need to continue
5 to look for more places for this and to
6 have them just right.

7 Lastly, I would like to mention some
8 of our wonderful parks here in Nassau
9 County for walking. What I still call
10 Salisbury Park, which is now Eisenhower
11 Park. It's been Eisenhower Park for
12 decades. Wonderful place. The Muttontown
13 Preserve, wonderful place. Wantagh Park,
14 wonderful place. I will mention one,
15 Tackapausha. I have stopped walking there
16 because the trails have not been
17 maintained. So somebody, please give that
18 a thought. Thank you for your attention.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
20 Well, thank you very much.

21 And to all of the AARP members
22 who've come out today to join with us,
23 Nassau County is a beautiful place. It's
24 a fantastic place to live and raise a
25 family. And it is that way because of all

1
2 your contributions over many, many years.
3 We thank you for your continuing
4 advocacy. All of us look forward to
5 working with you on the points that you
6 raised and the program that AARP is
7 pushing for and advocating, and we also
8 look forward to working with you in our
9 communities.

10 Obviously, there's local issues that
11 are important as well. So, again, on
12 behalf of the Legislature, I thank you
13 all for joining us today.

14 Legislator Walker.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I, too, just
16 want to thank you all. And just on a
17 personal note, I don't know what many
18 young families would do today without --
19 and I'm going to say grandma and grandpa
20 -- but the seniors in our community and
21 and many of you who fall into that
22 category. When I go places with my
23 grandchildren, whether it's bringing who
24 to the bus stop or a game or, you know,
25 parents are, especially during COVID when

1
2 things shut down and many of them had to
3 work, you were their lifeline. I mean,
4 you helped them with their families and
5 bringing our seniors and our young people
6 together. You have gone over and above to
7 continue to do that, and I just want to
8 thank you for that on a personal level.
9 Because I although I've never joined AARP
10 -- if anybody has their membership forms,
11 maybe you better give it to me because
12 I'm well past the time. I could have
13 joined. But but thank you for all you do.
14 Thanks for all you do for all of us. And
15 and we would we really enjoy continuing
16 to work with all of you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

18 Legislator Ferretti in particular is too
19 young to join, but he'd like an
20 application (laughter).

21 Anyone else?

22 (Whereupon, no verbal
23 response.)

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.

25 Thank. Bernard Macias. And if I said

1
2 that correctly --

3 MR. MACIAS: Thank you. Good
4 morning. My name is Bernard Macias and I
5 am the associate state director for AARP
6 right here on Long Island. I have plenty
7 of applications in the car. I'll be more
8 than happy to give them all out.

9 So I'm here today with a wonderful
10 group of volunteers. So nationwide, a
11 AARP has 38 million members; 2.5 million
12 of those members are in New York State.
13 But on Long Island, we have 500,000
14 members and we have the highest
15 concentration of membership anywhere
16 nationwide. So AARP Long Island is always
17 looked upon nationwide at the national
18 state office.

19 We are doing great work here. We are
20 very passionate about that work.
21 Volunteers -- we have about 500 very
22 active volunteers across Nassau and
23 Suffolk. And it's all about the work that
24 we do on behalf of our membership in the
25 areas of age friendly, which we're so

1
2 passionate about.

3 We've done a number -- I know that
4 George Deller, one of our active
5 volunteers, mentioned walkability audits.
6 That's something that we have done with
7 Legislator Bynoe in Hempstead, we do
8 across all of Nassau and Suffolk. Those
9 walkability audits are a great way for
10 our volunteers to get involved and be the
11 eyes and ears in the community to see
12 what are the type of improvements we need
13 to make so that our pedestrians are
14 walking safe.

15 I do have a couple of points that I
16 do want to mention on the Livability
17 Index. In 2015, AARP launched its
18 Livability Index to measure the quality
19 of life in American communities across
20 multiple dimensions. Some of those
21 dimensions we mentioned earlier:
22 Housing, transportation, environment,
23 social engagement. And we're happy to
24 note that Nassau County's results were
25 very, very good. The County's scores were

1
2 exceptional compared to the rest of the
3 country. Also, when it comes to census
4 data, Nassau County's total population
5 grew 3.7% to 1.4 million residents over
6 the last ten years, with the most
7 significant growth occurring among people
8 50 and over. I am a Nassau resident. I've
9 been in Nassau resident for the last 22
10 years. Everyone in my community knows who
11 I am, not because of AARP, but because I
12 am a very active member of the community.
13 My wife and I are happy raising children
14 or young adults. Now in our community. We
15 want to age in place.

16 And one thing I want to reiterate,
17 when it comes to age friendly, it doesn't
18 matter if you're eight or 80, the work
19 that AARP is doing is not for just our
20 membership. It's for our members and our
21 families. We're really passionate about
22 that. We'd love to work with all of you
23 on these very important issues that face
24 our communities today. Thank you.

25 Oh, and I also want to note, when it

1
2 comes to volunteerism, what we have here
3 today is just a small representation. We
4 have members across Nassau, all the
5 townships, North Hempstead, Hempstead and
6 Oyster Bay. Thank you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So
8 thank you, Mr. Macias and thank you again
9 for joining us today.

10 Thank you, Dave Schwartz We
11 appreciate it.

12 Pat Boyle. Next speaker.

13 MR. BOYLE: Hello, everyone. My name
14 is Pat Boyle from Gateway Youth Outreach
15 in Elmont. I know that you're going to
16 pass a budget today. I know that it's a
17 budget that gives a 0% increase to youth
18 services. This is 30 years in a row that
19 we've gotten either a cut or nothing
20 back, nothing in addition to the funding
21 that we would usually get. And now to
22 come to the time where we're going to
23 have to do the cutting as well, too.

24 We talk to you and you all receive
25 letters with regard to what's happening

1
2 to our young people in the communities.
3 Anxiety, depression, and other similar
4 maladies are happening to our young
5 people everywhere, and it has to do with,
6 yes, COVID. It has to do with other
7 circumstances that are within the
8 communities as well, too. It's not
9 something that we want to do, but it's
10 something now that we have to do because
11 other costs are going up like crazy.

12 So one of the things that I went to
13 the high school superintendent with just
14 on Wednesday, I told him no more
15 counseling out of our agency for the kids
16 in your program. Is that what you really
17 want to see? I mean, I can't even hire
18 another social worker to be able to work
19 with us, to be able to help these kids
20 out and know that It's an ethical dilemma
21 for me as well, too. I am a social
22 worker, but I do run the agency and now
23 getting money into the agency is what my
24 priority is because we're not getting
25 anything, any help from the County. We

1
2 are getting our money. One shot deals. We
3 haven't seen the money in 18 months that
4 it's been promised to us. But, you know,
5 and hopefully the second round will get
6 quicker.

7 But it's come down to the point
8 right now where we can't do any more if
9 money's not going to be able to come
10 through, we're stuck. We can't do
11 anything else. We're not going to be able
12 to provide the counseling services that
13 are necessary. And that's a sad
14 statement. I mean, I've always come up
15 here and I've always said to you, I want
16 to do as much for the community of
17 Elmont, Franklin Square, Valley Stream,
18 all of the areas that we cover. But now
19 I'm not going to be able to do it anymore
20 because I have to put money towards
21 worker's comp, towards unemployment
22 insurance, towards all these other
23 things. It's going to take away from the
24 remainder of our budget. We run a
25 business, don't forget. And running a

1
2 business means that all of the costs that
3 you see going up, we see going up as
4 well.

5 I'm disappointed. I would hope that,
6 you know, in some forms, in some way
7 later on, you might be able to change
8 this. But I'm disappointed in everything
9 that's happened up until now. Thanks.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
11 Thank you.

12 Any debate or questions or comments
13 from the legislators during the hearing?

14 (Whereupon, no verbal
15 response.)

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
17 Hearing None. Motion to close the
18 hearing, Legislator Rhoads, seconded by
19 Legislator Walker.

20 All in favor of closing the hearing
21 signify by saying aye.

22 (Whereupon, all members of
23 the Nassau County Legislature
24 respond in favor.)

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those

1
2 opposed?

3 (Whereupon, no verbal
4 response.)

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
6 Carries unanimously.

7 Next order of business is the
8 Legislature's budget, which is Clerk item
9 309 of 2022, Ordinance 73 of 2022. Motion
10 by Minority Leader Abrahams, seconded by
11 Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel on the
12 ordinance. Any debate or discussion on
13 the Legislature's ordinance hearing?

14 (Whereupon, no verbal
15 response.)

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
17 Hearing none. All in favor signify by
18 saying aye.

19 (Whereupon, all members of
20 the Nassau County Legislature
21 respond in favor.)

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
23 Those opposed?

24 (Whereupon, no verbal
25 response.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Carries unanimously.

Next item is the County Budget,
Clerk Item number 306 2022, Ordinance 71
of 2022. Motion by Legislator Kennedy
seconded by Legislator Ferretti to
approve the Nassau County Budget
Ordinance.

So the Budget Ordinance is now
before the Legislature. Any debate or
discussion?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
Officer?

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Yes.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm guessing
this is the appropriate time to make a
motion to amend the budget.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Well,
this would be the appropriate time to
make a motion to amend the budget. I
can--

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We could
discuss the amendments at hand before the
motion and potentially the vote takes

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2 place, that's fine by me.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
4 Well, it's our understanding that
5 amendments were filed with the Clerk of
6 the Legislature. However, it's also our
7 understanding that Notice of the
8 Amendments was not made as required by
9 the Nassau County Charter, Section 305,
10 which requires a notice published in
11 Newsday twice in ten days advising the
12 public of the nature of the amendment and
13 when the amendment will be heard. This is
14 specific to increases within any item of
15 appropriation. It has been the obligation
16 of a moving party, be it the Legislature
17 or the Administration, to provide the
18 Notice to be published in the newspapers
19 for the Clerk to publish.

20 So the bottom line is, our
21 understanding is that there was no Notice
22 of the the Minority's amendments.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
24 Officer. That's the responsibility that
25 is taken upon by the Clerk's Office. I

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2 assume. And also it's our understanding
3 of the County Charter that that is only
4 in the event of an increase and that's
5 probably why the Clerk did not do that.
6 We believe that legally and fundamentally
7 our amendments are sound as well as legal
8 and we decreased expenses. So from our
9 standpoint, the amendment should be
10 heard. There's no legal standing to not
11 be heard.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Well,
13 number one, you're incorrect about the
14 procedure. It is your obligation to
15 provide, in a Word file, the Notice that
16 the Clerk is supposed to publish, and
17 your side, unfortunately, failed to do
18 it.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's
20 something that's never been the case.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: That's
22 always been the case. We have done it
23 every year, year in, year out, when we
24 made amendments, number one.

25 Number two, occasionally, when the

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2 Administration wants a Notice published,
3 such as when, for example, the cemetery
4 ordinances, they provide the Word file
5 and this published. That is the
6 obligation of your side to do that. Mr.
7 Leimone, do you have something to add?

8 MR. LEIMONE: Chris Leimone, for
9 the Administration. We have a deputy
10 county attorney to confirm that position
11 here, Kevin Hardman, if you need that
12 interpretation of the charter. Yes.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Yes.
14 Mr. Hardman.

15 DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY HARDMAN:
16 Yeah. Under Section 305 of the Charter a
17 requirement is that the Notice be
18 published regarding any amendments that
19 are going to increase the budget. That
20 Notice never happened, from what I
21 understand. And if that Notice didn't
22 happen, the amendments are not properly
23 before the Legislature.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
25 It's not just any increase in the budget,

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2 but doesn't it state that before the
3 County Legislature inserts any additional
4 item or increases any item of
5 appropriation --

6 DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY HARDMAN: The
7 Notice was supposed to be published of
8 any changes to the budget.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
10 increase in the item of appropriation,
11 which is what the amendment is. It's an
12 increase in the item of appropriation. If
13 you want to do what you want to do, you
14 have to increase the appropriation. If
15 you're increasing any item of
16 appropriation, regardless of whether your
17 amendment equalizes it elsewhere, if
18 you're increasing any item of
19 appropriation, you have to publish
20 Notice.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
22 Officer, it's our understanding that
23 based off of, one, the budget is not
24 being increased in its entirety. It's
25 not. It's clearly not increasing our

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2 budget. Our amendments are equal. They
3 even out.

