

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEES MEETING

RICHARD NICOLELLO
PRESIDING OFFICER

JAMES KENNEDY, CHAIRMAN

VETERANS COMMITTEE

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Monday, February 6, 2023

2:52 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

A P P E A R A N C E S

LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY	Chair
LEG. C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III	Vice Chair
LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER	
LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP	
LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE	Ranking
LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON	
LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN	

MICHAEL PULITZER Clerk of the Legislature

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

RALPH ESPOSITO, DIRECTOR, VETERAN SERVICE
AGENCY

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Meta J. Mereday

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3 CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: At this time, I
4 will call the Veterans Committee to
5 order. I will ask the Clerk to call the
6 roll, please.

7 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
8 Veterans Committee roll call. Legislator
9 Joshua Lafazan?

10 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

11 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Delia
12 DeRiggi-Whitton?

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

14 CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
15 Debra Mule?

16 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

17 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Mazi
18 Pilip?

19 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

20 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose
21 Walker?

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

23 CLERK PULITZER: Vice Chairman C.
24 William Gaylor, III?

25 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Here.

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2 CLERK PULITZER: Chairman James
3 Kennedy?

4 CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: Great. All right.
5 There is one item on the agenda today,
6 which is Clerk Item 45-22.

7 Clerk Item 45-22 is a Resolution to
8 accept a gift offered -- Sorry, 45-23 is
9 a Resolution to accept the gift offered
10 by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 325
11 Garden City to the Nassau County Veterans
12 Service Agency. Moved by Legislator
13 Walker, seconded by Legislator Mule.

14 This item is before us. Who is here
15 from the Administration to speak to us?
16 Hi, Ralph.

17 MR. ESPOSITO: Ralph Esposito,
18 Veteran Service Agency Director.

19 Thank you all so very much. As you
20 know, this is our seventh vehicle that we
21 had donated to the County. We're very
22 happy that we're able to transport our
23 veterans to four different locations:
24 Northport Valley Stream, Hicksville and
25 East Meadow. And I want to thank you all

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2 for supporting us all the time. You are
3 the best, believe me. Just instead of
4 taking money, I'm giving money. So thank
5 you again and hope to see you soon with
6 more vehicles.

7 CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: Thank you, Ralph.
8 And you are the greatest as well. Thank
9 you. Any debate or discussion?

10 Legislator Mule.

11 LEGISLATGOR MULE: Hi, Ralph. Is
12 this a brand new vehicle?

13 MR. ESPOSITO: Brand new wheelchair
14 Van, \$66,000.

15 LEGISLATGOR MULE: Okay. And it
16 covers everything that that you want it
17 to for the veterans?

18 MR. ESPOSITO: Yes.

19 LEGISLATGOR MULE: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: Thank you.

21 Yes?

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Ralph,
23 before you go anywhere, it's Delia.

24 Good work on this, by the way. I
25 think that's awesome.

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MR. ESPOSITO: It's not easy.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: And I just want to say -- it hasn't happened yet. But do you remember we spoke about that monument, that's supposed to be on today.

MR. ESPOSITO: Oh, thank you so much for that, also.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We'll keep you in the loop for that. Thank you.

MR. ESPOSITO: You're welcome. We're the model service agency of the state of New York. Just want you all to know that.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: Thank you, Ralph. Is there any public comment?

MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday. Always excited about any resources that are going to our Veteran Services Agency. And I'm hoping that, again, that this body will look into what we can actually do to uplift and enhance the services at our many VFW halls and American Legion halls. I know that that grant that was

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2 put out to provide ramps and things of
3 that nature was very helpful. But again,
4 this is an opportunity at this time
5 period that we can look into generating
6 funds for our veterans right where they
7 live. Particularly where we are, the
8 climate, the most recent scenario where
9 we had the drop in temperature, we had a
10 lot of our residents, particularly our
11 older veterans, who were potentially in
12 jeopardy, those who are homeless, not
13 having any type of space or location to
14 go. We had to set up impromptu heating
15 and cooling centers in the summertime.
16 And we need to also look at those
17 scenarios for facilities in the
18 wintertime.

19 And I think, again, there are
20 resources that are available through
21 national organizations, American Legion,
22 VFW, that we can bring again into Nassau
23 County that again brings money and
24 resources to the County and does not add
25 an additional burden to our overstrained

1
2 pocket.

3 So I'm very excited about this
4 donation, and I'm hoping that we can use
5 this as a stepping stone for even further
6 types of enhancements for our veterans
7 and their families. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: Thank you. Ms.
9 Mereday.

10 LEGISLATOR MULE: James.

11 CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: Yes.

12 LEGISLATOR MULE: Meta, thank you
13 for bringing that up about warming
14 centers. I'm sure that all the
15 legislators put out last weekend about
16 the the warming centers that are
17 available here in Nassau County. Of
18 course, they're available to anybody who
19 needs them. And whatever we can do to
20 advertise that. That, of course, is
21 available to everyone, not just veterans.
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: Thank you. All in
24 favor, please signify by saying, "Aye".

25 (Whereupon, all members of

the Veterans Committee respond
in favor with, "Aye".)

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: All right. Item
passes unanimously by a vote of seven to
nothing.

There is no other business in front
of this Committee. May I have a motion to
be to adjourn? Legislator Gaylor,
seconded by Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

All those in favor. This committee
is adjourned. Thank you. Planning is
next.

(Whereupon, the meeting is
adjourned, 2:58 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 6th day of February, 2023.

Karen Lorenzo

Karen Lorenzo

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