

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES MEETING

RICHARD NICOLELLO

PRESIDING OFFICER

HEATH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ROSE MARIE WALKER

CHAIRWOMAN

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Monday, April 3, 2023

3:44 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

A P P E A R A N C E S

LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER - CHAIRWOMAN

LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP - VICE CHAIRWOMAN

LEGISLATOR MICHAEL GIANGREGORIO

LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON - RANKING

LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER

LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN (ABSENT)

MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

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

ANN DESIMONE, HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JOANNE OWEIS, DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY/DSS

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CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: I'd like to call
the Health and Social Services Committee
to order and ask the Clerk to please take
the roll.

6

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CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, Madam
Chairwoman.

8

Legislator Joshua Lafazan?

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CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: He's not here,
Mike.

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12

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
Drucker?

13

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

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CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
Delia DeRiggi-Whitton?

16

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

17

18

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.
William Gaylor, III?

19

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

20

21

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Michael
Giangregorio?

22

LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Here.

23

24

CLERK PULITZER: Vice Chairwoman
Mazi Pilip?

25

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Chairwoman Rose
Marie Walker?

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
Ma'am.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you.
Welcome, Mike, to the Health
Committee.

There are two items on the agenda
today. Clerk Item 115-23 is an ordinance
supplemental to the annual appropriation
ordinance in connection with the
Department of Social Services.

And Clerk Item 120-23 is an
ordinance supplemental to the annual
appropriation ordinance in connection
with the Health Department.

May I have a motion, please? By
Legislator Giangregorio, seconded by
Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

The first item is Clerk Item 115-23
and that is with Social Services. Is
there anyone to speak to us on this item?

1
2 MS. OWEIS: Hi. Good afternoon.

3 Joanne Oweis, Deputy County Attorney. I'm
4 here on behalf of Social Services.

5 This item appropriates \$43,350 in
6 funding received from New York State
7 Office of Children and Family Services to
8 fund the goals, objectives and strategies
9 for addressing the needs of commercially
10 exploited children in Nassau County,
11 utilizing funds being made available by
12 by OCFS.

13 This is to fund our Safe Harbor
14 project for the 2023 calendar year, and
15 its purpose is to address the needs of
16 commercially sexually exploited children
17 in Nassau County, utilizing funds
18 available from the State. It's completely
19 funded by the State. We submitted a plan
20 to the State in conjunction with Safe
21 Center, who's our partner in this plan,
22 and we ask that these funds be
23 appropriated so we can move forward with
24 the project.

25 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Are there any

questions by the legislators?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any public
comment?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Okay. Hearing
none. We'll go on to the next. Thank you.

MS. OWEIS: Thank you.

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2 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Clerk Item
3 120-23.

4 MS. DESIMONE: Good afternoon, Ann
5 DeSimone, Health Department. Item 120-23,
6 a supplemental appropriation in the
7 amount of \$453,766 for the HIV Expanded
8 Services Grant from New York State
9 Department of Health. This program is to
10 reduce the spread of sexually transmitted
11 diseases. It covers salary, fringe,
12 general expenses and indirect costs, and
13 the grant does not require matching
14 funds.

15 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Okay. Thank you.
16 Any questions From the legislators?

17 (Whereupon, no verbal
18 response.)

19 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any public
20 comment?

21 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday.

22 Just a couple of questions since all
23 of you have the information and we, the
24 taxpayers, just have to kind of foot the
25 bill. I'm just a little curious about the

1
2 expanded services. Like what is the
3 overall budget for this Department? A
4 lot of times when I hear about grants and
5 funding that come across this Body, the
6 connection generally has to do with
7 salaries and benefits. But I don't really
8 ever hear about how much money actually
9 is directed towards program services and
10 catchment areas for these particular
11 services. And just because it doesn't
12 require a matching grant, that does not
13 mean that there is not a need that could
14 be the responsibility of this County to
15 address this situation.

16 So that's my question. Since, you
17 know, none of you are asking questions,
18 you may have all of the information, but
19 those of us that are kind of out here on
20 these mean streets trying to direct
21 people to these services that they often
22 can't get to or they don't have the
23 facilities in their community, it makes
24 us wonder where the actual program
25 services and resources are for them to

1
2 get access to it. So that would be my
3 question to that.

4 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Ann, do you want
5 to address?

6 MS. DESIMONE: Hi, Good afternoon.
7 Yes. So our staff does put in touch about
8 100 to 200 clients a year that have
9 disease and they connect them to
10 services. So that is the job of the staff
11 to connect them to FQHCs, any kind of
12 other clinics that they need care, and
13 they follow them to make sure that they
14 have care in their areas.

15 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Okay. Thank you.
16 Any any other questions or comments
17 from the public?

18 (Whereupon, no verbal
19 response.)

20 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Okay. Hearing
21 none. All in favor of Clerk Items 115-23
22 and 120-23, signify by saying, "Aye".

23 (Whereupon, all members of
24 the Health and Social Services
25 Committee respond in favor

with, "Aye".)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: This will move
on to finance. There's no other business
before this Committee. May I have a
motion to adjourn?

LEGISLATOR PILIP: So moved.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: By Legislator
Pilip. Seconded by Legislator Drucker.

Okay. All in favor, please signify
by saying, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members of
the Health and Social Services
Committee respond in favor
with, "Aye".)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: We are
adjourned.

Finance Committee will be next.

(Whereupon, the Health and
Social Services Committee is
adjourned, 3:51 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 3rd day of April, 2023.

Karen Lorenzo

Karen Lorenzo

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