

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING

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RICHARD NICOLELLO, PRESIDING OFFICER

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

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Monday, September 18, 2023

1:17 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

Presiding Officer

9TH Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

Deputy Presiding Officer

7th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

Alternate Presiding Officer

4th Legislative District

\*\*\*

LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS

Minority Leader

1st Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

2nd Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES

3rd Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

5th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR, III

6th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR JOHN J. GIUFFRE

8th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP

10th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

11th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

12th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT

13th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

14th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

15th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR ARNOLD W. DRUCKER

16th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

17th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

18th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR MICHAEL GIANGREGORIO

19th Legislative District

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MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

ALSO APPEARED:

**TOP COPS**

Detective Gary Butt

Detective Sean Slowski

\*\*\*\*

Police Officer Gary Butt

Police Officer Kyle Fagan

**Public comment:**

Theresa Michelini

Rev. Canon Marie Tatro

Pearl Jacobs

Meta J. Mereday

Richard Clolery

Otto Schroeder

Susan Gottehrer

Daniel Daly

Tori Cohen

Susan Hansen

Patrick Wynne

Cheryl Keshner

Eva Broslic

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Colleen Riebl  
Brian Flacks  
Susan Naftol  
LilyAnn Fisherman  
Jackie O'Loughlin  
Renee Campanile  
Anna Maria Redmond  
Cathleen D'Angelo  
Thomas Bergman  
Susan Cneu  
David Gery  
Vivian Sasson

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to call this meeting of the Nassau County Legislature to order and ask Legislator Michael Giangregorio 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.

Roll call. 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: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.  
Legislator John Giuffre?

LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Mazi  
Pilip?

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Delia  
DeRiggi-Whitton?

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James  
Kennedy?

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.  
Legislator Thomas McKevitt?

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura  
Schaefer?



LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

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.

We are going to start out meeting as  
we always do with the Top Cop  
presentations. And first off, we have the  
president of the Nassau County PBA,  
Thomas Shevlin.

MR. SHEVLIN: Good afternoon,  
everybody. Thank you once again for  
having us and honoring great police work  
that our men and women do every day and  
night when they risk their lives for our  
communities.

On May 4th, 2023, Police Officers  
Conley and Fagan of the Criminal  
Intelligence Rapid Response Team were on  
patrol in the Second Precinct. They heard  
a broadcast for an auto accident with  
injury. Second Precinct officers at the  
scene of the auto accident advised two  
victims of the accident tragically  
succumbed to their injuries. At this  
time, I would like to take a moment of  
silence and remember Drew Hassenbein and

1  
2 Ethan Falkowitz, who tragically lost  
3 their lives; two 14-year-old-boys.  
4 Please, let's have a moment of silence  
5 for them and keep their families and  
6 their communities and our thoughts and  
7 prayers.

8 (Whereupon, a moment of  
9 silence is observed by all.)

10 MR. SHEVLIN: Thank you.

11 Officers Conley and Fagan  
12 immediately began canvassing for the  
13 subject, who fled on foot. While  
14 canvassing, they observed the male in the  
15 rear parking lot of a closed building.  
16 This male was in close proximity to the  
17 accident. As they approached him, they  
18 noticed that he had a cut on his forehead  
19 and blood on his shirt. A witness to the  
20 accident was brought to the parking lot  
21 and positively identified the male as a  
22 driver who left the scene of the  
23 accident. Officers performed field  
24 sobriety tests and administered a PBT  
25 with positive results. The subject was

1  
2 placed under arrest and transported to  
3 the hospital for treatment for his  
4 injuries. He was charged with numerous  
5 felonies, including aggravated vehicular  
6 homicide.

7 Due to the officers' quick response  
8 and dedication, they were able to take  
9 this dangerous person off the street and  
10 bring him to justice. When we went to  
11 court, we found out that this was not his  
12 first DWI arrest.

13 Another thing I want to bring up, I  
14 want us all to keep all the police  
15 officers who responded to this scene,  
16 keep them in your thoughts and prayers  
17 because they had to witness this horrific  
18 scene. Things that we will never get out  
19 of our minds. Our police medics also do a  
20 phenomenal job. Let's not forget all of  
21 those police officers.

22 These two are heroes for their great  
23 work and dedication. But let's not forget  
24 everybody. We're a team and we work  
25 together.

1  
2 For all these reasons, the Nassau  
3 County PBA is proud to announce police  
4 officers Kevin Conley and Kyle Fagan as  
5 Legislative Top Cops for September 2023.

6 (Whereupon, applause.)

7 OFFICER FAGAN: Me and Officer Conley  
8 would like to thank all members of the  
9 Legislature as well as First Deputy  
10 Commissioner Smith, Chief Palmer and all  
11 members of the PBA. Thank you for this  
12 award and your continued support of us.

13 (Whereupon, applause.)

