

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES MEETING

RICHARD NICOLELLO

PRESIDING OFFICER

C. WILLIAM GAYLOR, CHAIRMAN

PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Monday, December 5, 2022

3:42 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

A P P E A R A N C E S

LEG. C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III	Chair
LEGISLATOR JOHN GIUFFRE	Vice Chair
LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER	
LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY	
LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE	Ranking
LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER	
LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES	

MICHAEL PULITZER	Clerk of the Legislature

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

COMMISSIONER DARCY BELYEA, PARKS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

META MEREDAY

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3 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Great at this
4 time. I'll call the Public Works and
5 Parks Committee to order. I'll ask the
6 Clerk to call the roll.

7 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Carrie
8 Solages?

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

10 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
11 Drucker?

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

13 CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
14 Siela Bynoe?

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

16 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
17 Kennedy?

18 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

19 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura
20 Schaefer?

21 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

22 CLERK PULITZER: Vice Chairman John
23 Guiffre?

24 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Present.

25 CLERK PULITZER: Chairman C. William

1
2 Gaylor III?

3 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Present.

4 CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
5 sir.

6 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Thank you.

7 May I have a motion to suspend the
8 Rules?

9 Moved by Legislator Guiffre,
10 Seconded by Legislator Bynoe. All in
11 favor please signify by saying aye.

12 (Whereupon, all members of
13 the Public Works and Parks
14 Committee respond in favor.)

15 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Any opposed?

16 (Whereupon, no verbal
17 response.)

18 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Rules are
19 suspended.

20 So we have before us today, Clerk
21 Item 394-22 which is a resolution
22 designating the Nassau County Department
23 of Parks Recreation and Museums as Nassau
24 County's tourist promotion agency to
25 receive tourism, advertising, and

1
2 promotion gifts.

3 May I have a motion? Moved by
4 Legislator Schaeffer, second by
5 Legislator Drucker.

6 So this item is now before us.
7 Anybody from the Administration like to
8 tell us about this resolution?

9 COMMISSIONER BELYEA: Yes, good
10 afternoon. This will designate Nassau
11 County with Parks as our own tourism
12 promotion agency as a short-term fix. It
13 allows us to do two things: Allow us to
14 receive funds from the Empire State
15 Development, I love New York Matching
16 Funds Grant program, to promote tourism
17 in Nassau County. It will also allow us
18 to receive additional stipend that we
19 would then transfer to Discover Long
20 Island who will use these funds along
21 with an identical contribution from
22 Suffolk County to conduct a regional
23 tourism campaign on our behalf. In that
24 campaign they will promote both counties
25 as a region.

1
2 The County missed out in this
3 opportunity funding in 2022 because there
4 was no tourism promotion agency in place.
5 I didn't want to miss out on the
6 opportunity here again. We're in the
7 process of issuing an RFP for a tourism
8 promotion agency outside of ourselves,
9 and when we do issue a contract for that
10 agency, we can then transfer these funds
11 to them.

12 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Okay, good. So I
13 think I heard you right. You'll be the
14 lead agency, you'll collect the money and
15 then you can designate it out to third
16 parties.

17 COMMISSIONER BELYEA: Well, a
18 portion of it. A portion were going to
19 use inhouse and we'll match it and then
20 50% of it goes to Discover Long Island,
21 who will administer the regional program
22 for both counties.

23 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Gotcha. Is
24 there any debate or discussion?

25 (Whereupon, no verbal

response.)

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Any public
comment?

Sorry. Legislator Bynoe.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you. So do
you know how much we could stand to get
from New York State?

COMMISSIONER BELYEA: I came
prepared, yes.

For the County we will receive
\$86,250 and for the region we will
receive \$86,250 for a total of \$172,500.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. Thank you
very much.

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Any further
debate or discussion?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Public comments?
Ms. Mereday.

COMMISSIONER BELYEA: Thank you.

MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday.

I'm in favor of this. Just hoping
that we can tie this into something maybe

1
2 with the National Parks Department and
3 also working with the State. We're
4 talking about tourism and things of that
5 nature, of people coming here. For those
6 who travel Southern State Parkway, I mean
7 years ago we used to have that tollbooth.
8 I'm not looking to get that back. But we
9 did have a center. It was kind of a
10 tourism resource center that people could
11 maybe stop if they're not familiar with
12 the area. That's one thing that we don't
13 have along our roadways in Nassau County
14 is any type of linkages. If you go on
15 parkways, you go on the thruway, Garden
16 State Parkway, New Jersey, they have
17 recognition of local tourist attractions,
18 places where people can get gas,
19 something to eat, an historic landmark.

20 But we need to have some type of
21 facility along that roadway. Again, I
22 know that that's a state roadway, but now
23 that we're losing someone from the County
24 to the State, that might be something
25 that they can also look into, Legislator

1
2 Rhoads, for that additional funding to
3 address that. Because, again, we want to
4 put that funding to good use, but we also
5 want to hopefully maximize those
6 resources.

7 Again, we also had a location there
8 for our state troopers. I know that they
9 moved the facility off of Meadowbrook
10 Parkway, but it's clear, because of the
11 number of fatalities in the issues in
12 that particular corridor on Southern
13 State Parkway and now increasing Northern
14 State Parkway, that we really need to
15 bolster that type of support, not only
16 for our residents, but for people who are
17 passing through. So we want to make them
18 more amenable for them to stop in Nassau
19 County to get gas to get something to
20 eat.

21 You know we're doing great things at
22 Hempstead Lake State Park. I mean again,
23 that's right off of the parkway. Let's
24 make that more attractive and amenable
25 for, again, residents here, so we can

1
2 promote staycations (sic), but also for
3 those who come through our county to go
4 to other locations.

5 So I am definitely in support of
6 this grant. But again I'm hoping that we
7 can build on it, generate relationships,
8 working relationships with Suffolk
9 County, Queens and Brooklyn, so that we
10 can make that whole transport of the 110
11 miles that is the width of Long Island
12 amenable for all those who transverse on
13 it. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Thank you, Miss
15 Mereday.

16 Any other public comment?

17 (Whereupon, no verbal
18 response.)

19 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: All right. All
20 those in favor of passing this item,
21 please signify by saying aye.

22 (Whereupon, all members of
23 the Public Works and Parks
24 Committee respond in favor.)

25 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: The item passed
unanimously.

There being no other business in
front of this Committee, can I have a
motion to adjourn? Moved by Legislator
Schaefer, Legislator Kennedy.

All those in favor?

(Whereupon, all members of
the Public Works and Parks
Committee respond in favor.)

CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: The Committee is
now adjourned. Health will be next.

(Concludes, 3:46 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 15th day of December, 2022.

Karen Lorenzo
KAREN LORENZO

PW & PARKS COMMITTEE 12.05.2022

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