4 It is our understanding as well that
5 this is not based on past practice.

6 However, we still believe that these
7 amendments are fundamentally sound. These
8 amendments could very well pass today. If
9 you are taking the position that you do
10 not want to consider them because of the
11 reasons of the Charter, you could very
12 well consider our amendments by emergency
13 if you believe in them. But if you're
14 going to stand behind the position that
15 they weren't publicly noticed, even
16 though they have a tremendous impact on
17 people's public safety, then that's your
18 position. But that has not been the past
19 practice and we stand by the position
20 that this budget is not being increased
21 in its entirety. It just clearly isn't.
22 But if you want to take the position that
23 you're going to stand against these
24 amendments or not support these
25 amendments because of a technical error

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2 of something being noticed, we have some
3 members of the public that are here
4 today. Let's debate our amendments and
5 see what they think, because I'm willing
6 to bet every single person is going to
7 validate the fact that public safety is
8 our utmost priority. And it's important
9 today that we discuss amendments that
10 protects their public safety.

11 Just so the public knows, we are
12 talking about adding an additional 110
13 officers to our police force. One, to
14 address the issues of hate crimes in our
15 community; and two, the Commissioner
16 testified several weeks ago that in order
17 for him to provide more highly visible
18 police officers on our streets to deal
19 with the issues of crime, we would be
20 able to hire an additional 55 officers as
21 well. So from that standpoint alone,
22 these amendments are sound. They are not
23 political shenanigans, they are sound
24 amendments.

25 So if you are willing to support --

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2 if you're going to stand by the position
3 that we didn't publicly notice it or we
4 didn't provide a Word format to the Clerk
5 in the Legislature, which has never been
6 done before. But that's okay. If you're
7 going to stand by that position, then
8 provide the emergency so we can move
9 forward, unless you are taking the
10 position that you cannot support the
11 emergency or you cannot support these
12 amendments.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: One,
14 in terms of past practice, it's been done
15 this way every year.

16 Secondly, as to your point that
17 you're not changing the budget in its
18 entirety. Let me read again Nassau County
19 Charter 305: "Public notice is required
20 before the Legislature inserts any
21 additional item or increases any item of
22 appropriation". So clearly notice was
23 required.

24 Secondly, amendments do not amend
25 the tax levy ordinance. So if you're

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2 changing the budget, you have to change
3 the tax levy ordinance and you failed to
4 do that. So if you want to suggest that
5 this is of an emergency nature, we can
6 start discussing that.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's move on.
8 I'll make a motion to an emergency making
9 a motion to amend the budget by
10 emergency. Carrie A. seconds it. Let's
11 just be clear what we're talking about
12 today. Are we really trying to put up
13 obstacles to stand in the way of public
14 safety in this county?

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Tell
16 me what the emergency is.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: An emergency
18 amendment to an emergency vote to amend
19 the budget. Based off of our amendments.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Well,
21 but I mean, tell me the emergency that
22 you're trying to establish. What you're
23 trying to do with your amendments is take
24 money from the Contingency Fund and shift
25 it into the Police Fund. So that can be

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2 done today. It could be done January 1st.
3 It could be done June 1st. So why is it
4 an emergency to do it today? Explain.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Because the
6 budget is before us today.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: But
8 you could move -- you can use that
9 Contingency Fund at any point of the
10 year.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
12 Officer, there's a motion on the floor.
13 But more importantly, we are discussing
14 the budget today. If we are going to make
15 changes that are going to impact the
16 budget going into 2023, it makes prudent
17 sense to do them today when we're
18 considering the budget. I don't know.
19 That's just conventional wisdom that I
20 would think.

21 But that being said -- but I think
22 the root of the issue is because we're
23 getting too bogged down in whether they
24 were filed, noticed properly. Do you
25 support the amendments? Because if you

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2 support the amendments, you would do what
3 you need to do, whether it's for our
4 public, for yourselves, what may be the
5 case, you would do what you need to do
6 today to hear the amendments. So the
7 question becomes, do you support the
8 amendments?

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Why
10 don't we do this? We believe that the
11 root of the problem is that --

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It's very
13 straightforward.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Here's
15 my straightforward response. The root of
16 the problem here is cashless bail and
17 policies of the Democratic Legislature
18 and Governor of New York State.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here we go;
20 let's go.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So I
22 invite you -- we'll come back in and
23 we'll vote on these amendments. I'll
24 invite you and all members of your
25 caucus. Let's go outside now and demand

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2 that the governor of New York State bring
3 the Legislature back and repeal those
4 amendments. So you're willing to do that
5 --

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So now you
7 open up the avenue for politics.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Are
9 you ready to go out?

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So if cashless
11 bail and bail reform are such significant
12 issues that impact crime, which I've
13 heard from all of you during the hearing
14 that they are, then why wouldn't you
15 support a proposal that adds an
16 additional 110 cops if crime is that out
17 of control? Based off your responses and
18 based on what you're saying here for the
19 last month, wouldn't you support a
20 proposal that allows 110 cops as well as
21 add money for a recidivism program to be
22 able to address it? It doesn't make any
23 sense. It's an oxymoron what you're
24 proposing.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: It

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2 does make sense because you can have all
3 the officers in the world go out there,
4 but if the person you're arresting is
5 getting out of jail and walking free
6 before you complete the paperwork, that's
7 a problem. And we're seeing the problem
8 because those types of crimes,
9 burglaries, etc., major crimes are
10 spiking. And it's not because we don't
11 have 100 extra cops in the street. It's
12 because of insane policies by our State
13 Legislators. So we as local officials,
14 let's group together, let's really make
15 some news, and all together, 19 of us,
16 call upon the Governor, the State
17 Legislature, to come back into session,
18 repeal these reforms.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
20 Officer, you want to call on an outside
21 body. We'll consider calling any outside
22 bodies, but we have control today to do
23 what we need to do to ensure that our
24 Nassau County residents are safe. So
25 calling on an outside entity, whether

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2 it's a State Legislature or the Governor,
3 it may be the case that is something
4 separate. That's not within our control.
5 We can call on them and they'll do
6 nothing or they'll do something. Who
7 knows what they'll do? But today we have
8 the onus on us. We control the narrative
9 when it pertains to Nassau County Police
10 officers. We control it. We have the
11 ability to hire the officers now
12 regardless of what the state does. If
13 you're going to hang your hat on the fact
14 that we hope the State comes along
15 because all 19 of us will do it. I got to
16 tell you this, dozens and dozens of
17 counties, big cities in this place,
18 they're not just going to move just
19 because Nassau asks for it. But we can
20 move forward with 110 additional officers
21 today.

22 I'm still boggled by the mind -- I
23 mean, I don't want to start polling my
24 colleagues. I'm boggled by the mindset
25 that you don't support it. Is that

1
2 reality? Are you are you saying today you
3 do not support 100 --

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You're
5 still missing the point. You're missing
6 the point that the real problem here is
7 cashless bail. And if you want to address
8 the real problem, you can do so. You can
9 do this political stunt. But if you want
10 to address the real problem and this
11 entire state knows what this problem is,
12 it's cashless bail, it's Raise the Age.
13 It's the reason why kids are being
14 brought in from Newark to check our cars,
15 to take the catalytic converters because
16 they know they can't be prosecuted. So
17 let's go after these policies. Let's do
18 it as a group.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
20 Officer, you're changing tunes.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: If we
22 do it alone as Republicans, they're going
23 to say it's political. If you guys come
24 outside on the front steps and demand the
25 Governor bring the State Legislature

1
2 back, it stops being political and they
3 have to start listening.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

5 Presiding Officer, you've never once
6 answered my question in regards to 110
7 officers. So why would I even entertain
8 some bogus thing you're going to ask us
9 to do on the steps of the Legislature?
10 This is a very sound, fundamental
11 question: Do you believe the amount of
12 officers that are in the budget today,
13 the 36 that the County Executive has
14 added is sufficient? It's a very simple
15 question.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

17 Commissioner Ryder, I ask you to come up.
18 He's asking me a question that I believe
19 was something that was answered during
20 the Public Safety Committees, but I'll
21 ask the Commissioner to answer it. Do we
22 believe, do we the County, does the
23 Commissioner believe that the number of
24 officers in the budget is sufficient?
25 That's the question.

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LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, no.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You just asked it. Mr. Commissioner, please respond to that.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Commissioner Ryder, before you respond, our amendments are in direct response to what the Commissioner said in my direct Q&A with him. I was asking the Commissioner, if we wanted more visibility on our streets -- and we talked about foot patrols when we brought it up, I said, Commissioner, how many additional officers would you need? And I believe based off our amendments, he had said 55. That's part of why we got to the 110. Then we felt it was important based on what we're seeing that's happening all throughout our country, the attacks on our minority population, Asian American, Jewish Americans that are being attacked based on their religion and their beliefs, which is wrong, which we all believe and we stand for. We felt having a separate unit for that purpose

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2 was instrumental. So from that
3 standpoint, that is why, yes, the
4 Commissioner could say that the officers
5 that's in the budget is sufficient, but
6 not sufficient for the visibility that we
7 had discussed in our Q&A back and forth a
8 couple of weeks ago.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Very
10 nice. You ask me a question, I have the
11 person up who can answer it and then you
12 answer it yourself.

13 The question that was asked of me.
14 And I think it's more appropriate for the
15 head of our great law enforcement
16 organization is: Do we have sufficient
17 police officers in the budget?

18 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Yes, we do.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:
20 Commissioner -- can I ask a question?

21 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Sure.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Commissioner,
23 do you remember the discussion that we
24 had on the budget?

25 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Yes, sir.

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LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And one of the questions I had asked you was a direct perspective in regards to the amount of officers to be able to provide greater visibility. Do you remember that discussion?

COMMISSIONER RYDER: Yes, sir.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How many officers in addition, I believe you had said we would need to be able to have higher visibility on our downtown streets like foot patrols?

COMMISSIONER RYDER: That was that number 55.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So if we wanted to have a greater enhancement and more visibility to try to curtail crime, because I believe foot patrols would curtail crime, we would need an additional 55 officers on top of what's being presented today per the County's active budget.

COMMISSIONER RYDER: So our analysis that was done with the County Exec in

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2 preparation for this budget was to ask
3 for the additional 46 officers, which we
4 got. Those 46 officers address the issue
5 with the UBS Arena.

6 Your question is more visibility?
7 And I said if you had more officers, you
8 always have more visibility, but that
9 doesn't solve my issue of crime. And
10 because if I have 1000 officers and I
11 arrest 1000 people, I have 1000 people
12 coming out of jail because of the
13 cashless belt. That's the issue we have.

14 But we -- and I'm being honest, that
15 doesn't fix my crime issue. The staffing
16 level that we asked for and we were given
17 was the staffing that our assessment got
18 us. And that's how we move forward and
19 deal and live within the budget that we
20 had. We have been given.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Commissioner,
22 I'll make sure I understand you correctly
23 and you and I have a rapport, so I don't
24 want to put you in a box or squeeze you
25 in any way.

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COMMISSIONER RYDER: I'm in a box.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But are you saying that the addition of 110 officers or even 55, we're willing to compromise -- you're saying those additional officers, you don't need them?

COMMISSIONER RYDER: I'm saying that I have a responsibility to live within my budget. I have a fiscal responsibility both to my officers, that if I don't over blow my budget, that they come back and take some away and I have that issue. So I had that responsibility to live within that budget. I did my assessment. I gave it forward to the County and they actually accepted extending the headcount for the first time in 20 years.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Commissioner, we're adding to your budget. So we're going to make your budget higher. So you don't have to worry about living within your budget. It's not like we're handing you a bill without being able to pay for it. We're adding the money to the budget

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2 to pay for the officers. And I understand
3 that just to tap on this -- since we're
4 going into it full blown -- I know the
5 Majority asked the Office of Legislative
6 Budget Review, which I want to thank
7 Maurice Chalmers at this time, obviously,
8 for all the budget reports and things
9 that he has done over the years, they've
10 been very sound. But I know he asked the
11 budget review for a ten year breakdown of
12 costs. Commissioner, do you break down
13 your costs ten years out? Have we ever
14 forecasted a budget or what our budget
15 costs would be ten years out?

