

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING

RICHARD NICOLELLO, PRESIDING OFFICER

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Monday, January 23, 2023

1:11 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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

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

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

MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

APPEARANCES:

TOP COPS

OFFICER CHELSEA PENN

COMMISSIONER RYDER

THOMAS SHEVLIN

OFFICER PENN (BROTHER)

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

HAELEIGH ORTIZ

DEBBI LARKIN

PATTY LEAVY

BRIAN MALONEY

DR. THOMAS TURCHIANO

TODD WINCH

JOHN COSCIA

PUBLIC COMMENT:

RICHARD CLOLERY

JACK DICKIN

MICHAEL GEORGE

PATTY HARRIS

PAT LIGOURI

RICHARD SCHURIN

SCOTT DIAMOND

FRAN VISCOVICH

PUBLIC COMMENT CONTINUED:

BONNIE SALSONE

BARRY GRODENCHIK

LEVADA FELDER

SHAUN THOMPSON

FAREN SIMINOFF

DANIEL RESCH

JASON GORMAN

DR. R. SANTOS

ARIEL SILBERMAN

JORDAN RUZZ

MARGARET MONICELLI

PEARL JACOBS

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
3 right. I'm going to call this meeting to
4 order. Welcome to our meeting of the
5 Nassau County Legislature. To start
6 things off, I'm asking Legislator Rose
7 Walker to lead us in the Pledge. Please
8 rise.

9 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance
10 is said.)

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

14 CLERK PULITZER: Yes. 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: Legislator Siela
22 Bynoe?

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

24 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Carrie
25 A. Solages?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Debra
Mule?

LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.
William Gaylor, III?

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
Legislator John Giuffre?

LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator 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: Thank you.
Legislator Thomas McKevitt?

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura
Schaefer?

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John
Ferretti?

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
Drucker?

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose
Marie Walker?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Joshua
Lafazan?

LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader
Kevan Abrahams?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
Presiding Officer Richard Nicolello?

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
sir.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
you very much.

Again, I welcome to you to our

1
2 meeting of the Nassau County Legislature.
3 We will be starting things off with a
4 presentation for the Top Cops, as we do
5 every month, followed by a point of
6 personal privilege and then followed by
7 public comment. If you have not already
8 submitted a slip and want to speak,
9 please come to the Clerk's table and
10 provide them with a slip and then we will
11 call you when we get to the public
12 comment portion of our meeting.

13 So let's start things off by the
14 presentation from Thomas Shevlin, the
15 president of the Nassau County PBA.

16 (Whereupon, Top Cop
17 Presentation is adjourned
18 briefly.)

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
20 Legislator Ferretti, are you ready for
21 your point of personal privilege?

22 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you,
23 Presiding Officer.

24 During today's point of personal
25 privilege, I'd like to take time to honor

1
2 four faculty members of Division Avenue
3 High School in Levittown for jumping into
4 action to help save the life of a student
5 who was having a serious and
6 unanticipated medical emergency.

7 We all know school faculty members
8 are unsung heroes. They help children to
9 learn, nurture students creativity, and
10 help shape students into successful young
11 adults. The typical day in the life of a
12 teacher, school psychologist or school
13 nurse does not involve saving a life. But
14 these four faculty members we are
15 honoring today took their responsibility
16 to protect their students to the next
17 level by responding rapidly to help save
18 the life of a student who was having a
19 life threatening seizure.

20 Haeleigh Ortiz had no clue that she
21 was living with a rare and dangerous
22 heart disease until October 17th, when
23 she passed out on the floor of her
24 school's gym locker room. Her friend ran
25 to get nurses Patty Leavy and Debbi

1
2 Larkin, who rushed to the scene to find
3 Haeleigh unresponsive and with no pulse.
4 Physical education teacher Brian Maloney,
5 who, incidentally, was my health teacher
6 back in 1997, demonstrated the ability to
7 act quickly and rationally in the face of
8 an emergency by rushing into the locker
9 room with an aide to assist the nurses in
10 resuscitating Haeleigh. While the nurses
11 focused on Haeleigh's breathing, school
12 psychologist Dr. Thomas Turchiano
13 performed chest compressions on her.

14 Thankfully, through the diligent
15 response and level headed thinking of
16 these four brave faculty members at
17 Division Avenue High School, Haeleigh was
18 able to make a full recovery from her
19 seizure and learn that she was living
20 with an undiagnosed genetic heart
21 condition.

22 Not only is Haeleigh and her family
23 thankful for the bravery and dedication
24 of these faculty members, but I'd like to
25 personally commend each of those heroes

1
2 for saving a young life and showing all
3 of us what a true example of fearlessness
4 looks like.

5 As a lifelong resident of Levittown
6 and Division Avenue High School alumni,
7 it fills me with pride to know that the
8 faculty in the Levittown School District
9 are so committed to the well-being of
10 students. As a parent, knowing that your
11 children are safe and cared for while
12 away from you is always a top concern.
13 And having two children in the Levittown
14 Public School system, both slated to
15 attend Division Avenue High School, it's
16 reassuring to know that Division students
17 are in the best possible hands with
18 faculty members who care for them in the
19 same way that they would care for their
20 own children. Because of dedicated heroes
21 like these four faculty members who went
22 above and beyond, we are all living in a
23 better world today. You are highly valued
24 members of our community.

25 At this time, I'd like to bring up

1
2 those four faculty members Debbi Larkin,
3 Patty Leavy, Brian Maloney, and Dr.
4 Thomas Turchiano to come up to the
5 podium. We're also joined by the
6 superintendent of Levittown schools, Mr.
7 Todd Winch, and principal of Division
8 Avenue High School, Mr. John Coscia. If
9 you can come up as well (applause). And
10 we are also joined by Haeleigh and her
11 mom, they're here with us today as well.
12 If you could come up as well, please
13 (applause). So if any of you would like
14 to say a few words.

15 MR. WINCH: My name is Todd Winch
16 I'm the superintendent of schools of the
17 Levittown School District. I just want
18 to take a moment to just thank the
19 incredible actions of our staff members.
20 Like Mr. Ferretti said, I don't think a
21 moment goes by in your mind where you
22 think that you're going to be working
23 with students in a particular day and
24 think that your immediate actions are
25 going to be so incredibly important.

1
2 And so I would just like to say on
3 behalf of the Board of Education and
4 Levittown School District, thank you for
5 for not just what you do every day, but
6 for being who you are and for really
7 caring about our students to the extent
8 that you do. And thank you very much.

9 MR. COSCIA: I'll be very brief.
10 John Coscia, Principal of Division Avenue
11 School. It's just an honor and a
12 privilege to work alongside these four
13 individuals, also, the rest of our
14 emergency response team. When we sit down
15 and you practice these drills, you never
16 think that it's going to result in
17 actually saving someone's life. But I'm
18 still in awe of their composure, their
19 teamwork, and really just their
20 professionalism.

21 Like I said, it's an honor and
22 privilege and thank you for everything
23 you do. And I'm sure Haeleigh thanks a
24 great deal as well. Thank you again
25 (applause).

1
2 DR. TURCHIANO: My name is Dr.
3 Thomas Turchiano. I'm happy to say and
4 very proud to say I'm the school
5 psychologist at Division Avenue High
6 School. On the day that this incident
7 happened, I had been an American Red
8 Cross instructor for the past 15 years,
9 training lifeguards in a township in
10 Suffolk County. And what I did was what
11 I've been trained to do, and I was lucky
12 to be there that day to help one of my
13 students who was having a very serious
14 medical issue. And I'm so happy that
15 everything worked out the way it did and
16 that I could rely on the training and my
17 experience through the American Red
18 Cross.

19 Thank you each and every one of you
20 for this honor. And I appreciate it. And
21 God bless you, Haeleigh. Take care.

22 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you.
23 Okay. Haeleigh, did you want to say
24 anything or no, I've said enough?

25 (Whereupon, Haeleigh

declines.)

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: All right. So
thank you all. And we'll just go in the
back, and I have some citations for you.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Legislator Mule.

LEGISLATOR MULE: Yes. Thank you.
Patty Leavy is a very dear friend of
mine, and I know the quality of person
that she is. And so I'm sure that
everyone else is of that same caliber.
And I knew about this incident, Patty had
told me about it, it's an amazing story.
And we are so fortunate to have all of
you there to to save Haeleigh's life.
Thank you (applause).

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Legislator Ferretti will be joining you
and then presenting the citation.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Now
3 for our January Top Cops, Nassau County
4 PBA President Thomas Shevlin.

5 MR. SHEVLIN: Good afternoon. I just
6 want to take this time to say I hope
7 everybody had happy holidays and I hope
8 you all have a great new year, healthy
9 and happy. It's great to see everybody
10 here. And once again, we are so thankful
11 that you take the time out to recognize
12 our police officers and the heroic work
13 that they do day in and day out.

14 On September 11th, 2022, at
15 approximately 9:15 p.m., Eighth Precinct
16 Police Officer Chelsea Penn was on
17 routine patrol in Hicksville. Officer
18 Penn stopped at a train crossing on New
19 South Road because the gates were down.
20 Officer Penn saw an object on the tracks.
21 It was raining out and she couldn't make
22 out what it was, so she got closer. She
23 then realized it wasn't just an object.
24 It was actually a person, a female on a
25 bicycle, and the person was not moving.

1
2 Officer Penn activated her emergency
3 lights, exited her vehicle, and yelled
4 for her to get off the tracks because
5 there actually was a train coming.
6 Officer Penn had 10 seconds. She risked
7 it all. She went on those tracks and
8 saved this person who was attempting
9 suicide.

10 I could continue to read this, but I
11 really don't have to. This in itself is
12 one of the most heroic things that
13 anybody, any human being can do. And this
14 is something that our police officers do
15 on a daily basis. Not too many people,
16 like I always say, would put on a
17 bulletproof vest, kiss their family
18 goodbye and risk it all. She didn't think
19 twice. Her training kicked in. She ran on
20 the tracks to save another human being.

21 That person was removed to the
22 hospital and medical attention was
23 performed. We don't know how that person
24 is doing today. But I will tell you this,
25 mental health is a huge issue to all of

1
2 us, not just our communities, to first
3 responders, to veterans, and we need to
4 do better for everybody. We're not always
5 there like Officer Penn was, to save the
6 person, and we have to do our part.

7 I am so proud of Officer Penn. Her
8 family is here and they should be very
9 proud of her also. If it wasn't for her
10 actions, her training, and her dedication
11 to risk it all to save another life, this
12 woman would not be alive today. That is
13 why I am so honored to recognize her as
14 January 2023 Top Cop. Thank you
15 (applause).

16 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Walk yourself
17 through the scenario: It's a rainy
18 night, you're pulling up, you're in your
19 nice, protected police car. You pull up
20 and there is someone on the railroad
21 tracks with the gates coming down knowing
22 there's a train coming. She leaves the
23 protection of that vehicle. She walks out
24 onto that track. The train is getting
25 closer. Within 10 seconds -- you can

1
2 start counting it down, we're already at
3 5 seconds -- she now goes out to
4 encounter that person, not knowing if
5 there's going to be a struggle, not
6 knowing if the person is going to resist.
7 But she's going to take that risk to
8 protect and serve the people of Nassau
9 County.

10 This young officer has less than
11 three years in this Department. Her
12 brother is also on the job, works in the
13 Eighth Precinct, also has six years.
14 Sixty percent of our department right now
15 has less than ten years in experience in
16 policing. It is that training that they
17 go through in the academy. It is that
18 training of mental health that they go
19 through and how to deal with these people
20 and then deal with themselves that all of
21 you have put forward as a bill to protect
22 us. And it's because of that, that
23 individual is safe. And it is because of
24 that additional training that we have
25 within our department she is somebody

1
2 that she can speak to. Because I'm sure
3 every night when she lays down in her
4 head on her pillow, she plays that over
5 again. And if you ask her if she would do
6 it again, she would do it again, like the
7 other 2500 of us would do, because that's
8 what we signed up to do.

9 Again, we thank you for always
10 supporting us and looking at mental
11 health as a big crisis for us. Thank you
12 (applause).

13 OFFICER CHELSEA PENN: Good
14 afternoon. First, I would like to thank
15 everyone here for recognizing Nassau
16 County police officers.

