

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES MEETING

RICHARD NICOLELLO

PRESIDING OFFICER

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DENISE FORD

CHAIRWOMAN

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Monday, November 7, 2022

2:23 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD CHAIR
LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS VICE CHAIR
LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP
LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT (Acting)
LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON RANKING
LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE
LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

MICHAEL PULITZER
Clerk of the Legislature

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

FIRE CHIEF UTTARO

PUBLIC COMMENT:

SUSAN GOTTEHRER, NY CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

1
2 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Good afternoon. At
3 this time I will call the Public Safety
4 Committee to order. I will ask the Clerk
5 to call the roll.

6 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, Madam
7 Chairwoman.

8 Legislator Debra Mule.

9 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

10 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Siela
11 Bynoe.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

13 CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
14 Delia Deriggi-Whitton.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

16 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John
17 Ferretti.

18 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

19 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Mazi
20 Melesa Pilip.

21 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

22 CLERK PULITZER: Vice Chairman
23 Steven Rhoads.

24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

25 CLERK PULITZER: Chairwoman Denise

1
2 Ford.

3 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Here.

4 CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum.

5 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you very
6 much, sir.

7 There were two items on the agenda
8 today, which is Clerk Item number 353-22
9 and 354-22.

10 Clerk Item number 353-22 is an
11 ordinance ordinance supplemental to the
12 annual appropriation ordinance in
13 connection with the medical examiner. May
14 I have a motion? Moved by Legislator
15 Pilip, seconded by Legislator Rhoads.
16 The item is before us.

17 Who is is here from the
18 administration?

19 MS. DOOLING: Hi. Good afternoon.
20 Karen Dooling, Assistant Director, Crime
21 Laboratory.

22 So this is a New York State grant,
23 the 2022 Arson Laboratory Improvement
24 Program grant for \$5,000. It's a no
25 match. It will be used for supplies for

1
2 the laboratory's fire debris arson
3 program.

4 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you. Any
5 delay to discussion?

6 (Whereupon, no verbal
7 response.)

8 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: No. Any public
9 comment?

10 (Whereupon, no verbal
11 response.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: None. Thank you
13 very much.

14 All those in favor of passing this
15 item, please signify by saying aye.

16 (Whereupon, all members of
17 the Public Safety Committee
18 respond in favor.)

19 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Opposed?

20 (Whereupon, no verbal
21 response.)

22 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: The item passes
23 unanimously.

24 Clerk Item number 354-22 is an
25 ordinance supplemental to the annual

1
2 appropriation ordinance in connection
3 with the Fire Commission. May I have a
4 motion? Moved by Legislator
5 Deriggi-Whitton, seconded by Legislator
6 Bynoe. This item is before us.

7 Who was here from the
8 administration? Good afternoon, Chief.

9 FIRE CHIEF UTTARO: Good afternoon.
10 This a state Hazmat Grant. It's the
11 fiscal year 2020 that we apply for on
12 behalf of the hazardous materials
13 response teams, including the County Fire
14 Marshal's hazmat team. It also
15 encompasses Nassau County Police, ESU,
16 the Hicksville Fire Department, the
17 Wantagh Fire Department, and the Franklin
18 Square Fire Department.

19 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: All right. Thank
20 you very much. Any debate or discussion?

21 (Whereupon, no verbal
22 response.)

23 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Any public? I see
24 none. Thank you very much, sir.

25 FIRE CHIEF UTTARO: Appreciate it.

1
2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: All those in favor
4 of passing this item, please signify by
5 saying aye.

6 (Whereupon, all members of
7 the Public Safety Committee
8 respond in favor.)

9 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: And opposed?

10 (Whereupon, no verbal
11 response.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: The item passes
13 unanimously. As there is no other
14 business before this Committee, may I
15 have a motion to adjourn? Moved by
16 Legislator Ferretti, seconded by --

17 (Whereupon, Ms. Gottehrer
18 interrupts and is allowed for
19 public comment.)

20 MS. GOTTEHRER: Hi. Susan
21 Gottehrer, New York Civil Liberties
22 Union. You were speaking about public
23 comment about each of those items; is
24 that correct? So I have a question, a
25 couple of questions.

1
2 Number one, the agenda that was
3 posted for the Public Safety Committee
4 had the whole list of the stuff that the
5 Rules Committee just went over. So I had
6 something to say about the B -- I know. I
7 get it. It's you guys aren't taking it
8 up. Your agendas are a little messed up
9 on the website.

