

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

1:21 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 (absent)

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 (absent)

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

LEGISLATOR MICHAEL GIANGREGORIO

19th Legislative District

MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

APPEARANCES:

TOP COPS

OFFICER MICHAEL DUDINE

OFFICER GREGORY DIAZ

SERGEANT IN ARMS ARCURI

DETECTIVE MICHAEL SIARKOWICZ

SERGEANT IN ARMS MALONEY

COMMISSIONER RYDER

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

CARLOS VASQUEZ

PUBLIC COMMENT:

RICHARD CLOLERY

JASON GORMAN

META MEREDAY

PEARL JACOBS

BARBARA HAFNER

PATTY HARRIS

STEVEN ROLSTON

PASTOR MACKEY

SUSAN KAY

KAREN RIORDAN

ALLISON SILVA

JACQUELINE GOSH

LYNN KRUG

BRUCH CHESTER

RICHARD WILLIAMS

SUE KAEBNICK

DAVID THOMAS

TOM TITTMAN

ARIEL SILBERMAN

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Welcome
3 to the Nassau County legislature. We're
4 going to start things off, as we always
5 do with the Pledge of Allegiance and I
6 would ask Legislator Siela Bynoe to lead
7 us in the Pledge.

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

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

12 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you,
13 Presiding Officer. Roll call. Deputy
14 Presiding Officer Howard Kopel?

15 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

16 CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Presiding
17 Officer Denise Ford?

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

19 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Siela
20 Bynoe?

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

22 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Carrie
23 A. Solages?

24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

25 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Debra

Mule?

LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.
William Gaylor, III?

(Whereupon, no response.)

CLERK PULITZER: PLegislator 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?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

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: Legislator Michael
Giangregorio?

LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO:

CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader
Kevan Abrahams?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
Presiding Officer Richard Nicoletto?

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
sir.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank

1
2 you very much.

3 Again, I welcome to you to our
4 meeting of the Nassau County Legislature.
5 To start the meeting as we always do, we
6 have presentations this month from the
7 PBA and DAI with respect to our Top Cops.
8 After that, we have one point of personal
9 privilege. We then go into the public
10 comment portion of the meeting before
11 going to the calendar and our agenda.

12 If you have not already submitted a
13 slip and you're seeking to make public
14 comment, please come up to the Clerk's
15 table, fill out a slip and hand it in and
16 we will call you in the order in which it
17 was presented.

18 So let's start things off again with
19 the Top Cops. To make a presentation on
20 behalf of the PBA, Frank Arcuri,
21 Sergeant-at-Arms.

22 SERGEANT ARCURI: Good afternoon.

23 On January 18th, 2023, Fourth
24 Precinct police officers Michael Dudine
25 and Gregory Diaz were on patrol in the

1
2 confines of the Fourth Precinct. An
3 assignment was dispatched in East
4 Rockaway for an 85-year-old-female who
5 was choking on food and not breathing.
6 Officer Dudine and Officer Diaz responded
7 to the residence.

8 Upon arrival, they observed the
9 female lying on the floor. She wasn't
10 breathing. The officers immediately took
11 action. The aided did not have a pulse.
12 Officer Dudine started CPR. During the
13 compression, it became evident there was
14 an obstruction in her airway. Officer
15 Diaz then grabbed the LifeVac. The
16 LifeVac suctioned an obstruction in the
17 airway to alleviate the blockage. The
18 officers were able to suction a
19 marshmallow and other food that was
20 lodged in her airway. Once the
21 obstructions were removed, the aided
22 regained consciousness and began
23 breathing on her own. The aided was then
24 transported to South Nassau Hospital via
25 police ambulance for further treatment

1
2 and evaluation.

3 Due to Officer Michael Dudine and
4 Officer Gregory Diaz, quick action and
5 timely response, the officers were able
6 to help a person in need and give her
7 proper treatment as needed. The Nassau
8 County PBA is proud to announce police
9 officers Michael Dudine and Gregory Diaz
10 as Legislative Top Cops for March 2023.

11 (Whereupon, applause.)

12 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Once again,
13 the great work that we get from this
14 Legislative Body allowing us to purchase
15 these items, this is something that's way
16 outside the box. I don't know too many
17 agencies that have it in their car, but
18 if we save one life, as they did, it's
19 worth the investment. So again, thank you
20 again for the support.

21 OFFICER DIAZ: Officer Diaz from the
22 Fourth Precinct. I just want to thank
23 everyone here. I want to thank the
24 Department. I want to thank the Nassau
25 County legislator. And I want to thank

1
2 the PBA guys for putting this together
3 for us.

4 We come across opportunities to save
5 people like this every day. Sometimes
6 it's effective, sometimes it's not. And
7 it feels good to be recognized for just
8 doing our job. So thank you, everyone.

9 OFFICER DUDINE: Officer Michael
10 Dudine, the Fourth Precinct.

11 I'd also like to thank the entire
12 Legislature, Commissioner Ryder, the
13 entire PBA, Inspector Boden for this
14 great honor. And I'd also like to thank
15 my partner, Greg.

16 You know, we work with a lot of
17 great people from the top down. And, you
18 know, it's an honor to have this job and
19 to be able to help people every day. So
20 thank you, again.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Deputy
22 Presiding Officer Kopel.

23 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you,
24 Presiding Officer.

25 I live and work in the Fourth

1
2 Precinct. I have been for, I don't know,
3 35 years or so, a little bit more than
4 that. And I feel safe. And it's all
5 thanks to you guys. I appreciate
6 everything you do. The Commissioner
7 mentioned those machines. You're
8 absolutely right. It is so important to
9 to invest in these kind of things. We
10 don't even know how often something like
11 this comes up. And the training that you
12 put in, we've got the best police force
13 in the entire country. And I'm so proud
14 to be able to support it. Thank you,
15 guys.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
17 Thank you. We'll invite you to come up
18 for a presentation.

19 Now, on behalf of the Nassau County
20 Detectives Association, Sergeant-at-Arms,
21 Michael Maloney.

22 SERGEANT MALONEY: Good afternoon.
23 My name is Detective Michael Maloney, the
24 Sergeant-at-Arms, the Nassau County
25 Detectives Association.

1
2 I would like to thank the members of
3 the Nassau County Legislature for
4 inviting me to recognize Nassau County
5 Detective Michael Siarkowicz of the
6 Department's acclaimed Missing Persons
7 Squad as Nassau County's Top Detective
8 for March 2023.

9 Not only is Mike a detective, he's
10 also a volunteer fireman in the
11 community. While off duty, Mike was
12 serving in his capacity as a volunteer
13 and received an emergency call for a
14 woman who was suffering from a stroke.
15 Unfortunately, the aided victim was
16 inside a funeral home while at her late
17 husband's wake. Understanding the urgency
18 of the call, Mike quickly entered his
19 personal vehicle and began responding to
20 assist and treat the aided. As he was
21 driving to the aided case, Mike, who's
22 always alert, observed what he thought
23 was a suspicious behavior going on. He
24 observed a group of people, some wearing
25 masks and hoods, exiting a vehicle that

1
2 appeared to be in a wooded area entering
3 another vehicle. Fully aware that time
4 was of the essence on his aided case,
5 Mike decided to briefly get a closer look
6 at this group. As the group began to
7 drive away in the other car, he followed
8 behind, took a photo of the license plate
9 of the vehicle. Deciding that his
10 priority was the aided, and multitasking
11 between responding to an emergency aided
12 case, while briefly investigating an
13 unknown suspicious occurrence, Mike
14 pressed on to the aided case. Present at
15 the aided case, Mike assessed the
16 situation, rendered medical assistance.

17 While assisting the aided with the
18 ambulance and bringing the person to the
19 hospital, Mike heard police sirens and
20 police cars passing by and then heard a
21 police helicopter above him. Knowing that
22 he had most likely just witnessed some
23 component of this criminal investigation,
24 Michael continued assisting with the
25 aided while remembering the details of he

1
2 had witnessed earlier. After ensuring the
3 aided was receiving the best care, Mike
4 called the local Suffolk County precinct
5 and inquired about what was going on. He
6 was transferred to the Detective Division
7 and informed that there was a violent
8 takeover robbery of a jewelry store. He
9 was further informed this robbery was one
10 of a pattern of violent robberies of
11 multiple jewelry stores throughout the
12 county. Michael informed the detective of
13 what he witnessed and responded to the
14 Suffolk precinct to provide the plate
15 number he took a photo of, and also
16 provided many details of the case that
17 would soon be used as evidence in the
18 criminal case.

19 As Mike was leaving the squad, he
20 overheard one of the detectives mentioned
21 that one of the perpetrators had injured
22 himself, smashing one of the display
23 cases. Mike, being astute, contacted
24 Medcom, asked if there was any aided in
25 the immediate area to the hospitals and

1
2 that hadn't been. When Mike arrived home,
3 he got a call from Medcom informing him
4 that a male had entered a local hospital
5 with the injury Mike inquired about
6 earlier and was told the alleged victim
7 was being uncooperative. Taking this
8 information, Mike called the Suffolk
9 detectives back and informed them of the
10 whereabouts of the possible perp. Suffolk
11 responded to the hospital and the perp
12 was arrested.

13 This is still an ongoing
14 investigation with more arrests to
15 follow. But if it was not for Mike's
16 exemplary citizenship and volunteering as
17 a fireman, as well as his keen
18 observation skills as a detective and a
19 cop who takes the axiom of being a cop 24
20 hours a day, seven days a week,
21 literally, this violent gang of robbers
22 would still be active with more victims
23 of their crimes.

