

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING

RICHARD NICOLELLO, PRESIDING OFFICER

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

Monday, June 26, 2023

1:24 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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

Minority Leader

1st Legislative District

LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE (RECUSED ITEM 29)

2nd Legislative District

LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES

3rd Legislative District

LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

5th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR, III

6th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JOHN J. GIUFFRE

8th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP

10th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

11th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

12th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT (RECUSED ITEM 19)

13th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

14th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

15th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR ARNOLD W. DRUCKER

16th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

17th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

18th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR MICHAEL GIANGREGORIO (RECUSED ITEM 26)

19th Legislative District

MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

ALSO APPEARED:

TOP COPS

Third Squad Detective Thomas Daly

Third Squad Detective Michael Echavarria

Third Squad Detective James Higgins

3rd Pct Police Officer Andrew Smith

3rd Pct Police Officer Christopher Riebl

Kevin Mullick, VP PBA

Chief Palmer

Jeff Gross, DAI

Public comment:

David Stern

Domenica Califano

Corinne Kaufman

Pearl Jacobs

Chris Jacobs

Susan Hansen

Meta J. Mereday

Marie Reimers

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to call this meeting of the Nassau County Legislature to order and ask Legislator Mazi Pilip to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Please rise.

(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.

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?

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LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John
Ferretti?

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
Drucker?

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose
Marie Walker?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Joshua
Lafazan?

LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
Giangregorio?

LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader
Kevan Abrahams?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Presiding Officer
Richard Nicoletto?

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
sir.

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
Thank you very much.

Welcome to the meeting of the County
Legislature. We will be getting to the
public comment portion in a little while.
If you intend to partake in that, there
are slips over here that have to be
filled out and given to the Clerk's
Office at this table over here and we'll
call you up and do turn.

Before we get to that, we have a
couple of items that we traditionally
handle during the beginning of our
Legislative meetings. We have the Top Cop
presentations and some Points of Personal
Privilege.

So to start things off, it's our
privilege to invite up Kevin Mullick, the
Vice President of the Nassau County PBA,
for a presentation. Hello, Kevin.

MR. MULLICK: Good afternoon,
everyone. My name is Kevin Mullick. I'm
the First Vice President of Nassau County
PBA. It is always an honor and privilege

1
2 to read Top Cop when I'm here at the
3 Ledge.

4 So for Legislative Top Cops, it's a
5 lifesaver for June of 2023. On April 28,
6 2023, Third Precinct police officers
7 received a 911 call for an eight-year-old
8 girl that was armed with a knife and
9 walking at the traffic on Stewart Avenue,
10 which is a highly traveled road. The
11 young girl was threatening to kill
12 herself. Police officer Andrew Smith and
13 Police Officer Christopher Riebl were
14 first on scene. The officers observed the
15 young girl armed with a butcher knife at
16 the curb of Stewart Avenue. They gave
17 numerous verbal commands to drop the
18 knife, which were ignored. In a swift,
19 decisive action, the officers worked
20 together with one officer distracting the
21 the young girl while the other officer,
22 using sound tactics, approached the girl
23 from behind and physically removed the
24 knife from her hand.

25 The young girl reiterated to

1
2 officers that she no longer wanted to
3 live and she wanted to kill herself. A
4 Nassau County Police ambulance responded
5 to the scene and assisted transporting
6 the young girl to Nassau County
7 University Medical Center for a
8 psychological evaluation.

9 Due the officer's quick response and
10 remaining calm under pressure, they saved
11 this child's life. The Nassau County PBA
12 is proud to announce police officers
13 Andrew Smith and Chris Riebl as the
14 legislative Top Cops of June of 2023.

15 (Whereupon, applause.)

16 OFFICER SMITH: Hey, everyone. I just
17 want to thank everyone on behalf of me
18 and my partner, Chris, here. I want to
19 thank Commissioner Ryder, County
20 Executive Blakeman, the Legislature, the
21 whole Department as a whole, cops and
22 bosses.

23 Being prepared with the opportunity
24 to help out, we created our own luck that
25 day. And I appreciate everyone and we're

truly honored.

Thank you.

(Whereupon, applause.)

CHIEF PALMER: Hi, good afternoon.

And just on behalf of Commissioner Ryder and the entire Department, I wanted to say thank you so much to the Legislature. You have always been unwavering in your support for this Department. As special as the actions of our members were, this is what we expect from them and we know that the residents of Nassau County expect from them day in and day out.

So thank you for taking the time for this acknowledgement. But you're seeing the best of the best, and we expect that every day.

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

Legislator Bynoe.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you, Presiding Officer.

Well, Officers, I can't thank you enough. You were grace under fire. I'm

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2 always in awe of the extraordinary work
3 of the Nassau County Police officers. But
4 today, I'm really in awe of your
5 precision, your compassion in the moment.
6 You lived up to the exacting standards of
7 your job. I have to tell you that I've
8 been here nine plus years and we've been
9 doing this, I guess maybe about five
10 years or so, and this was one of the more
11 bloodcurdling stories that I heard. An
12 eight-year-old young woman, young lady
13 who was struggling, struggling probably
14 under the pressures of all of today's
15 issues.

16 So while I congratulate you today
17 for your extraordinary work, it is a
18 clarion call for us as legislators and
19 lawmakers and our commissioners of Health
20 and Human Services and the like to make
21 sure that we really have programs that
22 can undergird these communities as they
23 struggle under the chronic stressors that
24 are relevant and prevalent in our
25 communities, especially after COVID.

1
2 Our officers did an extraordinary
3 job, and I thank God that they were there
4 at the right time because it seems as
5 though if they had come just a little bit
6 longer, the story may have turned out
7 different. So may God bless you and keep
8 you and thank you for your service.

9 (Whereupon, applause).

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
11 Legislator Schaefer and then Legislator
12 Giuffre.

13 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Good afternoon.
14 I also represent part of the third. So
15 this is one of those scenarios that I'm
16 sure -- well, I'm not sure, but I imagine
17 to some extent even was completely
18 shocking to you as well. To hear of the
19 circumstances is just awful. And it's not
20 something you ever want to hear that
21 there's a young girl that is eight years
22 old that feels that way.

23 But as the chief said, we support
24 you. We always support you. And this is
25 why, because this is what we get when we

1
2 support, as you said, the best of the
3 best. And I just really want to thank you
4 so much for your efforts and for the
5 amazing things that our County Police
6 Department does.

7 (Whereupon, applause.)

8 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: So the Third
9 Precinct is covers Stewart Manor, my home
10 village. And I just want to acknowledge
11 that you said something about luck and
12 preparation. So my firm belief is there's
13 no such thing as luck. Luck is when
14 preparation meets opportunity and you had
15 an opportunity to save a life. You were
16 prepared. You acted on the training that
17 has been provided to you and that you
18 absorbed so well and you did what your
19 training called you to do and we are
20 grateful and so is that little girl and
21 her family.

22 Thank you. God bless you.

23 (Whereupon, applause.)

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
25 We're going to invite you up in a couple

1
2 of minutes for presentation.

3 Thank you.

4 The next presentation is for the
5 Detectives Association, and I'd like to
6 invite up its president, Jeff Gross.

7 Jeff, before you speak, I know that
8 this is your last meeting as the
9 President of the DAI and I wanted to say
10 on behalf of all of us, it really has
11 been a privilege to work with you these
12 years. The County and our residents are
13 very fortunate that you've had that
14 leadership role and also that you've
15 served so well in the Nassau County
16 Police Department. You've always been a
17 very strong advocate for your members,
18 which we appreciate very much, and you've
19 always had their best interest at heart.
20 You've done an excellent job.

21 So congratulations and thank you.

22 MR. GROSS: Thank you very much. I
23 didn't expect that. But half of that was
24 my speech, so.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

1
2 Minority Leader Abrahams would like to
3 say something.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just wanted to
5 thank you, Jeff. I Just wanted to
6 acknowledge your commitment to our
7 county, to our members. I know,
8 obviously, advocating as a collective
9 bargaining unit or a union president,
10 your members have been first and
11 foremost, but you never lost sight of how
12 that translates to ensuring that we
13 provide the great services to this
14 county. You've always advocated, which
15 rightfully so, that we need more
16 detectives as well as your predecessors
17 in regards to making sure our county
18 remains safe. So your ultimate focus has
19 always been on public safety. And I
20 wanted to make sure that we acknowledge
21 you today. I didn't even know you were
22 planning to leave the County. But I wish
23 you nothing but success in your
24 retirement goals and look forward to
25 being able to work with your successor as

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2 well. But I wanted to make sure you are
3 acknowledged on this very precious day.

4 Thank you again.

5 MR. GROSS: Thank you very much. I
6 appreciate that. So I won't have to
7 introduce myself, but I do want to thank
8 the Majority Leader Rich Nicoletto, and
9 the Minority Leader Kevin Abrahams, and
10 the Full Legislative Body for doing this
11 each month. I think it means a lot to our
12 members. It's great for morale, but it's
13 also great for the public to hear exactly
14 the difficult work that these guys do
15 every day.

16 And as the Chief said, you know,
17 failure is not an option for us. You
18 know, we aim for perfection. We may not
19 always get it, but we try for it. And
20 these guys risk their lives every day,
21 all the police unions and other public
22 workers and we appreciate the fact that
23 you even recognize this. So thank you
24 very much for that.

25 But yeah, as you said, this is my

1
2 last time addressing you as the President
3 and I just wanted to recognize the hard
4 work that you guys do. Over the last
5 couple of years, I've got to meet each
6 one of you, more or less, in different
7 depths, if you will. But, I always
8 appreciate the fact that you guys always
9 listened. You may not agree with me or my
10 predecessors on issues, but the fact that
11 you sat down and you listened and you
12 tried to understand or tried to get us to
13 understand your point of view, is
14 invaluable and I thank you for that. Each
15 and every one of you guys.

16 I know a lot of the legislators are
17 actually leaving as well at the end of
18 the year. I wish you guys the best of
19 luck, too. It's not lost on me, the
20 service, the public service that you get.
21 I also realize that a lot of you after a
22 while think it's a thankless job. And as
23 a Nassau County resident, I have to tell
24 you, it's not thankless. I appreciate the
25 work you do. I know that most of what you

1
2 get, 99% of it are complaints and very
3 few people come to say thank you. But I'm
4 here and my members are here to say thank
5 you for what you do for us every single
6 day. And you guys never lose focus for
7 the residents. I see the battles that
8 you guys have to go through. And again,
9 it's not lost on me. I appreciate the
10 work that you guys do. So for those who
11 are leaving, congratulations and I wish
12 you the best of luck as you wished to me.

13 And those who are staying, just keep
14 that focus. Realize that, you know you do
15 make a difference. You don't hear a lot
16 about it. But we make a difference on the
17 street and you guys make a difference,
18 too. And the fact that you put the
19 residents first and foremost, even though
20 it's not recognized or maybe felt by you
21 guys, by a lot of us, it is, but we're
22 probably too silent. So as a Nassau
23 County resident, thank you for what you
24 guys do every day.

25 (Whereupon, applause.)

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2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
3 you very much, Jeff. I appreciate it.

4 MR. GROSS: Okay, so today I'm here
5 to honor members of the Third Squad,
6 Detectives Thomas Daly, Mike Echavarria
7 and James Higgins.

8 This really started on May the 31st.
9 We had two suspects come in or people
10 come in from Canada into the United
11 States. First they flew from Montreal
12 into Atlanta, and then they worked their
13 way up to JFK Airport on June the 6th.
14 The purpose of them coming was to scam
15 elderly people, which we hear about this
16 all the time. It's a very difficult case
17 to get. A lot of people don't come
18 forward with these cases because they're
19 either embarrassed or not fully aware
20 exactly what happened. But these people
21 came in and they posed as bails bondsman
22 and they wanted to collect money for the
23 victims relatives who were supposedly
24 arrested.

25 Since they came to Nassau County,

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2 they attempted \$9,200 from a 73-year-old
3 woman from East Meadow on June the 7th.
4 But they had stolen \$37,250 from an
5 86-year-old woman from Herricks who
6 believed that her grandson was under
7 arrest.

8 On June the 10th, that same
9 86-year-old victim -- they managed to
10 successfully get money from her twice --
11 on June the 10th, she went to the bank to
12 make another withdrawal of \$22,000. The
13 bank people recognized her and they
14 called 911. The police responded. They
15 called the Squad and Detectives Daly,
16 Echavarria and Higgins came and responded
17 very quickly. They went back to the
18 victim's house. They spent a couple of
19 hours interviewing her. They had her
20 contact the suspects for a money drop,
21 and they were successful in getting one
22 of the suspects, bringing the money to
23 the door. That was Detectives Daly and
24 Higgins. And Detective Echavarria
25 actually got the getaway driver down the

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2 block. They were successful in getting
3 all of the parties involved in this. They
4 got a confession out of them. They
5 recovered \$27,128 from other scams that
6 they had committed. They secured the
7 money as evidence, and both suspects were
8 charged with numerous attempted larcenies
9 and larcenies.

10 These guys did a phenomenal job. The
11 fact that they did it so quickly to
12 locate the guys, to recover the money and
13 make the arrests on these cases, which
14 are not ordinarily solved as quickly or
15 readily. And so the fact that these guys
16 dropped everything, devised a plan, put
17 it in motion and were successful at it,
18 is phenomenal. So I applaud them. And
19 that's why the detectives of the month.

20 (Whereupon, applause.)

21 DETECTIVE DALY: Hello, everybody.

22 On behalf of myself, my partner,
23 Detective Echavarria, Detective Higgins,
24 we want to thank everybody here. Thank
25 the Chiefs in attendance, thank

1
2 Commissioner Ryder and County Executive
3 Blakeman. But we especially wanted to
4 thank actually the victim in this case
5 who was instrumental in taking these guys
6 down. Once this person realized that it
7 was a scam, they were a complete all
8 star, and if it wasn't for them, none of
9 this would have been possible. So thank
10 you again for your consideration.

11 Have a great day, everybody.

12 (Whereupon, applause.)

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

14 Commissioner, I didn't know if you want
15 to add a few words.

16 CHIEF PALMER: I'll be brief. But if
17 you've never had anyone in your life have
18 this happen to them, I know everyone in
19 this room can imagine what that's like to
20 have someone that you love dearly preyed
21 upon like this. And these detectives went
22 out of their way. They did again, what we
23 asked them to do every day, to protect
24 the most vulnerable people in our
25 society. So they have my heartfelt

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2 thanks. And I know they have that of
3 every person in this room here today. I
4 commend them for their actions. And once
5 again, we're here to serve the people of
6 Nassau County in the best way we can, so
7 we expect that from them.

8 Thank you.

9 (Whereupon, applause.)

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

11 Legislator McKevitt.

12 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: You know, it's
13 amazing the depths some people will sink
14 to try to go and take advantage of senior
15 citizens. And as Jeff mentioned, this has
16 been going on a lot as of late. And I
17 think know one thing we do is we got to
18 get the word out there that if anyone
19 suspects anything, to get you in charge,
20 get you in control, because you do such a
21 phenomenal job.

22 You know, one thing about detectives
23 is, you work behind the scenes, you work
24 quietly. But this is really a great where
25 you are cooperating not only with the

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2 victim, but with a bank employee who saw
3 something going on as well, too, and you
4 stopped it from happening. And we really
5 need to do a better job in our behalf to
6 get the word out there that if you try
7 this in Nassau County, we're going to
8 stop you, you're going to pay the price.

9 So again, thank you for the work
10 you're doing. Unfortunately, I think
11 you're still going to be very busy doing
12 this work. But I feel better at night
13 knowing that you're in charge to stop
14 this from happening in the future.

15 Thank you for your service.

16 (Whereupon, applause.)