17 I'm very grateful and thankful being
18 recognized for a Top Cop of the month. I
19 think in this very moment, at that point,
20 on September 11th, I was just at the
21 right place at the right time. I
22 explained to the young lady that there's
23 a reason for her to be here, especially
24 since it wasn't a radio call and I just
25 happened to be at that spot.

1
2 But overall, I'm grateful and
3 thankful for you guys coming out and
4 continuously recognizing the Top Cops of
5 the month. Thank you (applause).

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
7 Legislative Walker.

8 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.
9 Legislator Nicolello.

10 Chelsea, I can't even imagine what
11 was going through your mind. You know,
12 God put you with all of us to be a police
13 officer and put you in the right place
14 that night. And, you know, I am out and
15 about all every night. And I don't mind
16 driving at all. But in the dark and in
17 the rain, you know, it's not the best
18 place to be. To be able to notice
19 something on the tracks and find that it
20 was a woman, a young woman on a bicycle.
21 And for you to get out of your car --
22 like Commissioner said, to get on to
23 those tracks -- and I know, I go there
24 all the time. You hear that train coming
25 and it's getting louder and louder. And

1
2 that train doesn't just chug through
3 there. It's moving; it's moving. And,
4 yet, you went on those tracks. You got
5 that woman. I don't know if she gave you
6 any tough time to get her up, but you got
7 her up and you got her off those tracks
8 and got her to safety and then got her
9 the help that she needed. And as said
10 here, that she said nobody wanted her and
11 she really didn't want to live anymore,
12 but you saved her and you got her the
13 help that she needed. And I cannot thank
14 you enough for that. You are truly, truly
15 an angel on Earth, as all of our police
16 officers are. And I'm just so happy that
17 we could honor you today as our Top Cop
18 for January. And again, I can't thank you
19 enough what you for what you did for this
20 young woman (applause).

21 You know, we just honored four
22 educators who really saved a young girl's
23 life, and yet they didn't have to put
24 themselves in harm's way to do that; you
25 did. So, again, I cannot thank you and

1
2 all of our officers enough for all you do
3 day in and day out. God bless you all.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
5 Legislator Drucker, then Legislator
6 Schaefer.

7 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
8 Presiding officer.

9 I have to tell you, when I read this
10 excerpt, I got goose bumps. I really did.
11 This was one of those scenes that we all
12 see play out on the movies, but it really
13 happened in real life. And, you know, no
14 one can dispute -- it cannot be disputed
15 that Nassau County cops receive the best
16 training in the world. There's no
17 question about it. But no training can
18 prepare you for this type of visceral
19 reaction that played out. It was a split
20 second reaction in which you completely
21 disregarded, your own safety. And it's
22 not just your safety, you disregarded
23 your own life. Because if it didn't turn
24 out the way it did, you might have been
25 killed as well. So that type of heroism,

1
2 that type of bravery, I don't think it
3 can be taught. I mean, I think it helps
4 you, but those type of split second
5 reactions, that's in you, that's really
6 in you. Because I don't know of any of us
7 who -- we all like to think that in a
8 split second we'll react in a way to save
9 someone, but we can't guarantee that. You
10 completely did it as a reaction and you
11 did it with no time to spare. And I just
12 think that type of bravery -- you talk
13 about kissing your family goodbye every
14 day when you leave for work, but you
15 literally did kiss your family goodbye
16 that morning and may never have seen your
17 family, friends or colleagues on the
18 force ever again.

19 So we thank you. We thank you for
20 your bravery, for your heroism. But I
21 know based on what's been said, that you
22 would do it again. And I have a feeling
23 that almost every single cop would do the
24 same thing as a visceral reaction if the
25 time came. And that really gives us all a

1
2 lot of comfort, each one of us on the
3 Legislature and each one of us in the
4 audience and every resident of Nassau
5 County, knowing that we have cops who
6 will forsake their own lives to save a
7 complete stranger. So thank you so much.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
9 Legislator Schaefer.

10 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I just wanted
11 to say thank you and that it wasn't just
12 right place, right time. You were the
13 right person in the right place at the
14 right time. Thank you again (applause).

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
16 Legislator Pilip.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I also
18 would like to thank you. Really amazing
19 how you were able to be there at that
20 moment and to put your life at risk just
21 to save another life. Just amazing. The
22 pride you bring to us, to our community,
23 is big. Thank you so much.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
25 Legislator Lafazan.

1
2 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Thank you so
3 much. You are a hero in every sense of
4 the word. And I just want to echo the
5 comments of President Shevlin that our
6 first responders are human beings. And
7 that, as citizens, many of us are
8 football fans, and we watched those EMTs
9 saved the life of Damar Hamlin, the
10 entire city of Cincinnati, the entire
11 city of Buffalo. They're still mourning.
12 But those EMTs had to get up and go to
13 work the next day and they carry that
14 burden with them. And so our first
15 responders, just because they wear the
16 uniform, doesn't mean that they're not
17 our neighbors and that they're not human
18 beings deserving of empathy and
19 compassion, too.

20 So I thank you so much for being a
21 hero, and I thank all of our members for
22 putting their life on the line for their
23 neighbors. That's what makes this
24 county's Department the best department
25 in the country. So thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

Officer Penn, is that your brother? Did you want to add anything to what's been said? We're also very grateful for your service as well. The entire family, actually, is fantastic.

OFFICER PENN: I'm very proud of her. She's just another representation of this great Department. All of our colleagues that we work with would have done the exact same thing in that moment. And this is just a really special moment for her. I'm happy that we're all here to share this today.

MR. SHEVLIN: We won't rub it in that it only took her three years to get Top Cop; six years, and we're still waiting (laughter).

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Oh, boy. Come on up. We'll give you a presentation.

(Whereupon, a Citation is presented.)

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
3 right. We're going to jump into the
4 public comment portion of our meeting. As
5 I said, I have a number of slips and I'm
6 going to start calling them. Please
7 understand that there's a three minute
8 limit for public comment. When the three
9 minutes are up, you don't have to stop on
10 a dime, but we ask that you please sum up
11 at that point. So let's start off with
12 Richard Clolery.

13 MR. CLOLERY: To the members of the
14 Legislature: It has been a while since
15 since I last spoke with you guys. I know,
16 why am I still here? Because I care
17 about people, their concerns about rising
18 prices. I work as a cashier at Stop and
19 shop. Believe me when I say this, I hear
20 complaints about rising food prices
21 pretty much all the time, especially
22 eggs.

23 Do you also know what is also on the
24 rise price wise? That's right. Car and
25 car maintenance price, as well as lack of

1
2 affordable housing. This is contributing
3 to a brain drain here on the island that
4 will harm our communities. Luckily, I
5 heard on the news that Governor Hochul is
6 trying to help solve this housing
7 shortage, even though there are those
8 among you who oppose her plan.

9 Another solution is increased
10 funding for buses so NICE can restore the
11 bus routes that were cut, as well as
12 allow the buses to run night and day.
13 Yes, I know not many people take the bus
14 so what's the point? Well, the point is
15 that everything is going to be going up,
16 including cars, gas prices, everything,
17 which means that people won't be able to
18 go around and spend money like they used
19 to, which will hurt our taxes. And some
20 people will leave this county seeking
21 greener pastures, which would be
22 catastrophic for the County as well.

23 So we present you guys with some
24 options. You can either continue as you
25 always do, or become the heroes of the

1
2 moment and create legislature that will
3 hopefully increase funding for our buses.
4 Any questions? Thank you. Good day.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Jack
6 Dickin.

7 MR. DICKIN: My name is Jack Dickin,
8 and I'm talking about Nickerson Beach
9 closure. I've been going to Nickerson
10 Beach for 21 years every day between
11 eight and nine with my dog to a dog run.
12 The Dover Group comes in and decides to
13 manage the park the way it was before, we
14 thought. But he ends up closing the park.
15 I don't think this is fair.

16 But I understand that the park is
17 open today. Can you clarify?

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: Good afternoon,
19 sir. Yes. I received word this morning
20 from our Deputy County Executive, Arthur
21 Walsh, who also included a picture to
22 show me that the signs have been taken
23 down and the gates have been opened as
24 well as the dog park. So you will be free
25 to be able to enjoy the park like you

1
2 should have always been. And you'll be
3 able to go back to the park every day
4 between eight and nine and join with your
5 buddies and bring your four legged
6 friends.

7 MR. DICKIN: Okay. Thank you very
8 much.

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: You're welcome.
10 Thank you, sir.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
12 Michael George.

13 MR. GEORGE: Not to duplicate
14 everything. But I want to thank all of
15 those who were responsible for reopening
16 the park and allowing, at least during
17 the winter, maybe, 1000 people to get out
18 from their basements. It's been two years
19 with the pandemic. Wrong time to close
20 anything.

21 And I thank the Legislature and,
22 especially Denise Ford, for being
23 influential. It really is a savior to a
24 lot of folks, and I appreciate it deeply.
25 You have our back. We have your back.

1
2 Thank you.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: And thank you very
4 much, sir. And I think I have to thank
5 most especially the residents and all
6 those who called and e-mailed and made
7 some noise in regard to the fact that the
8 park was closed. And I have to thank the
9 County Executive for taking note of those
10 who express their opinions and being
11 upset over the fact that the park at
12 Nickerson Beach was closed to them, and
13 he made every effort to work with the
14 Dover Group as well as the Commissioner
15 of Parks, to be able to reopen it so
16 everybody can once again enjoy it. But I
17 thank you all for coming down and for the
18 work that you did.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Shaun
20 Thompson.

21 MR. THOMPSON: Good afternoon. I'm
22 here for Nickerson Beach also, and I
23 would like to say thank you, especially
24 to Laura Schaefer and Denise Ford. I've
25 been in close contact with them over

1
2 this, and it's great to have the park
3 open.

4 Just to give you a little background
5 about the park. The community, we
6 maintain the park. The flags that are
7 displayed are donations from park goers.
8 The holes are filled in by us. We fill
9 the water bowls. And in the winter, when
10 the water has to be shut off, we bring
11 fresh water jugs for all the dogs to use.
12 We clean up after our dogs. We use our
13 own bags or scoopers that we have donated
14 ourselves. I personally weed wacked the
15 high grass. I've been going there for
16 years. And although the park does have a
17 bag dispenser, I have never seen a bag as
18 I have in such other parks like
19 Eisenhower Park. I spoke to Laura
20 Schaefer before in the past that Dover
21 would not empty the garbage cans filled
22 with dog poop and flies, and it was
23 handled, finally, thank God.

24 Since the day Dover took over, they
25 started charging \$15 per day for parking

1
2 even if you had a dog in the car and just
3 going to the dog park for an hour. Dogs
4 are not allowed on the beach, so that is
5 the only facility we have. We don't even
6 have restrooms. Otherwise, you have to
7 buy a season pass, which basically just
8 benefits Dover.

9 We pay our National County taxes and
10 we vote for this legislation. We only
11 want three things:

12 - First one has already taken care
13 of; the gates are open.

14 - We would like to be able to go to
15 the park for free. Maybe come up with a
16 dog park pass system or reserved spots.
17 But paying \$15 to go exercise my dog for
18 an hour is ridiculous to me.

19 - We would like the garbage cans
20 emptied at least every other week and
21 then turn the water on in the spring.

22 It's not too much to ask for my tax
23 dollars. Thank you very much for your
24 time and consideration.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very

1
2 much, sir. And it is noted that I guess
3 we will reach out to the commissioner of
4 Parks to make sure that, yes, of course,
5 the refuse is picked up in a timely
6 manner and we'll work on the water.

7 But just to let you know that I know
8 that in the past they always -- the dog
9 people, as I affectionately call you all
10 that -- would be able to get there before
11 9 a.m. and park for free to be able to
12 bring the dogs on. But we will reach out
13 to the commissioner in regard to that
14 issue as well. All right.

15 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you.

17 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Just say
18 something quick. I just wanted to say
19 thank you for coming, Mr. Thompson and
20 everybody else who's here. As you know,
21 Legislator Ford has been on top of this,
22 and to the extent I've been able to help,
23 I'm happy to and I will continue to do in
24 the future.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Faren

1
2 Siminoff, President of the NCCFT
3 (applause).