24 So today, we are honored to
25 introduce you to our March 2023 Top

1
2 Detective, Michael Siarkowicz.
3 Commissioner?

4 COMMISSIONER RYDER: This embodies
5 what Legislator Kopel just said. We are
6 the greatest police department in the
7 country hands down because of the
8 training, the equipment. But guys like
9 Mike, they're giving back on their own
10 time, their free time. They're giving
11 back and serving their communities. And
12 as a paramedic going out there responding
13 to that call, playing detective on the
14 way to that call, seeing something that
15 he thought was was suspicious, he took
16 enough time to stop, do what he needed to
17 do to gather that info and then go on to
18 take care of that poor woman in the
19 funeral home.

20 So again, it shows you the great
21 work that they do. It's the great
22 training they get. And I'm proud to be
23 part of the leadership in this Police
24 Department that that deals with people
25 like Mike that make us so proud to be who

1
2 we are. Thank you.

3 You're welcome.

4 DETECTIVE SIARKOWICZ: Thank you.
5 Thank you. Good afternoon. Detective
6 Michael Sakiewicz, Fugitive Missing
7 Persons squad.

8 Just wanted to say thank you to
9 everyone for taking time out of your day
10 to recognize the job that we do on duty,
11 off duty, and my fellow brother on patrol
12 that go above and beyond to make Nassau
13 County what it is. So thank you for your
14 time.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
16 Legislator Ferretti.

17 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you,
18 Presiding Officer.

19 Detective, great job. We can't thank
20 you enough. You know, this is just
21 another, just further proof that in
22 Nassau County, we don't just have great
23 police officers, we have great people
24 that are police officers, and that's what
25 you prove to us time and time again. But

1
2 especially in this instance where, as
3 we've heard from already as to what you
4 did, but it was just your volunteerism
5 and taking your time away from your
6 family to be a volunteer in addition to
7 all the great work that you do as a
8 detective in our Police Department. It's
9 really going above and beyond, and we're
10 so proud of you. We're so proud of the
11 training that you received. And it starts
12 at the top with Commissioner Ryder and
13 his incredible leadership. So thank you,
14 Commissioner. From top down to bottom,
15 we're so proud and thank you for
16 everything you've done. God bless you.

17 DETECTIVE SIARKOWICZ: Thank you,
18 sir.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
20 Come on up. We have a presentation to
21 make.

22 (Whereupon, Citations are
23 presented to Top Cops.)
24

25 *****

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
3 right. We have one point of personal
4 privilege. That would be Legislator
5 DeRiggi-Whitton.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I want
7 to thank my fellow colleagues for
8 allowing me to have a special
9 presentation because I feel that this was
10 a moment that we all shared together. I
11 want to introduce you to a friend of mine
12 for over 40 years now, Mr. Carlos
13 Vasquez.

14 Carlos was an incredible athlete in
15 high school. He was on the track team,
16 all county. And he always had these same
17 type of mirrored sunglasses on that he
18 has today, as he would run all over Glen
19 Cove with his beloved coach, AJ. Carlos
20 was also an avid surfer and all around
21 just incredible athlete.

22 Although he was basically larger
23 than life in high school, he always would
24 say hello with a soft, gentle smile. That
25 made me feel good, especially since I was

1
2 a mere freshman when he was in his glory
3 days.

4 Unfortunately, while on his beloved
5 motorcycle, which we can talk about
6 later, he was making a turn -- and I'll
7 still remember it was right in front of
8 the country club -- and there was some
9 sand and he lost or skidded a little bit
10 right at the moment that a truck was
11 coming the other way. Unfortunately,
12 Carlos did lose part of his leg as a
13 result of that accident, but he was
14 strong enough to pull himself through
15 both emotionally, mentally and
16 physically, a task that probably most
17 people couldn't have done.

18 Not only did he survive both
19 physically and emotionally, but he became
20 such a strong example to our whole
21 community. I remember personally how you
22 helped the Mike Solomito family. I
23 remember what you did with your dog by
24 naming him solo.

25 Carlos went on to become a crossing

1
2 guard, which he enjoyed, and the children
3 absolutely loved him. He became a mentor
4 and an example of a successful person.
5 And he even would reward his children
6 that he protected with badges to let them
7 know how much he cared and what a good
8 guidance and a good example he was and
9 that he was there for them whenever they
10 needed him.

11 So fast forward to this past
12 October. We were all in this room. I had
13 heard that a crossing guard from Glen
14 Cove had been hit by a car. I didn't know
15 anything else. And Commissioner was
16 mentioning the accident that a crossing
17 guard had been airlifted. At that point,
18 I remember thinking, I don't know who it
19 is, but just keeping them in their
20 prayers, in my prayers. And then at that
21 point, my aide, Toni Kessel, told me, I
22 don't have the name, but it was someone
23 who was hit by a car once before. At that
24 moment, a chill went through me. I knew
25 it was you. But about a half hour later,

1
2 I also knew that if anyone was going to
3 survive, it was going to be you. So I had
4 no doubt after that initial shock, that
5 one day soon you'd be back to the Carlos
6 that everyone knows and loves.

7 So I wanted to again share this
8 moment with all of you, because that
9 moment that it happened and we all
10 realized who it was, this room was silent
11 and we all sent you our prayers and our
12 best wishes. So each and every one of the
13 people in this room, especially
14 legislators, were on your side from that
15 moment to this moment, and for always.

16 And Carlos, I just -- my whole
17 family loves you. My brother Brendan and
18 my parents all wanted me to tell you how
19 much they love you and just we're so
20 lucky to have you. And we share you with
21 your beautiful wife, Liz, and your
22 gorgeous daughter. And they are the
23 two -- that's why these flowers are not
24 for you, they're for Liz -- they are the
25 ones who got you through this. And you

1
2 are such a blessed man because you are
3 loved by your community and your family
4 and your county. And now I'd just like to
5 ask Commissioner Ryder to say a few
6 words.

7 COMMISSIONER RYDER: I remember that
8 day when we were here at the Legislature
9 and I told you all that we had a crossing
10 guard that was struck and in serious
11 condition. I did not know at the time it
12 was a Glen Cove crossing guard, but it
13 doesn't matter. He's a resident of this
14 county. He's a he's someone that's giving
15 back, stepping up to be a crossing guard
16 after everything he's been through in his
17 life. And you just heard from the
18 legislator how rewarding he is to the
19 kids and they love him in the community.

20 Once again, the whether it's the
21 city of Glen Cove Police Department, Long
22 Beach, or any of our 18 villages that are
23 out there, we work together as one team.
24 They called in for our aviation. They
25 came, they airlifted him out of there,

1
2 and the great doctors kept him alive and
3 that's why he's here today.

4 And so many of our volunteers, so
5 many of our sworn members in law
6 enforcement and our civilians, tragic
7 things happen. It's what we do after that
8 that makes us and defines us. So I'm
9 honored to have met Carlos today. And
10 it's pretty moving, listening to the
11 story and a good man, great man. And I'm
12 glad that he's here to share the story
13 with you. Thank you.

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I just
15 I just want to say he looks fantastic
16 now, but this this gentleman was in a
17 coma for three weeks, and we were so
18 worried for that time. But he has
19 recovered fully. And, you know, we need
20 to get there. You have to hit the gym a
21 little bit more, Carlos. He's only there
22 every day (laughter). But again, he made
23 it look easy because he looks fantastic.
24 And his beautiful family, you all look
25 great for what you've endured. And just

1
2 always know if there's ever anything that
3 your county and city could do for you,
4 we're here 100%. Liz, did you want to say
5 anything.

6 MS.VASQUEZ: I would just like to
7 thank every one of you for that vast
8 volunteer help that came and brought my
9 husband alive today. Second time around.
10 We hope there will not be any more times
11 after this. When they say you have nine
12 lives, he definitely has nine of them. He
13 took away three. So we have six left. So
14 hopefully they will not be any more rides
15 in the helicopter back with you guys. I'm
16 sorry.

17 But I'm very grateful for everybody
18 here. And Delia, thank you very much. I
19 appreciate everybody. Thank you.

20
21 (Whereupon, Citation is
22 presented.)

23
24 *****
25

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
3 right. We're going to start the public
4 comment portion of our meeting. And our
5 first speaker is Richard Clolery.

6 MR. CLOLERY: To the members of the
7 Legislature: As I was coming in to see
8 you again, I was wondering what to speak
9 to you about. And then as I was coming, I
10 noticed people protesting this casino
11 that wants to come to Nassau County. I
12 can't blame them. I mean, can Hempstead
13 Turnpike handle the increased traffic?
14 Can we as a county handle the increased
15 crime, pollution? And more to the point,
16 it's near schools, schools. I mean, where
17 students go, where kids, college
18 students, people who are under 21 go to
19 every day. Do we need more gambling
20 addicts at a young age?

21 Do you know what we as a county
22 really need? That's right. It's
23 affordable housing so that people who
24 graduate college don't have to leave the
25 county to find work and housing. As well

1
2 as a well-funded public transportation
3 system so that people don't have to use
4 cars and cabs to get to work every day.

5 I know that you think I'm a pain and
6 should be ignored, but I believe in the
7 potential of this county and I believe in
8 the state in which we can travel without
9 expensive means of transportation.

