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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING

RICHARD NICOLELLO, PRESIDING OFFICER

County Executive and Legislative Building
1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, May 22, 2023

12:26 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

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 (recused for
4:00 p.m. session)

Minority Leader

1st Legislative District

LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

2nd Legislative District

LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES

3rd Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

5th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR, III

6th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JOHN J. GIUFFRE

8th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP

10th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

11th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

12th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT

13th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

14th Legislative District

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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 (4:00 p.m.)

19th Legislative District

MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

1
2 ALSO APPEARED:

3 **TOP COPS**

4 Anthony Lomonaco

5 Anthony Morante

6 Brian Lee

7 Christopher Rogers

8 Police Medics:

9 Christopher Cammaratta

10 Krista Watson

11 ****

12 Detective Ryan Keane

13 Detective Joseph Calamita

14 Mr. Shanahan

15 Commissioner Ryder

16 Sgt. At Arms Maloney

17
18 **Emergency Item:**

19 Kevin Walsh Office of Real Estate Service

20 Nick Sarandis County Attorney's Office

21 Peter Curry, Esq.

22
23 **Item 7**

24 David DeBaun, County Deputy County Attorney

Item 1

Arthur Walsh, Chief Deputy County Executive

Michael Levoff, Sands

Ron Reese, Sands

Josh Meyer, Esq., West Group Law

Former New York Governor David Paterson

Maria-Christina Annaloro, Sands (Res Gaming)

Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, Family and Children's Assoc.

Brian Nagel, Sands Chief Security Officer

Terri Elkowitz, Senior Principal, VHB

Commissioner Ryder

Maurice Chalmers, Budget Review

Public comment:

Former Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves
Jerry Laricchiuta, CSEA Region 1 President
Matthew Arisich, Bldg & Construction Trades
John Durso, Long Island Federation of Labor
Ryan Stanton, Island Federation of Labor
Garry Johnson, NAACP of New York State
Jerry Kornbluth, Nassau Community College
Nadia Holubnyczj-Ortiz
Louis Vasquez
Carl and Carmella DeStefano
William Cassidy
Joseph Parisi
Jack Majkut
Kevin McKenna
Meta J. Mereday
Heidi Sanft
Bruce Chester
Marie Reimers
Pearl Jacobs
Claudia Long
Susan Kaye
Karen Riordan
Allison Silva
Edward Finneran
Deirdre Benoit
Alice Maroney
Jacqueline Ghosh
Richard Clolery
Monica Kiely
Lynn Krug
Gina Coletti
Frank Cammarano (two)
Leo Stimmler
Helen Meittinis
Richard Catalano
Corinne Joy
Karen Riordan
Jennifer Mone
Vasu Krishnamurthy
Phil Andrews
Mayor Mary Carter Flanagan
Mariano Ugalde
Jeannine Maynard
Lisa Holz
Theresa Regnante

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PUBLIC COMMENT (CONT)

Kevin Boone
Johny Martincic
George Argyris
Tina Shuford
Jelani Watson
Sebastian Mazzotta
Joseph Nabet
Daphne Baptiste
Charlene Thompson
Cris Cuestas
Steve Rolston
Caprice Rines
Chris McAniff
Jeremy Joseph
Perry Fogg
Aubrey Mohammed
Chris Mills

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
I'm going to call this meeting of the
Nassau County legislature to order and
ask Legislator Drucker to lead us in the
Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of
Allegiance is said by all.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
you very much. Mike, could you please
call the roll?

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you,
Presiding Officer.

Deputy Presiding Officer Howard
Kopel?

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
Presiding Officer Denise Ford?

LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Siela
Bynoe?

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Carrie
A. Solages?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

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CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Debra
Mule?

LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.
William Gaylor, III?

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
Legislator John Giuffre?

LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Mazi
Pilip?

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Delia
DeRiggi-Whitton?

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

CLERK PULITZER:
Legislator James Kennedy?

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
Legislator Thomas McKevitt?

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura
Schaefer?

LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

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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
Giangregorio?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader
Kevan Abrahams?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Presiding Officer
Richard Nicoletello?

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
sir.

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
Thank you very much.

At the beginning of our meeting, as we always do, we have presentations to our Top Cops for the month of May. We also have a Point of Personal Privilege. Then we'll go into public comment. The casino will be considered later this afternoon. It's been scheduled to be considered at 4:00. So if some of you who are here to make a public comment, you may do so at this point, of course. But if you would like to wait until the casino gets called later on in the day, you may do so as well. But if you are going to make public comment, we just ask that you fill out a slip which is up here to your left at the front of the room and then submit that and your public comment will be called in turn.

So to start things off with the Top Cops, I'm very privileged to introduce the PBA Financial Secretary, James Shanahan, for the purposes of a

1
2 presentation.

3 And while they're coming up, I just
4 want to introduce our Nassau County
5 Comptroller, Elaine Phillips, who has
6 joined with us for this presentation.
7 Welcome, Elaine.

8 MR. SHANAHAN: Good afternoon. Thank
9 you for having us here today to honor
10 these heroes standing behind me on April
11 13th, 2023, Eighth Precinct officers
12 Anthony Lomonaco, Anthony Morante, Brian
13 Lee and Christopher Rogers responded to a
14 call for a four year old who fell at a
15 bounce house and wasn't breathing.
16 Officer Morante was first on scene and
17 located the unresponsive child. Officers
18 Morante and Lomonaco moved the child to
19 the vestibule and checked for a pulse.
20 The child did not have a pulse and they
21 started CPR. Officers Lee and Rogers then
22 arrived on scene. Officer Lee applied the
23 AED while Officers Lomonaco and Rogers
24 continued CPR. Nassau County Police
25 Ambulance and Wantagh Levittown Volunteer

1
2 ambulance cars arrived on scene. While
3 continuing CPR, the aided was brought to
4 Police Ambulance 2368, where police,
5 medics Cammaratta and Watson applied ALS
6 intervention. The child did begin
7 breathing prior to arriving at Nassau
8 County Medical Center. The child was
9 diagnosed with cardio fibroma and one of
10 the symptoms is sudden mortality. The
11 child was transferred to Cohen's
12 Children's Hospital and recently
13 underwent successful surgery at a Boston
14 Hospital.

15 Due to everyone's quick response,
16 good CPR, calm under pressure, they saved
17 this child's life. The Nassau County PBA
18 is proud to announce police officers
19 Anthony Lomonaco, Anthony Morante, Brian
20 Lee and Christopher Rogers, in addition
21 to police medics Christopher Cammaratta
22 and Krista Watson as Legislative Top Cops
23 for May of 2023.

24 (Whereupon, applause.)

25 MR. SHANAHAN: Police Commissioner

1
2 Ryder.

3 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Good afternoon.
4 I've been standing in front of you for
5 the last six years and almost 40 years of
6 doing this type of work. And I've seen
7 some things that would turn your gut in a
8 minute. I watched that video as it played
9 through and I watched that poor child on
10 the floor and his mom screaming on the
11 side. It brings tears to your eyes.
12 During that CPR that was being performed,
13 an outsider said, "Why don't you just
14 stop"? Meaning the child was gone. And my
15 officer leaned up and says, "Don't tell
16 me to stop". And he went back doing the
17 CPR. That is the reason this young man is
18 alive today.

19 I stand here before you all the
20 time, and I thank you. I'm going to do it
21 again. Thank you for the training. Thank
22 you for the equipment. And thank you for
23 the greatest Police Department in the
24 country. Because of the work that they
25 do, that young man and his family is

1
2 intact today because of it.

3 And again, it's an honor to sit here
4 in front of them and be their
5 representation. I really do thank you
6 again.

7 (Whereupon, applause.)

8 OFFICER ROGERS: I just want to
9 start off by saying thank you to each and
10 every one of you for honoring us here
11 today. We're extremely grateful to be
12 here.

13 Listen, this is one of these calls
14 that you don't want to get and you don't
15 know how you're going to react until you
16 get there. And I am so grateful and we
17 are so grateful that we were able to come
18 together as a team between the Police
19 Department and the Police Medics that
20 gave us the outcome to have Shane here
21 with us today. Without everybody around
22 me, we wouldn't have been able to get it
23 done.

24 So I just want to say thank you.
25 We're greatly honored. Thank you for

1
2 taking the time out today to recognize
3 us. I want to say thank you to the
4 commissioner for being here. Thank you
5 for the PBA and thank you for the
6 department and the people of Nassau
7 County for the opportunity to put on this
8 uniform and do this wonderful job every
9 day. Thank you very much.

10 (Whereupon, applause.)

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
12 Legislator Ferretti.

13 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you,
14 Presiding Officer. When you read what
15 happened here, it's something that hits
16 close to home to so many of us up here
17 who have young children. And, you know,
18 you have block parties, you have family
19 parties, you have birthday parties, and
20 you see them playing on these bounce
21 houses and you think to yourself, oh, my
22 God, they're all jumping together and God
23 forbid something happens. It's really
24 just so dangerous. But what we're so
25 fortunate for is that we have fine

1
2 officers and medics like you standing
3 before us who, like always, answer the
4 call and saved this young boy's life. And
5 I can't imagine what his parents were
6 going through when this happened. But
7 again, fortunately, when they're asking
8 for help, you answer the call. You save
9 this young boy's life and changed all of
10 the lives of this family's forever. So
11 thank you for what you do. Thank you to
12 Commissioner Ryder for your continued
13 leadership. God bless you and stay safe.
14 Thank you.

15 (Whereupon, applause).

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
17 Legislator Pilip.

18 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Thank you,
19 Presiding Officer. I also would like to
20 join my colleague and really thank you.
21 That's amazing. You were able to really
22 save this child's life. I mean, four year
23 old boy. As a mother, oh, my God. I
24 cannot even believe. I don't know. I
25 cannot even imagine what the family went

1
2 through. But you guys came. You stayed
3 focused. You put your emotion on the side
4 and you were there until the child
5 started to breathe. You guys are the real
6 hero and you're thanking us. We should
7 thank you. You make us proud. Thank you
8 so much.

9 (Whereupon, applause.)

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
11 Legislator Drucker.

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you very
13 much, Presiding Officer. You know, once
14 again, the exemplary training of our
15 Nassau County police officers and police
16 medics from the ambulance corps was on
17 full display on this fateful day. When
18 this child was unresponsive and not
19 breathing, these officers didn't panic or
20 betray their training and experience.
21 Their instincts kicked in and they calmly
22 went about their jobs with such
23 levelheadedness and confidence and
24 ultimately saved this child's life. There
25 is nothing more heroic than saving a

1
2 life. And I thank you and all of the
3 residents of Nassau County thank you as
4 well. We are so grateful, Commissioner
5 Ryder and his staff, for protecting all
6 of us by providing this training that is
7 really the best in the United States. So
8 thank you, gentlemen and ladies.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Just
10 to add one thought of my own, which is
11 that performing CPR under an emergency
12 situation is truly an extraordinary act.
13 But what I find so awe inspiring is that
14 you were doing it on a child that small.
15 I mean, I can't even imagine the skill
16 and the grace under pressure that you
17 demonstrated by doing what you did and
18 saving the child. Because, I mean, you
19 have to be concerned. They're so small,
20 they're so fragile that what you're doing
21 to restore their breathing could hurt the
22 child also. So the fact that you were
23 able to do that and bring the child back
24 is truly extraordinary. So we want to all
25 congratulate you and as Legislator Pilip

1
2 said you should not be thanking us. We
3 really are very proud of you and we thank
4 all of you for what you've done. And I
5 would like to invite you up in a couple
6 of moments for the purposes of a
7 citation.

8 (Whereupon, applause.)

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Now we
10 have the Detectives Association and
11 Michael Maloney, the Sergeant at Arms.

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good afternoon.
13 I'd like to thank the Legislature for
14 today for honoring these two detectives
15 fine work.

16 On January 19th, 2023, Detective
17 Ryan Keane and Detective Joe Calamita of
18 the Third Squad responded to the scene of
19 a male shot three times while he was
20 exiting a residence in Hempstead. The
21 victim ran two blocks before collapsing.
22 The detectives quickly set up two scenes
23 and began a video canvass that spanned
24 several blocks. During an extensive video
25 canvass, they were able to quickly

1
2 discover video of an unknown male
3 throwing the firearm into hedges a block
4 away from the shooting in which the gun
5 was recovered. They then discovered video
6 from a local deli near the scene that
7 showed the victim and the unknown male
8 that shot him in a physical altercation
9 as well as a vehicle the suspect was
10 utilizing. Detectives were quickly able
11 to ascertain the suspect's identity and
12 were able to successfully convince the
13 victim to cooperate and press charges
14 after initially refusing and stating that
15 he would handle it himself. After several
16 days of attempting to locate the suspect,
17 the suspect was arrested and charged with
18 attempted murder in the second degree,
19 assault first, criminal possession of a
20 loaded firearm. The defendant has been
21 remanded and is still in jail with no
22 bail.

23 Due to this incident, the victim did
24 suffer multiple lifelong permanent
25 injuries and has a long road to recovery.

1
2 But we would like to acknowledge these
3 two detectives' fine work in regards to
4 finding the suspect and apprehending him.

5 (Whereupon, applause.)

6 COMMISSIONER RYDER: So maybe a
7 couple of those young cops will want to
8 be detectives real soon. I can use you.

9 Again, the great work by our
10 Detective Division. You just heard the
11 story of going through that video with
12 surveillance and everything else. Bad
13 guys do bad things. The minute we take
14 those bad guys out of the environment,
15 the environment is safer. Simple as that.
16 And they did it. They got it, removed
17 them off the streets as quick as they
18 can. And he's been remanded in jail. So
19 that's where he belongs as long as he's
20 choosing to take a gun and take it to
21 somebody else. So, again, great work by
22 our detectives. Thank you.

23 (Whereupon, applause.)

24 OFFICER CALAMITA: I'd like to thank
25 the Legislature for recognizing our work.

1
2 It's not just the two of us. It's a total
3 team effort with everybody in the Nassau
4 County Police Department. Thank you.

5 (Whereupon, applause.)

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
7 Legislator Giuffre.

8 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Third Precinct.
9 That's my hometown precinct from Stewart
10 Manor. We have the the southern tier of
11 your command. We appreciate all that you
12 do to keep our communities safe. Great
13 detective work. Good work, also,
14 persuading the victim not to take care of
15 it himself. That does not end well. So.
16 Excellent job, gentlemen. It's a true
17 reflection of the training you've had in
18 police work, but and also in the social
19 aspect of dealing with the victim to get
20 them to come forward, to get them to
21 press charges. So I congratulate you. God
22 bless you. Thank you.

23 (Whereupon, applause.)

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
25 Minority Leader Abrahams.

1
2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
3 Presiding Officer.

4 I just want to commend you,
5 detectives, again. Fighting crime is
6 never going to be an easy job. And
7 obviously dealing with some of the
8 victims in these cases sometimes can be a
9 challenge as well. But I want to commend
10 you because you made the streets of
11 Hempstead, Nassau County, safer once
12 again. I know you do this because you've
13 been sworn to do it, but we do see the
14 compassion and the amount of how much you
15 care in regards to this matter as well.
16 So that does not fall on deaf ears. And I
17 think that's one of the most prominent
18 issues, is that you can't learn
19 compassion, you can't learn the
20 responsibility to care. And you obviously
21 demonstrated that today.

22 So the people of Village of
23 Hempstead, as well as the surrounding
24 areas, including Nassau County, thank you
25 for your efforts. God bless each and

1
2 every one of you. And please continue to
3 keep our streets safe. I think that's the
4 most utmost thing that I think every
5 single resident would agree to. Thank
6 you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
8 right. We would like to invite you to
9 come up for the presentation of the
10 citation. I'd also like to invite the
11 Comptroller to join us on the dais.

12 (Whereupon, Citations are
13 presented.)
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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
right. Legislator Arnie Drucker has a
Point of Personal Privilege.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you very
much, Presiding Officer. Every year, the
Feinstein Institute for Medical Research
and Northwell Health Center for Workforce
Readiness conducts a STEM competition for
ninth and 10th graders, challenging them
on how social determinants such as
healthcare access and food insecurities
could have a significant effect on
climate change. The winners of this
competition are called Medical Marvels,
and this year, five students from
Plainview-Old Bethpage, JFK High School
were winners.

These students' project -- and I
don't know about all of you, but I always
struggle to understand any of the
students' projects, whether it's this
competition or the Regeneron or others. I
guess they're a lot smarter than I am.
But their project was a multifaceted

1
2 approach to convert algae to produce
3 biofuel and then reformulate corporate
4 social responsibility with a scoring
5 index to hold schools accountable for
6 their climate change efforts. Really? Now
7 how's that for a mouthful?

8 So it gives me great pleasure to
9 recognize and honor this year's Medical
10 Marvels winners Abigail Rajan, Chloe NG,
11 Zahara Naqvi, Hayley Brodzansky and
12 Sophie Hu. I also want to acknowledge
13 these ladies' Lead resource research
14 coordinator Raymond Tesar and Joyce
15 Barry, the Science Chairperson. Why don't
16 you folks come up?

17 (Whereupon, applause.)

18 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Any of you
19 would like to say a few words? This is
20 your opportunity.

21 MS. HU: We'd like to thank you for
22 acknowledging us and giving our school
23 district the resources and all of these
24 wonderful teachers and just having them
25 available so we can do our research and

1
2 learn how climate change has affected our
3 community. Thank you so much for all the
4 support.

5 (Whereupon, applause.)

6 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: How about the
7 research coordinator? Do you want to say
8 a few words?

9 MR. TESAR: Again, thank you for
10 inviting these young women. Right.
11 That's we've got five women standing up
12 here. I also want to stress that these
13 are only ninth and 10th graders. So keep
14 their names in mind, because I think
15 you'll be seeing them again in a couple
16 of years when they're my seniors, when
17 they do enter those Regeneron science
18 competitions and stuff. Great kids. I
19 have a great administration at Plainview
20 and you know, thank you for all the
21 support that you allow me to do what I
22 love to do and that's mentor these kids
23 in the sciences. Thank you.

24 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: What excites me
25 is that these young ladies, I think

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they're going to change the world as we
have a lot of leaders like you all over
our county and some of our great schools
throughout. And it's exciting for us to
see the next generation. And not just the
next generation, people who are actually
going to make the world a better place.
And I commend you on that. So thank you,
again, I'm going to step outside with you
and we'll take a couple of pictures.

(Whereupon, applause.)

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2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We
3 have public comment portion of our
4 meeting now. And the first speaker is
5 Allison O'Brien Silva.

6 MS. SILVA: My name is Allison
7 O'Brien Silva. I live in Manhasset now,
8 but I grew up in East Meadow. I reiterate
9 my vehement opposition to the Sands
10 proposal, and I urge you to vote in the
11 best interest of your constituents, not
12 what's best for the bottom line of a
13 company peddling an addictive vice.

14 I wrote and called every single one
15 of you thank you to the handful who
16 responded, but shame on the rest, who
17 didn't have the courtesy to even send a
18 form reply. I wonder if you gave Sands
19 the same treatment.

20 I have many questions still
21 unanswered. Why won't you call for a
22 referendum and let the voters decide?

23 Can you explain the decades long
24 relationship Bruce and Brad Blakeman have
25 had with the Adelson family and how that

1
2 has impacted this process?

3 Why does Sands keep shouting that
4 the casino is only 10% of the footprint?
5 70 to 80% of their revenue comes from the
6 casino floors, no matter the size and
7 relation to the rest of the property, the
8 20 to 30% they earn from restaurants and
9 hotels is wholly in service to driving
10 patrons to gamble.

11 Have you done any independent work
12 pressure testing the numbers that Sands
13 fed into their models to come up with the
14 outrageous revenue projection of \$2
15 billion a year? Have you grasped the
16 implications for Sands to hit \$2 billion
17 in gambling revenue would require
18 tremendous sacrifice from your own
19 constituents.

20 Two billion in GGR implies at least
21 20 to 25,000 patrons a day, 365 days a
22 year, plus all the employees needed to
23 take the money off their hands. Our
24 already overburdened infrastructure
25 cannot handle that volume.

1
2 Two billion GR implies that Sands
3 will spend millions inundating us all and
4 our children with predatory marketing,
5 luring the weakest among us with promises
6 of a big win and extra perks for loyalty.

7 Two billion GR implies crime rates
8 will go up. Nassau County is now one of
9 the safest in the nation. Well, for now
10 it is. But that won't be the case if you
11 drop a casino at its heart.

12 Two billion GR implies that Sands
13 will pull the lion's share from your own
14 voters' gambling losses. Sands is a
15 virulent virus, and we are all its hosts.

16 Your vote in favor amounts to you
17 allowing Sands to unleash their toxic
18 germs on your voters and vacuum up their
19 cash, their home values, their safety,
20 their quality of life and their health.

21 From that \$2 billion, the County is
22 set to get a paltry \$54 million a year, a
23 measly 1.3% of the budget. You haven't
24 bothered to promise tax breaks because
25 you know that studies show for every \$1 a

1
2 casino brings into a community, it costs
3 its hosts \$3 in social costs.

4 Maybe you haven't dug deep into
5 Sands assumptions because you're clouded
6 by their community benefits pitches. Can
7 you provide a list of the organizations
8 Sands is funding and how much they are
9 each getting? I guess these groups are
10 also clouded by a short term hit to their
11 bottom lines in exchange for long term
12 negative impacts their communities will
13 be barraged with for perpetuity.

14 And let's call a spade a spade.
15 Community benefits is a 21st century way
16 to legitimize payoffs and to shut you all
17 up.

18 Sands has been lobbying hard in New
19 York for at least a decade to get it to
20 open up. You know in your heart that a
21 casino is not right for us. You know we
22 can do better. You all weren't the ones
23 who let them in, but you can get them
24 out. Do the right thing for your
25 constituents and vote no today.

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Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Heidi Sanft.

MS. SANFT: Good afternoon. My name is Heidi Sanft. I'm the vice president of the Norstrand Garden Civic Association; Uniondale's is oldest civic association. I have been the vice president for 15 years. I am against the building of a casino in Uniondale and would like to make public the letter that I sent to County Executive Blakeman.

"Dear County Executive,

My parents purchased a house located on the border of Hempstead and Uniondale in 1967 when I was a little girl. The house is now mine. I am writing to let you know that I am against the building of a casino at the Nassau Hub in Uniondale for the following three reasons:

Number one: Traffic.

Hempstead Turnpike is currently a mess with too much traffic. With Amazon

1
2 and FedEx trucks parking their vehicles
3 in lanes where they don't belong to make
4 deliveries, drivers face a perilous
5 situation on a daily basis. A casino
6 would make this situation worse, with
7 motorcoaches transporting tourists taking
8 over the roads.

9 Number two: Proximity to schools.

10 A casino does not belong next to a
11 university. Casinos bring issues with
12 drinking and prostitution. This is not
13 what students need in order to get a good
14 start on having productive lives. It is
15 an unnecessary temptation and
16 distraction.

17 Number three, gambling.

18 Is this the best we can do in Nassau
19 County? In Uniondale, there is an issue
20 of homeless people and people struggling
21 with mental illness and drug addiction
22 roaming around aimlessly. Do we need
23 another potential problem in our
24 neighborhood? The answer is no.

25 Why not make the Nassau Hub an

1
2 innovation district with a research and
3 development center and a focus on health
4 care and new technologies? Housing for
5 young people who currently are moving
6 away because they cannot afford to live
7 on Long Island could be incorporated into
8 this plan. This type of growth would lift
9 Long Island up.

10 This is Long Island, not Las Vegas.
11 No casino. Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
13 you. Joseph Nabet.

14 (Whereupon, no response.)

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
16 Claudia Long.

17 MS. LONG: Good morning. My name's
18 Claudia Long. I live in East Meadow, and
19 I've lived here growing up in Bellmore
20 all my life, with the exception of a few
21 years.

22 My purpose is compassionate for what
23 is good and what is right for Nassau
24 County. Sands New York Integrated resort,
25 Money speaks. They have power. Who knows

1
2 what's under the table that has been
3 accomplished. I don't know that. Even
4 some of you do not know it all.

5 A lot of outsiders are here that
6 come for this. Why? We are in Nassau
7 County and they're promoting this for us.
8 Why? We are the people we elected you. To
9 represent and to protect and enhance our
10 community.

11 Let's face it, casinos will have
12 food on the premises. Those that come in
13 on buses, for them to go out on Hempstead
14 Turnpike and find a restaurant or other
15 shops, they wouldn't do it because they
16 don't have a way.

17 Who's kidding who about increasing
18 businesses for shops and restaurants? I'm
19 a citizen of this county and you are to
20 represent the people of Nassau County. So
21 many people are in the fog about this.
22 They still don't know about this going
23 on. Do you realize that? Why weren't we
24 informed first before you went about the
25 whole process of this proposal? We

1
2 elected you to guard and protect our
3 villages and towns of Nassau County.

4 This is the third time. Two times
5 it's been voted down. This is the third
6 time. We do not want a casino in our
7 neighborhood. The Bible says money is the
8 root of all evil. And card games with
9 money, you know. Watch the Westerns or
10 the law programs on TV? You see that it
11 leads to all kinds of crimes, all kinds
12 of situations.

13 Gambling is addiction, alcoholism,
14 all of these vices that have been
15 mentioned. It leads to broken families.
16 In Deuteronomy, it says money always
17 leads for more; it never stops. So you
18 have the power (buzzer). Money has power.

19 So on behalf of Nassau County and
20 for our neighborhood, I ask that we keep
21 our villages, towns, schools,
22 universities, businesses and all those
23 who live near the casino. We say no to
24 the casino.

25 Thank you for letting me speak. God

1
2 bless you all.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
4 you. Deirdre Benoit.

5 MS. BENOIT: Good afternoon, ladies
6 and gentlemen. Thank you for letting me
7 speak. My name is Deirdre Benoit. I've
8 been a resident of Nassau County for over
9 50 years, and 27 of those years I've
10 lived in East Meadow. I love my home
11 town. I love Nassau County. I am begging
12 you, please think about the people that
13 you are putting this horrible abomination
14 into our homes, into our lives. There's
15 just I can't reiterate everything
16 everyone said because it would just be, I
17 think, sadly, falling on deaf ears.
18 Please think about us. Think about your
19 constituents. Think about the people that
20 you are representing and care about us.
21 This is not something we want.

22 And what I don't understand is of
23 these 300 meetings that were supposedly
24 held with the Sands, how none of us as
25 residents were allowed to be involved.

1
2 Thank you again for your time. And
3 please, please think about the way you're
4 going to vote today. It's imperative for
5 those of us that care. Thank you.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
7 Thank you.

8 Alice Maroney.

9 MS. MARONEY: Good afternoon,
10 Legislature. I really don't have anything
11 unique to add to these arguments against
12 the construction of this casino. I just
13 am opposed to it in principle for every
14 reason stated above and before:

15 Noise pollution, traffic, air
16 pollution, water pollution, people
17 pollution, trafficking, drugs, crime. All
18 of it. It's not something I would look
19 forward to. I think these impacts are
20 real and the consequences are pretty
21 dire.

22 You know, anecdotal information is
23 just anecdotal information. It's not much
24 respected when statistics can be recited
25 and charts and graphs pointed to. But

1
2 just anecdotally.

3 I worked with a woman for several
4 years whose husband slid into addiction.
5 It wasn't a precipitate fall, but it was
6 a sliding into addiction. And the
7 complete degradation was after she worked
8 an overnight shift in a hospital, she
9 went in the morning to go to the ATM to
10 get money to go grocery shopping and. She
11 could not withdraw. The message was that
12 count closed. So she entered the bank to
13 say there must be some mistake. I have
14 automatic deposit. No, your account is
15 closed. Why? Because the money was drawn
16 out early this morning, 5:30 a.m., by
17 your husband. She had \$0.48 remaining in
18 her account. She had already lost her
19 retirement savings, their savings, her
20 savings, his savings because he had been
21 making trips to Atlantic City. And the
22 final grace was that he had cashed her
23 boys bonds that they received when they
24 were infants.

25 So that's only one story, but it's

1
2 enough. Please say no to the casino. I
3 know it looks glitzy. It's a really
4 pretty toy, but in the words of a beloved
5 president and paraphrasing somebody else,
6 I'm sure you can put lipstick on a pig,
7 but it's still a pig. Say no to the
8 casino. Thank you.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
10 Jacqueline Ghosh.

11 MS. GHOSH: Hello. I live in Garden
12 City. I'm a relatively new resident here.
13 I've spoken to you before about how I
14 grew up in a small town in Nevada, in the
15 town of Winnemucca, which has an
16 unusually high murder suicide rate. Three
17 of these situations where families that I
18 knew personally, one of them lived around
19 the corner from me. This was a common
20 occurrence in Winnemucca.

21 My step dad had a gambling problem,
22 which was probably a major contributing
23 factor to the dissolution of his marriage
24 with my mom. Once, when my mom was out of
25 town, I was 16 and I had to have a friend

1
2 drive me to the casino and find my step
3 dad. He was playing video poker. He was
4 far too inebriated to drive. Cocktail
5 waitresses bring you free drinks when
6 you're gambling. I'm not sure if you guys
7 know that, but that's a common casino
8 practice. My friend and I got him out of
9 there, and I drove his truck home. This
10 was such a common occurrence among myself
11 and my classmates that we didn't even
12 think it was weird. I'd forgotten about
13 this story until we started talking about
14 this casino. And I was like, Oh, you know
15 what? This situation happened with my
16 step dad. These are the childhood
17 memories that you're going to be gifting
18 to the children of Nassau County if this
19 casino comes here.

20 Other things that are common
21 knowledge and experiences in Nevada:

22 Playing Keno. The hardest game to
23 statistically win when you're waiting for
24 your food order to come and losing money
25 that way. My parents let us choose the

1
2 numbers. Everyone's parents did. So we
3 started gambling, experiencing gambling a
4 very young age. It wasn't my money, of
5 course.

6 We know there are no indicators of
7 how to leave a casino. Just clearly
8 marked emergency exits that are for
9 emergencies. There are no indicators of
10 where the exits are when you're walking
11 around. The decor is designed to repeat
12 itself so that you can't find your way
13 out by landmarks. The ugly carpet is to
14 keep your eyes up. Looking at the slot
15 machines, there are no clocks. Cell phone
16 service is usually terrible because you
17 spend money when you're in the building.
18 If you leave and can get out easily, then
19 you're not spending money gambling
20 because you're not at a slot machine.

21 The food at casino restaurants is
22 usually far cheaper than anywhere else.
23 They can operate at a loss because the
24 money is made on gambling. They don't
25 have to mark up the food. So the

1
2 restaurants and other businesses in the
3 area that are competing with the casino
4 are not going to have business drawn into
5 them. It's going to take it away. They're
6 not going to benefit. They're not driving
7 business out. They're keeping it there
8 because once again, you makes money off
9 of you when you're in the building. Once
10 you leave, you're a lost customer.

11 I'm honestly not sure if anything
12 that I say matters. It doesn't feel that
13 most of you are listening to us. I know
14 many of you are in a lame duck session
15 and we have no way to hold you
16 accountable for your vote. You shouldn't
17 order for the table when you're about to
18 leave the restaurant.

19 I haven't spoken with a single
20 resident who wants this casino. We don't
21 feel represented. I ask that this huge
22 decision, a 99 year lease, be put to the
23 will of the voters. We want a referendum.
24 We should be deciding on this as a
25 community. At the very least, it should

1
2 be put on until after the November
3 election and we can see if the voters
4 want to elect people who will represent
5 their interests and bring in a casino or
6 not. Thank you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Susan
8 Kaye.

9 MS. KAYE: I'm against this. I have
10 spoken many times on what to do with the
11 land. We can come up with Hofstra's
12 Medical School and Northwell and build
13 Allied Health School center.

14 There are two dental assistance
15 programs, all of Long Island that are
16 legit BOCES and Stonybrook.

17 There is no EEG program at all in
18 New York State. If you want to go for
19 EEG, you have to go out of state.

20 Ultrasound is another program. There
21 are very few schools that are legit.
22 Sanford-brown was a good example.
23 Students spent thousands and thousands of
24 dollars on a ultrasound program that was
25 not accredited. They could not take the

1
2 exam. Northwell would not hire them.

3 We have too many of these phony
4 baloney allied health schools that are
5 opening up. Not too many people know
6 this. The state has become a watchdog.
7 Too many phony allied health programs,
8 computer and business schools, and they
9 shut them down. A good example was
10 Katharine Gibbs. Every single school was
11 shut down. Another school, Drake
12 Institute.

13 How about, we can have some holistic
14 things called EFT, which is emotional
15 freedom tapping in California. They use
16 this in the school system. It has stopped
17 bullying and calms the student down. I
18 don't know if any of you are familiar.
19 It's you have these meridian points all
20 over your body here, here, here
21 (indicating), and it calms the body down.
22 Why not have a program in that? Reiki.

23 Instead, we're going to build this
24 casino. This is a waste of money and
25 time. How many people is this casino

1
2 going to hire over the age of 50? None.
3 How many people are going to really make
4 \$75,000? None. You could become a dental
5 hygienist, in two year and make \$90,000 a
6 year.

7 Any of you legislators who are not
8 running for re-election, you vote yes on
9 this thing, just remember in November you
10 will be voted out. Mayor Blakeman (sic)
11 is up for re-election and two more years,
12 he will be voted out. This is the most
13 disgusting thing.

14 On top of a medical center where
15 people are going through chemo. Many
16 people who go through chemo are very
17 sensitive to smells, walking out of the
18 place and smelling liquor and the smell
19 of cheap, smelly weed and body odor. This
20 is the most disgusting thing I have ever
21 heard of in my life.

22 Vote no on this project.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

24 Richard Clolery.

25 MR. CLOLERY: I am curious, members

1
2 of the Legislature, have you addressed
3 anybody about this new project? I mean,
4 don't you want better ways to keep young
5 people here on the island? I mean, like
6 better housing, maybe better schools or
7 like you said, maybe innovation research
8 center in the hub instead of a casino?

9 I mean, don't get me wrong, I like
10 to gamble occasionally myself, but not at
11 the expense of the community, not against
12 them.

13 Um, look, we have other priorities
14 right now. I mean, we're dealing with
15 empty storefronts. Empty. Goodness. Lots
16 of things. For example, on the corner of
17 Hempstead and New Bridge, there was
18 supposed to be a Popeye's a few years
19 ago, but they never happened because of
20 the whole COVID thing. What are we doing
21 to encourage a local businesses, you
22 know, or any businesses at all?

23 You know, another thing, I know you
24 guys are ignoring me, but I seriously
25 suggest that we increase funding for

1
2 buses. I know that there are people here
3 who drive. I respect that. And especially
4 since I bike a lot.

5 Look, we have other priorities.
6 Other concerns. Let me ask members of
7 the Legislature and I want an answer.
8 What can you think of anything better
9 than a casino? I mean, we already have
10 one somewhere in Queens. Why do we need
11 another one here in Long Island? Are we
12 that desperate for funds? Anyone?

13 (Whereupon, interruption by
14 the public.)

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: This
16 is not question and answer session. You
17 have an opportunity to provide your
18 remarks, as you always do, and we listen
19 attentively.

20 Richard, you can go ahead.

21 MR. CLOLERY: Anyway, getting to
22 what I was saying.

23 Look, I'm just saying we need to
24 increase funding because right now the
25 current funding levels at the NICE Bus

1
2 company only maintains the status quo.
3 Thankfully, they're not coming back at
4 the last meeting I went to. But at the
5 same time, it's not doing anything to
6 increase coverage. We're dealing with gas
7 prices going up eventually. We're dealing
8 with global warming.

9 To be honest, I think we could do
10 better. I mean, we should do better.
11 That's all I have to say.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
13 Thank you. Kevin McKenna.

14 MR. MCKENNA: Kevin McKenna. I'm
15 broadcasting this live on Nassau County
16 NY News for Nassau County residents
17 because you all are purposely not making
18 the Nassau County residents aware of
19 these hearings. It's amazing that you had
20 this public comment start at 1:00 today
21 because yesterday when you probably
22 listened to the "Say no to the casino"
23 rally, you probably heard people telling
24 people that they could come at 4:00 for
25 public comment. So what you all did is

1
2 you moved this up at 1:00 and you did
3 this so you can get public comment out of
4 the way, which is unbelievable.