4 MS. SIMINOFF: Good afternoon. It's
5 nice to see all of you again. I've gotten
6 to know a number of you, quite many of
7 you. And I want to thank you on behalf of
8 my faculty for all of the interest that
9 all of you have shown in the College and
10 our students and in the full time faculty
11 over the last year or so. And again, let
12 me extend an offer that I do every time
13 for any of you who have not had the
14 opportunity to tour the campus. We're
15 happy to give you a tour.

16 I'm here today to ask for your
17 support, something very specific. We are
18 currently in contract negotiations with
19 the College. We are working under an
20 expired contract. We have not gotten a
21 raise since 2022. Until we have a
22 contract, we will not be getting any
23 increments. We have very modest salaries.
24 The starting salary for our faculty range
25 from \$55,000 to about \$60,000. I know

1
2 that you all know that in Nassau County,
3 in order for a family of three to be
4 considered middle class, it's \$96,000. We
5 are extremely modestly paid, but we serve
6 the County gladly and we serve our
7 students gladly. However, we need a fair
8 contract. And right now what's happening
9 is the College is assessing us,
10 essentially, \$5,000 for the healthcare
11 premium increases.

12 What we're asking is that our joint
13 employer, who is you, speak with the
14 College and tell them that it is really
15 unconscionable while we're in the middle
16 of negotiations to be charging the
17 faculty \$5,000; that's a pay cut. Can you
18 imagine getting a \$5,000 pay cut when
19 you're earning \$60,000, \$55,000 a year at
20 a time of extraordinarily high inflation?

21 We ask you to intercede on our
22 behalf as our joint employer and tell the
23 college not to do this, not to cut our
24 salaries while we are in good faith
25 negotiations. Thank you very much.

1
2 Again, please, if you have not
3 toured the college, get in touch with us.
4 We are happy to give you a tour. And
5 thank you for your support in the past
6 and I hope, of course, your support going
7 forward. Thank you very much (applause).

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Well,
9 thank you, Faren, for your comments, for
10 your advocacy and for your leadership and
11 for your generous offer throughout the
12 entire time that you have been president
13 for all of us to come and visit the
14 college.

15 Our relationship with the College is
16 governed by State Law. So, ultimately,
17 it's what the State tells us we can and
18 can't do. But State Law does not provide
19 us with any ability to intercede in a
20 collective bargaining situation. So we
21 are limited in terms of what we can do.
22 And we, specifically, are unable to tell
23 the College to do something or not do
24 something when it comes to collective
25 bargaining, so we are limited in that

1
2 regard.

3 Legislator DeRiggi, you had
4 something that you wanted to add?

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We are
6 also looking at some of the legal
7 implications. Our legal team is reviewing
8 the prior cause from, what, 37 years ago.

9 But I just want to say on a good
10 faith effort, the school projected, I
11 believe, a 9% decrease and they've
12 actually found themselves to be 6%, I
13 believe, increase. So we're just hoping
14 that those that are making this budget
15 and are considering this plan to
16 reconsider, because it is not justified
17 by the numbers, in my opinion.

18 And although I don't have an
19 official say in it, Nassau Community
20 College is a gem that we all are so lucky
21 to have. The education that these
22 students receive is amazing. And we all
23 just take -- I think all 19 of us -- take
24 pride in all your efforts. We know we
25 have some of the top minds, top

1
2 professors, and you deserve a good salary
3 and benefits. And although we don't have
4 a direct role, we are all hoping that
5 that's the result of this difficult
6 situation that you're involved in. Thank
7 you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I
9 think what Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton
10 said about all 19 of us is absolutely
11 correct. And we agree wholeheartedly that
12 college is a gem. We think that the work
13 that's done by the faculty there is
14 extraordinary and the value that it gives
15 to our students and our residents is
16 something that you can't put a dollar
17 value on.

18 Legislator Drucker and Legislator
19 Lafazan.

20 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
21 Presiding Officer. You know, as a former
22 member of the Board of Trustees for more
23 than four years, I can tell you I'm so
24 impressed. And I've always advocated for
25 the College in terms of facilitating what

1
2 they do day in and day out, and mostly
3 the faculty and staff because they,
4 without them, they're the engine that
5 runs the College. We, as you say, joint
6 employer, we have an obligation to work
7 with you and work hand in hand, and I
8 think we will -- definitely all 19 of us
9 -- continue to do so.

10 I think what concerns me
11 particularly is that when the College
12 came before us last month, I think in
13 December, for the approval of their
14 budget, I believe there was some sort of
15 provision or an inclusion in the budget
16 for insurance, health insurance. So the
17 fact that perhaps that was considered, we
18 should certainly be monitoring on how
19 during contract negotiations, additional
20 sums are now being assessed above and
21 beyond. So I know we're going to be
22 paying attention going forward on this.

23 And I personally thank you for your
24 leadership and David and the others. So
25 we'll stay in touch.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

Legislator Lafazan.

LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: I want to echo the comments of Legislator Drucker. I know many of you in the audience. I am so proud to be an alum of Nassau Community College. I've spoken at length to many of you about this, about my story of going from community college to Harvard and how I'm not the exception. You know, so many of our kids go on to the best schools in the country, but it's because the teachers of Nassau Community College, right? And so I just wanted to say so many of my teachers at Nassau changed my life. Professor Bruckner in Astronomy Professor Thiessen in geology, Professor Webb in speech and debate. My professors at Nassau changed my life and I wouldn't be in this seat without them. And so I'm proud to stand with you. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Let's continue with public comment. Daniel Resch.

1
2 MR. RESCH: Dear Nassau County
3 Legislators: My name is Daniel Resch and
4 I'm a full time faculty member in the
5 Chemistry Department at Nassau Community
6 College. Since August 2022, I have been
7 working on an expired contract. Recently,
8 we faculty were informed that the annual
9 increase in healthcare costs would no
10 longer be covered by the College, as has
11 traditionally been the practice. The cost
12 of the increase due to ongoing contract
13 negotiations comes roughly \$5,000 a year.
14 And as a family of five at the lower end
15 of the pay ladder facing persistent
16 inflation, this will be financially
17 damaging. I am well aware that many folks
18 question how college professors utilize
19 our time, but full time faculty members
20 invest a lot of outside time of the
21 class, time spent on college initiatives,
22 curriculum development and most
23 importantly, professional development are
24 rarely discussed.

25 For my part, last year I have served

1
2 as the Chemistry Department chairperson
3 and in the past as Chemistry Club
4 advisor. I currently serve as the
5 Personnel and Budget Committee Secretary,
6 Course Coordinator, Retention and
7 Assessment Coordinator, which Middle
8 States is very interested in. Education
9 Committee Chairman of the Long Island
10 Subsection for the New York American
11 Chemical Society and I volunteer my time
12 with Catholic Engaged Encounter as its
13 Chief Information Officer.

14 In my nine years at NCC, I have
15 employed both my skills as a chemist and
16 computer programmer in service to the
17 College. During the abrupt transition to
18 remote learning in 2020, I spent over
19 eight hours per week outside the
20 classroom helping our part time faculty
21 members transition to an online
22 environment. This work included
23 authoring, training, videos,
24 troubleshooting and on-call mentoring. I
25 distinctly remember one occasion when AFA

1
2 secretary Mrs. Rosemary Tavitian, a
3 beloved matriarch in our department,
4 called me to assist a frantic part time
5 professor. He did not have an Internet
6 connection at home and needed to use a
7 campus laptop from the parking lot in his
8 car to connect to the wifi network. He
9 was unable to get through to the
10 understandably overwhelmed IT department
11 in time for class, so I was the
12 alternative.

13 Much of my IT experience comes from
14 countless hours of off campus volunteer
15 work with Catholic Engaged Encounter. I
16 was mentored by a senior level systems
17 analyst who works at one of the nation's
18 six largest banks, and the experience
19 paid dividends for the college.

20 In the summer of 2022, I earned a
21 bachelor's in computer science through
22 Saint Leo University and, subsequently,
23 applied for an administrative position at
24 NCC to offer my skill set. There are many
25 more acts of service to the college that

1
2 I can elaborate on; however, I do respect
3 your time.

4 These examples I have given are why
5 you should invest in full time faculty. I
6 hope that you will consider, after all
7 the service I have poured into NCC, that
8 I shouldn't have to take a \$5,000 pay cut
9 over a benefit that is standard in
10 academia. If this decision is allowed to
11 stand, I will deeply consider joining the
12 choir of the under 45 crew leaving Long
13 island for Florida, where affordability
14 and opportunities for young IT
15 professionals are found. Thank you.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
17 you, Mr. Resch.

18 Tracy Ayala. Tracy?

19 (Whereupon, no response.)

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
21 Jason Gorman.

22 MR. GORMAN: Good afternoon. I'd like
23 to echo the thanks for your support that
24 Dr. Siminoff had already described.

25 About 25 years ago, I became a

1
2 County employee. I lived out in Suffolk.
3 About 20 years ago, I became a county
4 resident. I live in Mineola. So does my
5 wife. My wife also works at the College.
6 We've both had to take on part time work
7 just to make ends meet.

8 My thought today is just because
9 something can be done or possibly can be
10 done, doesn't always mean it's a great
11 idea.

12 So when we thought about our careers
13 and our futures, we kind of thought about
14 healthcare as what was a part of a
15 package, not a dollar amount. So when
16 we're told -- and by the way, a month
17 after any chance that we can make any
18 changes in healthcare in the middle of
19 the academic year -- that we're
20 essentially getting a pay cut, it feels
21 like a slap in the face. And I've heard
22 many faculty express the sentiments in
23 those terms. It feels like a slap on the
24 face. For all that I worked hard to do
25 during COVID, to keep the College afloat

1
2 and to keep our students enrolled. This
3 feels like a slap in the face. As a
4 county resident, this feels like a slap
5 in the face.

6 So I don't think it's enough to hope
7 for the best. I understand that you have
8 restrictions, but I wonder what our
9 current acting president, Maria Conzatti,
10 would say if you pose the question again,
11 which I encourage you to do: Do you have
12 enough money in your budget to do what
13 you need to do?

14 Our teachers care for your children.
15 We care for the future of Nassau County.
16 Please consider this and maybe take a
17 stronger stance with the College and try
18 to figure out a way that they don't have
19 to dock our pay, which is what this feels
20 like; a slap in the face. But thank you
21 for your support.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
23 you, Mr. Gorman.

24 Dr. Ricardo Santos.

25 (Whereupon, Dr. Santos

1
2 address Legislature in Spanish.

3 DR. SANTOS: Good afternoon, senora,
4 senores. It's a pleasure to be here
5 talking to you. I am not a native of
6 Nassau County, but Nassau County has been
7 a crucial centerpiece of my life. I am a
8 professor, currently a professor at
9 Nassau Community College. But way before
10 that, I am also a Gulf War veteran for
11 the first Long Island unit to be
12 activated for Desert Storm, the 766
13 Belmar Company. I was a student at Nassau
14 Community College then. I did not go to
15 Harvard, but went to SUNY Binghamton, the
16 public Ivy League. And, you know, as my
17 colleague was saying, we are, everybody,
18 it's not just me. You saw here today the
19 great service, our teachers, nurses. So
20 that's who we are. And guess where those
21 cops -- you know, even one of the cops
22 said, look, I'm an adjunct at Nassau
23 Community College. They come from us.
24 And, you know, when I first got my job, I
25 was so happy to live, Hempstead, then

1
2 Uniondale, but I'm out priced of Nassau
3 County. I no longer live here. I have to
4 go to Queens. And now the prices of their
5 LIRR tickets are making it almost
6 impossible to come and go all the time.

7 But, you know, I am just here to
8 share with you what we do because we love
9 the College. In the College, I found Dr.
10 Bernice Kleiman, my Shakespeare
11 professor. She made me her son at times
12 when I was going to school at Binghamton,
13 she put me up in her home in Glen Cove.
14 So that's what we are. We are a family.

15 And yes, everybody's struggling for
16 money. It's difficult. Like the \$5,000.
17 Oh, my God, like these people with kids,
18 I don't know what they're going to do
19 because they can't just uproot and go
20 live in Queens.