10 Have a good day.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
12 you, Richard.

13 MR. CLOLERY: Any questions or any
14 comments?

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: No.
16 We're good.

17 Karen Riordan.

18 MS. RIORDAN: Hi, my name is Karen
19 Riordan and I live in Manhasset. This is
20 my first time speaking with you, as I'm
21 new to the area and new to New York. I'm
22 here today to express my opposition to
23 the proposed casino.

24 For almost a decade now, I've
25 dedicated my life's work to reducing

1
2 crime in my community, seemingly before
3 it became politically fashionable. I was
4 excited upon moving here because in the
5 last election, Long Island was getting
6 tough on crime and hopeful that we would
7 be a national leader in gun safety and
8 addressing these concerns. Instead, you,
9 our elected officials who are sworn to
10 protect us, are about to green light a
11 casino which is known to increase many
12 types of crime: Human trafficking,
13 robbery, auto theft, assault, etcetera.

14 So save the stamp. Please don't send
15 me any more postcards telling me to lock
16 my door, etcetera, while in the same
17 breath you're wanting to lure criminals
18 out here with a casino. It doesn't make
19 sense.

20 Furthermore, the location of this
21 venue is outrageous. Located across the
22 street from Hofstra University, Nassau
23 County Community College, and the
24 Kellenberg High School. This location is
25 truly unconscionable.

1
2 I hope you read the *Newsday* article
3 this weekend which stated that we are on
4 the cusp of a crisis here in Long Island
5 as gambling addiction, especially among
6 young males, is at an all time high, as
7 Long Island has turned into one of the
8 top gambling locations in the country.

9 If this casino is approved in a few
10 years, you will have a tidal wave of
11 people crashing down upon us in Nassau
12 County who need treatment, and our
13 resulting crime rates will skyrocket.
14 This will be because of you and your
15 decision on this lease.

16 As Warren Buffett has said, and I
17 paraphrase, government officials should
18 not prey upon its citizens. It's wrong.
19 Having a casino is like a state sponsor
20 of addiction. And sadly, this will be
21 your legacy. Is this really what you want
22 for your community and for your family
23 and for yourselves? You won't be able to
24 say, I wish I had known.

25 This plan is being green lit with

1
2 very little public notice and community
3 input. Just remember that there is no
4 going back.

5 Sands doesn't have any other casinos
6 in the United States. They are all in
7 Asia. They often buy a place. They stay
8 for a specified amount of time. They turn
9 a little bit of profit and then they
10 sell. They're out of here. They are not
11 long term neighbors. The residents of
12 Nassau County deserve better, and the
13 voters of Nassau won't forget who sold
14 our futures.

15 I urge you to say no to the casino.
16 Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Allison
18 O'Brien Silva.

19 MS. SILVA: Hi, everyone. My name is
20 Allison O'Brien Silva. I live in
21 Manhasset now, but I grew up in East
22 Meadow, right across from Nassau
23 Coliseum. I chose to raise my kids here
24 because I loved growing up in this
25 bustling, feisty, fierce island. But

1
2 you're all about to wreck it.

3 I speak today in vehement opposition
4 to the proposed casino. I urge you to
5 vote no on the lease transfer when the
6 time comes. Vote in the best interest of
7 your constituents rather than in the best
8 interest of an indebted, yet lavish,
9 spending company peddling an addictive
10 vice.

11 Nassau County is not struggling. We
12 are one of the highest taxed communities
13 in the nation. Let's put the work in to
14 create a solution for the hub that
15 generates revenue and jobs without the
16 laundry list of negatives that a casino
17 will bring.

18 The bulk of a revenue from a casino
19 will leave Nassau County and go to the
20 Sands. The small fraction you all will
21 see will be gifted by the weakest,
22 poorest, most vulnerable among us. They
23 will gamble to extinction, lured by
24 misleading ads that dangle the minuscule
25 chance to win big. Sixty to 70% of casino

1
2 revenue comes from problem gamblers.

3 And speaking of problem gamblers,
4 gambling addiction rates increase in
5 correlation to how close someone lives to
6 a casino. Did you know that the thousands
7 of slots that line in a casino floor have
8 been designed, honed and programmed to be
9 as addictive as possible? Researchers who
10 study gambling equate the impact of a
11 slot machine on our brain function to
12 that of prescription opiates. Slots are
13 designed to get us to engage until we run
14 out of money.

15 And speaking of money, did you know
16 what a casino does to home values? It
17 depresses home values. And the closer
18 your house is to a casino, the greater
19 the decline. Do you know what does
20 increase around casinos? Crime. Many of
21 you won your elections by promising to
22 stop the rise in crime. Crime reports
23 from Pennsylvania communities with
24 casinos show increases in violent crimes,
25 robberies and assaults, trafficking, and

1
2 the most shocking to me, child
3 abandonment. Parents are leaving kids
4 alone in the car all day while they
5 gamble away the grocery money. Please do
6 your homework.

7 Have you built independent revenue
8 forecasts? You'd see that the revenue
9 stream you are lusting after trails off
10 pretty quickly after a few years. Have
11 you assessed the environmental impact?
12 Traffic impact. Have you looked at the
13 rates of increased crime and decreased
14 property values and the costs of
15 addiction? Once you add up all of those
16 negatives, you won't see any upside.

17 I urge you to vote no on the lease
18 transfer. End it now and start focusing
19 on finding better options for our
20 community.

21 Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
23 you.

24 Pastor Arthur Mackey.

25 PASTOR MACKEY: Thank you, Presiding

1
2 Officer Nicoletto, to our Nassau County
3 Executive Bruce Blakeman, to my
4 Legislator Kevan Abrahams, and to all the
5 distinguished legislators.

6 Thank you for this opportunity to
7 speak so I can express my no to a casino
8 coming to the Nassau Coliseum site.
9 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Senior
10 was right when he said, "Injustice
11 anywhere is a threat to justice
12 everywhere". It would be a great
13 injustice to bring a casino in the heart
14 of the black and brown community of
15 Uniondale, New York.

16 In the redistricting process, the
17 effort was trying to take away the power
18 out of the first District that Dorothy
19 Goosby represented, and evidently people
20 wanted to bring a casino in there, and
21 that is unacceptable. The rape, the
22 robbery and the ruin of the black
23 community, predominantly black community
24 of Uniondale and community of color,
25 black and brown, is unacceptable and

1
2 cannot be tolerated. Ralph Caso would not
3 allow this to happen. Fran Purcell would
4 not allow this to happen. Tom Gulotta
5 would not allow this to happen. And I
6 would say to Bruce Blakeman, our County
7 Executive and to all of our legislators,
8 don't let it happen on your watch.

9 Casinos have friends: Prostitution;
10 casinos have friends: Crime. And to try
11 to bring more crime and bring more
12 prostitution to the heart of the black
13 and the brown community in Uniondale, New
14 York, is unacceptable.

15 We have our Nassau Community College
16 owned by Nassau County. We want to bring
17 crime and more rape and robbery and ruin
18 to it? We have our Hofstra University
19 there, students from all around the
20 world. And then we have our
21 Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. I was at
22 the Sloan-Kettering when my father would
23 receive chemo. And I know the struggle
24 and the heartache and the pain. And to
25 have right in the heart of all of that, a

1
2 casino, a full-fledged casino, is
3 unacceptable.

4 And I call on our Nassau County
5 Executive and for all of our legislators
6 to say, no, no, no, no to the casino on
7 the site of the Nassau Coliseum in the
8 black and brown community of Uniondale,
9 New York.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

11 Suzanne Kaebnick.

12 MS. KAY: My name is Susan Kay. I am
13 against this casino. Casinos bring human
14 trafficking. What is right next door to
15 the Coliseum? The Marriott Hotel casinos
16 bring more gun violence. 100 Terrace
17 Avenue in Hempstead, an apartment complex
18 just about has gun violence in that area
19 every single day. Casinos bring no value.
20 They also bring more alcohol.

21 A study was done when things started
22 opening up after COVID. They found out
23 there was more child abuse, more wife
24 abuse. Why? Because of alcohol.

25 I have proposed somebody I was

1
2 talking to from Hofstra a better idea.
3 Team up with Hofstra and Northwell to
4 build an allied health program. We have a
5 crisis in this country that not too many
6 people know about, these phony allied
7 health programs that are not accredited.
8 You can't even take the exams.

9 A good example was some school in
10 the five towns that shut down. I am a
11 product of a for profit college, of a
12 dental assisting school that was shut
13 down in 1994 due to the State. The State
14 also took over various schools. A good
15 example was Briarcliff College, that was
16 taken over. Sanford-Brown had a
17 ultrasound program that was not
18 accredited, that shut down. I can think
19 of a lot more better things to do than
20 build this casino.

21 Just remember Election Day: We
22 voted you in, we could vote you out very
23 easily.

24 And this is not the place to build a
25 casino. With gun violence around in the

1
2 area, how far is Hempstead? A half a
3 mile away. There's enough gun violence
4 that we do not need this.

5 Just remember election Day: We vote
6 you in, we vote you out.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
8 Jacqueline Gosh.

9 MS. GOSH: Hello. Thank you for the
10 time to speak today.

11 My name is Jacqueline Gosh. My
12 husband and I just moved here to Garden
13 City with our three young children. We
14 chose this area for the schools, the
15 parks, and the overall charm of the
16 village. It would have certainly given us
17 pause when purchasing a home if there was
18 a large casino close by. And I'm
19 concerned about what it will do to
20 property values and crime rates.