5 I get a lot of information sent to
6 me and I was made aware of the fact that
7 a resident called up and spoke to
8 Legislator Thomas McKeivitt recently and
9 asked Thomas McKeivitt why he hasn't, why
10 the legislator hasn't sent out glossy
11 mailers telling the residents about this
12 casino project and about these hearings.
13 And unfortunately, Mr. McKeivitt didn't
14 have an answer to that question. The
15 residents said, well, you're able to send
16 out glossy mailers about nonsense. Why
17 can't you send out a mailer to the
18 residents about this important hearing
19 today? Right.

20 Could you imagine, Chairman
21 Nicolello, if you really did your job and
22 you made the Public Relations Department
23 of Nassau County or the Nassau County
24 Legislature, imagine if you had them
25 really make the residents aware of this

1
2 project, could you imagine how many
3 people would be in this room today at
4 1:00?

5 Now, you know, there's an old
6 saying, follow the money, right? Again, I
7 get a lot of information sent to me. And
8 I just found out. That our Nassau County
9 executive, Bruce Blakeman, is he here? I
10 don't think he's here. He has a brother.
11 He has a brother. And I have notes in my
12 phone. I only got this about a half an
13 hour ago, so I can't read the notes and
14 my memory's going because I'm getting a
15 little older. But he has a brother and
16 his brother's name, I believe, is
17 Bradley. And, Legislative Drucker, I
18 would really appreciate it if you'd pay
19 attention to me while I speak. And I
20 thank my legislator Lafazan for finally
21 showing up to a meeting. Well, County
22 Executive Bruce Blakeman has a brother
23 named Bradley who had a very, very, very
24 cushy relationship with a high executive.
25 And I have the name of my phone. I'm

1
2 going to post it up. Very cushy
3 relationship with a Las Vegas Sands
4 Casino executive. Okay. So we're going to
5 follow the money and we're going to find
6 out why you all have been told by the
7 County Executive that you must approve
8 this project. Make no mistake about it.
9 You are all going to be held accountable
10 this coming November (buzzer). Make no
11 mistake about it.

12 Thank you very much.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Just
14 so that the record is clear, we have
15 scheduled a regular meeting of the
16 Legislature today. But understanding that
17 the casino, the lease transfer, rather,
18 would be a long, complicated session, we
19 we scheduled that part of it for 4:00. So
20 this public comment portion is really for
21 the for the initial portion of the
22 legislature. So what we're going to do is
23 get our regular business out of the way
24 so that after this afternoon we can focus
25 exclusively on the lease transfer.

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By the way, I noticed some speakers
probably for later today, Matthew Arisich
and Nadia, are you okay not speaking
until later?

MR. ARISICH: That's correct.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.

All right. Thank you.

That's the last public comment.

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2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So
3 we're going to go to the Emergency Item.
4 Only we're only calling one of the two
5 emergency items. I'll call the emergency
6 185 of 2023. It's an ordinance ordinance
7 authorizing the County Executive on
8 behalf of the County of Nassau to execute
9 an agreement or covenants and
10 restrictions and consent to assignment
11 regarding property situated in the Town
12 of Hempstead County of Nassau. We need a
13 motion to establish an emergency.

14 So moved by Legislator Walker
15 seconded by Legislator Ford. Any
16 discussion before we vote on the
17 emergency or do you want to have the
18 presentation?

19 Why don't we have the presentation
20 and then we decide then on the emergency.
21 Gentlemen, come on up.

22 MR. K. WALSH: Good afternoon,
23 legislators. Kevin Walsh from the Office
24 of Real Estate Service. I'm joined by
25 Nick Sarandis from the County Attorney's

1
2 office. This is a request for a consent
3 to an assignment of lease for 400 Oak
4 Street in Uniondale. The reason we're
5 before you on this today is it's a 99
6 year ground lease that, basically, the
7 lease precludes an assignment to a not
8 for profit entity. The entity that's
9 going to be purchasing this is going to
10 be a not for profit. However, they have
11 agreed, as they will be a building owner
12 and a commercial area, that they will be
13 signing a covenant restriction that will
14 be run with the land that they will,
15 despite the fact that they could qualify
16 for not for profit status exemption,
17 they're going to pay taxes on this, which
18 has been a commercial building on the tax
19 rolls for many years.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
21 And there's a gentleman in the first row.
22 Did you want to say anything?

23 MR. K. WALSH: Peter Curry is the
24 attorney for the purchaser of the
25 property.

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
Did you have anything to add, Mr. Curry,
or no?

MR. CURRY: Well, I should add that
they will not be occupying the entire
premises. And one of the reasons why they
are not seeking to have the property
taken off the tax rolls, they will be
occupying approximately 20 to 25,000ft
out of a 70 to 75,000 square foot
building. The remainder will be leased
out to all agencies of the state, but
that would not automatically qualify them
to come off the tax rolls. And the reason
why they are doing this and acquiring
this building is that the rent that they
will receive from these other tenants
will offset a significant portion of
their leasehold operating costs.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You
mentioned a not for profit. What is the
mission of the not for profit?

MR. CURRY: The mission of the not
for profit. It's a health organization,

1
2 so it's the FQHC that operates in Nassau
3 County. I'm actually on the board of the
4 Interfaith Nutrition Network. We are
5 partnering with the FQHC. It provides a
6 variety of health related services to the
7 citizens of Nassau County. And the reason
8 why we're here on an emergency is that
9 every every moment that they don't close,
10 that means they don't get to renovate the
11 building. They will end up being a
12 holdover on their existing lease, which
13 will cost them a significant amount of
14 money. That's why we bought this as an
15 emergency.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
17 Thank you. Appreciate that.

18 Any questions?

19 Note for the record, that Legislator
20 McKevitt is recusing, that he's not
21 taking any part in any debate or
22 discussion and will not be voting on this
23 item. He's left the room.

24 (Whereupon, Legislator
25 McKevitt previously left the

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Chambers.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
Any questions for the speakers?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
you very much.

MR. K. WALSH: Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
discussion among the legislators?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: If
not, all in favor of establishing the
emergency, signify by saying, "Aye".

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

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
opposed.

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The

1
2 emergency is established. And now as to
3 the Item, again, I'll call it, 185-2023,
4 it's an ordinance authorizing the County
5 Executive on behalf of the County of
6 Nassau to execute an agreement of
7 covenant and restrictions and consent to
8 assignment regarding property situated in
9 the Town of Hempstead. I think we've
10 covered the substance of this. We need a
11 motion and second.

12 Motion by Legislator Ford, second by
13 Legislator Walker. Any further debate or
14 discussion on this item?

15 (Whereupon, no verbal
16 response.)

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Nope.
18 All in favor signify by saying, "Aye".

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

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
24 opposed?

25 (Whereupon, no verbal

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response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

Carries unanimously.

Invite Legislator McKevitt back in.

(Whereupon, Legislator
McKevitt renters the Chambers.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
We're going to the Regular Calendar. Item
1 will not be called until later. That is
the lease transfer.

We have a Consent Calendar. These
are all Items that went through
Committees a couple of weeks ago. It's
been agreed by the Majority and Minority
that no further debate or discussion is
needed on these items at this point:

- Item 2 Ordinance 28;
- Item 3, Ordinance 29;
- Item 4; Ordinance 30;
- Item 5, Ordinance 31;
- Item 6, Ordinance 32;
- Item 8, Ordinance 109;
- Item 9, Resolution 110;
- Item 10, Resolution 111;
- Item 11, Resolution 112;
- Item 12, Resolution 113;
- Item 13, Resolution 114;
- Item 14, Resolution 115;
- Item 15, Resolution 116;
- Item 16, Resolution 117

1
2 We need a motion to put those before
3 us. Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel makes
4 that motion and it's seconded by Minority
5 Leader Abrahams. Any discussion on the
6 consent items?

7 (Whereupon, no verbal
8 response.)

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

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

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
17 opposed?

18 (Whereupon, no verbal
19 response.)

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Item
21 7, Ordinance 33. An ordinance to amend
22 Ordinance 76 of 2000 relating to the
23 establishment of various fees of the
24 Department of Public Works. Motion by
25 Legislator Gaylor seconded by Legislator

1
2 Lafazan.

3 Before we go to the presentation,
4 just like to note for the record that
5 Minority Leader Abrahams has left the
6 room. He's not participating in any
7 debate or discussion. He is recusing
8 himself on this item.

9 (Whereupon, Minority Leader
10 Abrahams leaves the Chambers.)

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.

12 MR. DEBAUN: Good afternoon. David
13 DeBaun, County Deputy County Attorney.

14 So the item before you is an
15 ordinance for the amendment regarding
16 fees charged by the Department of Public
17 Works for the review of applications
18 under 239 F of the General Municipal Law.
19 239 F reviews involve proposed structures
20 or buildings that have frontage on or
21 access to proposed county road or right
22 of way for means of access to curb cuts.

23 The curb current fee structure for
24 that is three quarters of 1% on the cost
25 of the construction that starts to become

1
2 dis associated with the cost to the
3 County as you get into larger and larger
4 projects, obviously; wherein, the cost to
5 the County itself are going to be
6 relatively fixed up to a particular
7 point.

8 So the concept here is to reduce the
9 fee paid by an applicant from three
10 quarters of 1% to one quarter of 1% for
11 projects in excess of \$500 Million in
12 construction costs.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
14 Any questions?

15 (Whereupon, no verbal
16 response.)

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Nope.
18 Thank you for the presentation.

19 Any debate or discussion?

20 (Whereupon, no verbal
21 response.)

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
23 Hearing none. All in favor, signify by
24 saying, "Aye".

25 (Whereupon, all members

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

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: That
carries unanimously.

I am now going to put the
legislature into recess. We'll be back at
4:00 to consider the lease transfer. And
we'll see you then. Thank you.

(Whereupon, Nassau County
Legislature recess, 1:40 - 4:06
p.m.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All right. So what we're going to do is we're going to go into this item. We're going to get a presentation from Las Vegas Sands, followed by the Administration, somewhat abbreviated from last time around, then we'll go to public comment.

But before that, with respect to the area in front of the rail here, members of the public are not to stand, kneel, sit in that area specifically. Mr. McKenna, I'm referring to you.

(Whereupon, Mr. McKenna gives resistance and is removed from the Chambers.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All right, here we go.

Item 1, an ordinance making certain determinations pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and authorizing the County Executive of the County of Nassau to execute an agreement of lease by and between the County of

1
2 Nassau as landlord and LVS NY Holdco Co
3 LLC as tenant in connection with the
4 leasing of certain premises located in
5 Uniondale, Town of Hempstead County of
6 New York State of New York, said property
7 known as Section 44, Block F, lots 351,
8 411, 412 and 415 on the Land and Tax Map
9 of the County of Nassau, and authorizing
10 the County Executive to execute a lease
11 and all pertinent documents in connection
12 therewith to consummate the lease.

13 I would just like to state for the
14 record that it is hereby determined,
15 pursuant to the provisions of the New
16 York State Environmental Quality Review
17 Act, that the execution of the proposed
18 lease of the subject property has been
19 determined to be a Type 1 Action pursuant
20 to SEQRA and based on the environmental
21 assessment form and the supporting
22 documents has been determined not to have
23 a significant effect on the environment
24 and no further review is required for the
25 reasons set forth in the attached

1
2 determination of nonsignificance.

3 Motion by Legislator Ferretti,
4 seconded by Deputy Presiding Officer
5 Kopel. Before we get started with the
6 presentations, I just ask that for the
7 record that the minutes of the Rules
8 Committee meeting with respect to the
9 lease transfer be incorporated by
10 reference into this meeting.

11 (Whereupon, minutes from
12 Rules Committee, May 8, 2022,
13 Clerk Item 156-2023, pages
14 11-335 are hereby referenced.)

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: And I
16 will now offer things over now to our
17 chief Deputy County Executive, Arthur
18 Walsh.

19 CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALSH:
20 Good afternoon, Presiding Officer.

21 Presiding Officer Nicoletto, members
22 of the Legislature, on behalf of the
23 Administration, thank you for allowing us
24 to make this presentation this afternoon.
25 We'd like to begin with by respectfully

1
2 acknowledging those who came out for both
3 support and non support for this
4 transaction, be it labor, business,
5 education, as well as the residents of
6 Nassau County, a place we call home.

7 Before we turn this over to counsel
8 to talk about, briefly, the terms of the
9 transaction and Sands to talk about their
10 vision, I would like to make a few brief
11 remarks.

12 We understand that some of the
13 information you will hear today is
14 repetitive to the May 8, 2023
15 presentation before Rules wherein the
16 entire Legislative Body was present and
17 participated. However, as this item
18 represents significant, noteworthy, once
19 in a generation opportunity for the
20 County, please, we ask you for your
21 indulgence.

22 Without repeating the
23 constitutionality legal entitlements of
24 siting a gaming facility in Nassau
25 County, which was overwhelmingly

1
2 supported by New York State and the
3 Nassau County residents, a planned world
4 class entertainment resort provides the
5 potential for paving the way --

6 (Whereupon, interruption
7 from public.)

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Hold
9 on a second. We're going to let each
10 speaker have their say so that everyone
11 can hear them. So if you disagree with
12 anything, we understand that; you'll have
13 an opportunity to speak. But not only
14 just for the presentations, but for the
15 public comment. I would ask you to have
16 the courtesy respect for each person
17 speaking that you allow them to finish
18 their comments. Thank you.

19 CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALSH:
20 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Nicolello.

21 A transformative new funding source
22 for the County's infrastructure, as well
23 as shoring up the County's own financial
24 status in addition to serving as a
25 stimulus for dynamic new integrated

1
2 resort site in our boundaries.

3 We have undisputedly provided
4 construction jobs, permanent careers,
5 economic growth and other opportunities
6 not realized by an empty shell in a
7 parking lot.

8 That being said, the gravamen of the
9 non-support appears to be the notion that
10 crime, traffic, and social ills will grow
11 in our county as a result of this
12 proposed project.

13 As one of the County Executive's
14 highest priorities is keeping Nassau
15 County residents safe, today's
16 presentation will include industry and
17 local experts on the three mentioned
18 negatives of the project. I hope our
19 presentation will dispel and address
20 these concerns to the satisfaction of the
21 Legislature and the community as a whole.

22 As I have said before, this
23 agreement today was the product of months
24 of extensive negotiations where our
25 primary concern was to achieve a result

1
2 that best served the residents of Nassau
3 County.

4 We all love Nassau County. Niche
5 rating for Nassau County in New York as:

6 - Best county for families
7 - Best county for young
8 professionals.

9 - Healthiest county

10 - Best county for retirees

11 We all live and work here because we
12 feel safe.

13 Nassau County Police, which will
14 celebrate their 100th anniversary in
15 2025, is the best. Over the last few
16 years, the US News and World Report has
17 named Nassau County the safest county in
18 the United States. The report compared
19 3000 communities across the nation
20 analyzing crime rates, fatal vehicular
21 accidents, and the amount of money a
22 community spends on health and emergency
23 services and they found that Nassau
24 ranked on the top.

25 We submit Nassau County will remain

1
2 a safe place with or without Las Vegas
3 Sands Integrated Resort. Although some
4 will find dated studies to the contrary,
5 these studies bear no relationship to our
6 county. Atlantic City is not Nassau
7 County.

8 Reliable Data supports that crime
9 has declined in casino communities after
10 development and crime per capita crime
11 rates declined as well. The reason is
12 there is more security presence and
13 additional police patrols.

14 More in-depth studies and recent
15 analysis support the conclusion that the
16 probability of a resident being a victim
17 of a crime has not been shown to increase
18 as a result of the presence of a casino.

19 Next, people bring up traffic.
20 Today, we will hear from Las Vegas Sands
21 traffic expert Las Vegas Sands will be
22 required as part of the SEQRA process and
23 land use application before the Town of
24 Hempstead Town Board to provide traffic
25 impact analysis prepared by traffic

1
2 engineers addressing the existing and
3 future transportation parking impacts
4 associated with the proposed project.
5 Sands will be required to mitigate
6 traffic impacts in their proposed project
7 on the affected roads and highways to
8 maintain the same level of service
9 safety, operational mobility
10 post-development as existed prior to the
11 development.

12 The traffic analysis will study the
13 potential traffic impacts of the
14 development and the surrounding
15 transportation system. The purpose of the
16 study is to identify and document the
17 impacts as required by county and state
18 law and recommend mitigation of those
19 impacts. The traffic study will fully
20 assess and document the impacts of the
21 proposed development, will identify
22 mitigating measures and minimize these
23 impacts subject to various approvals. The
24 traffic impact will help to ensure safe
25 and reasonable traffic conditions once

1
2 the development is complete. This
3 protects the community's substantial
4 investment in the street system.

5 Next are the complaints of social
6 impact. For most adults, casino gambling
7 is just another form of entertainment.
8 People are willing to spend money to
9 visit gaming facilities and play games
10 there, go to restaurants, shows or shop.
11 This is similar to spending money,
12 attending a sporting event, playing golf
13 or shopping at a mall.

14 However, for a small percentage of
15 people, gambling can become a problem.
16 Researchers show in the United States
17 between 0.06% and 1.4% of the population
18 suffer from this addiction. If you take
19 New York with a population of 19 million,
20 you were talking already about 116 to
21 272,000 individuals with gambling
22 disorders living in New York State.
23 Certainly, some of these negative impacts
24 attributed to gambling are already
25 present in the state.

1
2 That being said, the New York State
3 Gaming Commission and the New York State
4 Office of Addiction Services and Support,
5 known as Oasis and the New York Council
6 of Problem Gaming, have formed what is
7 called the Responsible Gaming Partnership
8 to address problem gambling in New York
9 State. This includes ensuring that gaming
10 venues comply with all rules and
11 regulations and undertake proper outreach
12 measures reevaluating self-exclusion
13 policies across the state to ensure
14 consistency and considering the best ways
15 to advance New York's long term
16 commitment to prevent and treat
17 disordered gambling.

18 The Long Island Problem Gambling
19 Resource Center, which is known as PGRC,
20 is a program of the New York State
21 Council of Problem Gambling, dedicated to
22 addressing the issues of problem gaming
23 within New York State. The vision of the
24 PGRC is a positive transformation of
25 lives harmed by problem gambling. This

1
2 vision is a transformation, including
3 individuals with gaming disorders as well
4 as families and communities. Actually
5 located in the same location in
6 Uniondale, this agency provides
7 increasing public awareness to problem
8 gambling connecting clients with
9 treatment, recovery and support systems,
10 working with the gaming industry to
11 promote responsible gambling. In
12 addition, this spring, they launched a
13 new phone number. It's (516)226-8342, in
14 addition to the statewide hotline, which
15 is 1-833-Heretohelp.

16 These resources have been very
17 beneficial with the growth of mobile
18 sports wagering among our college
19 students, many who bet on their smart
20 phones while on campus. In January of
21 this year, when New York marked the first
22 anniversary of legal mobile sports,
23 gaming announced that mobile sports
24 gaming generated far and away more
25 revenue than any other state.

1
2 Governor Hochul announced in January
3 this year that the total amount of
4 wagering, which is called handle, reached
5 \$16.2 billion, more than 3.8 million
6 unique player accounts were created when
7 they launched with over 1.2 billion
8 transactions made, which was over \$1.5
9 billion in total bets being placed. The
10 \$16.2 billion in yearly handle, the
11 amount that was wagered, set an industry
12 benchmark, as did the \$1.36 billion in
13 total gross gaming revenue, and the State
14 received \$709 Million in tax revenue,
15 which was more than twice the amount that
16 was estimated when the program was coming
17 out.

18 Unlike mobile apps with no brick and
19 mortar presence, the Gaming Commission
20 RFA process will require the Las Vegas
21 Sands to submit an extensive problem
22 gambling prevention measure program,
23 which will include on site resources that
24 will be available to those affected by
25 gambling related problems. A description

1
2 of signs, alerts and other information
3 available at the facility to identify
4 resources available and processes that
5 they will engage in to facilitate
6 assistance treatment of those with
7 gambling problems, and planned prevention
8 programs targeted towards vulnerable
9 population together with an extensive
10 employee training on detection.

11 Next is another issue which some
12 non-supporters bring up is a property
13 value decrease in casino community. The
14 basis of this conclusion is flawed and
15 borne by outdated research. Studies
16 citing property declines are from the
17 1990s analyzing data from the early
18 casino communities in Atlantic City,
19 Nevada and early riverboats. The National
20 Association of Realtors report from 2013
21 projected a 4.6 decline in property
22 values in Springfield, MA from the
23 addition of casino. In reality, the
24 reverse happened and Springfield had
25 enjoyed a property appreciation of 21.4

1
2 versus the surrounding area, which was
3 only 2.3, which was a 14 point spread.

4 However, more reliable and more
5 recent studies show the negative impacts
6 have not been realized. The opposite
7 occurs. A host community has experienced
8 valuation growth of over 21%,
9 significantly greater than the regional
10 average. In fact, since the opening in
11 2017 of the upstate casinos, resort
12 communities aided in market wide real
13 estate appreciation and property value
14 growth exceeded surrounding neighborhoods
15 as much as 7.1% versus 4%, casino versus
16 non casino.

17 For some living approximate to a
18 gaming resort could mean a job
19 opportunity that cuts commuting time
20 considerably and raising income and the
21 ability to find entertainment nearby may
22 be appealing.

23 Based on the foregoing, we believe
24 this plan should move forward as the
25 interest of the Nassau County residents

1
2 will be protected by various measures
3 that will be discussed today, coupled
4 with the positive economic impacts that
5 can be released.

6 In closing, I want to thank the
7 Legislative Body and their staff for
8 devoting your time and considering this
9 proposal. We have had the opportunity to
10 meet with both caucuses on several
11 occasions and hope during the process
12 leading up to now will provide more
13 insight into the project.

14 We again express appreciation to
15 countless labor and business groups and
16 community organizations whose
17 collaboration and partnership has been
18 and will be instrumental in turning a
19 financially viable gaming integrated
20 resort facility into a reality and
21 strengthening the physical path of our
22 county future.

23 We hope we can move forward together
24 in this fashion and continue to make
25 Nassau County the greatest and safest

1
2 place to live, work, play and raise a
3 family. Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, applause.)

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
6 you. Mr. Levoff, I'll turn it over to you
7 now.

8 MR. LEVOFF: Presiding Officer
9 Nicolello, Legislators, members of the
10 public, thank you for again having us
11 here today to present to you and answer
12 any questions you might have.

13 As you know, I'm Michael Levoff,
14 Sands, Senior Vice President of Strategy
15 and Public Affairs. In response to the
16 questions and comments received during
17 the Rules Committee hearing on May 8th,
18 we have prepared a short presentation on
19 the subjects the Legislature had raised
20 open questions on, including our
21 Community Benefits Program, Responsible
22 Gaming Services, security and public
23 safety protocols, and the pending
24 environmental review process.

25 We ask that the clerk please include

1
2 the presentation and comments at the
3 Sands made on May 8th as part of the
4 record for today's proceeding.

5 (Whereupon, please refer to
6 Rules Committee, May 8, 2023,
7 pages 11-190.)

8 MR. LEVOFF: First, I'd like to ask
9 former New York Governor David Paterson
10 to make some opening remarks on Sand's
11 vision for the Nassau Coliseum site.

12 GOVERNOR PATERSON: Presiding
13 Officer Nicoletto and to all the members
14 of the Legislature, thank you for
15 allowing me to speak at the Rules
16 Committee hearing on May 8th and for some
17 reason to come back here on the 22nd and
18 speak again.

19 But it is an honor for me, who grew
20 up in this neighborhood and enjoyed all
21 of the great attributes of Long Island,
22 that I was part of a group that insisted
23 to the Las Vegas Sands Corporation that
24 as they look for a location in New York
25 that they consider Long Island, which has

1
2 long been left out of too many issues and
3 and not given the opportunity to
4 demonstrate what a great part of this
5 state Long Island really is.

6 So it is in that regard that I come
7 here today to say that I think that the
8 economic development, the opportunity for
9 jobs and careers, the opportunity for
10 young people to stay in Long Island and
11 not have the brain drain that we've had
12 here for years, going to out of state
13 with a great Long Island education, but
14 making money and paying taxes to other
15 venues because the opportunities didn't
16 exist here. The unions that operate right
17 here in Long Island always have their
18 events in New York City because they
19 haven't had the hotels or the meeting
20 spaces large enough to do it, that would
21 change if we have the opportunity to
22 receive this type of license.

23 To what Mr. Walsh was talking about
24 before about having a resort -- because
25 the Sands doesn't build casinos, it

1
2 builds integrated resorts -- to have a
3 resort put in the area. Just for example,
4 since 2010, one of our competitors for
5 the license, Genting, has operated a
6 video lottery terminal in the aqueduct
7 area right in Queens. The property values
8 there are up. The crime rate was up
9 slightly, but only 10% of what the crime
10 rate was up for the rest of the city
11 during those years and the pandemic. It's
12 also true in Yonkers, who has a video
13 lottery terminal and is bidding for a
14 contract here, that they have also had
15 increased property values. And what we
16 want to do in addition to that is to
17 create, as we have with our associations
18 with Nassau Community College and Long
19 Island University, opportunities for
20 majors in the hospitality fields and
21 other areas that won't just bring jobs to
22 the young people of Long Island, it will
23 bring full careers. They wouldn't have to
24 leave everything they would want to have
25 as young adults and then as raising

1
2 families would be right here in Long
3 Island.

4 Now, there was a very interesting
5 comment that was made yesterday by Mayor
6 Pereira of Mineola, it was really rather
7 eloquent when he talked about all the
8 great achievements and all the great
9 values that we have in Long Island. And I
10 was really quite moved by how well he
11 stated what a great place this has been.
12 But the only thing I'd like to add to
13 what he said is our great opportunity, as
14 we've had at Mitchel Field, to be for
15 Long Island, to become really the cradle
16 of aeronautics, was opposed by the
17 citizens there at that particular time.
18 They thought that the planes would be too
19 loud. They thought that the area would
20 drive people away from where the airports
21 were, and they also thought that it would
22 not be safe for the environment. But
23 those people who supported the project
24 went ahead. And now everybody is proud to
25 call Long Island the Cradle of Aviation.

1
2 And so, as you would notice all
3 through history, there have been men and
4 women who took first steps down new roads
5 armed with their own nothing but their
6 own vision. The great innovators of this
7 country stood alone, often against the
8 societies that they were trying to
9 convince. But they fought. And they
10 suffered. And they paid. And what they
11 brought us here in this country, the
12 greatest country in the world, was
13 freedom, freedom to make these decisions.
14 And that's why the fact that there are
15 people here on both sides of the issue
16 today is great.

17 So we'll hear from all views as to
18 whether this is a good idea. I think it's
19 a great idea because it's going to create
20 opportunities and economic development in
21 this region that has never been seen
22 before.

23 And with that, I rest my case.

24 (Whereupon, applause.)

25 MR. LEVOFF: As Governor Paterson

1
2 alluded to, the integrated resort that
3 Sands seeks to develop is not just a
4 hotel with a casino and restaurants. It
5 is a multifaceted entertainment and
6 hospitality destination that is designed
7 to have offerings for guests of all
8 interests and backgrounds.

9 To deliver this at scale, Sands is
10 prepared to invest between 4 and 5
11 billion dollars. As your own Office of
12 Legislative Budget Review has
13 corroborated, the economic development
14 impact for Long Island is extraordinary.
15 Over 8500 jobs in construction alone will
16 be created. And again, this project will
17 be completely union built. Over 6000
18 careers will be launched in operations.
19 The vast majority of these jobs will also
20 likely be union. We estimate that the
21 average entry level employee will earn a
22 base wage of at least \$70,000 per year in
23 addition to a generous benefits package.

24 This investment will reap immediate
25 results from Nassau County and the Town

1
2 of Hempstead. Over \$120 million will be
3 generated in taxes annually for both the
4 County and the Town, with the majority
5 \$70 million being guaranteed by Sands
6 through the lease here before you today.

7 Beyond funding much needed programs,
8 a guaranteed revenue stream of this
9 magnitude from a credit worthy, publicly
10 traded \$50 Billion company such as Sands,
11 will instantaneously increase the
12 County's and Town's borrowing capacity to
13 the tune of hundreds of millions of
14 dollars, if not billions, providing more
15 budget certainty to better weather any
16 financial downturn and hold the line on
17 property taxes.

18 All of this investment will in turn
19 generate tens of billions of dollars in
20 direct, indirect and induced economic
21 activity for the area turning Sands, New
22 York into an economic engine of broader
23 economic development region wide.

24 Now, I'd like to invite my
25 colleague, Ron Reese, Sands Senior Vice

1
2 President of Global Communications and
3 Corporate Affairs, to provide important
4 updates to our commitment on community
5 benefits, including the amount, timing
6 and implementation of the program.

7 MR. REESE: Thank you, Michael.
8 Presiding Officer, members of the
9 Legislature, thanks for allowing us to
10 come back. I'll be brief.

11 I have three points I'd like to
12 raise. The last time we were here, I
13 talked about the amount of community
14 outreach that we've done over the course
15 of the last year and is reflected here
16 today from members of union, business,
17 community, local chambers of commerce, as
18 well as nonprofit groups and and people
19 from across the community. That work
20 continues. And in fact, just last week,
21 as I was back in Las Vegas, we received a
22 letter from the Uniondale Fire District
23 to our chairman and CEO, Rob Goldstein,
24 pledging their desire to work with us as
25 this process unfolds.

1
2 Also last week, the Long Island
3 Association, whom all of you are familiar
4 with, pledged their support to this
5 project. And what I read was an
6 overwhelming 28 to 2 vote for those
7 members of the board that voted last
8 week.

9 (Whereupon, applause.)

10 MR. REESE: This is the opening step
11 in the process of eventually pursuing a
12 gaming license through the state of New
13 York. And our work will not stop. It has
14 begun and it will continue to engage with
15 the community.

16 And as we were here two weeks ago,
17 the second thing I would like to, as
18 Michael alluded to, is give an update on
19 the Community Benefits Agreement and
20 importantly, to address two issues.

21 One, we were asked about the timing
22 of payments and the amount of payments.
23 And as Michael and I sat here two weeks
24 ago, we made certain pledges. And I'm
25 happy to say today that via a side letter

1
2 and in with support of the County
3 Executive and with feedback and input
4 from members of the Majority and the
5 Minority sides of the Legislature that
6 today through this side letter that we
7 will be increasing the community benefits
8 by \$25 million; \$10 million of that will
9 go to Uniondale, \$10 million to projects
10 in East Meadow and \$5 million for the
11 village of Hempstead.

12 Additionally, as was asked of us at
13 the last hearing, the timing, the
14 Community Benefits Agreement doesn't kick
15 in until the beginning of the opening.
16 Half of this, \$12.5 million, will be
17 available as we start construction and
18 will be apportioned for those communities
19 as well.

20 We were also busy over the course of
21 the last couple of weeks. In addition to
22 these amounts, we just over the course of
23 late last week have also inked an
24 agreement with the Long Island Community
25 Foundation to serve as administrator of

1
2 these funds. They will help us. This is a
3 very large process that will take place
4 to solicit grants and applications from
5 community organizations and causes. Long
6 Island Community Foundation is, I don't
7 have to tell you, is a valued community
8 partner who will help us manage that
9 process and make sure that the most needy
10 and important causes in this community
11 get a chance to participate in this
12 funding. And that's all I have this
13 afternoon.

14 (Whereupon, applause.)

15 MR. LEVOFF: Thank you, Ron.

16 The importance we place on being a
17 contributing corporate citizen cannot be
18 overstated, as evidenced here today. Now,
19 to highlight the importance we also place
20 on ensuring that we conduct gaming in a
21 responsible manner with resources and
22 safeguards for our customers.

23 Maria-Christina Annaloro, Sands Director
24 of Responsible Gaming, will present.

25 MS. ANNALORO: Good afternoon,

1
2 members of the Legislature. My name is
3 Maria-Christina Annaloro. I'm a team
4 member of Sands for 13 years now, and I
5 have the privilege of overseeing our
6 Global Responsible Gaming Program. The
7 Responsible Gaming Program is very near
8 and dear to our hearts at Sands, where
9 we've been ahead of every jurisdiction
10 we've ever operated in when it comes to
11 our responsible gaming policies. Today,
12 I'll be brief and I'll go over the five
13 pillars of responsible gaming that we
14 use.

15 We've had a best in class
16 Responsible Gaming Program globally for
17 many years to reduce the risk that would
18 take place with our guests by making more
19 informed choices. Our program spans over
20 five key pillars. Those pillars are team
21 member training; 24/7 Ambassador
22 assistance; self-limit and self-exclusion
23 programs; prominent signage for
24 resources; and partnerships within the
25 community to either get the word out on

1
2 problem gambling, promote responsible
3 gaming efforts or to support research in
4 those areas.

5 Our responsible gaming training
6 takes place every year, and it's updated
7 by year to reflect the latest science of
8 responsible gaming and disordered
9 gambling. We also couple that with
10 responsible gaming ambassador training.
11 We're the only gaming company on the
12 planet doing this. It's a unique program.
13 It's eight hours of university led
14 training by global experts, local experts
15 and the community that helps people who
16 suffer from problem gambling. We bring in
17 the clinicians, the doctors and even
18 problem gamblers in recovery to speak to
19 our team members.

20 It's an industry leading world class
21 education with the latest science and
22 understanding of addictions, and we
23 continually evaluate that program year
24 after year, so it changes.

25 Our 24/7 Ambassador Assistance is

1
2 also unique to Sands. Responsible gaming
3 ambassadors respond for the following
4 reasons:

5 - If guests make statements that
6 they need help or have an issue with
7 their gambling;

8 - When guests request more
9 information on responsible gaming; or

10 - If they request information on
11 problem gambling; or

12 - If they request to enroll in our
13 self-limit or self-exclusion program.

14 And if guests mention any of the
15 diagnostic materials from the DSM five, a
16 responsible gaming ambassador
17 conversation then takes place. They're
18 able to talk to the patron in a
19 respectful private manner and offer them
20 the resources in the community, talk
21 about what happens when you call the
22 helpline and connect them to the
23 resources they need.

24 We also have self-limit and
25 self-exclusion programs. Our company

1
2 understands that the health of our
3 company, our partnerships in our
4 community relies on the health of our
5 patrons. We want healthy and happy
6 customers on our gaming floor. As a
7 mechanism, we offer self-limit and
8 self-exclusions to players who are no
9 longer able to gamble safely. And once a
10 patron's been enrolled, the process gets
11 closely monitored by our surveillance
12 team and our responsible gaming officer.

13 We also have prominent signage for
14 resources throughout our casino. We're
15 dedicated to having an entertaining
16 experience free of harm, to make sure
17 that we have signs all throughout our
18 casino, play responsibly brochures at all
19 of our slot machines, table games, poker
20 room cage and in every hotel room. We
21 also prominently highlight the problem
22 gambling help line on all of our
23 materials. And in New York, we will have
24 a physical responsible gaming and
25 addiction resource within our facility.

1
2 Research and partnerships is the
3 next pillar and our final pillar. We
4 partner with leading institutions to
5 advance their research on responsible
6 gaming practices. We continue to be the
7 largest contributor to the International
8 Center for Responsible Gaming, which
9 produces independent, peer reviewed,
10 impactful research on the latest science
11 of disordered gambling and effective,
12 responsible gaming practices. Since our
13 inception, we've partnered with the top
14 minds in science. This is not a check the
15 Box Responsible Gaming program. This is
16 research based, evidence driven,
17 responsible gaming. We've partnered with
18 institutions such as Harvard Medical
19 School; the International Gaming
20 Institute at Nevada, Las Vegas; the
21 International Center for Problem
22 Gambling; and the National Council on
23 Problem Gambling.

24 That's a little bit about our
25 responsible gaming program. And now I'd

1
2 like to introduce Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds,
3 the President and CEO of Family and
4 Children's Association, one of Long
5 Island's oldest and largest non profits.
6 Prior to that, he served as executive
7 director of the Long Island Council on
8 Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. And in
9 total, he has more than 30 years worth of
10 behavioral health experience. Thank you
11 so much for letting me speak.