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
18 Minority Leader Abrahams and then
19 Legislator Ford.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I have a
21 personal, heartfelt thank you to you
22 because my parents actually almost fell
23 victim to this. They fall into the same
24 demographic of some of the victims in
25 this case. I'm elected in office and my

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2 parents yet received a call, someone
3 pretending to be a bail bondsman
4 representing the IRS. In this case, they
5 weren't talking about arresting me,
6 thankfully. They were talking about
7 arresting actually her as part of an IRS
8 in terms of back taxes.

9 Now, as a senior, you would think my
10 parents don't have back taxes. And at the
11 same time getting a call from the IRS, we
12 try to educate our public that that call
13 is not going to happen. Usually the IRS
14 communicates in different ways. But my
15 parents were hysterical. I mean, they
16 actually really thought that someone was
17 coming to their door to the to the degree
18 I had to make a phone call in the County
19 because they had indicated that the
20 Sheriff's Department was coming
21 imminently to arrest them.

22 But this is something that luckily
23 my mother had the wherewithal to at least
24 call me. But this is something that is
25 happening constantly. So your ability to

1
2 be able to route this out goes beyond
3 volumes.

4 Obviously, as a legislator for a
5 portion of area that I share with
6 Legislator McKeivitt for East Meadow, I
7 know our constituents are very thankful
8 for what you are able to do. So thank you
9 again for your commitment to our
10 residents and to our county.

11 (Whereupon, applause.)

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: First, Jeff, I
13 just want to wish you good luck in your
14 retirement.

15 I do want to thank you also. You
16 know, when you get to a certain age, you
17 start believing anything. And I know that
18 a lot of my residents and like you have
19 on family members, they get these
20 letters, they get these phone calls, and
21 they start thinking that this is
22 something that's very, very real. And
23 these people who do this are very
24 sophisticated, obviously, well trained,
25 well funded. They're taking money left

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2 and right.

3 We're dealing with some people right
4 now. We recently had a senior scam
5 program where they came out and so many
6 people came in to hear about how you
7 could fall prey to scams. And it would be
8 a great partnership with our Police
9 Department so that we're being forewarned
10 and trying to educate the public.

11 And I have to say that I know that
12 you thanked the resident for working with
13 you. But I think also, don't
14 underestimate your approach to this
15 woman. I'm sure that you were very kind,
16 very compassionate, very understanding,
17 and you were able to get her confidence.
18 And I think that that's the most
19 important thing. Because you know what?
20 If you fall prey to something like this,
21 you can be very embarrassed. You don't
22 want anyone to know that all of a sudden
23 you've given \$3000, \$5000, \$8,000 to
24 somebody, because it's very, very
25 embarrassing. So I'm sure that you

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2 actually handled it in the right way so
3 that this person felt very comfortable to
4 be able to confide in you what has
5 happened. So I thank you very much.

6 And once again, Chief Palmer, like
7 you said, you expect the best, you get
8 the best.

9 Thank you.

10 (Whereupon, applause.)

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
12 Legislator Walker.

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Jeff, I just
14 want to congratulate you and thank you
15 for all you have done while serving as
16 president and before that. You have
17 certainly made a difference here in
18 Nassau County. And we can't thank you
19 enough for that.

20 To all of your detectives, this work
21 and all the work you do day in and day
22 out doesn't go unnoticed. And you truly
23 are the best of the best.

24 And I could tell you on a personal
25 level, you know, we send out a notify our

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2 residents of of scam workshops that we're
3 going to have and they can come and
4 listen and know what they shouldn't do,
5 what they should do. Yet, I, myself, got
6 an e-mail, a text message, a phone call
7 from TD Bank and telling me that someone
8 tried to take \$1,000 out of my account.
9 And I somewhat thought it was
10 questionable. But I'm thinking I have all
11 these things on my phone and in mail and
12 speaking to someone from TD Bank, I
13 actually reached out to Legislator
14 Ferretti because his wife happens to work
15 for the bank and he says, you know what?
16 That itself might be the scam. And it
17 turned out that that phone call and
18 e-mail and everything was the actual
19 scam. So TD Bank, ended up closing my
20 account out, and it was right before
21 Christmas, opening a new account, having
22 to get new new bank cards. It just was a
23 big, big hassle on for me. Thank God no
24 money was taken. I don't think they could
25 have taken too much out of my account

1
2 anyway. There wasn't much in there. But
3 just knowing that you can get scammed so
4 easily and thinking that all this was
5 coming to me looking like it was TD Bank
6 and it wasn't, obviously. So I just warn
7 everybody. We try to get that message
8 out to all our residents. And you coming
9 here today and reedifying that makes a
10 big difference. And even our young
11 people, it can happen. And I know they're
12 very savvy with all their technology. But
13 it can happen to any of us. We all need
14 to stay on top of it. We all need to
15 educate more and more of our public.

16 And again, thank you so much for
17 what you do day in and day out. And God
18 bless you, all.

19 (Whereupon, applause.)

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
21 Thank you very much. And why don't you
22 all come on up for a presentation.

23 (Whereupon, citations
24 presented and photos taken.)

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2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So the
3 Points of Personal Privilege start off
4 with Legislator Rose Walker.

5 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you,
6 Legislator Nicolello. And I would ask
7 all my friends from Lutheran Church
8 charities, K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry, if
9 they'd come up with our beautiful,
10 wonderful comfort dogs, Abraham and
11 Beloved.

12 I'm going to let them tell a little
13 bit about the ministry. But just before
14 they do, we are very blessed in
15 Hicksville, at Trinity Lutheran Church.
16 We have two comfort dogs here. We have
17 Abraham and I guess about two years ago
18 we got Beloved. And although they are
19 located in Hicksville, I could tell you
20 that they do so much throughout our
21 county and beyond our county with the
22 service dogs. So I'm going to let you
23 tell a little bit about the ministry and
24 what the service dogs do. And then I'm
25 going to tell a little bit of something.

1
2 MS. HAYNES: Good morning. My name
3 is Donna Haynes. I am the Top Dog or
4 Ministry Director for Abraham and Beloved
5 Comfort Dog out of Trinity Lutheran in
6 Hicksville.

7 The Comfort Dog Ministry started
8 when Katrina happened down in Louisiana.
9 Folks were displaced from their homes,
10 sent to places they had no idea, and
11 their anxiety was through the roof.
12 Lutheran Church charities showed up with
13 four golden retrievers, and that's where
14 this program started.

15 Today, there are 140 of these golden
16 retrievers across the country, 27 states.
17 And you have the two New York dogs here.
18 We represent New York, and we're the only
19 two here.

20 There are 26 team members on our
21 team. We're represented by three police
22 officers. We have two retired police
23 officers, NYPD and Nassau County. I also
24 have a active duty Bay Constable to
25 represent our Police Ministry, where we

1
2 go to the 911 call center, the
3 communications building. We've been to
4 some of the police funerals and some
5 other events with those. I also have with
6 us our Veteran Ministry. They represent
7 the Marine Corps and the Army. And we've
8 gone to the nursing homes, many of the
9 military events that are in our
10 communities.

11 These dogs are in your community.
12 They're in your nursing homes, in the
13 hospitals, in the schools. We're all
14 over. But when crisis happens, we have
15 paws and boots on the ground in 24 hours.
16 You've seen our dogs across the country
17 because you've seen us respond to the
18 towers collapsing in Miami, to the
19 shootings that have happened across the
20 country. That's us.

21 And how do you know it's us? Because
22 in many cases you've seen the blue hearts
23 that people are signing. The blue hearts
24 are there for the folks to give a message
25 of peace and comfort to those victims and

1
2 their families.

3 But today I have a heart for
4 something else. If you go to the
5 communication center, we've presented the
6 hearts to the 911 telecommunicators.
7 After COVID, we had been there with them.
8 They were on the floor crying with us to
9 get that stress out. Today, Rose, this
10 is for you. You've been a huge help and
11 support to Trinity and our Comfort Dog
12 Ministry.

13 Rose has self-appointed herself,
14 Grandma Rose and we love her for it. We
15 recently, with Rose's help, was called to
16 a school because of a a stabbing. A
17 middle school. One student stabbed
18 another. Now, we thought we were going
19 there for the rest of the students. We
20 found that we were there for the staff.
21 They didn't get in the front door and the
22 staff were on the floor crying, just
23 releasing the stress from what happened a
24 few days beforehand.

25 So thank you, Rose, for helping. And

1
2 by the way, happy birthday.

3 (Whereupon, applause.)

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.

5 I truly cannot thank them enough. I
6 tell you, during COVID, they were all
7 over, and all over our county, wherever
8 they were needed. Certainly, I had
9 actually reached out to the Roslyn School
10 District after their terrible tragedy
11 that they had a short while ago and
12 offered their assistance. And sometimes,
13 they don't want it right away, but
14 sometimes they'll call later.

15 But what you did over in Lindenhurst
16 just blew my mind. And the messages that
17 we received back, that you received back
18 that I did from staff, from parents, from
19 the children -- but I think, the staff,
20 sometimes they all try to hold it
21 together. And we say the same with our
22 Police Department. They hold everything
23 together. And oftentimes that stress gets
24 to them in a worse way than they even
25 realize it. Certainly Abraham and Beloved

1
2 are four legged angels on earth for all
3 of us.

4 So I thank you all, all the
5 trainers. And I thank you so much for
6 that beautiful heart. You made me cry. So
7 thank you. And I, too, have a citation
8 for all of you. I will come down there.
9 We're not going to make you all come up
10 here. This is beautiful. Thank you so
11 much.

12 And we have a citation for from all
13 of us, signed by all of us in the
14 Legislature because like I said, you help
15 each and every one of us in each one of
16 our districts. Of course, Beloved and
17 Abraham don't really care about a
18 citation, so they have some toys to play
19 with.

20 (Whereupon, Citation presented.)

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2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
3 right. So the next Point of Personal
4 Privilege will be by Legislator Arnie
5 Drucker.

6 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you very
7 much, Presiding Officer.

8 Every year around this time, each of
9 us up here are made aware of very
10 exceptional students and recognizing them
11 for their accomplishments. Today, I'm
12 fortunate to have a few students from my
13 district who deserve that special
14 recognition. I'm privileged today to
15 honor two distinctive young, exceptional
16 students in our community, Sabrina Guo of
17 Syosset High School and Kevin Zhu of
18 Jericho High School. These two recent
19 grads were both recipients of the coveted
20 and prestigious National Presidential
21 Scholars Award.

22 This award is provided annually to
23 150 qualifying scholars around the
24 country. Both Kevin and Sabrina exhibited
25 not only remarkable academic success

1
2 throughout their high school careers, but
3 they excelled outside of school by being
4 extremely active leaders in each of their
5 communities. Sabrina, among a litany of
6 many other accomplishments, has founded
7 the advocacy and support group, Girl
8 Pride International, which has quickly
9 grown and helped many disenfranchised and
10 less fortunate young women and girls,
11 finding them educational opportunities,
12 providing them clothes and meals, as well
13 as resources to help them attain success
14 as they grow.

15 Kevin was a two sport
16 interscholastic athlete playing on the
17 Jericho volleyball team and Co-captaining
18 the tennis team while also being a
19 semi-finalist in the National Student
20 Poetry Competition and being a
21 distinguished pianist.

22 Both of these young students earned
23 significant scholarships. Sabrina winning
24 the Coca-Cola Scholar Award, a \$20,000
25 scholarship; and Kevin winning \$25,000 as

1
2 a Regeneron Science Competition finalist.

3 I am honored to be able to
4 congratulate these two exceptional youths
5 from our district and present them with
6 citations to recognize their outstanding
7 accomplishments and wish them well in
8 their future careers as Kevin continues
9 school at Stanford University and Sabrina
10 at Yale.

11 Sabrina and Kevin, I'd like to
12 invite you to approach the podium and say
13 a few words. Although, before we do so,
14 my colleague, Josh Lafazan, would like to
15 say a few words.

16 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Yes. Thank you,
17 Legislator Drucker.

18 I have the privilege of knowing
19 Sabrina for a while now, but before I
20 talk about Sabrina, Kevin, the amount of
21 talent you have in all these different
22 realms, it's remarkable. Your future is
23 limitless. Whatever you choose to
24 dedicate your time to, you will succeed.
25 Thank you for making our community proud.

1
2 Congratulations to you first.

3 Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, applause.)

5 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: So, Sabrina, I
6 had the honor of meeting actually during
7 the pandemic. And long story short,
8 Sabrina reached out to my office and
9 said, How can I help? This is back in
10 2021 or 2020. And she said, How can I
11 help? And I said, Well, we need aid to
12 our first responders. We need aid to our
13 hospitals. And Sabrina actually spent a
14 good chunk of money she had saved for
15 college on PPE for first responders. You
16 kept healthcare workers in our community
17 safe. You kept first responders safe. And
18 you continued that advocacy to take on
19 issues relating to female empowerment and
20 relating to community and population
21 health. And I was so proud to write that
22 letter of recommendation for you. Thank
23 you for being one of the very best among
24 us. I look forward to voting for you for
25 president one day.

1
2 Thank you.

3 (Whereupon, applause.)

4 MS. GUO: Thank you so much, Josh. I
5 will keep this very brief.

6 First, thank you to the Legislature
7 for honoring us here today. We're very,
8 very grateful to be able to represent
9 Nassau County and put it on the national
10 stage as the US Presidential Scholars for
11 for New York.

12 Personally, I'd also like to thank
13 all of you, especially the familiar faces
14 up here, who have really been such an
15 inspiration to me and my public service
16 and nonprofit efforts, especially in the
17 last half decade, and especially during
18 the Pandemic. I would like to thank,
19 specifically, a few people, although not
20 limited. For example, Legislator Drucker,
21 Legislator Lafazan, Legislator Mulé,
22 Legislator Abrahams and Legislator Bynoe.
23 Thank you so much for being such an
24 inspiration and for collaborating with my
25 COVID relief nonprofit, LILAC, in and

1
2 many occasions and other community events
3 to really raise the community morale and
4 spirits, especially during these trying
5 times. So thank you so much.

6 Kevin is also a good friend of mine.
7 I'm very honored to stand alongside him
8 here today to represent the New York
9 State. So thank you so much.

10 MR. ZHU: Hi, everyone. I'm Kevin. I
11 think Sabrina summed up quite nicely how
12 much we are grateful for the opportunity
13 to be here and to represent Nassau County
14 on the national stage. Once again, thank
15 you to all of you guys for this honor and
16 being here today.

17 I've grown up on Long Island my
18 entire life. And with your guys support
19 and legislation, you guys have created an
20 environment where we feel safe and lucky
21 to have valuable education, make friends
22 like Sabrina and just set us up really
23 well for whatever the future holds. And
24 so I'm really excited to see what the
25 future holds for us, and I'm really

1
2 looking forward to coming back 20 years
3 from now and seeing what can be done.

4 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I just want to
5 say that it's really cool that the both
6 of you going to different schools are
7 really good friends. That's really cool,
8 number one.

9 And number two, I learned today that
10 you're both leaving. I think Sabrina,
11 you're leaving today. And Kevin, you're
12 leaving tomorrow. Both of you are on to
13 spend the summer in China. And we wish
14 you a safe, healthy, happy trip and come
15 back to us soon.

16 MS. GUO: Thank you so much.

17 MR. ZHU: Thank you.

18 (Whereupon, applause.)
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2 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you
3 again, Presiding Officer.

4 Today is a lucky day for me because
5 I get to do it again with this here
6 today. I'd like to honor two young
7 individuals and graduates from my
8 hometown, Plainview-Old Bethpage grads
9 Kimon and Constantine Vantes. These two
10 exceptionally talented young men, both
11 outstanding musicians, are exceptional
12 cellists. They are also identical twins.
13 And they chose to refine their musical
14 talents with the Children's Orchestra
15 Society. The Children's Orchestra
16 Society, which operates locally in
17 Syosset, has effectively fostered an
18 environment of learning here on Long
19 Island for the past 60 years.