14 FIRST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SMITH:  
15 Thank you for having us here today.

16 I just want to say, you know, our  
17 streets are not a speedway. They're not a  
18 video game. We're constantly pulling over  
19 and sanctioning people. Driving poorly or  
20 reckless is not a privilege. These two  
21 officers did a good job. You pay us to be  
22 suspicious and relentless when we're  
23 investigating crimes, and that's just  
24 what these officers did. We're very  
25 proud of them. We thank you for this

1  
2 award today. Thank you, guys.

3 (Whereupon, applause.)

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

5 Legislator Rose Walker.

6 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you,  
7 Presiding Officer.

8 I'm sure most of the people in this  
9 room remember this horrific accident.  
10 These young boys had just won a tennis  
11 match, were out with fellow tennis  
12 players getting something to eat at the  
13 Broadway Mall. When they left to go  
14 home, someone recklessly driving close to  
15 100 miles an hour on the wrong side of  
16 106/107 killed those boys. And God bless  
17 that poor boy who was driving the car.  
18 God bless our officers who to me look  
19 like kids themselves and they had a  
20 witness this horrific accident. And it  
21 was just awful. And I've been at various  
22 events since then, Mothers Against Drunk  
23 Driving, where so many of the family  
24 members and friends of these young boys  
25 were there reaching out and trying to

1  
2 remind everyone: Be smart, don't be  
3 foolish, don't drive when you shouldn't.  
4 Obviously, this person didn't take heed  
5 to that before and continued to go in a  
6 pattern. Thank God these officers now  
7 have this this man off the street.

8 God bless you all for what you've  
9 done. We will continue to certainly keep  
10 the families in our prayers and these  
11 boys in our prayers, and each and every  
12 one of you and all of our officers,  
13 because I can't even imagine what you had  
14 to see that night.

15 So God bless you all. Thank you for  
16 all you do. And I'm going to let  
17 Legislator Drucker, who is represents  
18 that district also.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:  
20 Legislator Drucker and then Legislator  
21 Lafazan.

22 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you very  
23 much, Presiding Officer.

24 This, without a doubt, in all of my  
25 years was one of the most horrific, heart

1  
2 wrenching accidents I've ever seen and  
3 heard about, and I witnessed this  
4 location on a regular basis. It's not  
5 far from where I live. I represent the  
6 community. But the gravity of it that  
7 these two young boys, with such a bright  
8 future, their lives were snuffed out in  
9 an instant by someone who did not belong  
10 on the roads, and that's something where  
11 we need to be more cognizant of as  
12 residents.

13 You guys do an amazing job, and  
14 that's just a tribute to the training.  
15 Nassau County's finest and bravest do  
16 this day in and day out. And it's not a  
17 job, it's a calling. And you do it with  
18 such success and such professionalism  
19 that you went and you got this guy and  
20 hopefully this guy never sees the light  
21 of day and never gets a chance to get  
22 behind the wheel again.

23 But there are others like him out  
24 there. And the tragedy that occurs when  
25 these people get behind a wheel, when



1  
2 they should never get behind the wheel,  
3 it's mind boggling. And families,  
4 communities have been ripped apart by  
5 this particular accident. And I know  
6 because I speak to these people on a  
7 regular basis. I know people who their  
8 kids were friends with these kids. It's  
9 just really horrible.

10 We can talk about that for hours.  
11 But I just want to take this opportunity  
12 to tell you that we, as legislators, as  
13 residents of this county, are indebted to  
14 you for your bravery, your training and  
15 what you do. Despite facing these  
16 horrific circumstances and what you have  
17 to witness, you don't let that deter you  
18 from the job you have to do. You did it  
19 here and you got this guy and you  
20 continue to do that on a day-to-day basis  
21 with your vigilance and your training.

22 So on behalf of this Legislature, on  
23 behalf of myself and my community that I  
24 represent, I thank you from the bottom of  
25 my heart.

1  
2 Thank you.

3 (Whereupon, applause.)

4 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Thank You,  
5 Presiding Officer. This location is in my  
6 district. In the days and weeks following  
7 the accident, this was a loss that  
8 Legislator Drucker mentioned, that I've  
9 never seen. It was a community loss. The  
10 entire community of Roslyn, the entire  
11 North Shore community, was devastated.  
12 And what you did in your heroism and your  
13 bravery as you gave the community a bit  
14 of closure to know that this person who  
15 robbed these two young boys of their  
16 futures will be put behind bars and that  
17 justice will be served.

18 Without your tenacity, without your  
19 bravery, without your effort. That  
20 community continues to ail. But that  
21 community sees the light of justice and  
22 of closure. And it's because you put  
23 yourselves in harm's way. You risk the  
24 welfare of yourselves to make the  
25 community a better and safer place.

1  
2           So I cannot thank you enough for all  
3           that you do. You are the reason why this  
4           county has the greatest police department  
5           in the nation. I am so grateful.

6           On behalf of the families and the  
7           community, thank you for giving us a bit  
8           of closure.

9           Thank you.

10          (Whereupon, applause.)