12 (Whereupon, applause.)

13 DR. REYNOLDS: Good afternoon. Good
14 to see you, all of you. As you heard from
15 the intro, I'm Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds. I'm
16 the president and CEO of Family and
17 Children's Association. We're a 139 year
18 old organization with our main office
19 within walking distance of the proposed
20 site, but about a dozen locations across
21 Nassau County.

22 For the purposes of this
23 conversation, it's important that you
24 know that we provide mental health
25 services to around 400 kids and

1
2 adolescents in any given month. We run
3 two state licensed treatment centers one
4 in Hicksville, one in Hempstead; and then
5 we run three recovery centers for folks
6 who have struggled with addiction and
7 found a pathway out. We run probably four
8 or five other programs designed to
9 address the issue of addiction;
10 obviously, given the scope of the opioid
11 crisis here on Long Island.

12 I don't want to take too long
13 because I want everyone to be able to
14 speak for as long as they need, including
15 the folks who oppose. And I will tell
16 you, probably not too long ago, I might
17 have been on this side of the room as
18 someone who has spent 30 years working in
19 addiction, any time I hear about the
20 legalization of cannabis, the opening of
21 a casino, the opening of a liquor
22 store -- which nobody seems to mind, by
23 the way -- the opening of a fast food
24 place which has public health
25 consequences, I always understand that

1
2 potentially our job becomes a little bit
3 harder. That's happened when it comes to
4 gaming here in New York State. You heard
5 from Mr. Walsh's comments that New York
6 State legalized sports betting two years
7 ago. It's bringing in billions of
8 dollars. It's disproportionately
9 impacting young men. It's
10 disproportionately impacting young men of
11 color. And to date, New York State has
12 not enhanced access to problem gambling
13 services.

14 So when I first met Ron Reese, and
15 we've now met on a number of occasions,
16 MC and I have met about the problem
17 gambling program in particular, it's not
18 necessarily all in favor. And we had a
19 series of meetings over the course of the
20 past several months in which I asked them
21 really tough questions and talked about
22 the potential fallout in the community,
23 the potential impact on the folks who
24 we've cared for and cared about for more
25 than 139 years. And as time went by, I

1
2 came to understand that they were
3 proposing not only a really solid
4 program, but also a partnership to make
5 sure that those folks that do get in
6 trouble, whether it be through gaming,
7 whether it be through the use of alcohol
8 or other substances on site, that there
9 is a resource. In fact, very early on in
10 the conversation, I said, you can't just
11 stick some stickers on slot machines.
12 You've got to make sure there is help on
13 site for the people who need it, and they
14 don't necessarily always raise their hand
15 and say, I need help. And so the
16 Ambassador Training Program that you
17 heard about from MC was the first time I
18 had heard of that. It's an awesome idea,
19 it's an excellent idea and something that
20 we fully support.

21 I will also say that as we talk
22 about minors, because I worry a lot about
23 kids and I know there's been discussion
24 about local universities and the
25 potential impact on kids. Generally,

1
2 kids are not going into five star resorts
3 to gamble. They're doing it online in
4 their dorm rooms and they're doing it
5 already. And there's no license
6 verification when you go in. There aren't
7 a million cameras watching everybody's
8 move. And so I came into this with a lot
9 of skepticism and reluctance, and I'm
10 coming out of it saying there's an
11 opportunity here for a partnership that
12 could be meaningful.

13 There's no way to downplay and say
14 people don't drink in casinos. There's no
15 way to say that people don't use drugs in
16 casinos, but they do that in movie
17 theaters. They do that in their cars.
18 They do that in all sorts of other
19 places. This partnership with not only us
20 but the other not for profits in the
21 community gives us an opportunity to
22 interface with those folks to help them
23 get some help.

24 The casino is not going to bring
25 drugs to Nassau County, let me tell you,

1
2 it's here. I've been here dozens of times
3 to talk about the opioid crisis and how
4 it's killing our kids left and right.
5 When you line up Long Island in terms of
6 every area of New York State, we come on
7 top in terms of overdoses. The good news
8 is we're finally turning the corner. The
9 notion that people are going to start
10 using drugs because we brought a resort
11 into Nassau County just doesn't hold
12 weight. I wish the absence of resort
13 meant that there wouldn't be any more
14 drug or alcohol use because quite
15 frankly, alcohol kills more people than
16 opioids do.

17 I do want to address the issue of
18 trafficking. FCA operates the one and
19 only house for runaway homeless and
20 trafficked kids here in Nassau County.
21 We've seen an uptick in that. Keep in
22 mind, the only casino that exists now is
23 Jake's 58. We've seen an uptick in
24 trafficking, but that has everything to
25 do with addiction and everything to do

1
2 with COVID and kids being kicked out of
3 their homes. It doesn't necessarily
4 correlate with a casino. And I will say
5 I've heard more about trafficking in the
6 past two months than I had in 20 years
7 prior. There's a motel about two miles
8 from here, right across from Eisenhower
9 Park that is trafficking central, and
10 nobody's raised a single concern about
11 that. So this is an opportunity for us to
12 right some historic wrongs and begin to
13 get folks into the care and treatment
14 they need.

15 The last thing I want to say is
16 really, as a Long Island resident, not
17 necessarily wearing my FCA hat. As a
18 region, we got to stop saying no to
19 everything. I can't get staff to come and
20 work for us because they're moving into
21 more exciting, dynamic areas that are
22 better resourced. I can't get folks to
23 plant their roots here because there's
24 nothing for them to do as young people.
25 And most importantly, we've been in

1
2 Hempstead for 139 years, and I think
3 we've done a lot of really good work in
4 Hempstead. We have three offices there
5 and care deeply about the community. As
6 we fight substance use, as we fight
7 illiteracy, as we fight gun violence, the
8 best way to do that is with a job.

9 (Whereupon, applause.)

10 DR. REYNOLDS: The fact that we're
11 talking about meaningful jobs here. We
12 all have jobs. There's a lot of folks
13 just a couple of miles away who don't
14 have jobs. And if they do have jobs, it's
15 working at the McDonald's across the
16 street from Hofstra or the gun store or
17 the tattoo shop or doing something else
18 that doesn't enable them to live a
19 healthy positive life here in Nassau
20 County, given what rents costs. So I
21 understand the opposition fully.

22 As I said, I wasn't fully on board
23 until I had a number of meetings with
24 Sands. I asked really difficult
25 questions. I did a ton of research. So

1
2 did Mr. Walsh. He was right on when he
3 said that about 1.4% of the general
4 population deals with problem gambling.
5 The rest of the folks don't necessarily
6 have an issue with this. I'm tired of
7 looking out my window and seeing a big
8 empty parking lot down the block. We can
9 do better than that. And Nassau County is
10 better than that. So I thank you for your
11 time here today.

12 (Whereupon, applause.)

13 MR. LEVOFF: Thank you, MC and Jeff.

14 The safety of our guests, employees
15 and the public at large is our top
16 priority. I'd like to acknowledge Nassau
17 County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder,
18 who is in attendance today.

19 (Whereupon, applause.)

20 MR. LEVOFF: We continue to consult
21 with Commissioner Ryder and his teams as
22 we develop our security program. Sands
23 Chief Security Officer Brian Nagel will
24 now provide a high level overview of the
25 company's security expertise, structure

1
2 and tactics.

3 MR. NAGEL: Good afternoon. Thank
4 you for the opportunity to share our
5 security strategy with you and speak
6 about our security programs that we have
7 at our integrated resorts globally.

8 My name is Brian Nagel, and for the
9 past 15 years, I've been responsible for
10 the Security Operations at Sands. Prior
11 to that, I was with the US Secret Service
12 for 25 years. I served in a variety of
13 operational and managerial roles,
14 including the Presidential Protective
15 Division. My last role at the Secret
16 Service was as the Deputy Director, where
17 I oversaw our dual missions of protecting
18 world leaders and investigating criminal
19 investigations. Prior to that, I was the
20 head of the Criminal Investigations
21 Global Field Operations.

22 I bring that up to let you know that
23 it's this experience that helps guide our
24 security programs at the Sands Integrated
25 Resorts. The Sand security leadership

1
2 team at our integrated resorts are
3 seasoned professionals with extensive
4 backgrounds in law enforcement, the
5 military, fire and emergency services
6 community, as well as casino and private
7 security industries. Because of these
8 backgrounds, our leadership teams are
9 accustomed to working with law
10 enforcement, coordinating their security
11 programs and coordinating their
12 operations with law enforcement. It's our
13 practice to hire security leaders as well
14 as officers from within the community for
15 their insight, knowledge and
16 understanding of the local community.
17 Sands uses a comprehensive approach in
18 securing our integrated resorts to
19 provide a safe and secure environment for
20 our guests, visitors, vendors, tenants
21 and team members. We design and establish
22 a robust security foundation with layers
23 of security officers supported by
24 technical systems, along with an
25 extensive training program and

1
2 established procedures and policies.

3 Sands will stand up a similarly
4 robust security apparatus at our New York
5 integrated resort. Guest safety and the
6 safety of the public is our top priority.
7 Our security deployment typically
8 consists of several hundred security
9 officers and literally thousands of
10 cameras with the Security Department
11 structured into three main sections
12 security operations, security support
13 services and emergency management. And
14 I'll just speak about those briefly.

15 Our security operations section is
16 made up of uniformed security officers
17 and emergency medical technicians who are
18 deployed throughout the venue and are
19 responsible for the daily security
20 operations. Every area of the integrated
21 resort has a security observation post a
22 security checkpoint or a roving security
23 patrol from our parking garages to our
24 loading docks to our hotels, to our
25 restaurant and retail areas, to our

1
2 meeting and entertainment spaces and to
3 our casinos. These security officers are
4 deployed to establish a clear and visible
5 security presence among guests and team
6 members to identify potential problems,
7 to address unauthorized guests, and to
8 maintain a safe and secure environment.

9 Our EMTs are staffed 24 hours per
10 day and provide emergency medical
11 services ranging from prompt injury or
12 illness evaluation to life threatening
13 interventions such as cardiopulmonary
14 resuscitation.

15 To supplement this broad net of
16 fixed and roving security posts are
17 additional security layers that include
18 teams of uniformed response officers,
19 plainclothes observation officers, as
20 well as technical security systems. These
21 technical systems consist of an extensive
22 CCTV camera network throughout the
23 integrated resort, both inside and
24 outside with advanced software analytics.

25 The second component of the.

1
2 Security Department is security
3 support services and consists of teams
4 and functions that provide additional
5 support to security operations. This
6 includes a training section for the
7 initial periodic and required training of
8 the officers, special event planning,
9 project management, technical systems
10 management, lost and found, recruitment
11 and hiring and an investigations team and
12 project analyst who work closely with the
13 police and sharing information.

14 Our third component of the Security
15 Department is Emergency Management and is
16 responsible for coordinating the planning
17 around emergency response, crisis
18 management and business continuity. This
19 group also oversees the Security
20 Operations Center, the Emergency
21 Operations Center, and the Emergency
22 Medical Services Program.

23 When describing the Security
24 Department and the leadership team, to
25 include my own background, I've

1
2 consistently mentioned law enforcement.
3 That's because good communication and a
4 strong relation with the police is
5 critical. In Las Vegas, I was part of a
6 group of local, state and federal law
7 enforcement and fire agencies that met
8 monthly to share information. Our
9 security leaders in Asia at our
10 integrated resorts there have similar
11 meetings and coordination groups. This is
12 in addition to the oftentimes daily
13 sharing of information and coordination
14 of activities with the police and fire
15 departments that take place by the
16 various teams I just described.

17 Our team looks forward to continuing
18 the constructive dialogue with the Nassau
19 County Police Department, as well as
20 others as we continue our work to stand
21 up a best in class security department in
22 New York. I appreciate the opportunity
23 today to discuss our approach to
24 security. Thank you.

25 MR. LEVOFF: Thank you, Brian.

1
2 Large scale development requires
3 extensive studying and analysis to ensure
4 that there are no unforeseen community
5 impacts. Terri Elkowitz, Senior Principal
6 at leading environmental services firm
7 VHB, will provide an overview of the work
8 already underway and the work to come.

9 MS. ELKOWITZ: Good afternoon,
10 Presiding Officer Nicoletto and members
11 of the Legislature and thank you, Mr.
12 Levoff.

13 As Mr. Levoff said, my name is Terri
14 Elkowitz and I'm a Senior Principal at
15 VHB and I am leading VHBs evaluation of
16 the impacts of this proposed integrated
17 resort on behalf of the Sands, and I've
18 been working with the SEQRA process for
19 over 35 years.

20 As the Presiding Officer said
21 earlier on when we opened this meeting,
22 the Legislature is also taking a secret
23 action today and has reviewed and
24 prepared SEQRA documentation associated
25 with the lease. And that is the action

1
2 that you're evaluating today. But that
3 action doesn't authorize any actual
4 physical alteration of this property or
5 any physical development of this site.
6 What this action authorizes from an
7 environmental review perspective is it
8 authorizes site control for our client,
9 the Sands, to be able to make application
10 to the Town of Hempstead for land use
11 approvals. And the Sands will be
12 undertaking under the guidance and under
13 the administration of the Town of
14 Hempstead, a very comprehensive
15 environmental review process that has
16 significant opportunities for the public
17 to participate.

18 The first step in this process is
19 for Sands to make a land use application,
20 a zoning application, to the Town of
21 Hempstead Town Board, who is presumed to
22 be the lead agency that is going to
23 administer this environmental review
24 process. And when that application and
25 that environmental assessment form is

1
2 submitted, that is the trigger for the
3 SEQRA review. And once we submit EAF, we
4 anticipate that the Town Board, as
5 expected lead agency is going to issue a
6 positive declaration. That declaration
7 will require that Sands do an
8 environmental impact statement. And under
9 the laws of the state of New York, once
10 that positive declaration is issued, the
11 Town Board would be required to do formal
12 public scoping. And this is an
13 opportunity for the public to come out
14 and to actually say what they believe
15 needs to be studied in this environmental
16 impact statement. We as consultants to
17 the Sands will prepare a draft scope,
18 which is our suggested outline for the
19 things that we are going to study. I'm
20 going to share some of that with you
21 today. But then the public comes in and
22 the Town Board issues a final scope which
23 ends up being the blueprint that we must
24 follow in preparing that environmental
25 impact statement.

1
2 Once we prepare the environmental
3 impact statement, we submit it to the
4 Town Board and only when the Town of
5 Hempstead determines that that document
6 is adequate for public review, it's
7 complete enough for the public to look
8 at, does it get accepted and released to
9 the public.

10 The public then gets another
11 opportunity to come to the lead agency,
12 we presume the Town Board, to comment on
13 that environmental impact statement; say
14 what they agree with, what they don't
15 agree with, what they think requires more
16 study. The Town Board then assembles all
17 of those comments, provides them back to
18 us, and makes us go back and prepare a
19 final environmental impact statement that
20 responds to all of the comments that the
21 community and that any involved agency
22 has on our environmental impact
23 statement.

24 After that, the Town Board again
25 reviews it. It sends it out for public

1
2 consideration. Public gets another
3 opportunity to take a look at these
4 documents, and then the Town would
5 ultimately issue a finding statement
6 which will conclude the Town's
7 environmental review. So there are very
8 significant opportunities for public
9 comment on what Sands is proposing and
10 how that project would be altered.

11 As Mr. Levoff has said, we have
12 started preparing some studies so that we
13 can ultimately prepare what we know is
14 going to be a very, very comprehensive
15 document. And there's a list of some of
16 the topics that we're studying. And as
17 you've heard before, one of the most
18 significant is traffic. And we have
19 already started assembling existing
20 conditions data on 35 intersections in
21 Uniondale, Hempstead, East Meadow, Garden
22 City, Mineola, Carl Place, and Westbury.
23 And we're also studying along the
24 Meadowbrook State Park Parkway.

25 As I said before, this is what we've

1
2 just started to collect. We know that the
3 public will come in. They will scrutinize
4 our scoping document and they will have
5 comments, and we will study the concerns
6 that involved agencies and the public
7 have.

8 In conclusion, from an environmental
9 review standpoint, this is just the
10 beginning for Sands and the public and
11 the community, and we look forward to
12 working with all of you to make this
13 Sands project a very responsible reality
14 for Nassau County. Thank you very much.

15 (Whereupon, applause.)

16 MR. LEVOFF: Thank you, Terri.

17 Presiding Officer Nicoletto,
18 Legislators, again, thank you for your
19 time here today to present to you. On
20 behalf of Las Vegas Sands, we look
21 forward to continuing to work with you in
22 the years ahead to deliver significant
23 benefits for you and your constituents.
24 And we request the approval of the lease
25 agreement here before you today. Thank

1
2 you.

3 (Whereupon, applause.)

4 MR. MEYER: Good afternoon,
5 Presiding Officer and members of the
6 Legislature. My name is Josh Meyer of
7 West Group Law and I'm outside counsel
8 for Nassau County for the lease
9 negotiations.

10 At the committee meetings two weeks
11 ago, I provided an in-depth review of the
12 lease provisions, and this afternoon I
13 will just provide some highlights of the
14 proposed lease before you today for
15 approval.

16 The term of the lease will be 99
17 years. The effective date will be the
18 date the County Exec executes the lease.
19 The term commencement date, which would
20 be required to occur within 60 days of
21 the effective date, and LVS must close on
22 the assignment and assumption of the
23 existing lease with the existing tenant
24 Nassau Live Center LLC. By entering into
25 this lease, the prior lease will

1
2 terminate and the 99 year lease term will
3 run from the term commencement date.

4 So just a brief summary of some of
5 the economic terms. LVS is required to
6 make substantial upfront payments to the
7 County. The upfront advance rent payment
8 will be in the amount of \$54 Million;
9 that's non-refundable one time payment
10 and that will occur within two business
11 days of the term commencement date. The
12 tenant's security deposit in the amount
13 of \$5 million will be made by Las Vegas
14 Sands, and the projected 239 F fees,
15 which are fees paid to the County for any
16 projects on properties that have frontage
17 on County owned roads. And that'll be in
18 the amount of approximately \$8,750,000.

19 In addition for the base rent where
20 the license has not been awarded to Las
21 Vegas Sands and which would occur on the
22 term commencement date, it would be \$5
23 Million. Once the casino is open and in
24 operation and open to the public, it
25 would be \$10 million. There will also be

1
2 a public safety payment in the amount of
3 \$900,000 if the license is not awarded.
4 And that will occur on the term
5 commencement date as well. Once the
6 casino is open to the public, the public
7 safety payment will increase to \$1.8
8 million.

9 There will also be a host county
10 gaming gaming revenue guarantee for the
11 first phase of the casino when it's open
12 to the public in the amount of \$25
13 Million. This is the first of its kind
14 provision that we have not seen in any
15 other leases of this nature. Once the
16 second and final phase of the casino is
17 open to the public, the County minimum
18 gaming revenue guarantee will be in the
19 amount of a minimum of \$50 million.

20 The Town will also receive a minimum
21 gaming revenue guarantee in the amount of
22 \$10 million upon commencement of the
23 casino operation, and that will increase
24 to \$20 Million once the final phase of
25 the casino is open to the public. Again,

1
2 that's a minimum amount. As you see in
3 the footnote based on an amendment or
4 based on the the Governor's most recent
5 budget, the Town of Hempstead's
6 percentage of gaming tax revenue
7 increased from 5% to 10%. So it's
8 anticipated when the full build out of
9 the casino is completed, the Town of
10 Hempstead will receive \$65-70 Million in
11 annual revenue.

12 (Whereupon, applause.)

13 MR. MEYER: As you as you heard
14 before, there's also a community benefits
15 payment that will be in addition to the
16 \$25 Million that was mentioned prior to
17 the opening of the casino. Once the
18 casino is open, it will be \$4 Million in
19 payments in community benefits payments
20 and it be \$2 Million in the event that a
21 license is not awarded to Las Vegas
22 Sands.

23 It's also anticipated that there
24 will be projected county hotel occupancy
25 tax of four and one half million dollars

1
2 projected county sales tax of five and
3 one half dollars Million annually, and
4 projected county entertainment tax, which
5 is the \$1.50 on any tickets sold for an
6 event at a venue at the site of at least
7 half a million dollars.

8 So based on those economic terms,
9 the total amount to be paid to the County
10 over just the first ten years of this
11 lease, following the opening of the
12 casino, will exceed \$550 million. That
13 does not include the \$54 million upfront
14 payment, any PILOT payments, any
15 community benefits payments or any
16 entertainment tax, sales tax or hotel and
17 occupancy tax.

18 As a comparison, based on the
19 current rental payments received on the
20 existing lease over the entire 49 year
21 term of that lease, it would not exceed
22 \$310 Million. So it's a comparison of the
23 entire 49 year term of \$310 Million in
24 just over the first ten years of this
25 proposed lease. When the casino is open,

1
2 it'd be \$550 Million.

3 So there's two scenarios. One if Las
4 Vegas Sands is awarded the license and
5 one if they're not. Under the casino
6 scenario, if they are awarded a license,
7 LVS will construct an integrated resort
8 of over 3,000,000ft² on the site. That
9 casino proposal includes certain minimum
10 required elements, including the world
11 class casino, a luxury hotel with at
12 least 500 rooms and amenities, an
13 entertainment venue containing a minimum
14 of 3600 seats, sufficient parking, retail
15 spaces and restaurants.

16 Under the non casino scenario, if
17 Las Vegas Sands is not awarded a license,
18 then they will be required to develop a
19 mixed use complex, including a
20 Ritz-Carlton, Saint Regis or equivalently
21 branded hotel up to 500 residences, an
22 entertainment venue containing a minimum
23 of 3600 seats and any other lawful use
24 subject to the County's prior written
25 consent.

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2 Pursuant to this project and this
3 lease, LVS is required to enter into a
4 project labor agreement with the Building
5 and Construction Trades Council of Nassau
6 and Suffolk Counties, AFL-CIO and its
7 constituent local unions.

8 (Whereupon, applause.)

9 MR. MEYER: Las Vegas Sands is also
10 required to construct completely at its
11 expense the core and shell of a
12 freestanding police substation on the
13 premises. In addition, Sands is required
14 to reimburse the county up to \$500,000 to
15 the cost and expense of the interior
16 fit-out to be done by the County.

17 As you heard before, there will be a
18 Community Benefits Program in connection
19 with this lease. Las Vegas Sands will
20 undertake the Community Benefits Program
21 designed to ensure that Sands helps
22 address the needs of the impacted
23 surrounding areas. Particular focus will
24 be on communities in need and communities
25 that are traditionally underrepresented

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2 in the workforce. The plan will support,
3 enhance or promote fire departments and
4 districts and ambulance service
5 providers, school districts, libraries
6 and library districts, athletic fields,
7 ball fields and parks and more.

8 There will be an Advisory Committee.
9 It will consist of representatives
10 selected by Las Vegas Sands, the County
11 Executive, the Majority and Minority
12 caucuses of the Nassau County
13 Legislature, and the Supervisor and Town
14 Board of the Town of Hempstead.

15 Las Vegas Sands will also be
16 required to provide significant
17 infrastructure improvements completely at
18 their cost. There won't be one penny paid
19 by the County whatsoever in connection
20 with the infrastructure improvements.

21 (Whereupon, applause.)

22 MR. MEYER: For water and sewer, Las
23 Vegas Sands will be responsible for the
24 costs of all work connected with the
25 project as required by law through the

1
2 SEQRA process. For utilities, LVS will be
3 required its sole cost and expense to
4 install, provide and pay for any and all
5 utilities on the site. Las Vegas Sands
6 will be required as sole cost and expense
7 to install, provide and pay for any
8 repairs and maintenance as needed for the
9 proper operation and functioning anywhere
10 on the premises. And as you heard before,
11 Las Vegas Sands must fully implement and
12 fund all traffic improvements described
13 in its traffic study as required through
14 the SEQRA process.

15 With that, I will be happy to answer
16 any questions you have. What we're going
17 to do instead of questions now, we had a
18 lengthy round of questions from all
19 legislators at the Rules Committee and
20 delayed the public getting to speak. So
21 we have a couple more presentations and
22 then we'd ask all of you to stick around.
23 If we have some questions at the end, we
24 will pose the question at that point, if
25 that's all right.

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MR. MEYER: Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
We thank you all for the presentations.
We appreciate it.

I'd like to invite up the
Commissioner of Police, Patrick Ryder.

COMMISSIONER RYDER: Sir, I'm here
for the questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Go
ahead, Legislator McKevitt.

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Yes,
Commissioner. Obviously, you're very well
aware where my house is. You know where I
live. And you know very much in close
proximity to where Casino is located. And
I've had a lot of concerns from people in
my area. And again, as far as the Sands
is concerned, I've no doubt that they
will go and have within the internal site
regarding the security of the premises.
But I just wanted you to describe to me
any conversations -- or you've had
meetings with the Sands as well as
coordinating the security they have on

1
2 the site and what that can do to for you
3 to secure the safety of the people in the
4 surrounding area around the casino
5 property.

6 COMMISSIONER RYDER: So I had a
7 conversation with Mr. Brian Nagel last
8 week, and I've been speaking to Chris
9 earlier on about the design of this
10 casino and this entire resort area. And
11 we said it all along, when it comes to
12 intelligence led policing, it's
13 understand the environment, you it
14 better. I got a real good understanding
15 as of our meeting last week and again
16 this morning, we met again. There will be
17 full cooperation both between the Sands
18 and the Nassau County Intel Center.
19 Sharing of information about any threats
20 that are coming is important.

21 Our patrols that are there, the
22 County Executive, as you know, is the
23 first time in over 20 years that we've
24 expanded the police head count to now
25 2542. When I first got here, we were

1
2 about 1900. So we're about 600 cops more.

3 (Whereupon, applause.)

4 COMMISSIONER RYDER: The cost of
5 those police officers have gone up for
6 senior police officers, but the hiring
7 has remained a low number for us in the
8 hiring process. So he is committed to
9 hiring an additional 50 officers every
10 six months as needed and if not even
11 going above that number, if there is a
12 concern for that.

13 (Whereupon, applause.)

14 COMMISSIONER RYDER: When we look at
15 the environment that is there, it is what
16 we call controlled access. It's just not
17 an open environment like Eisenhower Park.
18 You can come any different direction
19 through any gate, right? In this
20 environment, it is controlled by the
21 security personnel. I'm assured by the
22 Sands people that they will be hiring
23 somewhere in the neighborhood of about
24 500-600 security personnel, of course,
25 for 24/7 days a week period. Those

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2 guards will be at certain locations. They
3 have already told me they have built in
4 response teams for active shooter. They
5 will be receiving a rave app like all of
6 our houses of worship and schools have.
7 If there is a lock down or a lock out,
8 they will have that. They have committed
9 to cross train with us. And our new
10 training village, which was voted on here
11 today, that training village, when it is
12 built, they will be training with us in
13 the village and at the same time
14 reimbursing us for that training. So it
15 won't be like we're giving it to them.
16 They're going to pay for that service.

17 We will share in communications. We
18 will have a command post that is built on
19 site. We will staff that with several
20 officers and a supervisor. There's a
21 \$500,000 commitment to any equipment that
22 we need, whether it's going to be some
23 type of quad to drive throughout the
24 premises or some method to get around.

25 Communications will be shared.

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2 Access to their cameras will be shared.
3 Obviously, there are sensitive cameras
4 that we will never get access to and
5 that's controlled by the Gaming
6 Commission. But the cameras that we will
7 is the ones that concern us. Hallways,
8 outside exterior areas. If I look up and
9 I see a ceiling that's patrolled by the
10 Sands. If I look up and I see the sky
11 that's patrolled by my my police
12 officers. And again, the cooperation that
13 we've already received from them as far
14 as intelligence sharing will be crucial.

15 Now, I know East Meadow and I know
16 Uniondale, and I know the concern from
17 all of these concerning neighbors. Right.
18 We are living the safest county in
19 America three years in a row.

20 (Whereupon, applause.)

21 COMMISSIONER RYDER: There is a real
22 good chance come mid-June when the
23 numbers come out again, we will win it
24 for a fourth year in a row. Our homicides
25 were record low last year. Our crime was

1
2 record low numbers. We continued to slide
3 downward. And as of today, we're down
4 another 2% from where we were last year.

5 My concern is what their needs are,
6 is there a crime element that's going to
7 come from this? I have spoken to two
8 people. I have spoken to both the Dori
9 Koren, who is the from Las Vegas
10 Metropolitan Police. He's in charge of
11 the strip in Las Vegas. I was there last
12 year. I co-chair with him on the Major
13 City Chiefs Intel Commanders for the
14 country. Dori is the head of it, and I
15 co-chair with him.

16 When we were out there last year,
17 there's a crime issue out there, and
18 there is an issue with prostitution,
19 there is an issue with drugs, but it's on
20 the strip. The strip that is created by
21 75 different casinos, 75 hotels, 75 --
22 This is one hotel, one casino.

23 I spoke to Jake's personnel and I
24 also spoke to Suffolk PD. There is zero,
25 no human trafficking cases that have come

1
2 out of Jake's 58. There is no
3 prostitution out of Jake's 58. There have
4 been six arrests for possession of
5 cocaine in five years. There have been no
6 real crime issues except larcenies.

7 Again, what concerns our community,
8 because those vagrants will go into the
9 backyards, go to the cars and steal from
10 the cars. We've seen that that was our
11 uptick in crime that we've seen over the
12 last couple of years since the pandemic.
13 We are down in stolen cars by 40% so far
14 this year. We're down 2% in overall
15 crime. So we're changing that as it was
16 changed against us and how we can handle
17 it.

18 We're handling the homelessness
19 issue that occurs in Eisenhower Park. You
20 do see it. They have the right to go into
21 a open park, but it is controlled and it
22 is also a clean environment taken care of
23 by the DPW. There were some homeless
24 people living in the wooded areas. We
25 have removed them out of the wooded

1
2 areas. So again, we're starting to make
3 sure that that environment that anywhere
4 touches this resort will be controlled.
5 Anything inside of that will be
6 controlled.

7 We run a very good, as you all know,
8 Intelligence Led Policing Program. So
9 far from my conversations and the money
10 that we are getting with the 2% increase
11 every year will fund those officers to
12 cover those needs in that area. And they
13 will not be restricted to the grounds.
14 They will expand outward. Meaning they
15 will go over into the Uniondale area to
16 the East Meadow area to make sure that
17 crime is not coming.

18 When we had the Phish concerts, when
19 we had the Grateful Dead concerts, they
20 would come at the town and they'd occupy
21 the park for two weeks. They'd set up
22 camp and not leave. This environment
23 doesn't create that.

24 Again, I'm giving you what the facts
25 and the numbers are. It creates a a

1
2 controlled environment that they have the
3 right to secure working with the Police
4 Department. This is the first time in the
5 Nassau County Police Department's history
6 that we have a reimbursement agreement
7 for policing. And it's the first time in
8 any kind of venue that we have expanded
9 into the venue. UBS has six cops that are
10 assigned there. There's sometimes over
11 25,000 people attending a game. We used
12 to do the Coliseum and the Mounted Unit
13 would run it and we use about ten
14 officers and two cops.

15 This venue that they're building,
16 their arena holds up to 4500 people.
17 There won't be an outpour of 17,000
18 people piling into the cars and leaving a
19 hockey game. What it will be is over the
20 course of the day, those people leaving
21 that environment, again, under control
22 access. There's three parking garages.
23 All of them will have cameras. All of
24 them will have security sites that we
25 will have access to.

1
2 Our people do a very big money
3 laundering program here in Nassau County.
4 You all know that. And that's similar to
5 what our cat-con case that we just took
6 down. Those detectives will be heavily
7 involved working with on site security to
8 make sure that we are cooperating and
9 coordinating together.

10 So what I've seen so far, I'm
11 comfortable with, but I have a big
12 concern and I'm always reaching out to
13 our community to make sure that their
14 needs are being reached. Right now, I'm
15 comfortable.

16 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Just to follow
17 up on a number of statements you made.
18 You know, the one thing I'm aware of in
19 casinos is they have a lot of security
20 and lots of cameras. And you made a very
21 good point. You know, they have cameras
22 primarily, I would think, for the point
23 to make sure no one's card counting, do
24 anything to try to cheat or get advantage
25 of the establishment. But I'm more

1
2 concerned about cameras which see who's
3 coming into the property, who's coming
4 out of the property, who's around. Is the
5 Sands going to give you complete access
6 with no questions asked, if you need that
7 access to who's in that facility, that
8 you're going have access to that data and
9 that video control facility?

10 COMMISSIONER RYDER: We will have
11 access to every exterior camera that is
12 off the gaming floor. We can't access
13 gaming floor cameras, it's a violation.
14 But what we can do is if we have a
15 situation, we will go directly to them in
16 their security and say, this is what our
17 problem, this is who we're looking for.
18 Can you help us go out there and identify
19 it? And they have agreed to cooperate
20 with that.

21 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: One concern
22 I've also had address for people is this
23 will be a 24 hour facility. Obviously,
24 there be alcohol establishments there and
25 then people leaving the Sands facility

1
2 and driving the surrounding neighborhood.
3 What type of strategy will you have to
4 ensure that there's not an increase in
5 drunk driving into the Uniondale, East
6 Meadow and surrounding areas?

7 COMMISSIONER RYDER: So every single
8 venue that we cover in Nassau County,
9 highway guys get assigned at the
10 breakout. There is a height of time that
11 they're leaving and most of our
12 restaurants bars between the hours of 12
13 and four is where we step it up. We get
14 grant funding every single year to go
15 after just that, drunk driving. And we do
16 it very good here in Nassau County. We're
17 very aggressive at it. So we move our
18 resources depending on the Intel that if
19 there is a need. So at nighttime, they
20 still have to follow the SLA laws.
21 They're not exempt from that. If a
22 restaurant has to close at four, it will
23 close at four. The same within in the
24 casino. So they will have to follow the
25 same laws of the State. We will move our

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2 resources as we feel that we are needed
3 to do to address those needs.

4 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: As you've
5 mentioned, under the current lease that's
6 been drafted, there is a requirement for
7 the Sands to build a police substation
8 and give money for furnishing as well
9 too, is what has been proposed in that
10 lease, is that sufficient that you need
11 for your department for that site?

12 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Yes. So what we
13 did was, we have one substation here in
14 Nassau County. It's at the Roosevelt
15 Field over at the Source Mall. We're
16 going to build, obviously not the same
17 looking, but the same square footage as
18 that building is. It will have holding
19 cells. It will have personnel assigned to
20 it. Those personnel will act as a mini
21 police station when it's up and
22 operational. It is more than sufficient
23 than what our needs are. They've given us
24 an additional \$500,000 to purchase
25 equipment that we need within it. And any

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2 cameras that we request done by an
3 assessment by my homeland security
4 people, not their people, my people and I
5 say I would like cameras here, here and
6 here. They will put those cameras up and
7 push them back to us.

8 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: And once
9 again, knowing where I am physically
10 located near the site. And again, I'm a
11 father, I have kids. And again, what's
12 coming up to me a lot with people is
13 people will be going, they're going to be
14 gambling for money. Then they come into,
15 you know, East Meadow, break into cars,
16 try and get money, try and gamble again.
17 What's your strategy for combating that?

18 COMMISSIONER RYDER: The same
19 strategy we've been using all along.
20 That's why we are the safest county. The
21 numbers drive the Intel. Whatever that
22 data is telling me, we're moving the
23 pieces on the board. I have an additional
24 50 cops that the County Exec has hired
25 above and beyond the head count. He is

1
2 committed every six months. The nice
3 thing about that commitment is we don't
4 wait till there's 50 gone and we're at
5 2450 to hire 50. We are staying ahead of
6 the curve. So for the first time ever,
7 what's in the academy is above the head
8 count. By the time they come out through
9 normal attrition, we are now even with
10 the head count. So the playing field has
11 the exact numbers we should have. The
12 numbers in the academy don't count. So
13 we'll move those resources wherever we
14 need them to address crime. Again, our
15 Intel will get even better with the
16 cooperation of the Sands people.

17 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Thanks. That's
18 all I have for you at this time.

19 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Thank you.

20 (Whereupon, applause.)

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
22 Legislator Walker.