21 I grew up in a small town called
22 Winnemucca, Nevada, where gambling is
23 ubiquitous and literally everywhere. The
24 majority of people who gamble the casinos
25 are the locals. This is reinforced by the

1
2 players clubs that all casinos have. The
3 more you play, the more points you earn.
4 Those points can get you free meals, free
5 hotel stays, that kind of things. Those
6 programs are not for tourists. They are
7 for the locals.

8 Gambling can destroy lives and
9 families. I know several people who have
10 serious marital problems because of
11 gambling. All the dues from my sister's
12 Girl Scout troop were gambled away by her
13 troop leader's husband, for example.

14 In nursing school in Reno, I saw
15 some of the direct results of gambling
16 and alcohol addiction. The E.R. nurses
17 called the weekend night shifts, the Gun
18 and Knife Club, much of which was the
19 result of the nonstop availability of
20 gambling and alcohol.

21 Please do not let a casino into our
22 community. However, attractive sands may
23 make the steel seem the house always
24 wins. Please vote no on the lease for
25 this casino.

1
2 Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Monica
4 Kiely. Monica Kiely?

5 (Whereupon, no response.)

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Lynn
7 Krug.

8 MS. KRUG: Good afternoon. My name
9 is Lynn Krug. I've been a resident of
10 Garden City since 2007. I've lived in
11 other parts of Nassau County, Bellrose
12 Village, Sea Cliff, Great Neck. You get
13 out of college, you find a place to live.

14 I'm urging this board to deny the
15 transfer of the Coliseum lease to The
16 Sands. Whatever The Sands grand plan
17 design may be, no matter what they wrap
18 around it. This is a casino plan, plain
19 and simple. Let's face it, a casino is a
20 place that encourages bad behavior.
21 There's a reason that Las Vegas is called
22 Sin City. There's a reason, they say,
23 what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.
24 It's not a bug. It's a feature. This
25 project does nothing to enhance the

1
2 health and well-being of all of us who
3 live here.

4 No matter how many soccer
5 celebrities or amount of money that The
6 Sands throws around to curry favor. The
7 sad truth is that a casino and all that
8 comes with it will be to the detriment of
9 our safety and our quality of life.
10 That's why I live here. We have a great
11 quality of life.

12 Our quality of life is already
13 threatened by congestion, overcrowding
14 and population density. Nobody moved to
15 Nassau hoping one day a casino resort
16 would be built nearby.

17 Our County Executive has said that
18 his administration is committed to doing
19 big things. The only thing big about
20 letting an outside corporation build a
21 casino on public property is that it
22 would be a big, big mistake.

23 To our county leaders and decision
24 makers: Do you really want this to be
25 your legacy? Do you want future

1
2 generations to remember you as the people
3 who traded our quality of life for a
4 small slice of gambling spoils?

5 Years ago, our local leaders wisely
6 prevented a high rise complex from going
7 forward on the site. You'll remember the
8 days of Wang when he had his 60 foot -- I
9 don't know what it was called. It was
10 60ft tall. It was huge. Do you want
11 future generations to remember you as
12 slowing the transformation of the Nassau
13 County into the sixth borough of New York
14 City? I urge you to show similar wisdom
15 and protect us from turning Nassau County
16 into Sin City East.

17 I also encourage this group to look
18 at all the plans that were developed for
19 the casino going back. I remember the
20 2015 plan from Tom Suozzi. I thought that
21 was a terrific plan. It had green space.
22 It had a zoo. I don't know if I like the
23 zoo, but it was an ambitious plan. Please
24 look at these other plans before you vote
25 and say no to the casino.

1
2 Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Pearl
4 Jacobs.

5 MS. JACOBS: Pearl Jacobs.

6 So as I walk up, I'm holding my
7 sign. And, you know, if you know about
8 the Roman math. We have --

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Ms.
10 Jacobs, could you please approach?
11 Thanks.

12 MS. JACOBS: Okay.

13 I would like to begin this
14 correspondence by stating that Uniondale
15 residents have made several requests over
16 the past months for our County Executive
17 Bruce Blakeman to visit Uniondale and
18 speak with the residents concerning the
19 proposed casino at the Mitchel Field
20 Nassau Hub site. As to date we have not
21 received a reply. So goes community
22 input. Why would our county executive not
23 speak with residents of Uniondale, a
24 community that would be most affected by
25 a casino in its backyard? Perhaps it is

1
2 because Uniondale is a majority/minority
3 community and the questions and concerns
4 of minority residents do not matter. I
5 hope this is not the reason.

6 The proposal to put a casino at the
7 Mitchel Field hub location is
8 unconscionable. Placing a casino within
9 close proximity of 40,000 students is
10 horrific. It's a horrific choice. Here in
11 Nassau County and the greater Long Island
12 area, our youth are struggling with
13 opiate addiction, post COVID, depression,
14 alcohol and marijuana abuse and gambling
15 addiction as well. Placing a casino
16 within walking distance of Hofstra
17 University, Nassau Community College,
18 Uniondale Charter School and Kellenberg
19 Memorial High School would expose our
20 youth to a gambling addiction, a
21 progressive addiction that can result in
22 psychological, physical and social
23 repercussions. Our youth should not be
24 exposed to risk factors that could
25 potentially derail them from an academic

1
2 path to one of a destructive and life
3 suppressing addictive one.

4 The environmental impact on the
5 surrounding communities would be
6 destructive. Current infrastructure will
7 not support the vast increase in traffic
8 and traffic that a casino would bring.
9 Hempstead Turnpike is listed as one of
10 the most unsafe roadways for pedestrians
11 in the tri state. It consistently ranks
12 in the top five of most dangerous
13 roadways in New York State year after
14 year. Increased traffic on Hempstead
15 Turnpike would only increase safety and
16 health concerns as it relates to
17 congestion, safety and environmental
18 concerns. Bus traffic would increase
19 greatly, resulting in traffic stress in
20 every one of our surrounding communities.

21 Along with additional traffic comes
22 more pollution. Hempstead, Newcastle,
23 Roosevelt, Uniondale and Westbury have
24 been identified as communities of concern
25 by the Department of Environmental

1
2 Conservation for poor air quality. Mobile
3 air monitoring began in September of last
4 year. Our environmental issues do not
5 stop at traffic issues and pollution. The
6 water district that serves Uniondale,
7 Roosevelt Field, Bowling Green's Estate,
8 East Meadow and most of Levittown, the
9 water test results in high levels of 1.4
10 dioxin well above the EPA cancer risk
11 guidelines. Residents in Uniondale
12 frequently complain about their water
13 quality due to variations regarding color
14 and taste. We do not need another Flint,
15 Michigan story here in Nassau County, a
16 story that cried out across the nation
17 and around the world of environmental
18 injustice.

19 The quality of life for many
20 residents will be destroyed as casinos
21 are typically open 24 hours seven days a
22 week. As per the national average,
23 Counties that open up new casinos
24 experienced a 500% increase in crime.
25 This enforced opportunity for certain

1
2 crimes drugs, prostitution, theft,
3 extortion, stolen cars, gun violence,
4 human trafficking, and many others. Why
5 would Nassau County want this?

6 Our Nassau County Police Department
7 does an excellent job of serving and
8 protecting our residents, despite the
9 fact that they are currently overburdened
10 with a plethora of post COVID criminal
11 activity. A casino is a quick revenue
12 source that will not sustain Nassau
13 County. Let's put something at this site
14 that will compliment our prestigious
15 educational and medical institutions like
16 biotech and medical research centers.
17 Nassau County can make better choices. We
18 value our youth and our quality of life.
19 Neither are for sale.

20 Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
22 you. Bruce Chester, Village of Garden
23 City Trustee. Hello, Bruce.

24 MR. CHESTER: Hello, Rich. I want to
25 congratulate Presiding Officer Rich

1
2 Nicolello. I know you're retiring, and I
3 think I've known you throughout your
4 career, if not before that, in the County
5 Legislature, and I am privileged to have
6 you as a friend.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
8 you.

9 MR. CHESTER: Good afternoon, ladies
10 and gentlemen of the County Legislature.
11 As Rich said, I'm Bruce Chester. I'm a
12 village trustee in the Village of Garden
13 City. You may be aware we passed a
14 resolution unanimously opposing the
15 casino.

16 You know, Las Vegas started out in a
17 desert. There's nothing around it. The
18 casinos went up and then the communities
19 were built around that. When you look at
20 the casinos that are in Indian
21 reservations, they're usually in remote
22 areas. Well, this is not a remote area. I
23 grew up in Carle Place. I've lived in
24 Garden City for 24 years. To have this
25 casino with its traffic and and obviously

1
2 crime and what previous speakers have
3 mentioned, possible prostitution, put a
4 strain on our police department as well
5 as a strain on our infrastructure,
6 doesn't make sense. I don't quite
7 understand why the County Industrial
8 Development agency can't come up with
9 something better. Something. Maybe
10 getting some major corporations here.
11 Good paying jobs. Why can't we go in that
12 direction? The casino is an easy fix.
13 You'll get monetary benefit, maybe
14 immediately, but your long term benefits.
15 Well, not be there. They will definitely
16 be negative benefits.

17 So again, I oppose this casino. Our
18 village opposes this casino. And I urge
19 you not to allow the transfer of the
20 lease to the Sands Casino.

21 Thank you for your time.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
23 you, Bruce.

24 Richard Williams.

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon and

1
2 thank you for having us today. I too am
3 from Garden City along with Bruce, I am
4 running for trustee for Garden City. And
5 it's pretty universal that our town is
6 opposed to the casino in Mitchell Field.