20 I would like to thank the director,
21 Dr. Yeou-Cheng Ma, for her work with our
22 community's children. Dr. Ma is also the
23 sister of world renowned cellist Yo-Yo
24 Ma, the Children's Orchestra. The
25 Children's Orchestra Society has

1
2 successfully brought out the talents of
3 very, very gifted youth.

4 These two fine, talented young men
5 achieved the pinnacle of musical success
6 by recently performing at Lincoln Center.
7 Kimon, you have shown incredible
8 dedication to the arts, and I'd like to
9 congratulate you personally for your solo
10 performance, a solo performance at
11 Lincoln Center. Both of you have shown
12 yourselves to be star members of the
13 community. You are both shining examples
14 with hard work and dedication, you can
15 accomplish truly great things. And I'd
16 like to congratulate you both on your
17 acceptance into Cornell. I know you both
18 will excel in all of your endeavors, and
19 I look forward to seeing you both grow as
20 musicians and overall young men in the
21 years to come.

22 It is my distinct honor to present
23 you both with citations and recognition
24 of your outstanding achievements. Please
25 come up and say a few words if you'd

1
2 like.

3 MR. C. VONTAS: I'll be brief. I'd
4 just like to say that we're honored and
5 privileged to be here to receive this
6 recognition and just to thank everyone
7 here, all the legislators, for just
8 creating a community where we all, young
9 students and young people, feel so safe
10 to explore all their interests and
11 receive such quality education. It's
12 really been invaluable in all our time
13 here. And just thank you so much.

14 MR. K. VONTAS: I'll also be brief.
15 I just wanted to say thank you to
16 Legislator Drucker and the entire
17 Legislature for the honor of being here
18 today. And as a Nassau County resident,
19 it's really been important to have so
20 much support in the music and the arts in
21 our community and how clear it is that
22 it's something that our community values
23 as a whole. And I'm glad that that's
24 something we've had growing up and that
25 will have with us for the rest of our

1
2 lives.

3 Thank you.

4 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you. My
5 colleague, Josh Lafazan, would like to
6 say a few words as well.

7 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: So who's your
8 band teacher at Syosset?

9 MR. K. VONTAS: We actually go to a
10 JFK.

11 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: I was last
12 chair alto sax, so I wasn't very good.
13 What I'll say is, having gone to Cornell,
14 the musical community there is one of the
15 best in the country. Please continue to
16 keep in touch. We look forward to many,
17 many years of success and your future is
18 limitless. All right. Enjoy Ithaca. Stay
19 warm there.

20 (Whereupon, applause.)

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I too, would
22 just like to congratulate you both, and
23 wish you the very, very best. I represent
24 a very small part of Plainview-Old
25 Bethpage, but it's still part of my

1
2 district, so I want to make sure that I
3 thank you so much. I know your parents
4 and your grandma is here with you today
5 and how proud they are. Not just us, but
6 they are so extremely proud of you. And
7 you know, when you become a grandma,
8 you're somehow you're even extra proud of
9 your grandchildren. So God bless you all.
10 I wish you the very, very best in
11 Cornell.

12 (Whereupon, applause.)
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2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Now
3 for a Point of Personal Privilege by
4 Legislator Mazi-Pilip.

5 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Thank you,
6 Presiding Officer. I am also a lucky one
7 today. I would like to welcome Brian Liu
8 and his family to Nassau County
9 Legislature meeting. Brian and mom, you
10 can come to the podium and also your
11 sister.

12 Brian, when I heard about your
13 amazing accomplishment, I wanted to
14 invite you and honor you. And I wanted to
15 my colleagues to know how amazing you
16 are.

17 It gives me great pleasure to honor
18 and recognize the amazing accomplishment
19 of Great Neck Middle School student Brian
20 Liu on his significant achievement of
21 advancing to Scripps National Spelling
22 Bee at only 11 years old.

23 (Whereupon, applause.)

24 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Brian is a
25 remarkable student, and in addition to

1
2 excelling in spelling, he is already an
3 accomplished violinist who has performed
4 at Lincoln Center.

5 Brian prepared for the spelling bee
6 competition by dedicating hours to
7 studying every single night, in addition
8 to his already demanding schoolwork.
9 Brian qualified for the National Spelling
10 Bee in March when he defeated 47 other
11 student participants in Long Island
12 Finals that went on for more than four
13 hours. The winning word for him was
14 "bolognese".

15 In the National Spelling Bee, the
16 participants are not only asked how to
17 spell any word in the dictionary, but
18 also how to recite the definition of any
19 word from the dictionary. Brian advanced
20 through six different rounds at the
21 National and was up against participants
22 from all over the United States and the
23 world.

24 I am so proud of you for putting
25 yourself out there against other

1
2 participants and staying calm and strong
3 during competition. Brian,
4 congratulations. We are so proud of you.
5 And I know this is just the start for
6 you.

7 You would like to say anything?

8 MR. LIU: I would like to thank all
9 the legislators for having me here today.
10 It was a great opportunity and honor to
11 represent Long Island in the spelling
12 bee. And I would like to give sincere
13 thanks to all of those who have supported
14 me and their kind words of encouragement.
15 So thank you.

16 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Good job.

17 (Whereupon, applause.)
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2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So the
3 next part of our meeting is for public
4 comment. And our first speaker is
5 Domenica Califano.

6 MS. CALIFANO: Good afternoon. How
7 are you? I just want to bring something
8 up that's a little disturbing on the
9 Nassau County Police Department. Fourth
10 Precinct Sergeant, he was a Sergeant
11 Crawford (phonetic), Nassau County County
12 Attorney's office has the videotape of
13 him pulling out a gun on an eight year
14 old child, a 13-year-old child, and
15 trying to shoot a dog that was about 15
16 years old. They have not acted on it.
17 Attorney general's office has not did
18 (sic) anything about it. It's been over a
19 month. It's very disturbing.

20 All my charges were dismissed. And I
21 just don't find an officer -- not even an
22 officer, he was a sergeant -- being moved
23 up to captain, moved out of the Fourth
24 Precinct, and now in the Sixth -- he has
25 five federal lawsuits against him and one

1
2 state lawsuit. I have numerous people in
3 his district now that are calling that he
4 is bullying. He has turned off his camera
5 and no one has called.

6 Commissioner Patrick Ryder is well
7 aware of this. This is not fair to other
8 officers in our county that are good
9 officers. They have to look into what he
10 is doing and Internal Affairs needs to be
11 investigated. County Attorney's office
12 has the videotape that he has lied to the
13 general attorney that he never touched
14 his gun that day. It's clearly where his
15 gun came out of. It's a little
16 disturbing.

17 Also, there was a very major
18 accident in Oceanside this past week. The
19 car went flying up in the air. From my
20 understanding, some of your officers
21 turned their cameras off. Name was never
22 exposed. The two families are out of
23 their home. There was marijuana found in
24 their car. We know it's legal, but not
25 when you're under the influence. All the

1
2 cops turn their heads to this incident.
3 It was very scary. This car was flying,
4 doing over 80 miles an hour from people's
5 ring cameras. Maybe someone hears this,
6 maybe they will look into it.

7 We have a lot of officers that are
8 amazing officers, but we got to get rid
9 of the bad cops. It must be taken care of
10 and hopefully everyone will look into
11 this.

12 Thank you for your time.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

14 Corinne Kaufman.

15 MS. KAUFMAN: Good afternoon,
16 Legislators, and thank you for giving me
17 the opportunity to speak. Especially my
18 legislator, Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

19 Today is the third time I have had
20 this privilege to speak with you. It is
21 over seven months since the loss of our
22 19-year-old granddaughter, Paige Grace
23 Gibbons, age 19, due to fentanyl
24 poisoning. I will not take time today to
25 again review the sad journey in our

1
2 lives, but more importantly, to address
3 the importance of fentanyl detection
4 strips and awareness.

5 We are at war with fentanyl. It
6 lurks within our communities and is
7 poisoning many people, but especially
8 those that are 18 to 35 years of age.
9 Basically, the future of all Americans.
10 What do we do when we are at war? We
11 develop ammunition. How have we
12 progressed in this battle? First of all,
13 we have educated and are continuing to
14 educate on this plague. We legislate and
15 then we provide provide defenses.

16 Since I started speaking publicly
17 seven months ago, I see progress. First,
18 our County Executive, Bruce Blakeman, has
19 pledged \$60 million over a four year
20 period to aid in this fight against
21 fentanyl and other drugs.

22 Recently, Senator Gillibrand has
23 recently put forth a bipartisan bill that
24 is aimed at the fentanyl trail. She
25 courageously names China-Mexico

1
2 Connection, directing her goals against
3 opioid traffickers and cartels.

4 Narcan training. Delia has been at
5 the forefront of arranging for Narcan
6 training. My experience has been as a
7 speaker at these events, the public is
8 anxious and hungering for this training.

9 Among my many goals, some have
10 become realities, but I'm still working
11 on setting up assemblies in schools, anti
12 fentanyl signage and Narcan in all New
13 York school nurses offices, and having
14 fentanyl detection strips included.

15 I'm not educated really in the
16 process of making fentanyl detection
17 strips a reality as far as legislation
18 proceeds. What I do know is that one more
19 level of prevention that can save a life
20 is so important. At a dollar per strip, I
21 ask, why not?

22 In our own experience losing Paige,
23 there was one child present who was not a
24 participant in taking the synthetic
25 Percocet that was 100% fentanyl. Think of

1
2 the different outcome had that non
3 participant known to say, wait a minute,
4 let's test first. Let's see if this is
5 safe.

6 I sometimes hear the argument that
7 this will increase use of fentanyl
8 unknowingly. I really think it will be an
9 important safety measure. I remember when
10 seatbelts were mandated in New York. The
11 safety net of seatbelts did not cause
12 people to speed more.

13 I urge you to pass this life saving
14 mandate and to help win the war and save
15 lives.

16 Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
18 you. Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Before
20 you sit down. Again, I just have to state
21 on the record how impressed I am with you
22 and your husband and your entire family
23 with how quickly you've been able to
24 become advocates. Just within two months
25 time, most people couldn't even say the

1
2 words, but you were out there. And I
3 believe already you have saved lives just
4 from your awareness.

5 And I concur with you. I believe
6 that we should at least have a hearing on
7 the strips being included in our Narcan
8 kits. We have an audience that comes to
9 those trainings that really want to help
10 and really want to learn. And there are
11 many supporters that at first were a
12 little bit concerned but have now turned
13 and are in support, including Dr. Jeff
14 Reynolds. So I can't see the harm in us
15 holding a hearing regarding this piece of
16 legislation.

17 What you're saying also, I have to
18 say, had somehow someone thought or knew
19 of the strips with Paige's situation, it
20 definitely would have been detected
21 because it was 100% fentanyl. The only
22 time that they're concerned about not
23 being detected is if it's somehow in the
24 middle of the pill and doesn't come into
25 contact with the strip. But the odds of

1
2 that happening are so minuscule, in my
3 opinion, compared to the benefit of
4 saving even just one life.

5 Again, I am in awe of you and your
6 family and your strength and your
7 commitment to help others and give your
8 beautiful granddaughter, Paige, who's
9 four months younger than my daughter and
10 looks a lot like my daughter. So I have a
11 very hard time even thinking. But again,
12 you're giving her a legacy such an
13 important value. And we're all very proud
14 to be part of it. So thank you. I have
15 faith that we're going to have a hearing
16 soon.

17 MS. KAUFMAN: I hope that I have
18 encouraged you to consider this again.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I can't
20 see the downside in having a hearing, so
21 I request it. And I would love to have
22 it. If anyone would be willing to help us
23 get this on the calendar, I would be I
24 would be personally grateful. So thank
25 you.

1
2 MS. KAUFMAN: Very good. Thank you
3 very much.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Pearl
5 Jacobs.

6 MS. JACOBS: Pearl Jacobs,
7 Uniondale.

8 Legislator Bynoe, I'm referencing
9 your recent article "Why I Voted for a
10 Casino at the Coliseum", *Uniondale*
11 *Herald*, June 8th. Why are you providing
12 an explanation to your constituents post
13 lease transfer vote? You stated as
14 follows: "To get the pulse of the
15 community you met with the Library, the
16 Fire Department, the Nassau County Land
17 Bank and other key stakeholders".

18 I consider every taxpaying resident
19 a stakeholder. Why didn't you arrange a
20 community meeting at large to hear the
21 voices of the taxpayers? The Library, the
22 Fire Department, the Land bank does not
23 speak for the taxpayers. Why were only a
24 few chosen community leaders invited to
25 these meetings? Why weren't the taxpaying

1
2 residents given the respect to have their
3 voices heard? There was no transparency
4 in this process. Meetings and discussions
5 were held in secret as the proposed host
6 community wouldn't it have been
7 respectful of our elected representatives
8 to cross over Hempstead Turnpike and hold
9 an open meeting at the library or the
10 firehouse to speak with the residents
11 regarding the proposed casino project?
12 Again, another disparaging blow to the
13 residents of a minority community in
14 Nassau County.

15 It is my opinion that the underlying
16 message to Uniondale residents is, hey,
17 "Sands-a-Claus" has come to town and now
18 Uniondale can have investment. It is
19 disappointing that you, as a tenured
20 Nassau County Legislator, view this
21 proposed casino project as the only
22 viable option for economic investment in
23 Uniondale.

24 For the past 15 years, I have
25 advocated for investment in Uniondale.

1
2 Now that Uniondale will be the host
3 community for the proposed casino
4 project, we can now receive investment.
5 Not from our County Or Town but from the
6 Sands.

7 Every investment that came to
8 Uniondale had to be hard fought for. The
9 Uniondale Streetscaping project took ten
10 plus years of strong advocacy before it
11 came to fruition. In order to get
12 Jerusalem Avenue repaved, The Nostrand
13 Gardens Civic Association had to launch
14 the Nassau County Segregated Roadways
15 Campaign. And you know what? We still
16 cannot get our streets swept. But don't
17 worry, Uniondale, "Sands-a-Claus" will
18 make everything right for Uniondale.

19 The question is, why hasn't
20 Uniondale received its fair share of
21 investment? Uniondale homeowners, just
22 like every other homeowner in Nassau
23 County paid the third highest taxes in
24 the country. Yet, Uniondale receives no
25 investment. Why is that? It is no secret

1
2 that Uniondale is a donor community where
3 Uniondale's tax revenue is diverted to
4 other zip codes in Nassau County and
5 Uniondale is left to languish. But don't
6 worry, Uniondale "Sands-a-Claus" will
7 make everything right for Uniondale
8 because Uniondale will be the host
9 community and we are supposed to feel
10 special that Uniondale will be the host
11 community of this proposed casino
12 project. The host community will be the
13 host to a blood sucking parasite.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

15 Legislator Bynoe.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Ms. Jacobs, I
17 don't want to make this a back and forth
18 session at all. What I want to do on the
19 record is expand the number of groups
20 that I did meet with. I met with the
21 Greater --

22 MS. JACOBS: Uniondale Area Action
23 Coalition.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Yes, ma'am. I met
25 with other civic groups. I met with the

1
2 NAACPs. Everybody who invited me, I
3 came. Moreover, I sat in my office many a
4 day and anybody who called who wanted to
5 speak to me directly in regarding the
6 casino, I took the call. In fact, you
7 happen to call one day when I was in the
8 office and I took your call --

9 MS. JACOBS: And we spoke. But that
10 was well after --

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: No, it was before
12 the 22nd vote we spoke.

13 MS. JACOBS: It was before the 22nd
14 vote. You're absolutely right about that.
15 But it was well after the casino project
16 was made aware in Uniondale.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay.

18 So I just want to be clear on the
19 record. And as I stated on the record on
20 the 22nd and as I stated in that article,
21 this wasn't a decision that I just made
22 without taking a lot of issues into
23 consideration. And while we will disagree
24 with this on this issue, I hope that in
25 service to Nassau County in the future,

1
2 we might be able to agree on certain
3 things and move those things forward.