21 But also, I must mention to you that
22 just last year the Board was claiming
23 that they have no money to take from,
24 they gave an unsolicited bonus, not
25 salary, to the college lawyer because

1
2 he's doing a great job, \$10,000. And I'm
3 sure she's doing a great job, you know,
4 finding legal loopholes to take \$5,000
5 from here and there, from poor faculty
6 members who make \$60,000. Is this how we
7 want our cops, like the young lady who
8 came here, our students, is this how we
9 want to treat each other?

10 I mean, you know, as they were
11 talking about the cop, it needs training,
12 but it also needs a heart to be a good
13 professional. I love my job. If I could,
14 if I were a millionaire, I would pay to
15 be a teacher. As a matter of fact, I'm
16 also volunteer teacher in prison. But we
17 need as a soldier, as a United States
18 Army soldier, I know I need good
19 equipment to win a war and I need to win
20 this education war. Help us speak up. You
21 are us. We are your teachers, neighbors.
22 Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
24 you, Dr. Santos.

25 Ariel Silberman.

1
2 MS. SILBERMAN: Hello. First of all,
3 my name is Ariel, and I'm a sophomore at
4 Nassau Community College, as well as the
5 proud president of the Achilles Club on
6 campus. Thank you, Mr. Nicoletto. You did
7 us a real solid there.

8 It is a privilege to be able to
9 speak to you today. As I stand in
10 solidarity with the professors from my
11 college in seeking the full time faculty
12 having their contract renewed. As it
13 stands now, the College is going into
14 quite a few months of now not having its
15 contract renewed, which in turn puts
16 extra pressure on the professors who are
17 the heart of the school. Without the
18 security of a contract, the teaching
19 faculty are on shaky ground, which then
20 puts the students in uncertain
21 circumstances.

22 How can any institution for higher
23 learning be expected to flourish under
24 such circumstances? It is quite simple.
25 Strongly supported professors lead to

1
2 better student outcomes, both at Nassau
3 and for what happens after.

4 It was a long shot when I took the
5 GED at Nassau with the hope that I could
6 attend. There are a variety of obstacles
7 students on the autism spectrum must
8 overcome to flourish in any institution
9 of higher learning and in life. Nassau
10 provides what no other college in the
11 state does in the Achilles Program for
12 twice exceptional or 2E students. The
13 professors that run and teach that
14 program provide the building blocks of
15 self-confidence, self-advocacy and
16 leadership, as well as nurture talents
17 and passions. They celebrate the fact
18 that giftedness comes in many forms.

19 Nassau Community College has had
20 over 140,000 graduates. A considerable
21 portion of those end up staying in the
22 county even after they graduate. Many
23 alumni become influential and successful
24 individuals precisely because they had a
25 firm foundation on which to build their

1
2 future success. The firm foundation was
3 generations of professors teaching,
4 challenging, mentoring these students to
5 become the best possible versions of
6 themselves, to know that they were equal
7 to anyone attending a four year
8 institution, and that they had an
9 obligation to give the best of themselves
10 to the world. It is that obligation that
11 has me standing before you today
12 imploring you to ask the Nassau Community
13 College Board of Trustees to approve the
14 full time faculty's contract.

15 Any college is only as strong as the
16 people who teach. So give the professors,
17 and by extension the students, the best
18 of foundations on which to build their
19 future dreams of tomorrow.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
21 you, Ariel.

22 Jordan Ruzz.

23 MR. RUZZ: Thank you for giving me
24 the privilege of addressing you this
25 afternoon.

1
2 I grew up in Levittown, graduated
3 high school from Division Avenue in 1966
4 and attended Polytechnic Institute of
5 Brooklyn. I commuted for two years. And
6 in order to make it through that school,
7 which I did, I took every liberal arts
8 course that I was required to take, as
9 well as some math courses at Nassau
10 Community. And I can honestly say that if
11 not for Nassau Community College, my
12 nonmatriculated alma mater, I never would
13 have made it through. It was just
14 impossible in terms of time and finances.
15 At that time, it was a vibrant and a well
16 respected place of learning.

17 My wife is a professor at Nassau
18 Community and the math department. I
19 look at the institution now and I see
20 disarray, and I've seen it for the last
21 nine years. The faculty has been
22 disrespected, mistreated and disregarded,
23 and, yet, they have performed admirably
24 in spite of that.

25 The school has suffered in terms of

1
2 attendance, particularly during COVID,
3 but Nassau Community suffered in terms of
4 attendance far more than its neighboring
5 colleges in Queens and in Suffolk. That
6 wasn't the result of the faculty. That
7 was that was the result of decisions that
8 the Administration made. And I'm sorry to
9 say that I don't have much regard for the
10 performance of this Administration. There
11 was a department at Nassau Community, the
12 Basic Education Program, the BEP
13 Department, of which my wife was a
14 member. In an open enrollment college,
15 the student's capability entering the
16 college isn't a criteria for enforcement.
17 Everyone's taken. The BEP Department
18 helped to transition students that were
19 lacking in study and academic skills to
20 make it in a college environment and they
21 were quite successful. The students they
22 graduated from that program had a very
23 high performance in relation to other
24 departments. It was a stellar department
25 and it was abolished by the

1
2 administration, by one administrator who
3 refused to believe that it was possible.
4 I refuse to believe it was possible for
5 somebody to leave high school and not
6 know their timetables, tables and basic
7 arithmetic skills that my 13-year-old
8 grandson knows by heart and that we all
9 do. It's not important to name that
10 person. She's no longer with the
11 administration.

12 Here we have a faculty that has
13 essentially been shut down in the
14 negotiations and presented with not only
15 no forward advancement in salary, but a
16 significant pay cut. And because they are
17 public employees, the protections of the
18 Taylor Law prevent them from even
19 considering something they would never
20 want to do to begin with. And that's to
21 strike.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Mr.
23 Ruzz, we just ask that you to sum up,
24 please.

25 MR. RUZZ: I ask you, as legislators

1
2 of Nassau County, as you've already, I
3 think, committed to do, to find a way to
4 support these teachers and also to take a
5 hard look at the administration of that
6 college and the board of trustees to find
7 out if they're really doing the job that
8 this county deserves. Thank you.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
10 you, Mr. Ruzz.

11 Margaret Monicelli.

12 MS. MONICELLI: Greetings. I am a
13 lifelong resident of Nassau County and I
14 own parcels located in two legislative
15 districts. For your convenience, I
16 provided a link to the February 3rd, 2020
17 decision by Honorable Jeffrey Brown,
18 entered in the County Clerk's office on
19 March 11, 2020 regarding the Tax Map
20 Certification Letter. The decision in
21 Jeffrey P Falk versus Nassau County found
22 TMCLs to be unlawful and
23 unconstitutional. I will quote the ruling
24 summary. "In sum, the County's current
25 fees associated with providing a TMCL are

1
2 excessive and not tied to the County's
3 responsibility to maintain its property
4 registry. The TMCL fees were not assessed
5 or estimated on the basis of reliable
6 factual studies or statistics and are far
7 in excess of the costs necessary to
8 provide the service of generating the
9 TMCLs. As the fees associated with TMCLs
10 are used to generate revenue, they are an
11 unlawful and unconstitutional tax". Yet,
12 on October 1st, 2021, a clearly partisan
13 vote in the Nassau County Legislature
14 resulted in a significant tax burden on
15 homeowners who must pay \$705 to remove a
16 property lien.

17 Also provided is a link to
18 information currently posted by Nassau
19 County under civic alerts. I think it was
20 District 13 showing the partisan vote on
21 October 1st, 2021; 11 Republicans voted
22 yes, yay, while eight Democrats abstained
23 from voting. In the absence of 13 yays,
24 the proposal did not pass. The proposal
25 was as follows:

1
2 - Eliminate the tax map
3 certification fee of \$355.

4 - Reduce recording fee from \$300 to
5 \$50.

6 - Eliminate the public safety fee of
7 \$50.

8 - Sales taxes would serve as the 100
9 million revenue offset -- I'm running out
10 of time --

11 The present conundrum for many
12 homeowners is whether to convert from
13 variable rate HELOCs to fixed rate
14 mortgages. Given the Federal Reserve's
15 ongoing rise in interest rates and
16 attempts to curb inflation, there was
17 currently a \$705 fee associated with each
18 conversion. The burden of these costs to
19 residential homeowners transcends
20 political affiliation and demographics.
21 The pandemic has placed an indelible
22 financial burden on the world, with
23 Nassau County being no exception. In
24 fact, many Nassau County homeowners face
25 the added tax burden resulting from the

1
2 SALT tax cap deduction of \$10,000.

3 Please vote for the \$655 savings
4 proposed. The tax map certification fee
5 was ruled exorbitant and
6 unconstitutional. I ask that all Nassau
7 County legislators make it a priority to
8 schedule an expeditious revote in order
9 to reverse the aforementioned October
10 1st, 2021 vote.

11 My wonderings are the following: Is
12 this issue on the calendar for a revote?
13 If so, when? If not, when it will be
14 added? Thank you for your time.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

16 Thank you. Ms. Monticello.

17 Pearl Jacobs.

18 MS. JACOBS: I have a question.

19 Pearl Jacobs, Norstand Gardens Civic
20 Association, Uniondale. I have a question
21 for my legislator, Kevan Abrahams. What
22 is the status of the cameras, Legislator
23 Abrahams, that Commissioner Ryder so
24 graciously contributed to Uniondale at
25 the October meeting? Can you stop the

1
2 clock When I when he asked this question?

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: No, it
4 doesn't work that way. It doesn't
5 work --

6 MS. JACOBS: Well, maybe you can
7 answer me after I speak, then.

8 The other issue is redistricting. We
9 want Uniondale to remain whole, and we
10 requesting that Uniondale remain whole
11 with no infringement or encroachment on
12 our boundaries and no encroachment on our
13 commercial and industrial property base.
14 Thank you.

15 Now, here I have a letter that I
16 wrote to Governor Cuomo -- I'm sorry,
17 Governor Hochul, regarding the proposed
18 casino at The Hub, Mitchell Field. So
19 many people in Uniondale are adamantly
20 against this. I know this corporation is
21 going around soliciting people to promote
22 this, but we are against this. I have a
23 letter and I would like to read the first
24 paragraph of this letter, and I'm going
25 to give you the rest as a lengthy letter.

1
2 But it says that, "there's great
3 concern among many Uniondale residents of
4 the proposed casino at Mitchell Field
5 Hub. The major concern is the adverse
6 effects that a casino within close
7 proximity of approximately 40,000
8 students would have on our youth. Here in
9 Nassau County in the greater Long Island
10 area, our youth are struggling with
11 opioid addiction, post COVID depression,
12 alcohol and marijuana abuse, among other
13 addictions. Placing casino within walking
14 distance of Hofstra University, Nassau
15 Community College, Uniondale Charter
16 School and Kellenberg Memorial High
17 School would expose our youth to gambling
18 addiction, a progressive addiction that
19 can result in psychological, physical and
20 social repercussions. Given these
21 struggles, our youth do not need to be
22 exposed to risk factors that could
23 potentially derail them from an academic
24 path to one of a destructive and life
25 suppressing addictive one".

1
2 Now, this letter goes on and on, and
3 I have copies for all of you and
4 Presiding Officer. I have one for County
5 Executive Blakeman, if you can hand that
6 to him.

7 We are adamantly opposing this.
8 Uniondale does not need a casino. In this
9 letter, I cite the adverse effects that
10 would have on our community, Uniondale, a
11 systemically disenfranchised community,
12 economically deprived social inequality
13 that we suffer from. It doesn't belong
14 in Uniondale backyard. So I give you
15 these letters and you can answer my
16 questions.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It was actually
18 pretty quick response. So, I mean, as you
19 know, Pearl, the Commissioner stood right
20 here at the last legislative meeting, I
21 think it was like November maybe, and
22 said that he felt that the cameras were
23 were imminent. We will look into it. I
24 mean, it means to me a couple of weeks, a
25 month at the most. So we will look into

1
2 it and find out why it has not happened
3 already.

4 MS. JACOBS: So can I ask you a
5 question, Legislator Abrahams? Why wasn't
6 -- as adamant as we were about these
7 cameras, and there are so many things
8 going on in our community that these
9 cameras can help mitigate the crimes that
10 are going on. The other issues that are
11 going that I spoke with you about, I
12 don't need to sit up here and do the
13 whole soliloquy over again, but why do I
14 have to come here continuously and bring
15 this issue up? I mean, weren't you're
16 looking into this prior to this or having
17 conversation with our Commissioner Ryder?