23 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Commissioner, at
24 our at our Committee hearings Legislator
25 DeRiggi-Whitton had brought up that that

1
2 often children were left in cars while
3 people went in to gamble. How will we
4 address that? Well, obviously, if you saw
5 a child, but obviously, are you going to
6 have say they have that little quad or
7 whatever they have driving through to
8 make sure that no children are left?

9 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Obviously, a
10 big concern. So three things are
11 different. And I'm going to take Jake's
12 58, and this is not a knock on any police
13 agency, but in Jake 58, they got an open
14 parking lot in front. You pull and you
15 park your car. In this environment, there
16 are three parking garages. You got to go
17 in the garage to get through. They have
18 roaming patrols, as they've told me. They
19 will have roaming patrols within those
20 garages watching who's coming in,
21 collecting that data and again, watching
22 who's in the car, left in the car. Even
23 if prostitution was to occur in that
24 venue, they will intercept that and then
25 contact police. So I am not concerned.

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2 When I spoke to them, in Jake's,
3 there is no Suffolk County police
4 officers assigned to that parking lot. In
5 Nassau County, we will be assigning
6 sometimes 5 or 6 or whatever the needs
7 are at the time. So we're going to have
8 extra patrols in that area, which is
9 unlike what they have at Jake's. Besides
10 breaking into cars, there is really no
11 crime that we have out of Jake's 58.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
13 other questions for the Commissioner?

14 Legislator Bynoe.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,
16 Presiding Officer.

17 Hi, Commissioner.

18 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Good afternoon.

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: In terms of the
20 physical safety, in terms of the
21 Emergency Ambulance Bureau, were they
22 factored into that \$1.8 million?

23 COMMISSIONER RYDER: No, but there's
24 discussions now and this was brought up.
25 1.8 is just for policing. When it comes

1
2 to the ambulance, it's working out
3 between whether it's going to be with the
4 Fire Department or the Police Department.
5 But conversations earlier today is they
6 will outfit that vehicle, whatever the
7 vehicle is we need. And then from there,
8 we'll add the staffing to address it.

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. Because I
10 asked the question last time in this
11 space and I was told that the Nassau
12 County Ambulance Bureau would be
13 responding to aided calls.

14 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Right. And as I
15 was brought into that conversation Friday
16 excuse me and again today, I explained to
17 them the need for services and always a
18 stretched police medics, both on the
19 volunteer side and the Police Department
20 side and what we're going to do. And so
21 we discussed an onsite bus being there at
22 the place -- ambulance.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: 24/7?

24 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Yes.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm concerned

1
2 that given all of the services and the
3 activities there at that space, that one
4 bus is probably not sufficient. And
5 moreover, I'm concerned because we know
6 firsthand all of the legislators here
7 that the recruitment for volunteer
8 departments really has been a challenge.
9 So I would love to see how this
10 conversation kind of materializes because
11 we were all worried about crime. And I
12 think Legislator McKeivitt did a great
13 job, you know, getting you to bubble up
14 some of the concerns that we had and
15 addressing those concerns. But we're also
16 concerned about the physical safety in
17 terms of medical conditions. So I'm happy
18 that there's some kind of process in
19 place for having a bus on site. But we
20 know that sometimes we have problems
21 having ambulances at certain quadrants of
22 the county at certain times. So I think a
23 development of this size has to that
24 should have been considered very early on
25 in the discussions.

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COMMISSIONER RYDER: So the UBS
Arena, we'll have one bus assigned to the
UBS Arena and it'll be 25,000 people.
When it was the Coliseum, 16-17,000
people, we had one ambulance assigned. We
adapt and shift as we need. And you're
100% right, though. We don't want to
overstretch. We don't want to take from
one or the other. That is why this
conversation today is, I said we must
look at what we're going to dedicate to
that site because and above and beyond.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So can you tell
me a little bit about how what our
experience has been with UBS and the one
ambulance or bus that's located there?
Have we found that to this point has been
sufficient?

COMMISSIONER RYDER: Yes, it's been
sufficient. And especially, look, a
concert, there's a lot more drinking and
a lot more partying and everything, and
we still find it sufficient. We sometimes
knock on the door with the Elmont Fire

1
2 Department coming in. So it's been worked
3 and it's been addressed. We have not come
4 up short in any of those situations. So
5 that's the good news. But I don't want to
6 be challenged that way. I want to make
7 sure that we're ahead of that and
8 thinking outside that box.

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Because a private
10 ambulance company should be a non-starter
11 for us.

12 COMMISSIONER RYDER: You heard the
13 story this morning about the four year
14 old young man that we saved his life.
15 That's because of the great police medics
16 we have here.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: That's where I
18 stand on it. Thank you.

19 (Whereupon, applause.)

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
21 other questions for the Commissioner at
22 this point?

23 (Whereupon, no verbal
24 response.)

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank

1
2 you, Commissioner Ryder.

3 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Thank you very
4 much.

5 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Commissioner, I
6 appreciate the time you spent with me
7 last week going over the security
8 arrangements. Can you tell us a little
9 bit about, you mentioned this was unique
10 in terms of a reimbursement agreement.

11 COMMISSIONER RYDER: So we've been
12 covering the Coliseum forever. We've been
13 covering now the UBS. No one has ever
14 been assigned. We cover the Roosevelt
15 Field Mall. No one has ever reimbursed us
16 for any of that services. This is what
17 we do. That's what we get paid to do. So
18 it's unique in the fact that we are
19 getting a reimbursement and we are going
20 above the head count and we are adding
21 extra police officers.

22 I think it was Legislator Abrahams
23 asked me during the budget hearings,
24 would you like more police officers? I
25 always like more police officers. But in

1
2 this current environment, it's the first
3 time I'm getting more police officers.
4 The County Executive has been very strong
5 on public safety. You know, sometimes
6 he's driving that bus and he wants to
7 make sure that we got enough people on
8 it. And so with the way it's going for
9 the the the resort, the way I see it,
10 they're giving us \$900,000 even before
11 the casino gets there during the
12 construction phase. So that's not going
13 to be used for policing except for maybe
14 into the Uniondale area to add extra
15 resources, and East Meadow.

16 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: And so my
17 understanding is it's 12 officers on two
18 12 hour shifts.

19 COMMISSIONER RYDER: No, sir. It
20 would be -- and I'm not going to lock
21 into a number for obvious reasons. I have
22 a union, which we're all very aware of.

23 (Whereupon, applause.)

24 COMMISSIONER RYDER: We are going to
25 we are going to look at what the

1
2 environment is. If the heaviest part of
3 gambling is stirring souls hours, we're
4 going to be committed to six people, five
5 cops and a supervisor, and sometimes we
6 may down slot it a little bit depending.
7 If at 4:00 in the morning if they are
8 following the SLA rules, all the
9 restaurants, bars, everything's closed, I
10 don't need as many people, but that's my
11 job to manage that.

12 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Okay. And this
13 money is to pay the cost of those police?

14 COMMISSIONER RYDER: That's correct.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
16 Thank you. All right. I think we're all
17 done. Thank you again.

18 Sorry. Hold on, hold on, hold on,
19 hold on. Commissioner Ryder, one more
20 question for you.

21 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Just
22 just to clarify. So is Nassau County
23 Police Department going to be patrolling
24 the parking garages?

25 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Yes. So, again,

1
2 the simplest way that I explained it as
3 per my conversation with the corporate
4 security, if you look up and you see the
5 sky, it's my responsibility. If you look
6 up and you see the roof, it's their
7 responsibility. In the parking garage,
8 it's their responsibility. But we are
9 accessing the cameras in that booth which
10 is built in the parking garage. So at the
11 front of the parking garage is where the
12 booth is. So anything that's coming and
13 going into those garages, we're going to
14 see not only by the camera and have
15 access to the cameras. So visually, we're
16 everywhere. Physically, we're in most of
17 the open areas and moving about any
18 response or anything that is needed.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Do you
20 have any type of verbal agreement or
21 written agreement as to you being
22 notified should there be incidences such
23 as what we were discussing with children
24 being left in the car, in the parking
25 lot?

1
2 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Well, look, by
3 law, they're supposed to notify us if
4 there's a crime. It's the same as like a
5 college has got to notify us. They can't
6 not notify us. The Gaming Commission will
7 hold them to that requirement. I feel no
8 reason why they wouldn't notify us if
9 there's a crime there. And again, this
10 comes from the Chief down in Vegas. They
11 were one of the most professional groups
12 of people he dealt with on the Strip. And
13 he goes, they never was a problem. Their
14 cooperation was always there. And I take
15 Dorian's word, you know, very serious
16 because we partner on that on that
17 committee together.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Are you
19 going to have a license plate reader also
20 there?

21 COMMISSIONER RYDER: So they've
22 committed to putting license plate
23 readers on every garage. And we were
24 committed and they're going to pay for it
25 to put it around the surrounding areas.

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LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: All
right. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
right. Before you go, anyone else?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
you, Commissioner.

(Whereupon, applause.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The
last presentation before public comment
is our Legislative Office of Budget
Review. So I'd like to invite up the
director for a brief presentation on
their economic impact analysis.

MR. CHALMERS: Good evening,
Legislators. Maurice Chalmers, Budget
Review. I have here my Chief Deputy,
Helen Carlson.

We looked at the proposed new lease
in terms of the economic and financial
aspects of it. Now, the first thing with
the financial aspect of it is we looked
at the current lease and under the

1
2 current lease and the terms, over the
3 past ten years, we've collected
4 approximately 23.7 million. So it 23.7
5 million over ten years with the current
6 lease. Under the new lease, the upfront
7 benefits, we get a \$54 Million
8 unconditional payment. Just to put it in
9 terms of magnitude, that \$54 Million
10 represents about 2.3%, 3.3 times the
11 amount of money that we have received
12 over the past ten years. So that one is
13 very appealing to the County. In addition
14 to that, there's the \$5 Million security
15 deposit and some 239 fees that we will be
16 getting.

17 Now under the recurring revenues, we
18 have the non casino scenario, which would
19 actually get us about \$5.9 million
20 guaranteed to the County, which is the \$5
21 million base rent plus the \$900,000 for
22 the public safety revenues. That amount
23 grows to \$10 Million for the base rent
24 and \$50 Million by the time we reach
25 Phase two of the construction. In total,

1
2 the County is probably going to get close
3 to \$72.3 million by the time we get to
4 Phase 2.

5 An economic perspective. We went
6 into the Bureau of Economic Analysis
7 model and the investment is probably
8 going to create close to 12,277 jobs,
9 which is on page four of the report that
10 I sent to you. So to 12,277 jobs over 21
11 different industries. That's what I
12 have.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Did
14 you look at the effects in the economy of
15 the projected resort?

16 MR. CHALMERS: That's the job
17 employment number that just quoted. It's
18 about 12,277 jobs, of which 9517 will be
19 in the construction industry.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
21 Just in jobs alone, every job that's
22 created creates a ripple effect in the
23 economy, correct?

24 MR. CHALMERS: Of course. Because
25 then you would have the increased output.

1
2 You have the increased earnings. So you
3 have different categories that come out
4 of the modeling.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Did
6 you look at projections as to how much
7 revenue that would mean or economic
8 activity that would mean for the economy?

9 MR. CHALMERS: In term of the
10 output, it will be about \$3.7 billion. In
11 the jobs, it will be 12,000. It gives us
12 the number of jobs, which is the 12,277.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The
14 3.7 billion; what does that refer to?

15 MR. CHALMERS: That's the output,
16 basically sales that happen within the
17 County as a result of going to this new
18 lease.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The
20 new lease under either scenario or just
21 under the scenario where casino is
22 licensed is granted or both?

23 MR. CHALMERS: That's under the
24 scenario where the casino is built,
25 because that's when you have the most

1
2 investment, which is the \$3.5 billion,
3 which we discounted by 20%.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So is
5 that an annual number?

6 MR. CHALMERS: That's the
7 construction phase. After the
8 construction phase, Sands actually said
9 that they would probably have about 6000
10 jobs on an ongoing basis.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
12 But the 3.7 billion, what does that
13 relate to? I'm just having a little bit
14 difficulty following you.

15 MR. CHALMERS: That's the sum of all
16 the sales that happened within the 21
17 industries given as a result of the
18 investment.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
20 So that's the economic effect of creating
21 those jobs?

22 MR. CHALMERS: Correct.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Have
24 you looked at the economic effect of
25 having, for example, a mid-sized

1
2 convention center, bringing in small size
3 conventions, business conferences and
4 things of that nature?

5 MR. CHALMERS: We did not run that
6 scenario. But we can. It'll just be a
7 matter of discounting the investment and
8 coming with a new number.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
10 right. Obviously, you can't do that for
11 today, but I would ask you to expand your
12 look.

13 MR. CHALMERS: We can do a range and
14 see what it is.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
16 other questions for Maurice?

17 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Hi,
19 Maurice. I'm just looking at the
20 Comptroller's website and it looks like
21 we normally spend almost \$500 Million on
22 our police, including salary and
23 overtime. Does that sound about right?

24 MR. CHALMERS: It sounds about
25 right, yes.

1
2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So do
3 you think that \$1.8 million is going to
4 cover the amount of overtime that we
5 might be in? And I know it's all
6 hypothetical. It sounds to me like it's
7 it sounds like a lot of money when you
8 first hear it, but then when you hear the
9 full budget of \$500 million, 1 million, I
10 mean, that's you know better than I do,
11 but that's what 0.02%.

12 MR. CHALMERS: For that, I would
13 have to defer to the expertise of the
14 Commissioner. He knows better than I do.
15 And this aspect of the lease, he
16 testified to, it is the first time. It's
17 the first time in a lease that we were
18 getting money for public safety. We've
19 never gotten anything for public safety.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: You're
21 better at math than I am. So 500 million
22 and then we're getting 1.8. So we're
23 talking about 0.0 0.02% about right. So
24 less than 1% of our budget.

25 MR. CHALMERS: Again, I have to

1
2 defer to the expertise of the
3 Commissioner.

4 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I'm
5 talking about the math.

6 MR. CHALMERS: Okay.

7 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So it's
8 about less than 1% of our budget. Okay. I
9 just wanted to put it on the record that
10 that was approximately what our budget
11 is. And at the 1.8 represents less than
12 half of 1%.

13 MR. CHALMERS: Okay.

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: All
15 right. Thank you.

16 MR. CHALMERS: Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
18 other questions for Maurice?

19 (Whereupon, no verbal
20 response.)

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: As
22 always, thank you, Maurice. We appreciate
23 you.

24 MR. CHALMERS: Thank you.

25 (Whereupon, applause.)

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2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We have
3 a vast number of slips. Again, as for
4 those of you who were here during the
5 Rules Committee, we just ask that there's
6 a three minute time limit for each
7 speaker. We ask that you abide by that as
8 much as possible. I'm not going to cut
9 you off at the three minutes on the dot,
10 give a little extra time to sum up,
11 etcetera.

12 But what happened at the Rules
13 Committee was that it went on for a while
14 and this will. We'll be here for hours
15 and we'll listen to every speaker who's
16 here. But in fact, people had to leave
17 and we lost probably ten, 20, 30 speakers
18 because it was too long. So I would just
19 ask you to have a little bit of courtesy
20 if you can, and try to abide by the three
21 minute limit.

22 First off, I want to welcome back
23 the former Presiding Officer, a
24 legislator who served with distinction
25 many years and someone who's been

1
2 fighting for the East Meadow community
3 for longer than many of us have been
4 alive. So legislator, former Presiding
5 Officer Norma Gonsalves.

6 MS. GONSALVES: It's been a long,
7 long time. But I'm happy to be here
8 today. And I say good afternoon to all of
9 my former colleagues, to legislators and
10 ladies and gentlemen.

11 As many of you know, I have been a
12 resident of East Meadow community since
13 the 1960s. Don't do the math. It was my
14 honor to represent my community for 20
15 years on this body. Although long before
16 my election to the Nassau County
17 legislature, I was a community leader and
18 advocate and that advocacy has continued
19 until today. Currently, I am the past
20 president of CEMCO, the Council of East
21 Metro Community Organizations. And in
22 that capacity, I was contacted by
23 Governor Paterson on behalf of the Sands
24 Casino proposed lease transfer at the at
25 the Nassau Hub.

1
2 Many do not realize that some 30% of
3 the land in East Meadow School District
4 is tax exempt due to structures such as
5 the Family Court, Juvenile detention
6 center, Nassau County Medical Center,
7 Nassau County Jail. East Meadow has been
8 borne the burden of these facilities for
9 years, and, therefore, our tax base is
10 limited.

11 With that in mind, I had the
12 pleasure of meeting with Governor
13 Paterson to express the concerns of our
14 community. As many of my neighbors have
15 expressed them to me. As anyone who has
16 paid the least attention to the proposed
17 development of this area knows, there
18 have been fits and starts in the
19 development of this precious last large
20 tract of commercial property in our
21 county. Unfortunately, many people
22 continue to push for a different type of
23 development without any plan, partner or
24 funding for the same. Ideally, we would
25 be fending off many offers for the

1
2 development of the Hub. However, that has
3 not been the case in the past, nor is it
4 today.

5 I have found that the Sands people,
6 through Governor Paterson, have expressed
7 a true expression of appreciation of the
8 concerns of our community. I feel very
9 assured that they wish to be good
10 neighbors to my community, which is often
11 times overlooked. Because of this
12 outreach by the Sands people, I feel
13 comfortable in supporting this lease
14 transfer as I feel they will continue to
15 be responsive to the concerns of the
16 neighboring communities while bringing
17 needed revenue into our county.

18 So today you are to consider the
19 lease transfer to an entity with deep
20 pockets and entity, from my perspective,
21 has been extremely responsive to the
22 community input and concerns. Are there
23 other possible uses for this tract of
24 land? Maybe. But is often said, the
25 perfect is the enemy of the good.

1
2 With that in mind, I lend my support
3 to the transfer of this lease before you
4 today. Thank you for your attention. And
5 my best.

6 (Whereupon, applause.)

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Jerry
8 Laricchiuta, CSEA Region 1 President.

9 MR. LARICCHIUTA: Good evening.
10 Thank you, Mr. Nicolello, Legislators,
11 members of the public, both sides that
12 agree and don't agree. I have a lot of
13 respect for those that say they don't
14 like this project. That's what America is
15 all about.. That's what America is all
16 about. We're here to debate and argue,
17 and we bring forth both sides to a body
18 like this of honorable legislators. And
19 they will make a decision.

20 I got to tell you that as the CSEA
21 Region 1 President, one of the things
22 that I most involved with, we have 46,000
23 members from Montauk to Queens. Of those
24 46,000 members, 14,000 of them work in
25 over 700 schools. And that makes us of

1
2 course, this is a community issue and I
3 believe that CSEA members are the
4 community. We work for government. We
5 work for the schools. We're right here.

6 And I got to tell you, I got to
7 thank and congratulate Commissioner Patty
8 Ryder. And of course, I think he has
9 built the best police department in the
10 country and being called the safest. I
11 really believe that.

12 (Whereupon, applause.)

13 MR. LARICCHIUTA: And not to brag,
14 but the police medics who are part of the
15 police officers and the detectives, the
16 police medics are CSEA members and they
17 do a great job here in Nassau County. And
18 I want to thank them, too.

19 Obviously, we have to worry about
20 all these things. In the very beginning,
21 I did get a chance to speak with CEO Mr.
22 Goldstein and upper management of this
23 project of the Sands. And I got to tell
24 you this, I can't believe -- listen,
25 we're talking about a \$5 billion shot in

1
2 the arm for Nassau County. This is
3 something that we need as a county. We
4 need it. When you go to other parts of
5 the country and you say you live in Long
6 Island, the most common thing I hear is,
7 oh, that's Jones Beach, right? And, you
8 know, yeah, it's Jones Beach and it's a
9 great beach. Aren't we known for anything
10 else? We're not. We used to be known for
11 our parks. We had the most beautiful
12 parks in the country. But because of the
13 economics today, it's a little different.
14 This is a shot in the arm, not just for
15 Nassau County residents, Town of
16 Hempstead residents and the people that
17 live in East Meadow and the people that
18 live in Uniondale, but look at the great
19 union workers that we got here right now.
20 They're going to build this place.

21 (Whereupon, applause.)

22 MR. LARICCHIUTA: You're talking
23 about almost 10,000 union jobs to build.
24 And we're going to talk to them after
25 they build them because we want to be

1
2 part of the jobs 8000 possible jobs that
3 might run this great facility. So that's
4 a great chance.

5 Somebody said it before, I think it
6 was Jeff Reynolds when they said we got
7 to stop losing our youth and the brain
8 drain. That's so true. We're talking
9 about creating thousands of jobs here and
10 careers. That's what it's all about. We
11 live in one of the best counties in
12 America, but yet we've seen this plan sit
13 idle, collecting dust for decades now.
14 It's time. It's time that we make this
15 chance. We take this shot. We have a
16 great company. This company is for real.
17 They're pros. I checked them out. I met
18 with them. We were very tough on them in
19 the beginning. These union members here
20 take no nonsense. We're not easily rolled
21 over. We gave it to them and they gave us
22 the right answers. They care about the
23 community. They really do. They're going
24 to make sure that the community is safe.
25 They're going to make sure that the

1
2 traffic is engineered.

3 (Whereupon, applause.)

4 MR. LARICCHIUTA: They're going to
5 make sure that that house values don't go
6 down, in fact, might go up. Think of the
7 revenue that we're going to collect in
8 Nassau County. We're talking about \$50
9 Million a year. When is the last time
10 this county saw that kind of revenue?
11 Boy, do we need it. I remember being here
12 for 16 years as your local president for
13 CSEA, being here, pleading with some
14 legislators, not necessarily you, not to
15 lay off our members because of the
16 economic crisis. And today we're sitting
17 here with a \$5 Billion shot in the arm. I
18 say we pass it, we let it go, and we got
19 the safest county in America for the last
20 three years. And I know our police
21 department and our community leaders will
22 keep it that way. Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

24 Matthew Arisich, Building and
25 Construction Trades Council.

1
2 MR. ARISICH: Good afternoon, Mr.
3 Presiding Officer and members of the
4 Council and to everyone here. This is
5 about the session of making sure you hear
6 all the information. We'll make it kind
7 of clear. Let's get to facts:

8 - 8500 jobs, which I contend are
9 careers, times \$75 an hour, which is the
10 lowest wage rate that's out there, times
11 40 hours a week, times 48 weeks a year,
12 times one and one half years. That's \$1.2
13 billion in wages and benefits that go to
14 everyone. Everyone that gets an
15 opportunity. And you know what? Because
16 we actually go ahead and create the
17 opportunity. So for every dollar you
18 spend in Nassau County under prevailing
19 wage, it generates 1.5 in economic
20 activity. So that's \$2.7 billion.

21 That \$2.7 billion is local money.
22 That money stays here, doesn't go
23 elsewhere, which means all the money that
24 you guys generate can go to schools, can
25 go to commitments to make sure that you

1
2 can do everything you can to build your
3 communities, to provide opportunities.
4 And the building trades is going to do
5 exactly that by making sure we go to
6 marginalized communities and get those
7 opportunities to those that want the
8 jobs.

9 I can tell you right now, between
10 three jobs that are on Long Island, this
11 project, which is Sands Integrated Resort
12 between the Belmont Grandstand Project
13 and Midway Crossing, which is a
14 reinventing of MacArthur Airport. That's
15 20,000 jobs; 20,000. Those are
16 opportunities for your children, your
17 grandchildren, your neighbors. They might
18 not want to work on this casino, but what
19 I'll tell you is that's where all the
20 money is going to be.

21 (Whereupon, applause.)

22 MR. ARISICH: I represent 65,000 of
23 the safest, hardest working trades women
24 and tradesmen all throughout Long Island.
25 And if you think any of them want to go

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2 to the city and pass these two projects
3 and say, I'm going to spend money to go
4 ahead and pay a toll and I'm going to
5 spend money to do parking, and I'm going
6 to spend another hour each direction,
7 everybody's got to be out of their mind.
8 That's why this money stays here, because
9 everybody that lives in these communities
10 sees the benefit of where this is.

11 Five years ago, we had no billion
12 dollar projects. We now have five multi
13 billion dollar projects. This looks like
14 a sixth and there's a seventh right
15 around the corner. That's what you want
16 to do is make sure that you have
17 prosperity in this county. You want to
18 reinvent the whole county to make sure
19 that you have the opportunity to provide
20 the services not only for those that are
21 here, but to make sure that your county
22 has great positions on where policing is,
23 where education is. Those are the most
24 important and it's the residents.

25 So it came to me and I was thinking

1
2 for a while. And you know what? All of a
3 sudden it dawned on me. Something got off
4 in my head (buzzer) -- like that. Why did
5 you guys vote on this and make a
6 unanimous. Thank you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: John
8 Durso, Long Island Federation of Labor.

9 MR. DURSO: Good. Good afternoon.
10 It's good to see everybody. It's nice to
11 see everybody's nice and calm today. A
12 nice, quiet discussion of the issues.
13 Following the presentations that just
14 went on. No need for me to raise my
15 voice. No need for Tom to start laughing
16 like he did the last time.

17 Bottom line is, what you hold in
18 your hands is the future of Nassau
19 County. No ifs, ands, or buts. You've
20 heard all the numbers with this project
21 will bring to the county. The careers,
22 not just the jobs, but the careers that
23 will be created. The future for our
24 children or grandchildren to be able to
25 stay here, raise a family, buy a home.

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2 That's what this is all about.

3 We've heard from the various
4 different communities. They need this for
5 their community. They need that for their
6 community. And all of those questions
7 have been answered directly. Adjustments
8 have been made to face the needs of the
9 various communities. The underserved
10 communities in our county. This project,
11 this work, this vision will make it so
12 that all of you.

13 Ladies and gentlemen. I urge you, on
14 behalf of the nearly 300,000 members of
15 the Long Island Federation of Labor to
16 pass this, to approve this, and let's
17 finally, finally move forward so that our
18 county, our communities, our young women
19 and men can have careers and live here on
20 Long Island. Thank you all very much.

21 (Whereupon, applause.)

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Ryan
23 Stanton, Island Federation of Labor.

24 MR. STANTON: Good evening. I'm
25 going to try to avoid being repetitive.

1
2 You've been bombarded with briefings and
3 numbers, not just tonight, but committee
4 hearings and conversations that have been
5 had the entire time the Sands has had a
6 presence on Long Island because they've
7 been engaged not just with you, but with
8 community organizations, with the union
9 movement and so many other stakeholders
10 you'll hear from tonight.

11 I will be repetitive a little bit on
12 very specific numbers, though:

13 - \$70 million for Nassau County,
14 right? Annually. That's with one vote
15 tonight.

16 - \$54 million payment, which I
17 believe I just heard goes up. That's with
18 one vote tonight.

19 - \$10 Million for East Meadow.
20 That's an additional \$10 Million we heard
21 about. That happens with one vote
22 tonight.

23 - \$10 Million for Uniondale
24 Community. Again, that's with one vote
25 tonight.

1
2 You know, I could continue to go on
3 and on and on, but I won't because again,
4 I want to avoid being repetitive.

5 My point in highlighting just some
6 of the numbers is how monumental this
7 vote is and how you get to be on the
8 right side of history here. Changing the
9 economic future of Nassau County. We
10 have an employer and I'm from the union
11 movement. We are in the position of
12 negotiating with employers all the time.
13 It's not often employers come and say,
14 here, can we pay for that? Can we pay for
15 that so willingly? But they understand
16 that ultimately, in order to be a good
17 corporate citizen, in order to make sure
18 that it's not just them that profit, that
19 it's the people that call this place
20 home. Because that's the only way
21 they're successful. Because please
22 remember, tonight's lease transfer
23 doesn't mean an integrated resort gets
24 built. It means you give Nassau County a
25 chance to compete for a \$4 Billion

1
2 investment in the working families that
3 call this place home.

4 (Whereupon, applause.)

5 MR. STANTON: There's I'll leave his
6 name out of it. But there's a regional
7 stakeholder who qualifies himself as a
8 community stakeholder, not a regional
9 stakeholder. Some might know who I'm
10 talking about, and he constantly talks
11 about building from the community ground
12 up and avoiding regional interests. And I
13 know there are regional organizations
14 here supporting this. I also know I heard
15 that the Uniondale Fire Department just
16 wrote a letter talking about how they
17 want to work with the Sands. The
18 Uniondale Chamber, wrote an op-ed in
19 Newsday talking about all of the benefits
20 of this project and the potential.

21 You have a union movement, as John
22 just mentioned, of nearly 250,000 members
23 that live in the community. We're
24 building a community coalition from the
25 ground up that with one vote, you can

1
2 rewrite the economic future of Nassau
3 County. Please vote yes.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: James
5 Skinner, East Meadow Chamber of Commerce.

6 (Whereupon, no verbal
7 response.) Carl DeStefano.

8 MR. DESTEFANO: Good afternoon. My
9 name is Carl DeStefano. This is my wife,
10 Carmella. We live at 53 Wilson Avenue in
11 Westbury. And we came here today before
12 you, not just to make our voices heard,
13 but for the people who are afraid to
14 speak up. They are afraid because 60 or
15 so cyber bullies online will trash them.
16 We cannot let the loudest, loudest voices
17 in the room or any online petition of
18 5000 signatures speak for the 1.3 million
19 Nassau residents.

20 This project is a good thing. It
21 will bring jobs to our county, it will
22 increase tax revenue and will help Nassau
23 County become more affordable so families
24 like ours can stay well into our
25 retirement years.

1
2 I have a question for my neighbors
3 here today against the project. What is
4 it you're saying no to? Tax revenue for
5 Nassau County? For the Town of
6 Hempstead? Uniondale School District?
7 Jobs and economic opportunities for our
8 neighbors? A good time? Fun bars? Top
9 of the line restaurants, high end spas, a
10 nightclub, a five star hotel so our
11 children don't have to travel to the
12 city? And are you against veterans
13 programs and community benefits to those
14 less deserving? If you are morally
15 opposed to gambling, this may not be the
16 project for you, but your fight isn't
17 with this Legislature or Nassau County,
18 it is with the state of New York. We have
19 an opportunity here to save Long Island
20 for generations to come, and we
21 respectfully ask you to vote yes on the
22 transfer of the lease to Las Vegas Sands.

23 Thank you very much.

24 (Whereupon, applause.)

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: William

1
2 Cassidy.

3 MR. CASSIDY: Thank you for hearing
4 us, Mr. Presiding Officer, all the rest
5 of the Legislature.

6 I've been up here a few times and my
7 thoughts on the Sands Casino are pretty
8 much the same. It is jobs. The prime
9 benefit to us, to everybody in all walks
10 of life are jobs. Blue collar, white
11 collar. No collar. The most important
12 thing you can give a young man, a young
13 woman, an older man, middle aged, is
14 work. When you don't have it, it's
15 important.

16 I'm a union representative for the
17 stagehands in New York City, and we do
18 everything from Broadway to Madison
19 Square Garden. And now we're out here on
20 Long Island. And we we do Nassau
21 Coliseum. They're doing Madonna
22 rehearsals right now. And we also do UBS.
23 We do Grumman Studios. And we have a lot
24 of members living out here. And they
25 would love to be able to work at the

1
2 theater, which is my primary concern with
3 the Sands proposal.

4 The Sands are a first rate company.
5 Friends of mine work in Las Vegas for
6 them. They say they are the real deal.
7 They do it right. I can't think of any
8 reason why any legislator sitting up
9 there could not tell his constituents or
10 her constituents that this is a good deal
11 no matter how it rolls out. There's pros,
12 there's cons. The opposition is here, the
13 loyal opposition, if I could call them
14 that. But we all want what's right for
15 the county I grew up in Merrick, lived in
16 Suffolk County, and worked at the Nassau
17 Coliseum that first day it opened, then
18 in New York City and back out to
19 Grumman's and now for the union itself.
20 And this is a first class, world class
21 county, Nassau. It's known throughout the
22 country. Sands is a first class company.
23 They have the highest rating. And most of
24 all for those who consider the economics
25 of this, the private sector, this is

1
2 private sector money coming in. What
3 everybody wants, private sector money,
4 investment. And when shows happen, it it
5 rains money. I keep saying that, but it's
6 true. It's private sector. Money comes in
7 for the shows that will be at the theater
8 as well as the other establishments in
9 the in the project.

10 I would suggest you accept this and
11 pass it on to Hempstead with your
12 approval. Thank you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Joseph
14 Parisi.

15 MR. PARISI: Thank you, Presiding
16 Officer Nicolello and members of the
17 Nassau County Legislature. My name is
18 Joseph Parisi. I'm a resident of East
19 Meadow and also the president of the
20 Council of East Meadow Community
21 Organizations. I'm not going to read from
22 my script because I think most of the
23 ideas have already been touched on. But
24 there is one thought I'd like to leave
25 you with and that it's often said that

1
2 sometimes this is a generational
3 opportunity for Nassau County. I actually
4 think it's a multi generational
5 opportunity for our county. So therefore
6 I'm in support to move ahead and give
7 ourselves an opportunity to approve this
8 lease agreement. And let's go to the next
9 step, because I think the real value is
10 going to be for the generations that
11 follow us and who want to continue to
12 live here in East Meadow and continue to
13 make this a great county that we already
14 know it is.

15 The gentlemen before alluded to when
16 he leaves New York and he says, I'm from
17 Nassau County, I'm from Long Island. Oh,
18 yeah, Jones Beach. I think we're greater
19 than that and should be known more than
20 just Jones Beach. So I urge you all to
21 approve this lease agreement. Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Meta .
23 J. Mereday.

24 MS. MEREDAY: Where does one begin?
25 First and foremost, for those who don't

1
2 believe that the residents who have taken
3 the time to be here are saying no to
4 jobs, no to labor, no to unions, clearly
5 don't know me.

6 Secondly, these billions of dollars
7 are still going to be based upon
8 someone's work, someone's job, someone's
9 income that will not go towards the
10 second highest property taxes in the
11 country. And now all of a sudden the
12 clock is on. But when Sands got to speak
13 and wax poetic twice now. Clock wasn't
14 running. You know, when you got well paid
15 informants or endorsers when they stood
16 before this group, clock wasn't running.
17 When you get residents, they come here on
18 a regular basis to fight the \$3.3 billion
19 budget. Hey, the plan that the Sands put
20 on the table, that should be up there.
21 You're talking about child care. You're
22 talking about supporting people. We don't
23 get that with the \$3.3 billion budget
24 that got passed in Nassau County. So
25 maybe you all should be sitting up there.

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Why am I saying no to the casino and I am saying no to the casino? I am not a bully. I am an advocate. I heard maybe one person who mentioned that this is not just the casino. This is the Nassau County Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Okay. Just to have a statue, but we have veterans that are now killing themselves at 44 a day. Where's the discussion for that?

The bright lights is not going to help a veteran or someone like myself, a 9/11 first responder. Going into an environment that could be potentially toxic and detrimental to me and to so many others. Water issues. The Grumman plume is the least of our issues in Nassau County. We've got elected officials here. Some of them are leaving. Some of them are moving forward. Think about that, because all these bodies aren't here. When you talked about the budget. The majority of the bodies weren't here when you passed a segregated

1
2 map. But I was here. Okay. I was here
3 fighting about the CSEA union members and
4 workers who still don't have a contract,
5 including those who service our veterans.
6 So if you want to talk about who wants to
7 say no, that's me. Hello? I say no
8 (buzzer).

9 (Whereupon, public
10 interruption.)

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Can we
12 address the comments here? Let each
13 speaker have their moment. Everyone is
14 entitled have this time to speak here.
15 And we should be respectful of everyone,
16 whether we agree with them or not on
17 either side. Thank you. And please sum
18 up.

19 MS. MEREDAY: I will. I will
20 definitely sum up. We need to have
21 development here. We are for development.
22 We are for having opportunities for our
23 young people. Realistically, the average
24 salary for a casino worker in New York
25 State is \$40,000. That's not going to

1
2 keep our young people here. Where are
3 they going to continue to live? In the
4 basement of their parent's house. We're
5 talking about realism here. You mentioned
6 about having a convention center, a
7 facility someplace that we can focus on
8 healthcare, which is the number one
9 employer of Nassau County Research and
10 Development, billions of dollars for the
11 PACT bill for veterans. We say we've got
12 62,070 thousand veterans. We can bring
13 programs here. Manufacturing, aviation.
14 Let's have a new plan that's more
15 sustainable and more inclusive.