7 A few minutes ago you had some
8 police officers here who are doing
9 outstanding work and they have my
10 admiration. My first thoughts when I
11 listened to them was, we're going to need
12 a lot more police officers in this in
13 this county if this casino goes through,
14 a lot more. And we're going to need a lot
15 more of everything else that goes with
16 crime, more jails, more incarcerations,
17 more judges, more everything. While
18 there's some benefits to individuals,
19 maybe for that, from a county standpoint,
20 I think it's terrible. I think it's
21 extremely terrible to introduce a casino
22 into an area with this kind of density
23 and this kind of tension that we don't
24 need. We just don't need. There's nothing
25 positive about it, in my judgment.

1
2 When I think about what I listened
3 to last a few weeks ago at the Planning
4 Commission, and I asked a fundamental
5 question: Is there a plan? And without
6 without hesitation, they said, no,
7 there's no plans in front of them. They
8 don't know how big it is. They don't know
9 how long it is. They don't know how tall
10 it is. They don't know the square
11 footage. And yet we're going to vote on
12 something that without any knowledge.
13 It's incredible, incredible that anybody
14 could do that. You can't do that in
15 business. I don't see why we would do it
16 in government.

17 I heard some of the other speakers
18 today talk about the social impact of the
19 casino. The environment is uppermost in
20 my mind. The environment -- we don't have
21 enough water. We don't have enough water
22 in this town, and we're going to have a
23 big, massive use of water again? We
24 don't have it. We don't have the
25 facilities for for traffic. We don't have

1
2 these facilities and we don't need them.
3 We have pollution. The lady talked about
4 a few minutes ago, the air pollution in
5 Hempstead, in Uniondale. That's the State
6 telling us that. We're only going to
7 triple that, quadruple it. I don't know
8 how big it's going to be.

9 The fact that the entire Board of
10 Trustees of Garden City passed a
11 resolution in opposition tells you
12 something about how our village feels
13 about it. It tells you something about
14 how the citizens and the voters of our
15 village feel about it. I understand that
16 there's a lot of union support for it,
17 and I understand that completely.

18 But having said that, there's better
19 uses of this property than a casino, much
20 better uses. I urge you to take a look. I
21 urge you to take a deep look before you
22 vote in favor of something like this. I
23 hope and I trust you'll give serious
24 thought to putting it off or delaying it,
25 or at least thinking about it some to a

1
2 greater degree than we have. We have no
3 plans. It doesn't make sense to me, and I
4 don't think it makes sense to anybody in
5 this county to go forward with something
6 that has no plans.

7 I thank you for your time.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Jason
9 Gorman.

10 MR. GORMAN: Hello, everybody. My
11 name is Jason Gorman. I'm a county
12 resident. I'm also a county employee. I'm
13 an educator at Nassau Community College
14 and a member of the NCC Union; though, I
15 am not speaking in an official capacity
16 in any way representing them.

17 I would like to discuss a terrible
18 injustice that's being perpetrated at the
19 college. And before I get to that, I
20 need to talk a little bit, especially for
21 the viewers at home, about a matter of
22 law. That law is Taylor's law. What
23 Taylor Law essentially does is it forbids
24 certain employees in the state of New
25 York from striking, leaving their jobs.

1
2 And that makes sense to me. And I'm sure
3 it makes sense to all of us. Where would
4 we be if the fire departments suddenly
5 were not available? Where would we be if
6 the police were suddenly not available
7 because they striked? We were also
8 considered important. As educators, we
9 are unable to strike. And if it were just
10 Taylor's law, that would be very serious,
11 because our employer could do something
12 heinous to us, such as slash our salaries
13 in half. Our mother union says it best.
14 NYSUT says, that we believe in the
15 amendment that I'm sure you all know of,
16 Triborough Amendment, that levels the
17 playing field and affords unionized
18 workers, certain unionized workers, to
19 keep what they have so that the field is
20 leveled and they specifically bring up
21 health insurance. So who's responsible
22 for this? Well, it's in our contract,
23 something that disabled a lawful right.
24 We have Triborough Amendment. It's 36.5in
25 our current contract, and it states that

1
2 out of contract, our employer can charge
3 us health insurance premium increases.

4 Who is responsible for that?

5 Well, back in the early 80s, 40
6 years ago, our contract was not
7 negotiated by a college. Get ready for
8 this. It was negotiated by the Nassau
9 County Legislature. We recently received
10 some support supporting comments from
11 you, and I don't know who said them, but
12 to summarize, it was the Nassau County
13 legislature as collective "we" was used,
14 that you do not support the college doing
15 this during negotiations, cutting our pay
16 to cover health insurance premium
17 increases. Could I see by a show of hands
18 who was in that collective we that sent
19 us that message? Please. I just want to
20 know who sent the message. I'm asking you
21 to stand up now for the students, your
22 county employees, your residents and say
23 no. Say no, that you will not approve a
24 contract that has that clause in it. I'm
25 asking you to stand now as an individual.

1
2 Please. Literally now, stand to show that
3 you will not support a contract that
4 violates Tribourough Law. The Triborough
5 amendment. Will you stand for us --

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Mr.
7 Gorman, as you know, we do not negotiate
8 the contract.

9 MR. GORMAN: You do.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Mr.
11 Gorman. Your time is up.

12 But basically, you know that the
13 college negotiates the contract. The
14 contract is then presented to us for a
15 vote.

16 MR. GORMAN: I would like to at
17 least have the last word.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The
19 time is up, sir. Why don't you have the
20 last word.

21 MR. GORMAN: Thank you very much.

22 I'm holding in my hand what our
23 union said back just a few years ago,
24 where you stated that you would not sign
25 a contract that didn't meet certain

1
2 requirements that was county wide. So you
3 do have the power to say no to our
4 contract.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We do
6 have the power to say no, yes. We don't
7 negotiate it, though.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: This is a
9 point of clarification. Unless something
10 has changed, this is referenc to Mr.
11 Gorman's comment. I was under the
12 impression, like all collective
13 bargaining agreements, the agreement is
14 ratified by the Union.

15 So, Mr. Gorman, you're going to have
16 a chance, your union's going to have a
17 chance to present the contract to you as
18 a union member. So I'm not too sure --

19 MR. GORMAN: That clause renders any
20 ability to negotiate -- because all the
21 college has to do, which they have done,
22 is make a situation that's worse than
23 anything they offer. So we cannot
24 negotiate now. And that's specifically
25 what Triborough Amendment solves.

1
2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I understand
3 that, but you're missing my point. What
4 I'm saying is, that Triborough Amendment
5 that you're talking about comes to the
6 union for ratification before it comes to
7 the Legislature. So if the you and your
8 colleagues in the Union are vehemently
9 against it, it won't even get to the
10 Legislature. Do you understand what I'm
11 saying?

12 MR. GORMAN: We certainly tried to
13 take it out. The college will not agree
14 to that.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Then there'll
16 be no agreement that comes to the
17 Legislature because --

18 MR. GORMAN: Negotiations will stand
19 still.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Well, not
21 negotiations, because I'm assuming this
22 will be negotiated, that ratification
23 will never happen. That means that
24 agreement will never get to the
25 Legislature. I want to make sure you

1
2 understand that. It has to be ratified by
3 the Union first, before it comes to the
4 Legislature. So the members, the 400 and
5 some odd members of --

6 MR. GORMAN: The problem with that
7 is, is all they have to do is give us a
8 situation that's worse and they can make
9 us sign anything that's better.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But that means
11 that means you're implying that your
12 colleagues would vote yes for that
13 agreement with that clause. That's the
14 only way it gets here to this Body. I'm
15 trying to explain this to you.

16 MR. GORMAN: I totally understand
17 that.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I think it's
19 something that collectively, between the
20 Union leadership and the members, the 400
21 some odd members, have to be vehemently
22 tied together to ensure that does not
23 happen that way. That it will never get
24 to this Body.

25 MR. GORMAN: But no contract will.

1
2 That's the problem. Thank you.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes.

4 Yes, that's absolutely a problem.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Susan
6 Kaebnick.

7 MS. KAEBNICK: I am Suzanne
8 Kaebnick. I am a professor in the English
9 department at Nassau Community College,
10 and I'm also the Nassau Community College
11 full time faculty secretary.

12 So, as you know, we're without a
13 contract since September 1st. And the
14 County is our co employer. So we're
15 asking for your support. Our current
16 contract is not fair. Our beginning
17 salary, about \$55-60,000 does not pay the
18 bills. Not the high rent in this area,
19 educational loans for master's and
20 doctorate degrees, soaring transportation
21 costs.

22 Furthermore, our current contract is
23 not fair because it has sunset clauses
24 such as one which my colleague Professor
25 Gorman just described, requiring us to

1
2 pay right now what will be about \$5000
3 per member for health insurance premium
4 increases while we are negotiating. And
5 that clause in 2014 led to very bad
6 results for our junior faculty this.

7 So you're our co-employer, you
8 appoint about half of our trustees, you
9 approve the NCC budget and you have the
10 ability to indicate what you want to
11 approve. I hope that you will approve a
12 fair contract. We're afraid right now
13 that we're going to lose faculty from our
14 nursing program, from our allied health
15 science program. Because private industry
16 will pay more, because other states have
17 lower costs of living, we're having
18 trouble attracting full time faculty. We
19 really need your support.