4 And again, I stand at the ready to
5 hear from you on any of those issues. I'm
6 available, as you can see via phone. And
7 I've met with you before prior to this,
8 and I will continue to meet with you and
9 hear from you. So I just wanted to share
10 that with you on the record.

11 Thank you and have a good day.

12 MS. JACOBS: And thank you very
13 much. And it's not going to be a back and
14 forth, but I do want to make a statement
15 on public record that County Executive
16 Blakeman was invited to Uniondale. He
17 never responded. He never showed up.

18 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I can't speak for
19 County Executive Blakeman.

20 MS. JACOBS: And then also, my
21 question to you, which I had in here in
22 my statement, was why wasn't a community
23 at large meeting held for the residents
24 of Uniondale, the taxpaying residents of
25 Uniondale?

1
2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So we can have
3 that conversation. But quite frankly, Ms.
4 Jacobs, I have to tell you, we were at a
5 disadvantage to an extent that we were
6 getting information almost up to the last
7 minute in the lease. I was not the
8 resident expert to come into the
9 community and have that discussion at the
10 time to which you would have probably
11 liked it. But again, I stand at the ready
12 to continue the conversation. I stand
13 ready to hear from you and whatever
14 method of communication you feel most
15 comfortable interfacing with me.

16 And again, thank you and have a good
17 day.

18 MS. JACOBS: Also, before I leave, I
19 did --

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So we're doing
21 back and forth and I don't want to do
22 that.

23 MS. JACOBS: No, no, no. Not about
24 the casino. It's not about that. I did
25 mention that we can't get our streets

1
2 swept and we really can't get Uniondale
3 Avenue swept. Maybe you can help us out
4 with that.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: That would be the
6 Town. So I will call the Town.

7 MS. JACOBS: Well, it's Uniondale
8 Avenue, which is the County road.

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So I don't
10 represent you directly in this moment. I
11 represent the area that is the Hub. So
12 according to Legislative Abrahams, it's a
13 County -- let me finish. It's a County
14 road and we're going to process a request
15 for the street to be swept.

16 MS. JACOBS: I would appreciate that
17 greatly. Thank you very much.

18 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you. Have a
19 good day.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Chris
21 Jacobs.

22 MR. JACOBS: Hello. Good afternoon.
23 Chris Jacobson, Uniondale, New York.

24 My question is for Legislator Bynoe
25 or Legislator Abrahams, whatever one

1
2 represents Uniondale right now, because
3 I'm confused on that.

4 But I'm here in regards to the
5 Martin Luther King Peace Park that's
6 located at the corner of Nassau Road and
7 Uniondale Avenue. Back in May, I think it
8 got hit or something like that. There was
9 a car crash or something, and for the
10 past month and a half, it's remained in
11 disrepair. The fence is still missing. I
12 go the Southern State every day to
13 commute. Legislator Abrahams, you know
14 about it, because back in 2021, they had
15 the renaming for the Cantanese's there.
16 Whichever one -- I know, Legislator Bynoe
17 just said to my mom that she doesn't
18 represent Uniondale, but I was told that
19 they voted for the redistricting maps.
20 That's when they took into effect. So I'm
21 thinking that she is the representative.
22 But whoever it is.

23 Basically, just want to say that
24 hopefully Nassau County can get to fixing
25 the park as soon as possible because the

1
2 park representing Martin Luther King
3 should not be left in disrepair. And it's
4 an eyesore and it's not reflective of who
5 Martin Luther King was.

6 Thank you.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes. How are
8 you, Chris?

9 MR. JACOBS: Hi, how are you?

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I hear a lot
11 of back and forth, which I'm not sure if
12 it's done with mal intent or maybe it's
13 just, you know, inquisitive thinking.
14 Legislative Bynoe has always been a
15 Legislator for Uniondale.

16 MR. JACOBS: No, I'm not talking
17 about that.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But when you
19 said in your comments, maybe I
20 misinterpreted, "I don't know who's the
21 Legislator for Uniondale, y'all have to
22 figure that out", something to that
23 degree.

24 MR. JACOBS: Yes.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It gives the

1
2 impression that she hasn't been the
3 Legislator for Uniondale. But she has
4 been.

5 MR. JACOBS: You were the legislator
6 for that area until they signed the
7 redistricting.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm the
9 legislator for Uniondale, but I share it
10 with Legislator Bynoe. That has not
11 changed in 10-20 years.

12 MR. JACOBS: No, no, no. Okay.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm just
14 saying, Chris, when phrases are made, "I
15 don't know who represents Uniondale"; we
16 both do. We always have.

17 MR. JACOBS: The redistricting map
18 has you in a whole different area. Are
19 you now or not?

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, no. Maybe
21 you're a little confused on what I'm
22 saying to you. As of today, Legislator
23 Bynoe and I both represent Uniondale.

24 MR. JACOBS: The northern half or
25 the southern half?

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LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Sir.

MR. JACOBS: Go ahead.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Nostrand Gardens, if I understand it, represents all Uniondale. I didn't know it was segmented into certain parts. So Legislator Bynoe and I, we both represent Uniondale as of today. The redistricting map that you're referring to goes into effect in January.

MR. JACOBS: Oh, because I thought it took effect the night that Blakeman signed it.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, it did not.

MR. JACOBS: So you're our representative now?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Again, I'm going to try for the third time. I like you, so I'm going to try again.

MR. JACOBS: I like you, too.

MR. JACOBS: We both represent Uniondale. As of today, this moment, at 2:35 p.m., we both represent Uniondale.

1
2 MR. JACOBS: Okay. So I ask you
3 too. Which one of you, or maybe you
4 could put it together to fix the park? I
5 just need that park fixed. It's an
6 eyesore. The fence is missing.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You can work
8 with my office. We are aware of it
9 already, but obviously give us a call and
10 we can definitely work with your office
11 to ensure that the fence --

12 MR. JACOBS: I just want it fixed. I
13 don't understand. I mean, I'm getting
14 along with you very nicely and I'm not
15 trying to have the same relationship that
16 my mom had with you. I'm speaking very
17 matter of factly. It has a missing fence.
18 It's always desecrated all the time. And
19 once in a blue moon, the Nassau County
20 come and clean it up and things like
21 that. It's just that when I go to the
22 Southern State every day to do my
23 commute, I see the fence missing and I'm
24 like, that's not very indicative. And
25 people always ask me, they say, why does

1
2 your park look like that? So I'm just
3 speaking on behalf of the citizens. So I
4 hope you and Legislator Bynoe will work
5 together or whatever one represents
6 Uniondale. I know both of you do now.
7 Some say the map it's in effect, some say
8 it's not. I was told it took effect.
9 That's why they have all these different
10 elections.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I understand.

12 MR. JACOBS: Just, can you fix the
13 park for me?

14 Thank you so much and have a great
15 day.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You, too, as
17 well. Thank you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Susan
19 Hansen.

20 MS. HANSEN: Are the missing
21 legislators coming back?

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: They
23 will at some point. But you can go ahead
24 with the remarks, please.

25 MS. HANSEN: Well, I'd like to have

1
2 as many here as possible before I begin.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Your
4 time is going to start running, so I
5 would suggest you start now.

6 MS. HANSEN: I don't even think you
7 have a quorum.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Ma'am,
9 your time is running. I would ask you to
10 make your remarks, please.

11 MS. HANSEN: Well, I would ask my
12 time to begin from the beginning.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: It's
14 running, so start.

15 MS. HANSEN: Can you please reset
16 the clock?

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: No.
18 I'll tell you what, I'll give you a
19 little extra time at the end.

20 MS. HANSEN: But it's only going to
21 take three minutes. I've timed myself,
22 but I do want to make a point to say
23 everything that I have on my paper.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Ma'am,
25 would you go ahead and speak and then

1
2 we'll --

3 MS. HANSEN: Okay. Thank you. I am
4 here to bring to your attention an issue
5 which directly impacts Nassau and all
6 counties in the state of New York and,
7 quite frankly, the country. A group known
8 as New York Citizens Audit has obtained
9 voter registration and election data from
10 the New York State Board of Elections via
11 the Freedom of Information Act. They have
12 done extensive analysis on this data and
13 and have uncovered what appears to be
14 very significant and troubling anomalies.
15 Your counterparts in Suffolk County, as
16 well as other New York state, county and
17 town government officials, have been
18 notified. The response has been mixed,
19 but as of today, no meaningful measures
20 have been taken to address concerns.

21 The following statements are my own
22 and are based on my understanding on what
23 has been uncovered. There is one basic,
24 glaring, fundamental and irrefutable
25 problem that would render New York State

1
2 elections uncertifiable. The law requires
3 that one. Let me repeat. One state voter
4 registration record be maintained for a
5 legally registered voter. The reality is
6 that multiple records can and do exist
7 for many voters. This is a violation of
8 election law.

9 It should be noted that a status
10 associated with these records can be
11 active, inactive or purged. That may
12 appear to be a technicality to some and
13 not necessarily a violation of the law.
14 But let me assure you, maintaining
15 multiple records with different statuses
16 is not the same as maintaining one record
17 that is legitimate, particularly when
18 multiple records for the same registered
19 voter can contain voting history that may
20 or may not match; particularly when you
21 cannot verify that only one record was
22 used to count a legitimate vote;
23 particularly when you cannot examine the
24 source code of how the votes were totaled
25 because the code is considered

1
2 proprietary; particularly when voting
3 machines software can be updated just
4 prior to elections that may or may not
5 contain logic changes; particularly when
6 the New York State Board of Elections
7 co-executive director Kristen Zebrowski
8 Stavisky has notified all County board
9 commissioners and directors and, without
10 naming names, directly claimed that the
11 New York citizens audit information is
12 baseless and a distortion of the truth.

13 Without contacting the group
14 directly, I would urge all New York
15 residents and this legislative board in
16 particular having oversight of the County
17 Board of Elections to go to the website,
18 auditny.com and evaluate the findings
19 yourself. And please contact the founder,
20 Marly Hornick, for further details.

21 Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
23 right. Thank you. Meta J. Mereday.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
25 Officer, just as Ms. Mereday approaches,

1
2 I just want to make sure and remind the
3 public that though you may see members of
4 the legislature vacant from their seats,
5 sometimes they get called away to speak
6 to our legal staffs, our financial
7 staffs, there are there speakers in the
8 back caucus rooms where they can hear
9 every single word that is being said on
10 the floor. So they are not missing your
11 comments just because they're not
12 physically present in their seat. It's
13 possible something that's coming up on
14 the Legislative Calendar -- which many
15 times I get pulled away that's something
16 that's coming up on the Calendar where
17 someone needs to speak to me before that
18 item is voted on. So I just want to
19 remind the public that there are speakers
20 in both caucus rooms where your comments,
21 as well as any comments that are being
22 made, are basically publicized there as
23 well, or are they heard there as well.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. MEREDAY: Good afternoon. What

1
2 brings me here on a regular basis because
3 the crowds are not here? I guess the
4 Sands Investment Fund kind of like ran
5 out or they got what they needed from the
6 people, half of which did not live in
7 Nassau County, but purported to support
8 what was going on here. Very
9 disconcerting.

10 But I do want to, as someone said to
11 me before, start out with, you know, the
12 good stuff first. I want to recognize
13 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton. I
14 appreciated the fact that you stood
15 strong with your conviction and your
16 opposition of the casino, which is going
17 to be disastrous to this county and the
18 residents. I appreciate that. I would
19 have been very interested --
20 unfortunately, the Minority Leader had to
21 recuse himself -- to hear his discussion
22 points with regard to the casino. Don't
23 really know how he felt about it overall,
24 but I appreciated what his stance was
25 when it came down to the segregated maps

1
2 that we now have to suffer under. And as
3 Chris Jacobs said earlier, unfortunately,
4 there are residents who are confused
5 about, well, many of them are confused
6 about who represents them now and who
7 will represent them in the future. But I
8 do appreciate what you did try to do,
9 because, unfortunately, it ended up with
10 your own district being realigned and
11 probably not to your advantage.

12 My concerns continue today when we
13 talked about an eight-year-old girl who
14 was walking down Stewart Avenue with a
15 butcher knife. As I'm dealing on a daily
16 basis with the now 44 plus veterans who
17 are killing themselves, I find it
18 interesting that we hear about \$60
19 Million that are going towards fentanyl,
20 but I can't get the County to invest any
21 type of resources possibly to upgrade the
22 services for our veterans and our
23 residents. Many of our veterans are
24 falling victim to fentanyl and other
25 drugs, including alcohol, but

1
2 unfortunately we don't seem to really
3 care that much about that. But then we
4 have a County Executive who's going to
5 use COVID money, I guess, in an attempt
6 to keep it from being clawed back by the
7 Federal Government, who fortunately came
8 to their senses with all a hot mess
9 that's going on in Washington, to have a
10 debt ceiling bill, to now claw back those
11 resources that many of us were promised
12 before this Body, as well as our
13 townships that were being used for our
14 residents, many of whom now who are
15 facing evictions because the moratoriums
16 have been lifted. These evictions are
17 also including our veterans.

18 But our County Executive wants to
19 advertise about Long Island in the red
20 states. Okay, that seems interesting to
21 me since the blue states have the
22 majority of the funding and the gross
23 domestic product. So we're now
24 restricting how we're doing the outreach,
25 but we can't provide the resources to our

1
2 residents.

3 And you said and I'm in closing,
4 Presiding Officer, that if I wanted to
5 make some changes done, maybe I should
6 run for election, and maybe I might just
7 do that as a write in candidate because
8 it won't matter. I won't get elected
9 because there's too much partisanship
10 going on here. Not to mention I don't
11 have the cloud of connections for all the
12 donors and now the Sands money that's
13 being invested. But I think if there is
14 the opportunity to have a blank space and
15 if residents want to put my name in
16 there, what the heck? Why not? We have
17 nothing to lose. If an eight year old can
18 walk along the streets and we still could
19 care less about what's happening with
20 them as well as our veterans, somebody
21 might just have to step up, speak up and
22 represent the true interests of all of
23 our residents, not whether they're red or
24 blue, because right now we're being
25 squeezed at the throat with the green.

1
2 Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Next
4 speaker is David Stern. I don't know if
5 you want to wait until the College Budget
6 is called. It'll just be about ten
7 minutes or so. When we do the College
8 Budget, we'll have the presentation. Then
9 it'll be open to the public and I'll
10 bring you up then. Okay, David?

11 (Whereupon, Mr. Stern
12 indicates he would like to
13 comment now.)

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You
15 want to do it now, that's fine.

16 MR. STERN: Okay. First the NCC
17 Faculty would also like to thank the
18 legislators and their staff for the
19 service that you provide to our county.

20 My name is Dave Stern. I'm a
21 professor teaching physical sciences at
22 Nassau Community College. I'm also the
23 Classroom Vice President of the NCC
24 Federation of Teachers, the union
25 representing the full time faculty.

1
2 While we generally support the
3 Legislature's approval of the NCC budget,
4 we ask that you table proposed ordinance
5 34-2023 until the college addresses the
6 Office of Legislative Budget Review's
7 three year running request and provide a
8 plan to provide enrollment improvement.
9 In absence of a plan from the College
10 Administration, the NCC has proposed an
11 enrollment enhancement investment plan,
12 which we already provided to the
13 legislators. I brought copies here just
14 to make sure you have them (handing).

15 Our plan asks for the County to use
16 less than 2% of the over \$300 million
17 unspent federal COVID DARPA funds to hire
18 66 new faculty in high demand areas such
19 as nursing, healthcare technologies,
20 animation, cyber security, engineering,
21 technology. The plan would start 48 new
22 initiatives. We estimate that the
23 investment will significantly increase
24 student enrollment and, thus, be
25 self-sustaining for future budgets. We

1
2 desperately need the full time faculty
3 that provide the innovation and energy
4 for the core mission of the College, and
5 this will assist the County to attract,
6 retain, grow the countywide population.