16 Thank you.

17 (Whereupon, applause.)

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Jack
19 Majkut.

20 MR. MAJKUT: Good evening,
21 Presiding Officer Nicolello, ladies and
22 gentlemen of the Board, my name is Jack
23 Majkut. I'm a business representative
24 for the International Brotherhood of
25 Electrical Workers, Local 25, IBEW Local

1
2 25 represents over 2000 working families
3 here on Long Island. I personally am a
4 resident of Nassau County for 54 years.
5 Today I'm here to say that Local 25 and I
6 fully support this project and the
7 transfer of the lease agreement to the
8 Sands Organization. This \$4-5 billion
9 project will not only create thousands of
10 construction jobs and thousands of
11 permanent jobs, it will generate the much
12 needed tax revenue for Nassau County
13 residents. Now is the time for Nassau
14 County to benefit from this proposed
15 project. We've been waiting long enough.
16 It's been decades.

17 The mayor of Islandia back in 2017,
18 Alan Dorman, was brave enough to stand
19 behind Jake's 58 slot casino project,
20 which is now expanding due to its huge
21 success. The Village has been able to
22 reduce taxes for their residents due to
23 the taxpayer relief agreement with Jake's
24 58. Imagine what the Sands Organization
25 is going to do for the residents of

1
2 Nassau County. This is a transformative
3 project for all of Long Island that is
4 long overdue.

5 In addition, Nassau Community
6 College has agreed to become primary
7 employee training center for the proposed
8 Sands Casino. This collaboration could
9 lead to management programs in the hotel
10 casino industry, as well as banquet
11 entertainment, food and beverage industry
12 and more.

13 The Sands Organization is serious.
14 They are making a multi-billion dollar
15 investment without a taxpayer subsidy to
16 fund the project. I can't tell you how
17 refreshing that is. I also sit on the
18 Town of Hempstead Industrial Development
19 Agency, and I see far too much that big
20 corporations come in looking for some
21 assistance and they're not asking for one
22 penny.

23 As legislators, you all have a
24 fiduciary responsibility to Nassau County
25 to prove this transfer of the lease to

1
2 the Sands Organization. And if you
3 didn't, it would be irresponsible. I urge
4 you all to pass this lease transfer.
5 Please.

6 Once again, IBEW Local 25 and I
7 fully support the transfer of this lease
8 to the Sands Organization and the full
9 scope of this project. Thank you for your
10 time and opportunity to speak.

11 (Whereupon, Claudiana
12 Griffith and Reginald Benjamin
13 are called, no verbal
14 response.)

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Bruce
16 Chester.

17 MR. CHESTER: Good afternoon,
18 Presiding Officer Nicolello and the rest
19 of the Legislature. Presiding Officer
20 Nicolello, I've known you. We've known
21 each other for close to 20 years and I've
22 always considered you to be a fair
23 person.

24 As you know, I'm deputy mayor of
25 Garden City. We have a lot of concerns

1
2 about this project. I'm glad I got up
3 because it seemed like for about two
4 hours we've had proponents of the Sands
5 Casino and haven't had any opposition to
6 it. So I'm glad we're opening it up to
7 people that are not in support of it.

8 Governor Paterson, you talked about
9 the decades long brain drain that we've
10 had. This casino would not solve that.
11 We're not opposed to an entertainment
12 center being built or a new hotel being
13 built. And also, Presiding Officer
14 Nicolello, you asked a question of
15 Maurice, financial officer, and you asked
16 him about a mid-level convention center.
17 I think that would be great. I don't know
18 why that wasn't asked before.

19 Dr. Reynolds, you mentioned and I
20 know you're head of Family and Children's
21 Association, an excellent association
22 that I've contributed to for quite some
23 time. I think you're going to have more
24 problems with this with the gambling and
25 the drugs and alcoholism.

1
2 As far as 8500 jobs, these will not
3 be permanent jobs and these are not jobs
4 that are going to keep our young people
5 here in the county. I believe it's a
6 short term fix with long term problems.

7 There are so many other things we
8 need for for my village, Garden City. Are
9 our police going to be subsidized? And
10 they're going to have more calls. They're
11 going to have more DWIs, traffic,
12 speeding. That'll happen, there's no
13 doubt about it. Is there any plan to do
14 that?

15 And one thing that really concerns
16 me, how many casinos in the United States
17 does Sands operate? Do we know? I haven't
18 heard, but it seems to me the bulk of
19 them are in China or Malaysia. And let's
20 say there might be a problem in China. We
21 know there certainly could be if they
22 invade Taiwan or something like that.
23 What happens then? What happens if those
24 casinos crash and it's not out of the
25 realm of possibilities that Sands could

1
2 at some point as big a corporation as it
3 is file bankruptcy? What's the plan then?
4 What happens to the lease? Who gets to
5 have a say in that lease? Does our county
6 any more? These are concerns that we have
7 and we feel and I would ask all of you to
8 consider.

9 Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Garry
11 Johnson, NAACP of New York State.

12 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening. My name
13 is Garry Johnson. I'm the State Economic
14 Development Chair for the New York NAACP.
15 I have spoken previously in regards to
16 the Sands lease transfer. NAACP views
17 this from an economic development
18 perspective. We have been engaged fully
19 with the Sands Corporation for some time
20 and and their team. We have spoken about
21 the possibilities of engaging with the
22 community in terms of preparing them to
23 acquire these jobs, not just working for
24 Sands after the casino's been built, but
25 in predevelopment, during construction

1
2 and of course, afterwards.

3 While there are many concerns by the
4 community, the engagement that we have
5 had with Sands leads us to believe that
6 it is safe to continue to work with
7 Sands. It is, in our opinion, the best
8 interest of this community to work with
9 Sands, and we believe that this Body
10 should vote favorably to pass the lease
11 transfer agreement.

12 We do not come and make these kinds
13 of statements without doing our own
14 homework, both domestically and
15 internationally, about what they've done.
16 And we've engaged with them on many
17 issues pertaining to other agreements
18 they have signed in other locales, not
19 only domestically but internationally. So
20 we feel confident in making this decision
21 and we urge that you pass this tonight.

22 Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Louis
24 Vasquez.

25 MR. VASQUEZ: Good evening,

1
2 everyone. On behalf of the Hispanic
3 Chamber of Commerce, I'll make it very
4 sweet and short. And I know there's a lot
5 of concerns here, but we also have done
6 our due diligence with our chamber and
7 our board and our community. We had a
8 cross section of believers and we brought
9 them up the pros and the cons, and it
10 looks like the pros won in reference to
11 our chambers and our economic.

12 And also one of the things that I
13 have to speak about the sentence is
14 basically that we had a lot of questions
15 and concerns and we were pretty satisfied
16 with it. One of the things that we try
17 not to do and don't do is basically I do
18 not sell my soul for sponsorship and I do
19 not sell my soul for anyone that I don't
20 believe that I should be able to speak
21 up. So for whatever reasons we have
22 spoken to the Sands. I give them the
23 tough questions in reference to the
24 Hispanic community in reference that we
25 are always last on the table and are

1
2 never really considered in anything. And
3 I think just the fact that we're
4 considered in this and asking our opinion
5 and making sure that we have, you know,
6 programs that's going to be effective to
7 the community with these jobs, economic
8 empowerment and everything else. So with
9 all due respect to everyone, we are
10 endorsing this program. Hopefully, we'll
11 be able to get it. Many families will be
12 hopefully saved and a lot of families
13 will be helped.

14 And I think it's not only being
15 Latino, I'm a Glen cover, but I also have
16 my neighbors and I represent Long Island.
17 And I look at like my neighbor. If my
18 neighbor is going to be great, that I'm
19 going to endorse it. So even with the
20 minority community, the Hispanic
21 community, we recommend that this Body of
22 legislators recommend to the next level
23 and approve this, you know, this
24 transition and this proposal. And on
25 behalf of our community, thank you very

1
2 much. God bless you and have a great
3 evening. And may God bless everyone.
4 Gracias.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
6 you. Lynn Krug.

7 MS. KRUG: Good evening. Most of you
8 received a call from me this morning. I
9 called every person on this board to tell
10 them that I really want you to say no to
11 the casino. The problem that I have is
12 there has been no transparency to this
13 process. It would be reasonable to think
14 that this entire process is being rushed
15 through to avoid any opposition from
16 getting traction. There's even a lawsuit
17 because county officials held discussions
18 for the casino project in violation of
19 the State's open meetings law. The
20 Planning Commission failed to provide the
21 public with proper notice and denied the
22 public the right to attend its work
23 sessions while scheduling meetings to
24 benefit Las Vegas Sands. If this is such
25 a great idea, why has there been no

1
2 dialogue out in the open? How can there
3 be any claim of community support if we
4 have no window to see how that support is
5 being measured?

6 There is an evidentiary hearing
7 scheduled for May 24th, Thursday to hear
8 the Article 78 filed against the county
9 by Hofstra University. Why would the
10 county transfer the lease with such
11 haste? Wouldn't it be beneficial for the
12 county to hear the outcome of that case
13 prior to attempting to transfer this
14 lease?

15 I keep reading about 300 meetings
16 that the Sands has proposed in our
17 communities. When and where did these
18 happen? I live in Garden City. I attend
19 every village meeting. I read the
20 newspaper. I have never been invited. I
21 was never invited to see David Beckham.
22 Come on. I mean, that's, you know, come
23 on. I'm an old person, but I care about
24 my community.

25 Also, certainly, if this project is

1
2 approved, it really is in my backyard and
3 Garden City will be affected big time. A
4 casino is not about building prosperity
5 for our community. It's about extracting
6 wealth from our community to benefit a
7 corporate interest. I urge this panel,
8 Don't make this your legacy. In a county
9 with a history of innovation and forward
10 thinking, don't make this the thing that
11 you'll be remembered for. Vote your
12 conscience. Nip this ill conceived idea
13 in the bud.

14 If we build something technology,
15 medical, the unions, you will all have a
16 place to work. Don't hang your legacy on
17 a casino. It's not good for us. It's not
18 good for me personally. And it's not good
19 for all the people who support to say no
20 to the casino.

21 Thank you for listening and I hope
22 you vote your conscience.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
24 you.

25 Darius Forrest. Darius. Forrest.

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(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Gina
Coletti.

MS. COLETTI: Good afternoon,
Legislature. I am here on behalf of the
Suffolk County Alliance of Chambers and
members of the Alliance of Chambers
speaking on behalf and in support of this
project.

The Sands has displayed an
outstanding support and respect to our
Long Island business owners by hosting
procurement academies to inform and
educate them on what to expect and how to
prepare their businesses to collaborate
with Sands. We are proud to partner with
Sands and the Nassau Council Chambers in
their first small business procurement
conversation with the Long Island
community. Since then, the Sands has
continued community outreach to the local
chambers of commerce and small business
owners and offered future growth and

1
2 procurement opportunities across our
3 region.

4 This is a five star hotel, world
5 class restaurants, celebrity chefs, high
6 end spa, entertainment venue, and
7 community benefits will positively impact
8 our tourism industry, with visitors,
9 including families and business
10 organizations across the globe. This is
11 beyond Nassau County, beyond Suffolk
12 County. This is regional and global. You
13 will attract people from all over the
14 world to Long Island.

15 The Hauppauge Industrial Association
16 is now in its 45th year. The HIA is one
17 of Long Island's largest business
18 advocacy organizations. It is also the
19 steward of the Long Island Innovation
20 Park at Hauppauge, the largest industrial
21 park in the Northeast. The park supports
22 55,000 jobs, produces \$13 billion in
23 goods and services each year, and
24 accounts for 8% of Long Island's gross
25 domestic product. The HIALI supports the

1
2 proposals by Sands, New York to develop
3 an integrated resort facility at the
4 Nassau Hub in Uniondale.

5 As you well know, this multibillion
6 dollar project would include hotels,
7 community centers, a performance venue,
8 convention spaces, which we all know we
9 need, restaurants, and upon approval, a
10 casino. The plan development would
11 benefit Nassau County with annual rent
12 and gaming revenue, tax revenue,
13 community benefit funding and public
14 safety funding.

15 We note that the project is
16 supported by the Building and
17 Construction Trades Council and Suffolk,
18 Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The Long
19 Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO and
20 the Economic Development Chair of the
21 NAACP New York State Conference.

22 According to published reports,
23 Sands anticipates that the new luxury
24 resort would provide more than 12,000
25 construction jobs and then employ 5000

1
2 permanent workers upon opening. Sands has
3 quickly demonstrated its commitment to
4 being a good local partner and to working
5 with Long Island's business community,
6 including the HIALI And while the Long
7 Island Innovation Park is situated in
8 Suffolk County, it's important for us all
9 to remember that the economic fates of
10 both Nassau and Suffolk are forever
11 conjoined. Both counties constitute the
12 enduring Long Island brand. We are a
13 region and New York State officially
14 designates Long Island as a unified
15 economic development region. In this
16 vein, bold development initiatives that
17 play out in either county inevitably
18 benefit the other county as well.

19 The HAILI urges Nassau County
20 Legislature to approve the Sands New York
21 proposal for the Nassau Hub.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
23 you. Thank you.

24 Frank Cammarano. Frank Cammarano.

25 MR. CAMMARANO: Wow, this is going

1
2 to be a lot of fun, guys. So just so
3 everybody knows, I am born and raised in
4 Nassau County, 50 years old, never left
5 Nassau County. I love Nassau County. My
6 wife is from Queens. She wanted me to
7 move to Queens. I said, Hell no. I stay
8 in Nassau County.

9 That being said, I'm also a local
10 business owner. When I mean local. I am
11 in walking distance from the Coliseum.
12 All I keep hearing is casino, casino,
13 casino. Ladies and gentlemen, you do not
14 have to leave your house to go to the
15 casino. The casino is right here. This is
16 your casino right here. This is your
17 casino. Why is everybody focusing on the
18 casino? This is a self-funded,
19 self-funded project. Listen, Self-funded.
20 This will generate jobs. This will bring
21 money to Nassau County like we've never
22 seen before. Maybe in your pocket. Maybe
23 in your pocket.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Please
25 don't respond. Please, please don't

1
2 respond. And please let him finish.

3 MR. CAMMARANO: I have to respond
4 when something like that is said. It
5 doesn't make any sense.

6 Again, this is a self-funded project
7 for Nassau County that we have not seen
8 in my lifetime. Your lifetime, or
9 probably in anyone's lifetime. All I'm
10 asking you to do is think about how good
11 this project will be for Nassau County.
12 That's really all I have to say.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
14 you, sir. Edward T. Finneran.

15 MR. FINNERAN: Good evening, folks.
16 I think a few things have been
17 established here.

18 Number one, there's a lot of folks
19 who want a casino.

20 Number two, there's a lot of bucks
21 being thrown around here.

22 There are some bucks that are going
23 to be earned over time if the casino is
24 eventually built. But that's really not
25 the issue. The issue is the transfer of

1
2 the lease and the essentially \$65-70
3 million that will be transferred two days
4 after the commencement or the effective
5 date. If you look at that in and of
6 itself, which is what this Body should be
7 doing, that's about a one and one half
8 percent to 1.75% uptick in your 2023
9 budget. I don't know if it's 2023 or
10 2023/24. That seems to be a little bit of
11 a drop in the bucket.

12 Now, on the other side, the the
13 opposition, I think, has been articulate
14 in highlighting what could potentially go
15 wrong. And there is a lot. I'm not going
16 to go over that. What I'd like to bring
17 to your attention is what I think you
18 have to do as legislators -- and I thank
19 you for your public service, and I say
20 public service because I think when folks
21 say thank you for your service, we
22 sometimes get lost in that really should
23 be held for our armed services -- But
24 your public service is noted and your
25 hard work. I've heard one or two of you

1
2 say this is the most difficult decision
3 that you'll probably have to consider as
4 a legislator and during your career.

5 So I thought back to a book that was
6 written in 1957 by a young senator from
7 Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy was racked
8 up with a horrendous back problem, and he
9 wrote a book. It's called, Of course,
10 Profiles in Courage. It won the Pulitzer
11 in 1957. And in it, this was Kennedy's
12 hope. The true democracy puts faith in
13 the people. Faith that the people, that's
14 us, will not simply elect men and women,
15 that's you, who will represent their
16 views ably and faithfully, but also who
17 will exercise their conscientious
18 judgment. My friend Lynn brought up the
19 conscientiousness issue in her little
20 presentation, and Kennedy goes on and
21 then he says, and not the faith of the
22 electorate will not condemn those
23 politicians whose devotion to principle
24 leads them to unpopular courses. You know
25 what that unpopular course would be based

1
2 on what you're hearing here and based on
3 the financial -- I don't want to say it's
4 wizardry, it may be real -- pot of gold.
5 That may be at the end of that rainbow.
6 And at at the final phrase here, he says,
7 You will be rewarded for your courage.
8 You will be respected and honored because
9 you ultimately recognized what is right.

10 This is a tough one, but that's why
11 you wanted to be in those seats. Some of
12 you are leaving. Everybody makes their
13 personal decisions, but this is one that
14 will mark your careers and your legacy.
15 And I hope and pray (buzzer) that you
16 exercise that conscientious goodness that
17 you have.

18 I will end with one quick
19 observation. You saw a very interesting
20 slide presented by the very professional
21 folks from the Sands, about an extra \$25
22 Million in Community benefits that
23 recently was awarded to our good friends
24 in Uniondale, East Meadow and Hempstead.
25 There was one contiguous village missing

1
2 from that group, and that's Garden City.
3 And I submit to you, that you didn't see
4 that name in that village because we
5 exercised our profile in courage. And I
6 look forward to all of you doing the
7 same.

8 Thank you very much.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

10 Apparently, when I called up Frank
11 Cammarano, another gentleman came up and
12 may have. There has been problems with
13 the sound system, so I want to call up
14 the other Frank Cammarano.

15 MR. FRANK CAMMARANO: Hi, you all.
16 Thanks for having me today. I am the real
17 Frank Cammarano.

18 I have my bullet points that I was
19 given, thankfully, you know, pro Sands
20 folks, which is most of us in the
21 audience and most of us in Nassau County
22 have covered most of them.

23 That being said, you know, I'm the
24 president of the National Council of
25 Chambers, the umbrella over the 45

1
2 chambers in Nassau County. We are small
3 business. So in essence, small business
4 is in the house here today. When RXR had
5 the property and were doing the work
6 groups and all. I was all part of that as
7 president of the East Meadow Chamber.
8 That's my home chamber right next door to
9 the Hub. We had done two community events
10 prior to the work groups independent,
11 which were a success. I know what it
12 takes in the communities and for small
13 businesses to make things work. I truly
14 do. And apparently the Sands does also.
15 You know, it's kind of hard to stay ahead
16 of me with this stuff here and there, but
17 they seem to be ahead of me all the time.
18 They're dotting the I's and crossing
19 their T's. And truth is, they are being
20 very transparent. I mean, no one is
21 perfect and, you know, me included. But
22 the reality of it is they've been all
23 over the place, all of Nassau County and
24 then some. Meeting with community
25 groups, meeting with businesses, meeting,

1
2 with big labor. And by the way, small
3 businesses is not like small business or
4 big labor. Let's just face it. There's
5 thousands of jobs here that are going to
6 be permanent. Okay. Where are these folks
7 going to come from? They're coming from
8 our communities. They're local people. So
9 in a way, they're supporting the
10 communities through labor, through the
11 unions, which is a great thing.

12 That being said, as long as things
13 keep on going the way they are and
14 they've been really great, the Sands
15 folks have been really great. The Council
16 is going to maintain our course and bring
17 the information to all the chambers in to
18 communities as best we can.

19 We are for the project moving
20 forward and we ask that you all grant a
21 lease transfer so they can continue
22 forward. As opposed to for the
23 communities that want to people with the
24 red signs, National Council of Chambers,
25 I'm right on there. By all means, we will

1
2 give you a forum. You can come talk to me
3 and we can talk about this. Okay? Take
4 it up with me. Okay. Thank you for your
5 time.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
7 you, Frank.

8 (Whereupon, Kevin Boone and
9 Joseph Schafer, no response.)

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Leo
11 Stimmler.

12 MR. STIMMLER: County legislators,
13 my name is Leo Stimmler. I'm from Garden
14 City. The MGM Casino in Springfield,
15 Massachusetts, has 50,000 visitors every
16 Saturday and 50,000 every Sunday. During
17 the week, they have 25,000. If we get
18 even half that number, County
19 Legislators, what will that do to our
20 already clogged roads? You know, we have
21 a problem now with road rage. Can you
22 imagine what all these visitors, what
23 that will do to road rage?

24 And what about our air quality? In
25 today's *Newsday* on page five, it talks

1
2 about the higher rates of asthma in our
3 minority communities. It's going to get
4 worse.

5 And can our underground aquifer, can
6 that support so many additional people in
7 Nassau County? What about straight street
8 crime and drug abuse?

9 I also wanted to mention that our
10 mayor, Mary Carter Flanagan, said in our
11 local newspaper, *The Garden City News*
12 asked us not to lose sight of the fact
13 that casino revenue comes from gambling
14 losses. And I'd venture to say that a
15 significant amount of those losses come
16 from addicted gamblers. What happens to
17 those families? What happens to those
18 children? Is this not blood money?

19 One of the prior speakers talked
20 about this a boom to local restaurants.
21 Not so. Casinos have their own
22 restaurants. They don't want people to
23 leave those casinos. So I would ask that
24 you please don't vote to approve this 99
25 year lease.

1
2 And in closing, I wanted to say that
3 Governor Paterson and Dr. Jeffrey
4 Reynolds were very articulate about their
5 arguments for the Sands, but they left
6 out something very important. They said
7 nothing about what, if any, fees they
8 received for their support of the Sands.
9 Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
11 Richard Catalano.

12 MR. CATALANO: Richard Catalano from
13 Garden City. The approval of this lease
14 agreement will significantly increase the
15 probability that a casino will be built
16 in the heart of Nassau County, where I
17 have lived my whole life for 63 years.
18 Especially after today with Steve
19 Coleman, had his defeat as far as his
20 potential casino in Queens.

21 The County Legislators here today
22 cannot take the position that there are
23 other approvals to be obtained so you can
24 wash your hands from this most critical
25 decision. This decision, you're all

1
2 accountable for if we end up with a
3 casino. For that reason, I urge you to
4 hit the pause button. You know that the
5 state approval process has been delayed.
6 There's an upcoming court hearing, and
7 there is absolutely no reason to rush
8 into possibly the most critical decision
9 in the history of Nassau County. Previous
10 legislators thought that they were voting
11 on a good lease deal for the Coliseum,
12 and we all know that that didn't really
13 work out.

14 I'm a CPA for the past 40 years, so
15 I'm just going to focus on some numbers.
16 The Sands representatives stated that the
17 number of daily visits was, quote, north
18 of 20,000 visitors a day. But they also
19 said that they expect an excess of \$2
20 Million will be lost in their casino each
21 and every year. Those numbers don't make
22 sense. The amount of annual visitors that
23 will come to this casino will be well
24 north of 20,000. And you, as legislators,
25 must get a handle on exactly what that

1
2 number is.

3 The other thing they didn't mention
4 is how many What's the peak time going to
5 be? How many visitors like we just heard
6 will be during the weekends on Friday,
7 Saturday and Sunday. So these are you
8 don't have that information right now.
9 This document that was issued by the
10 Nassau County bus said that we already
11 have widespread traffic congestion around
12 the hub and we don't even have a casino.
13 This is from you. This has Bruce
14 Blakeman's name on it. It's outrageous to
15 think what this 50,000 people or 40,000
16 visitors is going to do to the traffic in
17 Nassau County, especially in the heart of
18 Nassau County, not just on the edges of
19 Nassau County, right in the heart of the
20 county.

21 The other concern I have is DWI. We
22 have a crisis here in Nassau County. We
23 have lost 763 people since 2012. That's
24 about six people every single month. If
25 only a half a percent of the visitors to

1
2 the casino drink too much and leave that
3 casino, we will have 50 additional drunk
4 drivers on our roads every single day,
5 365 days. That's something you have to
6 consider before you vote on this lease.

7 Two weeks ago, Sands said that most
8 of the money comes from capturing
9 out-of-state dollars. That's not true. If
10 you look at the spectrum report, very few
11 dollars will be recaptured from money
12 they would have lost at Mohegan Sun or
13 Foxwoods. Most of the money that they
14 want to take out that they expect to get
15 from that \$2 billion is coming out of the
16 wallets of Long Islanders. That is money
17 that will not be spent in our local
18 restaurants, that won't be spent in our
19 local downtowns. That will be money that
20 won't be subject to sales tax (buzzer).
21 And your budget review did not look at
22 the impact on our local businesses and
23 also on your sales tax revenues by having
24 this massive diversion of revenue going
25 from restaurants and shops into a mega

1
2 casino where it's not taxed.

3 So I just urge you hit the pause
4 button. This is too big a decision to
5 rush through. You have to do more due
6 diligence as far as this lease agreement,
7 it's too big a decision. Please pause.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
9 Corinne Joy.

10 MS. JOY: How many of you live in
11 Nassau County? How many of you live in
12 Uniondale? How about Northeast Uniondale?
13 How about East Meadow? You guys haven't a
14 clue of the traffic, the jam that is on
15 Hempstead Turnpike or do you? It is
16 horrendous. Horrendous. Hempstead
17 Turnpike looks like the LIE. Front
18 Street that runs parallel east and west,
19 looks like the LIE. This is not the place
20 for a casino. You want to build a casino?
21 Go down to the beach. Go down to any of
22 the industrial areas. This is not the
23 place. You have a residential area right
24 across the street from there. We don't
25 need any crime. We have enough. We don't

1
2 need more drugs. We don't need more drunk
3 drivers. Etcetera, etcetera. You guys
4 have heard it all. Okay.

5 I'm from that area. I'm probably the
6 only one that can tell you. My
7 grandparents are founding members to
8 Uniondale, but back then it wasn't called
9 Uniondale. You probably don't even know
10 what it was called. We're still there. It
11 is horrendous what's going on over there.
12 We don't want any more crime. The
13 congestion, it's going to be a debacle.
14 It's going to be so severe and who are we
15 going to point the finger at? You guys
16 need to think. You need to put the pause
17 button on.

18 And you know what we need? We need
19 an a referendum. A referendum. When you
20 do things like this under the table,
21 something's wrong. Something's wrong.
22 Everybody came and spoke today about the
23 Sands. It was so nice. Wasn't it pretty?
24 No one talk about the negative. They only
25 spoke about how lovely it's going to be

1
2 and the money they're bringing in. This
3 is the wrong decision. It's going to be
4 severe. I'm telling you right now, it's
5 going to be very, very, very bad. The
6 worst thing that ever happened. Build a
7 casino elsewhere. Put in a civic center,
8 put in. How about an indoor and outdoor
9 roller skating rink? Ice rink build at
10 the Nassau Hub, Not the casino. No way.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Karen
12 Riordon. Karen Riordon.

13 MS. RIORDAN: Hi, my name is Karen
14 Riordon and I'm one of the organizers for
15 "Say No to the Casino". I understand one
16 of the criterion in the selection process
17 for the gaming license is local support.
18 While Sands boasts numerous community
19 partners, they've stated in last hearing
20 and here today that they have been
21 meeting with community members for over a
22 year, and they use words in the press
23 like community benefits, and they've been
24 quoted offering payments to neighbors and
25 to four mayors. And we've heard them,

1
2 been quoted as "prepared to come back to
3 you with millions of dollars to meet your
4 needs". They've used words like funding
5 of hospitality programs, educational
6 programs, scholarship programs and
7 investments, etcetera. Gosh, I guess you
8 would just call us the unfunded majority
9 of Nassau County who vehemently oppose
10 the casino.

11 We just recently learned about the
12 casino effort, and we formed a Facebook
13 page 11 weeks ago, not a year ago. We are
14 Republicans, Democrats, union members and
15 community based organizers that represent
16 the full diversity of Nassau County. In
17 this short time, 24,504 unfunded emails
18 have been sent to you in this Body in
19 just the last two and a half weeks,
20 vehemently opposing the lease transfer
21 and over 3000 unfunded signatures have
22 been signed on our petition asking you to
23 oppose the transfer. There is plenty of
24 opposition and it's growing. Constituents
25 are finally learning about what's

1
2 happening underfoot. But you know this
3 already. And that may explain why you're
4 trying to rush this vote before we've had
5 a chance to ask questions. There are
6 legitimate concerns that this Body have
7 failed to address and even hold open
8 hearings with Q and A with the unfunded
9 public. Some of you have said that this
10 is your fiduciary responsibility to act,
11 yet you're unable to give us the numbers
12 of the amount of fiduciary relief that we
13 may see in taxes from this casino deal.
14 Surely you've looked into this before.
15 You would cast your vote today.

16 And does this number also reflect
17 the loss of revenue that you'll have that
18 you'll see from the loss and depreciated
19 home values in the area? I trust that you
20 have all this data and you have looked at
21 all of this before casting your historic
22 vote.

23 So many of you are not running for
24 election again. This vote should wait
25 until after the November elections, or at

1
2 least the very least, until the public
3 has a chance to weigh in. This entire
4 process has been shameful. I would like a
5 full accounting from the Sands
6 Corporation of all their community
7 funding from the last year to date and
8 the political contributions that you so
9 openly discuss, many at this hearing.
10 This entire process has been appalling.
11 Furthermore, if Sands decides to sell the
12 property, there should be a clause in the
13 sale that it must be reviewed by the
14 county (buzzer). This is the very least
15 you can do to protect your constituents.
16 Please be mindful as you cast your vote
17 that this decision will forever change
18 the landscape of Nassau County. Thank
19 you.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

21 Jennifer Mone.

22 MS. MONE: Hi. Jennifer Mone. Good
23 evening, Presiding Officer Nicoletto,
24 fellow members of the Legislature. I'm
25 Jennifer Mone, general counsel of Hofstra

1
2 University and I'm grateful for the
3 opportunity to speak in front of you
4 today. I also appreciate the time that
5 you're giving to this and your public
6 service to the community.

7 You're being asked, as you know, to
8 vote on whether to approve the proposed
9 ordinance relating to the County's
10 proposed transfer of the Nassau Hub lease
11 to Las Vegas Sands. You all know this is
12 a decision of great import that will have
13 a lasting long term impact on our region.
14 Nassau County has established procedures
15 that should be followed before decisions
16 of this kind are made. They require the
17 careful review of proposals by the Nassau
18 County Planning Commission and by OSPAC,
19 the county agencies that were
20 specifically assigned these
21 responsibilities by statute.

22 You, as legislators, should not make
23 a decision on proposals of this magnitude
24 until those procedures are followed so
25 that you and the public can receive

1
2 sufficient information and input from the
3 Planning Commission and OSPAC. I entreat
4 you to reject this proposal or in the
5 alternative to postpone your decision
6 until a properly noticed and
7 comprehensive public hearing can be held
8 on this proposed lease by the Planning
9 Commission.

10 To date, the Planning Commission has
11 not held the statutorily required public
12 meeting to consider the proposed lease
13 and, in fact, has held no public hearing
14 on this matter since the date the
15 proposed lease was negotiated. These
16 procedural steps are there for a reason
17 and for an issue as complex, as crucial
18 and as impactful as the one that is
19 before you, you should require the
20 process to be followed by the County
21 Agencies and postpone your vote, your
22 vote, until that occurs. Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
24 you. Jerry Kornbluth, Nassau Community
25 College.

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MR. KORNBLUTH: Good evening,
Presiding Supervisor Nicolello and
members of the Legislature. My name is
Jerry Kornbluth and I am the vice
president for Community and Governmental
Relations at Nassau Community College.
And I am here today to voice support for
the Sands development on behalf of the
College, its community and its
administration.

From the beginning, the Sands team
has not only been transparent and
cooperative, but proactive and
enthusiastic about working with Nassau
Community College. They approached us
with an open mind, engaging ideas, and a
history of success in working with other
colleges and universities in the
communities where they have built
projects. While we were unsure at first,
we listened and our team came away
feeling equally excited about the world
of possibilities this development could
open for our students. As conversations

1
2 evolved, the opportunities became more
3 clear. Today, we are collaborating with
4 Sands on a robust partnership that would
5 include workforce development, innovative
6 new courses and fields of study and new
7 connectivity to Long Island University
8 and possibly other area colleges to
9 create pathways for our students. These
10 pathways are not only two and four year
11 degrees, but to long term, well-paying
12 careers that would enable them to succeed
13 and even stay on Long Island should they
14 choose to do so. Nassau Community College
15 is recognized for outstanding associate
16 degree certificates and workforce
17 development programs in diverse fields of
18 study, including hospitality, culinary
19 arts, business, humanities, nutrition,
20 theater, and technology. Our proximity to
21 this proposed resort and entertainment
22 center would place our students at the
23 forefront of the hospitality, culinary
24 arts and business industries. Locally
25 educated students with convenient access

1
2 to professional job opportunities will
3 translate into a wide range of economic
4 and societal benefits to the Long Island
5 community.

6 We are also going to be partnering
7 with Las Vegas Sands to develop a
8 workforce development training hub in the
9 college that is expected to lead to
10 programs in hotel and casino management,
11 security and surveillance meetings and
12 banquets, entertainment and food and
13 beverage. Sands and Nassau Community
14 College will explore a variety of
15 learning models, including internships
16 and experimental learning components for
17 Nassau students. Together paired with new
18 continuous program at LIU, this
19 collaboration will support sustainable
20 job growth, economic development and new
21 career opportunities for our students on
22 Long Island and throughout the New York
23 metropolitan region. Our region has been
24 ready for an innovative idea for a long
25 time. We believe that this proposal would

1
2 transform the region in a wonderful way
3 and create ripples of opportunity
4 throughout the county, the island and for
5 generations to come.

6 Nassau Community's mission is to
7 provide opportunities and access for all
8 our students. We're in the business of
9 changing lives. This is the engine that
10 will help us to provide those
11 opportunities for our community. So I'm
12 asking you on behalf of the College to
13 support the transfer of this property to
14 the Sands Corporation.

15 Thank you.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
17 you. Nadia Ortiz.

18 MS. HOLUBNYCZYJ-ORTIZ: My name is
19 Nadia Holubnyczyj-Ortiz and I'm speaking
20 on behalf of Naela Lockel, President and
21 EAC of the Network, a human and social
22 services organization that improves the
23 quality of life for our most vulnerable
24 neighbors.

25 The EAC network, headquartered on

1
2 the border of Uniondale and Garden City,
3 recognizes that we have significant gaps
4 in career track employment opportunities
5 for our community in Nassau County. In
6 our work with those who have
7 non-traditional backgrounds and those
8 coming from disadvantaged tracks, we see
9 the need for real paths toward
10 sustainable livelihoods that will help
11 them to plan for their futures.

12 There is no doubt that the cost of
13 living on Long Island is a high
14 threshold, with not enough jobs that pay
15 well enough to reach that threshold. The
16 Sands proposal for the development of the
17 Nassau Hub provides such market based
18 opportunities by the thousands, including
19 many unionized jobs which can help
20 individuals build a real career.

21 For many years, this site has lain
22 dormant and with no sources or capacity
23 for a legitimate plan to take meaningful
24 action towards becoming a viable and
25 useful space. It remains an untapped

1
2 resource for so many things to benefit
3 our communities.

4 This proposal, on the other hand,
5 will invest in the space to create an
6 economic engine that can fuel the region
7 and provide much needed revenue to make
8 larger scale community investments
9 possible. And for so many members of our
10 community, we will be able to provide
11 career track, full time employment to
12 thousands of people.

13 We have been a participant in
14 community meetings and discussions and
15 have seen the Sands welcome and respond
16 to input, feedback and often very
17 challenging questions. We have had the
18 opportunity to address some of the issues
19 directly with them and ask our own
20 questions regarding the project and the
21 plan. We feel confident that the Sands is
22 hearing the questions and concerns of
23 local residents and businesses and
24 working with different community partners
25 to address the various issues to ensure

1
2 that they are responding to the needs of
3 the people.