11          PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All  
12          right, Officers Fagan and Conley, we have  
13          presentations for you. We'd ask that you  
14          come up right after the DAI gives their  
15          presentation.

16          Thank you.

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2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: And  
3 for the DAI, Detectives Association, we  
4 have Delegate Kevin O'Brien, who will  
5 lead the presentation.

6 MR. O'BRIEN: Thanks for having us.

7 This incident took place on July 13,  
8 2023, at approximately 2:05 p.m. with  
9 Detective Butt and Slowski, assigned to  
10 the Fifth Squad, were investigating a  
11 vicious robbery of a 72-year-old female  
12 victim which occurred in the parking lot  
13 of the Green Acres mall in Valley Stream.

14 Two perpetrators, one female, one  
15 male, robbed an elderly woman of her  
16 money. The perpetrators blocked in the  
17 victim's car with their car and the  
18 female perpetrator exited the vehicle and  
19 demanded her money from the victim. A  
20 female perpetrator opened the victim's  
21 door and proceeded to punch the victim in  
22 the face, legs and arms. The victim  
23 relented and gave up \$100 to stop the  
24 violent assault on her.

25 Detective Butt and Slowski

1  
2 interviewed the victim and gained useful  
3 information about the perpetrator's  
4 vehicle, and after an investigation found  
5 out it was stolen. License plate readers  
6 were checked with positive leads where  
7 both detectives were able to establish  
8 probable cause for both subject's arrest.

9 Through their thorough  
10 investigation, they were able to identify  
11 and arrest the female and male subject  
12 that robbed, assaulted and injured this  
13 elderly victim.

14 We have many vulnerable groups in  
15 our community, both young and old. These  
16 two detectives went above and beyond to  
17 find justice for this lady. It is this  
18 dogged determination which makes Nassau  
19 County detectives the best detectives in  
20 the country. Exactly why Nassau County is  
21 the safest county in New York State.

22 The DAI would like to thank  
23 Detective Butt and Slowski for their  
24 service and thank the Legislature for  
25 honoring them.

1  
2 Thank you.

3 (Whereupon, applause.)

4 FIRST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SMITH: So  
5 I'll second that. That dogged  
6 determination that these officers have,  
7 these detectives have is the best in the  
8 world. And there's no question about it  
9 that are our detectives, when they get a  
10 lead, even if they don't have a lead,  
11 they develop leads and they get to the  
12 bottom of it. And in this particular  
13 case, victims such as this, a person  
14 who's very young or a person that's very  
15 old, certainly touches a string in our  
16 hearts that says we've got to get this  
17 done because we can't have people preying  
18 on the young and the elderly.

19 So I just want to thank both  
20 detectives publicly for their service,  
21 and I hope they just keep doing a great  
22 job that they're doing.

23 Thank you very much.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Before  
25 you guys step, I don't know if the two

1  
2 detectives wanted to say anything or not.

3 Either way is good.

4 OFFICER BUTT: Just want to thank  
5 everyone for being here. Thank you for  
6 allowing us the opportunity to help the  
7 community, especially when a victim, such  
8 as in this case, is an elderly female,  
9 and just the opportunity to be able to  
10 give her some closure and give her a  
11 little peace of mind that this community  
12 is still safe.

13 Thank you.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank  
15 you. Stay right up there. Legislator  
16 Gaylor and then Legislator Saloges will  
17 have remarks.

18 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you,  
19 Presiding Officer.

20 So, you know, I'm proud to commend  
21 both of you, detectives. What some of the  
22 backstory is that maybe people don't know  
23 is that we actually went to New York City  
24 to hunt these people down and arrest them  
25 and bring them back to our county. And so

1  
2 it's a clear message to anybody else that  
3 wants to come to our county and commit a  
4 crime, our detectives of the finest  
5 nature are going to hunt you down, bring  
6 you back to the county and bring you  
7 before the the judges of this county. So  
8 just beware if you want to commit a crime  
9 in Nassau County.

10 Atrocious, come to the county and  
11 assault a 72-year-old-female in her car  
12 after she was shopping at Green Acres.  
13 Open the door, forcibly reached in and  
14 started beating her in the car seat.  
15 What's happening to this country? What's  
16 happening to this state? Things like this  
17 shouldn't be happening in our county.

18 Thanks to your thorough  
19 investigation and using the resources  
20 that you could use and were able to use,  
21 you quickly located them in the city and  
22 you brought them back. You arrested them,  
23 apprehended them and brought them before  
24 justice. And it's through your dedication  
25 and exemplary public service that because



1  
2 of you, that's the reason why we're the  
3 safest county, here in Nassau. Despite  
4 these infrequent, I hope, events that  
5 happened.