16 COMMISSIONER RYDER: That is not my
17 my position. My position -- I look at
18 crime numbers ten years out. I look at
19 predictive analysis, I look at backwards
20 numbers, I look at five year averages.
21 The budget is what gets put forward to me
22 and then I look at it and see what I can
23 live with and what I can't live with. And
24 then I go back to the Budget Office, I
25 sit with Andy and I say, I need more cops

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2 to do this, and I was given the 46
3 officers that we actually asked for.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So just to get
5 back to that now. So the 46 officers that
6 you asked for, many of them are being
7 tied to UBS. The 55 that we were asking
8 for, in addition to creating a division
9 for hate crimes as well to bump it up to
10 the 110, the additional officers we are
11 talking about are for visibility
12 purposes. One of the things that I hear,
13 you hear it from my constituents that
14 come here, you hear from all constituents
15 throughout the county, is that they like
16 to see officers doing more foot patrols.
17 Now, if you're saying that that won't
18 address crime, I beg to differ.

19 COMMISSIONER RYDER: No. That's not
20 my answer.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Oh, okay. I
22 thought you had said that before.

23 COMMISSIONER RYDER: That a presence
24 is always a deterrence, but a presence
25 doesn't fix the problem.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, we agree
3 that there are many several faceted
4 problems that exist. I totally agree. I
5 can say that as a Democrat or a
6 Republican, we should be able to say that
7 we totally agree.

8 But what I guess what I'm driving at
9 is, would adding more foot patrols
10 increase public safety?

11 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Adding more
12 foot patrols would always increase a
13 public safety. But if I said I have
14 another 500 offices, it doesn't fix my
15 issue because the crime that goes on in
16 the county is done right in front of
17 officers. The crime that's going on is
18 done at -- the other day, four catalytic
19 converters were cut. Three out of those
20 fours were confronted by homeowners and
21 chased them down the block. So it's not
22 stopping them from the presence. The
23 problem is we don't keep them -- give
24 that discretion back to those judges.
25 It's a problem. It doesn't fix my

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2 problem.

3 My crime numbers have been
4 phenomenal over the last several years.
5 We've driven it down to be that safest
6 county. But last year, even though we got
7 that vote, we still went up and going up
8 every day. Because of that, we're up over
9 50%. And most of that is that crime
10 that's in those back streets and done at
11 night, not walking down -- and again, I
12 wouldn't have a foot post at night. Most
13 of my foot posts would be in the daytime
14 and very few of my crimes occur day. Most
15 of my crimes occur at night. Most of my
16 crimes occur late in the evening, through
17 that midnight to 8:00 in the morning,
18 6:00 in the morning time period.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Obviously, we
20 don't feel the need to have maybe foot
21 patrols at night, but we'd have more
22 visibility, more cars on the street road.
23 I mean, we can go over the minimum
24 manning numbers. I mean, there's no
25 reason why we couldn't do that if we're

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2 paying for it here.

3 But one thing you did mention that
4 that did bring up some curiosity is that
5 you mentioned that the crime is up over
6 50%. I don't remember a number that high
7 since I've been here. Is that the highest
8 number that we've heard in decades?

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, our five
10 year average is still down because we
11 have done such a great job in driving
12 crime. Last year, even though our crime
13 went up, everybody went up in the
14 country. But our number is extremely low
15 to begin with because of those years that
16 we drove it down. So we're dealing off
17 historical low numbers, so.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Historical low
19 numbers, and that's why you presented the
20 five year. But I'm talking about a
21 snapshot year in 2022, you said that
22 we're up over 50% increase in crime,
23 based off of last year. Based on the
24 historical.

25 COMMISSIONER RYDER: That is

1
2 correct.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That increase
4 from year to year. Is that the highest
5 increase we've seen in some period of
6 time? I don't want to quantify it with a
7 year, you know.

8 COMMISSIONER RYDER: No, and I know
9 where you're going. If you look back
10 over the years and we've had this exact
11 question when the Republicans asked it,
12 they said the crime is up. I said, well,
13 we're dealing with small numbers. So when
14 you deal with small numbers, your
15 percentages sometimes are higher. Two
16 over one is 50% increase, four over one,
17 you got 100% increase. So it's as high as
18 it is in the percentage. The numbers are
19 still extremely low.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Got it. But in
21 terms of the percentage, 50%, where does
22 that rank in the last 40 years, 30 years,
23 20 years?

24 COMMISSIONER RYDER: I can give you
25 the last five years, it's one of the

1
2 higher years of those five years.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I would think
4 -- and look, we're being accused of being
5 political, but we're really not. And this
6 is not for you to answer. This is really
7 for my colleagues to answer. We're being
8 accused of being political, but really
9 responding to the times. The times
10 reflects that we've seen from year to
11 year, it's one of the highest increases
12 from year to year. So the standard and
13 look, Commissioner, I know you're in a
14 box, the standard number of the amount of
15 officers we add, the 46, can't be the
16 response. If we are dealing with the
17 highest number that we've seen in many
18 years, one of the highest five, to me, we
19 need to go above and beyond.

20 And it's still boggling my mind here
21 as I sit here that we are talking about
22 adding officers. I mean, I think I've
23 heard from every single one of you guys
24 to my right advocated that crime is up.
25 We agree it's up. So let's do something

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2 about it that's above and beyond what we
3 normally do. I feel like this
4 Legislature's always added 30 here, 40
5 here this year, 46. But this is an
6 unprecedented time. It's one of the top
7 five, as you just said, Commissioner. So
8 from our standpoint, wouldn't we do
9 something that's a little bit more
10 unprecedented and add some more officers?
11 I guess that's not for you to answer,
12 Commissioner.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I
14 agree, let's do something unprecedented.
15 Let's go out and tell those Democratic
16 lawmakers.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You said that
18 already.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I
20 know. I'm going to say it again. Let's
21 go outside. As a group. As a group,
22 let's do something for the unprecedented.
23 Because he just told you he could have
24 500 more officers. The problem is
25 they're arresting people and they're

1
2 getting right out. So the root of the
3 problem is not solved by this. The root
4 of the problem is by changing the policy.
5 It's not by hiring 400 or 500 or 1000
6 officers. But if you join with us, it
7 actually has some substance.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
9 Officer, you are way off. Because I got
10 to tell you, you go to some states in
11 this country, they don't have bail
12 reform. In Georgia, they don't have it.
13 But guess what? Their crime is through
14 the roof. You think they're going to
15 respond with some state advocacy nonsense
16 that you're bringing up? They're going to
17 respond with more police officers.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Go
19 tell that to the people in your community
20 that it's not a result of cashless bail.
21 Go tell that to your residents.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You're saying
23 -- you can talk about Georgia, you can
24 talk about California. It doesn't
25 matter, the crime itself and it's the

1
2 types of crimes that are subject to bail
3 reform that's spiking.

4 (Whereupon, crosstalk.)

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
6 Officer, you're saying that bail reform
7 is the one silver bullet issue that's
8 increasing crime. If that was the case,
9 we wouldn't be seeing crime increase all
10 over the country. What I'm saying is,
11 those jurisdictions are using their
12 resources to get more police officers.
13 Only in Nassau County, where we're
14 advocating for 110, basically, we're
15 saying, no, let's go advocate to our
16 state officials. That's what you're
17 saying. We have the ability to control
18 it. It's in our power today, more police
19 officers in Nassau County. And you if I'm
20 understanding you correctly, you are
21 saying no.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I'm
23 saying that it is insane policy to tell a
24 judge that they don't have the discretion
25 to consider the dangerousness of a

1
2 suspect, to consider a flight risk. It's
3 insane. We have to stop that. I mean,
4 that's what I'm saying. That's my point.

5 But, Commissioner Ryder, when you do
6 your great job in law enforcement, you
7 have to work with other agencies. The
8 DA's office. Right? The jail or the or
9 probation. So if we look during the
10 course of the year and we determine that,
11 well, officers are important to add, but
12 the problem that's going on is the DA's
13 office doesn't have enough staff to deal
14 with the discovery requirements and
15 people are being let off because of
16 technicalities. If we use the Contingency
17 Fund at that point for that purpose, the
18 money would be there to do it. But you
19 understand that if the problem is
20 officers during the course of the year,
21 that we could give you more officers at
22 any time you want during the course of
23 the year. But we need to have the
24 flexibility of that Contingency Fund to
25 pay for the DA's office, to pay for the

1
2 jail, to pay for inmates. We need that
3 flexibility. That's what I'm saying. Do
4 you agree with that?

5 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Yes. So over
6 the last four years, five years, we have
7 increased our headcount to 2,500. It's
8 the first time last year that we've ever
9 reached that number in the last seven
10 years, eight years. And we got up to that
11 number this year. The request was to even
12 add more and we added more. When you
13 talk about a presence out in the
14 community, what we did and some of the
15 other reasons, what we did was do just
16 that. We add it to Community Affairs. We
17 added bike cops, we added two PAL
18 Divisions. So we added a lot of community
19 programs, a lot of presence in the
20 neighborhood to affect that. So when we
21 did our assessment, I said I would like
22 46. I got exactly what I was asking from
23 the County Exec. But as asked by the
24 legislator is that would I take more from
25 more presence? Yes, sure. I could

1
2 absolutely always use more presence on
3 the street. But the problem becomes it's
4 not going to solve the crime issue. It
5 will deter that crime. It will displace
6 that crime issue. But when that cop goes
7 away, the crime problem comes back. And
8 when you look with the union issues, now
9 you're talking about not only a presence,
10 but then you're talking about sick leave
11 and you're talking about minimum manning
12 post and you're talking about
13 negotiations. So living with the 46 that
14 I have, answers my problem that I have to
15 handle my budget and deal with what I
16 need to deal with.

17 I think and I believe our crime is
18 controllable in Nassau County and gotten
19 even better. Examples: Stolen cars were
20 up over 245%, but we took a different
21 angle and did a different approach with
22 education and awareness. And then went
23 out and visited these kids that were part
24 of these gangs from New Jersey that were
25 coming here because Raise the Age and the

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2 bail system. We've taken more guns off
3 our street this year than ever, but every
4 one of them is walking out. One third of
5 the 3,000 arrests we made last quarter
6 walked out. So as I appreciate the fact
7 that you're fighting to give me more
8 cops, it doesn't fix my problem. And my
9 problem is and again, I don't like being
10 in this box, but I'm in it, right? It's
11 just the job I have and I try to -- I
12 never say no to anybody, but what I am
13 saying is that that's not fixing my
14 issue.

15 And it does raise up other things
16 for me that become problems with unions
17 and everything else and where it goes
18 forward. Because once I put someone
19 there, that becomes a standard for the
20 Union and I've got to continue.

21 So what happens when crime plummets
22 next year, which I believe it's going to
23 go in the right direction next year, not
24 because of any other change, but because
25 of what we've done in the Police

1
2 Department. And when it does plummet and
3 it does go down, the Union's not going to
4 let me take that spot away. I've got to
5 still have it.

6 So we've put the presence out there.
7 I know the communities have seen the bike
8 patrols, we've gotten the thanks for
9 that. We've added our PALS, which we've
10 got. Thanks. We tripled the size of the
11 Community Affairs and we've managed our
12 budget and come under on the budget every
13 year for the last five years.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So you said a
15 couple -- I'm sorry. Were you done. I'm
16 sorry.

17 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Yes, sir. Yes,
18 sir.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You said a
20 couple of things, so I'll just make sure
21 I understand you correctly. You said that
22 you feel that this time next year we are
23 going to be a better position because how
24 we're dealing with crime, because all the
25 things that we're doing. Right. But you

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2 also said and the Presiding Officer said,
3 well, let's go outside on the steps and
4 advocate against cashless bail. If
5 cashless bail is still here, how are you,
6 and cashless bail has such an impact on
7 crime, then how are you saying crime is
8 going to go down?

9 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Because of what
10 we did at the Police Department, we had
11 to make adjustments like we did with
12 education awareness and going to Newark.
13 I'm going I know the people that were
14 involved in these organized stolen cars.
15 I will now be able to keep them out of
16 this county because of what we've done.
17 And I will know that my residents here in
18 Nassau County will start to lock their
19 cars instead of leaving them open with
20 the keys in them. So that automatically
21 takes that out of the gate, which blew us
22 out of the water. And they came here
23 because of Raise the Age and cashless
24 bail, that they're not coming back here
25 because they know the cars are not open.

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2 So it's going to be a little bit more
3 involved. I'm not going to kill it, but
4 I'm going to bring that to 40 will start
5 on a lower set when I break out. So when
6 I break, I always look at my quarters and
7 I know what I can win over and what I
8 can't. I know this crime number is done,
9 I can't fix it for the rest of the year.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I keep harping
11 on the fact that no one thinks that 110
12 officers is going to fix your problem, as
13 you said. But we believe 110 officers
14 definitely makes your jobs a lot easier.
15 I mean, everyone has to admit that.
16 Having an additional 110 officers makes
17 your job easier, makes the public feel
18 safer, deters crime, based on your words.
19 Those are three good things. Three good
20 things. So why wouldn't we want to do it?
21 If it's just for those reasons alone.