20 Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Ariel
22 Silberman.

23 MS. SILBERMAN: I just like to
24 congratulate you, Mr. Nicolello, on your
25 retirement. I hope you certainly enjoy

1
2 it. No doubt you deserve it.

3 Good afternoon. My name is Ariel and
4 I'm a sophomore at Nassau Community
5 College, as well as the proud president
6 of the Achilles Club on campus. I would
7 like to say it's a pleasure to be here,
8 but in actuality, it is a duty. It is my
9 duty as a student to make you aware of
10 the way our college is being damaged.
11 This is not hyperbole. Our college and
12 the remarkable people who teach there are
13 under attack by the people in power who
14 should want the best for our school. You
15 cannot attack the pillars of a structure
16 and then complain when the roof starts
17 caving in. Professors are those pillars,
18 and they've weathered the worst because
19 they love teaching and love their
20 students. But they should not have to
21 bear this burden.

22 The full time faculty have not had
23 their contract renewed since August while
24 they negotiate. They are having to foot
25 the bill for healthcare premium

1
2 increases, which amounts to a \$5,000 pay
3 cut. To be considered middle class in
4 Nassau County, for most people, you must
5 make around \$96,000. Faculty, in
6 particular junior faculty, don't make
7 close to that. Granted, I'm not too good
8 at math, but even I know those numbers
9 don't add up.

10 The president of our college came
11 before you last summer and was asked if
12 we needed funding and she said no. She's
13 an alumni of the college. She should know
14 better. We haven't had an increase in
15 funding in 15 years. All the grand dreams
16 of progress cannot come to fruition if we
17 don't have funding.

18 The Board won't tell you what I am.
19 But the Board delayed their February
20 meeting an hour, keeping the students and
21 staff waiting and canceled this March,
22 one utterly dismissive of the concerns of
23 students and staff. That is why I am
24 imploring you in all humility, to remind
25 the Board that they are answerable to the

1
2 students, staff and you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: David
4 Thomas.

5 MR. THOMAS: Good afternoon. My name
6 is David Thomas, a resident of Uniondale.
7 And I'm here to oppose the casino that
8 we're hoping that you would not approve
9 to be placed in Uniondale or any part of
10 Nassau County.

11 I do agree with some of the speakers
12 that just came before me, but I always
13 knew that what happens in Vegas stays in
14 Vegas. There was a reason why all of
15 these casinos were built there. At your
16 previous meeting I was listening to some
17 of the union representatives who spoke of
18 jobs and they talked about 12,000
19 temporary jobs and 5000 permanent jobs;
20 for whom?

21 We know from the statistics that
22 casinos are not healthy for a community.
23 I don't know what you guys have been
24 promised. But I would hope that those
25 promises falls on deaf ears. There are

1
2 educational facilities in the
3 neighborhood where Sands would like to
4 build a casino. And I keep asking the
5 question: What are we educating our
6 youth for? To become croupiers or
7 pitmasters? There is great and decent
8 educational facilities in that
9 neighborhood. Are we sending our children
10 to be less than who we think they should
11 be? These decisions we know should be
12 made by you. We elected you to make
13 decisions for us. I would hope that the
14 decisions that you guys decide to make
15 that affects our community would be one
16 that the community agrees to. And our
17 community really don't want a casino.

18 So please, not the lease. Not the
19 casino. Let them stay in Vegas. That's
20 where they belong. Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
22 you, Mr. Thomas.

23 Meta J. Meraday.

24 MS. MEREDAY: More lucid speakers
25 have spoken against "say no to the

1
2 casino". There's quite a few issues to be
3 addressed here. I also say no to a
4 casino.

5 With regard to the lowered
6 educational supports. There are speakers
7 that other night when it was packed and
8 you could barely get in here. That was by
9 design. They talked about, again, the
10 jobs, jobs, jobs. Average salaries for
11 casino workers in New York State,
12 \$39,000. Now, if the college professors
13 and students are here talking about
14 \$90,000 is considered middle class here
15 and folks are struggling, who's going to
16 live on \$39,000 in this county and that's
17 New York State.

18 The FBI has a special office in Las
19 Vegas to deal with the rise in sextortion
20 crimes, higher crime rates, internet
21 cybercrime, issues with violence with
22 children. The educational system in Las
23 Vegas is not ranking in the top ten. The
24 top 20 or the top 30. How many states do
25 we have in the United States? 50. You do

1
2 the math.

3 Future industries -- somebody
4 mentioned. Let's talk about what we could
5 bring to this county. And for those who
6 talk about the water, those of you that
7 live in Garden City, East Meadow,
8 Levittown, you're on that industrial
9 corridor where the dioxins are the
10 highest in the region. Check that out.
11 Okay. Just found that out in the town of
12 Hempstead. We live in a cancer cluster in
13 Freeport, Baldwin, Uniondale and
14 Roosevelt. But you guys have Flint as a
15 possibility where you live, but you want
16 a casino.

17 Future industries, healthcare.
18 Number one industry in this region, in
19 this county. Why aren't we addressing
20 that? We got all these veterans. You all
21 know my usual hue and cry. Why can't we
22 expand on the healthcare, robotics,
23 renewable energy, trade, cyber security?
24 Come on. We're all reading *Newsday*.
25 What's happening in Suffolk County? We're

1
2 not that far from having those issues.
3 Small business, entrepreneurship,
4 e-commerce, educational technology. We've
5 got nine colleges and universities. I was
6 here when the president was asked by this
7 body if you needed more money and they
8 said no. I was here. Give them money, pay
9 them what they need. Let's work together.
10 Let's think outside the box. Let's try to
11 keep people here. Let's address the
12 issues that are impacting our residents
13 from the healthcare, from the lack of
14 support systems.

15 And lastly, crossing guards. I was
16 so glad to see that crossing guard here.
17 I was here for the committee meeting,
18 what, a month ago? I was given a promises
19 by this Body that we're going to be some
20 real changes to address that. What are
21 we going to do about that?

22 They talked about Hempstead Turnpike
23 being a challenge. We've had four cars
24 that have driven into buildings on Grand
25 Avenue. Four cars. Are crossing guards,

1
2 our police officers are manning that. We
3 need to do something about it. And guess
4 what? You brag about how you got more
5 police officers on the ground and on the
6 streets. You got three and four riding in
7 the same broken down cars. Who are they
8 going to catch? Give them the equipment.
9 Stop with the lip service. Let's be about
10 what we need to be about. We're paying
11 the second highest taxes in this country.

12 For all those that are retiring,
13 thank you for your service. Those of you
14 that are staying, let's get it together.
15 And anybody else out here that wants to
16 get in their position up here, the buck
17 is truly going to stop with us this time,
18 not with all of you.

19 Thank you.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

21 Chandra Washington. Chandra Washington?

22 (Whereupon, no verbal
23 response.)

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Tom

25 Tittman.

1
2 MR. TITTMAN: Good afternoon. My name
3 is Thomas Tittman. I'm a resident of
4 West Hempstead for about 25 years. I want
5 to first thank you for your public
6 service. Somebody's got to stand in front
7 and make the decisions. So we're hoping
8 that you will make some right decisions,
9 not as members of a party, but as just
10 members of a human race. We're all just
11 trying to get this job done, raise our
12 children so that they have a good planet.

13 On this first day of spring, the
14 children's performances and the stories
15 of police heroism really encouraged me.
16 It's just good news, and I hope that that
17 it's broadcast so people can see that. In
18 one of their songs, they use the lyrics
19 appealing and appalling. And this initial
20 offering seems appealing. It's going to
21 bring revenue into the Town's finances.
22 It's going to create jobs. And I'm not
23 against unions. My wife was a nursing
24 instructor, and because of her union
25 benefits, both of us had medical, dental

1
2 and vision for life. I'm going to make
3 sure that they pay for all of it.

4 But it turns appalling when the glow
5 fades and now we start to see the toxic
6 underbelly of the addiction that people
7 have eloquently spoken about. It affects
8 individuals, families and the
9 communities. The *Newsday* article, I hope
10 people will actually watch the online
11 version because the mother and her son
12 are actually talking about the effects on
13 a family. You got to hear that. You can't
14 get it out of a newspaper. You got to see
15 that live.

16 It's time, you know, to face the
17 music. That gambling hurts everybody. I
18 listened as I've been learning about
19 this, I listened to some young people
20 singing about this on YouTube and TikTok.
21 There are videos out there. You'll hear
22 their cries from themselves. One young
23 man tells a story. He's just an elder
24 teen. He's \$57,000 in debt. Students are
25 graduating already with a huge student

1
2 loan debt, and now they're going to try
3 to find affordable housing. It's almost
4 impossible in Nassau County.

5 We've heard people say the police
6 awards just remind us of what is going to
7 be put on their already loaded plates
8 with all of the residual effects. And as
9 a senior citizen, I want to make sure
10 that the detectives of the Missing
11 Persons Unit are available in case my
12 wife reports me missing some day.

13 Thank you.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Steven
15 Rolston.

16 MR. ROLSTON: I'm Steve Rolston,
17 resident of Baldwin since 1986.

18 I'd like to first thank you all for
19 putting in a long day to listen to us.
20 I'd like to offer three observations
21 about the way we conduct our lives. Most
22 of my life, people could smoke cigarettes
23 anywhere: At work, in restaurants and
24 bars, in each other's homes. It was just
25 the way it was. Leaders like Mayor

1
2 Bloomberg came along and challenged us,
3 asked, why do we put up with something so
4 bad for all of us? I never imagined they
5 could ban cigarettes in bars. It was just
6 part of the normal atmosphere. But we
7 changed the way we live for the better.