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I spoke with
19 him. You know, I don't speak to Mr.
20 Ryder every day.

21 MS. JACOBS: I know you don't speak
22 to him, but we are talking about months.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So, Pearl, you
24 chose the interval of when to come here
25 and talk about that issue, not me. So if

1
2 you choose to come here every single
3 month hoping for a different resolution
4 and you don't get it, then I really can't
5 tell you -- we never said at the last
6 time we met in this legislative body that
7 the cameras will be up by January 23rd.

8 MS. JACOBS: Yes. So it was stated
9 that I asked how long the cameras would
10 be up, and they said within a matter of
11 weeks, right into the new year. That's
12 what I heard.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yeah, Well, I
14 didn't hear that. Well, what I heard --

15 MS. JACOBS: What you have is
16 selective hearing. I'm just saying.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Have a good
18 day.

19 MS. JACOBS: Well, we can have a
20 good day. But like I said, I'm tired of
21 doing the job of my legislator and my
22 councilperson. There needs to be follow
23 up and oversight. It's oversight.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
25 right. The next speaker is Patty Harris

1
2 from Uniondale.

3 MS. HARRIS: Good afternoon. I like
4 to say I'm finally glad to see that there
5 was a Top Cop of color so that our
6 students, our young people can see that
7 this finally can be a Top Cop that has
8 color.

9 Now, also, I hope you give Nassau
10 Community College what they want, because
11 my daughter goes to school there.

12 My thing, what I want to speak about
13 is, of course, the casino. RXR met with
14 us before the pandemic. Then I read an
15 article that the Sands had put on
16 Facebook how this is like almost a done
17 deal. But the one thing that was failed
18 to be mentioned was our county executive
19 has not spoken with the immediate
20 community. He may have spoken to some
21 people who say they are leaders and
22 organizations that's in our community,
23 and we know that some of them get grants
24 and everything. So I'm sure they're a
25 little for it, so they can get something

1
2 to go along with their organizations. But
3 what I am saying, it's fine and dandy,
4 but he has not set up where to meet with
5 our community, the people that live in
6 Uniondale. The last time we had a meeting
7 like that, RXR did it before the pandemic
8 had started. So things have changed
9 because you guys are changing what's
10 going on up there. So if it's changing
11 from what is being developed, so how come
12 they can't ask the community what they
13 want to be changed? Because it was
14 supposed to be in housing and everything
15 up there and now they're squashing that.

16 Also, when it comes to the quality
17 of life, I can't understand how going to
18 go from the Source Mall to Uniondale.
19 What would make it any difference if we
20 would want it. So if we have I don't know
21 who what areas everybody is covering
22 because I only know the two that cover my
23 area and I know Carrie Solages because my
24 late husband, Melvin Harris, Jr., the
25 late Commissioner Melvin Harris Jr, he

1
2 introduced us to all three of those
3 people that represent us and Mr. Carrie
4 Solages -- Legislator Carrie.

5 Unfortunately, I don't know the rest of
6 you -- but I would say, why would you
7 think it's okay? If you want to stand
8 and help us, for people who saying they
9 do not want this community having a
10 casino. We're not saying not to develop
11 around it, just not a casino. You have
12 students, you have residents across the
13 street from the Coliseum.

14 Listen, it was bad enough you charge
15 \$50 to park there. And we live inside
16 Nassau and we already pay taxes. So we
17 shouldn't even be paying \$50 to park our
18 car there.

19 But the one thing I'll say, it's not
20 our fault you keep getting the wrong
21 people for this venue, but a casino is
22 not what we need.

23 And I would like to say to the
24 Legislator Bynoe, we haven't forgotten
25 about East Garden City, so we would like

1
2 an update on that. Thank you (applause).

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Pat
4 Liguori.

5 MS. LIGOURI: Thank you for the
6 opportunity to address you. I'm here to
7 speak about Nickerson Beach, the
8 unanticipated and unannounced closing.
9 I'm grateful to Denise Ford and anyone
10 else, Miss Schaefer, who helped reopen
11 it.

12 But just to give you a sense of the
13 people who were locked out of Nickerson
14 Beach Dog Park: Two active duty FDNY
15 lieutenants; one hand surgeon; one
16 cardiac surgeon who volunteers his time
17 at a VA hospital; two retired NYPD
18 officers, one who is sitting here; Mr.
19 Thompson, who spoke to you, is is a
20 military veteran with a service dog. He's
21 one of two military veterans with PTSD
22 and service dogs. His dog is recuperating
23 from surgery; two FBI agents; one
24 Department of Justice attorney; one
25 corporate attorney partner in a global

1
2 firm; one mayor, former mayor of a local
3 village who's also an attorney; two
4 nurses; one veterinarian; one veterinary
5 student; one flight attendant; one
6 architect; one social worker; one teacher
7 of children with special needs. So while
8 you are very happy to award and
9 congratulate the first responders, please
10 don't forget that the people I've read
11 that are not only first responders,
12 they're essential workers.

13 So again, and I want to encourage
14 you to have greater oversight of the
15 Dover Group, their history is sketchy. We
16 know from the past that they have not
17 lived up to their agreements. They have
18 not submitted the necessary receipts in
19 order to make payment to Nassau County
20 under its prior agreement. So I urge you
21 to not let Dover run amok as they did
22 this time.

23 But thank you, Ms. Ford, for your
24 help as well. And I give you back 50
25 seconds.

1
2 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you, Ms.
3 Liguori. And I think it's nice that you
4 highlighted some of the residents that
5 live in the area and a lot of the people
6 that do utilize the park. And as you
7 said, some of them that may be suffering
8 from PTSD due to their whatever happened
9 in their lives or their jobs. And that
10 was expressed by many people when they
11 were shut out of the park, that they lost
12 that opportunity to be able to walk
13 through it, to just be able to go over
14 down to the beach. There are many that do
15 utilize, they like to go to the beach.
16 They take photographs there of various
17 wildlife. So it's something, when they
18 felt that loss. And I think it's
19 important that finally the beach is still
20 open, has been reopened, the dog park is
21 reopened. And we will, of course,
22 diligently watch this beach. Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
24 Richard Schurin.

25 MR. SCHURIN: I'm going to speak

1
2 also on the dog park. Fifteen years ago
3 when I adopted a puppy, she was quite
4 unruly and I didn't have a place to take
5 her. I went to the dog park and I went in
6 the morning and I met a great number of
7 people that made a huge difference in my
8 life. And it's a very tight knit group.
9 And, as she said, many of these people
10 are accomplished people. And it's a very
11 nice community that was there. I've been
12 fortunate enough to be part of that
13 community for 15 years.

14 Nickerson Beach is a public park
15 used year round for decades. The park
16 exists for the use of residents. We all
17 pay taxes. And up until this past year,
18 the park, my understanding, was
19 administered by county employees who we
20 would we would interact with and they
21 were very nice. Yes, it's true that many
22 of the dog park members did a lot of the
23 work themselves. But these people were
24 fine and they we never had to pay. They
25 were generally cooperative. We worked

1
2 with them. It was a nice situation.

3 Then the County, for some reason,
4 decided to lease out this public park to
5 Dover Group, a private for profit
6 company. When you lease out the
7 administration of a public park to a
8 private company like that, especially one
9 with their record, bad things tend to
10 happen to the residents, the people
11 you're supposed to serve. And lo and
12 behold, without notice Dover Group
13 chained the gate and shut us out.

14 I know, Butch Yamali. I spoke to
15 Butch Yamali about it as soon as it
16 happened. And Butcher Yamail told me,
17 that it was a "health and safety risk and
18 that there was a rule that was put into
19 effect by Nassau County many years ago
20 and that it was his job to enforce that
21 rule".

22 So my question to you is -- it's
23 fine and it's great and we're thankful
24 that you opened the park -- But was Butch
25 correct? Is there a rule that the County

1
2 has that he was required to enforce? And
3 how do we know that he's not going to
4 decide one day to lock us out again or to
5 charge us as people said. We've never
6 been charged before. Now he wants to
7 charge us \$15.

8 His prior deal, my understanding, at
9 Malibu was that he received revenue from
10 which he made profits by charging the the
11 parking fee. That's how he was paid, one
12 of the ways in which he was paid. Is that
13 the same way he's going to be paid in
14 this case.

15 Basically, my time is running out.
16 But it's a terrible thing I think.
17 Especially Nickerson Beach, a public park
18 that's been run by the County for
19 decades, for you to hand it over to Butch
20 Yamali and Dover Group to make profit
21 from without any notice to anybody. And
22 you see what happens? So I urge you, I
23 urge you to take a look at it and not
24 make that mistake again.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Scott

1
2 Diamond.

3 MR. DIAMOND: Oh, okay. My name is
4 Scott Diamond. I addressed this body back
5 in October over the issue of the error
6 that was made in the assessment rolls. At
7 the time, I warned this body that the
8 Department of Assessment had made an
9 arbitrary and potentially illegal change
10 to the TPP base exemption of 842
11 properties. I am quoting from page 12 of
12 the Nassau County Comptroller's Review of
13 the Reassessment. It says in bold
14 letters, "Unless there is a physical
15 change to the property, the exemption
16 base remains the same even if a
17 property's assessed value is decreased to
18 a property tax appeal grievance". The
19 explanation given that I received of why
20 my property was included in the 842 was
21 counter to what that statement says.

22 So, as I said, the changes they made
23 were potentially illegal. Yet, I have
24 seen nothing from them or from this Body
25 as an explanation of why they targeted

1
2 these 842 properties and how they justify
3 the illegal change in the base exemption.
4 That's one point.

5 Second point is, during the
6 reassessment, several members of this
7 body complained vociferously that the
8 previous administration was not being
9 transparent in dealing with the
10 assessment process. Yet, the first thing
11 they do under this new administration is
12 they make a change. Secretively. Nobody
13 was informed about this change. In fact,
14 the only reason why we know about this
15 change was because they screwed it up and
16 made an error in applying the change to
17 the assessment rolls. The Assessor said
18 he committed himself to a the entire
19 assessment process being more fair,
20 accurate and transparent and that wasn't.

21 And then in the general tax bills,
22 they committed the exact same error.
23 What apparently happened is when they
24 fixed it for the school taxes, nobody
25 bothered to check to see if it would

1
2 apply to the general taxes. So the same
3 error was committed. They fixed it
4 quickly, but no information, no
5 announcement, no apology was made to the
6 842 residents who were affected by this
7 change. This is not being transparent.
8 This is not being competent. It is gross
9 incompetence on the part of the
10 assessment, and I wonder what this Body
11 is going to do about it.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

13 Legislator Ferretti.

14 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Good to see you
15 again, Mr. Diamond. You brought up the
16 October issue with your property, and you
17 mentioned that you were not aware as to
18 why your property was included in one of
19 the 800.

20 MR. DIAMOND: That's not exactly
21 what I said. What I said was I was not
22 aware why my property was targeted. Yes,
23 you were very helpful in getting
24 connected me with Mr. Cronin. And I
25 understand what Mr. Cronin's explanation

1
2 was as to why my property was included.
3 But that explanation is directly in
4 contradiction to the quote I just read
5 from the Comptroller's.

6 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Well, just for
7 the sake of clarity. So your property was
8 included because grade of your property
9 at your request was changed.

10 MR. DIAMOND: Correct. How does that
11 constitute a "physical change to the
12 property"? It does not.

13 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So I mean,
14 that's really a term of assessment that
15 I'm not familiar with. But I would think
16 that if your grade is changed, meaning
17 the value of your house, that that's a
18 physical change. But I would leave that
19 to the conversation you had with the
20 Assessor.

21 MR. DIAMOND: A physical change is
22 structural change or a change in the
23 structure of the property.

24 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Right. And
25 changing the grade of the property

1
2 constitutes a physical change.

3 MR. DIAMOND: No, it does not.

4 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I don't want
5 to argue with you. I just want to just
6 for the record make clear that there was
7 a change to the grade at your request,
8 which was the reason that your exemption
9 base was lowered.