22 Then I know you brought up the fact
23 in regards to the budget. Look, I've
24 never been in a county where we budgeted
25 -- in my 20 plus years as a legislator,

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2 I've never seen us ask for a budget
3 breakdown for ten years out. We have
4 budgeted here with a multi-year plan four
5 years out. And my colleagues here will
6 testify that we don't always do what's in
7 the multi-year plan in year three, in
8 year four, but suddenly we're going to do
9 what's in year ten? It just seems like
10 to me we're coming up with reasons not to
11 do this.

12 But I stand by the fact, based on
13 what you had said, it would deter crime,
14 it would make the public feel safer, it
15 would obviously, I would think, make your
16 jobs easier. It would make officers jobs
17 easier, especially if we're able to have
18 two-man cars. And I know there's union
19 issues and other issues that go along
20 with it. But to me, adding more officers
21 to this force is a good thing. And I
22 can't understand for the life of me how
23 we're fighting so much resistance. We're
24 bringing up bail reform? That's out of
25 our control. Yes, everybody would like to

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take a look at reforming bail reform.
I've heard the Attorney General, she's
one of the most progressive people in
this state. She talked about it.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The
race getting tight there.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So. So, yeah.
But either way -- well, let's not talk
about races because I can bring up races
because there's candidates on your side
that are proposing and saying that crime
is out of control. But they won't even
join us today in a vote to be able to
address more officers in this county.
That's an oxymoron.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
right. Other legislators would like to
speak. You're going in circles.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You know, it's
funny. It's funny you say other
legislators would like to speak. I would
like to hear from your other legislators
that they don't support our amendment for
110 officers. I hear you saying it. And

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2 then I would like to take a vote on the
3 emergency to amend the budget so
4 everybody could be on record of that vote
5 on what their position is as well. Of
6 course we're not.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We'll
8 talk about. We're having a full debate
9 now. We'll talk about your emergency --

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I get it. No,
11 you're protecting your members. I get it.
12 Rich, I get it. Your members, they're
13 with us. I get it. You're protecting
14 your members. You're doing the County
15 Executive's bidding on this. I get it.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: But I
17 get what you're doing, too. This is just
18 a political stunt. And again, if you want
19 --

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How is it a
21 political stunt?

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: If you
23 want real change, join with us and call
24 upon this --

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Explain to me

1
2 explain to me asking for 110 officers --

3 -

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

5 Because you wont address the root cause.
6 You won't address the root cause of
7 what's happening in this state. A rise
8 and spike in crime.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Well, we
10 disagree. We disagree on what the root
11 cause is. I believe that adding 110
12 officers to combat hate crimes, to be
13 able to address more visibility in our
14 streets is a good thing. You go ask your
15 residents if they think that's a good
16 thing. I'm willing to bet they said yes.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I'm
18 willing to bet my residents say let's
19 repeal cashless bail. Let's do this.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm willing to
21 bet -- but that's that's not before us.
22 We have no control.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: It can
24 be.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: This is

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amazing to me that you don't understand
this.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: That's
the most important thing that we could do
today. If you want to send a message -- -

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You can't do
that here.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We
can. Let's go out on the steps of the
building.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But, Rich.
But, Rich.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: It
will be a story all over the state.
Democratic Legislators join with
Republicans.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Rich, even if
we go outside and we do that, we still it
would be like saying the words in the
wind. They'll go to the wayside.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I
won't doubt if you're with us?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Rich, come on.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Other

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legislators want to ask questions.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Seriously. We have the control today.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Come on. You're saying the same thing over and over. Let's go. Legislator Ferretti.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Rich, I'm going to say I'm going to say something that's different. All right? I'm going to say something. Yeah, let's cut the mics off because we don't like what they're saying.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I'm not cutting the mics off.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm saying something different.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Come on. We want to hear from someone else. Your voice is saying the same thing.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Why wouldn't we take the vote on the emergency to amend the budget?

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: There

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is -- we'll get it to the emergency.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I understand
you want to protect your guys, and some
of your guys really don't want to vote
against cops. I get that.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We'll
get it --

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So don't.
Join us. Don't vote against them.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Listen, we're gonna move on.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You have the
right to do something independent right
now.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Maybe
you don't want to hear from anybody else,
but this is 19 member board, Minority
Leader. Let's go. Legislator Ferretti.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, no, no,
no, no, no. I want to hear from them
because I want to.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
You do want to hear from. Stop talking,
for Pete's sake.

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LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yeah, I know
you want to talk me down because you're
really just trying to protect them.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You're
just talking incessantly. I just want
somebody else to talk.

(Whereupon, court reporter
asks for speakers to speak one
at a time.)

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We have here,
Presiding Officer, the written Emergency
Amendment that I will that Mr. Muller
said that we need to get signed, which is
new to me, but we're willing to pass it
around so that everybody can sign. Here
we go. We're willing to do it (handing).

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Legislator Ferretti.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you,
Presiding Officer.

I agree with the Presiding Officer
completely that this is nothing more than
a political stunt. And you know, it's
ironic that it's coming from the Minority

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2 who just a few weeks ago refused to give
3 us the votes to protect our cops for
4 bulletproof vests, and cars, and the
5 equipment that we needed with the Capital
6 Plan. Didn't get a single vote from any
7 one of you for that. But now today,
8 you're going to come here and pull this
9 political stunt.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yeah.

11 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Additionally,
12 please let me finish without --

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Oh, sorry. I
14 thought the mic was off.

15 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Additionally,
16 you could talk about now, Minority
17 Leader, you know, kind of wishy washy
18 about being against bail reform, but not
19 a single one of you have ever publicly,
20 as far as I know, correct me if I'm
21 wrong, publicly oppose bail reform or
22 criminal justice reform, possibly
23 Legislator Solages. If I'm wrong, I
24 apologize. Not one of you have ever come
25 out against any of the state senators,

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2 all of whom share the same party as you,
3 who all supported and voted for the
4 criminal justice reform. Not a single one
5 of you have ever come out against the
6 open border policies of Joe Biden and the
7 and the Democrats who just a few weeks
8 ago -- Commissioner, correct me if I'm
9 wrong, Commissioner -- were there not
10 three people arrested in Nassau County
11 for burglaries who were caught on the
12 border, coming over, came into Nassau
13 County and committed crimes; isn't that
14 true?

15 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Yes, they were
16 part of the South South American Theft
17 Group.

18 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Right. Not
19 one of you have ever criticized the cause
20 of the increased crime that we are
21 suffering in Nassau County. Instead, you
22 come with a stunt. I guess you're going
23 to use it on your palm card, whatever you
24 have planned. And you come with a stunt
25 and you try to convince the public that

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2 it's the Republicans. Good luck, Good
3 luck.

4 And if we had public here, they
5 would back me up. But we don't because
6 you didn't notice this, coincidentally.
7 So let's talk real numbers. Let's talk
8 facts. The numbers of arrests in Nassau
9 County are up. We all agree, Commissioner
10 Ryder testified to it. Yet, the number of
11 inmates in the county correctional
12 facility are less than half of what they
13 were. What does that tell you? That tells
14 you that despite the implication in your
15 amendment that our police are not
16 adequately doing the job, they are.
17 They're arresting the bad guys, but the
18 bad guys are getting let out. That's not
19 the problem of the police. That's the
20 problem of your party that you failed to
21 criticize, that you fail to join us on
22 opposing these heinous policies. The
23 public knows it. We're going to find out
24 in a couple of weeks about that.

25 The bottom line is we could talk all

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2 about the substance of this, but I
3 believe the motion is about an emergency
4 item. And still, despite the Presiding
5 Officer asking for justification for an
6 emergency, there's been none given. So
7 I'd still like to know what is the
8 justification for an emergency? Thank
9 you.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr. Ferretti,
11 you mentioned a couple of different
12 things. Not once did you mention that you
13 would support the emergency because you
14 know what the emergency is about. The
15 emergency --

16 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Convince me.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. Mr.
18 Ferretti, I didn't cut you off, but if
19 you're going to cut me off, that's --

20 So the emergency is clearly for
21 these fundamental reasons:

22 If I'm taking the position that the
23 Majority is basically saying to us that
24 they are not going to consider the
25 amendment that we put forward two weeks

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2 ago, because you're saying that it wasn't
3 publicly noticed because we didn't put
4 into a Word format for the Clerk of the
5 Legislature, which is -- never heard that
6 before. But if that's the case, that's a
7 position we're going to take. Great -- If
8 that's the case, we are willing to put up
9 by emergency, and we were able to put
10 together the resolution so that we can
11 have all the signatures so we can put
12 forward today.

13 Now, why is the emergency needed for
14 today? Well, it makes common sense that
15 we're considering these amendments that
16 we put forward several weeks ago were to
17 address the shortfalls that we feel that
18 the budget has presented. We think that
19 there should be more officers. We are
20 considering the budget today. We're not
21 considering the budget in January. We're
22 not considering the budget in November.
23 We are considering the budget today. So
24 it makes perfect sense. Even though the
25 Presiding Officer had indicated that we

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2 can do this transfer at any time, it
3 would make more sense to consider it
4 today, which we are having the debate and
5 the discussion. It would make more sense
6 to do it today. Why would we do it in in
7 two months or three months? That makes no
8 sense.

9 So from our standpoint, that's the
10 justification. It's simple. The budget is
11 being considered today. Unless you're
12 telling me the budget is going to be
13 reconsidered in a couple of weeks, then
14 we'll come back. But that's not the case.
15 We're considering the budget today. We
16 are putting up we have amendments that we
17 put up that should be considered as part
18 of the budget.

19 But again, look, if you guys don't
20 want to do it, that's okay. Just say you
21 don't support 110 officers. It's okay.

22 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So you don't
23 think the Notice requirement is
24 important?

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The Notice?

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2 Oh, I'm a big of Notice requirement
3 person because I said that because the
4 the Assessor didn't do the proper Notice
5 requirement as it pertains to the
6 Correction of Errors. So I'm a big Notice
7 requirement person, don't get me wrong.
8 And I don't believe what you're saying is
9 accurate. But you know what? In the
10 spirit of compromise, I'm willing to live
11 with that. It's okay. Give us the
12 emergency today so we can move forward.

13 Now, the notice part -- I would wish
14 we had more people from the public.
15 Hopefully, they're there live streaming
16 and watching it from their homes or from
17 their offices. But to me, that issue is
18 getting hung up and slowing down the real
19 issue at hand. The real issue at hand is
20 that the Commissioner said to me several
21 weeks ago that he can use an additional
22 55 officers to address visibility. I
23 didn't make this number up. We didn't
24 make this up like a like we grabbed it
25 out of the sky. That was a number that

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2 the Commissioner had indicated. I thank
3 him his honesty. And we want to do more.

4 Look, guys, we all see what's going
5 on, whether you're a Democrat or
6 Republican in this in this country and in
7 this state, people are getting pushed
8 into subways, children are dying. We see
9 what's going on and we are not immune to
10 it. A young man from Baldwin went to
11 school in Buffalo and lost his life. A
12 young father from Long Island went to
13 visit his son in Marist College and lost
14 his life. Now, granted, I know those are
15 out of our jurisdiction, but their loved
16 ones still live here and their loved ones
17 still see what the Commissioner is
18 testifying: A 50% increase off of last
19 year in crime. Well, if you want to say
20 it's because of cashless bail, we don't
21 care. To me, that doesn't matter. Yes.
22 If you want to go advocate, we can
23 discuss it. But that's not the issue.
24 What we can control today, what we can
25 control is the amount of officers we add

1
2 to this police force. That's what we can
3 control.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
5 Commissioner Ryder, the current list was
6 when? The police list that you've been
7 hiring off.

8 COMMISSIONER RYDER: I'm sorry, I
9 didn't hear that.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The
11 police list that you're hiring off, what
12 what year was it?

13 COMMISSIONER RYDER: That test was
14 in 2016 or 18? 18, 18.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Is
16 there an intention of the Police
17 Department to move to a new list? New
18 test?

19 COMMISSIONER RYDER: We're meeting
20 with the company. The RFP is out to pick
21 the person to design the next test. Yes.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: And
23 there's a plan in place in terms of
24 hiring going forward. And the desire is
25 for the Police Department from prior

1
2 conversations is as much as possible to
3 use the new test for hiring officers?