7 The budget before you actually
8 reduces the faculty by 4.8% and increases
9 our unassessed administration by 8%. This
10 decade long trend of replacing faculty
11 with administrators has hurt the College
12 and our students. We know that from
13 enrollment.

14 We also ask that you recommend that
15 the College replace the over 40 faculty
16 that are retiring this summer in large
17 part because of the cruel imposition of
18 the paycheck cut. New hires will cost
19 about half of what the retired faculty
20 cost. Many of these replacements are
21 needed just to continue our programs in
22 nursing, allied health, engineering,
23 whose programs as well as their
24 accreditation, are now in jeopardy
25 because of lack of faculty.

1
2 In addition to the request from
3 OLBR, the College's accreditor, the
4 Middle States Commission on Higher Ed
5 requires that the College's budget be
6 based on strategic planning. At this
7 time, the budget as presented is not
8 based on a strategic plan. This puts our
9 accreditation in jeopardy. This marks the
10 second year that the NCCFT has come
11 before the Legislature and has asked for
12 your help to keep NCC viable.

13 We know that each one of you have
14 expressed your support for NCC and we
15 greatly appreciate that. But we need your
16 action today. Please table this item
17 until enrollment management plan is
18 provided by the college. We also ask that
19 you specifically request that the
20 administration work collaboratively with
21 the NCCFT to finalize such a plan. We're
22 willing to do it.

23 We trust that you share our belief
24 that a great county deserves a great
25 community college. And we put our faith

1
2 in your desire to make NCC a success.

3 Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
5 you, Dave. Marie Reimers.

6 MS. REIMERS: Good afternoon,
7 everybody.

8 Miss Delia, I want to thank you from
9 the bottom of my heart for your vote last
10 time. To me. You truly represent your
11 constituent and I can tell you were not
12 bought by the money. You were not. And
13 for that you will go much, much, much
14 further later on because eventually
15 people will judge all of them. Thank you
16 so much. I did appreciate it. I meant to
17 call your office, but I was kind of busy.
18 I do apologize for that. Thanks again.

19 Ms. Bynoe, I am still waiting for
20 your phone call. I call your office, I
21 spoke with your assistant. He reached out
22 back to me. He sent me the editorial you
23 did for Sands. And that's where we were.
24 And I gave him the time that I will be
25 available. And I'm still waiting for your

1
2 call.

3 Well, since I'm here, you said you
4 weighted what happened before you voted.
5 I don't buy it because you could do it
6 like she did. That's one.

7 Number two, one week you put an
8 editorial to say why you voted for Sands.
9 The next week you have another one
10 talking about you guys want to give NYU
11 Langone a hospital at Nassau Community
12 College.

13 Now, how big is Uniondale? How big
14 is Uniondale for you guys to want to put
15 everything there? How is it going to
16 work? How are you going to put a hospital
17 there? We got Nassau Hospital that
18 already have problem. You guys are not
19 putting no fund there to help the
20 hospital that's helping the poor. And now
21 you guys going to hospital here, Casino
22 here in Uniondale. What's going on?
23 What's going on?

24 When people come here, you feel at a
25 loss because you just speaking and people

1
2 are looking at you like you come from a
3 twilight zone. And later on, none of you
4 go to call people back and talk to them.
5 You said you spoke with some groups in
6 Uniondale about the casino, however, when
7 there is election, you guys send the card
8 to every household. So when Sands came,
9 why didn't you guys do that? Because you
10 do know there were things that was doing
11 under the table. That's what it was.

12 Next, Sands now coming like is a
13 savior for Uniondale. However, now
14 they're talking about tax break. I want
15 any one of you whenever you can to let me
16 know how the tax break is going to work
17 for Sands. Because if they're going to
18 get tax break, then the money that
19 they're giving us is going from right to
20 left and nothing will be left. If they
21 come as a savior, a savior, don't look
22 for payback. It doesn't go like this. So
23 if any one of them will have the decency
24 to let me know, how is it that after you
25 give, send the list? That's when they're

1
2 talking about tax break, Then I will
3 appreciate it. I will appreciate it. I
4 want to know where the tax break is going
5 to come from. Where is it going to come
6 from? I thought they come to save us.
7 What's going on?

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
9 Legislator Bynoe.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Hi. Good day,
11 ma'am.

12 MS. REIMERS: Good day.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Good day. So,
14 yes, we did call you back. And you gave
15 us an opportunity to call you back the
16 next day at 1 p.m.. Unfortunately, I was
17 unavailable at 1 p.m., so we offered
18 instead of speaking with me directly that
19 we would send you the editorial, which
20 hadn't even been printed at that point.

21 But to the question regarding taxes,
22 the County currently owns the land, so
23 that is a tax exempt property. So the
24 only way for any entity to come there to
25 pay taxes, it would have to be in the

1
2 form of a PILOT because we're not selling
3 the land. We're entering to long term
4 leases and the long term lease would
5 would allow for entities to build For
6 Profit entities who must pay some form of
7 a tax. So it will have to go through the
8 Nassau County Industrial Development
9 Agency, the IDA, for the purpose of
10 establishing what that tax payment will
11 be.

12 So to that end, I hope that answers
13 the question sufficiently for you. And
14 for clarity, and I know the Minority
15 Leader went through the exercise, I
16 represent north of the of Hempstead
17 Turnpike, not south. When the
18 redistricting occurs or when we run on
19 these maps and are duly elected, then we
20 have an opportunity for me to then go
21 south of Hempstead Turnpike. To this
22 point, I only represent north of this of
23 the area. So I just want to be clear that
24 I accepted invitations from both north
25 and south of Hempstead Turnpike for the

1
2 purpose of discussing the matter. And I
3 spoke directly with many constituents and
4 I attempted to reach you. I could not
5 reach you at 1 p.m. and instead we sent
6 you that document and stated if it wasn't
7 sufficient that you should call us back.

8 But I do appreciate you coming and
9 asking the questions and directing. You
10 directed it to me, so I answered it.
11 Regarding the taxes. The only way that
12 any benefit that would be realized from a
13 For Profit entity coming to that plot of
14 land in Nassau Coliseum, it would have to
15 be by way of a PILOT. And I know we don't
16 like the term PILOT. It's an unpopular
17 term, but, in this case, it would benefit
18 the the communities directly impacted by
19 any development there to have a PILOT
20 because right now it's tax exempt. It
21 pays no tax.

22 Thank you, ma'am.

23 MS. REIMERS: Let me clarify. When I
24 spoke with your assistant, he told me
25 that he was going to send me the

1
2 editorial and what time I will be
3 available to speak with you. I told him 1
4 to 2. That's the time that I went to
5 lunch. That's the last time I heard from
6 him.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: And what I'm
8 going to do, in the interest of moving
9 forward, there appears to be a
10 misunderstanding. For that, I apologize.

11 MS. REIMERS: No problem.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. Thank you.

13 MS. REIMERS: Okay. Tell him to
14 schedule the time for me. I still need to
15 speak with you because here I'm limited
16 to three minutes.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: If you want to
18 speak to me specifically regarding my
19 vote for the for the Coliseum, I will
20 take the call. But if you're calling in
21 reference to any other county-related
22 matter, you need to address it with the
23 legislator who currently represents you,
24 and that is Legislator Kevin Abraham.

25 MS. REIMERS: No, it's about the

vote. It's about the vote. You could
have done the same with Miss Delia did.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. Thank you.

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2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
3 right. That concludes the public comment
4 portion of the meeting. I'm going to put
5 the legislature in recess. We're going to
6 call the Rules Committee now.

7 (Whereupon, Full Legislature
8 recess, 2:57-3:03 p.m.)

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We
10 are reconvening the Full Legislature.

11 First, we need a motion to suspend
12 the Rules. The reason for the suspension
13 of the rules is the appointment of Mr.
14 Troiano was filed less than 17 days prior
15 to the meeting of the Full Legislature.

16 Motion by Deputy Presiding Officer
17 Kopel, seconded by Legislator Schaefer.
18 Any debate or discussion on suspending
19 the Rules?

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 of

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the Full Legislature respond in
favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Carries unanimously.

I'm going to call Calendar number
42, Resolution number 146. This is a
resolution to appoint Marco Troiano to
the Board of Directors of the Nassau
County Local Economic Assistance and
Financing Corporation.

Motion by Deputy Presiding Officer
Kopel, seconded by Legislator Schaefer.

Any debate or discussion?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

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

(Whereupon, all members of
the Full Legislature respond in

favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Carries unanimously.

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2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We're
3 going to do the Consent Calendar now and
4 then to the Community College Budget.

5 Consent Calendar are items that went
6 through Committees a couple of weeks ago.
7 It's been agreed by the Majority and
8 Minority that these items require no
9 further debate or discussion at this
10 time.

11 Item 5, Ordinance 35; Item 6,
12 Ordinance 36; Item 7, Ordinance 37; Item
13 8, Ordinance 38; Item 9, Ordinance 39;
14 Item 10, Ordinance 40; Item 11, Ordinance
15 41; Item 12, Ordinance 42; Item 13,
16 Ordinance 43; Item 14, Resolution 118;
17 Item 15, Resolution 119; Item 16,
18 Resolution 120; Item 17, Resolution 121;
19 Item 18, Resolution 122; Item 20,
20 Resolution 124; Item 21, Resolution 125;
21 Item 22 Resolution 126; Item 23,
22 Resolution 127; Item 24, Resolution 128;
23 Item 25, Resolution 129; Item 27,
24 Resolution 131; Item 28, Resolution 132;
25 Item 30, Resolution 134, Item 31,

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2 Resolution 135; Item 32, Resolution 136;
3 Item 33, Resolution 137; Item 34,
4 Resolution 138; Item 35, Resolution 139,
5 Item 36, Resolution 140; Item 37,
6 Resolution 141; Item 38, Resolution 142;
7 Item 39, Resolution 143; Item 41,
8 Resolution 145; Item 42, Resolution 146.

9 Motion by Minority Leader Abrahams,
10 seconded by Deputy Presiding Officer
11 Kopel.

12 Any debate or discussion?

13 LEGISLATOR MULE: Presiding Officer,
14 I have a question.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Yes.

16 LEGISLATOR MULE: Sorry. You said
17 the last Item was 42. Didn't we already
18 vote on that?

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You're
20 right. Correct. That was Mr. Troiano.

21 LEGISLATOR MULE: So what about 40?

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: 40 is
23 not being called at this time.

24 LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Yes.

1
2 Okay. Thanks for pointing it out. I did
3 not call 29 as there is a legislator who
4 has to recuse himself. So 42 is not
5 being called this time.

6 Any further debate or discussion?

7 (Whereupon, no verbal
8 response.)

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
10 Hearing none. All in favor. Signify by
11 saying, "Aye".

12 (Whereupon, all member of
13 the Full Legislature respond in
14 favor with, "Aye".)

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
16 opposed?

17 (Whereupon, no verbal
18 response.)

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
20 Carries unanimously.

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2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Number
3 2 is a hearing on proposed ordinance
4 number 34, an ordinance to adopt the
5 Nassau County budget for Nassau Community
6 College for the fiscal year commencing
7 September 1, 2023, and ending August 31,
8 2024, and to appropriate revenues and the
9 total amount of moneys to be raised by
10 taxation within the County of Nassau for
11 the purposes of Nassau Community College
12 for such fiscal year.

13 Motion by legislator Drucker,
14 seconded by Legislator Ferretti to open
15 the hearing. All in favor of opening the
16 hearing signify by saying, "Aye".

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

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The
21 hearing is open. I would invite up
22 President of the College for a
23 presentation.

24 DR. CONZATTI: Good afternoon. Dr.
25 Maria Conzatti, acting president of

1
2 Nassau Community College.

3 Thank you all for the privilege of
4 standing before you today to present the
5 College's budget as presented. The
6 College's budget does not require any
7 additional tax increase and does not
8 raise tuition for any of our students. As
9 you can see by today's presentation of
10 many talented students here in the
11 county, we are very privileged to have a
12 number of very bright students. The
13 College stands as an opportunity for all.

14 Last May, I was privileged to take
15 office as the interim president and, as
16 such, we followed three guiding
17 principles throughout the year and that
18 served in the development of the current
19 budget: Student centered education,
20 fiscal health and living community, since
21 we are the local community college.

22 The College has been busy with
23 several priorities, mainly two top
24 priorities. One, our Middle States
25 accreditation. Some years ago, the

1
2 College did have a few issues with the
3 accreditation. It is eight years later.
4 We are due for an accreditation visit in
5 Spring of 2025, and as such, the College
6 is required to submit a plan for its
7 accreditation visit. It is a peer driven
8 visit for Middle States.

9 I'm happy to tell the Legislature
10 that we have had a visit by the vice
11 president for Middle States, our liaison
12 from that Commission. We submitted a
13 self-study design for that report and
14 everything that will be included in it.
15 It has been accepted. They have met with
16 our Board and expect the College to do
17 well in its accreditation visit that is
18 scheduled for Spring of 25.

19 We have also been very busy with
20 strategic planning. Strategic planning at
21 the campus is headed by a 19 member
22 strategic planning committee. It is
23 called the Institutional Planning
24 Committee. On that committee, it is a
25 cross section of faculty, staff, students

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2 and represents all of our unions. It has
3 produced eight plans to date that will
4 run for the next five years. I will note
5 that these are a requirement not only for
6 Middle States, but for SUNY. The College
7 cannot function without strategic plans.

8 The eight plans are: The Academic
9 Master Plan, the Assessment Plan, the
10 Diversity Plan, the Enrollment Plan, the
11 Facilities Plan, the Financial Plan,
12 Institutional Effectiveness Plan, and the
13 Technology Plan. Those plans are all in
14 final draft form. There was a
15 presentation made to the community in May
16 of this year about some of the details
17 that are in those plans. Those plans
18 continue to be in effect and certainly
19 will be updated and posted with the
20 return of the faculty in the fall.

21 Again, we have worked very hard this
22 year to make sure that we are fiscally
23 sound moving forward with our plans. As
24 many of you know, our enrollments are
25 moving in a very positive direction as we

1
2 look to be very comprehensive.

3 Last year, I stood before you saying
4 that we will be adding vocational
5 programming to the College. We are doing
6 that. We did secure funding from the
7 State University of New York to the tune
8 of \$5.4 million to renovate E-Building
9 for that purpose. The first class will be
10 offered in the fall. We are working with
11 the unions for this program so that
12 students can be guaranteed jobs as they
13 graduate from this programming. We're
14 also working with our partners BOCES to
15 make sure there is an education pipeline
16 for all of it.

17 We continue to look forward to
18 continued increases in enrollment as we
19 build back the College and we build back
20 the infrastructure to continue to hire
21 across the board, not only faculty but
22 staff as well that was decimated through
23 many, many cuts during COVID.

24 So we present the budget to you in
25 hopes that it will be approved.

1
2 Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.

4 Thank you very much. You actually
5 anticipated a number of my questions. In
6 terms of enrollment growth, it's
7 projected at 2.5%.

8 DR. CONZATTI: Yes.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Given
10 the enrollment decreases in last several
11 years, is this realistic and what's the
12 plan to accomplish that?

13 DR. CONZATTI: Yeah, it's very
14 realistic. We are currently -- and again,
15 they are projections. We are a few months
16 from fall, but we get closer and closer.
17 Today the data that I received is the
18 College's up 11.2% in enrollment for the
19 fall. Again, do students have an
20 opportunity to withdraw? They certainly
21 do. But I think 2.5 is absolutely doable.