10 The second point I wanted to make,
11 based on your comments, you mentioned
12 that the general tax bill, the same error
13 was carried over from the school tax; did
14 you get an accurate tax bill in the mail?

15 MR. DIAMOND: Eventually, yes.

16 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: But did you
17 ever get an incorrect tax bill in the
18 mail for the general?

19 MR. DIAMOND: No. Because the
20 reason why I did not was because the
21 issue was brought to the attention of the
22 Department of Assessment immediately, and
23 they moved immediately to correct the
24 error. But the fact is that the tax rolls
25 that were published on the land record

1
2 review page on January 2nd were incorrect
3 and the same reasoning from the school
4 bill.

5 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So my
6 understanding is that there was some
7 incorrect information that was published
8 on the website for a short period, but
9 the 800 some odd properties that were
10 affected in the school tax and did
11 receive a bill that may have not been
12 correct for the general tax, that did not
13 happen.

14 MR. DIAMOND: Correct.

15 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So I just
16 wanted to make that clear. Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
18 you, Mr. Diamond.

19 Frances Viscovich (applause).

20 MS. VISCOVICH: Good afternoon.
21 My name is Professor Fran Viscovich. I am
22 the coordinator of the Aspires Program.
23 I'd like to thank all of you for your
24 instrumental part in having Aspires and
25 Achilles Program reinstated at Nassau

1
2 Community College. Because of you, there
3 have been approximately 12 NCC graduates
4 from Aspires since the program was
5 reinstated. They have gone on to four
6 year colleges or gone into the workforce.
7 Thank you for your support and trusting
8 me to continue the program for the
9 Autistic Spectrum Disorder students at
10 the College in Aspires. I will be forever
11 grateful for what you did.

12 What many don't know is why I became
13 a professor at NCC. I was a 17 year old
14 living on my own due to a family tragedy.
15 I was scared and uncertain of my
16 direction, working two jobs and not
17 knowing what to do next. I decided to go
18 to NCC. It was the best decision I ever
19 made. Nassau Community College saved my
20 life. I eventually transferred to SUNY
21 Oneonta and received my bachelor's
22 degree. I returned to Long Island to work
23 as a scientist for Nassau County
24 Department of Health, a private
25 engineering firm, and the United States

1
2 Environmental Protection Agency. But I
3 always remembered Nassau Community
4 College and what it did for me. I decided
5 to go for my master's in Earth Science
6 because I wanted to return to the place
7 that helped me to succeed. I wanted to
8 help students like me who probably would
9 never have gone to college if Nassau
10 Community College did not exist.

11 I have been a full time professor
12 here now for 22 years. I have seen a lot
13 of changes over this time. Some good;
14 some not so good. But I have always loved
15 being here. It has been an honor to teach
16 environmental classes, as well as to be
17 able to start a program for college bound
18 students, ASD students.

19 I am also a single mother. I've
20 raised two sons, my youngest being
21 autistic and in Aspires. So I thank you
22 and the College as a resident of Nassau
23 County who was supported by my
24 colleagues, many administrators and all
25 of you to serve the autistic population.

1
2 Again, I thank you.

3 However, for the first time ever in
4 my career here, I'm thinking I may have
5 to go elsewhere because I may not be able
6 to afford to stay. Paying into my
7 benefits now will cause me and many
8 others financial hardship. It is also
9 unprecedented to ask us to pay for our
10 benefits during contract negotiations. So
11 I stand here and I ask you, once again,
12 for support.

13 Our college is at a crossroad, and I
14 think there are many factors. One major
15 one is we have lost being a united campus
16 and we need to get that back. We need to
17 remember the immense pressure we all
18 faced with the pandemic and how we all
19 work to ensure the College remained a
20 source of normalcy for our students
21 through this difficult time. We need to
22 build our campus back to the bustling
23 college it was when I came to work here
24 over two decades ago and understand that
25 if our foundation is not secure, our

1
2 institution could crumble. We need to
3 move forward, put disagreements behind
4 us, work together for what is best for
5 the college, students, community, and all
6 of us who work here. Is there a way the
7 County could help us with that? Maybe
8 someone to help support with our
9 negotiations and contract so we move
10 forward in a fair and dignified manner
11 and once again become a united campus.
12 Thank you very much.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
14 you.

15 Bonnie Salsone.

16 MS. SALSONE: Hello. Good afternoon.
17 Thank you for giving me the opportunity
18 to speak. I just want to thank Denise
19 Ford for keeping your word. Last time we
20 were here, you did say that you were
21 going to work on helping us get back into
22 the Nickerson Beach and the dog park.
23 Thank you very much. On my way here, I
24 passed and saw the gates open, which was
25 wonderful.

1
2 We do have a very strong community
3 there. It's social, emotional, mental. I
4 mean, we're you know, we love our dogs.
5 And our dogs -- I have a big dog. He's
6 100 pounds. He needs to run. And there's
7 really nowhere on the barrier island for
8 these animals to go. So we do really,
9 really appreciate all your help.

10 It's kind of minute, but summer
11 hours, we always had like, we could go in
12 at 4:00. Last year they changed it to
13 5:30, maybe a 5:00 that we can get in in
14 the afternoon without having to pay. Last
15 year there was a couple of incidents at
16 the toll because we would go in with our
17 dogs at like 5:15 and there was some
18 rejection of us going through. So that
19 created a problem just to have a little
20 foresight.

21 I did speak also to Dover, to Lou at
22 the Dover Group, and he told me that he
23 was enforcing the rules of Nassau County.
24 So I'm just wondering, is there a place
25 to see the rules, regulations and laws

1
2 and also transparency about the bid
3 process of how they got the bid to take
4 over the Nickerson Beach? Lou told me
5 they took over the concession, the
6 basketball court, the playground, the
7 skate park, the RV area, the beach and
8 the dog park, as well as the baseball
9 park. So I'm just wondering how and where
10 is that bidding done? I'm a realtor and
11 I have people that would have loved to
12 have bid on that contract. Is it
13 published somewhere publicly? You don't
14 have to answer me now. I know you have my
15 e-mail.

16 Also, I just want to say, lastly,
17 that we're really, really grateful. Thank
18 you so much. And I can't wait to get my
19 dog back there today.

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: Well, I hope he
21 has a lot of fun running around once
22 again.

23 But I do have to say that we'll
24 reach out to the Commissioner as well as
25 the County Executive. And I'm sure that

1
2 we have a record with this transcript of
3 your comments so we can make sure that we
4 could follow up.

5 MS. SALSONE: And the rules and
6 regulations.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'm a little
8 unsure. I'll find out. Okay. Thank you so
9 much.

10 MS. SALSONE: Thank you, everyone.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
12 Thank you.

13 Barry Grodenchik.

14 MR. GRODENCHIK: Hi. Thank you for
15 the opportunity to be here today.

16 My name is Barry Grodenchik, and I
17 am the proud husband of what seems like a
18 lifelong member of the faculty at Nassau
19 Community College. I've had the pleasure
20 of working with Carrie A. and his sister,
21 Assemblywoman Solages and some of the
22 other members of elected officials in
23 Nassau as a former member of the New York
24 City Council and as a member awhile back
25 of the New York State Assembly.

1
2 I'm here today first to thank you
3 for taking a very long time to listen to
4 the people of Nassau County. I did not
5 have the honor of growing up in Nassau,
6 but I did the next best thing. I met my
7 wife in Nassau. She's a Nassau woman. We
8 got engaged in Nassau. We got married in
9 Nassau, and our son was born at North
10 Shore Hospital. So we've done it all.

11 Tomorrow, my wife will begin her
12 43rd year of working at Nassau Community
13 College, that's 43 years part time and
14 full time tomorrow marks 37 years. And I
15 just wanted to thank you. I know how
16 important, as a former public official,
17 education is to this county. Nassau
18 County has a sterling reputation. And one
19 of the gems, as has been pointed out by
20 some of the people sitting here, is
21 Nassau Community College. It really is an
22 outstanding institute of higher
23 education. Those of you who are married
24 to educators or friends with educators
25 know the work doesn't end at 3:00, 4:00,

1
2 5:00 or 6:00. It goes on at night. It
3 goes on on the weekends. It goes on on
4 vacations. It goes on on holidays, both
5 secular and religious. It doesn't ever
6 seem to end. To ask these wonderful
7 people who are here to take what is
8 effectively a cut in pay for doing a job
9 that they have done in -- we're now in my
10 family into our fifth decade. And I am
11 also the son-in-law of my father-in-law,
12 Professor Rothberg, of blessed memory. It
13 goes on and on and on. And all they're
14 asking, with your help, is a decent
15 salary so they can continue to live in
16 this beautiful land that we call Long
17 Island.

18 I know the Presiding Officer
19 mentioned earlier that what you can do is
20 somewhat limited based upon the State
21 Law. I have reached out to my state
22 lawmakers to talk to them, but we know
23 that government is the art of the
24 possible. We work very hard. And I know
25 the hours that you put in and I know what

1
2 you have given up. I'm asking you to take
3 a hard look at this situation so that the
4 people behind us who educate your
5 children can continue to do so with
6 financial stability and can continue to
7 look on with pride in what they do. It is
8 so very, very important.

9 Thank you for your time and for
10 listening to me today.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
12 you, Mr. Gordon.

13 Levada Felder.

14 MS. FELDER: Hi. Happy New Year.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Happy
16 New Year.

17 MS. FELDER: I was listening to
18 everybody's situation. My mom used to say
19 when I used to complain, show me a man
20 with no shoes and I'll show you a man
21 with no feet. So thank you again.

22 As you know, the Nassau County
23 Department of Social Services has
24 attempted to put a stop to Eager to
25 Serve's ability to serve the homeless in

1
2 Nassau County with federal funds. We
3 further note that for a local government
4 to prevent a not for profit organization
5 from doing business with the government
6 without due process of law is
7 unconstitutional and that's why a lawsuit
8 has ensued.

9 Nevertheless, this has resulted in
10 my need to apply for unemployment due to
11 loss of income, as I have been the
12 executive director of Eager to Serve
13 since 1990. I was denied unemployment and
14 had to request a hearing. I went to EAC
15 in Hempstead to apply to get assistance
16 for utilities. I was denied based on no
17 income, although I provided the income
18 documentation; see attached. I was
19 informed by one of the caseworkers at EAC
20 to go to Nassau County Department of
21 Social Services and apply for temporary
22 assistance because I have no income.

23 Can a nation stand tall if a
24 governmental entity weakens and breaks up
25 families through not providing financial

1
2 assistance and services for some
3 households and not, according to state
4 and federal regulations, while at the
5 same time strengthening it and preserving
6 other families by providing financial
7 assistance and services according to
8 state and federal regulations in Nassau
9 County. Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
11 you. That concludes the slips that I have
12 in the public comment portion of our
13 meeting. And we're going to go into the
14 calendar of the --

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Sorry,
16 Presiding Officer, I know you want to get
17 into the calendar. Just a quick update.

18 Commissioner Ryder was listening
19 when we were having the back and forth on
20 the cameras, and he wanted to let you
21 know, Pearl, that the purchase order has
22 been done already from the time frame of
23 when he indicated. The company had
24 indicated there are supply chain issues.
25 However, in the interim, the Commissioner

1
2 has already reached out to LIPA because
3 they will be actually installing the
4 cameras. And he wanted to let you know
5 that once he gets the cameras, they'll be
6 able to get installed. But, obviously,
7 the company that we had ordered them from
8 indicated supply chain issues and that is
9 why the cameras are not delivered. But he
10 just wanted to let you know that.

11 Thank you, Presiding officer.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So all
13 of the faculty here, so we're going out
14 to the Calendar. You can stay. Obviously,
15 you're welcome to stay. Or if you would
16 like to head back at this point, it's
17 fine.

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: And we wish you
19 luck in your negotiations. Nassau
20 Community College is a gem and good luck.
21 And I'm hoping that they'll rethink this
22 health, you know, charge.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thanks
24 again.

25 *****

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I'm
3 going to call the Consent Calendar, which
4 consists of items that went through
5 Committees a couple of weeks ago, and
6 it's been agreed by the Majority and the
7 Minority that no further debate or
8 discussion is needed at this time on
9 these items.