4 COMMISSIONER RYDER: That's correct.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: And
6 part of the reason for that is it's
7 designed to encourage greater diversity
8 and things that we need in our police
9 department, correct?

10 COMMISSIONER RYDER: The recruitment
11 process, we hope to increase the
12 diversity in the test taking.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So the
14 budget supports an increase in police
15 sports, an increase in the budget for
16 your department. But there is a plan
17 going forward that we'll continue to hire
18 as we need to, but we also need to get
19 officers hired off when the new list is
20 established, right?

21 COMMISSIONER RYDER: That's correct.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So, I
23 mean, there's a priority there. And you
24 know, us as political officials and
25 inserting ourselves into that, I think

1
2 for political reasons, I don't think it's
3 helpful.

4 And number two, again, going back to
5 Legislator Ferretti's point, there's a
6 Contingency Fund, and it's definitely for
7 this purpose. So if a contingency arises,
8 you spend the money, but you have the
9 flexibility to do that throughout the
10 year. So if Commissioner Ryder comes back
11 to us and says those extra officers you
12 hired are good, but I need more, then the
13 money's there to do it, but there's no
14 emergency that it be done today. You have
15 not established an emergency.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: There is an
17 emergency. The Commissioner testified
18 that over last year there's a 50%
19 increase in crime. He says one of the top
20 five years of all time.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: But he
22 says he has the officers to do -- again,
23 he's told you repeatedly, he said you
24 could give us we could give him 500 more
25 officers. It's not going to address the

1
2 fundamental issue.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You're mixing
4 his words, he had the amount of officers
5 to do it off of the 46, but to add the
6 extra deterrence, to add the greater
7 visibility, to add the division of hate
8 crimes, he doesn't have it. He can't have
9 it.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I
11 mean, that's your perspective. But he
12 told you repeatedly, you can give me 500
13 officers, is not going to address the
14 root cause. But anyway, Legislator Ford
15 has a question.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Commissioner
17 --

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Wait,
19 wait, wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. Other
20 legislators have the right to speak.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The
22 Commissioner's in a box. Commissioner, I
23 respect the position that you're in a
24 box.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Are

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2 you going to have the respect for your
3 colleagues to let them speak?

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm sorry.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
6 you. I'm sorry.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Good afternoon,
8 Commissioner.

9 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Good afternoon.

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
11 much. Just briefly, how many years have
12 you had in the police department?

13 COMMISSIONER RYDER: I start my 40th
14 year in January.

15 LEGISLATOR FORD: And you've risen
16 through the ranks to be Police
17 Commissioner, correct?

18 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Kind of
19 (laughter).

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: So, almost
21 practically every department, correct.

22 So you're aware of everything
23 dealing with regular patrol, whether or
24 not detectives, you know, I mean, you
25 headed IT, you also taught the Civilian

1
2 Police Academy, educating a lot of us in
3 regard to policing throughout Nassau
4 County. As a police commissioner, do you
5 constantly review your personnel and the
6 needs of the Department as well as the
7 communities that you serve?

8 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Every day.

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. So that when
10 you proposed for our budget, the number
11 of police officers that you were
12 requesting, did you feel comfortable in
13 this request?

14 COMMISSIONER RYDER: I was. The
15 assessment we did, and when asked by the
16 County Executive what is the number? We
17 said we'd like to get it to 2546, and
18 that was the number I was granted.

19 LEGISLATOR FORD: All right. And
20 then despite the rise, basically the rise
21 in crime, you have also indicated that
22 Nassau County still is one of the safest
23 counties in the United States; am I
24 correct?

25 COMMISSIONER RYDER: That's correct.

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LEGISLATOR FORD: All right. So, you know, you've we've gone through a lot even with this, with so many things that have happened in the county. Working with all of us here. Do you have any reservations in amending any of your positions or if you felt that in the future, like, say, in January, all of a sudden you realize that there was a certain need that you may need to increase the police force, do you have any reservations coming before us stating that this is what you need to have?

COMMISSIONER RYDER: No, I'm good with the number. And for the record, if even if you gave me a number to go higher, I wouldn't be able to put them into an academy until May or June.

LEGISLATOR FORD: All right. So that's right. Now, as we're moving forward with the the candidates that will be put into the police academy to be able to come out on the street to do the patrols, as you said, that you've

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2 increased bicycle patrols, you have, PAL,
3 you have so many other different
4 departments that have police that police
5 officers are working in to respond to the
6 community needs, correct?

7 COMMISSIONER RYDER: We have a plan
8 and our plan has been met for this budget
9 cycle. We'll see what happens next year.

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. And, you
11 know, you always have responded
12 regardless whether or not during COVID,
13 you were right there every day on the
14 phone with us deploying your officers,
15 despite the dangers that they felt that
16 they were facing, being exposed to COVID,
17 to this horrible sickness. Even during
18 the George Floyd protests, we have to say
19 we're very proud of the fact the way that
20 your police officers and the way that you
21 oversaw them during all of the protests
22 and the parades and whatever that they
23 had, that our officers were able to
24 maintain control without anything
25 happening within the neighborhoods, and I

1
2 thank you very much for that.

3 As I said, you've always determined
4 -- and I think that for me, I like to
5 look at the professionals who know best.
6 And I believe that you are that
7 professional that has guided us, you
8 guided us and helped us during police
9 reform, which I know some of the members
10 on the Democratic side voted not to vote
11 for the police reform bill that we sent
12 to Albany, even though it was accepted by
13 the State. I am very concerned when all
14 of a sudden we are determining what is
15 best for the Police Department.

16 When I think about in the past and I
17 know that our presiding officer has
18 talked about cashless bail, but the
19 changes that happened in Albany, despite
20 the fact that the DA and a lot of law
21 enforcement, went before the State
22 Legislature and said, we know that we
23 have to make some changes in the criminal
24 justice system. And they wanted to have a
25 big discussion to look at what would be

1
2 best to approaching this. But the
3 Democratic Legislators decided that they
4 knew what was best for New York State.
5 And despite any warnings or any pleas,
6 they decided to pass this and we we have
7 witnessed the disastrous results of their
8 vote.

9 When I also think about the fact
10 that they then followed with, they
11 decided that all of a sudden in the
12 middle of all the protests, they decided
13 to repeal 50A, which impacted our police
14 officers throughout New York State. And
15 it wasn't that the unions were against
16 the repeal or any changes to the 50A, and
17 you can correct me if I'm wrong,
18 Commissioner, because I'm not an expert
19 in policing. But even though the unions
20 did go before the State Legislature and
21 said, please don't, please don't repeal
22 this, we want to talk with you about it
23 just to go over some of the impacts that
24 it may have on officers and to see on
25 further discussion what is best, they

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2 decided that they were going to then --
3 and despite a letter that I wrote to my
4 representative and to the State asking
5 them to hold off because of what it was
6 going to do to our police officers, they
7 decided to go ahead and they voted for
8 it, which resulted in the fact of all of
9 a sudden it seemed to our police officers
10 that public sentiment was against them.
11 That our State and our representatives
12 decided that they weren't going to
13 protect the backs of those that were
14 protecting us. And we've seen a number a
15 record number of police officers,
16 seasoned police officers throughout the
17 state, especially in New York City, that
18 opted to retire because after all the
19 years of service and all the dangers that
20 they faced, they realized that the public
21 wasn't going to be for them. And this was
22 the message that they sent. So I'm sorry
23 today that all of a sudden you decide
24 that it's better that despite the fact
25 that the Police Commissioner gave us in

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2 our budget what he felt that he needed to
3 adequately protect us throughout Nassau
4 County, that you have decided now once
5 again you are going to determine what is
6 best. And I dare say, based on the record
7 that I've seen in New York State and the
8 Democrats that vote for some things I
9 have to say, I don't have any confidence
10 in what you have to say. Thank you,
11 Commissioner.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Deputy
13 Presiding Officer Kopel.

14 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you,
15 Presiding Officer. My colleague Kevan
16 asked the question, and I think I'd like
17 to respond directly to the question. The
18 question was, why wouldn't we do it?
19 Just. Just why not? It'll flood the
20 streets. It'll have more cops there.

21 Now, I can only draw upon upon many
22 years experience running a business and
23 and quite a few years of experience over
24 here. It's a very facile kind of response
25 to say we just throw money at something

1
2 or we just throw people at something. It
3 actually hurts the situation because when
4 you go ahead and you do something like
5 that, then you just sit back and you pat
6 yourself on the back and you say, look,
7 we've done something, we've accomplished
8 something, but you really haven't. It
9 actually hurts because it distracts from
10 the real problem. You go ahead and you
11 put more cops out and let's say instead
12 of arresting the same guy ten times, you
13 arrest the guy, same guy 15 times or 20
14 times. But it doesn't make any
15 difference. It's the few people who are
16 who are a very small minority of people
17 who are out there committing these crimes
18 and they're doing it over and over again.
19 And arresting them, putting more cops
20 out, even if that would result in
21 arresting them more times, it doesn't
22 matter. They're getting out every single
23 time and they're just doing it over and
24 over again. So I would say it's been my
25 habit over here, not a habit, I should

1
2 say. But you all know that I've gone
3 against my party at times and I've gone
4 against a whole Legislature that had been
5 some 18 to 1 votes. If I thought that
6 this would make sense, if I thought that
7 that this would actually accomplish
8 something instead of just making people
9 feel better, that we've looked at this
10 dystopian situation that everyone's
11 painting and and we've now fixed it, I
12 would I would go ahead and I'd vote for
13 it. I have no no problem doing something
14 like that. But I think it's actually
15 harmful. We go ahead and we do something
16 and we think we fix the problem and it
17 distracts us. We haven't gone ahead and
18 addressed the real problem. We haven't
19 gone ahead and looked at really what's
20 going on over here, how do we fix it?
21 Just adding people, just adding money. It
22 never fixes a problem.

23 If you look at any business, you
24 look at any institution, you'll find the
25 same thing. You've got to sit down,

1
2 you've got to analyze why do we have the
3 problem? Will adding more people fix it?
4 Well, then, sure. By all means, go ahead
5 and do that. But if it's not going to fix
6 it, then you've actually harmed the
7 situation.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
9 other legislators for Commissioner Ryder?

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Hi. I.
11 I feel -- I know this is part of your
12 job, but I. I'm sorry that you're in an
13 uncomfortable position.

14 I just wanted to address one thing
15 that Legislator Ferretti mentioned about
16 giving bond authorization for public
17 safety use. There's over \$100 million. I
18 think it's 140 something, Michelle is
19 going to check, that's there and
20 available for public safety. So it's
21 ready to go for whatever you need. If
22 it's vests or ambulances, whatever it is,
23 We have bond authority available, just so
24 you know, and the Treasurer's Office will
25 send you the information if you need it.

1
2 I've been trying to say it over and over
3 again. I'm upset because this is money
4 that we passed in the last ten years to
5 go to public safety, but it's sitting
6 there. So I don't know if there's a way
7 to look into that.

8 And I will have to just say, as a
9 resident of Nassau County, you know, I'm
10 concerned about certain things. And I do
11 believe, as we've mentioned before, that
12 certain -- I think there was some good
13 intentions of maybe not wanting someone
14 to sit in jail for six months if they
15 couldn't afford the \$500 bail. I don't
16 know how much it cost the county to keep
17 someone in jail for that long. I mean, it
18 doesn't make sense to keep people in that
19 don't belong in there for a minor crime,
20 you know, and have the taxpayer pay for
21 their food and everything else for six
22 months, just over a \$500 bond that they
23 can't afford. So I think I supported
24 that. I thought that was a good idea to
25 try to free up the system a little bit

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2 that way. Do I think it went too far? I
3 do. I will say that, but I think that it
4 needs to be amended. I don't even think
5 it should go back to the way it was
6 totally, because I still think it's wrong
7 to have someone sitting in prison for, or
8 jail in our case, for six months for not
9 being able to afford a \$500 bond. But I
10 hope it's something that we can work
11 towards coming up with a solution.

12 Again, I think the intention was
13 good, but it does it needs to be adjusted
14 and I would totally support it. I don't
15 think they care what we say, honestly.
16 But I think that there are changes that
17 should be made. But anyway, that was just
18 my two points.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
20 Legislator's Drucker, Mule, and then
21 Ferretti has a question for the
22 Commissioner.