22 Again, we are expanding our
23 offerings. We're also expanding the
24 modalities in which we offer courses. Not
25 only day, night and weekend, which was

1
2 traditional. Now they can take hybrid,
3 fully online, remote, face to face. And
4 I'm happy to say we are back to face to
5 face. And I think a lot of students are
6 responding to that. The trends that we
7 have seen are that students like to do
8 their "business transactions", remotely
9 paying bills online, advisement online,
10 all of that. But for social interactions
11 and instruction, many students are very
12 happy to be back physically on campus.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: What's
14 the average drop off when you compare the
15 number of applications as to what the
16 number that actually enrolls?

17 DR. CONZATTI: We have about a 70%
18 turnaround rate from application to
19 fruition of student attending. I'm sure
20 many of you aware, it's been in the
21 newspaper, that the SUNY system, the
22 State University of New York, is taking a
23 very different tact in enrollments. The
24 SUNY board has been tasked for all 64
25 campuses to come up with an overall

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2 enrollment plan, of course, which we are
3 part of. Every resident of Nassau County
4 High School graduate has been admitted to
5 the College automatically. Again, whether
6 they choose to come to us or not is up to
7 the individual families and decisions.
8 But those letters are out and we are
9 certainly seeing responses to that.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So you
11 feel confident based on the response
12 you've seen thus far in terms of
13 applications that you're going to be able
14 to meet that 2.5%?

15 DR. CONZATTI: Yes, sir.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I'm
17 curious about this. I noticed the
18 advertising for for Nassau Community
19 College is now SUNY Nassau, what's the
20 thinking?

21 DR. CONZATTI: We've always been
22 SUNY Nassau. We are an affiliate unit of
23 the State University of New York. Again,
24 different community colleges do it a
25 different way. Some are called SUNY and

1
2 then the name of the community college.
3 Some use County in their name. Our
4 charter says Nassau Community College,
5 but we do list State University of New
6 York on the bottom, as many residents are
7 unaware that we are subject to SUNY
8 programs, SUNY regulations and that
9 alike. It also makes for easier transfer
10 as well to a SUNY unit, whether that be
11 Farmingdale, Old Westbury or any of the
12 other 34 four year institutions.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So I
14 guess the thinking of including that in
15 your advertising that it may attract more
16 kids or more people.

17 DR. CONZATTI: Absolutely. And
18 again, it's all about transferability of
19 the credits and all of that as well.
20 Although we have specific agreements with
21 many institutions. Certainly the
22 understanding for not only the students,
23 but the families that we are part of the
24 State University of New York, I think is
25 very helpful.

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2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We've
3 noted and the Office of Legislative
4 Budget Review has noted that over the
5 last several years the College has spent
6 down their federal ARPA funds, Rescue Act
7 funds, as well as used the fund balance
8 at times to balance the budget. And we
9 note that I think we're down to 5.6% or
10 we will be with the coming budget. How
11 concerned should we be about the year
12 after that, when those funds are no
13 longer available to use? What's the plan
14 to make sure that there's no shortfall in
15 the out years?

16 DR. CONZATTI: Right. I think
17 enrollments are certainly the key to
18 that. There have been a number of changes
19 as well on the state level. We now have
20 eligibility with part time TAP monies,
21 where students going to school part time
22 will be able to get aid. In addition to,
23 the State is working with -- and again,
24 this is one advantage of being part of
25 the State University of New York system.

1
2 They are working to make sure that for
3 workforce development programs, the
4 College can receive what we call full
5 time equivalent reimbursement. Currently,
6 that becomes an unfunded mandate for any
7 community college, Suffolk, as well as
8 Nassau. The more workforce development
9 programming we offer, unfortunately,
10 there is no calculation on that for
11 reimbursement from the State. They are
12 working, SUNY, with State Ed to see what
13 would be viable as far as including that
14 kind of programming for FTE
15 reimbursement. And that would be
16 tremendous for us as we get into offering
17 vocational programs in order to become
18 more comprehensive.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Just
20 to jump around a little bit, there is a
21 decline in the number of faculty in the
22 budget. In other words, I think through
23 attrition, you're losing a certain
24 amount.

25 DR. CONZATTI: Correct.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: And
3 you're only building back a certain
4 number of that. What's the basis of that?

5 And secondly, there's been a
6 question raised as to whether the number
7 of administrators keep growing. Could
8 you address both points, please?

9 DR. CONZATTI: Of course. Let me
10 address the administrative one first.

11 For the first time this year, there
12 is an administrative union that is new to
13 the College. Once the union contract was
14 solidified and passed, which it now is,
15 that was settled the tail end of this
16 year, I think it was March/April that was
17 finalized. Obviously, we don't want to
18 violate administrative contracts now that
19 they are a unionized shop. So there were
20 certain areas in which faculty were given
21 what we called reassigned time for
22 certain project. That is now being
23 evaluated and a lot of that work is being
24 deemed within the work of the union
25 itself, which has caused us then to hire

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2 administrators where we did not have any
3 because that is deemed administrative
4 work. So that is part of the issue with
5 that now. We are going through those
6 pains currently having a new union on the
7 ground with this that are administrative.
8 Job descriptions are being looked at.
9 They are being tweaked to make sure there
10 are no violations between unions and work
11 is being rerouted based on the potential
12 for grievances and the like.

13 As far as faculty, we are hiring
14 full time faculty and we continue to do
15 so. We will continue to do so -- I have
16 said that publicly -- as we build the
17 enrollments back.

18 As far as retirements, again, we
19 can't control where the retirements are,
20 but we are certainly replacing faculty.
21 And as the enrollments continue to build,
22 we will continue to hire full time
23 faculty.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
25 Thank you very much.

1
2 Legislator Ford.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
4 much for your presentation.

5 I have other questions, but I just
6 want to continue with the hiring and the
7 faculty. I'm happy to hear that you now
8 have an Administration Union and I
9 understand that the need to bring people
10 in. But I think, though, when I look when
11 I with the College and with the
12 professors, when we and trying to entice
13 more students to come to Nassau Community
14 College, I think sometimes by having a
15 vibrant, well-staffed teaching staff
16 would be something that the students
17 would look at and would want to go there.
18 You know, maybe they'd have favorite
19 professors or somebody that they'd like
20 to be in their class. So I'm hoping that
21 you'll take a look at this and maybe take
22 a look at the list of the various
23 positions that even the Union has
24 outlined.

25 For me, though, I'm looking at where

1
2 are you with the Nursing Program? You
3 know, I know that they're looking to
4 bring more instructors in, and I know
5 that has always been a successful
6 program. And considering the fact that
7 we're in need of nurses, that what what
8 are you doing to expand that program?

9 DR. CONZATTI: Yeah. The expansion
10 of that program, we did have a four year
11 option added that was a couple of years
12 ago. That certainly has served us well.
13 And certainly with the news of NYU
14 Langone Building, a flagship hospital
15 there, and some of the synergies between
16 their campus and ours will go a very long
17 way to be able to expand a lot of the
18 program with nursing and the allied
19 health science areas as well as other
20 disciplines.

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: And have you with
22 the whole training facility -- because
23 way back when, I think Rich and Kevan
24 will remember, that you didn't have a
25 nursing program, they needed a new

1
2 science building or whatever. I'm trying
3 to remember way back when.

4 DR. CONZATTI: The Life Sciences
5 Building.

6 LEGISLATOR FORD: Life science.
7 Thank you. And we were able to work with
8 the Legislature and New York State where
9 we matched the funding, I think it was
10 like \$50 Million, where they invested in
11 building this new life sciences; have you
12 been able to keep it updated working with
13 it so that whatever it is now needed for,
14 training, especially in nursing or any
15 other medical?

16 DR. CONZATTI: We have. Our nurses
17 are very highly rated for sure. You'll
18 see them in the hospitals. My mom,
19 certainly, was in the hospital several
20 times during COVID and was taken care of
21 by Nassau Community College nursing
22 graduates. So, yes.

23 LEGISLATOR FORD: All right. Now, my
24 other favorite subject would be the
25 theater.

1
2 DR. CONZATTI: Yes.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: When we went on
4 the tour, I was very interested in it.
5 And I was sad to see the state of
6 basically disrepair. And the fact that
7 you lost much-needed professors that
8 would be able to work with the students.
9 And so many young people, you know, they
10 can find themselves singing, dancing,
11 acting, writing. So where are you with
12 that?

13 DR. CONZATTI: Well, it actually
14 involves all of you in some way.
15 Apparently, there is the old theater that
16 is on the campus. That used to belong to
17 the military base. We have asked that
18 that property be transferred to the
19 college so that we can then use the \$20
20 Million that has been sitting for a very
21 long time to renovate that building so we
22 can have state of the art for our
23 students and also use it in off times for
24 rental, hosting of a lot of dance
25 schools, so forth and so on, as space for

1
2 the community.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: That would be
4 good. And I hope that we will be able to
5 achieve that because I think it would be
6 much needed. And so then the instructions
7 would also be at that theater or would
8 you still maintain --

9 DR. CONZATTI: Yes. No, the theater
10 would be used certainly for set up,
11 classes, everything could be offered in
12 the theater as well as all the
13 productions that they put on, because I
14 agree, the facility that they're
15 currently in is not great.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: I happen to live
17 in Long Beach. Not that I knew Billy
18 Crystal, but it's his hometown.

19 DR. CONZATTI: I don't know him
20 either, but it's nice to have him as an
21 alum, right?

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: And look, he's
23 going to get the Kennedy Center honor. So
24 here you go. One of your alumni. Would
25 be nice, maybe you could even invite him,

1
2 if you're successful, maybe he could do
3 the ribbon cutting for you. That'd be
4 great. I know his brother. I'm sure Mr.
5 Crystal is probably very friendly and
6 open to working with you on that.

7 Also with the library. The rug
8 isn't still there, right?

9 DR. CONZATTI: The rug is still
10 there. But wait. So there is no point in
11 changing carpeting if the roof leaks. So
12 we have engaged in evaluating all 82
13 buildings on campus for an evaluation of
14 the roof. The roofs now have been
15 repaired on the library. We are now
16 looking at the utilization of space so
17 that we can renovate. And while we
18 renovate, the carpet will be ripped up as
19 well as the renovations for use in the
20 library. So it will be done all in one
21 shot. I promise you that the orange
22 carpet will not stay.

23 LEGISLATOR FORD: I hope, before I
24 retire.

25 DR. CONZATTI: It will be before you

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2 retire. It should be this year. We just
3 want to make sure that we're doing the
4 space planning. We have our EOP,
5 Educational Opportunity Program, moving
6 into the library so it's accessible for
7 all. So with those renovations, obviously
8 carpeting, tile, whatever, electrical
9 work, everything will be done all in one
10 shot. But the roof is repaired, so there
11 is there is no point in the carpet
12 staying.

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. Thank you.
14 You know, I do appreciate, you know, the
15 work that you're doing on behalf of the
16 college, which ultimately helps our
17 residents and especially our students.
18 And you've done a great job in my
19 opinion. Thank you for all your answers
20 and always updating us and always being
21 on top of everything. So you're doing a
22 phenomenal job. But I'm also a person
23 who believes that sometimes you also need
24 to hear from the people. Success comes
25 from a lot of times the bottom up. So

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2 when I know that you have a lot of great
3 professors and a lot of people who also
4 work for the College and that this is
5 their life's mission as well. So I hope
6 that you'll listen to many of your
7 professors, whether or not they're full
8 time or part time, and hear what they
9 have to say in regard to the classes and
10 what other options or we can provide to
11 the students to make it a more, I don't
12 know --

13 DR. CONZATTI: Robust.

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: Robust. Thank you
15 very much. College experience. Because I
16 think it's very important and I know a
17 lot of the residents, a lot of the kids
18 in my community do go to Nassau Community
19 College. Two of my children went there.
20 So to me, it is very important. So I hope
21 that everybody can work together to
22 really make it the jewel and keep it the
23 jewel that it was meant to be.

24 But I really thank you for your
25 leadership in all of this. You've done a

1
2 lot.

3 DR. CONZATTI: Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
5 Legislator Walker and then Legislator
6 Drucker, Lafazan and Bynoe.

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Some of my
8 questions were already answered. But
9 could you just explain what you meant
10 when you said that -- I believe you said
11 that the seniors got a letter saying that
12 they're admitted to the College. So that
13 was every high school senior?

14 DR. CONZATTI: Yes, ma'am. Every
15 high school senior got a letter and it
16 was generated by the State University of
17 New York, by the Chancellor's Office,
18 saying that you were automatically
19 admitted to the local community college,
20 and that was done statewide.

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Okay. Is this
22 the first year we're doing that?

23 DR. CONZATTI: Yes. It is brand
24 new. So a couple of little wrinkles in
25 their theory. But yes, where we have very

1
2 highly competitive programs like nursing,
3 they are automatically admitted to the
4 institution. Where there are only a
5 certain number of seats, Allied Health,
6 Science, Nursing, that gets a little
7 dicey for us to automatically admit
8 because there's rotations involved,
9 clinicals involved, and the like. But we
10 are working with the Chancellor's Office
11 on some of the tweaks. All of the
12 community college presidents are because
13 we're all experiencing the same thing.

14 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Obviously, then
15 some students have to be turned down, or
16 say, well, you can come here, but you
17 can't be admitted into that program yet?

18 DR. CONZATTI: We're going to try
19 not to do that, but that is possible
20 where there are rotations, so forth and
21 so on. But for instance, with nursing,
22 the plan with that would be for them to
23 take all their prerequisite courses prior
24 to then going into nursing. Normally,
25 under liberal arts and math science,

1
2 they're put on a track to take courses
3 that they need as prerequisite courses to
4 get into the Nursing Program.

5 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Have you seen
6 like a boost because of this letter that
7 went out?

8 DR. CONZATTI: We have and we're
9 tracking it. We do have to provide data
10 back to SUNY in what that is because
11 they're they have their estimations on
12 what they believe the increase is across
13 the board will be. I will tell you that
14 Nassau Community College has seen an
15 uptick of over 50% in applications. But
16 again, applications are only the first
17 step. So we will be monitoring it all the
18 way through registration because we will
19 have to report that to the State
20 University of New York.

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Okay. I just
22 want to make sure I understand it right.
23 Okay. Thank you.

24 DR. CONZATTI: You're welcome.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Next,

1
2 Legislator Drucker.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you very
4 much, Presiding Officer.

5 Maria, how are you?

6 DR. CONZATTI: I'm doing well, sir.
7 Thank you.

8 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Great
9 presentation. You know, when I was on the
10 board in 2012, we had 22,000 students at
11 that time. And I think then we had a
12 probationary period with Middle States
13 and it was some rocky times and it was a
14 little nerve wracking, but we survived
15 it. And I think you've done a tremendous
16 job in steering the ship in some very
17 rocky waters. And I'm just hopeful that
18 you don't project any difficulties in
19 meeting the Middle States criteria for
20 the inspections next year, do you?

21 DR. CONZATTI: Absolutely not. I was
22 happy to hear we have a plan. The plan is
23 approved. As a matter of fact, as you
24 know, Legislator Drucker, the vice
25 president, liaison to Middle States, met

1
2 with members of our Board and said he is
3 looking forward to a very successful
4 visit in Spring of 25. And I doubt that
5 he would have said that unless he meant
6 it, because that would be very dicey on
7 his end as a representative on behalf of
8 Middle States to have stated that.

9 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Well, as I
10 said, you've managed to steer the ship
11 with some during some rocky waters. And
12 couple that with the fact of a declining
13 enrollment, Nassau County hasn't
14 increased its contribution funding in 15
15 years, it's difficult, but you're doing a
16 pretty good job.

17 I just have one question concerning
18 this new State Policy of giving automatic
19 admission or acceptance to two
20 applicants. Does that skew the
21 projections you have for an increased
22 enrollment in September?

23 DR. CONZATTI: It doesn't because
24 the 2.5 was based on what we were doing
25 prior to that coming down from the State.

1
2 Again, as we're tracking it, we're
3 segregating normal trends and
4 applications versus students that are
5 then saying, I got this letter from the
6 State because they identify it that way,
7 because we have to track it that way. So
8 we're keeping the data very separate. So
9 that 2.5 projection really is not based
10 on us kind of putting all our eggs in one
11 basket with the letter coming from the
12 State University of New York.