6 So keep up the good work. Keep us  
7 safe, be vigilant in your duties. Go get  
8 them wherever they may be and bring them  
9 back, and let's prosecute them. And let's  
10 send a message to the rest of the state.  
11 Keep up the great work.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:  
13 Legislator Solages.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I would also  
15 like to thank you, detectives, for your  
16 dogged determination and for protecting  
17 the confines of the Third Legislative  
18 District, which includes Green Acres  
19 Mall, which, because it has a Walmart and  
20 other big large department stores,  
21 attracts a large population from New York  
22 City. I want to thank you very much again  
23 for protecting our community and keeping  
24 our shopping centers safe.

25 I also would like to thank this Body

1  
2 for approving funding for the license  
3 plate readers, which were also useful in  
4 your investigation. So on behalf of the  
5 residents of the Third Legislative  
6 District, which, again, surrounds Green  
7 Acres Mall, and we deal with the issues  
8 of having such a mall that attracts a lot  
9 of people from New York City. So we just  
10 want to thank you very much for your  
11 professionalism and for helping the most  
12 vulnerable members of our community. And  
13 we wish you Godspeed and God's  
14 protection. Thank you.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank  
16 you, Detectives Butt and Slowski, we're  
17 actually going to have presentations for  
18 you as well. So we'll invite the PBA  
19 honorees first and then you guys.

20 (Whereupon, citations  
21 presented and photos taken.)  
22

23 \*\*\*\*\*  
24  
25

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2                   PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All  
3                   right. Now we have the public comment  
4                   portion of our meeting. I have a number  
5                   of slips I'm going to call. If you have  
6                   not completed the slip and want to speak,  
7                   please fill one out. There are slips at  
8                   the table to your left at the front of  
9                   the room.

10                  A number of the slips have to do  
11                  with the CSEA contract, which we will be  
12                  calling shortly after the public comment  
13                  portion. So I will assume that those  
14                  speakers on the CSEA contract would like  
15                  to speak when that item is being is  
16                  called. If not, please feel free to let  
17                  me know and I'll call you up at this  
18                  point of the meeting.

19                  The first slip, I'm not sure if this  
20                  is a speaker on the contract or not, so  
21                  I'll call her.

22                  Theresa Michelini.

23                  MS. MICHELINI: So I was hired from  
24                  Civil Service in 2018. Supposedly there  
25                  was no contract. I just found out that I

1  
2 was working without a contract. I'm four  
3 years shy of getting benefits for life.  
4 They did a vote the last week in August  
5 or the second to the last week. And I  
6 feel a lot of people are on vacation, so  
7 there might have been 2000 members and  
8 you only had a thousand members voting.  
9 So that's not really fair. Everything is  
10 like rush, rush. I don't know what  
11 they're rushing for.

12 We worked during Covid. We were  
13 promised days, hours, vacation. We didn't  
14 receive those. We pay our dues. We come  
15 to work, we do our job. People were  
16 allowed to stay home during Covid and  
17 they got paid. I had to show up. I have  
18 an 85-year-old uncle living with me. I  
19 took a chance to bring germs home to him.

20 So I don't understand. If there's a  
21 handful of people who thought they were  
22 going to get benefits for life, how they  
23 could just take them away from you. And  
24 that's really my beef.

25 I mean, we're going to get a

1  
2 pension. I show up every day. I do my  
3 job. I'm not a troublemaker. So that's  
4 all. I'm just here for the benefits for  
5 life and I don't think I should be forced  
6 to stay 20 years when I was told 10  
7 years. I mean, I don't know. Do you want  
8 to work till you're 80 years old? That's  
9 why I'm here.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank  
11 you. The contract will be called in a  
12 little while, and then we'll have  
13 presentations on the contract at that  
14 time.

15 Next speaker is the Reverend Canon  
16 Marie Tatro.

17 REV. TATRO: Good afternoon. I'm  
18 with the Diocese of Long Island and we've  
19 provided you with a letter signed by 165  
20 faith leaders.

21 I ask everyone present who supports  
22 our immigrant neighbors seeking asylum to  
23 please stand as you are able.

24 (Whereupon, group of  
25 supporters stand.)

1  
2 REV. TATRO: We often define  
3 neighbor very narrowly, but sacred  
4 scriptures insist that neighbor is never  
5 defined by proximity or nationality. None  
6 of us owns this whole county, and none of  
7 us can dictate who can live here. There  
8 are numerous cases that we studied in law  
9 school, from Oyster Bay to Garden City  
10 that have already settled this question  
11 of trying to keep certain kinds of people  
12 out. It's a losing case and we all know  
13 it.

14 I'm not going to harp on God's call  
15 to love our neighbor, welcome the  
16 stranger; it's all in the letter and in  
17 the Bible. And many religiously  
18 affiliated people are not particularly  
19 fond of the difficult parts of following  
20 our faith. Some of these mandates from  
21 God are terribly inconvenient or just  
22 hard. Things like forgiveness, mercy and  
23 welcoming the stranger. So let's just  
24 dispel some myths.