8 Most of my life, slights toward
9 women were considered part of life. Women
10 were sexualized and we stayed silent or
11 laughed about it or looked the other way.
12 Sometimes we even celebrated it. Not sure
13 why it took us so long to see how wrong
14 this was. There have been strong women in
15 all of our lives.

16 Finally, the MeToo movement made us
17 all ask ourselves Why do we put up with a
18 culture which is so bad for all of us?
19 Finally, we changed our behaviors and see
20 our female colleagues, friends and
21 partners as equals. Or we are working
22 more diligently toward that. We still
23 have a ways to go, but we've changed the
24 way we conduct ourselves.

25 Final observation. Most of my life,

1
2 gambling has been a charming, slightly
3 mischievous, but seductive element in our
4 lives. A guilty pleasure to some. But
5 now the stories are emerging gambling,
6 ruins, lives, families and towns. These
7 are not just stories. The research is
8 there. Casinos degrade neighborhoods ten
9 miles around. Casinos add nothing
10 positive to a neighborhood. They bring
11 addiction, waste and crime, and people
12 move away, leaving ghost towns like
13 Atlantic City.

14 You know the stories and the facts.
15 Please do not compromise yourself for the
16 short term gains which casinos might
17 bring in employment and kickbacks.
18 Research shows a casino will bring
19 degradation and new addiction issues.
20 Let's not accept this as normal. We can
21 do better.

22 Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
24 right. Thank you.

25 Deirdre O'Connor.

1
2 MS. O'CONNOR: Good afternoon. I
3 grew up in Lynbrook. I have been a
4 teacher for 27 years; seven years high
5 school, 20 years at Nassau Community
6 College.

7 Part of the reason, and we've heard
8 it on all different issues today, that
9 people want to live in Nassau is our
10 education system. K through 12, we know
11 we rank among the best in the country.
12 The numbers bear that out. Nassau
13 Community College is a huge part of what
14 makes our education system great in this
15 county.

16 The exorbitant costs for tuition for
17 college. I don't have to tell anybody
18 that, we know it. We give students an
19 opportunity to go to college. Many of
20 whom would never be able to earn a
21 degree. We are a stepping stone
22 financially and personally for so many of
23 them. A full time faculty is at the heart
24 of our faculty. Many institutions of
25 higher education are moving towards part

1
2 time. When you don't have to pay
3 benefits, it makes sense financially.

4 But when you think about the
5 students that we serve at Nassau. A full
6 time faculty who is there for them
7 throughout the day, throughout the week,
8 as opposed to a mostly adjunct model part
9 time. And I do not take anything away
10 from our fabulous part time faculty. Part
11 time faculty are running from campus to
12 campus, school to school, trying to put
13 together a wage in which they can live
14 here. And even at that rate, it's
15 impossible. We are there for these
16 students, support these great students by
17 supporting the faculty.

18 I congratulate my students all the
19 time for choosing Nassau because they're
20 not graduating with a \$200,000 student
21 loan debt. And I tell you, I am 56 and a
22 half. I don't make a six figure salary,
23 and I still have student loans that I'm
24 paying back.

25 Thank you.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Patty
3 Harris.

4 MS. HARRIS: Good afternoon. I
5 really didn't know what I was going to
6 say today, but, um. Over the weekend, I
7 would say, last weekend, March 11th, The
8 Sands had did some type of fundraising
9 with a soccer club with different
10 students from, they said, Uniondale,
11 Hempstead, East Meadow, Westbury, Garden
12 City. But the pictures that they took did
13 not have not one kid of color in this
14 picture of the students that was with
15 David Beckham, the soccer star. Now, I
16 would think the representation that we we
17 have for Uniondale, would have stood up
18 for the students of the community of
19 Uniondale. They did a fundraiser for a
20 non profit. They gave them some type of
21 awards. It was over 200 students, they
22 stated. And there's no advertisement of a
23 picture with the students from Uniondale.
24 They are the Uniondale Knights.

25 Now, this is the type of racism that

1
2 we that we see every day. It's just
3 modernized now. So you're telling me
4 there's not one student of color that
5 should be in this picture that that Sands
6 its advertising. This is what you want to
7 come into our neighborhood to represent a
8 casino that has gambling where people
9 will be addicted to. Because even an
10 article that was done in *Newsday*.

11 Governor Hochul said last month that the
12 State is trying to balance the benefits
13 of gambling revenues with the downside of
14 people developing gambling addiction. We
15 can continue dedicating funding to help
16 the problem gambler, absolutely.

17 So you want something to come into
18 our neighborhood and you want to also pay
19 money into helping them. So you're
20 helping them to stop gambling, but you
21 want to bring a casino for that to go to
22 gambling. Does that even sound right? Do
23 you really think? And she also stated,
24 because I'm going to skip a little. She
25 said this to News One --

1

2

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Your time is up.

3

So please --

4

MS. HARRIS: I just got one second.

5

Just one second.

6

7

She says that, to casual gamblers,
it just makes it part of their experience
of visiting New York City. We are New
York, Long Island. We're not the city.

9

10

Thank you.

11

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay. Thank you.

12

Barbara Hafner.

13

14

MS. HAFNER: Hi, good afternoon,
everyone. Barbara Hafner, resident of
West Hempstead for over 40 years now.
It's hard to believe.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

I'm here on another subject;
however, as far as opposition to casino,
no to casino is is a no brainer, in my
opinion. I can't help but wonder how many
dollars are donated to campaign funds
from the Sands Corporation. But that's a
that's a topic for another day.

I am here to question the status of
the South Nassau Water Authority

1
2 District. I live in what I consider a
3 relatively small town, West Hempstead,
4 yet my neighbor has West Hempstead Water
5 and, lucky me, I get good old Liberty
6 water. My one month bill just recently
7 was \$188. My neighbor a few blocks away
8 was \$68 for three months. Do the math.
9 Something's wrong with that picture. It's
10 time to really look at creating public
11 water in all of Nassau County, not bits
12 and pieces. I just recently saw a post on
13 Instagram informing residents of Liberty
14 Water, offering nine \$3,000 scholarships
15 to graduating seniors to study water.
16 That's wonderful that Liberty Water can
17 afford that. I don't think my West
18 Hempstead Water gives any scholarships.
19 So I'd like to know what we as a county
20 are doing to change public versus private
21 water so that me, who is now a retired
22 educator, can afford to stay and live in
23 West Hempstead and not be paying the kind
24 of water bills that I am. Because I don't
25 think my friends water down the block is

any better than Liberty Water. Thank you.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay,
3 That's the last of the public comments.
4 So we're going to go into the legislative
5 calendar. These items are part of the
6 consent calendar, which are items that
7 went through Committees a couple of weeks
8 ago and have been agreed by the Majority
9 and Minority, do not need any further
10 debate or discussion at this time.

11 Item 2, Ordinance 13;
12 Item 3, Ordinance 14;
13 Item 4, Ordinance 15;
14 Item 5, Ordinance 16;
15 Item 6, Ordinance 17;
16 Item 7, Ordinance 18;
17 Item 8, Ordinance 19;
18 Item 9, Ordinance 20;
19 Item 10, Ordinance 21;
20 Item 11, Ordinance 22;
21 Item 12, Resolution 59;
22 Item 13, Resolution 60;
23 Item 14, Resolution 61;
24 Item 15, Resolution 62;
25 Item 16, Resolution 63;

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Item 17, Resolution 64;

Item 18, Resolution 65;

Item 19, Resolution 66;

Item 20, Resolution 67;

Item 21, Resolution 68;

Item 22, Resolution 69;

Item 23, Resolution 70;

Item 24, Resolution 71;

Item 25, Resolution 72;

Item 26, Resolution 73;

Item 27, Resolution 74;

Item 28, Resolution 75;

Item 29, Resolution 76;

Item 30, Resolution 77;

Item 31, Resolution 78;

Item 32, Resolution 79;

Item 33, Resolution 80;

Motion by Deputy Presiding Officer

Kopel, seconded by Minority Leader

Abrahams. Any debate or discussion?

(Whereupon, no verbal

response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

Hearing none. All in favor. Signify by

1
2 saying, "Aye".

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

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
7 opposed?

8 (Whereupon, no verbal
9 response.)

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
11 Carries unanimously.

12 Item 1, Ordinance 12. An ordinance
13 authorizing the issuance pursuant to
14 Section 90.10 of the local finance law of
15 refunding bonds of the County of Nassau,
16 to be designated substantially "Public
17 Improvement Refunding Bonds" and
18 providing for other matters in relation
19 thereto and the payment of bonds to be
20 refunded thereby.

21 Motion by Legislator Walker seconded
22 by Legislator Mulé.

23 All right, Andy. That's before us
24 now.

25 MR. PERSICH: Good afternoon,

1
2 Legislators. I brought this item before
3 the Committees a couple of weeks ago. We
4 have an opportunity to save some money in
5 a refunding. It will depend upon market
6 conditions if the deal goes through. It's
7 approximately \$235 Million we're asking
8 for the authorization. With premium and
9 everything else, it'll lower the tick
10 probably to around three, three and one
11 half percent. So again, it's all going to
12 be dependent upon the market conditions.
13 But we will save approximately \$25
14 million over the life of this. And most
15 of the savings are pushed out towards the
16 latter part of this deal. It's not
17 upfront savings like previously when we
18 were doing this.