23 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Minority
24 Leader, did you want --

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I was just

1
2 going to speak to the emergency
3 because --

4 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: That's what I
5 was going to speak to.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Oh, oh,
7 just --

8 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I'm just going
9 to speak on one small point --

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Oh, because
11 there was precedent in 2018. Sorry to cut
12 you off, Legislator Drucker.

13 But there was precedent in 2018,
14 which I'm looking at the actual
15 transcript from 2018 on October 29, 2018,
16 where we did do an amendment to the
17 budget by emergency, I have it right here
18 in front of me.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
20 right.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So it was it
22 was moved by Legislator Ferretti, it was
23 seconded by Legislative Mule, and then it
24 was moved by the Legislature, by you,
25 Presiding Officer. And it clearly states

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2 that we didn't ask for any justification.
3 We didn't ask for any of that stuff. We
4 amended the budget by emergency. I can
5 read the transcript into the record, if
6 you like.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So
8 we're talking about precedence. We have
9 in 2019, the following year that your
10 County Executive, Laura Curran, sued the
11 Nassau County Legislature and she argued
12 that lawmakers had not given proper
13 public notice about emergency budget
14 amendments. The case ultimately did not
15 go to a judicial decision because she
16 made a deal with the minority. But your
17 County Executive and your County Attorney
18 sued this Legislative Body and said that
19 you can't do what you want to do. So we
20 have dueling precedents.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: She clearly,
22 as you know, Presiding Officer, and if
23 you say Democrats can't say negative
24 thing about Democrats, tried to usurp the
25 power of the Legislature.

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So
now -- oh, come on.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, no.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Oh,
now I got a call -- I was on vacation --
from Kevan saying we were all together on
this; these are these amendments. We were
all together. We approved it.
Legislators stood up, made some changes.
Got a call, I'm on vacation. Oh, by the
way, we made a deal with the County
Executive. You know, we're not with you
anymore. So now you're going to say,
Well, she usurped our authority.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So --

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Sorry,
my friend.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I see what
we're trying to do here. We have
amendments on the floor. It sounds like
to me. I really believe it sounds like to
me some of your members want to support
them, but. But we're not going to allow
them -- why wouldn't we let the vote go

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forward and let the vote go the way it's
going to go?

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Can we
go to the substance again, we have
questions for the Commissioner. Now
you're back. You don't want to hear from
the Commissioner?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm trying to
-- I have --

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We'll
talk about the emergency. I promise you.
We'll talk about the emergency. We'll
talk it.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Go ahead,
Legislator Drucker. I'm sorry.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
Legislator Drucker.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
Presiding Officer.

I just want to talk on one brief
point regarding the Presiding Officer's
contiguous question about what the
emergency is and Legislator Ferretti.

So from my perspective, I'm only

1
2 going to talk about one issue. I think
3 all 19 of us can agree that hate crimes,
4 Commissioner, have increased
5 exponentially over the past couple of
6 years to the point that it has touched
7 every one of our districts in one way or
8 another. And, you know, thanks to this
9 Legislative Body, we passed a bipartisan
10 antisemitism task force. And we have been
11 earnestly working on that. And we had a
12 meeting yesterday and it was attended by
13 Legislator Giuffre, Legislator Mule, and
14 I know that Legislator Pilip, Legislator
15 Ford and Legislator Kopel are on the
16 committee, too. But we all agreed that
17 hate crimes is so such a scourge. And I
18 want to thank you, Commissioner, because
19 in all of the incidents in my district,
20 you and your your staff, your office,
21 your Department have been incredibly
22 responsive. And, you know, I know that I
23 can contact you in a moment's notice
24 about something that happens in my
25 district and you get back right away.

1
2 That's how engaged and responsive you
3 are. But I have to believe and
4 unfortunately, it's not your fault, we
5 live in a in an era now where it's on the
6 rise and it's not dissipating. It's not
7 going down. Every time we hear about it,
8 we wring our hands, we get outraged and
9 we speak about it and we do things. But I
10 have to believe that the only way you're
11 going to confront this scourge,
12 Commissioner, is by deploying more
13 officers to a hate crime unit to really
14 try to -- you're doing an amazing job
15 with the car thefts and burglaries and
16 the catalytic converters. There were
17 arrests made on the catalytic converters.
18 And you and we are seeing that the
19 residents are being a little bit more
20 diligent in not leaving their cars
21 unlocked, etc., so it going to account
22 for maybe that statistic going down.
23 You're being incredibly responsive when
24 it comes to that. But I don't know if
25 you're able with the staff that you have

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2 now to really make a difference and
3 confront the scourge that's going on with
4 the hate crimes, antisemitism, especially
5 in my district. So I have to believe that
6 it is an emergency today as far as I'm
7 concerned, to see you get more help, more
8 assistance to deploy, more officers to
9 respond to these type of crimes. Wouldn't
10 you agree that it would be helpful?

11 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Last year we
12 had 27 hate crimes in Nassau County.

13 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Reported.

14 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Reported. That
15 is correct; 27. We average over the last
16 five years 25. Most of them are kids
17 drawing swastikas in concrete like
18 happened last week, or spray painting
19 some graffiti of hatred. We had zero
20 violence in hate crime in the last year,
21 in the last three years. And when we look
22 at hate crime, we took at hate crime --
23 we have our head of it with Sergeant
24 Sabrina Craig, who was here with me that
25 day -- We have it report through our

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2 detectives who investigate it with crime
3 scene. We then send it up both to the
4 Detective Division and to the Patrol
5 Division. We have the Deputy CO of each
6 command oversee those numbers and reports
7 to make sure it is done and we are
8 reactive to to the public's need, and
9 then we push it through.

10 That being said, there is a zero
11 tolerance for hate crime. The County Exec
12 has made that clear. I have made that
13 clear. There is a zero tolerance. We do
14 do a great job going after the hate crime
15 in Nassau County. But again, reported
16 last year, it was 27 hate crimes. Most of
17 them were graffiti issues.

18 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I'd like to see
19 zero.

20 COMMISSIONER RYDER: So would I.

21 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So if you had
22 more cops, would it make a difference, is
23 the question.

24 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Honestly, and
25 I'm being honest. Absolutely, I don't

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2 believe it would at all in that in that
3 area. And the reason I say that is
4 because, you know, kids are not going to
5 draw that graffiti or call some of these
6 antisemitic remarks and make some
7 threats. A lot of our threats today work
8 on this thing.

9 (Whereupon, holding up a
10 cellphone.)

11 COMMISSIONER RYDER: So I can't
12 prevent that from happening. I can only
13 go after the offender and make sure he's
14 arrested.

15 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So I agree with
16 you and I thank you. So my point, though,
17 is also, first of all, you mentioned that
18 you don't see violence associated with
19 the with the hate crimes or the hate
20 language. That's usually the case because
21 there are people that want to do it at
22 night and they don't want to challenge.
23 They don't want to be confronted. So
24 you're never really going to see or
25 you're not usually going to see violence

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2 associated with the hate crimes that you
3 see. I mean, I'm not talking about the
4 city of New York where crazy things
5 happen. I'm talking about here in Nassau
6 County. So that doesn't surprise me.

7 But I'm a firm believer that
8 perception becomes reality. And when
9 people, at least in my community, see
10 swastikas and antisemitism and words of
11 hatred scrawled on sidewalks, in
12 schoolyards, in town and county parks,
13 they feel unsafe. They feel uneasy. So I
14 believe that with more cops being around,
15 more visible, that's going to make people
16 feel safer.

17 That's all I'm talking about. And
18 that's why I'm saying that this, I
19 believe, is an emergency. That's all I'm
20 saying. That's all, Commissioner. That's
21 my opinion. Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
23 you. Legislator Mule.

24 LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you,
25 Presiding officer. I'm kind of going to

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2 be all over because I'm responding to
3 things that have been said. The first
4 thing -- I just I also wanted to as
5 Legislator Deriggi-Whitton mentioned with
6 regards to the Capital Plan vote. I know
7 that Legislator Kevan numerous times
8 asked that the public safety issues be
9 taken out and we would vote immediately
10 for them. So I just need to make sure
11 that that's very clear for the record.

12 And, Commissioner Ryder, in your
13 testimony here today, you said you
14 believe that crime will -- and this is
15 your words will plummet in the next year
16 because of proactive measures that you've
17 taken with regards to the issues that are
18 going on right now; is that correct?

19 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Yes.

20 LEGISLATGOR MULE: You did say that.
21 So being proactive is a good thing,
22 despite what's happening in the state,
23 being proactive here locally.

24 COMMISSIONER RYDER: In that
25 category -- again, I judge my crime

1
2 numbers by the category. What I can
3 control and what I can't. I can't
4 control, I can to a little bit on the cat
5 cons. But there's too many streets and
6 too many nights to cover everything that
7 gets hit, and we have caught and arrested
8 some. Stolen cars. We use it as a
9 messaging to try to bring that number
10 down. I still can't. I'm still up 100% in
11 stolen cars from last year, but I call
12 that a victory from where I was at 240 by
13 March.

14 But next year, my focus on stolen
15 cars and what we're going to try to do
16 regarding cat con's will make a
17 difference in their numbers. That doesn't
18 mean my robberies are going to change or
19 my burglaries are going to change or my
20 larcenies from vehicles are going to
21 change. So we still have --

22 LEGISLATGOR MULE: Well, that will
23 be because of your education campaign to
24 encourage people to lock their cars.

25 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Right. Again,

1
2 now I'm going to talk in big numbers.
3 When we talk of 50% increase in overall
4 small numbers compared to the years
5 before, you talk about where you can make
6 a difference in your overall crime
7 number, you go after the big numbers. So
8 the big numbers are larcenies. And we're
9 doing a program now with all of our malls
10 so we can focus on the larceny side. But
11 we're losing support from a lot of the
12 security people within those stores
13 because they're not signing the
14 statement. They refuse to prosecute. They
15 just want it for insurance purposes.
16 They're not even calling us anymore. When
17 the crime occurs, they let the offender
18 leave and then they call us. And so now
19 we're battling with corporate to say,
20 hey, you got to sign this at least so I
21 can put that person into the system.

22 Unfortunately, in that case, when
23 that bad guy is gone, I have to still eat
24 the number. I can't say I'm not reporting
25 it to me because that's playing a game

1
2 with the numbers. I have to take that
3 number. So what we're working with, both
4 with corporate and a lot of things, is
5 trying to bring that number down. So when
6 I say my certain numbers are going to
7 plummet, not crime overall, but I'm going
8 to be able to get down my larcenies in
9 most of my malls, I hope. And I'm going
10 to also get down some of my stolen cars,
11 because they went up so much. That's the
12 categories that I talk about.

13 LEGISLATGOR MULE: Sure. But it's
14 due to proactive measures. And believe
15 me, I applaud. You always talk about
16 taking a multi-pronged approach to
17 everything and that just makes absolute
18 sense. And I appreciate it as a resident
19 of Nassau County, that that's how you
20 approach things. But every day you're
21 looking at what's happening and what can
22 you do to think outside of the box to
23 approach things from a different way than
24 things have always been approached. I
25 mean, I've heard you do it numerous

1
2 times.

3 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Correct.

4 LEGISLATGOR MULE: The request by
5 the minority for the 55 additional police
6 officers comes directly from your
7 testimony that you would you think 55
8 additional officers would be good for
9 community presence and you stated that on
10 the record. So I just want to say our
11 request for that is -- and you don't need
12 to respond to this -- is not based -- I'm
13 actually I'm responding to something that
14 Legislator Kopel said. It's not based on
15 nothing. It's based directly off of what
16 you said.

17 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Well, if I may
18 comment.

19 LEGISLATGOR MULE: Of course.

20 COMMISSIONER RYDER: What I said
21 was, the question was, could you use my
22 officers and I said, yes; what would be a
23 nice number? And I said that number. But
24 I also said that I get a budget that I
25 live with and I find my way to work on

1
2 crime and at the same time live within
3 the budget. And it's always, you know,
4 when I said I can always use more but
5 more doesn't fix my problems. There's
6 33,000 cops in the city in New York, and
7 they have the highest crime rate in the
8 country right now.

9 LEGISLATGOR MULE: They don't have
10 you.

11 COMMISSIONER RYDER: So you can put
12 cops on dots. But they can be on the
13 dot, but they're spending most of the
14 time inside because they're processing
15 arrests that are coming out faster than
16 they are. And that's the problem.

17 LEGISLATGOR MULE: Sure. One of the
18 other things that I wanted to talk about,
19 in our back up notes, there's mention of
20 attrition and that, if I'm understanding
21 this correctly, and please correct me if
22 I'm wrong, that the number of officers
23 that you're losing every year is greater
24 than what you're going to be taking in;
25 is that correct?