25 First, these folks are not part of

1  
2 some nefarious drug ring. Over 50% are  
3 children, and the adults are mostly hard  
4 working people fleeing persecution,  
5 violence, poverty and starvation. We are  
6 all heartbroken by the needless deaths  
7 from fentanyl, but it is undeniably the  
8 US drug industries who are responsible  
9 for the opioid crisis and fentanyl is  
10 being smuggled over the US border  
11 primarily by US citizens.

12 Second myth, they can't collect  
13 welfare.

14 Third, they pay taxes.

15 Fourth, seeking asylum is legal,  
16 full stop. It can ultimately be denied,  
17 but it is legal to request and you can  
18 live here pending the Court's order.

19 People don't leave their homes on a  
20 whim. When the flames in a burning  
21 building are scorching your back, you  
22 jump out of the building, you are  
23 essentially pushed out. Most of us can't  
24 imagine the horrors these folks are  
25 fleeing.

1  
2 When I was a teenager in rural New  
3 England, I worked on a tobacco farm for  
4 five summers to earn money for school  
5 clothes and other expenses. It was brutal  
6 work, but those are the only jobs in town  
7 for high school kids. I think we all know  
8 that neither your teenagers nor mine will  
9 likely be filling essential farming jobs  
10 on Long Island.

11 As I've gotten older, my notion of  
12 neighborhood has expanded, and with that,  
13 God has also gotten bigger for me. If you  
14 are a believer, let your notion of  
15 neighborhood and God get bigger, not  
16 smaller. If you're an ethical humanist,  
17 likewise, let your notion of neighborhood  
18 and the family of humankind expand, not  
19 contract. As a nation and as a community,  
20 we all need to be less small.

21 Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

23 Richard Clolery.

24 MR. CLOLERY: I come to you, members  
25 of the Legislature, with something that



1  
2 could potentially harm or destroy our  
3 county if no action is done about it.  
4 This is a trifecta, a triple threat.

5 The first problem that Nassau County  
6 has to face is obviously transportation,  
7 not just public transportation, But we  
8 need improvement in traffic law because  
9 we have been having accidents left,  
10 right, center. Not just drivers, but  
11 passengers, families and especially  
12 pedestrians. It's because drivers are  
13 being distracted, drunk or treating our  
14 roads like it's their personal Audubon.  
15 Does anyone know what the Autobahn is?

16 Not only that, but we need more  
17 sidewalks so that people can walk safely.  
18 The main roads have them, but not all of  
19 our roads. When people encounter streets  
20 without sidewalks, they are at the mercy  
21 of the driver who may be drunk or  
22 distracted. I will let you figure out  
23 what happens next.

24 Speaking of drivers, you, the  
25 Legislature, claim that you care about

1  
2           them. That's interesting considering the  
3           number of sinkholes we've been having  
4           lately. Among other things, such as  
5           broken signals so that people who walk or  
6           ride or drive safely.

7           Another thing is housing. I've been  
8           noticing that luxury apartments have been  
9           going up. But what about affordable  
10          housing for ordinary people like myself  
11          who work for a living?

12          Finally, I want to talk to you about  
13          prices. Everything is going up through  
14          the roof now. Not just gas, which fuels  
15          our cars, which fuels our economy. But  
16          ordinary things like food, rent, used  
17          cars, the things that make life possible  
18          here on the island. I would like to know  
19          what you, members of the Legislature, are  
20          going to do about it. I would appreciate  
21          response. So what are you guys going to  
22          do about it?

23                 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank  
24                 you, Richard.

25                 MR. CLOLERY: I'm not done. One more

1  
2 thing.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.  
4 Sure.

5 MR. CLOLERY: Our bus system needs a  
6 huge increase in funding from the County.  
7 Current funding levels can only maintain  
8 the bus service as it is right now, which  
9 includes bus lines that were cut a long  
10 time ago. This is completely unfair to  
11 those who depend on those lines to get to  
12 where they need to be.

13 When I went to the last bus meeting,  
14 they keep on talking about flex rides  
15 that could potentially replace the bus  
16 lines that were cut. However, they only  
17 service certain areas, not areas that  
18 need the most like East Meadow.

19 We need the Legislature to step up  
20 and increase funding for the buses so  
21 that everyone can enjoy this county.

22 Please, Before I go, I would like to  
23 reply to my speech and to let me know  
24 what you think and to acknowledge me.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank

1  
2 you, Richard. And as you know, this is an  
3 opportunity for for you to address us.

4 It's not never been a question and answer  
5 period. But we do appreciate your  
6 comments and we hear them.

7 MR. CLOLERY: All right.

8 (Whereupon, applause.)

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.  
10 Next speaker is Otto Schroeder.

11 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes. Good afternoon,  
12 everybody. My name is Otto Schroeder from  
13 Mineola.

14 I have questions about the red light  
15 cameras. And this, probably most of the  
16 drivers or all the drivers in Nassau  
17 County should be concerned.