4 Thank you.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
6 you.

7 Monica Kiely.

8 MS. KIELY: This is a huge vote. And
9 I, too, urge you to push the pause button
10 or put this to a referendum. It's just
11 too important. I actually have felt
12 frustrated in my efforts to get through
13 to you legislators. You listen, but you
14 don't seem to really hear our side of the
15 argument. And that's been frustrating for
16 me and for others as well. But I've
17 actually come to a place now where I'm
18 sympathetic to you because if I were
19 sitting in your chair, I would not want
20 to have to make this vote because there's
21 so much pressure on you and you really
22 can't vote kind of how I think you feel
23 in your hearts. Anyway, we need a
24 referendum. We need to press the pause
25 button. We need more information.

1
2 I want to point out that the Sands
3 revenue projections of \$2 billion a year
4 are not wealth that is created. Casinos
5 don't make things. They don't create
6 things. They extract wealth from where
7 they are. And so \$2 billion is going to
8 be extracted from Nassau County residents
9 for the most part. You anticipate getting
10 roughly \$60 Million a year in taxes from
11 this casino while they extract from
12 Nassau County \$2 billion. That's about 3%
13 of what they hope to take in. It's an
14 extremely regressive tax and it's an
15 extremely inefficient tax. We are taxing
16 ourselves. The money that Sands generates
17 will come in large part from gambling
18 losses of Nassau County residents. That's
19 the revenue stream that all this money is
20 coming from.

21 If this was such a wonderful deal
22 for us, why do they have to come in here
23 and give benefits to so many groups?
24 Upfront payments support us, speak for
25 us. Why does David Beckham have to come

1
2 here and pose for pictures with our
3 unwitting children whose parents didn't
4 even know they were going to a Sands
5 event. Why this big fluffy sales pitch
6 and all these "benefits and payments". If
7 it's such a great deal for us, why are
8 they pushing so hard? Why are they
9 gaslighting us so hard at these sessions?
10 This is a sales pitch we're listening to.
11 It's not real information and the real
12 numbers that we need to know. North of
13 20,000. Well, what is that? They have the
14 modeling. They know, oh, we have traffic
15 mitigation plans. We're going to do a
16 traffic study. They already know. Why
17 can't we know? It's our county.

18 And the lease agreement (buzzer)
19 calls for the Sands to be able to
20 reassign the lease if they don't get the
21 gaming license without Nassau County's
22 review. That, I believe, is a breach of
23 your fiduciary responsibility to the
24 taxpayers who own this piece of highly
25 developable land in the middle of Nassau

1
2 County. It's a breach of your
3 responsibility and a loss of control over
4 this property. Why would we give that
5 away? I don't understand that.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Please
7 come up. You're over the limit. So
8 please, please sum up.

9 MS. KIELY: I'm sorry? Please sum
10 up. You've passed the three minute mark.

11 MS. KIELY: Oh, I thought you wanted
12 me to come up there.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: No.
14 No, we wouldn't ask that.

15 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:
16 Helen Meittinis.

17 MS. MEITTINIS: Don't worry, I'll be
18 short.

19 I'm Helen Martinez and I live in
20 Salisbury in the Salisbury section of
21 East Meadow in the Town of Hempstead. I
22 am the president of our Civic group,
23 Community Association of Stewart Avenue,
24 and we have seen the proposal and we
25 believe that this lease should be

1
2 transferred to the Sands to enable them
3 to continue in the process with New York
4 State. This is our last chance to bring
5 economic development to the Coliseum
6 property of this magnitude. No other
7 developer has been successful in being
8 able to invest in the infrastructure
9 needed to provide a world class
10 destination place.

11 To all the Legislators, Allow the
12 Sands to have the ability to continue to
13 go forward with this project.

14 And by the way, Patty Ryder is the
15 best police commissioner ever anywhere in
16 this whole country, and he's got our
17 backs.

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you, Helen.

19 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:
20 Pearl Jacobs.

21 MS. JACOBS: Pear Jacobs, president
22 of. The Nostrand Gardens Civic
23 Association in Uniondale. Uniondale is a
24 majority/minority community that has long
25 suffered from neglect, disinvestment and

1
2 taxation without representation. Now
3 Uniondale is in the headlines as the host
4 community for the proposed Sands Casino.
5 This is attention that Uniondale does not
6 want. All we want is equitable
7 representation, just like other selected
8 communities receive. To even consider
9 putting a casino in the middle of 40,000
10 students is sickening.

11 Fact:

12 Uniondale, Roosevelt, Hempstead and
13 Westbury have been identified by the New
14 York State Department of Environmental
15 Conservation as communities that are
16 adversely affected by air pollution,
17 among other concerning environmental
18 issues.

19 African American and Hispanic youth
20 have a significantly higher rate of
21 asthma hospitalizations in Nassau County
22 than that of Caucasian and Asian youth.

23 Traffic would increase significantly
24 with the casino at the Nassau hub, and
25 increased traffic also results in high

1
2 levels of air pollution.

3 Hempstead Turnpike ranks in the top
4 five of the most dangerous roadways in
5 New York State. In fact, there is an
6 increase in drunk driving accidents in
7 communities where casinos are located.
8 How will a casino be good for our
9 communities?

10 Again. Did I mention that African
11 American and Hispanic youth have a
12 significantly higher rate of asthma
13 hospitalizations in Nassau County than
14 that of Caucasian and Asian youths?

15 A vote of yes to transfer this lease
16 agreement would strongly suggest that
17 you, as our elected representatives, have
18 no concern or empathy for black and brown
19 communities and that environmental
20 environmental racism is alive and well in
21 Nassau County.

22 Our quality of life is not for sale.
23 We cannot be bought. There are many like
24 minded people in Uniondale. That's why
25 Nostrand Gardens Civic Association has

1
2 joined "Say no to the Casino" Civic
3 Association.

4 Our quality of life is not for sale.
5 Say yes to our youth to save our youth.
6 Say yes to preserve our quality of life
7 and say no to the casino.

8 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:
9 Mateo Flores. Mateo Flores. For. Okay.
10 Vasu Krishnamurthy. I hope I got your
11 name right. Forgive me if I didn't.

12 MR. KRISHNAMRTHY: Thank you. Good
13 evening, County Legislators. Thank you
14 for giving me this opportunity to speak.
15 I'm Vasu Krishnamurthy, a 20 year
16 resident of Manhasset. I have a PhD in
17 economics and I spent 25 years as a
18 management consultant. I'm not a knee
19 jerk, anti-business guy nor anti economic
20 development. In fact, all my clients when
21 I was working as a professional were big
22 businesses and I got along with them just
23 fine. But I'm very opposed to the casino
24 anywhere in Nassau County.

25 I'll try in my remaining time to be

1
2 very specific in rebutting some of the
3 arguments offered rather than give the
4 general arguments which we have heard
5 repeatedly.

6 First, quality of life. The
7 Administration Council touted the high
8 ranking of Nassau. We are all proud of
9 that. The right question and throughout
10 my talks, I'm going to mention what I
11 think are the right questions for you
12 folks to ask and not be bedazzled by the
13 big dollars and other other numbers. Not
14 the absolute numbers, but the relative
15 numbers are the right questions to ask.
16 So quality of life, the right question to
17 ask is how many of the top 100 ranked
18 quality of life ranked counties have
19 casinos in them? None, I'll bet. I
20 haven't had the time to check, but none.
21 That is the right question to ask.

22 The economy and jobs. Again, the
23 council touted some supposed recent
24 studies. In my phone right now I have a
25 study from the the Richmond Federal

1
2 Reserve from July 2022. Happy to send it
3 to all of you. Some of the key findings
4 from there. First, no significant
5 improvement in economic development for
6 high density near suburbs like Nassau
7 County. Okay. Number one.

8 Second, sales tax revenues, in fact,
9 declined somewhat in the study of similar
10 counties, not increased. Why? Because
11 jobs and sales are stolen by casinos from
12 other businesses. So relative numbers are
13 the right question to ask, not absolute
14 dollars.

15 Next, at the Hub, there are some
16 specific conditions that make it worse,
17 more or less suitable for a job for a
18 casino. Why? Because the median salary in
19 Nassau County is \$70-80,000. The median
20 average casino wages in New York are
21 \$40-50,000. The main reason we are losing
22 young people, nobody disputes this, is
23 high housing costs. This project does
24 nothing to improve housing. Why is it
25 rational to believe that young people

1
2 will stay in Nassau to get below median
3 wages rather than leave elsewhere where
4 they can do better?

5 Gambling addiction again. The good
6 doctor touted 1.4% as as and said that
7 was a low gambling addiction rate
8 (buzzer). The right question is what is
9 the increase? The same study that I
10 mentioned earlier said nearby communities
11 had addictions going up double to triple
12 and especially among seniors. So seniors
13 don't do online gambling, they go to
14 casinos. Thank you very much.

15 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:

16 Thank you. Phil Andrews.

17 MR. ANDREWS: Good afternoon. One of
18 the things I'd like to start off with is
19 since the founding of 1899 of Nassau
20 County, equality and diversity, equity
21 and inclusion has been an issue in both
22 Nassau and Suffolk County. On the
23 national level DEI is at the front and
24 center of America. Recent data shows and
25 census records show that we have a

1
2 declining population.

3 A couple of years ago, there was a
4 study by a commission on the way to keep
5 the young generation on Long Island, and
6 it was about 1200 people at the Crest
7 Hollow Country Club. Opportunity does not
8 come by every day. Long Island is
9 changing. The minority community is
10 increasing. Ecosystems are being
11 developed across diverse communities on
12 Long Island.

13 And for the first time in 2019, an
14 African American Chamber of Commerce, in
15 which I am the president, was the
16 champion for the federal government and
17 all of downstate New York. So we are
18 currently working with the Nassau Council
19 Chambers of Commerce. We are currently
20 working with the Suffolk County Alliance
21 of Chambers of Commerce around Business
22 Development, and we have a business
23 solutions center at the Chamber of
24 Commerce. So one of the things that we
25 are doing is we are preparing the

1
2 business for opportunity.

3 Right now, both counties are
4 currently doing a disparity study. Now,
5 we there's been a loss of opportunity
6 from Nassau and Suffolk County, Suffolk
7 County being founded in 1600s and Nassau
8 in 1899. And we now are at the cusp of
9 having an opportunity for minorities to
10 get business. So one of the things that
11 we believe, workforce development is very
12 important and also small business
13 development. Right now we're the only
14 chamber on Long Island that's got a
15 federal grant from the White House to
16 help business for contracting. And just
17 last week we did an NCC, we did a doing
18 business with a prime business. So
19 there's a lot of opportunities that we
20 are preparing down the pipeline. So we
21 believe this is a significant opportunity
22 on workforce development.

23 Recently we put in for a NYSERDA
24 grant. And just to show you a little bit
25 about inequities, you know, in Hempstead,

1
2 when you miss the bus and you can't get
3 to the city, you miss the Billy for
4 workforce development. So there was a
5 grant around having a bus go to Mineola
6 right to when they miss the bus in
7 Hempstead because underserved. So we
8 think this grant is a model of what the
9 nation could do as an economic
10 opportunity for women owned, business
11 owned and veteran owned business and
12 workforce development and union work.
13 Thank you.

14 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:

15 Mary Carter Flanagan. Mayor Flanagan?

16 MAYOR FLANAGAN: Good evening. Thank
17 you for the opportunity for your
18 attention tonight. I was here last on May
19 8th, and I just want to remind you and
20 reiterate that the Village of Garden
21 City, of which I'm the mayor, does not
22 support the Sands Casino.

23 (Whereupon, applause.)

24 MAYOR FLANAGAN: We've had two board
25 of trustee resolutions, one on February

1
2 21st, the other on April 20th. And at
3 both times it was unanimously voted
4 opposition to the Sands or the casino
5 proposal. Between those two votes, we had
6 a village wide election. It was hardly
7 fought election contentious. Every single
8 candidate in the election ran on a
9 promise to oppose the casino at the
10 Nassau Hub.

11 Yesterday, on the steps of this very
12 building, I was joined by the mayors of
13 Westbury and Mineola. Our message was
14 clear, a casino is not good for our
15 communities and we want you to vote no.
16 It was interesting that *Newsday* ran a
17 story on that and omitted the fact that
18 three mayors spoke all in opposition to
19 the transfer of the lease.

20 Twice I have been here. Both of the
21 meetings what concerned me most was they
22 really seemed to be like top notch sales
23 pitches. And it seems that the sales
24 pitch is coming not just from the
25 business, but it's coming from the County

1
2 too, and it's coming from our own
3 officials. And one thing that's really
4 struck me last time and I know many
5 people were here, was we heard from the
6 mayor of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He came
7 all the way here. He now works for --
8 former mayor, rather -- now works for a
9 developer. And he came here to sing the
10 praises of the Sands Casino. Wonderful.
11 And I don't think a negative word passed
12 his lips when he talked about how great
13 the casino was in Bethlehem. And at the
14 same time he's speaking, anyone can look
15 up on their phone and they can read the
16 story in real time about at that very
17 casino, 268 cases of unattended children.
18 How do you think those parents think the
19 casino worked out for Bethlehem?

20 Gambling addiction is serious. It
21 destroys families. It destroys
22 communities. And this decision that
23 you're making should not be taken
24 lightly.

25 I do appreciate the legislator who

1
2 pointed out that these numbers everyone
3 seems so enamored with are such a small
4 fraction of the county budget. Remember
5 that. You do not have to vote in favor of
6 this lease transfer. And I beg you not
7 to.

8 I also would point out and I think
9 one of you noticed this, that the
10 financial analysis that was done and
11 presented tonight somehow was comparing
12 this casino to what's been going on in
13 the last ten years, the revenue from the
14 last ten years. And I think we can all
15 agree that's not the analysis that should
16 be done. We can do better and we should
17 be comparing this to a better plan, not
18 to what's been going on for the last ten
19 years (buzzer).

20 Thank you for your time and I urge
21 you to vote no.

22 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:
23 Mariano Ugalde.

24 MR. UGALDE: Good evening, everyone.
25 I'm the president of the Union Chamber of

1
2 Commerce. My name is Mariano Ugalde.
3 Again, a lot of people said a lot of
4 things on both sides. I'd really like to
5 say that I had my own concerns at the
6 beginning of this whole process, but as
7 we got to know what the project was and
8 the scope of it, we really started to
9 look at things differently. And this is
10 by far the biggest project slated in the
11 state at the moment. This is a massive
12 project when we're having terrible
13 tailwinds in the economy. This is a
14 tremendous opportunity not only for the
15 businesses here, businesses in Suffolk
16 County, but also for minority and women
17 owned businesses, which is an opportunity
18 that people have been looking for for a
19 long time, especially after the pandemic.
20 This project presents all those
21 opportunities and brings them here home
22 to Nassau County, brings them here to
23 Uniondale, where we have a primarily
24 working community of blue collar people
25 that all are concerned about is jobs and

1
2 work. That's really why they came to this
3 country.

4 With that, I'd really like to urge
5 you guys to support this project and vote
6 in favor of it. Thank you. Good evening.

7
8 (Whereupon, Jorey Garcia,
9 Mark Stern, Luis Moran, no
10 verbal response.)

11 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:
12 Marie Reimers.

13 MS. REIMERS: Good evening,
14 everybody. Here we go again. Earlier on,
15 some of the legislators were speaking. I
16 had a feeling they were working for
17 Sands. I took half a day from work, and
18 I call all 19 of you. Some of your
19 assistants did reach out back to me. Some
20 of you never bothered. That's not right.
21 That's not the way it's supposed to work.
22 We elected you to represent us. We can
23 agree to disagree, but at least give me
24 the respect that I take the time to call
25 you. Even you cannot call me back. I

1
2 understand that. What happened to the
3 people that are working for you and my
4 money is paying them as well. Why they
5 never call me back? That's fine.

6 When you come to Mr. Blakeman, I got
7 his picture when he make all those
8 statements. Oh, for Sands? No. Okay. I'm
9 going to keep an open mind. I'm going to
10 listen to the community. Blah, blah,
11 blah, blah, blah. Bingo. He sold it out.
12 I want you guys to know you might not be
13 up for re-election, you might not be here
14 next time, but your record will stay in
15 the Library of Congress forever. Your
16 future generation is going to find out
17 what you did. Okay. And bear in mind,
18 today or yesterday, the Community 13 of
19 Brooklyn, voted against the casino at the
20 Coney Island. Okay. So some of them have
21 the courage to say this is the place when
22 summer come, kids are coming to play,
23 people are coming to the beach, tourists
24 are coming to visit. They said no. And
25 why can't you guys say no? And we're not

1
2 asking you guys to say no for the entire
3 project. We're just opposing the casino
4 part of it. What's wrong with that?
5 What's wrong? If it's going to have a
6 convention, it can make a lot of money
7 with the convention. He is going to have
8 a hotel. He can make a lot of money. And
9 what I don't understand, too, you guys
10 are taking jobs from the right hand and
11 giving it to the left. We got more you
12 out there that have a lot and employee
13 more. You never bother nobody. You guys
14 take it and put it in the proposal to
15 give Sands the land. So what happened to
16 those workers? They are union workers
17 too. They are union workers too. So
18 what's going to -- they're going to lose
19 their job. They're going to lose their
20 seniority and then they're going to go
21 with the Sand and have new people coming,
22 paying them less and less sick time, less
23 vacation time, less everything. And then
24 when you guys are talking about.

25 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:

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Please finish. Please finish. Your time is expired.

MS. REIMERS: My time expired. Can I get two seconds like everybody else?

DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Two seconds like everyone else.

(Whereupon, public interruption.)

MS. REIMERS: But remember that your names will go to the Library of Congress forever.

DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: David Kennedy. David Kennedy.

(Whereupon, no verbal response.)

DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Jeannine Maynard.

MS. MAYNARD: Thank you, Presiding Officer and Legislators. I'm here as a community resident of the Greater Uniondale area and an active person in the committees. I've co-chaired the environmental-committee, and I want to speak a little bit about the process and

1
2 about the way I see this project.

3 Today is really about the lease
4 transfer. And many of the environmental
5 issues of the build will be handled at
6 the Town of Hempstead. And we're aware of
7 that and we're ready for that. And there
8 are things that we intend to advocate
9 for. Earlier today, Legislator McKeivitt
10 mentioned concern in the surrounding
11 area, and we've had discussions about the
12 ability to have moratoriums on check
13 cashing places and, you know, pawn shops
14 and other kinds of things, and we want a
15 radius of protection. Those things are
16 yet to come in the discussion.

17 But today about the lease, there's
18 something pretty amazing that happened.
19 First of all, in this lease, we see that
20 Uniondale is held up as the host
21 community and that is very, very, very
22 important. We we also see that two weeks
23 ago, Legislator Bynoe brought some of the
24 concerns forward in the hearing on Rules.
25 And at that time, Vice President Ron

1
2 Reese said that they were willing to do
3 something about that. And here, two weeks
4 later, we see that more has been done.
5 The Sands Corporation kept their word.
6 They have the capacity to keep their
7 word. And this wasn't just a pittance.
8 It's \$25 million of much needed resource
9 in the areas that are heavily impacted.
10 There's an attempt to negotiate well and
11 be tough negotiators. But to do the job
12 that we're called to do, which is to
13 develop the county, step into the future,
14 understand that there are a lot of
15 electronics and opportunities. There are
16 many, many addictions. We have to tool up
17 and the community has to be ready. And to
18 do that we need resource. And it's a
19 partnership for healthy community. That's
20 what we're looking for. And the transfer
21 of the lease has a Plan A and a Plan B.

22 But the Sands Corporation has the
23 capacity to build at a standard we like.
24 We want good environmental sensibility.
25 We want recognition of our community. And

1
2 those things are here in this
3 opportunity. So I urge you to please
4 support the lease transfer. Thank you.

5 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:

6 Lisa Holz. Lisa Holz.

7 MS. HOLZ: Hi. Good evening. My name
8 is Lisa Holz and I live at 91 Tulip
9 Avenue in Floral Park. When I first heard
10 about the casino at the Hub, I
11 immediately thought of the development of
12 the UBS Arena in Elmont, and I thought of
13 my neighbors reactions as well as mine.
14 We didn't want it. It would bring
15 outsiders into the neighborhood. The
16 increased traffic would be a nightmare.
17 People would park on our residential
18 streets. They would litter. Create an
19 environmental disaster. We organized. We
20 protested and we lost. Then it opened and
21 we were right. Tulip Avenue, there was
22 traffic. It was a nightmare. People were
23 parking in our streets. Game days were
24 everything we thought and worse.

25 Then the county stepped in. And they

1
2 took the lead. Traffic studies were done,
3 game days were monitored, routes were
4 changed. They changed parking on our
5 streets and opened up enough spots at the
6 arena. After a few months, we were wrong.
7 The County forces with Bruce Blackmon's
8 office and people like Arthur Walsh
9 showed leadership and mitigated all of
10 our problems.

11 (Whereupon, applause.)

12 MS. HOLZ: Now, you can't even tell
13 if it's a game day or not unless you're
14 an Islander fan, which I am not. I'm a
15 Ranger fan. I'm right about my team, but
16 I was wrong about the UBS project and the
17 long term impact on the community. Don't
18 listen to the voices on that side of the
19 room because they may be wrong like I was
20 with UBS. Listen to the people who have
21 gone through it, and it is in my
22 backyard, in my community. UBS is a
23 symbol of regional sports success and has
24 been successful and brought the Islanders
25 back to their home. Now you have an

1
2 opportunity to allow Long Island to have
3 a symbol of our region's status as an
4 entertainment and performance venue, not
5 just for New York, but for the country to
6 see. I respectfully ask you to not pause
7 but push play on your vote.

8 (Whereupon, applause.)

9 MS. HOLZ: And I want you to. And
10 say yes to the transfer lease at the
11 Vegas Sands and keep moving Long Island
12 forward. And as an educator in the public
13 school system in Long Island at an
14 alternative high school, this would be a
15 great opportunity for my students who may
16 not be college bound but could take
17 careers like in unions in the market. And
18 just like just like the gentleman at
19 Nassau Community College said, it would
20 be a great opportunity for all who may
21 not have a pathway to college and be able
22 to still live on Long Island.

23 (Whereupon, applause.)

24 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:
25 Theresa Regnante.

1
2 MS. REGNANTE: Good evening. So we
3 have an opportunity to advance the
4 futures for thousands of families. This
5 is not the first time that the Sands has
6 been in an operating room. Their
7 specialists, they face traffic
8 congestion, environmental concerns,
9 safety and security. It's in their DNA to
10 work with community, to address and
11 partner toward solutions. For the first
12 time, a private employer is willing to
13 invest in a long term plan to create the
14 safety net for so many families.

15 You know, each week I receive
16 resumes from college students, college
17 graduates, asking for employment
18 opportunities. And I sit on the board of
19 several institutions and now on the board
20 of SUNY Old Westbury and for 30 years
21 it's dedicated my career to the
22 advancement of young people. We can't
23 keep giving them the answers: Related to
24 COVID, downturn in the economy, and costs
25 that are so high that older individuals

1
2 are not retiring. It's really time for
3 these young people to thrive.

4 The venue will need accountants,
5 business majors, hospitality majors,
6 lawyers, procurement officers,
7 carpenters, laborers, sheet metal workers
8 in so many more. Please don't be the
9 hurdle that prevents young people from
10 kick starting their futures and staying
11 right here on Long Island. It's more than
12 a casino. You've heard that before. We
13 have a partner in Sands who's willing to
14 invest millions of dollars in support of
15 the not for profit sector in this region.
16 Veterans and youth are the backbone of
17 their community partnerships everywhere
18 and for decades. Diversity, equity,
19 inclusion and accessibility are at stake.
20 For the first time in a very long time,
21 let's give young, diverse families a
22 chance for a prosperous future.

23 I've talked to my colleagues in
24 Vegas, and they confirm that the Sands
25 stay at the table and invest in community

1
2 and get the answers to the human services
3 challenges together with the community.

4 Certainly, for this evening, we
5 thank you in advance for your positive
6 outcome. Have a good evening.

7 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:

8 Kevin Boone.

9 MR. BOONE: Thank you, Presiding
10 Officer, Legislator. Thank you,
11 Residents. Speaking for myself and again,
12 only speaking for myself, I am a current
13 elected official in the Village of
14 Hempstead. I will say that I am 100% for
15 this project. Definitely in conjunction
16 with everything that Legislator Bynoe had
17 spoken about regarding Hempstead,
18 Uniondale as well. This job is going to
19 bring so much and jobs and other things
20 for the future that's definitely needed
21 in the area of Uniondale Hempstead and,
22 you know, just encompassing the whole
23 area of a wealth of things that we do not
24 have. So again, I urge the Legislative
25 Body to please vote yes on the lease

1
2 agreement so that we can move forward in
3 getting things done for the for the
4 County. Thank you very much.

5 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:

6 Thank you. Johnny Martincic.

7 MR. MARTINCIC: Good evening, ladies
8 and gentlemen of the Legislature. I want
9 to thank you for having us here this
10 evening. I want to thank my union
11 brothers and sisters for coming here this
12 evening. And I even want to thank the
13 "Say no" people over here this evening as
14 well.

15 My name is Johnny Martincic. I'm a
16 union delegate for Steamfitters Local
17 638. I represent 9500 members of
18 Steamfitters Local 638. We do all the
19 piping and the heating, air conditioning
20 and fire suppression fields.

21 I just want to address something
22 that I heard this evening that quite
23 frankly, disgusts me. All right. And I
24 need to speak on it a little bit off
25 topic. When our police commissioner, Pat

1
2 Ryder, got called up to this microphone
3 and not to point fingers, but I think
4 there was some some boos that came from
5 this side of the room. I think that's
6 disgusting. Okay. This anti-police
7 sentiment these days is appalling. Okay.
8 Even though we don't agree on everything,
9 I would never wish anything bad to happen
10 to any one of us in this room. But if you
11 happen to be a victim of a crime on your
12 way home tonight, do me a favor. Those
13 that booed don't call 911 because you'd
14 be awfully hypocritical in doing so.

15 (Whereupon, applause.)

16 MR. MARTINCIC: All right. I'm
17 obviously for the casino. I'm kind of
18 getting tired of listening to the same
19 reasons that oppose the casino. I keep
20 hearing crime, crime, crime. The casino
21 is going to bring crime to Uniondale. To
22 Hempstead. I hate to be the bearer of bad
23 news, but the crimes here, the crime is
24 been here. Okay? I myself have been a
25 victim of a crime in Uniondale. I went my

1
2 first year of college. I attended college
3 at Nassau Community College. My first
4 month in front of the G building. There
5 was an all out gang assault. I saw two
6 people get stabbed. I saw somebody's face
7 get bashed in by a bike lock. All right.
8 So I hate to tell you, but the crime is
9 already here, okay? The gambling is
10 already here. There's illegal dice games
11 and illegal gambling dens going on
12 everywhere in Uniondale and Hempstead.
13 But guess what? There's no police there,
14 okay? There's absolutely no enforcement.
15 And subsequently, there's a lot of crimes
16 that are committed at these illegal dice
17 games and whatnot. So please, I get it.
18 You guys got to have talking points, but
19 you got to come up with something a
20 little a better than it's going to bring
21 crime to the neighborhood. It's not
22 going to fly anymore. All right.

23 So anyway, I just saw I want to
24 thank everybody for giving me this
25 opportunity. Please, I urge everybody to

1
2 vote yes. Okay. One more thing I keep
3 hearing about, about the minority
4 communities and whatnot. I'm a union
5 organizer. I spend most of my time in
6 minority communities. I try to organize
7 minorities into the union because I
8 believe that everybody should have the
9 same opportunity that I had. A Croatian
10 American. My parents are both immigrants.
11 Here is an opportunity that the Uniondale
12 community -- Yeah you keep going like
13 this and I've been saying everybody
14 that's talking about jobs, I keep seeing
15 you all just sitting here. No, no, no,
16 no. This is the opportunity that the
17 black and brown community will never
18 have. Okay, So you keep going like this.
19 Keep going like that. That means you
20 don't give a crap about your community.
21 You don't care. Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: George
23 Argyris.

24 MR. ARGYRIS: Good evening,
25 everybody. My name is George Argyris. I'm

1
2 the owner of Grand Stage Diner, located
3 in East Meadow, New York. Thank you for
4 letting me give my opinion in favor of
5 the transfer of the leased property to
6 Sands. In my opinion, it will create a
7 tremendous number of jobs that did not
8 exist before. It will create hospitality
9 management degree programs in
10 universities so our graduates will be
11 guaranteed jobs through the Sands
12 programs. It will create revenue for the
13 police department to keep our community
14 safe and take care of any upgrades
15 needed. Local businesses will have
16 opportunities through a procurement
17 program that has already been launched by
18 Sands.

19 Sands has a proven track record of
20 giving back to the community that they
21 conduct business in. Let's not stay with
22 the vacant land. This is an opportunity
23 we cannot lose. Thank you.

24 Let's say yes to Sands.

25 (Whereupon, Jennifer

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Baxmeyer, Katherine Garry, no
verbal response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Tina
Shuford.

MS. SHUFORD: Good evening,
everybody and Legislators.

I'd like to say I'm in support of
Sands Casino Entertainment center in we
would like to have the opportunity to
bring these jobs in our community and I
would like the opportunity as well with
working with Sands as a community leader
and especially representing Hempstead,
not no Uniondale and not know Garden
City, because you're not the only ones
that are around the surrounding areas.
Just remember that it's not just yours.
It's us too.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MS. SHUFORD: So I would like to let
you know, and if you have any mental
health problems, come to the New Hope
Mental Health Center Counseling Service.
We will have mobile services if you need

1
2 it. But I have a center in Rockville
3 Center and I have a center in Lynbrook
4 and Valley Stream, and I'm the outreach
5 coordinator. So please feel come free.
6 I'll give you some information if you
7 need it, and it'll be for gambling as
8 well. So please help support Sands. Thank
9 you.

10 Jelani Watson.

11 MR. WATSON: Good evening, respected
12 Nassau County Legislature. My name is
13 Jelani Watson and I'm a recent law school
14 graduate and a lifelong Nassau County
15 resident. I'm here today to voice my deep
16 concern for the proposed Sands lease to
17 be built at Nassau Coliseum.

18 My question to you as a constituent
19 of Nassau County. Is what you want your
20 child to grow up near a casino?

21 I have a few statistics regarding
22 casinos and their impact on communities
23 that they're built in:

24 As per the National Association of
25 Realtors, a 2013 study, the average value

1
2 of a home in the vicinity of a casino
3 declines up to 10%;

4 Sands states that this could be the
5 highest grossing casino in North America,
6 with 20,000 daily visitors operating 24
7 divided by seven. This will in fact
8 increase the traffic and the pollution
9 problems on Long Island for everyone;

10 As per the review of Economics and
11 Statistics, a 2006 study, crime will
12 increase. In the counties with Class
13 three casinos, 9% of total crime is
14 gambling related, which will in turn
15 increase the pressure on Nassau County
16 Police Department, turning our safe
17 streets into potential pockets of crime;

18 As per the National Institute of
19 Health, a 2011 study. There's a direct
20 correlation between the severity of
21 gambling addiction and the likelihood of
22 committing crime;

23 As per the National Institute of
24 Health, a 2020 study, people 18 to 24
25 have the highest rate of gambling

1
2 problems. Hofstra and Nassau Community
3 College students would be the most
4 vulnerable target group due to the
5 proximity of the site.

6 Although there are pros and cons to
7 a casino in the community, there are far
8 too many negatives to be aware of such as
9 environmental and socioeconomic issues.
10 For example, large casinos and their
11 associated infrastructure such as hotels
12 and parking facilities have negative
13 impacts on the environment. Their uses of
14 energy and water generates waste and
15 contribute to the traffic congestion and
16 air pollution.

17 In my humble opinion. The cons far
18 outweigh the pros for Nassau County. As
19 our representatives, it is your duty. To
20 serve your constituents and prevent
21 outsiders from changing Nassau for the
22 worse.

23 Again, as you vote on this proposal,
24 I want you to think in honestly answer,
25 would you want your child living near a

1
2 casino? Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
4 Sebastian Mazzotta.

5 MR. MAZZOTTA: My name is Sebastian
6 Mazzotta. I have spoken here, I guess it
7 was March. I think you'd have more
8 cohesiveness in the room if we were
9 talking about constructing that property.
10 You know, location, location, location
11 was something my father taught me. We
12 owned family owned businesses, grew up
13 working with people. But when you look at
14 that property, it's land locked. And
15 eventually, whatever you're putting in
16 there, they're not going to be able to
17 grow. And when they leave, we're stuck.
18 And that's what you guys have got to
19 understand.

20 I couldn't agree more with all the
21 men and women of the union. They need to
22 work. All of them need to work. And I
23 think if you excluded the casino from
24 that property and did put in the
25 restaurants and the theaters and the

1
2 things that could go in there, I think
3 that would be splendid. You'd have my
4 vote. I don't think you'd have two sides
5 of the room. I spoke to Tommy McKevitt.
6 Okay? He's a good man. I support him. But
7 I understand the fear. I can understand.
8 You vote against this thing, you lose
9 your job. I understand that. But
10 sometimes you just got to have courage
11 and you got to put your faith in God. And
12 that's all I'm here to say.

13 I'm an East Meadow resident. I'm
14 sorry. Forgive me for interrupting you
15 while I was speaking. I apologize. Thank
16 you, sir. I appreciate that.

17 So all I'm I'm trying to say, okay,
18 is build what you need to build, develop
19 the property. But get rid of the casino.
20 You don't need the casino. Put people to
21 work. Bring in things like research and
22 development. I think that's fantastic.
23 Put a hospital in there. Put research.
24 Bring in high quality jobs. I have
25 children. I don't want to see them move

1
2 off Long Island. I have grandchildren. I
3 don't want to see them move off Long
4 Island. And really, when you stop to
5 think about it. Okay, it makes sense.
6 We're hungry. Sands Casino knows that.
7 You're not dealing from a position of
8 strength, folks. You're dealing from
9 weakness. They know it. They've got you.
10 You're bought and sold according to them.
11 Prove them wrong. Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Joseph
13 Nabet. Joseph Nabet.

14 MR. NABET: Okay, so I'm in full
15 support of the casino proposal. But
16 however, since the Sands was looking for
17 input from the community as a member of
18 the community, I decided to write my
19 proposal to be an addition to the to
20 their proposal. I sent business proposal
21 letters regarding redevelopment of the
22 Nassau Hub to six people, three of the
23 Sands, one to RXR Realty, one to
24 Executive Blakeman and one to Woody
25 Johnson. My letters are descriptive of a

1
2 proposed casino and hotel resort, with
3 the centerpiece being an NFL New York
4 Jets stadium. Executive Blakeman,
5 although willing to let the Sands do what
6 they wish with the Nassau Coliseum,
7 expressed a desire that the iconic arena
8 could be still be used for sports like
9 arena football and indoor soccer.

10 Interesting words.

11 My plans and sketches incorporate a
12 world class retractable roof, NFL
13 football and soccer stadium, which would
14 be home of the Jets and the New York
15 Cosmos. Also discussed are a world class
16 four and five star hotel, a Nassau
17 Veterans Memorial park, two parking
18 garages and a pedestrian bridge. The
19 Sands could utilize this hotel for more
20 than a casino because the revenue that
21 would come from a retractable roof NFL
22 stadium in the New York metro area would
23 bring unprecedented opportunities,
24 employment and revenue to Nassau County.
25 The Jets and the Cosmos, although iconic,

1
2 never had a home to call their own Long
3 Island's aviation history and
4 contributions to space exploration, along
5 with the history of Mitchel Field, would
6 add a lot more meaning to the name New
7 York Jets and Cosmos.

8 Many are worried and concerned about
9 potential traffic being added to an
10 already congested area. Using recommended
11 alternative BRT routes discussed at the
12 Nassau Hub Transit Initiative public
13 meeting on January 18th, the initiative's
14 initial operating segment route, as well
15 as some ideas of my own, I believe we can
16 improve transit in the area and
17 revitalize the Nassau Hub. One of my
18 ideas includes use of some of the
19 recommended alternative BRT routes from
20 from the Nassau Hub to an LIRR Main Line
21 station. One of the stops on the way of
22 some of the routes is a new station on
23 Endo Boulevard, using a resurrected
24 version of the Garden City Mitchel Field
25 Secondary Line.