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COMMISSIONER RYDER: No. So I have
to take you back to the Mangano time.

LEGISLATGOR MULE: Okay.

COMMISSIONER RYDER: That was when
we depleted a lot of cutbacks and things
were done. That was the management style
at the time that Commissioner. Our style
is to keep hiring and get in front of the
number. And we do that because labor
costs are cheaper when they start. And so
we obviously, we get a three for the
price of one. And now new contracts,
which is the unforeseen, which I don't
know what's going to be there. That may
change training and everything else. But
when you look at the numbers, we've
gotten to the headcount for the first
time in 15 years and now we're above the
headcount. And no matter what the number
is, if I was still at 2546 come May, the
County Exec is going to allow me to put
an additional 50 because of the eventual
attrition, because they we know we lose
about 100 officers a year. So that's why

1
2 we do two classes at a minimum of 50 per
3 year. That's a plan so we never fall
4 behind, and it works because it's cheaper
5 labor.

6 LEGISLATGOR MULE: Okay, thank you
7 for clarifying that for me.

8 Legislator Drucker mentioned about
9 hate crimes -- and this is something that
10 we're going to discuss in the future --
11 but we know that there's issues with the
12 language line. So it's very possible
13 that crimes are not being reported by
14 people who are not comfortable with
15 English speaking -- but again, we'll talk
16 about that at a future time -- so those
17 numbers might not be accurate in terms of
18 what's actually happening.

19 And then the final thing that I
20 wanted to say and this really is isn't
21 for you, Commissioner, bail reform is
22 certainly more nuanced than it's being
23 presented as bail reform is all bad, da,
24 da, da, da, da. Legislator Deriggi-
25 Whitton said that as well. Presiding

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2 Officer, I know that you agree with that,
3 because you and I both presented at the
4 Village Officials. They asked about it
5 and I thought they were going to throw
6 things at me when I said that that bail
7 reform needed to happen. And when you got
8 up to speak, you said that you agreed,
9 but you thought that some changes needed
10 to happen and I certainly agree with
11 that. So I think we need to be careful
12 about the language that we use when
13 talking about bail reform, because bail
14 reform is not bad. Perhaps, the way it
15 was executed is problematic. I think we
16 could all agree to that to some extent,
17 but bail reform absolutely had to happen.
18 It was a social justice issue. And that's
19 all I have to say. Thank you.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I
21 think the point I made and look, you did
22 make those remarks and I appreciated
23 those at that meeting, but the point was,
24 none of us no reasonable person wants
25 someone who's stolen the loaf of bread to

1
2 have to sit in jail because they can't
3 afford bail. That's a very fair point.
4 But to take away the judge's discretion
5 to even consider dangerousness or flight
6 risk is crazy.

7 Legislator Ferretti.

8 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Just to be
9 clear, because I did bring up bail reform
10 as well, conceptually, bail reform is
11 something to be entertained, to be
12 discussed. New York State bail reform.
13 What was passed in Albany needs to be
14 completely repealed out the door; it's a
15 disaster.

16 I have a question for you,
17 Commissioner Ryder. But before before I
18 get to it, there's been a couple of
19 legislators that have said, because I
20 know Presiding Officer had in my opinion,
21 a really good idea that we come together
22 in opposing New York State bail reform as
23 a Body of 19. And I've heard a couple of
24 which said, well, they don't care.
25 They're not going to care what we say,

1
2 blah, blah, blah. It was only a couple of
3 months ago that the powers that be in
4 Albany put a bill forward that would
5 change Nassau County completely with the
6 the accessory units, and we came together
7 in a bipartisan fashion. Nassau
8 Republicans and Nassau Democrats together
9 spoke out against that, sent a message to
10 Albany, and they reversed course. So the
11 idea that they don't care has been proven
12 wrong. If we come together, we're Nassau
13 County. We're one of the biggest suburban
14 counties in the country. If we come
15 together and we oppose the crazy things
16 that we all know are going on coming out
17 of Albany, we have and will make a
18 difference. So I ask you to rethink that.

19 Going to the issue of the emergency.
20 Up until Legislator Drucker responded, I
21 still didn't really hear a reason, but I
22 did hear your reason. I acknowledge it.
23 But my question for Commissioner Ryder,
24 as it pertains to that assume arguendo
25 these amendments were passed today,

1
2 what's the earliest that these police
3 officers would actually be in the
4 academy, let alone on the streets?

5 COMMISSIONER RYDER: They would go
6 into the academy, if we can get that
7 number, by May. And then it would come
8 out in December to January depending on
9 the training.

10 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Of '23. So
11 December of '23? So over a year from
12 now?

13 COMMISSIONER RYDER: That's correct.

14 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: While I
15 respect Legislator Drucker's position,
16 Notice is important, too. And it's not
17 like these police officers would be on
18 the streets anyway any time soon. So I do
19 think that that notice portion should be
20 fulfilled if this was to be entertained.
21 Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
23 you. Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Just very
25 briefly, building upon what was said just

1
2 just a moment ago, I'd make a modest
3 suggestion that perhaps we just ask
4 Commissioner to think about it. And if
5 the Commissioner comes back and tells us,
6 you know, at some time, do a study and
7 then you consult with whoever you need to
8 consult with, because none of us here are
9 experts. If you come back and you tell us
10 in the future, next month, two months,
11 three months that you need more, you need
12 more, and you and and more is going to
13 help you do your job properly, I think I
14 think there's nobody here who's going to
15 say no. So considering the fact that that
16 nothing is going to happen immediately,
17 regardless, as you've pointed out, why
18 don't we just agree to table this
19 discussion? And as I say, you come back
20 and you tell us you've heard the concerns
21 and legitimate concerns everybody's
22 concerned about crime on the streets.
23 Everyone's concerned about hate crimes
24 and so forth. If you come back and you
25 tell us that you need more, I think we're

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2 all going to take that very seriously.
3 And I suggest, as I say, that we just we
4 just table this this item until such time
5 as as as the experts tell us that it's
6 going to be useful and productive to do
7 so.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Anyone
9 else have anything for the Commissioner?

10 (Whereupon, no verbal
11 response.)

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

13 Okay. Thank you very much. We all
14 know you were in a difficult position, so
15 we appreciate you. You've always been an
16 up front guy and you came and, you know,
17 so just thank you.

18 There is another component to this
19 I'd like to address, which is the
20 financial component.

21 (Whereupon, off the record
22 conversation.)

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,
24 Presiding officer. So when we talk about
25 why is this an emergency and I think

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2 Legislator Drucker did a good job and I
3 hope I can follow suit. I'm going to
4 angle it from a different perspective,
5 insomuch that I don't want to argue the
6 components or the philosophies or
7 ideology around bail reform. But what I
8 do want to talk about today is recidivism
9 programs, and I want to talk about the
10 lack of one here in Nassau County. And I
11 would go out on a limb to say that this
12 is an emergency, that we don't have a
13 recidivism program, that reducing
14 recidivism is a vital component of
15 increasing public safety, that reentry
16 programs help former offenders rebuild
17 their lives and make them less likely to
18 repeat offenses and return to prison, and
19 that reducing the number of reoffenses
20 makes communities safer.

21 We need programs that would enable
22 our offenders, our neighbors, the folks
23 that are challenged to find a way to
24 either gain literacy, be able to get
25 basic skills to rejoin the workforce, to

1
2 be able to deal with mental and physical
3 health challenges be able to in some way
4 or another, maybe turn the corner on
5 alcohol and drug issues, find housing.

6 There's a variety of different
7 challenges that lead them back to
8 offending. I said it when we talked about
9 it during an earlier hearing. Desperate
10 people do desperate things.

11 It has been brought to my attention
12 when we talk about the catalytic
13 converters that are being stolen out of
14 these cars, that a large majority of the
15 time, these these are folks that are on
16 drugs that are struggling. And it was
17 brought to our attention here. Confirmed
18 by the District Attorney's office that we
19 no longer as a county, provide that
20 service. That we have some components for
21 people who are mandated to that. But we
22 all here know that the cashless bail and
23 some of those other, the Raise the Age,
24 that a lot of those folks aren't mandated
25 to anything. They're just put back into

1
2 society. They're put back into society
3 without being mandated to anything and
4 without having any ability to have
5 resources that would undergird them and
6 set them on the right path. So I deem
7 that to be an emergency.

8 I don't know how in good conscience
9 we could talk about the rise in crime,
10 but fail our charge to provide
11 opportunity for stability. Opportunity
12 for folks to turn the corner. And the
13 longer we allow them to suffer and
14 spiral, we are putting every single
15 person in Nassau County, including
16 ourselves, susceptible to crime, being a
17 victim. Let's not do that. Let's take
18 this opportunity to amend this budget and
19 provide those who are challenged, who are
20 struggling, who are spiraling, some level
21 of hope. Some level of hope. So we can
22 we can debate bail reform, this, that and
23 the other. The reality is it exists right
24 now. The reality is that we decided that
25 because our program wasn't perfect, that

1
2 we were going to throw it out the window
3 and have nothing, nothing to support
4 these folks.

5 So today, I say to my colleagues, if
6 you are going to finances right now,
7 Presiding Officer, let me just say, this
8 is a drop in the bucket to be able to
9 provide these individuals with the
10 services they need and the community with
11 a sense of protection, of safety. If they
12 know that people have someplace,
13 somewhere to turn where they can get the
14 help that they need so desperately. Thank
15 you.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Just
17 just one small point of disagreement. I
18 don't think there's nothing to support
19 those that are coming out of
20 incarceration. The Correctional Center
21 has programs. I think probation has
22 programs as well.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: No. So the
24 recidivism program, when asked on the
25 record by the DA's representative that

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2 presented themselves in the hearing that
3 day, they stated they only had it for
4 mandated individuals, individuals who
5 were mandated to have that type of
6 services. So those who come out, who are
7 not mandated to be in any type of
8 recidivism, any type of supportive
9 services program, they're left to go out
10 and find help on their own. They are left
11 to go out and be in programs that are not
12 evidence based. They're left to go out
13 and re-offend because they're desperate
14 and CODA, the original program was built
15 around changing thoughts. And that's what
16 recidivism programs are birthed out of.
17 It's about changing thoughts. So we may
18 have these programs that provide services
19 around literacy, that provide services
20 around mental health and health
21 assessment, that provide services around
22 housing.

23 But when you have a recidivism
24 program, it's a one stop shop. You can go
25 there and get everything you need under

1
2 one roof. If you send people out and have
3 them circling around trying to find help,
4 they're likely not to make it from point
5 A to point B., You put them under one
6 roof and they get what they need in one
7 place, they're likely to have some level
8 of hope for themselves and in some way
9 possibly regain some level of reentry
10 into being a productive citizen.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Chris,
12 you walked to the mic, did you have
13 something?

14 MR. LEIMONE: Yeah. I just wanted to
15 clarify just a couple of things with
16 respect to the reentry program. The
17 County does have a contract with
18 Leadership Training Institute, and it's a
19 reentry task force program. It runs
20 through September 2024. It's
21 approximately \$1,000,000 worth of funding
22 funding towards that. It is a
23 comprehensive reentry services.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: And who goes to
25 that program? Because the district

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2 attorney representative that was here
3 clearly stated, clearly stated that they
4 had only services for those who were
5 mandated, not for those who were not
6 mandated. And so those who are not
7 mandated are the same people that
8 everyone's talking about here today: The
9 people on cashless bail, the young people
10 on Raise the Age. That they're not
11 mandated to anything.

12 MR. LEIMONE: Understood. I just
13 wanted to correct, because you had said
14 that there's no reentry program.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I didn't say
16 there was no -- I said there was no
17 program for those who are not mandated,
18 is what I said. And the program that was
19 disbanded were for individuals who were
20 both mandated and were not mandated.
21 They needed that assistance, understood
22 that they needed it, and came there and
23 got that service. The large majority of
24 those folks that were in that program
25 were not mandated. Those were folks that

1
2 were engaged by credible messengers.
3 Individuals who lived in their
4 communities, who successfully navigated
5 that program and became productive
6 citizens, and they went back out and
7 found those people. They found those
8 people in their communities and they
9 brought them to that program. That
10 program was able to undergird them and
11 support them.

12 Now, the program may have had its
13 challenges, but because they have it
14 challenges that doesn't mean we throw it
15 out. We're all rooted in policy. Part of
16 policy is reevaluating programs and then
17 making modifications, not throwing things
18 out.