19 So again, it was an opportunity that
20 came before us and we thought this was a
21 worthwhile opportunity to save money. So
22 we're bringing it before the Legislature
23 and then it has to go to NIFA for their
24 approval.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We're

1
2 just curious, why wasn't this part of the
3 NIFA refunding that went on in 2020?

4 MR. PERSICH: There were certain
5 issues that were that that were a
6 component of this that didn't fit the net
7 PV of the NIFA deal and weren't callable.
8 So structurally it didn't fit into within
9 the NIFA thing. Since time has passed,
10 now it's become economically feasible to
11 take those issues out right now.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Now
13 you mentioned the term callable. Have
14 these been callable?

15 MR. PERSICH: They are eligible to
16 be called now? Yes.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
18 Because I'm curious as to why, when
19 interest rates were extremely low, we
20 didn't consider refunding at that time.

21 MR. PERSICH: It's a little bit more
22 of a complex answer. But with the NIFA
23 funding, the way we term that with the 15
24 year funds, I think this didn't fit the
25 NPV for the issues that were at hand

1
2 here. So I think it was just the
3 structure of the NIFA deal and where
4 we're going with this now. So I think
5 there's two different structures that
6 make these more net present value
7 positive.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Even
9 so, why didn't back then we consider
10 doing this separately with interest rates
11 being as low as they were?

12 MR. PERSICH: Partially part of it
13 wasn't callable. Partially, I don't think
14 the PV on these these issues would have
15 been allowable under there. Remember, we
16 have guidelines within the state that
17 tells us whether it could fit, if it was
18 PV positive or negative. Some of these
19 issues may have been not callable and it
20 had PV that was negative.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
22 right. Any other questions? Legislator
23 Drucker.

24 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
25 Presiding Officer.

1
2 Andy, our finance and legal team
3 prepared us with a backup on this. And
4 thank you, Presiding Officer. You asked
5 one of the questions I was going to ask,
6 but it reminded me of why I hated
7 economics in college and why I chose not
8 to pursue a career in finance, because a
9 lot of it is makes my eyes glaze over.

10 But one question comes to mind. So
11 interest rates are very, very volatile
12 now. The projection is that they're going
13 to go down at some point. We don't know
14 exactly when, but they will go down. They
15 may go up before they go down. But the
16 question is, is what happens if the rates
17 go down? Would we save more money by
18 waiting? If the rates come down in six
19 months, for example, would we would we
20 then achieve a benefit that we don't get
21 now?

22 MR. PERSICH: That's the dilemma we
23 have here. We don't try and time markets.
24 I mean, so the ability to save money is
25 now. From all indications, I don't see

1
2 the rate environment of what we're
3 getting from our financial advisors
4 declining rapidly. I think we're going to
5 be stuck at somewhat of a constant rate
6 environment. And considering what's
7 happening in the marketplace and the
8 banking industry right now, I think the
9 Fed's might be softening their stance on
10 rate increases. I don't have a crystal
11 ball here, but the opportunity right now
12 presents itself to save now. Rates could
13 go up again in six months.

14 To your point, there is an
15 opportunity to save money if rates drop
16 in six months. But right now, what's in
17 front of us, I think the opportunity is
18 there to take.

19 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So to play it
20 safe, we do it now. But I just wanted to
21 know, theoretically, we would definitely
22 save money if the rates came down and
23 then we refinanced it later on.

24 MR. PERSICH: We always look for
25 refunding opportunities. Where the rate

1
2 market went currently, there's not been a
3 lot out there. But some of this, because
4 of the premium on the deal is going to
5 lower the total interest costs, we're
6 probably going to save a lot more money
7 than anticipated.

8 Look, things have been sideways in
9 the market right now. So, the crystal
10 ball, as we all would like to have, I
11 can't tell you, but if it doesn't make
12 sense, we pull the deal. And we're doing
13 it simultaneously as we're issuing the
14 new money borrowing for the Capital
15 Budget. So there's some synergies of the
16 timing of this and why we're doing it
17 back to back. One day will be the sale of
18 the of our our capital improvement bonds
19 and this will be the restructuring the
20 following day. So it just seemed to have
21 some synergies which are soft cost
22 savings on the underwriting and some of
23 the ratings stuff that we have to go
24 through.

25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,

1
2 Andy. I know we have to approve all of
3 this, but I feel much more comfortable
4 knowing you're involved in this.

5 MR. PERSICH: Thank you.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Very
7 nice. Anyone else? Mr. Solages.

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you,
9 Presiding Officer.

10 But could we have saved more money
11 if we did this refinancing a year ago?

12 MR. PERSICH: I don't think so, no.
13 I don't think some of the issues that
14 were out there were eligible to be called
15 at this point in time. So I think where
16 we're at right now, we have our FA PFM
17 who does the analysis for us. Usually
18 banks solicit us with this information
19 saying there was some opportunities for
20 funding there. Well, they weren't
21 eligible last year. I don't think so.

22 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Andy, will you
23 come back and let us know what's going
24 on?

25 MR. PERSICH: Absolutely. You know,

1
2 timing, we don't have an exact date, but
3 I would say probably by May we'll have a
4 definitive whether we did the deal or
5 not. You know what I mean? When we go
6 out to the market, it's not like we're in
7 the play of deciding. Our financial
8 advisors give us the advice of what deal
9 we should take. So we follow their advice
10 because they're the ones who run your
11 economic stuff that you're talking about
12 with all those amortization tables that
13 we all get confused by, they tell us
14 which deal is priced and which is the
15 right way to go.

16 MR. PERSICH: Thanks, Andy.

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Andy. How long
18 does the authorization last?

19 MR. PERSICH: It lasts until
20 whenever, I think. I don't think there's
21 an expiration on it.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So you can just
23 sit there and say, now, whenever you
24 think might be the right time?

25 MR. PERSICH: I don't know the exact

1
2 answer to that, Legislator. I will get
3 that for you. But I don't think there's
4 an expiration on it.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: But I
6 guess it's contingent upon them being
7 callable. It's contingent upon whether
8 the present value is negative or
9 positive?

10 MR. PERSICH: And some may come to
11 maturity prior or after. You know what I
12 mean, they may not. The deal would
13 probably change structurally if that
14 happened. So I may have to come back to
15 you is what I would say.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
17 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Hi,
19 Andy. Let's say in six months, the
20 interest rates drop and we want to refi
21 again. How much would that cost to do the
22 refi?

23 MR. PERSICH: We'd have to look at
24 it. Traditionally and historically, what
25 we've done has been every two years. But

1
2 in 2017, everybody's got to realize,
3 there was a tax law change on advance
4 refundings in the marketplace. The IRS
5 took away some tax exempt events. So that
6 kind of killed the advance refunding.
7 This is different. It's a taxable event
8 for the bond buyers. So we haven't had
9 too many opportunities. I don't want to
10 relive the NIFA thing, but that was an
11 opportunity at once. This is where we're
12 going to probably be on that path every
13 couple of years. We'll be looking to do
14 this with some of the outstanding debt.
15 As rates decline, we'll come and look and
16 see if it's profitable. I mean, it makes
17 sense present value wise to do the deals.
18 But, you know, every issue is evaluated
19 on an individual basis. So and it's not
20 just us making the decision. It's PFM
21 who's been here forever.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Because
23 I know, for instance, just to narrow it
24 down to like a home, when you want to
25 refi, you really have to consider the

1
2 cost as to how much you're saving with
3 the interest rate. So is it the same
4 thing?

5 MR. PERSICH: It's similar, but
6 different. Because you lower your
7 mortgage payment on a monthly basis. With
8 this stuff, the debt service savings
9 sometimes gets pushed out to either up
10 front or out in later years. So it
11 depends upon who's the issuer, how they
12 want to structure the deal and what makes
13 fiscal sense. So, you know, it's driven
14 by a multitude of factors. It's not just
15 one, but we are lowering the cost for
16 future generations is what I will say by
17 doing this.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Okay.
19 I was just curious if it's like we refi
20 again if the interest rates come down, I
21 was just curious what the cost is, if
22 it's even a possibility once you add in
23 the costs, but.

24 MR. PERSICH: It gets hard once you
25 call them in once to call them in again.

1
2 But we'll look, you know what I mean?
3 We're always looking for refunding
4 opportunities. It's a cost savings event
5 here.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: My gut
7 feeling is we wait because I really think
8 they're going to come down. Because they
9 won't even give you a CD for more than 15
10 months. So that kind of indicates that
11 they're not expecting to keep the
12 interest rates at the number that they're
13 at. Yeah, I know the banks are failing.
14 That happened today, but. All right. Like
15 Arnie said, we have trust in you.

16 MR. PERSICH: Just for the record,
17 if it doesn't make fiscal sense at the
18 time of the sale, we won't do it. I do
19 not have the crystal ball with the rate
20 thing. We could all sit here and
21 speculate. At this point in time where
22 we're at, it presents an opportunity to
23 save money. So we have to explore it,
24 take it and see what happens in the
25 marketplace.

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
Anyone else?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Nope.
Thank you, Andy. Thank you very much. Any
further 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:
Carries unanimously.

Thank you. Motion to adjourn by
Legislator Ford, second by Legislator
Walker. All in favor of adjourning?

(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: We're
adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting is
adjourned, 3:05 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 20th day of March, 2023.

Karen Lorenzo

Karen Lorenzo

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