1
2 The New York Jets are about to hit
3 the 15th year of their lease at MetLife
4 Stadium, and every five years hence, they
5 may opt out of their lease if they give
6 the state of New Jersey 12 months notice.
7 The first opportunity for the Jets to opt
8 out of the lease will occur in 2025, with
9 the notice date of 2024, which is less
10 than seven months away.

11 Las Vegas Sands founder Sheldon
12 Adelson wanted to build a stadium for the
13 Raiders in Las Vegas, although he didn't
14 directly build it, his business pursuit
15 caused a chain of events that led the
16 Raiders, as well as the Super Bowl, to
17 Vegas. Mr. Adelson loved aviation and
18 planes and even enlisted in the Army at
19 one time in his life. With this knowledge
20 in mind, as well as Nassau Coliseum and
21 Mitchel Field being holy ground to
22 sports, entertainment and of course,
23 military history, building a football and
24 soccer stadium for the Jets and Cosmos
25 would be an honor and a tribute to Long

1
2 Island's contributions to aviation and
3 space exploration, Mitchel Field's
4 military history, the Nassau Coliseum,
5 sports and entertainment history, and Mr.
6 Adelson, the man who changed Las Vegas,
7 the NFL and the world.

8 Enclosed are copies of the letters I
9 sent if anyone wishes to read them.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
11 you. Daphne Baptiste.

12 MS. BAPTISTE: Good evening,
13 everyone. My name is Daphne Baptiste. I'm
14 currently a social worker, a mother, a
15 New York certified business owner in
16 Nassau County. I support the Sands
17 because the Sands will give myself my
18 business opportunity and will also give
19 other businesses opportunity as well to
20 bring in revenue. I know tonight a lot of
21 the concerns was talking about crimes and
22 gambling. I think that the crime rates
23 will go down because people know the
24 reason why crimes happen is because
25 there's no job opportunities available to

1
2 people. So if we provide the
3 opportunities for people to have jobs,
4 then the crime rates will go down. I also
5 think that we'll have more policing in
6 the neighborhood as well. That's going to
7 be in the community where we won't have
8 to worry about crimes.

9 And I also believe that Sands has
10 supported a lot of organizations, has
11 given a lot of money to different
12 companies, has give back to children. So
13 why not support Sands that comes into the
14 community and give back? And this is what
15 we always ask for. So, yes, the Sands.
16 Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

18 Charlene Thompson.

19 MS. THOMPSON: Good evening,
20 everyone. My name is Charlene Thompson.
21 I'm a resident of Baldwin, graduate of
22 Uniondale High School. I want to tell you
23 a little bit more about about me, some
24 things you may not know. I also am the
25 president and CEO of Thompson Economic

1
2 Development Services, a company that I
3 founded in 2011. And I've worked for more
4 than a decade with the Long Island
5 African American Chamber of Commerce to
6 work to give contracting opportunities to
7 minority and women owned businesses
8 across New York State. I also have
9 recently been appointed to serve as
10 co-chair of the Urban League of Long
11 Island State of Black Long Island's
12 Economic Equity Action Team.

13 And so I want to talk a little bit
14 about I think this is like the third
15 project. People talk about different
16 options and opportunities. We've had at
17 least two other options and opportunities
18 that weren't successful. We had more
19 support and momentum, but it still didn't
20 get passed. So, you know, this is a
21 legacy project. It's not only going to be
22 for us, it will be for our children and
23 our grandchildren, and it will reshape
24 the face of what is called the Hub,
25 although Hempstead is the original Hub.

1
2 But will reshape the face of Nassau
3 County and turn the Coliseum into a
4 destination point. Someone mentioned that
5 people will then come from all over the
6 country and perhaps even the world to our
7 segment of the world bringing their
8 dollars in and investing and spending
9 their money here in Nassau County.

10 So in addition to being a legacy
11 project and a destination point, Sands
12 has already shown their commitment to our
13 community. They've actually put their
14 money where their mouth is. They've
15 invested in non profit organizations.
16 They fostered relationships with key
17 organizations. They've worked to build a
18 foundation of relationships that will
19 carry them through the project. So
20 they've already shown the level of
21 commitment they're already willing to
22 make without even getting the project
23 approved.

24 And as some people already said,
25 those folks who did that extra homework,

1
2 they are good community partners in other
3 communities where they have these types
4 of projects as well.

5 One of the things that we're most
6 concerned about, you know, Long Island
7 has a history of an economic wealth gap
8 where the haves get more and the have
9 nots are always left behind. But as a
10 part of what we're here to do is to make
11 sure when these opportunities roll down,
12 that our communities, our workforce and
13 our businesses are ready to partake in
14 those opportunities. And that's on us to
15 get ready.

16 And so tonight, we encourage you to
17 vote yes on the lease transfer, but know
18 that we're going to stay engaged in
19 making sure all those obligations and
20 commitments are honored. Thank you for
21 your time.

22 (Whereupon, applause.)

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Cris
24 Cuestas.

25 MR. CUESTAS: Thank you for the

1
2 opportunity to be able to speak to you
3 guys and address everybody here. It was
4 wonderful to hear the Sands
5 representative, the young lady shake
6 through her whole presentation. But, you
7 know, here we are, you know, part of what
8 we were discussing today and some of the
9 issues that were brought up by the police
10 commissioner was bringing down crime. But
11 as you heard it from the gentleman in the
12 gray shirt, the crime is already here.
13 Seriously, like, what makes you think
14 that the crime is not going to go up and
15 we're already paying our police
16 department \$868 million a year that comes
17 out of our taxes. Your taxes as well.
18 Right. Who's going to foot the bill when
19 it's going to be 1.2, you know, a couple
20 more million dollars? It's going to be
21 us. It's literally going to be us. I
22 mean, by statistics, the police
23 department, if you're African American,
24 you're 18 times more likely to get shot
25 by them by Nassau County police. And if

1
2 you're Latino, it's 11.5 times more
3 likely to get killed by them. Like
4 nothing against you guys. You guys are
5 killing it, literally. But seriously, I
6 mean, what makes you think that this is
7 not going to bring more problems to the
8 community? I've lived in Uniondale my
9 whole life. I live right on Marvin
10 Avenue. I live a stone's throw away from
11 the Coliseum. I work in New York City.
12 I'm an investment. And there's a reason
13 why most investment companies do not
14 support projects like this.

15 And if this project goes through,
16 I'm going to be one of the people
17 leaving. And what's going to happen to
18 the housing prices? You're going to get
19 stuck with housing that nobody wants to
20 buy. And that's a problem.

21 I brought my electricity bill.
22 That's one of the things that hasn't been
23 brought up. And this is for you guys,
24 too. Half of my electricity bill is power
25 supply charges, which is the fuel that

1
2 they use to bring in so that we can make
3 power, but they never address the
4 utilities. They never talked about that.
5 Our utilities are going to skyrocket and
6 it's going to be and it's going to be the
7 local communities that are going to pay
8 for it.

9 Seriously, like, how can you guys
10 possibly believe that this is a good idea
11 in the long term? Look at look at the
12 communities around Las Vegas. Have you
13 guys been. I went in November. Las Vegas
14 is a disaster as soon as you leave the
15 strip. So is Atlantic City. Is that what
16 you guys want for for Uniondale? Is that
17 what you guys want for Garden City? I got
18 educated at Hofstra University. I
19 wouldn't my parents would never send me
20 there if they knew that there was a
21 casino right down the block. So
22 seriously. Think about it, please.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

24 Stephen Rolston.

25 MR. ROLSTON: I'm Steve Rolston. I

1
2 live in Baldwin, New York. Hello,
3 neighbor. I heard a neighbor speak
4 before. Thank you all for being here so
5 long.

6 Let me start with well, to each
7 construction worker here we are with you.
8 There, universities, medical groups and
9 so many other proposed projects which are
10 waiting to be built. Just as the casino
11 issue before us. We side with you
12 construction workers. I'm glad you
13 understand we backed the construction
14 unions. To each Sands employee who spoke
15 today. You helped write my speech.

16 Here is a group sans corporation who
17 wishes to introduce a casino to Nassau
18 County and several of your presentations.
19 You list phone numbers and help groups to
20 address the ills of gambling, the
21 seductive addiction of gambling. How does
22 this enhance the quality of life in
23 Nassau County, Hofstra University
24 released the best research paper I have
25 seen on the effects of a casino. I sent

1
2 the link to this board on Saturday. It's
3 called LI Economy and Casino on the
4 responsiblenassau.com link. The paper is
5 simply titled Public Policy paper. I urge
6 you to read it. It's about a 10 or 15
7 minute read for me, 15 minutes. I'm a
8 slow reader. There is also excellent
9 research on the site,
10 Stoppredatorygambling.org. They tell us
11 in the Illinois Law Review that
12 neighborhoods for ten miles around are
13 degraded by the presence of a casino. You
14 are admitting to being ready to help
15 addicted gamblers in need.

16 We have a much better plan. The
17 construction workers want more
18 opportunities. Let them help us expand
19 our universities and research centers.
20 Our world class hospital groups. There is
21 plenty of work for you by joining our
22 side. Our police are stretched thin,
23 keeping us safe as they do so well. A
24 casino takes their resources away from
25 our towns, as reflected in today's

1
2 presentations.

3 Sands Las Vegas, profit comes from
4 one place our wallets. They take our
5 money and trickle a little bit back,
6 which creates the addiction so widely
7 researched. What kind of business model
8 is that? Look at Atlantic City. That is
9 the future of Sands projects. They
10 already gave up on America and moved all
11 their current casinos to the Middle East
12 and Asia. They come in, take our money
13 and move out. I plan to live in this
14 beautiful county for many more years.
15 Based on their record, Sands will have
16 left well before I'm gone. Let's all say
17 no to the casino.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

19 Caprice Rines.

20 MS. RINES: Good evening. Finally,
21 and I'm speaking to all the legislators,
22 especially to mine, Ms. Bynoe. And I
23 don't know where the Uniondale rep went.
24 I don't think I saw him here tonight.

25 But I'm a 55 year resident of the

1
2 County of Nassau. I'm a graduate of
3 Uniondale High School. Proud of it, which
4 I graduated in the top percent. I was
5 Who's who among American high school, The
6 first Black Key Club President in
7 Uniondale. I was a Uniondale Kiwanis Club
8 president. I was also voted Kiwanian of
9 the Year. I will say I went to Virginia,
10 Suffolk at that, and the cartel was the
11 one building the casinos. No resort with
12 it or anything. And I will say, and this
13 is coming from the people of of Suffolk,
14 they're not getting any benefit from it.

15 So I am proud to say that we do have
16 a democratic process in this. I, based on
17 the people offices, should look like the
18 people of the community. So I'm a little
19 disappointed that Commissioner Ryder
20 left. But when we hire the officers, they
21 should look like the community of
22 Uniondale, the community of East Meadow.
23 And I was born in East Meadow. I lived in
24 Uniondale most of my life. My grandfather
25 built one of the first churches in

1
2 Uniondale by hand in the early 70s. My
3 mother went to Martins Road. So we have
4 been I don't know what this lady is
5 talking about. Her family is the first
6 person to build Uniondale and all of
7 that. I don't know who her family is and
8 she never gave what Uniondale was called.

9 But I will say, though, I love the
10 fact that we should have apprentice in a
11 40% base of minorities building that
12 casino. Emergency services saying should
13 partner with the hospitals in regards to
14 emergency services. People that say that
15 they don't want it. They sound like the
16 people who didn't want to get rid of Jim
17 Crow when it was time to change.

18 And I will say we want you know, we
19 want change. I hate that my children had
20 to choose to leave New York in order to
21 have employment. Sands is saying that
22 starting salary will be \$70,000. That's
23 really not enough to live on Long Island,
24 but it's a start. Hempstead and Uniondale
25 will become the Hub again. And let's

1
2 let's make it happen. If the casino don't
3 work, let's close it. But I do believe
4 that if we do something, start somewhere.
5 Last time they wanted to build something
6 there before I was on the committee. And
7 we didn't like it, it didn't go ahead.
8 But do something. You got to start
9 somewhere. And it's like buying a car. I
10 have a Mercedes. I didn't buy the
11 baseline Mercedes. So you don't want to
12 build a resort and not have the casino,
13 We're going to build it, build it right.
14 Let's start out right. And I'm and
15 that's what I'm saying. We can't do
16 things the wrong way. My mother said
17 start out how you can hold out. So let's
18 do this the right way. I am for the
19 casino. Thank you.

20 (Whereupon, Theudia Baily,
21 Justin Brown, no verbal
22 response.)

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
24 Chris McAniff.

25 MR. MCANIFF: Hello, everybody.

1
2 Thank you for this opportunity. I can
3 only imagine what your guys brains are
4 going through because I've only been here
5 for a couple of hours. You guys do this
6 all the time.

7 I'm a union carpenter. I'm a
8 resident, single parent in East Meadow.
9 The facility or the property you're
10 talking about is within a mile and a half
11 of my children's schools. I've heard it
12 earlier mentioned Jake's 58. All the same
13 things were raised about that and
14 virtually none of it occurred. I want to
15 point out to everybody in the audience
16 that this is not just about a casino.
17 Sands is a real estate management
18 corporation, and they're putting a whole
19 plethora of things together on this
20 property. This is a property where, like
21 world famous events have occurred over
22 the years. You can go look through your
23 record collections and find them. Okay.
24 Now it sits there basically with the
25 exemption of some kids riding go karts

1
2 and what, two concerts this year and the
3 G-league Nets who we love and you should
4 support, you should go support them.

5 There's another thing that's been
6 stated, that this is the first time that
7 there's been a fully paid for
8 redevelopment of this property. That's
9 not true. There was a redevelopment about
10 a decade and a half ago put through and
11 it was shot down by Garden City. After
12 everything else went through, Kate
13 Murray, who lived two blocks away from me
14 and had an automated phone call telling
15 me I couldn't water my lawn. As I drove
16 to the store to get my son his instrument
17 for music, she had seven sprinklers.
18 Okay. Seven. So don't let the politics
19 of Garden City that has a buffer zone of
20 an industrial park between the Coliseum
21 and their homes deter you guys to what's
22 going on. Because if you guys are
23 lifelong members of this community and
24 you understand the geography of that
25 area, you know, I'm telling you the

1
2 truth. There's an industrial park between
3 Garden City and Nassau Coliseum, and the
4 traffic from the Coliseum does not go
5 through Garden City. You got Hempstead
6 Turnpike. You've got the Meadowbrook
7 Parkway right there. This is all a bunch
8 of minutia. And they're trying to shove
9 on you that they're going to stop your
10 political careers. You know what? You
11 guys represent all of us. And this is
12 America. And I love this. And I believe
13 that I agree with these people that you
14 should have a big forum. Perhaps you
15 should rent out the Coliseum and have all
16 Nassau County residents show up and have
17 that be the platform for this hearing.
18 And I can guarantee you they'd be beyond
19 outnumbered. Thank you so much for your
20 time.

21 (Whereupon, applause.)

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Jeremy
23 Joseph.

24 MR. JOSEPH: I'm Jeremy Joseph. I'm
25 a resident of Hicksville. This may be

1
2 news to you, but we're currently in the
3 midst of a housing crisis, both
4 nationwide and especially on Long Island.
5 Over the last decade, no area has created
6 fewer new housing units than Long Island
7 in the northeast region.

8 We have a housing shortage, and when
9 there is a shortage of housing, people
10 leave, existing homes become more
11 expensive, property taxes go up. People
12 are moving away from Long Island en mass
13 because they cannot afford to live here.
14 This is by far the number one problem we
15 are facing here. And if you had any sense
16 of responsibility to your constituents,
17 if you had any clue, this would be your
18 number one priority. Instead, most of you
19 have spent your time doing the opposite.
20 Most of you on this side, at least. You
21 have pulled out all the stops fighting
22 any and all housing initiatives. Save our
23 suburbs, you cried. Because apparently
24 new housing and, God forbid, affordable
25 housing, this is the biggest threat to

1
2 our suburbs. If only the public had
3 control of one of the largest properties
4 in central Nassau, one that is clearly in
5 need of development, one that is in the
6 middle of an already suburban
7 environment. Well, we do have that.

8 Our politicians apparently are
9 rolling out the red carpet for a casino.
10 The casino is a great addition to a
11 community many of you will claim. Oh,
12 yeah, well, if it's so great, why aren't
13 you fighting to put it in Great Neck or
14 Port Washington or in the middle of
15 Garden City? You know as well as the rest
16 of us, you would be run out of town on a
17 rail if you tried to bring in a predatory
18 industry in these well-to-do communities.
19 But Uniondale, Roosevelt, Hempstead,
20 Well, I guess you don't care as much
21 about them.

22 How little do you care? Let's go
23 into it. Las Vegas Sands keeps talking
24 about these good union jobs. Well, that's
25 for the construction phase. That's 18

1
2 months. I'm more concerned about what
3 happens afterwards. Sands has not
4 released anything beyond vague salary
5 estimates for their operation workforce,
6 and it's no wonder, given what their
7 employees receive elsewhere. If you look
8 at Glassdoor, we can see a cashier salary
9 of \$33,000; kitchen worker, \$34,000;
10 security guard, \$36,000; food server,
11 \$37,000. Nearly every service related job
12 and that will be the majority of the
13 operations workforce, has a listed salary
14 of \$40,000 or less. Does anyone here
15 think you can live on Long Island on
16 these wages? Of course not. Maybe Sands
17 will designate a parking lot where their
18 employees can sleep in their cars at
19 night. You're taking some of our poorest
20 communities and setting them up to be
21 cheap labor for \$1 billion corporation.
22 If that weren't bad enough, the majority
23 of casino revenue has been shown to come
24 from residents in surrounding areas. This
25 is the revenue you're excited about?

1
2 Identifying low income residents and
3 milking them for their last dollars
4 (buzzer).

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
6 you, Mr. Joseph.

7 MR. JOSEPH: A casino is what
8 politicians decide on when they've given
9 up, when they're out of ideas.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Mr.
11 Joseph.

12 MR. JOSEPH: Or when they flat out
13 don't care. Since it's clear we really
14 need to save our suburbs from those of
15 you who vote yes on this lease transfer.
16 Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
18 Andrew Ayodiji?

19 (Whereupon, no verbal
20 response.)

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Perry
22 Fogg.

23 MR. FOGG: Hi, I'm Perry Fogg. I'm a
24 56 year resident here, five college grads
25 and one of my children graduated from

1
2 University of Hofstra.

3 I want to say thank you for this
4 opportunity. I want to be clear and
5 transparent. I'm biased just like
6 everybody else here is biased. Everybody
7 has their own issues. But I would like to
8 say, if we were able to come together
9 with your cons and work them out because
10 there's a great opportunity for us to
11 grow Nassau County. It's not just the
12 casino, because we understand casino is a
13 business where people are being
14 entertained and they're spending their
15 money. But not only that, there's a
16 resort and that resort is going to be
17 able to house people for entertainment.

18 So where there's where you have this
19 kind of opportunity, where a major influx
20 of money is coming in and they're
21 allowing our people to be a part of that,
22 I want to be a part of it. I'm for Sands.
23 I'm for this economic growth and this
24 infusion. And what we can do is when we
25 approve this, we can make sure that we

1
2 hold Sands to the fire. That's the most
3 important thing.

4 In the beginning, I wasn't sure
5 about it because of the gambling aspect
6 of it, but some gentleman said gambling
7 is right here on the phone. And that's
8 so true. And the other thing is, what I
9 thought was really, really won me over
10 was when I heard that they had some
11 economic monies allocated for veterans
12 homelessness. I'm all for that. I'm also
13 a custom tailor, so I would love to be
14 able to be a part of that at the resort.
15 So, yes, I am biased and I am for Sands.
16 Thank you very much for the opportunity.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

18 Aubrey Muhammad.

19 MR. MUHAMMAD: Peace in the name of
20 the law. I am Aubrey Mohammed. I pray
21 that everyone is well. We don't need
22 immoral enterprises. They start promising
23 jobs. But Las Vegas turned into Sin City.
24 Look at the lotto. They were promising to
25 take that revenue and to put it towards

1
2 education. Did you know that? Our the
3 revenue is hardly going towards
4 education. It goes towards
5 administration. Because you are corrupt.
6 Look at the OTB dingy-ass OTBs that
7 attract gamblers. It attracts broken
8 people. Hopeless people. We need family-
9 orientated businesses like industry.
10 Invest in the people. We need to invest
11 in manufacturing. Our manufacturing over
12 the last couple of decades have been
13 exported. And it has turned China into a
14 prolific superpower. They understand the
15 significance of manufacturing. We need
16 like industry.

17 Let's turn away from this
18 hopelessness and turn toward something
19 that will cultivate the best out of us.
20 This immoral, quick cash jobs, paying off
21 people. Lot of y'all weren't even paying
22 attention to what a lot of people were
23 saying out here. Why? Because our moral
24 compass got to be towards development,
25 but it got to be towards a prosperous

1
2 one. Hempstead has been racistly
3 devitalized the last two decades and is
4 targeted for gentrification. This is
5 missed development.

6 Let's take these resources and take
7 our energy. Towards family-orientated
8 development cultivation for a prosperous
9 future that is moral and we can stand
10 strong. Thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
12 Thank you. Chris Mills.

13 MR. MILLS: Good evening. My name is
14 Chris Mills. I am a millennial that lives
15 in a minority community based Freeport.
16 I've been born and raised there. I spent
17 my whole entire life through the public
18 school system. I frequently speak at the
19 school. I speak at colleges. I'm a serial
20 entrepreneur. I started trying to make
21 music for myself. I tried to start a
22 brewery and I often talk to a lot of the
23 kids in the area that you never know who
24 you're next to and what opportunities are
25 present.

1
2 The one reason I feel like I want to
3 support the transition of this is,
4 frequently in my community, there's a lot
5 of people that have no opportunities to
6 really find employment. And I think this
7 could be not only a great asset for those
8 communities, but also with technology and
9 newer developments. It gives them just
10 hope in the sense that like they're not
11 sitting there with -- You know, I'm just
12 going to say, I've been listening to
13 everybody opposing each other, everybody
14 going back and forth about what's wrong
15 or what's right. I really just think that
16 there's two things you need to think
17 about when you're making this decision:
18 Opportunity and responsibility.

19 I think that as a business owner
20 like myself, trying to start something
21 out of nothing and really just learning
22 along the way, humility is another word
23 that that captures me. I didn't know what
24 I didn't know until it happened. And I
25 doubt that there's a lot of adults in

1
2 this room who would want to put anybody's
3 lives or financial stake at risk
4 purposefully. I truly believe that. And
5 so I think that the people in leadership
6 for Sands are going to do all that they
7 can to make sure that those that have the
8 responsibility to provide this economic
9 opportunity do so justly. And I think
10 those that are opposed and upset about
11 it, though I remain empathetic, should
12 try to see another standpoint about
13 what's just desolate and sitting there.
14 If it was named a gaming community, would
15 that change the outcome? I think we get
16 caught up on words and less about action
17 and sitting here for ten years and
18 watching that place in Uniondale just sit
19 there, you know.

20 Someone mentioned about annual
21 revenues of ten years. How far back do we
22 go? Let's do it now. There's a lot of
23 kids hungry, like millennials, like
24 myself that went to school that was a 60
25 average, decided to go back at 30 and get

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a 3.9 and my MBA. And I only did that because I felt hungry and I wanted to make better of myself. And so I hear a lot of kids every day talking about this. And, you know, I just think there's great opportunity with this transition. So I'm for it. That's all I have to say.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All right, that concludes the slips that we have.

(Whereupon, applause.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I know that some legislators do have questions. Who do we want to bring up? Do we want the administration? Do we want Sands? We want both? Michael?

Legislator Debra Mule has a question.

LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you, Presiding Officer.

So my question is, is one thing that wasn't talked about today was the percentage of MWBE jobs. I've heard you speak about it before, but I just want to make sure that that's been spoken about in public.

MR. REESE: Yeah. Thank you, Legislator. We appreciate that. Obviously, there will be a state mandate to be at 30%, which we will obviously work to meet and exceed where possible. I think importantly, too, from the moment that we started here, we've engaged with people in the community that have real inroads and strategies around workforce

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2 development where we can look at ways to
3 work with. Matty Arisich and I have
4 talked about this at length for many
5 months in terms of bringing folks into
6 the building and trade constructions to
7 help meet those goals. So it's something
8 we take very seriously.

9 LEGISLATOR MULE: Okay. And what
10 process, what procedure do you have in
11 place to make sure that those goals are
12 being met? Who monitors that?

13 MR. REESE: Well, we'll be obligated
14 to do it through the State procurement
15 process. And I think that's probably one
16 of the most important measurements.

17 MR. LEVOFF: I can just add that the
18 State RFA process, any, any response that
19 Sands gives as part of that process
20 becomes binding upon Sands as a condition
21 of our license. So the commitments we
22 make on MWBE, the 30% that Ron just
23 mentioned, which is both in construction
24 and in operations, that will be binding
25 upon us and certainly subject to audit by

1
2 the Gaming Commission.

3 LEGISLATOR MULE: Okay. That's good.

4 Ron, you said that you wanted to
5 exceed the 30%. Do you have a goal in
6 mind of what that looks like?

7 MR. REESE: Well, I think we've
8 already started, Legislator, to put
9 together a program. The State hasn't
10 given us an indication of when these
11 applications are going to go in. We've
12 already started. We've got people in
13 this room who are helping advise us.
14 We're talking to a lot of people. You
15 heard EAC reference today who's helping
16 us think through our workforce
17 development strategies. And certainly I
18 think in the surrounding communities to
19 this, there's a lot of underemployed and
20 unemployed people that could benefit from
21 those programs. So both I think certainly
22 and on the procurement side as well.
23 We're going to go into the community and
24 we're going to source a lot of goods and
25 services from the local community and

1
2 certainly in the communities Uniondale
3 and Hempstead and East Meadow and look
4 for the opportunity to bring people,
5 minority women owned, veterans owned and
6 other businesses to participate in the
7 process.

8 LEGISLATOR MULE: Do you have a
9 number that you want to get to?

10 MR. REESE: Not as I stand here
11 today. I mean, obviously, we're going to
12 meet the State's and we're going to work
13 really hard to try and drive that number
14 up as high as we can.

15 LEGISLATOR MULE: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. REESE: Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
18 Legislator Solages.

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you very
20 much, Presiding Officer. Good evening.
21 And thank you for everyone who's still in
22 the room tonight. Thank you. Good
23 evening.

24 On the May 8th hearing, a
25 representative from the Sands Corporation

1
2 stated that employees would earn an
3 average base wage of at least \$70,000 a
4 year. They said average, not median. My
5 question is, what assurances can you make
6 that you will pay your workers a living
7 wage?

8 And secondly, my second question is,
9 will you guarantee that the lowest paid
10 worker will make a minimum of \$30 an hour
11 and tie that to the rate of inflation?

12 MR. LEVOFF: Yeah, I appreciate the
13 I appreciate the question. Ultimately,
14 our workforce in operations will be
15 governed under a collective bargaining
16 agreement with whatever union ultimately
17 organizes. We have, presently, a
18 neutrality agreement with the Hotel
19 Trades and Gaming Council in New York,
20 which will represent 80 plus percent of
21 the job titles within the facility. On
22 the 70,000 average, and we we meant
23 average, entry level wage -- and there's
24 benefits in addition to that wage -- that
25 is based on our analysis of existing

1
2 collective bargaining agreements that are
3 in the market presently, both at Aqueduct
4 Racetrack Facility, as well as Yonkers,
5 and an analysis of the upstate collective
6 bargaining agreements. And they're all
7 with the same operating union. And our
8 internal analysis, we believe that
9 certainly entry level jobs will make at
10 least \$70,000 per year in a base wage.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Understood. My
12 concern is that many people, for example,
13 like my father, who was a retired police
14 officer, supported his family by being a
15 private security officer at a Walgreens,
16 for example, many people from my
17 community, the Caribbean community, you
18 know, go into the field of security. It's
19 very important. And, you know, just as
20 important a job as law enforcement
21 individuals serve. They are providing
22 for a family. So so I believe in the
23 living wage. Will you make -- and I've
24 spoken to the mayor of Bethlehem, and he
25 did assure me that the Sands Corporation

1
2 did operate in good faith -- will you
3 operate in good faith to make sure that
4 these individuals are paid a living wage?
5 Because here in Long Island, specifically
6 Nassau County, the cost of living is very
7 high and that is not sufficient to have a
8 sustainable livelihood. So can you
9 please?

10 MR. LEVOFF: I can't speak to what
11 the union will ultimately negotiate, but
12 I will say in my experience in the
13 market, any any of the job titles within
14 the casino were more than a living wage.
15 I think my experience personally, having
16 worked at the Aqueduct Racetrack
17 facility, the base wage for the lowest
18 paid employee there was over \$30 per an
19 hour. So I expect that in our in our
20 modeling and our modeling that we will
21 also be doing for the State as part of
22 their process, we will be projecting that
23 people will be paid in excess of \$30 an
24 hour.

25 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you. Is

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that is that a guarantee?

MR. LEVOFF: I can't guarantee how what the union's position will be. I that's outside of my purview.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What happens until the workforce unionizes?

MR. LEVOFF: We will certainly be paying them in excess of -- how do you define living wage, I guess, is the question.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I mean, Nassau County defines that.

MR. LEVOFF: Well, everyone has a different definition. But how do you define living wage?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Based on the cost of living? The cost of your income?

MR. LEVOFF: We certainly believe that the wage will we will be providing will allow people who work and live in Nassau to support their family.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Okay. Are you familiar that there's a Nassau County statute that defines a living wage?

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MR. LEVOFF: Sorry, I couldn't hear
you legislator.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: We'll talk off
the record. Nothing further. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Legislator Drucker.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
Presiding Officer.

I have a question for your security
officer gentleman,.

MR. REESE: Presiding Officer, I'd
like to ask one of our friends from the
Labor Fed to speak to the previous
question, please. Thank you.

MR. STANTON: So I would never get
between a particular affiliate and the
workforce that they will represent. So I
wouldn't define the wage myself. But
ultimately, the collective bargaining
process, the union that represents the
workforce, has set a standard, a standard
that he alluded to that has provided
careers and opportunities for people to
survive on Long Island. And I would point

1
2 you back to the Nassau County Living Wage
3 law. And I assure you that every wage
4 negotiated in any one of the HTC
5 contracts far exceeds the wages that are
6 defined in the Nassau County living wage
7 law. I don't know if that's a direct
8 answer to your question, but we are very
9 much interested in raising wages for
10 workers.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yes. That was
12 it. Thank you very much.

13 MS. DURSO: I can't speak for the
14 unions that will represent them.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Say your name
16 for the record. I know who you are, but
17 for the record.

18 MS. DURSO: John Durso, president of
19 Long Island Federation of Labor.

20 Bottom line is, I would. Not be
21 ashamed to say they ain't open until
22 there's a union contract.

23 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you. I
24 just have a quick question. You know, in
25 this crazy world that we live in now with

1
2 mass shootings every single day, that
3 that's something that really concerns me.
4 Are you going to employ metal detectors
5 and facial recognition at the entrance of
6 the casino?

7 MR. NAGEL: Yes. We're going to
8 deploy all the technologies to protect
9 the people inside, particularly metal
10 detectors.

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
13 Legislator Bynoe?

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
15 Thank you, Presiding Officer.

16 Good evening, gentlemen. I'm not
17 sure that I want to direct the questions
18 to you. Perhaps if legal counsel is here.
19 Josh?

20 Good evening, Josh, How are you?

21 MR. MEYER: Good evening, Legislator
22 Bynoe. How are you?

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Good, thank you.
24 I just want to make a point of clarity.
25 Earlier today, when Sands was

1
2 articulating their bolstered support to
3 the Uniondale and impacted communities.
4 It was stated that it was a side letter
5 agreement. It's my understanding that
6 this is not a side letter agreement. This
7 is actually a legal instrument that is
8 pursuant to the ordinance that's actually
9 attached by reference to the lease. Can
10 you confirm my understanding of that
11 document?

12 MR. MEYER: Sure, that is correct.
13 And pursuant to the ordinance, the County
14 Executive is authorized to execute the
15 lease as well as any associated legal
16 instruments or and take any other actions
17 necessary to effectuate the lease. So
18 that would apply to that document.

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. So this is
20 definitely more binding than a side
21 letter, correct?

22 MR. MEYER: That's correct.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. And in this
24 instrument, just for clarity too, not
25 only does it set aside the additional

1
2 supplemental funds, it also serves to act
3 to add membership to the Community
4 Benefits Agreement; is that your
5 understanding as well?

6 MR. MEYER: Yes, that is correct.
7 And that will be further developed when
8 the Community Benefits Agreement is
9 developed, but it will be based on what's
10 contained in that agreement.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Contained in the
12 portion of this legal binding document
13 that's connected to the lease, correct?

14 MR. MEYER: That's correct.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Insomuch that it
16 allows for additional representation, but
17 it must come from the local impacted
18 communities, correct?

19 MR. MEYER: That's correct.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. Thank you.

21 Additionally, this document also
22 requires that the Community Benefits
23 Agreement be entered into -- I'm looking
24 at this because I want to use the right
25 term -- at the lease determination date,

1
2 which would be the licensed determination
3 date, which would, in the event that this
4 passes the Legislature today and it makes
5 its way through the state and the state
6 then makes a determination to issue a
7 license to Sands Corp., that prior to
8 that, the Community Benefits Agreement
9 must be flushed out, correct?

10 MR. MEYER: That's correct.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. That ends
12 my questions. Thank you.

13 MR. MEYER: Thank you.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
15 Legislator McKevitt.

16 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: I actually
17 have a number of questions for Terri
18 Elkowitz.

19 MS. ELKOWITZ: Good evening,
20 Legislator.

21 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Good evening,
22 Ms. Elkowitz. I just want you to go and
23 backtrack and further clarify some of the
24 points you were making earlier tonight
25 regarding SEQRA. And in case people are

1
2 not familiar with the terminology, it
3 stands for the New York State
4 Environmental Quality Review Act of 1975.
5 And as you are very well acquainted with
6 it is, it's a very, very rigorous process
7 which identifies those environmental
8 issues, which comes through the process.
9 Just for what it's worth, I do live work
10 in the area. I already saw the trip
11 counters put out about 6 or 8 weeks ago,
12 so I'm assuming that those were your trip
13 counters to start that study?

14 MS. ELKOWITZ: Yes, they were. Okay.
15 So once you went and you collect the data
16 and you submit a draft scope to the Town,
17 do you just want to just elaborate what
18 is in that draft scope and how that
19 affects the further development of the
20 environmental impact statement?

21 MS. ELKOWITZ: Absolutely.

22 So when the Town Board issues a
23 positive declaration, they require that
24 the applicant prepare a very
25 comprehensive draft environmental impact

1
2 statement. The first step is for the
3 applicant to put together a draft scope
4 which outlines all of the impact issues
5 that it will be evaluating in detail. For
6 example, we would have to identify every
7 intersection that we are studying, what
8 segments of the parkway. We have to tell
9 them how we're studying them, and that
10 goes for every topic we evaluate. I had a
11 list of almost a dozen topics on the
12 slide. We submit that, then there is a
13 public comment period on that draft scope
14 so that the public and all the involved
15 agencies that have any approval authority
16 over the application can look at it and
17 they can tell the Town and tell the
18 applicant that they want additional
19 analysis, different analysis, and then
20 the Town issues a final scope and the
21 applicant is required to prepare its
22 draft environmental impact statement
23 based on what is prescribed in that final
24 scope.

25 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: So as part of

1
2 the preparation of the draft
3 environmental impact statement, the law,
4 I believe, does allow the Town of
5 Hempstead to hire its own expertise to
6 review that statement and go over that
7 statement, correct?

8 MS. ELKOWITZ: Absolutely.

9 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: And who has to
10 pay for the Town's consultants, which
11 they have to hire?

12 MS. ELKOWITZ: The Town's common
13 practice in the past was to have the
14 applicant put up an escrow agreement. The
15 Town controls that and the Town pays the
16 consultants; the applicant funds it.