10 Item one, Ordinance one; Item two,
11 Ordinance two; Item three, Ordinance
12 three; Item four, Ordinance four; Item
13 five, Ordinance five; Item six, Ordinance
14 six; Item seven, Ordinance seven, Item
15 eight, Ordinance eight; Item nine,
16 Ordinance nine; Item 10, Resolution one;
17 Item 11, Resolution two; Item 12,
18 Resolution three; Item 13, Resolution
19 four; Item 14, Resolution five; Item 15,
20 Resolution six; Item 16, Resolution
21 seven; Item 17, Resolution eight; Item
22 18, Resolution nine; Item 19, Resolution
23 ten; Item 20, Resolution 11; Item 21,
24 Resolution 12; Item 22, Resolution 13;
25 Item 23, Resolution 14; Item 25,

1
2 Resolution 16. Item 27, Resolution 18;
3 Item 28, Resolution 19; Item 29,
4 Resolution 20; Item 30, Resolution 21;
5 Item 31, Resolution 22; Item 32,
6 Resolution 23.

7 Any debate or discussion among the
8 legislators?

9 (Whereupon, no verbal
10 response.)

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
12 Hearing None. We need a motion by
13 Legislative Walker. Seconded by Deputy
14 Presiding Officer Kopel.

15 All in favor of the Consent Items,
16 signify by saying "Aye".

17 (Whereupon, all members of
18 the Nassau County Legislature
19 respond in favor with, "Aye".)

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
21 opposed.

22 (Whereupon, no verbal
23 response.)

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
25 items passed unanimously.

1
2 We have two non consent items. First
3 is Item 24, Resolution 15, which is a
4 resolution authorizing the County
5 Executive to provide grants to eligible
6 health and social services administered
7 by qualifying not for profit entities.
8 Motion by Legislator Drucker. Seconded by
9 Legislator Kennedy. So that item is
10 before us.

11 We have someone here to speak on a
12 Resolution 24.

13 COMMISSIONER ARNOLD: Good
14 afternoon, Ken Arnold, Public Works.

15 This item is authorized funds for
16 public and private water districts. These
17 funds capped at -- Not that one. Which
18 one is it?

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: 24 is
20 Human Services.

21 COMMISSIONER ARNOLD: Oh, geez. All
22 right. Sorry about that. Okay. All
23 right.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: That's
25 all right.

1
2 Deputy County Executive Anissa
3 Moore.

4 DCE MOORE: Good afternoon to
5 Presiding Legislator and also to Minority
6 Leader and to all of the members of the
7 Legislative Body.

8 I believe I'm here to present to you
9 Phase II of the ARPA funding for the
10 existing 235 applications, which
11 represent our agency partners and our
12 community organizations. I Believe I can
13 take questions at this time, but I do
14 want to just inform you in case at this
15 time you're unaware that for Phase I, the
16 Phase I award packages for the existing
17 106 agencies were distributed during the
18 week of October 17th. All of those
19 agencies receive their funds within ten
20 days of the process, and now I'll open it
21 up for questions.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
23 Legislator Drucker.

24 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
25 Presiding officer. Hi, Anissa. How are

1
2 you?

3 DCE MOORE: Hello, how are you,
4 Legislator? Good to see you.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I just have a
6 question on one of the items. I guess
7 it's contract 265 to the Mid Island YJCC
8 \$382,948 is in our back up here. Number
9 one, I'd like to see a copy of that
10 contract is there any possibility I can
11 get a copy of that contract? And if you
12 could just talk about that particular
13 item because it's.

14 DCE MOORE: Yeah. I'm not looking at
15 the actual contract here, Legislator, but
16 I can get you a copy of that. Again, I
17 just want to remind you for Phase II,
18 which is what we're referring to right
19 now, for Phase II, these were all
20 projects that were proposed in 2021 to
21 address the pandemic. And so these
22 projects represent those projects that
23 these agencies proposed at the time. This
24 is in addition to the existing contracts
25 that these particular agencies already

1
2 have.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: That's great.
4 Thank you. I would love to see a copy of
5 the existing contract and maybe what this
6 one is about, because I'd like to go back
7 and and talk to this institution who has
8 a very strong presence in my district.

9 DCE MOORE: Absolutely. We'll make
10 sure that you have that this week. Thank
11 you for your support. Are there any other
12 questions?

13 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
14 Anissa.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Are
16 there any other questions?

17 (Whereupon, no verbal
18 response.)

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: While
20 you're there, I think the other item that
21 was not called is 26. Did you have
22 similar questions? Thank you.

23 DCE MOORE: This would be this would
24 be referring to Youth Services, yes.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Hi, DEC Moore.

1
2 DCE MOORE: Hi. Good afternoon,
3 Legislator.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So just a quick
5 question regarding the youth services.
6 So the first item that is listed in my
7 backup is Arthur Morrison Mentors, and
8 it's for \$30,000 to expand their youth
9 services.

10 DCE MOORE: Yes.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It is my
12 understanding that Arthur Morrison
13 Mentors was pulled from some previous --
14 well, it wasn't pulled -- it was tabled
15 on some previous agendas and they didn't
16 even receive the original funds that were
17 awarded to them from the previous
18 administration. So I'm unsure how they
19 would receive expansion funds, and if you
20 could explain that to me.

21 DCE MOORE: So this is coming from
22 two different sources of funding. So what
23 you see here, the \$30,000, this was the
24 additional application. So in other
25 words, this was in addition to the first

1
2 contract that you're referring to which
3 is currently tabled.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So it was my
5 understanding that there was a percentage
6 of each contract that would be then
7 advanced to entities for the expansion.
8 If there wasn't an existing contract that
9 they receive, how are they getting the
10 expansion? I'm actually more
11 interested -- I want them to get the
12 expansion, but I also want them to get
13 the initial contract and I'm at a loss as
14 to why we haven't been able to advance
15 that item to the to this point.

16 DCE MOORE: So this money is
17 separate pool. The first one that you're
18 referring to that was tabled, it's my
19 understanding it was coming out of the
20 general fund and there were questions
21 about it and that's why it was tabled.

22 The \$30,000 is a separate
23 application that this organization filed
24 during 2021, and because they were still
25 eligible for that, that's why they're a

1
2 part of Phase II to receive this \$30,000.
3 Now, what I'm speaking to you today has
4 nothing to do with the actual contract
5 that's been tabled.

6 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. But do you
7 understand how I might be getting that
8 confused? Because I was --

9 DCE MOORE: Absolutely.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: -- told that the
11 only folks that had a contract originally
12 would be getting an expansion.

13 DCE MOORE: Right. So let me just
14 explain for everyone for purposes of
15 clarification.

16 For Phase II, Phase II was open to
17 new agencies as well as existing
18 agencies. The purpose of Phase II was to
19 make sure that many of our community
20 partners had the opportunity to benefit
21 from the actual ARPA funding. And that's
22 the issue there in terms of making sure
23 that you understand the difference
24 between the two.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. Thank you.

1
2 And then so for the original item that
3 was tabled, you stated it was tabled
4 because it was coming from General Fund.

5 DCE MOORE: Yes.

6 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So how do youth
7 groups normally get funded?

8 DCE MOORE: So it's my understanding
9 that this particular application, for
10 whatever reason, because it's not a part
11 of that particular time, that it was, I
12 guess, shared or presented on the last
13 day of 2021. And because of the change in
14 administration and transition, this
15 particular contract then kind of got lost
16 in the shuffle. It was then later on
17 approved. I believe that was in March,
18 and it's been tabled since because there
19 were questions about the source of
20 funding and also a question about the
21 actual RFP process, this particular
22 application, there was some questions
23 about the process and that's why it was
24 tabled. But I can work with you to see
25 how we can work together to make sure

1
2 that Morrison Mentors, that we can look
3 at this contract again and make sure that
4 we can help the agency.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It was my
6 understanding that there was a site visit
7 to the location.

8 DCE MOORE: So the site visit that
9 you're referring to would be for Choice
10 for All.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It was my
12 understanding that you also visited
13 Morrison Mentors.

14 DCE MOORE: Right. But the purpose
15 of the Morrison Mentors visit was not to
16 in any way question the site. It was to
17 see how we could partner with the
18 organization, because at the time I had
19 just come into the County and I had heard
20 so many of the wonderful things that
21 Morrison Mentors was doing in the
22 community.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: And those
24 wonderful things still exist.

25 DCE MOORE: They do.

1
2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: And they're still
3 providing services, but they're doing so
4 in many cases on the cuff because they're
5 not getting funding from the County that
6 was promised to them from the earlier --
7 it was a Letter of Intent, I believe it's
8 called, if I'm not mistaken, that was
9 extended to them for the original grant.

10 So I'm happy to know that they'll at
11 least get \$30,000 in the immediate. But I
12 still would love to get together and talk
13 about that contract that's still sitting
14 out there tabled.

15 DCE MOORE: Okay. Agreed.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: All right. Thank
17 you very much.

18 DCE MOORE: Thank you. Any other
19 questions?

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
21 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Hi.

23 DCE MOORE: Hi.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Do you
25 anticipate there being another round of

1
2 this type of grant being issued through
3 this funding?

4 DCE MOORE: I'm not sure. I don't
5 know if I can actually physically deal
6 with the idea of dealing with another
7 phase of ARPA, but I will say that I
8 support all of the agencies and if the
9 money is available, I would definitely be
10 working with this Body to make sure that
11 our community partners would have access
12 to the funding.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Yeah,
14 because I'm afraid some of them were not,
15 for whatever reason, weren't aware of it.
16 And I think it would be beneficial;
17 although, I'm sorry to cause extra work,
18 but there are so many programs out there
19 that could really use the help right now,
20 especially during these times.

21 DCE MOORE: Right. Well, I'm sure
22 that, once again, if there are funds that
23 are available, that they'll still have
24 the opportunity to contact the actual
25 departments, and the departments would be

1
2 working hand in hand with those agencies
3 to see if we could secure some funding.
4 And, obviously, we have another round in
5 terms of our regular contracts. They can
6 be a part of that process as well. And
7 when that happens, I will definitely have
8 our office reach out to your office to
9 make sure that you can inform the
10 agencies within your area.

11 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Thank
12 you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
14 Legislator Bynoe then Legislator Mule.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: DCE Moore,
16 especially, I echo the sentiments of
17 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton. I would
18 actually ask you to really do a
19 hyperfocus on areas of mental health for
20 our young people. There's, you know,
21 shortages all over the place. And we know
22 that our young people are suffering and
23 at higher rates now, you know, I won't
24 say post pandemic.

25 DCE MOORE: It's here.

1
2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It's real after
3 having had the shutdown for the two year
4 period. So anything we could do to help
5 our young people who are suffering, I
6 think, is paramount. So if you could
7 really spend some time maybe identifying
8 other entities aside from maybe who we
9 are currently engaging, see if we can
10 broaden our scope of services in that
11 area.

12 DCE MOORE: Yeah, well said. And
13 I'll say this, mental health is a
14 priority for all of my areas, obviously,
15 because I'm working with aging youth as
16 well as the mental health area.

17 I will also state that, obviously,
18 right now we're still in the process of
19 working to address some of the issues
20 that were shared earlier about the RFEI
21 as it relates to the opioid funds, but
22 also through our mental health area.
23 We're really trying to reach out to
24 agencies. I can say that I'm confident in
25 my new team that we are working to reach

1
2 out to agencies that, obviously, have
3 received funds in the past, but also
4 reaching out to new agencies. And some of
5 those new agencies were actually tapped
6 in this Phase II. That was the goal
7 because we wanted to expand to make sure
8 that it's not always the same agencies
9 benefiting, especially because we had
10 monies coming in from the federal
11 government to do that work.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Excellent. And
13 then education recovery, we know some
14 districts are suffering more than others
15 in terms of getting the kids up to speed.
16 I hope that some of those organizations
17 are also getting that additional funds,
18 and that's why Arthur Morrison and I
19 believe Choice for All are critical
20 because those entities are really
21 assisting in districts that we know have
22 known slower rates of education recovery.

23 DCE MOORE: Well said. And I also
24 agree just to say that education and
25 prevention are two of the criteria for

1
2 this year's mental health team.