10 The other thing is that what I would
11 like to say is that we need to talk about
12 oversight of the Police Department. We
13 put out a report monitoring Police Reform
14 after two years after George Floyd. You
15 all got the report. Please let me do
16 this. Okay. There's only three of us
17 here.

18 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: But you can only
19 you can only speak on this particular
20 item. I don't understand why. This is
21 the Public Safety Committee. It's about
22 oversight. We have a report here that
23 shows that there is no oversight being
24 done at this point of the Nassau County
25 Police Department.

1
2 My question is: They were supposed
3 to come and report. They're nine months
4 past when they were supposed to report.

5 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I don't mean to
6 cut you off, but this is the rules of the
7 Legislature. You're to discuss this -- we
8 do have scheduled -- and it will be
9 posted -- a public hearing on the Police
10 Reform Plan and Commissioner Ryder will
11 be in attendance. And at that point, you
12 then will be able to ask questions of the
13 oversight of the Police Department.

14 MS. GOTTEHRER: And may we request
15 that the police commissioner have to put
16 out his report before he reports?

17 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: There has been a
18 report that has already been issued. And
19 I think that you should then take it up
20 with either the Clerk of the Legislature
21 or the Presiding Officer, and they'll
22 direct you to where it is.

23 MS. GOTTEHRER: Yeah. I would also
24 like other people to be able to speak on
25 this. This has never happened.

1
2 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Excuse me. We are
3 -- Yes, this is we are discussing the
4 issue right now with the Fire Commission
5 and the money that they received through
6 New York state grants in regard to the
7 various fire departments. That is the
8 item before us. If you have something to
9 say about that, we are not discussing the
10 Police Department at this point.

11 MS. GOTTEHRER: I believe that you
12 were just adjourning. So. Right. Okay.
13 Well, it would be it would be a shame if
14 we have to wait for Commissioner Ryder to
15 report in order for us to comment on
16 policing in Nassau County.

17 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: It's already been
18 reported. I'm sure that you should be
19 able to get a copy.

20 MS. GOTTEHRER: The update has been
21 reported?

22 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I think there was
23 one that was issued, and I think we'll
24 reach out to the commissioner and I'll
25 let you know.

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MS. GOTTEHRER: Recently?

CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I will let you know.

MS. GOTTEHRER: The website is down, the Police Reform website is down. We have no way of knowing if the police commissioner has -- which is why I'm standing at this microphone right now.

CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I will reach out to Commissioner Ryder to find out what it is. But at this point, we're adjourning this meeting.

MS. GOTTEHRER: Will he be reporting to the Public Safety Committee at some point?

CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I already explained to you that we have scheduled a public hearing in regard to the Police Reform plan, and this is where we're ending it -- and Commissioner Ryder will be in attendance.

Motion to adjourn this meeting.
Legislator Ferretti, seconded by
Legislator Deriggi-Whitton. All those in

favor adjourning.

(Whereupon, all members
respond in favor.)

CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Okay, we're
adjourned. Thank you. Health Department.

(Concludes, 2:30 p.m.)

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 7th day of November, 2022.