18 What is the main purpose of the red  
19 light camera? Does anybody know?

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Just  
21 ask --

22 MR. SCHROEDER: I'm just asking the  
23 question. So just remember that. Okay?

24 Now, who benefits from the red light  
25 camera violation? Is it the driver or the

1  
2 county who received the money? What does  
3 the driver get? It doesn't solve any  
4 safety issues because I've talked to a  
5 few people, and what happens is three  
6 weeks later, he gets a notification. And  
7 guess what? He committed the violation  
8 two or three other times before he gets  
9 the notification.

10 So it's a safety issue, but nobody  
11 knows what they basically have done. What  
12 are the rules and regulations? I don't  
13 know. I went one inch over the line. I  
14 didn't know one inch is going to get me a  
15 violation, but it did.

16 There's a big time lapse, like I  
17 said, before somebody gets notified and  
18 that's a big safety issue because you can  
19 keep doing that violation. Plus, the  
20 money where it's being used, it sounded  
21 like the money raising issue. Whoever  
22 sold you this probably didn't tell you  
23 what the negatives were. Just a part of  
24 it. Yes. You can make money. You can make  
25 money with a printing press also. Okay.

1  
2           So I think it should be looked into  
3           because it doesn't resolve the issue of  
4           the person making a violations.

5           There's another situation. I  
6           discussed this with a highly reputable  
7           county court judge, and he asked me, you  
8           know, what was my concerns. I told them  
9           the red light issue is a scam or a  
10          scheme. He looked at me and he said I was  
11          right. Now, this is a respected retired  
12          judge. If anybody wants his name call me  
13          to the side, I will not tell you here.  
14          But that's what his feeling is about  
15          this. It does not help the drivers.

16          Now you can resolve this. Collect  
17          the money, have them attend that driver's  
18          education program, either online or  
19          through AARP or anything. Then you're  
20          educating the person; otherwise, you're  
21          left in the dark.

22          Thank you very much for hearing my  
23          issues.

24                 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank  
25                 you, Mr. Schroeder.

1  
2 Susan Gottehrer.

3 MS. GOTTEHRER: Good afternoon. If  
4 everybody could stand who is in support  
5 of the immigrant community and asylum  
6 seekers.

7 (Whereupon, people in  
8 support stand.)

9 MS. GOTTEHRER: My name is Susan  
10 Gottehrer. I'm the director of the Nassau  
11 County New York Civil Liberties Union.  
12 It's good to see everybody again.

13 I'm here to address some of the  
14 unwelcoming statements recently made  
15 regarding asylum seekers and Nassau  
16 County.

17 Immigrants who have come into this  
18 country in search of better circumstances  
19 should be greeted with compassion and  
20 support, not shunned and stigmatized. It  
21 is deeply shameful that rather than  
22 welcoming new Americans to our local  
23 community, our county executive chooses  
24 to shut the door. Let me remind you and  
25 Mr. Blakeman, that any formal attempts to

1  
2 exclude immigrants from the county would  
3 be unconstitutional. As a federal court  
4 in the Southern District of New York  
5 recently found, formalizing prohibitions  
6 on transports from New York City would  
7 likely violate the Constitution and  
8 federal civil law. And the 14th Amendment  
9 also prohibits the government from  
10 discrimination against people because  
11 they were born outside the country or  
12 lack citizenship.

13 New York State has always been a  
14 destination for people coming to the  
15 United States to build new lives, and the  
16 state has a long tradition of welcoming  
17 immigrants. Immigrants make up nearly a  
18 quarter of our state's population and  
19 contribute to our communities in  
20 significant and often under appreciated  
21 ways.

22 The spirit of Mr. Blakeman's  
23 statements are also out of touch with the  
24 traditions and values of our state and of  
25 our county. They are certain to generate



1  
2 hostility, bias and even violence against  
3 new immigrants, as well as residents of  
4 the county who may be perceived as new  
5 immigrants.

6 I'm not sure why this simple fact  
7 can't be grasped and has never been  
8 grasped by so many people. When you  
9 support and embrace people, they become  
10 invested and productive in their  
11 communities and that is what creates  
12 public safety. And the argument about  
13 limited resources does not fly. When it  
14 comes to over investing in some places,  
15 there doesn't seem to be a problem. But  
16 when it comes to investing in human  
17 beings, you're okay with already  
18 underserved communities remaining  
19 underserved. This creates a divide and  
20 conquer problem among our most  
21 underserved communities. And you have  
22 more than enough money dedicated to  
23 policing and incarceration, but you don't  
24 have money for housing and schools in  
25 some areas that badly need it.

1  
2 Nassau County doesn't seem to  
3 understand the root causes of public  
4 safety. Not addressing them when somebody  
5 grabs somebody out of a car, but  
6 addressing them where they're really  
7 needed so that everybody in this county  
8 is getting what they need financially.

9 So get your fiscal priorities  
10 straight and your values straight before  
11 you talk to us about not having enough  
12 resources for people coming into the  
13 county.