17 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Correct. And
18 as that escrow agreement needs to be
19 certainly refurbished, replenished at
20 times like that, if that agreement is not
21 replenished by the applicant, then my
22 understanding is that the review then
23 stops and the Town does no further study
24 until the applicant comes back and
25 replenishes those funds.

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MS. ELKOWITZ: That is typically how the escrow arrangement works, yes.

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: So during the development of the environmental impact statement and particularly regarding traffic and those other issues, sometimes maybe mitigation measures will be identified as part of the process. Can you please describe how the mitigation measures process falls into the environmental impact statement?

MS. ELKOWITZ: Absolutely.

So the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations require that an EIS do several things:

It has to identify issues of potential adverse environmental impact;

It has to analyze them;

And it has to propose mitigation for those impacts.

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: So as part of the mitigation, you know, sometimes there may be requires for different roadway

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2 intersections to be improved, different
3 ramps, if the applicant refuses to go and
4 agree to the mitigation measures which
5 are identified in the impact statement,
6 then what happens as far as the project
7 is concerned?

8 MS. ELKOWITZ: So this is going to
9 be a complicated analysis because, as you
10 know, Legislator McKeivitt, there are town
11 roads, there are county roads, there are
12 state roads, there may be village roads.
13 So what we are required to do is evaluate
14 the impact on those roads. And if we are
15 having impact, identify with the
16 mitigation measures are and what we are
17 responsible for mitigating. And then we
18 also need to discuss with the people that
19 control the roads how that mitigation is
20 going to be done that we would fund.

21 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: But again, if
22 the various municipalities and localities
23 Nassau County Department of Public Works,
24 New York State DOT, if they're
25 identifying certain mitigation measures,

1
2 that must be done for this project to
3 work and the Sands simply says it doesn't
4 want to pay for it, does that really
5 essentially end the project at that
6 point?

7 MS. ELKOWITZ: I think it's highly
8 unlikely, given what you've heard today,
9 that the Sands is not going to mitigate
10 impacts that it may be causing.

11 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: But the
12 required to. If they're identified and
13 the mitigation is found, then the Sands
14 is going to have to mitigate that.

15 MS. ELKOWITZ: Yes.

16 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Okay. I just
17 want to also indicate, I would think it's
18 probably highly likely that when this
19 process is done, there will probably be
20 litigation as far as this is concerned.
21 And the courts in New York State have a
22 very unique standard on identifying when
23 there's a SEQRA application as the hard
24 look standard. If you can identify and
25 just explain what the hard look standard

1
2 means and what the requires for you when
3 you're preparing the impact statement.

4 MS. ELKOWITZ: So the hard look
5 standard has those components that I
6 talked about before. The hard look
7 standard requires that a lead agency, in
8 this case, presumably the Town of
9 Hempstead Town Board, is required to
10 identify potential significant issues of
11 adverse environmental impact, is required
12 to evaluate them in detail, and is
13 required to mitigate them to the maximum
14 extent practicable. That's the
15 requirement.

16 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Right. And so
17 during that litigation, if there is
18 places where a group sues the Town and
19 therefore the Court determines that there
20 are some factors which are not looked
21 into, have you seen cases where the Court
22 will say this impact statement is not
23 sustainable and makes the process go
24 through it again? Does that happen?

25 MS. ELKOWITZ: Yes, that has

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happened on cases previously, certainly.

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Okay. Thank
you. That's all I have at this time.

MS. ELKOWITZ: Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
Any other legislators?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I do
have just a couple of follow up questions
for Mr. Reese.

Obviously, you were able to
negotiate benefits agreements with the
communities of Hempstead, Uniondale and
East Meadow. Yes, sir. And I guess local
community leaders engaged Sands, Sands
engaged those community leaders and
arrived at a agreement in terms of a
benefit for those communities.

MR. REESE: Yes, sir.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Assuming this goes forward today, if
other potentially affected communities
were to come to Sands, if this lease

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2 transfer passes today, would Sands be
3 willing to engage with those other
4 communities if they've identified needs
5 that potentially could be addressed?

6 MR. REESE: Thank you for the
7 question, Presiding Officer.

8 Contrary to one speaker earlier
9 today, we're looking at New York as a
10 flagship opportunity for our company, and
11 we intend to be in New York if we are so
12 fortunate for a very long period of time.
13 As such, regardless of -- and I heard the
14 mayor of Garden City say on more than one
15 occasion that they have rejected our
16 proposal for this site and this lease
17 transfer through their governance system
18 -- regardless, we want to be good
19 neighbors. We want to be in this
20 community. We want to work with
21 everybody. And so, yes, to answer your
22 question, we are willing. Our door will
23 remain open and we will have those
24 conversations as people want to engage in
25 them with us.

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
you.

MR. REESE: You're welcome.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Legislator Walker.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Just adding to
what the Presiding Officer just said.
Obviously, you know, here most of our
fire departments are volunteer and some
of them have a stronger -- they have
hazmat or they have the fire police or
whatever. Not every department has that.
Look, I hope no emergency comes that they
need to even call out our fire
departments or whatever, but should that
happen, and again, you reach out to other
departments like Hicksville Fire
Department that has hazmat, has the fire
police certainly has a very large
contingent of apparatus, if they were
needed, that would be something that the
Sands, too, would be looking to see?
Like, look, we we need to reach out to
them, maybe we can help them in some ways

1
2 also. So that would be something you
3 could possibly be interested in doing or
4 would do?

5 MR. LEVOFF: Yes, certainly. We
6 intend to work through the County Fire
7 Marshal Uttaro to convene all the
8 relevant fire districts and have a
9 conversation with all of them about what
10 what needs they have in terms of
11 servicing our site. And we're certainly
12 open to those conversations. In the
13 Community Benefits Plan that has been
14 outlined, fire districts and emergency
15 services are one of the uses for those
16 funds.

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Okay. And my
18 other comment was, I know you had spoken
19 about it doing some type of Veterans
20 Memorial. Obviously, the Coliseum was the
21 Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Obviously,
22 that Veterans Memorial, we'd like it to
23 be something that's very special and
24 really does honor our veterans because
25 many, many Long Islanders really helped

1
2 build this island. Those were our
3 veterans that came here after they fought
4 in the wars and they built this island
5 and built this community. So we want to
6 make sure we have something special for
7 them there.

8 MR. LEVOFF: Certainly. The lease
9 provides for \$1 million for a veterans
10 memorial at the site. But I would not be
11 surprised, given the amount of veterans
12 that work for our organization, that we
13 spend much more than that, quite
14 honestly.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Okay. And I was
16 very, very happy to hear when I asked
17 last time at the at Committee the outdoor
18 events that you could have. And those
19 would be something that the local
20 community, local residents could take
21 advantage of in summer months; have
22 little concerts outside, have things
23 outside that they can take advantage of
24 and really make it a special place for
25 our residents, many of whom might not use

1
2 the casino. I'm not a gambler, so, I work
3 too hard for the little bit of money that
4 I have. I'm probably not going to spend
5 it in the casino. But going out to
6 dinner, going to one of those concerts,
7 doing something out on the lawn there, it
8 will be special. And I think hopefully
9 we'll get all of our community involved.

10 And, although there might be
11 controversy if it goes through tonight
12 here, but eventually a place that brings
13 us together as a community and as a
14 county.

15 MR. LEVOFF: We certainly have
16 designed our project to have a plethora
17 kind of open space, and it would be
18 available for public and community use,
19 certainly.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
21 Any other questions?

22 (Whereupon, no verbal
23 response.)

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
25 right. Before we go to a vote, I need to

1
2 amend the Item to add the conceptual
3 conceptual site plan as Exhibit 4.

4 Motion to amend Legislator Ferretti,
5 seconded by Legislator Giangregorio.

6 So all in favor of the amendment,
7 please signify by saying, "Aye".

8 (Whereupon, all members
9 present of the Nassau County
10 Legislature respond in favor
11 with, "Aye".)

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
13 opposed?

14 (Whereupon, no verbal
15 response.)

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
17 Carries unanimously, so the item is
18 amended and is before the Legislature.

19 Now we all have an opportunity to
20 say what we want, if we choose to do so,
21 before we vote. I'll start things off.

22 As we consider this, we must
23 consider the current situation and the
24 non casino potential development of this
25 property. As it stands now, it's 72 paved

1
2 acres with an obsolete arena. The current
3 owner of the Coliseum lease is owed over
4 \$100 million for the 2015 renovation.

5 He's still owed that money. Lease revenue
6 has indicated by the Office of Management
7 and Budget Legislative Budget review is
8 diminishing. So the prospects of a
9 developer coming in would have to look at
10 the following:

11 They'd have to buy out the current
12 owner, Over \$100 million;

13 They'd have the expense of removing
14 the existing Coliseum and that huge
15 concrete bowl;

16 They would literally have to spend
17 hundreds of millions or billions of
18 dollars to develop this property;

19 The property itself, the development
20 itself would have to be of sufficient
21 intensity and density to justify that
22 development, which has always been the
23 problem over all these years. Even with
24 Wang's proposal, it was dense because you
25 had to generate enough income out of it

1
2 to justify the expense of developing.

3 We are teetering on the edge of a
4 recession as we have been for a while.
5 The office market is flat to be generous.
6 Off of New Hyde Park Road by the
7 expressway they built this building
8 called the Dealertrack. Beautiful new
9 commercial building. It's completely
10 empty.

11 So the chances are that if this
12 falls through, this proposal, it's going
13 to remain an eyesore of 72 acres of
14 parking lot and an obsolete, fading
15 arena.

16 If we approve the lease transfer,
17 the first thing that it does and the most
18 important thing is it gives Las Vegas
19 Sands an opportunity to apply for a
20 gaming license. However, that's not
21 guaranteed to happen, as apparently
22 there's upwards of ten competing for the
23 three downstate licenses. But regardless
24 of whether that happens, Las Vegas Sands,
25 if we approve this transfer, is our

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2 development partner. So we have a
3 development partner that's willing to
4 invest billions of dollars into that
5 property to develop it, even without a
6 casino. So even if we don't get a casino,
7 we still get the development of the
8 property, the economic activity, the
9 thousands of union jobs, the lease
10 payments, the public safety payments and
11 the community benefit payments.

12 If they do get the gaming license,
13 the casino is clearly the centerpiece of
14 this development, but it is a part of a
15 \$4 billion integrated resort. If they get
16 the gaming license, we get the direct
17 payments. Multiple tens of millions of
18 dollars. We get hotel occupancy, tax
19 sales tax, entertainment, ticket tax. We
20 get the incorporation of local businesses
21 into the casino resort. We get convention
22 space. We get the visitors who come for
23 more than one day, who probably will
24 spend the first day on site, and then
25 after that will be visiting our

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2 tremendous resources here in our county
3 and island.

4 Yes, gambling is a concern and it's
5 a legitimate concern, and the opponents
6 are right to highlight that. But it has
7 to be considered in the world that we
8 live in. The county does not live in
9 isolation. And as was said before, people
10 have a casino on their phone. Billions of
11 dollars are spent every year on scratch
12 offs in the lottery. More importantly,
13 through a public referendum years ago,
14 the state approved casinos, full blown
15 casinos. Including Nassau County
16 approving it.

17 We are going to get three downstate
18 casinos. One we know is going to Yonkers;
19 we basically know that. The other is
20 going to Resorts World Casino and there
21 will be a third one. There's a number of
22 different applicants for the third
23 casino. But chances are, based on the
24 applicants that are out there, it will be
25 in New York City, and chances are it

1
2 could be very well be in Queens. You also
3 have Suffolk County putting hundreds of
4 millions of dollars into Jake's 58.

5 We don't live in isolation. People
6 are going to be engaging in this
7 activity. They're going to have the
8 opportunity to go to full scale billion
9 dollar casinos within several miles of
10 the Nassau County border. So when we say
11 no, the gambling activity does not go
12 away. It remains. It simply shifts to New
13 York City and it takes with it all of the
14 revenue that would come to the County,
15 all of the economic benefits, all of the
16 jobs, all of it goes to the New York
17 City, slight amount to Suffolk, and the
18 County gets zero.

19 The County has tried and failed for
20 more than 30 years to develop this
21 property. This is a once in a generation
22 chance to partner with an entity that
23 wants to invest billions of dollars
24 without a cent of public monies. If we
25 turn this down, the gambling resorts will

1
2 still be built within a couple of miles
3 of Nassau County borders instead of in
4 Nassau, and all of the revenue, all of
5 the jobs, all the economic activity goes
6 to New York City and the County gets
7 nothing except a failed arena and the 72
8 acres of parking lot.

9 So I urge my colleagues to support
10 this application.

11 (Whereupon, applause.)

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
13 right. Anyone else? Legislators?

14 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I've
16 been here for a long time and I've really
17 enjoyed my career. And part of what I can
18 tout as one of my accomplishments was my
19 respect for labor. I was actually honored
20 by Jobs for Justice, and I do really
21 appreciate unions and I appreciate what
22 you do for your memberships. However, I
23 have to tell you that I'm at the point in
24 my life where I'm going to do what I
25 think is right and what I think my

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2 constituents think is best.

3 Number one, even if I loved the idea
4 of a casino, the fact that we are
5 actually within one out of ten locations
6 at this point that are being considered,
7 I mean, all right, let's say what kind of
8 gamble is that? Could we win? Yeah, but
9 we could also lose. So if we lose this
10 idea, this lease, this whole this whole
11 project on our five, you know, \$5 million
12 at least piece of property, \$500 million
13 lease of property does not come back to
14 this branch of government. And I'm sorry,
15 but I cannot begin to support an idea
16 that excludes a portion of our
17 government. Even if I thought that this
18 project was was perfect, I would really
19 still have a problem with that. The only
20 person who will decide what will happen
21 to this piece of property should we not
22 get that license, the 1 in 10 chance is
23 our County Executive. That was just in my
24 opinion, was a game changer. No matter
25 what, I couldn't support that.

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2 There's also a number of other
3 issues that I have. I voted for the last
4 RXR project. I thought that that really
5 did address some things, including
6 housing and including businesses that my
7 kids would want to work with. You know,
8 I'm sorry, of course, I'd love for my
9 kids to stay here. But, to work in a
10 casino, that's not what my dream is for
11 them. I would like for them to work
12 either in a tech or my girls are in
13 health. So I think it's been interesting
14 to watch this. I feel that I am really
15 torn. But I watched what happened and I
16 really feel that they were smart. Sands
17 is a very smart company and I feel that
18 they came in and really met up with the
19 right people and made the right offers.
20 And when I sat here listening to everyone
21 today, I just kind of felt like maybe
22 they weren't as genuine as they would
23 have been had they just come in on their
24 own without having any influence from
25 Sands.

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2 I want to say one more thing. And
3 again, this is about I'm 55, too, by the
4 way. And when you hit 55, you hit
5 something and that is your self and your
6 inner being. And I'm seeing what's going
7 on with our kids. And I'm very worried
8 about addiction, opioid addiction,
9 alcohol addiction, gambling addiction
10 and. I can't live with myself voting to
11 support that. So as much as I've always
12 supported the unions, and I guarantee
13 you, number one, you're going to get the
14 union jobs, you're going to get the jobs
15 no matter what is built there. Number
16 two, I know how many big projects are
17 here. I know there's a question of
18 whether or not we have enough workers now
19 to cover the 4 or 5 billion dollar
20 projects that we have.

21 So it's a quality of life issue. You
22 know, it's traffic. It's it's all this
23 with with with addiction with our kids.
24 And yes, they're throwing in a lot of
25 money. But as been said, they know

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2 they're going to make a lot of money, \$2
3 billion a year. And where is that coming
4 from? And when you read about addiction
5 and you read about gambling, they call it
6 a poor man's tax because it's usually
7 those that really can't afford to do it
8 that go and hope for that dream and hope
9 to change their life. And again, is it
10 going on all over? Yes, it's legal now,
11 but not everything that's legal is good
12 for you.

13 The bottom line is I struggled with
14 this decision, but I cannot vote for a
15 casino.

16 (Whereupon, applause.)

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
18 Legislator Drucker and Legislator
19 Lafazan.

20 (Whereupon, public
21 interruption.)

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Wait a
23 second, ladies and gentlemen, we've
24 listened patiently as everyone has
25 spoken. Please let the legislators have

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2 their moment as well.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
4 Presiding Officer. There is no question
5 that the concerns expressed by many of
6 our residents, either here in this
7 Chamber, by telephone calls to our
8 offices or by email, should never be
9 disregarded or even minimized. But we as
10 legislators have a dual obligation. One
11 is to be the voice and advocate for what
12 the majority of our constituents want or
13 need. And second, to ensure and provide
14 the necessary oversight of the Executive
15 Branch to safeguard our finances and
16 clear a path for economic prosperity in
17 the years to come.

18 Today, we are being asked to vote on
19 only one factual and clear scenario, and
20 that is the assignment of the current
21 lease that is in its present form
22 unfavorable to this county. The prospects
23 presented by Las Vegas Sands provides a
24 guaranteed framework that will yield
25 immediate economic benefit to our county,

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2 as well as providing a roadmap and
3 pathway toward an enduring and
4 transformative future. This lease
5 provides for that whether the Sands is
6 awarded a gaming license or not. This
7 does not mean that I didn't force myself
8 to imagine what the Hub would look like
9 with the casino and entertainment and
10 hospitality resort on its grounds. But
11 after considering the mind boggling
12 investment that Sands proposes to make,
13 should they be awarded the licence,
14 including the safeguards that will be
15 implemented to ensure safety and security
16 for the patrons, mitigating resulting
17 traffic and density issues and providing
18 economic benefits to the surrounding
19 communities the deleterious effects
20 associated with the casino operation is,
21 in my opinion, speculative. What is not
22 speculative but instead guaranteed, is
23 the revenue to the County and its
24 taxpayers of \$25-50 dollars a year. Oh,
25 and 8500 permanent union labor jobs

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2 sustaining the workforce in Nassau County
3 for generations.

4 (Whereupon, applause.)

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: This
6 opportunity cannot and should not be
7 forsaken or squandered if I am to uphold
8 the duties of my office for which I was
9 elected. So I will be casting my vote in
10 the affirmative.

11 (Whereupon, applause.)

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
13 Legislator Lafazan and then Legislator
14 Mulé.

15 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Thank you,
16 Presiding Officer. I just had jaw surgery
17 recently, so I hope everyone can hear me
18 and understand me. I want to thank
19 everyone who came out tonight and I just
20 want to echo what Legislator Walker said.

21 On the heels of Memorial Day, I hope
22 everyone here tonight realizes that the
23 freedoms that were exercised, the
24 freedoms of assembly, of petition, the
25 freedom of speech, they don't happen

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2 without our veterans, and I hope everyone
3 keeps that in mind this weekend and on
4 Monday.

5 When I make a decision on an issue,
6 I speak on behalf of three things: I
7 speak on behalf of my constituents; I
8 speak on behalf of my generation; and I
9 speak on behalf of my own beliefs.

10 Regarding my constituents, The vast
11 majority reached out to my office to
12 express their support on this issue. They
13 want the line held on their property
14 taxes. They want the jobs for their kids
15 and their grandkids, and they want a new
16 dynamic entertainment destination, not in
17 New York City, but they want it right
18 here in Nassau. This lease transfer will
19 do all of this and more.

20 (Whereupon, applause.)

21 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Regarding my
22 generation, this project is truly
23 existential. I'm 29 years old, and for a
24 decade I've been sounding the alarm about
25 my friends and my classmates moving away,

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2 and it's never been rocket science why.
3 They want good jobs and economic
4 opportunity, they want workforce housing,
5 and they want fun things to do. This
6 lease transfer will do all of this and
7 more.

8 Lastly, regarding my own beliefs on
9 an academic basis, I do believe that the
10 case Las Vegas made has been sound and
11 pragmatic. The investment in
12 infrastructure improvements and workforce
13 developments will have an economic
14 multiplier effect that is game changing.
15 Their plans to combat issues regarding
16 mental health, behavioral health and
17 gambling addiction are excellent. The
18 massive payments that are guaranteed to
19 Nassau will help us freeze taxes and,
20 more importantly, pay down our debt. And
21 as you heard from our labor leaders like
22 Matty Arisich, John Durso, Jerry
23 Laricchiuta, Ryan Stanton and more, when
24 it comes to having a once in a generation
25 impact on creating thousands of

1
2 permanent, good paying jobs, this lease
3 transfer will do all of this and more.
4 And that is why this plan is not perfect,
5 but it must get done. Because in 2011 I
6 sat in Nassau Coliseum as an intern when
7 voters voted down the referendum on a new
8 stadium. I promised myself that if I ever
9 had a seat at the table, I would make
10 sure I did everything I could to get to a
11 yes and get something done. Twelve years
12 later, I'm ready to get something done
13 and it starts tonight. I plan to vote
14 yes. Thank you.

15 (Whereupon, applause.)

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

17 Legislator Mule.

18 LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you,
19 Presiding Officer.

20 I truly do believe, as some of my
21 colleagues have stated, that this is one
22 of the most consequential decisions that
23 we will ever make as a legislator. And
24 honestly, I changed my mind and I went
25 back and forth several times throughout

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2 the last month or two. And what that told
3 me is that I needed to continue to do my
4 research. And so I spoke with all kinds
5 of people. I spoke with my constituents.
6 I spoke with some some of the "Say not to
7 Casino" people. I spoke to labor groups.
8 And certainly listened to all of the
9 public comment.

10 What kind of changed things for me
11 is when I took a page from my colleague
12 Legislative McKeivitt's book and I went
13 down to Bethlehem and I got to see what
14 Bethlehem looks like after Sands came in
15 and developed the casino there. I was
16 blown away. It's a beautiful, beautiful
17 community that was really on the verge of
18 bad things because the steel industry had
19 had died out. It had a gorgeous
20 downtown. I went and toured through the
21 area where Lehigh University was, which I
22 would say is comparable to Hofstra
23 University and saw how they are expanding
24 and the area looked great. I went to the
25 casino. I'm not a gambler, but I took a

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2 walk around. There was no traffic, even
3 though they have so many people coming to
4 the casino.

5 So I just have to say that the proof
6 was was right there in front of me. And
7 that was the honestly, that was what led
8 me to believe that I really do think that
9 this is something that we need to do.

10 Yes, gambling is problematic, but by
11 voting yes on this is not going to change
12 whether gambling happens. There is still
13 going to be as the Presiding Officer
14 said, the license is going to happen.
15 It's just going to happen someplace else.
16 And then we won't get any of those
17 benefits, both in terms of jobs, in terms
18 of revenues. So it's going to happen
19 anyway. The kids. Yep, the kids are
20 gambling, but it's on their phones. They
21 won't be allowed to go into the casinos
22 because there's an age requirement.

23 So for all of those reasons, I am a
24 yes vote.

25 (Whereupon, applause.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Legislator Ford and then Deputy Presiding
Officer Kopel.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you. I will
be brief. I'm not as eloquent as the
previous speakers, but I want to say that
I believe the Presiding Officer clearly
stated very valid reasons why to support
this transfer of the lease.

This project, of course, will
provide much needed jobs and
opportunities for a better and more
secure future, especially for our younger
people. As a former union worker, I am
thrilled that there will be thousands of
union jobs both during construction and
then also once the casino and the project
is finished.

(Whereupon, applause.)

LEGISLATOR FORD: Aside from the
casino, I think we all focus on the
casino and in all honesty, yes, I have
been in casinos, not a lot of times, but
I don't always look at them as a

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2 negative. I think that sometimes when you
3 go into these places, there seems to be a
4 sense of liveliness and camaraderie and
5 it really is a very nice social
6 atmosphere where people just seem to get
7 along and you get to banter back and
8 forth, even with strangers. So I think it
9 just sometimes can just bring a lot of
10 people together rather than driving them
11 apart. But I think when you look at also
12 the other aspects of this project, aside
13 from the hotel, there will be a 4 or 5
14 star spas, I think it is, and as well as
15 a theatre and a convention centre. So
16 it's providing a lot of opportunities for
17 so many people to go into different
18 fields of work.

19 And then while we look at the
20 opportunities for our young people, I did
21 get confirmation from the representatives
22 from Sands that there really is no age
23 discrimination. So some of our older
24 residents may find that they like to
25 augment their income so they can find

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2 themselves possibly going to Nassau
3 Community College, workforce development,
4 learning a new skill and getting a new
5 job and being able to stay here and stay
6 and live and even work in Nassau County,
7 even at the ripe old age of maybe 72 or
8 73. Not like you, Rich, but maybe more
9 like me.

10 So in that case, I do think this as
11 a positive for Nassau County and for our
12 residents, both young and old. So I will
13 be voting in the affirmative.

14 (Whereupon, applause.)

15 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: As
16 Legislator Walker said a little earlier,
17 I, too, I'm not a gambler. Never
18 attracted me, never interested in it.
19 But, I listened to the Presiding Officer.
20 He laid out, I think, an excellent case.
21 This the gambling is going to happen.
22 It's going to happen. And I want it to
23 happen here. If it's going to happen, let
24 it happen here. I want those good paying
25 union jobs. I want those good paying

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2 union jobs to happen here in Nassau
3 County. In the course of the years that
4 I've been here, I've met so many
5 hardworking union members in in my
6 district. These people are entitled to
7 have a chance to get these good jobs, not
8 only for the construction phase of the
9 the operation, but following that. I
10 think that Sands is laid out a very
11 compelling reason to support the fact
12 that they're going to have these
13 wonderful jobs continuing after the
14 construction has been completed.

15 Now, there's been some concern
16 expressed as to what happens if we don't
17 get the license here. Okay. The license
18 goes somewhere else. This property has
19 been the subject of so much effort over
20 so many years and we've never gotten
21 anywhere with it. Right now we've got a
22 very, very strong partner. And if we
23 don't get the casino, they're going to
24 develop it anyway. They are responsible
25 in this lease to make sure that this

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2 development succeeds. They're going to be
3 investing a lot of money into this.

4 They've got every incentive to make sure
5 that it does succeed. They've got the
6 financial horsepower to do it.

7 So I'm going to join with my
8 colleagues and vote for this proposal.

9 (Whereupon, applause.)

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
11 Legislator Bynoe, then Legislator
12 McKevitt.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,
14 Presiding Officer.

15 Well, I'll tell you, I've been here
16 since 2014, and this is really been one
17 of the hardest decisions to come to. And
18 I'll tell you, as a fiduciary entrusted
19 with overseeing and safeguarding Nassau
20 County's fiscal future, I was tasked with
21 carefully considering the tax revenue,
22 the economic development and the job
23 creation opportunities presented by Sands
24 Corp's proposal for a resort at Nassau
25 Hub. The job creation especially is vital

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2 to the economically disadvantaged
3 communities that I serve as a legislator.

4 As a community advocate, I
5 researched, vetted and deliberated upon
6 the heartfelt concerns that were
7 expressed by the community regarding the
8 impacts of public safety, traffic and
9 behavioral health issues. When it became
10 abundantly clear to me in the last
11 committee meeting that this was going to
12 pass with or without my vote, I became
13 equipped with those facts. And the charge
14 before me was to weigh and balance the
15 more laudable elements of the Las Vegas
16 proposal against the legitimate concerns
17 of the community.

18 To ensure that the needs of the
19 Uniondale and Hempstead communities were
20 met, and upon a painstaking review of
21 some of the factors and the needs of that
22 community, I was happy to hear that Sands
23 Corp incorporated a \$25 Million benefit
24 to the communities to bolster the
25 services and the community's needs.

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2 It is upon all of those things in
3 consideration that I reached the decision
4 to vote in favor of this lease transfer.

5 (Whereupon, applause.)

6 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Nope, nope, nope.
7 We're good. Allow me to finish, please.

8 Please know that while today's
9 actions represent the important benchmark
10 that many of the unions and the community
11 organizations have really advocated for,
12 that as this process continues to unfold,
13 make no doubt about it, I will remain
14 vigilant and focused on upholding and
15 making sure that I hold the entities
16 associated with all of the assertions
17 that this project is a good thing for our
18 community, we'll be held accountable and
19 that the obligations and the commitments
20 that have been made on the record here
21 today and on May 8th are upheld for the
22 benefit of this county. Thank you.

23 (Whereupon, applause.)

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
25 Legislator McKevitt.

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2 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: This is my
3 17th year in elective office, and I've
4 estimated I have voted in that career on
5 30,000 bills, resolutions and pieces of
6 legislation. And without a doubt, I've
7 spent more time on this one than anything
8 else combined. I traveled to Bethlehem,
9 Pennsylvania. I've done research. I went
10 through every single page of this lease
11 multiple times, driving my attorneys
12 crazy about it. I have heard many people
13 here. I spoke to you on the phone. I've
14 gone to your living rooms. We've had long
15 conversations, and I've heard a lot of
16 arguments, both in favor and against. And
17 like my colleague Legislator Bynoe, I
18 just want to say she has become my
19 partner through this experience. We
20 worked very closely together because we
21 represented the communities which will be
22 most closely impacted by us than anything
23 else. And I, likewise, came to the
24 conclusion that with or without our
25 votes, this process is going along. So I

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2 made an intentional thought that I
3 continue to be part of this process. And
4 one part of this question tonight is that
5 this still has a long way to go. There's
6 still a long environmental process. They
7 have to go through two state boards to
8 get this approved. And I've had many,
9 many conversations with those of the
10 Sands and want to make sure they've made
11 a number of promises to my community. I'm
12 going to make sure that those promises
13 are kept and they are upheld. And to make
14 sure that my home, my only home I've
15 known for 51 years is still preserved and
16 is a great place for my children to live
17 in.

18 So the support I have today with
19 this process going forward means I'm
20 going to continue to be part of this
21 process and make sure the right thing is
22 done for my family and community as we go
23 through this entire process. Thank you.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

25 Legislator Pilip.

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LEGISLATOR PILIP: Thank you,
Presiding Officer.

First, I would like to thank all of
you, Sands team, Administration and you
as residents, both sides. After all, I
think for most part, we had a very
healthy conversation. This is the way a
community should be.

After reviewing the proposal of
Sands and after learning more about this
project and after I saw the benefit to
our community, to our county, the job
opportunities to our unions and to our
residents, I am voting yes for the lease
transfer. Thank you.

(Whereupon, applause.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Legislator Gaylor and then Legislator
Solages.

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you. Thank
you very much.

I just simply want to say this is a
no brainer. I don't have any mental
reservation. No hesitation. Without a

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2 doubt, this is good for Nassau County and
3 I'm voting yes.

4 (Whereupon, applause.)

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you,
6 Presiding Officer. I'll also be voting in
7 the affirmative for this transfer of a
8 lease.

9 (Whereupon, applause.)

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: This presents
11 the single opportunity for many young
12 people -- I think I'm the second youngest
13 person here on this Body -- to stay here
14 in Nassau County. I'm tired of so many of
15 my friends, so many people I went to
16 school with who are moving to other
17 counties with suburban casinos. I visited
18 suburban casinos in Maryland, Virginia
19 and Pennsylvania, and I've spoken to many
20 young people in our communities, and they
21 all say it is also a no brainer.

22 Even if the Sands Corporation does
23 not succeed in getting the license, Plan
24 B is better than what we have now. It is
25 a positive decision for Nassau County,

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2 and I will be voting in the affirmative.
3 Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
5 Legislator Ferretti and then Legislator
6 Giuffre.

7 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you,
8 Presiding Officer.

9 When I first heard this proposal, I
10 certainly did have my reservations. But
11 as I continued through the process,
12 speaking to people in my district, in my
13 community, and after we received the
14 lease, going through it and going through
15 the specifics of the project with people
16 in the community, I found myself
17 inadvertently convincing them of the
18 benefits of it and that it's a good
19 thing. And through that process, I came
20 to believe that it's definitely a good
21 thing.

22 Now, if you look at it as a business
23 decision, and I commend the
24 Administration on this as well as the
25 Sands, as Legislator Gaylor said, it's an

1
2 absolute no brainer. I mean, if you look
3 at the previous proposals for this
4 location, none of them are even in the
5 same stratosphere as to the financial
6 benefit that has been negotiated by the
7 Administration. So I thank you for your
8 hard work with that.

9 But that being said, this isn't
10 simply a business administration business
11 decision. There's obviously quality of
12 life issues that have to be taken into
13 consideration. I heard from my
14 constituents and like everyone else, you
15 hear the same concerns and they are
16 concerns. Certainly. You hear concerns of
17 gambling addiction. That's certainly a
18 concern. But like so many of my
19 colleagues said, we have that as a
20 concern regardless of whether we approve
21 this lease transfer.

22 One of the big things is alcohol.
23 Obviously, when you have a casino,
24 there's alcohol served. That's true.
25 Traffic. Will it increase from what's

1
2 there now? I would think, yes. I mean,
3 people are going to be using it right now
4 with 72 acres of pavement. But that being
5 said, although that's an increase from
6 what we currently have, we all lived
7 through the New York Islanders playing at
8 the Coliseum, playoff games. There was
9 traffic then. Is it an increase from
10 traffic then? I would think not. When the
11 when the Islanders were in the playoffs,
12 although through my time as an Islander
13 fan, not often enough, you had a sell out
14 game, you'd have 18,000 people going to
15 the Coliseum at one time. Whereas, with
16 this proposal, yes, it may be something
17 in the event of 20,000 a day, but that's
18 spread out throughout the day. The prime
19 times being, if I remember correctly, Mr.
20 Levoff, on Saturdays around 9 p.m. where
21 traffic around the community is not at
22 its height. So that was a concern that
23 was that was alleviated for me.

24 Alcohol use, of course that's a
25 concern. But when the Islanders played,

1
2 guess what? They sold beer. That was an
3 issue then. We've had that before. We've
4 combated it before. And the Sands and the
5 Administration has convinced me that
6 we'll be able to combat it again if it
7 becomes an issue. And for that reason,
8 I'll be voting yes. Thank you.

9 (Whereupon, applause.)

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
11 Legislator Giuffre.

12 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: So I heard from
13 some of my constituents. One of them
14 testified before us tonight, I live down
15 the road from 91 Tulip Avenue. For me,
16 the issues were crime and traffic.
17 Having spoken to Commissioner Ryder, our
18 DPW Commissioner Arnold, having gone
19 through the lease, but more importantly,
20 having gone through the Office of
21 Legislative Budget Review Memo, OBLR is a
22 nonpartisan part of this County
23 Legislature. I analyzed the numbers under
24 Plan B, no casino, and the numbers, even
25 under Plan B far exceeded what the County

1
2 of Nassau has been getting for this
3 property.

4 In light of the finances, in light
5 of the future of this property, in light
6 of the arguments and points that we heard
7 tonight and over the last months, my
8 conclusion is that this is in the best
9 interests of the people of Nassau County.
10 I will be voting yes.

11 (Whereupon, applause.)

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
13 Legislator Kennedy.

14 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Thank you.

15 When this first came to my attention
16 and we started talking about this and I
17 did my due diligence, a great deal of
18 research, and I also have many friends
19 who are union workers and I have seen
20 just how hard people work and that they
21 work their tail off, I didn't want to
22 forget that. But then also, I looked at
23 everything that Sands was telling us and
24 showing us with what they had done in
25 other locations. And they had gone to

1
2 such great lengths to make things right
3 in the place that they were and the
4 surrounding communities. And for those
5 reasons, all those reasons, I am 100%
6 behind the lease and I am going to be
7 voting yes.

8 (Whereupon, applause.)

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
10 right. I think we've all said our piece
11 and it's time for a vote.

12 All in favor, signify by saying,
13 "Aye".

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Aye.

15 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Aye.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: Aye.

17 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Aye.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Aye.

19 LEGISLATOR MULE: Aye.

20 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Aye.

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Aye.

22 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Aye.

23 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Aye.

24 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Aye.

25 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Aye.

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LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Aye.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Aye.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Aye.

LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Aye.

LEGISLATOR GIANREGORIO: Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
opposed, "Nay".

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Nay.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
Passes by a vote of 17 to 1.

(Whereupon, applause.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Motion to adjourn Legislator Gaylor,
seconded by Legislator Ferretti.

All in favor of adjourning signify
by saying aye.

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

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We are
adjourned.

(Whereupon, NC Full
Legislature is adjourned, 9:36
p.m)

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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 22nd day of May, 2023.

Karen Lorenzo

Karen Lorenzo

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