19 We can't sit here today and talk
20 about cashless bail and Raise the Age --
21 Those programs, the same way they needed
22 to be re-evaluated and then reintroduced,
23 is the same way we needed to approach
24 this program that was just thrown out of
25 the window. We have to we got to stop

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2 doing that. And what we've done is we're
3 pointing the finger out at everyone else,
4 but we need to look at what fingers are
5 pointing back at us because we're
6 contributing to it by not having that
7 program. Thank you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Good,
9 good. Thanks.

10 Just on the financial end of this,
11 we obviously have a control period in
12 place. We have an oversight board that
13 has expanded its reason for being in a
14 control period to include the risks in
15 the out years and specifically in the
16 four year plan.

17 So, yes, we did ask the Office of
18 Independent Budget Review to do an
19 analysis, and it was done over ten years.
20 Why? Because the police do not reach
21 their full salary until they go through
22 that full nine steps -- and by the way,
23 this doesn't include their COLA payments
24 so we wanted to see how much it would
25 cost.

1
2 But in particular, for the next
3 three years, again, NIFA, which is
4 essentially a Democrat run control board,
5 is citing our out years as risky. In
6 fact, NIFA in their report stated as
7 follows with respect to the issues with
8 respect to our out years:

9 "The proposed plan also includes
10 budgeted contingency reserves of 25
11 million in fiscal year 23, and 35 million
12 in fiscal year 24. However, despite the
13 availability of these reserves, they are
14 insufficient to cover the County's known
15 risks and long term liabilities".

16 So NIFA, which is, again, using this
17 as a pretext to stay in a control period,
18 has called into question the viability of
19 the County's four year plan. So your
20 proposal we understand that your proposal
21 for the first year grab some money out of
22 the Contingency Fund, the \$25 Million
23 Contingency Fund. It's easy to do that.
24 It's money sitting there for contingency.
25 But in year two, it costs the County

1
2 additional \$8 Million and year three an
3 additional \$10 million and a year for an
4 additional \$12 million. So can you
5 explain, because you have never provided
6 this, how you're going to pay for the
7 increased costs over years two, three and
8 four? Could you provide an indication of
9 where the money is going to come from to
10 pay for that? Because the Contingency
11 Fund rationale applies to this year, it
12 doesn't apply to the outer years.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Got it. I'm
14 going to do this, because I know that the
15 hours are getting later and many of us
16 have things to do. So I'm not going to
17 belabor this. I mean, if I can in my
18 response, Presiding Officer, I'm going to
19 also summarize and then I'll be happy to
20 take a vote on the emergency, if not on
21 the emergency, on the budget.

22 The way we envision the -- and
23 first, I want to say that that we agree
24 with the numbers that Maurice Chalmers
25 has presented. We don't disagree with the

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2 numbers. From our standpoint, the numbers
3 are accurate, but it's not a number
4 issue.

5 Presiding Officer, as you well know,
6 this county, every single year -- we're
7 going to do it today -- we pass multiyear
8 plans. Some of the county executives in
9 the past present tax increases in those
10 plans. They present draconian cuts in
11 those multiyear plans. But we don't do
12 those cuts, nor have we done those tax
13 increases. I think we all can agree to
14 that. So basically what you're presenting
15 is a snapshot today of what it will look
16 like in ten years, which is fair. But at
17 the same time, what I say is that in year
18 three or year four, we can manage the
19 budget. Maybe if we realize that there is
20 an enormous amount of cost that's in PD,
21 we don't bring on the 46 officers, we
22 bring on 26 officers. We can manage the
23 budget.

24 So from our standpoint, because of
25 what has been identified by the

1
2 Comptroller and I believe the Office of
3 Management and Budget, we're seeing that
4 sales tax next year is going to be to the
5 tune of anywhere between 19 and 50
6 million. The Comptroller conservatively
7 sat right here, said it could be as high
8 as \$50 Million sales tax surplus into
9 2023. So the money is there. And what
10 we're talking about today in terms of the
11 amendments, the total amount is \$6.2
12 million and a \$3 billion budget. And
13 we're getting accused of political
14 shenanigans and stunts.

15 If we really wanted to pull a stunt,
16 that wouldn't be for 6.2 million. I mean,
17 aren't the residents' public safety,
18 their concerns, worth more than 6.2
19 million out of \$3 billion? I mean, I'm
20 going to get to that more. I just want to
21 address the two issues on the statement
22 of the emergency. I can read into the
23 record what happened in 2018, but clearly
24 there was no justification. There was no
25 this extra explanation of why we need the

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2 emergency. Mr. Ferretti, you moved the
3 emergency and Legislator Mule seconded
4 and we voted on it. And just to be clear,
5 Presiding Officer, you brought up the
6 point in regards to where was I when we
7 took this vote in 2019. My statement, if
8 you read the whole statement, which I'm
9 guessing you didn't, my statement clearly
10 said, "Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams-D
11 from Freeport said in a statement that
12 his caucus believed that the amendments
13 were adopted properly and legally. We do
14 not understand the logic or rationale of
15 the lawsuit". So if you read my whole
16 statement, it clearly stated exactly
17 where I stand today. That ultimately, as
18 I said before, there is we believe that
19 the Legislature and the County Executive
20 was usurping their powers. I said it then
21 and I'm saying it now, so there's no
22 contradiction.

23 But that being said, more
24 importantly, I don't know where this
25 justification issue is. You're taking

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2 this position on the notices, okay.
3 Granted, I don't remember that. But you
4 know what, Mr. Pulitzer, every time this
5 comes up, we're going to make sure we
6 notice it. Even though we believe it
7 should have been done properly already.
8 But putting that aside for a second,
9 we're talking about being able to vote on
10 an amendment that will add more officers
11 to this budget. It's very simple whether
12 you want to do it or not. I think this
13 Legislative Body should take their vote
14 on the emergency. See where he stands.
15 I'm willing to bet some of the members on
16 your side, Presiding Officer, that have
17 not said too much today would join us.
18 Allow them to join us. Why would we stop
19 democracy and prevent them from joining
20 us? Because of the justifications not
21 presented because Legislator Drucker
22 didn't make a convincing argument in
23 terms of a Hate Crime Division, even
24 though I think he did. That's the
25 justification? The justification is that

1
2 we disagree on what properly should be
3 noticed and how it should be noticed.
4 Even though I disagree with your position
5 on that. That's the justification that
6 we're taking today.

7 We're asking you today, you add you
8 said that we can't do the emergency by a
9 voice vote, which we know we can. But
10 that being said, we'll accept that we
11 have the written resolution here. I'm
12 just asking for three of you to join us.
13 Which one of you of you three -- I see a
14 lot of you looking down. You want to look
15 me in the eye? Which one of you three
16 will join us today? We're talking about
17 adding 110 officers.

18 Look, if you think that we're
19 pulling a stunt and the \$6.2 million -- I
20 think Nassau County residents lives are
21 much more important than that -- but if
22 you think we're pulling a stunt, we're
23 willing to compromise. Let's go in the
24 back room. Let's make a deal. We can we
25 can lower the number. What could it be?

1
2 55 officers, \$3 million. What would get
3 you guys to move to do something that
4 gives our residents the comfort? Let's do
5 it. I'll move off the 110. If you think
6 the number 110 and what it presents, \$6.2
7 million in a \$3 billion budget is a
8 political stunt. Let's move. I'll move
9 down off the number. What number makes it
10 feasible for you for not to be considered
11 a stunt? Whatever. I'll let you guys pick
12 it.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Are
14 you finished?

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Well, I'm
16 asking for three of your members to sign
17 on to our resolution.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We
19 heard you say that.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So? So I'm
21 asking my colleagues, will you --

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Are
23 you done?

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Will you join
25 me in this resolution today to put

1
2 forward this emergency so we can add 110
3 officers or whatever number we compromise
4 to to the budget for public safety so
5 that we can address the concerns in this
6 county. The Commissioner said that he's
7 seen a 50% increase, one of the highest
8 of five years in a long time. Which one
9 of you will join me?

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You,
11 the Minority, has failed to provide the
12 notice required by law. The Minority has
13 failed to amend the levy as required. You
14 have failed to explain how you're going
15 to pay for it in the out years saying,
16 well, sales tax will this or whatever.
17 While your colleagues on NIFA tell us
18 that they have to stay in a control
19 period because things are troublesome in
20 and out years, and you have failed to
21 establish the emergency.

22 We had the Commissioner up here for
23 a length of time. He informed you that
24 500 additional police officers are not
25 going to deal with this issue, which

1
2 relates to cashless bail under the
3 policies of the State. I indicated that
4 even if you approved it today, the
5 officers would go in later this spring.
6 They would not they would not graduate
7 and be in the streets until December.
8 There's no emergency. We can move that
9 money out of the Contingency Fund any
10 time throughout the year. So you haven't
11 established a single point to allow us to
12 to agree with you and to vote for this
13 today. So your minority has failed
14 completely. So there are no votes for
15 this.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You can keep
17 saying that. But in 2018, when the
18 emergency was provided by Mr. Ferretti,
19 which I can read into the record, if you
20 like, there was there was no ask for an
21 explanation.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Well,
23 we're asking for a justification --

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So you're
25 changing the rules because you don't

1
2 really want to vote on the amendment.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You're
4 not going to dictate to us in the rules
5 because you failed to apply by the rules.
6 But be that as it may, what I'm telling
7 you is you failed to establish a basis
8 for the emergency. So apparently in 2018,
9 there was an agreement between the
10 minority and majority --

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That is your
12 opinion.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: It's
14 all or our opinion.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Which you
16 didn't offer in 2018.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: But
18 apparently there's an agreement at the
19 time that an emergency existed. There's
20 no agreement today. And, in fact, the
21 evidence that we've been able to get
22 through testimony is there is no
23 emergency. There is no emergency to take
24 the money out of the contingency and do
25 this now. And, in fact, as the

1
2 Commissioner said, if you do that, if we
3 do what you want to do, those officers
4 are not going to be on the street until
5 December of 2023.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's why
7 it's an emergency.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Where
9 is the emergency?

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's the
11 emergency. You just made my point. The
12 emergency is it takes a long time for the
13 officers to get on the street and it
14 takes a long time to --

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
16 They're not going to be in the academy
17 until the spring, so we have to do it now
18 in October.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's if we
20 act today, they'll be there. But if we
21 wait until January, based on what you're
22 saying, it'll take even longer to 2024.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
24 right. That's all right. We have a
25 disagreement.

1
2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't want
3 to -- we beat this down so hard. I mean,
4 obviously, you don't want to support the
5 amendment for 110 officers. I get it. I
6 don't understand the rationale why, but I
7 get the fact that you don't want to do
8 it. So let's just vote on the budget and
9 move forward.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
11 I agree. Any other debate, a discussion
12 on the budget?

13 (Whereupon, no verbal
14 response.)

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
16 Hearing None.

17 All in favor of Nassau County Budget
18 signify by saying aye.

19 (Whereupon, all members of
20 the Nassau County Legislature
21 respond in favor.)

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
23 opposed, any abstentions?

24 (Whereupon, no verbal
25 response.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
Unanimous. All right.

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Next
item is the tax levy ordinance Clerk Item
number 307 of 2022. It's an ordinance
number 72 of 2022. We need a motion and
second. Motion by Deputy Presiding
Officer Kopel, seconded by Minority
Leader Abrahams.

Any debate or discussion?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Hearing none. All in favor signify by
saying aye.

(Whereupon, all members of
the Nassau County Legislature
respond in favor.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
opposed.

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

Lastly, is the multi year plan Clerk Item
number 308 2022, Resolution 213 2022.
Motion by Minority Abrahams Seconded by
Legislator Kopel.

Any debate or discussion?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All in
favor signify by saying aye.

(Whereupon, all members of
the Nassau County Legislature
respond in favor.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
opposed.

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Carries unanimously.

Legislator Ferretti makes a motion
to adjourn, seconded by Legislator
Giuffre.

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All in favor of adjourning signify
by saying aye.

(Whereupon, all members of
the Nassau County Legislature
respond in favor.)

(Whereupon, meeting is
adjourned, 1:38 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)
 : SS.:
COUNTY OF NASSAU)

I, KAREN LORENZO, a Notary Public for and
within the State of New York, do hereby
certify:

That the above is a correct transcription
of my stenographic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 28th day of October, 2022.

Karen Lorenzo
KAREN LORENZO

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