14 Thank you.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Daniel  
16 Daly.

17 MR. DALY: Good afternoon, ladies  
18 and gentlemen. Thank you for hearing me.  
19 I'm going to make this succinct.

20 I don't like living in a basically  
21 lawless society. I work. I drive about  
22 150 miles a day. South shore to north  
23 shore. And probably for the last two  
24 years, I'm seeing nothing and I mean  
25 nothing but blowing red lights, blowing

1  
2 stop signs. They're ignoring them. I  
3 look at these people. They gave me the  
4 finger when I beep at them. These people  
5 are making rights on reds when there's  
6 clearly a sign saying no, turn on red and  
7 there's even cameras there like the other  
8 gentleman said. There's no punishment.

9 Now, what about putting cameras  
10 inside of stop signs? And say, hey, okay,  
11 I get caught once, you pay a fine. Caught  
12 twice or three times, you got a moving  
13 violation, two points. Their insurance  
14 goes up. See how fast they don't do it  
15 anymore.

16 I've seen accidents too many times  
17 on an everyday basis. These people don't  
18 give a you know what. I see it every day.

19 Human trafficking. Human trafficking  
20 is all over the United States. I'm going  
21 to a meeting on Saturday morning in  
22 Farmingville to address this very factor.  
23 These kids are being trafficked from one  
24 year to two years old to as probably as  
25 high as maybe 16, 17. They get too old

1  
2 and they're thrown aside. The border  
3 needs to be closed. No one has the guts  
4 to tell Biden it's his own fault. Period.  
5 No one wants to tell him.

6 The civil rights, going back to  
7 Covid, were taken away. I was I was  
8 kicked out of three supermarkets, banned  
9 from two doctors because I wasn't wearing  
10 a surgical mask. I asked him, I said,  
11 okay, are you telling me that I cannot  
12 have a medical service performed on me  
13 without a surgical mask that has no -- it  
14 doesn't work, for lack of a better word.  
15 They looked at me and said, Yes. I said,  
16 So it's medical tyranny. Okay, no  
17 problem.

18 There's been no retaliation, nothing  
19 at all for the people who lost jobs, who  
20 have forced jobs like the other lady was  
21 saying. What's going to happen with that?  
22 I doubt it (buzzer).

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Mr.  
24 Daly, just please sum up your remarks.  
25 Your three minutes are up.

1  
2 MR. DALY: That's what I'm going to  
3 do right now.

4 That's about it. I just wanted to  
5 thank you for listening. And I'm also  
6 thinking about running for either Nassau  
7 County or Albany legislature in the  
8 assembly, because basically, I'm at the  
9 end of my rope. I'm done. Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.  
11 Tori Cohen, Long Island Alzheimer's.

12 MS. COHEN: Hello. Good afternoon.  
13 I'm Tori Cohen and I'm the Executive  
14 Director of the Long Island Alzheimer's  
15 and Dementia Center, which is located  
16 just down the street in Westbury. We're a  
17 hands-on program and services for people  
18 that are dealing with Alzheimer's disease  
19 and other forms of dementia.

20 I'm here today to let you all know  
21 that we are writing to urge the Nassau  
22 County Legislature to bring the Chesnel  
23 Veillard Program to the floor for  
24 approval. For everyone to know, the baby  
25 boom generation has begun to reach age 65

1  
2 and beyond the age range at the greatest  
3 risk for Alzheimer's disease. In fact,  
4 the oldest members of the baby boom  
5 generation turned 74 in 2020. As  
6 America's first suburb home to the  
7 original baby boomers, it should come as  
8 no surprise that nearly 20% of Nassau  
9 County residents will be over 60 by the  
10 year 2040. The population of Nassau  
11 residents between ages 55 and 64 has  
12 increased 48% since 2000. Yet despite  
13 this, Nassau County is behind the curve  
14 when it comes to addressing many of the  
15 challenges of helping people at this  
16 population age in place. Nassau County's  
17 current project Lifesaver Integration  
18 with the Silver Alert System is a  
19 powerful tool for protecting the safety  
20 and welfare of those who are cognitively  
21 impaired; however, the \$325 enrollment  
22 fee is cost prohibitive for many  
23 families. The Chesnel Veillard Program  
24 would bridge this gap for these families  
25 and make it possible for them to receive

1  
2 this type of bracelet, which is super,  
3 super important for this population,  
4 because every day there is someone that's  
5 diagnosed with this disease, as we say,  
6 every 65 seconds, and we always seem to  
7 hear about someone who's lost. And for  
8 that family, that is possibly the worst  
9 thing that could happen to them when  
10 you're already dealing with a disease  
11 that's really not a 24 hour disease, it's  
12 a 36 hour disease.

13 So we are respectfully calling upon  
14 the Nassau County Legislature to include  
15 the Chesnel Veillard Program in this  
16 floor for discussion. We further request  
17 that the Legislature approve funding for  
18 this program in the upcoming budget cycle  
19 so that families such as these living in  
20 Nassau County as well at our center, have  
21 the potential to be able to receive these  
22 life saving technologies.