Karen Lorenzo
KAREN LORENZO

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| \$ | PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 11.07.2022 | | J |
| | Chairman ^[1] - 4:22 | encompasses ^[1] - 7:15 | |
| \$5,000 ^[1] - 5:24 | CHAIRWOMAN ^[24] - 1:12, 4:2, 5:3, 5:5, 6:4, 6:8, 6:12, 6:19, 6:22, 7:19, 7:23, 8:3, 8:9, 8:12, 9:18, 10:5, 10:17, 11:2, 11:17, 11:22, 12:3, 12:10, 12:17, 13:5 | ending ^[1] - 12:21 | John ^[1] - 4:16 |
| 1 | Chairwoman ^[2] - 4:7, 4:25 | ESU ^[1] - 7:15 | |
| 1550 ^[1] - 1:15 | Chief ^[1] - 7:8 | examiner ^[1] - 5:13 | K |
| 2 | CHIEF ^[3] - 3:3, 7:9, 7:25 | Excuse ^[1] - 11:2 | |
| 2020 ^[1] - 7:11 | CIVIL ^[1] - 3:6 | Executive ^[1] - 1:14 | L |
| 2022 ^[3] - 1:20, 5:23, 14:13 | Civil ^[1] - 8:21 | explained ^[1] - 12:18 | |
| 2:23 ^[1] - 1:21 | Clerk ^[5] - 2:13, 4:4, 5:8, 6:24, 10:20 | F | Karen ^[2] - 5:20, 14:16 |
| 2:30 ^[1] - 13:7 | CLERK ^[8] - 4:6, 4:10, 4:13, 4:16, 4:19, 4:22, 4:25, 5:4 | | KAREN ^[3] - 1:24, 14:7, 14:17 |
| 3 | clerk ^[1] - 5:10 | favor ^[6] - 6:14, 6:18, 8:3, 8:8, 13:2, 13:4 | knowing ^[1] - 12:7 |
| 353-22 ^[2] - 5:8, 5:10 | comment ^[4] - 6:9, 8:19, 8:23, 11:15 | Ferretti ^[3] - 4:17, 8:16, 12:24 | Laboratory ^[2] - 5:21, 5:23 |
| 354-22 ^[2] - 5:9, 6:24 | COMMENT ^[1] - 3:5 | FERRETTI ^[1] - 4:18 | |
| 7 | Commission ^[2] - 7:3, 11:4 | fire ^[2] - 6:2, 11:7 | laboratory's ^[1] - 6:2 |
| 7 ^[1] - 1:20 | Commissioner ^[4] - 10:10, 11:14, 12:11, 12:21 | FIRE ^[3] - 3:3, 7:9, 7:25 | LEGISLATGOR ^[1] - 4:9 |
| 7th ^[1] - 14:13 | commissioner ^[3] - 10:15, 11:24, 12:8 | Fire ^[6] - 7:3, 7:13, 7:16, 7:17, 7:18, 11:4 | Legislative ^[1] - 1:14 |
| A | COMMITTEE ^[1] - 1:10 | fiscal ^[1] - 7:11 | Legislator ^[11] - 4:8, 4:10, 4:16, 4:19, 5:14, 5:15, 7:4, 7:5, 8:16, 12:24, 12:25 |
| able ^[3] - 10:12, 10:24, 11:19 | Committee ^[8] - 4:4, 6:17, 8:7, 8:14, 9:3, 9:5, 9:21, 12:15 | Floyd ^[1] - 9:14 | LEGISLATOR ^[12] - 2:2, 2:3, 2:4, 2:5, 2:6, 2:7, 2:8, 4:12, 4:15, 4:18, 4:21, 4:24 |
| Acting ^[1] - 2:5 | COMMITTEES ^[1] - 1:4 | Ford ^[1] - 5:2 | LEGISLATURE ^[1] - 1:2 |
| adjoin ^[2] - 8:15, 12:23 | Concludes ^[1] - 13:7 | FORD ^[25] - 1:11, 2:2, 4:2, 5:3, 5:5, 6:4, 6:8, 6:12, 6:19, 6:22, 7:19, 7:23, 8:3, 8:9, 8:12, 9:18, 10:5, 10:17, 11:2, 11:17, 11:22, 12:3, 12:10, 12:17, 13:5 | Legislature ^[3] - 2:13, 10:7, 10:20 |
| adjoined ^[1] - 13:6 | connection ^[2] - 5:13, 7:2 | Franklin ^[2] - 1:15, 7:17 | Liberties ^[1] - 8:21 |
| adjourning ^[3] - 11:12, 12:12, 13:2 | copy ^[1] - 11:19 | G | LIBERTIES ^[1] - 3:6 |
| administration ^[2] - 5:18, 7:8 | correct ^[2] - 8:24, 14:10 | | list ^[1] - 9:4 |
| afternoon ^[4] - 4:2, 5:19, 7:8, 7:9 | COUNTY ^[2] - 1:2, 14:5 | George ^[1] - 9:14 | Lorenzo ^[1] - 14:16 |