13 Again, we have some very talented
14 students here that, as you know, have a
15 plethora of excellent colleges and
16 universities that they can go to.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
18 Maria. Good luck.

19 DR. CONZATTI: Thank you.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
21 Legislator Lafazan.

22 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Thank you,
23 Presiding Officer. Good afternoon.

24 DR. CONZATTI: Good afternoon.
25 Obviously, as an alum of the College and

1
2 a passionate supporter of the College,
3 your success is our success. So we are
4 rooting for you and rooting for the
5 College. I just wanted to know, the
6 strategic plan, that's done?

7 DR. CONZATTI: The strategic plans
8 are done. They are in final form. There
9 was a presentation to the community in
10 May. They'll be posted on the website
11 before the fall returns. There were some
12 discussions and tweaks to the plans that
13 we're waiting for, some data that needed
14 to be added, and we needed the summer
15 data to add.

16 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: So as soon as
17 that's done, we can get a copy?

18 DR. CONZATTI: Of course. Do you
19 want all eight of them?

20 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: I'll take
21 everything you have.

22 DR. CONZATTI: Okay. Yes, there are
23 eight of them.

24 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Thank you.

25 DR. CONZATTI: Of course.

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Legislator Bynoe, did you have questions?

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Just one quick
one. Thank you, Presiding Officer.

Good day. How are you?

DR. CONZATTI: How are you?

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. I just need
some clarity. You said before 11.2%
increase. Was that to enrollment?

DR. CONZATTI: Enrollment, right.
For fall enrollment, we are up 11.2%.
Yes.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. And what do
you attribute that to? I know we talked
about vocation and all those other
things. Do you think there's an external
factor, i.e. the economy, people
reinventing themselves after the
pandemic? I'm just trying to get an idea
of what you attribute that to.

DR. CONZATTI: I think it's all of
that, Legislator Bynoe. I think people
are happy to be back face to face. I
think we're becoming more comprehensive.

1
2 We are moving to changing our marketing.
3 I think a lot of it is the economy and
4 people realizing that you can go to a
5 community college and still transfer to
6 excellent four year institutions.

7 Again, you don't necessarily have to
8 get a degree from us. You could be
9 retraining. We have many teachers in the
10 county that come to us just to take a
11 series of classes is to be retrained. So
12 I think it's a number of items. I don't
13 think it's one thing.

14 We are again looking to become more
15 comprehensive. We are listening to people
16 in the community. We are inviting the
17 community on campus more so that they
18 understand who we are and what we do. So
19 I think there's not one magic bullet per
20 se, on why the enrollments are
21 increasing, but they are, and I'm
22 grateful for that on a number of fronts.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. And so I
24 can't let Josh have the stage by himself.
25 I'm also an alum and I'm actually a

1
2 second generation alum. So I really am
3 interested to just delve just a little
4 bit deeper into this number, if you
5 would.

6 You hit an excellent point about
7 some folks are only coming for continuing
8 education. Because even my mom, after she
9 graduated, came back and did some
10 continuing education credits. Of this
11 11.2% increase, how many of those are
12 individuals who are tracking toward a two
13 year degree versus that Continuing Ed
14 piece.

15 DR. CONZATTI: Yeah, the Continuing
16 Ed is not in that number. Continuing Ed
17 is separately tracked. Those are all
18 degree seeking students. And again, the
19 idea is to get them to completion. That's
20 the idea of Guided Pathways and some of
21 the things that we have underway that
22 when Legislator Lafazan gets all of our
23 enrollment plans and all of these other
24 plans, you'll see terminology called
25 Guided Pathways in there, which is really

1
2 not just to have a student register the
3 first semester, but really get to
4 completion. That's really the key.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So is that number
6 also increased? The number that's
7 separate and apart from the 11.2 --

8 DR. CONZATTI: The Continuing Ed
9 number? I do not know. I can get back to
10 you on that. I have not looked at that.
11 As I said, we're funded on the full time
12 equivalent, which is the students going
13 for those kinds of programs, not for the
14 Continuing Ed workforce, which is
15 something that the State is looking at
16 funding for us.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. Very good.
18 And they're also looking in some way to
19 also fund not just your Continuing Ed, as
20 I understand it, but also the Vocational
21 Or Workforce Development.

22 DR. CONZATTI: Yes, ma'am.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Is there a real
24 difference between workforce development
25 and the vocational, or they're just using

1
2 that term interchangeably?

3 DR. CONZATTI: They use it
4 interchangeably. Again, Continuing Ed
5 does offer courses in very nebulous
6 things for the community. They can offer
7 a course in wine tasting, they can offer
8 a course in how to balance your
9 checkbook. That's traditional Continuing
10 Ed versus workforce where there is a
11 skill set needed. So that's kind of the
12 separation now.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Yeah, I know
14 Continuing Ed is separate. I'm talking
15 about workforce and vocational. Are you
16 separating those or are those lumped
17 together?

18 DR. CONZATTI: Again, we separate
19 them depending if it's a grant driven
20 initiative and it's specifically monies
21 for workforce. It depends on how the
22 entity separates it versus the
23 institution.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. Very good.
25 You've met a lot of your challenges.

1
2 Some of them preceded you, but you've
3 seemed to come in and right size many of
4 those things. You know that in our
5 meeting that spirited discussion and
6 concern about how our professors and
7 educators are being treated there and
8 and, you know, getting to a resolve on
9 the CBA and the challenge as the union
10 president came and said, you know,
11 there's an issue of basically a reduction
12 in their paycheck based on what's
13 happening. Do you see that that's going
14 to in any way prevent you from being able
15 to attract individuals to come to the
16 college and accept some of these open
17 positions based on the amount of of of
18 funding that you've set aside? I mean,
19 because you should be, I guess, in the
20 throes of trying to backfill those
21 positions as we speak.

22 DR. CONZATTI: And we are. We are
23 advertising the positions they are
24 posted. Some of those positions have
25 already closed. There are a number of

1
2 applicants for positions that we are
3 hiring. So to date, we don't see any
4 hesitation in that. That could be because
5 of a lot of individuals. And again, we
6 have very highly skilled faculty. A lot
7 of them come from industry. In industry
8 they are used to very much paying into
9 health insurance. How much that is, I
10 don't know. As far as settling that, it
11 is my sincere hope. We are in mediation
12 now. There was a mediation session a few
13 weeks ago, there is another mediation
14 session tomorrow, and another one in July
15 that before the Fall semester starts that
16 this will be settled.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: All right. I know
18 it's obvious it's important to your
19 faculty, but it's also important to me
20 and I'm sure everyone who's sitting up
21 here to make sure that there's some
22 equitable and expedient resolution to
23 this matter. Because the challenge, I
24 think it'll be even easier for you to be
25 able to recruit not just bodies to come

1
2 and backfill those positions, but really
3 highly skilled individuals who can come
4 and continue the quality of education
5 that I received and Josh received and
6 others at Nassau Community College. So I
7 wish you the best and the union president
8 as well in that endeavor.

9 DR. CONZATTI: Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
11 Legislatoe Pilip and then Legislator
12 Mulé.

13 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Thank you,
14 Presiding Officer.

15 Maria, great presentation. I'm very
16 happy you are checking out different
17 options on how to bring more students to
18 the college. That's amazing.

19 I was wondering, the college is
20 offering Medical Assistance Program right
21 now or no?

22 DR. CONZATTI: Yes, we do. We have a
23 Medical Assistant Program. We have two
24 tracks for that. One specific for
25 Northwell for their employees and one for

1
2 the general population that would be
3 interested in medical assistant.

4 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Perfect, because
5 that can lead to nursing down the line
6 and there is a big need for that. So
7 thank you.

8 DR. CONZATTI: Yes. Absolutely.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
10 Legislator Mule.

11 LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you,
12 Presiding officer. Hi, Maria. I just
13 have one question which came out of the
14 conversation. So now that every high
15 school student gets this letter giving
16 them admittance, why is there a need to
17 apply any more? To the college.

18 DR. CONZATTI: Because we need all
19 of their vital information, right? The
20 application process, then they get a
21 letter saying you will be automatically
22 admitted. But obviously we need them to
23 fill out the application form so that we
24 know what program they're interested in.
25 The letter that goes out is very generic,

1
2 saying you're admitted to the college.
3 Okay, so the student then has to fill out
4 the application form so that we know what
5 program they're interested in. Obviously,
6 we want to encourage them to fill out a
7 FAFSA form for financial aid and so forth
8 and so on. So the College's normal
9 business processes take over. The letter
10 just indicates you've been automatically
11 accepted. This is a new effort by the
12 State University of New York, and please
13 to contact your local community college.

14 LEGISLATOR MULE: That leads to
15 another question. In college, my girls
16 went through the whole process, and I
17 know that there was a whole committee for
18 reviewing applications and offering
19 admittance or not. And so does that mean
20 you no longer need that branch of the of
21 the college?

22 DR. CONZATTI: We definitely need an
23 Admissions Office. No, we don't function
24 by Committee. We're open enrollment. So
25 we admit all students. The question is,

1
2 do they meet the minimum requirements for
3 certain degree programs? If not, they may
4 be accepted into a liberal arts area
5 similar to nursing students who don't
6 meet the qualifications to go directly
7 into nursing. They may be taking
8 prerequisite courses and so forth and so
9 on.

10 LEGISLATOR MULE: Okay. Thank you.

11 DR. CONZATTI: You're welcome.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

13 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So just
15 for for our clarification, there is a
16 difference between those that are
17 admitted and those that are registered.

18 DR. CONZATTI: Correct.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: And
20 when you're talking about your increase
21 in number, those are the ones that are
22 registered?

23 DR. CONZATTI: Yes, ma'am.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So they
25 went past the point of receiving that

1
2 letter, contacted you, and signed up.

3 DR. CONZATTI: Correct. Filling out
4 the form, sending in all of their records
5 and all that went to the final step of
6 registering for classes.

7 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Okay.
8 Just because I have a minute, I want to
9 just say I'm still hopeful that the ARPA
10 Funding can be examined to see as to
11 whether or not once your negotiations are
12 over, every indication that we've had,
13 this funding would be available to fill
14 in the gap of the expense of the health
15 insurance for your faculty. So even if we
16 wait till after your new terms are agreed
17 upon and your new contract is signed,
18 this should really be explored. And I
19 think it has to come from you to request
20 the ARPA funding from this
21 Administration, at least 1.5-1.6 to do in
22 retroactive pay to your professors that,
23 in my opinion, have been stuck in the
24 middle of this negotiation to a point
25 where, honestly, I don't think it's fair

1
2 to them. And I think it's been life
3 changing to many of them. And although we
4 really support the College, this is the
5 one aspect that's really bothering us.
6 And it can be -- right now, we just
7 happen to be at a time where this money
8 is available. So you have to explore it.
9 I hope that you could give us give us
10 your word that you will at least explore
11 that option.

12 DR. CONZATTI: I will promise you
13 that I will engage county constituents in
14 the discussion of ARPA funds and the use
15 thereof.

16 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Okay.
17 For reimbursing the employees that had to
18 pay out of pocket for their health
19 expenses during this time, correct?

20 DR. CONZATTI: Yes. Happy to have
21 that conversation.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Maria,
23 did the College receive its own Rescue
24 Act funds, ARPA funds, directly?

25 DR. CONZATTI: Yes.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: How
3 much was that?

4 DR. CONZATTI: I don't know.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I can
6 give you the number: \$72 million.

7 DR. CONZATTI: Thank you. We called
8 it HEERF. Yeah.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So you
10 received you already received \$72 million
11 directly. Okay.

12 Legislator Walker.

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Just one other
14 question. Students have received this
15 letter and they can go through the
16 process.

17 DR. CONZATTI: Yes.

18 LEGISLATOR WALKER: You still have
19 programs for, say, a student who
20 academically fell a little short and they
21 needed extra help in certain areas and
22 whatever. You still have all those
23 programs to get the students on track
24 where perhaps they can start right away
25 in some classes, but other classes, they

1
2 need some remedial work or whatever.

3 DR. CONZATTI: Yes.

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: When I was
5 working in the school districts, I would
6 I would stress on the kids all the time.
7 I said, you know, you go to Nassau
8 Community College, you can get a great
9 education and you can go on to get
10 scholarships at four year schools. And,
11 you know, you don't have the large debt
12 that you have if you went sometimes to
13 that four year program right away. I
14 think we need to to work with all of our
15 school districts. And sometimes I think
16 they don't push it as much as they could
17 either. But a lot of our students can
18 take advantage of that and do well and
19 move on to bigger and better things. I
20 would just love to see us get back on
21 track with all of that, get our
22 enrollment up and really do things.

23 But your presentation has been
24 wonderful, and I can't thank you enough
25 for all you're trying to do to help the

1
2 College and to help our students.

3 DR. CONZATTI: Thank you.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Presiding
5 Officer, if I could?

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
7 Legislator Bynoe.

8 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So it's actually
9 directed not to you. You're off the hot
10 seat for a second.

11 It's just what I wanted to state is
12 that I agree with you, community colleges
13 received direct ARPA funds. But our
14 research indicated that aside from the
15 direct funding received by the College
16 from the federal government, also there
17 were there were times when the local
18 municipality served to provide additional
19 funding. Because in many of those cases,
20 those community colleges were already
21 under duress prior to COVID. And I think
22 given the fact that we know this
23 community college has been under that
24 level of duress prior to COVID, it
25 warrants the further exploration as to

1
2 whether we can and should be funding them
3 additionally. So I just wanted to make
4 that point on the record.

5 Thank you.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Point
7 made.

8 Anyone else have questions for Dr.
9 Conzatti?

10 (Whereupon, no verbal
11 response.)

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
13 you, Maria. Appreciate it.

14 Next would be a presentation by
15 Maurice Chalmers from the Office of
16 Legislative Legislative Budget Review.

17 MR. CHALMERS: Hello, everybody.
18 Maurice Chalmers, budget review.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
20 right. Why don't you give a summary of
21 your report, please.

22 MR. CHALMERS: So basically, I
23 reiterate a lot of the questions that Dr.
24 Maria just spoke about. So this budget
25 that is being proposed by the College is

1
2 a no tuition increase, no property tax
3 increase. One of the major hurdles that
4 the College has been having has to do
5 with enrollment. Enrollment has decreased
6 approximately 16.9% from in the years
7 20/21, 10.5% in 21/22, and for 22/23, the
8 projection is a -2.9.

9 The budget that is being proposed is
10 is increasing enrollment by 2.5%. And I
11 guess you just heard the explanations on
12 how they are going to achieve it.
13 Apparently, they are already seeing the
14 increase and they have seen close to an
15 11% increase, which makes the 2.5
16 achievable. We will be monitoring it and
17 reporting back to the Legislature as the
18 year progresses.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
20 Anything else?

21 MR. CHALMERS: No. The fund balance
22 is the other issue. Not really an issue.
23 That is the other area that we kind of
24 flagged. They are using approximately
25 15.6 million in fund balance, which would

1
2 leave the College with approximately 10.4
3 million, which is still threshold
4 compliant, but it's getting closer to the
5 4%.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
7 So I think the 10.4 would bring it down
8 to about 5.6.

9 MR. CHALMERS: Correct; that is
10 correct.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So
12 it's getting closer to the minimum
13 threshold?

14 MR. CHALMERS: Yes. It's still
15 threshold compliant, but it's getting
16 closer to the 4%.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Do you
18 know what the other community colleges
19 are doing this year in terms of tuition
20 increases?

21 MR. CHALMERS: Yes. The current
22 tuition for the year is \$5,800. It is
23 staying the same. Nassau Community
24 College is not increasing the rate.