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

4 DCE MOORE: If there are no other
5 questions. Oh, I believe there is. Hi,
6 Legislator Mule.

7 LEGISLATOR MULE: How are you? So
8 after this round gets paid out, how much
9 money is left?

10 DCE MOORE: How much money is left?

11 LEGISLATOR MULE: Yeah.

12 DCE MOORE: (Perusing) So for right
13 now, currently, because there are several
14 awards and pending applications, I can't
15 really give you a number, but I can give
16 you a number based on what we've spent
17 already, if that's helpful, at least we
18 can go on the record:

19 - For behavioral health support, we
20 had 51 applications. We have right now at
21 present awarded \$2,498,000.

22 - For the expansion of the Office
23 of Aging 35 applications. Again, the
24 total awarded is \$2,158,000.

25 - For the expansion of youth

1
2 services. We had 87 applications. Total
3 amount right now awarded \$1,734,000 and
4 is some more change. But I'm just giving
5 you the estimates here.

6 - For the Health and Social Services
7 grant, 67 applications so far and, once
8 again, \$2.4 million.

9 So we are right now, currently as an
10 administration, we're committed to moving
11 forward with these agencies and making
12 sure that these agencies have the money
13 that they need so that we can address the
14 needs of the 1.4 million residents that
15 we serve.

16 LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you.

17 DCE MOORE: Thank you.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I just
19 want to just put on the record also that
20 we believe the estimate of the funds that
21 are remaining are somewhere around \$250
22 million. So we really need to move on
23 this funding because there's an end date
24 at which time we're going to have to
25 return the funding.

1
2 DCE MOORE: Sure. And we're working
3 on that. But remember, in that particular
4 division of funds, there are different
5 areas. There's still the tourism area,
6 there's still the technical aspect area,
7 there's still the veteran support. So I'm
8 only addressing my areas. I just want to
9 be clear.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I get
11 it. However, we were just mentioning the
12 reasons why it's such an important area.
13 I hope you really push for these for
14 these programs because the money is going
15 to have to be returned and that is going
16 to drive me crazy.

17 DCE MOORE: Trust me, we will not
18 return any money.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I hope
20 so.

21 DCE MOORE: But if you support
22 today, at least that will again, that
23 will allow for these numbers to to go up
24 in terms of increase. So I need the
25 support that you'll vote today so that we

1
2 can make sure that we increase the
3 funding. That's key.

4 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We
5 will. But I would also try to get the
6 next done as quickly as possible. You
7 know, it's easy to say we won't have to
8 return it, but as you see how arduous it
9 is. It takes time and it has to be
10 allocated --

11 DCE MOORE: We have until 2024 and
12 then 2026 to show. But the point is this,
13 we want to do due diligence as well, and
14 that's why. We had a lot of applications
15 and those applications and doing due
16 diligence, working with Adora as well as
17 Haggerty, our consultants, we want to
18 make sure that we're presenting
19 organizations that are not just worthy,
20 but that have actually met the criteria.
21 And that was a whole 'nother (sic) piece
22 to make sure that they met the criteria.
23 But I do agree with you, that's the goal,
24 is to make sure that we maximize the
25 amount of agencies that can really

1
2 receive the funding at this time.

3 And I also would like to add that
4 during this process, it was a very
5 tedious process, but I just want to
6 publicly thank our Comptroller's Office
7 and also our Office of Budget, that we
8 all worked together on this on weekly
9 meetings to make sure that we
10 communicated so that we could present
11 these resolutions to you today.

12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
13 appreciate everyone's work, but I will
14 say that just my quick math in my head,
15 it's only about 10 million, which is a
16 lot of money. But when you think about
17 the total amount, I mean, you're saying
18 you represent about a quarter of the
19 agencies that should be entitled to this
20 funding. I mean, 10 million is nowhere
21 close to a quarter of 300 --

22 DCE MOORE: But we still have two
23 years and we're in the process now. And,
24 obviously, working with all of the
25 legislators that are here, that's our

1
2 goal; to make that happen. And I'm
3 confident you're going to work with me to
4 make that happen.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Well,
6 we are. But, again, let's not do this as
7 a last minute rush because we see how
8 much time it takes. And that's, in my
9 opinion, when we run into trouble, we're
10 better off starting out early.

11 DCE MOORE: And that's why we call
12 this Phase II; there's more to come.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Well,
14 let's get it here as soon as possible.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
16 Legislator Schaefer.

17 DCE MOORE: Hi. Good afternoon,
18 Legislator. How are you?

19 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Good, how are
20 you? Just a quick thought in light of
21 what we were just talking about; do you
22 feel that at this point, now that you've
23 gone through a certain number of
24 applications and you're getting the
25 funding out, is the process being

1
2 streamlined at all? Were there glitches
3 initially or just delays? And now, just
4 in light of making sure we get out as
5 much as we can, or is there more that you
6 need even if it's from us?

7 DCE MOORE: No, absolutely. I mean,
8 here's the reality. Under the former
9 administration, this was a flawed process
10 that would take 6 to 8 months to actually
11 award the agencies. We've now streamlined
12 the process under our administration that
13 the agencies can receive their money in 5
14 to 10 days. So we're working to make this
15 happen.

16 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Okay. Thank
17 you.

18 DCE MOORE: Thank you.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
20 you very much.

21 We need a motion and second on Item
22 26. Legislator Ferretti moves it.
23 Legislator Guiffre seconds it. So now we
24 have both 24 and 26 before us. Any
25 further questions or 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 with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal

response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: They
carry unanimously.

We need a motion to adjourn this
meeting of the Legislature. Moved by
Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
Ford. All in favor of adjourning signify
by saying "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members of

the Nassau County Legislature

respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those

opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Carries unanimously.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I am
3 going to reconvene the November 21st
4 meeting of the Legislature. So we're
5 going to go into the Capital Plan items.

6 I will call Items one and two
7 together, ordinances to adopt the Capital
8 Budget for the County of Nassau for the
9 first year of the Four Year Capital Plan
10 to commence on January 1st, 2022, and end
11 January 1st, 2023, pursuant to the
12 provisions of Section 310 of the County
13 Government Law. Motion by Minority Leader
14 Abrahams, second by Deputy Presiding
15 Officer Kopel. Those items are before us.

16 COMMISSIONER ARNOLD: Good
17 afternoon. Ken Arnold, Public Works.

18 Items one and two are the Capital
19 Budget Ordinances for 2022 and 2023.
20 Since 2022 Capital Plan was not approved,
21 that is why we have item number one on
22 the Calendar. Of that, the 2022 Capital
23 Budget is for a total of -- Hold on a
24 second. The total 2023 Capital Budget
25 for a total of \$325 million of County

1
2 debt for General, non county debt of \$52
3 million, of SSW, we have \$156 million of
4 county debt and non county debt of \$31
5 million of SSW.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Just
7 to go back one step, what we were doing
8 is reconvening the hearing. So,
9 therefore, motion by Minority Leader
10 Abrahams and the second by Deputy
11 Presiding Officer Kopel was a motion to
12 open the hearing.

13 COMMISSIONER ARNOLD: I'm sorry.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We
15 need a vote on that. All in favor of
16 opening the hearing signify by saying
17 "Aye".

18 (Whereupon, all members of
19 the Nassau County Legislature
20 respond in favor with, "Aye".)

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
22 opposed.

23 (Whereupon, no verbal
24 response.)

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.

The hearing's open and you've had your say already.

COMMISSIONER ARNOLD: I think we do that every year (laughter).

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any questions for Ken Arnold?

(Whereupon, no verbal response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay. We're good.

Now I need a motion and second to close the hearing. Motion by Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator Drucker. All in favor of closing the hearing signify by saying "Aye".

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

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Carries unanimously. The hearings are

1
2 closed.

3 No we are going to call Calendar's
4 number three and five. Calendar number
5 three is an Ordinance to adopt the
6 Capital Budget for the County of Nassau
7 for the first year, the four year Capital
8 Plan to commence on January 1st, 2022,
9 pursuant to the provisions of Section 310
10 of the County government Law of Nassau
11 County. Calendar number five is a
12 Resolution to adopt the four year Capital
13 Plan for the County of Nassau to commence
14 on January 1st, 2022, pursuant to the
15 provisions of Section 310 of the County
16 Government Law. Motion by Legislator
17 Bynoe, seconded by Legislator Pilip.
18 Those items are now before us.

19 COMMISSIONER ARNOLD: Thank you. So
20 as I stated previously, the first item is
21 for the 22 to 25 Capital plan that was
22 not approved last time through. Most of
23 those numbers are held to zero and pushed
24 into the 23 plan, which I'll describe
25 here.

1
2 For the 2023 to 2026 plan, the
3 details are as follows:

4 We have \$1.6 billion in general
5 capital borrowing, general capital debt
6 for that period of time. And for SSW we
7 have \$507 Million for a total of \$2.2
8 billion.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
10 questions?

11 (Whereupon, no verbal
12 response.)

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
14 debate or discussion among the
15 legislators?

16 (Whereupon, no verbal
17 response.)

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
19 Hearing none, all in favor of these items
20 signify by saying "Aye".

21 (Whereupon, all members of
22 the Nassau County Legislature
23 respond in favor with, "Aye".)

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
25 opposed?

1
2 (Whereupon, no verbal
3 response.)

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: They
5 carry unanimously.

6 Now we're calling Items four and six
7 together. Number four is an Ordinance to
8 Adopt a Capital Budget for the County of
9 Nassau for the first year of the four
10 year capital plan to commence on January
11 1st, 2023, pursuant to Section 310 of the
12 County Government Law. Calendar number
13 six is a Resolution to adopt the four
14 year Capital Plan for the County of
15 Nassau to commence on January 1st, 2023,
16 pursuant to the provisions of Section 310
17 of the County Government Law. Motion by
18 Legislator Schaefer, seconded by
19 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, puts those
20 items before us. This is the 2023 to
21 2026.

22 COMMISSIONER ARNOLD: Yeah, that's
23 what I described previously with those
24 numbers. Just also, I would like to add
25 that in total, there are 37 new projects

1
2 added to the Capital Plan for General
3 Capital for the same time period, and we
4 have three additional projects for SSW.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
6 questions?

7 (Whereupon, no verbal
8 response.)

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
10 Hearing none, all in favor of these items
11 signify by saying "Aye".

12 (Whereupon, all members of
13 the Nassau County Legislature
14 respond in favor with, "Aye".)

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
16 opposed?

17 (Whereupon, no verbal
18 response.)

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
20 pass.

21 Now we move on to the Emergency
22 Item, which is the bond for the Capital
23 Budget. I will ask for a motion and
24 second on the emergency. It's an
25 emergency for an ordinance to provide for

1
2 a Capital Expenditure to finance the
3 capital projects identified herein within
4 the County of Nassau and authorizing
5 \$424,869,902 of bonds of the County to
6 finance expenditures pursuant to local
7 finance law of New York and the County
8 Government Law of Nassau County.

9 Motion to establish the Emergency
10 Motion by Legislative Walker, seconded by
11 Legislator Drucker. Any debate or
12 discussion on the emergency?

13 (Whereupon, no verbal
14 response.)

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
16 Hearing none. All in favor of
17 establishing the emergency, signify by
18 saying "Aye".

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

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
23 opposed?

24 (Whereupon, no verbal
25 response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

Carries unanimously.

Now I will call the Item 38-23. An ordinance providing for a Capital Expenditure to finance the capital projects identified herein within the County of Nassau and authorizing \$424,869,902 of bonds of the County to finance that expenditure. Moved by Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel, seconded by Legislator Minority Leader Abrahams.

So tell us about the bond.

COMMISSIONER ARNOLD: As stated, this is the bond ordinance to implement the Capital Plan for 2023. All contracts anticipated requiring encumbrance this year is included in this bond ordinance. I want to thank both sides for working together and going through this in great detail.

The details of this is 365 of General Capital and 60 million of SSW.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Sewer storm water, correct?

COMMISSIONER ARNOLD: Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
questions for Ken on the bond?

(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 with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Carries unanimously.

Now we need a motion to adjourn the
November 21st meeting. Moved by
Legislator Walker, seconded by legislator
Ferretti.

All in favor of adjourning signify
by saying "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members of

the Nassau County Legislature
respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Carries unanimously.

(Whereupon, the meeting is
adjourned, 3:20 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 23th day of January, 2023.

Karen Lorenzo

Karen Lorenzo

\$

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