| agenda ^[2] - 5:7, 9:2 | County ^[5] - 1:14, 7:13, 7:15, 9:24, 11:16 | GOTTEHRER ^[9] - 3:6, 8:20, 10:14, 10:23, 11:11, 11:20, 12:2, 12:5, 12:14 | LORENZO ^[3] - 1:24, 14:7, 14:17 |
| agendas ^[1] - 9:8 | couple ^[1] - 8:25 | Gottelhrer ^[2] - 8:17, 8:21 | M |
| allowed ^[1] - 8:18 | COURT ^[1] - 1:24 | grant ^[2] - 5:22, 5:24 | |
| annual ^[2] - 5:12, 6:25 | Crime ^[1] - 5:20 | Grant ^[1] - 7:10 | Madam ^[1] - 4:6 |
| apply ^[1] - 7:11 | cut ^[1] - 10:6 | grants ^[1] - 11:6 | Marshal's ^[1] - 7:14 |
| Appreciate ^[1] - 7:25 | D | guys ^[1] - 9:7 | match ^[1] - 5:25 |
| appropriation ^[2] - 5:12, 7:2 | | H | materials ^[1] - 7:12 |
| Arson ^[1] - 5:23 | debate ^[1] - 7:20 | | Mazi ^[1] - 4:19 |
| arson ^[1] - 6:2 | Debra ^[1] - 4:8 | hand ^[1] - 14:13 | MAZI ^[1] - 2:4 |
| Assistant ^[1] - 5:20 | DEBRA ^[1] - 2:8 | hazardous ^[1] - 7:12 | MCKEVITT ^[1] - 2:5 |
| attendance ^[2] - 10:11, 12:22 | debris ^[1] - 6:2 | Hazmat ^[1] - 7:10 | mean ^[1] - 10:5 |
| Avenue ^[1] - 1:15 | delay ^[1] - 6:5 | hazmat ^[1] - 7:14 | medical ^[1] - 5:13 |
| aye ^[2] - 6:15, 8:5 | Delia ^[1] - 4:14 | Health ^[1] - 13:6 | meeting ^[2] - 12:13, 12:23 |
| B | Denise ^[1] - 4:25 | hearing ^[2] - 10:9, 12:19 | MEETING ^[1] - 1:4 |
| | DENISE ^[2] - 1:11, 2:2 | hereby ^[1] - 14:8 | Melesa ^[1] - 4:20 |
| behalf ^[1] - 7:12 | Department ^[8] - 7:16, 7:17, 7:18, 9:12, 9:25, 10:13, 11:10, 13:6 | hereunto ^[1] - 14:12 | MELESA ^[1] - 2:4 |
| Building ^[1] - 1:14 | departments ^[1] - 11:7 | Hi ^[2] - 5:19, 8:20 | Member ^[1] - 4:13 |
| business ^[1] - 8:14 | DERIGGI ^[2] - 2:6, 4:15 | Hicksville ^[1] - 7:16 | members ^[3] - 6:16, 8:6, 13:3 |
| BY ^[1] - 1:24 | Deriggi ^[3] - 4:14, 7:5, 12:25 | I | messed ^[1] - 9:8 |
| Bynoe ^[2] - 4:11, 7:6 | DERIGGI-WHITTON ^[2] - 2:6, 4:15 | | MICHAEL ^[1] - 2:12 |
| BYNOE ^[2] - 2:7, 4:12 | Deriggi-Whitton ^[3] - 4:14, 7:5, 12:25 | Improvement ^[1] - 5:23 | michael ^[1] - 12:9 |
| C | direct ^[1] - 10:22 | IN ^[1] - 14:12 | Mineola ^[1] - 1:16 |
| | Director ^[1] - 5:20 | including ^[1] - 7:13 | monday ^[1] - 1:20 |
| certify ^[1] - 14:9 | discuss ^[1] - 10:7 | interrupts ^[1] - 8:18 | money ^[1] - 11:5 |
| CHAIR ^[2] - 2:2, 2:3 | discussing ^[2] - 11:3, 11:9 | issue ^[1] - 11:4 | monitoring ^[1] - 9:13 |
| | discussion ^[2] - 6:5, 7:20 | issued ^[2] - 10:18, 11:23 | months ^[1] - 10:3 |
| | done ^[1] - 9:24 | Item ^[3] - 5:8, 5:10, 6:24 | motion ^[3] - 5:14, 7:4, 8:15 |
| | DOOLING ^[1] - 5:19 | item ^[8] - 5:16, 6:15, 6:22, 7:6, 8:4, 8:12, 9:20, 11:8 | Motion ^[1] - 12:23 |
| | Dooling ^[1] - 5:20 | items ^[2] - 5:7, 8:23 | Moved ^[1] - 8:15 |
| | down ^[2] - 12:5, 12:6 | | moved ^[2] - 5:14, 7:4 |
| | E | | MS ^[9] - 5:19, 8:20, 10:14, 10:23, 11:11, 11:20, 12:2, 12:5, 12:14 |
| | | | MULE ^[2] - 2:8, 4:9 |
| | either ^[1] - 10:20 | | Mule ^[1] - 4:8 |

| PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 11.07.2022 | |
|--|--|
| N | Q |
| Nassau ^[3] - 7:15, 9:24, 11:16 NASSAU ^[2] - 1:2, 14:5 need ^[1] - 9:11 never ^[1] - 10:25 New ^[5] - 1:16, 5:22, 8:21, 11:6, 14:8 NEW ^[1] - 14:4 NICOLELLO ^[1] - 1:7 nine ^[1] - 10:3 None ^[1] - 6:12 none ^[1] - 7:24 Notary ^[1] - 14:7 notes ^[1] - 14:11 November ^[2] - 1:20, 14:13 number ^[3] - 5:8, 5:10, 6:24 Number ^[1] - 9:2 NY ^[1] - 3:6 | team ^[1] - 7:14 teams ^[1] - 7:13 THOMAS ^[1] - 2:5 three ^[1] - 9:16 today ^[1] - 5:8 transcription ^[1] - 14:10 two ^[2] - 5:7, 9:14 |
| O | R |
| OF ^[2] - 14:4, 14:5 OFFICER ^[1] - 1:8 Officer ^[1] - 10:21 OFFICIAL ^[1] - 1:24 one ^[2] - 9:2, 11:23 opposed ^[2] - 6:19, 8:9 order ^[2] - 4:4, 11:15 ordinance ^[4] - 5:11, 5:12, 6:25, 7:2 ordnance ^[1] - 5:11 oversight ^[4] - 9:12, 9:22, 9:23, 10:13 | questions ^[2] - 8:25, 10:12 quorum ^[1] - 5:4 |
| P | S |
| p.m ^[2] - 1:21, 13:7 particular ^[1] - 9:19 passes ^[2] - 6:22, 8:12 passing ^[2] - 6:14, 8:4 past ^[1] - 10:4 people ^[1] - 10:24 PILIP ^[2] - 2:4, 4:21 Pilip ^[2] - 4:20, 5:15 Plan ^[1] - 10:10 plan ^[1] - 12:20 point ^[5] - 9:24, 10:11, 11:10, 12:12, 12:16 Police ^[9] - 7:15, 9:12, 9:13, 9:25, 10:9, 10:13, 11:10, 12:6, 12:19 police ^[2] - 10:15, 12:7 policing ^[1] - 11:16 posted ^[2] - 9:3, 10:9 Present ^[1] - 4:24 Presiding ^[1] - 10:21 PRESIDING ^[1] - 1:8 Program ^[1] - 5:24 program ^[1] - 6:3 Public ^[7] - 4:3, 6:17, 8:7, 9:3, 9:21, 12:15, 14:7 PUBLIC ^[2] - 1:10, 3:5 public ^[6] - 6:8, 7:23, 8:19, 8:22, 10:9, 12:19 PULITZER ^[9] - 2:12, 4:6, 4:10, 4:13, 4:16, 4:19, 4:22, 4:25, 5:4 put ^[2] - 9:13, 10:15 | Safety ^[6] - 4:3, 6:17, 8:7, 9:3, 9:21, 12:15 SAFETY ^[1] - 1:10 scheduled ^[2] - 10:8, 12:18 seconded ^[4] - 5:15, 7:5, 8:16, 12:24 see ^[1] - 7:23 set ^[1] - 14:12 shame ^[1] - 11:13 shows ^[1] - 9:23 SIELA ^[1] - 2:7 Siela ^[1] - 4:10 signify ^[2] - 6:15, 8:4 speaking ^[1] - 8:22 Square ^[1] - 7:18 SS ^[1] - 14:4 standing ^[1] - 12:9 State ^[2] - 5:22, 14:8 STATE ^[1] - 14:4 state ^[2] - 7:10, 11:6 stenographic ^[1] - 14:11 Steven ^[1] - 4:23 STEVEN ^[1] - 2:3 stuff ^[1] - 9:4 supplemental ^[2] - 5:11, 6:25 supplies ^[1] - 5:25 supposed ^[2] - 10:2, 10:4 SUSAN ^[1] - 3:6 Susan ^[1] - 8:20 |
| | T |
| | U |
| | V |
| | W |
| | Y |
| | wait ^[1] - 11:14 Wantagh ^[1] - 7:17 website ^[3] - 9:9, 12:5, 12:6 WHEREOF ^[1] - 14:12 Whitton ^[3] - 4:14, 7:5, 12:25 WHITTON ^[2] - 2:6, 4:15 whole ^[1] - 9:4 WITNESS ^[1] - 14:12 |
| | year ^[1] - 7:11 years ^[1] - 9:14 York ^[5] - 1:16, 5:22, 8:21, 11:6, 14:8 YORK ^[1] - 14:4 |
| | TAKEN ^[1] - 1:24 |