25 Suffolk, right now, the tuition is

1
2 \$5,470, going up to \$5,640, which is \$170
3 more. It would still be cheaper than
4 Nassau by \$160. So it's right there.

5 Westchester, the current tuition is
6 \$4,730. They are going up to \$5,204,
7 which is an increase of \$474.

8 So both Suffolk and Westchester are
9 increasing their tuition, which is
10 getting them closer to where Nassau is
11 right now.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
13 And when you say closer, we're not
14 talking about a large gap.

15 MR. CHALMERS: No, the gap is very
16 small. The gap will be \$160 a year from
17 Suffolk to Nassau and from Westchester to
18 Nassau, it will be about \$600 for the
19 year.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: In
21 terms of how much Suffolk gives to their
22 community college, how does that equate
23 to what Nassau gives?

24 MR. CHALMERS: Nassau gives about
25 52.2 million. I believe Suffolk is close

1
2 to 50, but I would have to verify how
3 much Suffolk and I don't have those
4 numbers right now.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any
6 legislators have any questions for
7 Maurice?

8 (Whereupon, no verbal
9 response.)

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We have
11 one slip of public comment. Dave Stern
12 would like to come up. And then whoever
13 else would like to speak may do also.

14 MR. STERN: Okay. As you know, in my
15 comment earlier, I asked that you table
16 the Resolution until you get a plan,
17 strategic plan. And I think it's very
18 important for the Legislature and each of
19 you to base your vote on accurate
20 information.

21 So my question -- I actually am a
22 member of the College's Institutional
23 Planning Committee. I was appointed just
24 a couple of months ago. They don't have a
25 plan. I'm not sure what Acting President

1
2 Canzatti was talking about. The plan that
3 existed was under President Keen and his
4 Vice President Collins put together a
5 plan to cover the years 2017-21. We went
6 three years without any update to that
7 plan. And so this year, they went back
8 and sort of filled in the gaps for '22.
9 That's not planning. That's kind of like
10 trying to fix it for Middle States.

11 Now, the current plan that's
12 supposed to be in place is supposed to be
13 for 23-28. That plan was supposed to be
14 in a draft form last month. And when it
15 came time for the draft documents to be
16 presented by many of them who were
17 administrators that were responsible for
18 those draft plans, those plans were not
19 available. So only one plan was available
20 in very draft form and it was missing a
21 lot of pieces. So right now, as we stand,
22 we do not have a strategic plan. That's
23 something Middle States requires.

24 Now, when they come and do a review
25 of how you're going to review yourself,

1
2 that's not the same as what the details
3 are. And I think it's very important,
4 because how do you actually budget for
5 the College without having a plan?

6 And I just want to give an example.
7 I also heard that and by the way, I thank
8 all of you legislators that did ask
9 questions, many of them very important
10 questions to ask. However, I question the
11 accuracy of some of the responses you got
12 back. For instance, we have over 40
13 faculty that are retiring because of that
14 pay cut in part. It was announced that
15 only 12 will be replaced. Okay. That's
16 like a quarter of the amount of current
17 faculty. Now, what's the problem right
18 now? Our Engineering Department, they're
19 going to lose their ABET accreditation
20 because they don't have enough full time
21 faculty running the Engineering Program.
22 That's right now, without replacing
23 faculty. Really, we should be replacing
24 all 40 faculty. And that's sort of what I
25 heard in a response. And you know what?

1
2 If we got that wrong, the 12 lines, if we
3 hear that President Canzatti will replace
4 more than 40 lines that are retiring,
5 we'd be more than happy. But I think that
6 you're entitled to have accurate
7 information.

8 Our nursing staff. I know there are
9 questions about nursing. Our nursing
10 staff, half of the nursing full time
11 faculty staff is retiring and leaving.
12 Half. That's for our daytime program. We
13 really don't have a nighttime program
14 because of other contractual issues. Now,
15 we could easily double our enrollment and
16 that would help the County greatly,
17 double our nursing enrollment if we
18 doubled the number of nursing faculty.
19 But instead, they're not even going to
20 replace all five/six faculty in the
21 nursing staff that are retiring.

22 So I think a lot of this is detail,
23 and I didn't want to get into the detail
24 with you because I know you're busy
25 people. But that's what a strategic plan

1
2 is for. And I really ask you to ask the
3 College if they, in fact, have a
4 strategic plan that they produce it and
5 let the faculty see it, too. We just see
6 an old plan and we see one of those seven
7 reports, Acting President Canzatti
8 mentioned. We only saw one in very draft
9 form. It was missing a whole piece
10 dealing with academics, which is our core
11 thing.

12 So please, I ask that you just table
13 it shortly. We still have the summer
14 before the budget needs to be passed to
15 ask for these details. They're really
16 important for the College. Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.

18 Thank you. This is a public comment
19 on this proposed budget. Anyone else?

20 (Whereupon, no verbal
21 response.)

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: If
23 not, I would ask for a motion to close
24 the hearing. Legislator Walker makes a
25 motion, seconded by Legislator Ford.

1
2 All in favor of closing the hearing,
3 signify by saying, "Aye".

4 (Whereupon, all members of
5 the Full Legislature respond in
6 favor with, "Aye".)

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
8 opposed?

9 (Whereupon, no verbal
10 response.)

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
12 Hearing is closed.

13 We are going to take a very short
14 break.

15 (Whereupon, recess,
16 3:57-4:18 p.m.)

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We're
18 coming out of recess. I'm going to
19 recognize Minority Leader Abrahams.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
21 Presiding Officer.

22 I do want to invite Madam President
23 back up. I just have a quick question as
24 it pertains to -- there was a question
25 that was that was brought up by Mr.

1
2 Stern. And I just want to make sure
3 before we move forward, any particular
4 budget today, that we have a full
5 understanding of how the staff that's
6 leaving versus how the staff is being
7 backfilled and whether or not as the
8 staff that is leaving, is it jeopardizing
9 any programs, including the nursing or
10 engineering program that has been
11 specified?

12 DR. CONZATTI: Okay. So there is no
13 accreditation, I assure you, being
14 jeopardized.

15 As a matter of fact, let's use
16 nursing as an example. So and again,
17 Chief Academic Officer is here, Dr.
18 Alvarez Ortiz. The recommendations for
19 replacements of lines are made. The
20 department chairs request lines with
21 justification. There's discussion with
22 the Academic Dean, then the Vice
23 President for Academic Affairs that's
24 then brought to Cabinet as a
25 recommendation for line replacement. So

1
2 let's take a program such as nursing.
3 There were six retirements, four were
4 replaced. Four were replaced again, as
5 we're conscious of the budget, okay. If
6 we expand programs, we will certainly
7 hire faculty as we're expanding programs.
8 But we also take into consideration that
9 the six faculty that are retiring have
10 also requested to teach adjunct and
11 continue teaching for us on a part time
12 basis.

13 So the question of course,
14 budgetarily is, is are there enough
15 courses then that are running or that
16 will need to run not only with the
17 current pool of part time adjuncts that
18 are teaching, but to also give the
19 opportunity for those that are retiring,
20 that wish to continue to teach with us to
21 teach? The answer to that was yes, which
22 is why it was four out of six lines
23 instead of all six.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I understand.

25 DR. CONZATTI: Does that make sense?

1
2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes. It does.

3 DR. CONZATTI: And again, as we
4 continue to increase enrollments, I
5 assure you we will continue to hire full
6 time faculty. As far as engineering, we
7 did look at that closely. That was a
8 discussion point. We had one faculty
9 member retire. There were three current
10 engineers in the Program. Then we had
11 another faculty member, unfortunately
12 pass away unexpectedly. We have replaced
13 that line.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Got it.

15 DR. CONZATTI: So that puts four
16 full time engineers in the department.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. Well,
18 thank you. I appreciate that. I have
19 nothing further.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
21 you. Any other legislators?

22 Legislators Giuffre.

23 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Acting
24 President, I just wanted to thank you. I
25 didn't get a chance before, but I wanted

1
2 to thank you for the presentation and for
3 what you presented to us and our
4 individual caucuses. And just for the
5 work that you're doing to keep the
6 college going through a very difficult
7 time. You came out of the pandemic. And I
8 know you and I see Jerry Kornbluth back
9 there. Everybody worked very hard, and
10 so I wanted to recognize that. Thank
11 you.

12 DR. CONZATTI: Thank you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.

14 All right. Item's before us. All in
15 favor signify by saying, "Aye"?

16 (Whereupon, all members of
17 the Full Legislature respond in
18 favor with, "Aye".)

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
20 opposed?

21 (Whereupon, no verbal
22 response.)

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
24 Carries unanimously. Thank you very much.

25 *****

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Next
3 Item 1. A hearing on a proposed local
4 law. It's a Local Law to Create an
5 Operating Reserve Fund.

6 Moved by Legislator Abrahams,
7 seconded by Legislator Giangregorio. That
8 is a motion to open a hearing.

9 All in favor of opening a hearing
10 signify by saying, "Aye".

11 (Whereupon, all members of
12 the Full Legislature respond in
13 favor with, "Aye".)

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
15 opposed?

16 (Whereupon, no verbal
17 response.)

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Passes
19 unanimously. The hearing is open.

20 MR. PERSICH: Good afternoon. Andy
21 Persich, Office of Management and Budget.
22 This is an item that we've proposed when
23 we did the year-end close. This is just
24 correcting the errors that we made in the
25 original Item, and this is just

1
2 establishing a general reserve that we
3 coordinated through the Comptroller's
4 Office with our Bond Counsel and through
5 the County Attorney's Office. And we're
6 going to be moving some of the surplus
7 dollars into this reserve for labor, for
8 health insurance, for other insurance
9 reserve and a couple other things. So
10 it's approximately \$55 Million that will
11 be going in there.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: It
13 gives the County more flexibility in
14 terms of those monies as opposed to
15 whether we just let it fall into a one of
16 the other buckets, so to speak.

17 MR. PERSICH: What it does, it could
18 fall into fund balance, but this makes it
19 a little bit more restrictive so we know
20 where the money's being directed. So this
21 is, I would say, a better process instead
22 of just dropping it into fund balances,
23 going into a into a reserve.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
25 Any questions for Andy?

Legislator DeRigg-Whitton.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Hi, Andy. Just procedure wise, should you come to a point where you need some of that money to pay for insurance, does that come to the Legislature as a budget transfer?

MR. PERSICH: It will come as a supplemental appropriation. I would have to come to you and say, I want to take the money out of the reserve and use it and have to appropriate it that way. I would have to come before this Body and ask you permission to spend the money on certain things.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Thank you.

MR. PERSICH: Yeah.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank you. Any other questions?

(Whereupon, no verbal response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Motion to close the hearing, Legislator Walker,

seconded by Legislator Schaefer.

All in favor of closing the hearing,
signify by saying, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all member of
the Full Legislature respond in
favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The
hearing is closed.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We go
3 to Item 3. A local law to create an
4 operating reserve fund. Moved by
5 Legislator Giangregorio, seconded by
6 Legislator Abrahams.

7 Any further debate or discussion
8 among the legislators?

9 (Whereupon, no verbal
10 response.)

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I
12 neglected to call public comment before
13 the hearing, so I'm going to call it now.
14 Any public comment?

15 (Whereupon, no verbal
16 response.)

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
18 Hearing none. All in favor, signify by
19 saying, "Aye".

20 (Whereupon, all member of
21 the Full Legislature respond in
22 favor with, "Aye".)

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
24 opposed?

25 (Whereupon, no verbal

response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

Carries unanimously.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We're moving on to Item 19. Legislator McKevitt will be recusing himself.

(Whereupon, Legislator McKevitt leaves the Chambers.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: He is leaving the Chambers, not participating in any debate or vote on this item.

Resolution 123, a Resolution authorizing the County Attorney to compromise and settle the claims of plaintiff as set forth in the action entitled SRL Realty, LLC versus County of Nassau.

Moved by Legislator Lafazan, seconded by Legislator Giuffre. Any debate or discussion?

(Whereupon, no verbal response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any public comment?

(Whereupon, no verbal response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All in

favor, signify by saying, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all member of
the Full Legislature **present**
respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Passes
by a vote of 18-0.

Invite Legislator McKevitt back in.

(Whereupon, Legislator
McKevitt returns to Chambers.)

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Next
3 one is 26. This one Legislator
4 Giangregorio, is going to be recusing
5 himself. Again, he will be leaving he
6 Chamber and will not be participating in
7 the debate or vote.

8 (Whereupon, Legislator
9 Giangregorio leaves the
10 Chambers.)

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
12 Resolution 130, a Resolution authorizing
13 the County Executive to execute a grant
14 agreement between the County of Nassau,
15 acting on behalf of the Parks Department
16 and Mid-Island Y Jewish Community Center.

17 Moved by Legislator Drucker,
18 seconded by Legislator Kennedy.

19 You look like you want to come up to
20 speak about this. Go ahead.

21 COMMISSIONER BELYEA: I wasn't sure
22 if there was more I needed to present.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: No, I
24 think it was just a matter of the
25 legislator recusing.

1
2 COMMISSIONER BELYEA: Sorry. Thank
3 you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
5 Any debate or discussion?

6 (Whereupon, no verbal
7 response.)

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
9 Hearing none. All in favor, signify by
10 saying, "Aye".

11 (Whereupon, all member of
12 the Full Legislature **present**
13 respond in favor with, "Aye".)

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
15 opposed?

16 (Whereupon, no verbal
17 response.)

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
19 Carries unanimously. Again, it's a vote
20 of 18-0. Invite Michael back in.

21 (Whereupon, Legislator
22 Giangregorio returns to
23 Chambers.)

24
25 *****

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Item
3 29, Legislator Bynoe is going to be
4 recusing herself.

5 (Whereupon, Legislator Bynoe
6 leaves the Chambers.)

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
8 Resolution 133. Legislator Bynoe has left
9 the Chambers and will not be
10 participating in any debate or vote.

11 This is a resolution authorizing the
12 county executive to execute an
13 intermunicipal agreement with the City of
14 Long Beach in relation to the purchase of
15 a Zamboni.

16 Legislator Ford moves, seconded by
17 Legislator Gaylor. Any debate or
18 discussion?

19 (Whereupon, no verbal
20 response.)

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

24 (Whereupon, all member of
25 the Full Legislature **present**

respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Carries unanimously by a vote of 18-0.
Again, ask Legislator Bynoe to come back
in.

(Whereupon, Legislator Bynoe
returns to Chambers.)

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We
3 have two emergencies. I'll call the
4 emergencies. They are 210 and 211 of '23.
5 These are Resolutions authorizing the
6 County Executive to execute grant
7 agreements between the County acting on
8 behalf of the Parks Department and both
9 the Levittown Public Library and the Long
10 Island Arts Council at Freeport.

11 So we need a motion to establish the
12 emergency move by Legislator Mulé,
13 seconded by Legislator Ferretti. All in
14 favor of establishing the emergency.
15 Signify by saying, "Aye".

16 (Whereupon, all members of
17 the Full Legislature respond in
18 favor with, "Aye".)

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The
20 emergency is established. Now, I'll call
21 the items: 210 and 211. These are
22 Resolutions authorizing the County
23 Executive to execute grant agreements
24 between the County and the Levittown
25 Public Library and Long Island Arts

Council at Freeport.

Motion by Legislator Ferretti,
seconded by Legislator Mule.

Any further debate or discussion?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

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

(Whereupon, all member of
the Full Legislature respond in
favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
Carries unanimously.

We need a motion to adjourn the
Legislature. Legislator Giuffre makes
that motion, seconded by Legislator
Solages makes the second.

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

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

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We are
adjourned.

(Whereupon, Full Legislature is
adjourned, 4:18 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)

: SS.:

County of Nassau)

I, KAREN LORENZO, a Notary Public
for and within the State of New York, do
hereby certify:

That the above is a correct
transcription of my stenographic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 26th day of June, 2023.

Karen Lorenzo

Karen Lorenzo

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