23 Thank you very much.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank  
25 you, Miss Cohen.

1  
2 Susan Hansen and Patrick Wynne. They  
3 asked to be called up together.

4 MS. HANSEN: This is my third time  
5 before you in three months. If you  
6 recall, I mentioned that a civic group,  
7 New York Citizens Audit, obtained state  
8 and county voter registration data via  
9 the Freedom of Information Act. After an  
10 extensive analysis, they notified  
11 numerous government officials of their  
12 findings, which have been ignored,  
13 criticized and even vilified with few  
14 exceptions.

15 Their reported 2022 election  
16 findings include 35,000 more votes than  
17 voters who voted. What does that mean?  
18 You see, after an election, New York  
19 State reports the official vote count,  
20 but your voter registration record shows  
21 your voting history by date. The sum of  
22 everyone who voted in 2022 should match  
23 the 2022 vote count; it does not. For  
24 some inexplicable reason, there were an  
25 extra 35,000 votes. Over 48,000 voter



1  
2 registrations had a blank address. These  
3 records should not even be in the  
4 database. And yet, based on their voter  
5 history, over 16,000 voted.

6 There is more, much more. But the  
7 good news is that New York Citizens Audit  
8 has already done much of the work  
9 necessary to identify some of the  
10 problems. Their analysis is the type of  
11 work the Board of Education should be  
12 doing to ensure the integrity of our  
13 elections. But this is just a start.  
14 Identifying the problems was difficult  
15 enough. Acknowledging, fixing, and  
16 preventing them in the future will be the  
17 real challenge.

18 In August, New York Citizens Audit  
19 submitted their evidence to New York  
20 State. The State's response was to tell  
21 you and others: Do not talk to New York  
22 Citizens Audit. My suggestion for you is  
23 to request from the New York State Board  
24 of Elections the subset of Nassau data  
25 they received showing voter

1  
2 irregularities. Then you can verify the  
3 evidence with your own county database.  
4 As logical as this sounds, I suspect they  
5 will deny your request. Hopefully, I'm  
6 wrong. I am skeptical because when New  
7 York Citizens Audit foiled for the  
8 transaction logs, reflecting an audit  
9 trail of changes to the database, they  
10 were denied.

11 I am skeptical because when ordinary  
12 citizens attempt to present their  
13 grievances, they are often ignored or  
14 worse, slandered. That is why I am  
15 appealing to you today, this legislative  
16 body at the county level, to listen here  
17 and respond to the voice of ordinary  
18 citizens, the people you represent.  
19 Everyone can visit the website  
20 AuditNY.com for more details.

21 MR. WYNNE: Good afternoon. My name  
22 is Patrick Wynne, Nesconset, Suffolk  
23 County. I've been a resident of the state  
24 of New York for most of my life.

25 In the September 11, 2023,

1  
2 publication of the *Epoch Times* newspaper  
3 is an article titled "Watchdog Discovers  
4 Thousands of Unexplained Changes in  
5 Florida Voter Rolls". One of the more  
6 encouraging things in this article is the  
7 dialogue that takes place between the  
8 Florida Citizens Audit Group and the Palm  
9 Beach County Supervisor of Elections.  
10 Here in the great state of New York, we  
11 have seen nothing like this. We have what  
12 we have seen is the vilification of  
13 honest citizens by the New York State  
14 Board of Elections, co-executive  
15 directors. We have been referred to by  
16 these co-executive directors as bad  
17 actors who create malicious claims to  
18 feed a false narrative predicated on the  
19 fictional analysis of voter data.

20 I ask a question of the members of  
21 the Nassau County Legislature: Is it  
22 fictional that Westchester County scanned  
23 in over half a million blank ballots in  
24 the 2022 general election? If it were, it  
25 shouldn't be on the New York State Board

1  
2 of Elections website located under  
3 revision history for the 2022 general  
4 election and available to anyone who may  
5 care to look. And you may ask why honest  
6 citizens would bother to look. In  
7 *Federalist Paper 39*, Publius gives us an  
8 answer: It is essential to such a  
9 government, a republic, that it be  
10 derived from the great body of the  
11 society, not from an inconsiderable  
12 proportion of a favored class. Otherwise,  
13 a handful of tyrannical nobles exercising  
14 their oppressions by a delegation of  
15 their powers might aspire to the rank of  
16 Republicans and claim for their  
17 government the honorable title of  
18 Republic. It is sufficient for such a  
19 government that the persons administering  
20 it be appointed either directly or  
21 indirectly by the great body of the  
22 people, and that they hold their  
23 appointments during pleasure for a  
24 limited period during good behavior.  
25 Otherwise, every government of the United

1  
2 States, as well as every other popular  
3 government that has been or can be well  
4 organized or well executed would be  
5 degraded from the Republican character.

6 Any agency of the government created  
7 indirectly through legislators or  
8 directly by the people themselves are  
9 answerable to the people".

10 The discoveries of numerous  
11 violations of election law, as well as  
12 irregularities in the voter rolls  
13 provided by the New York State Board of  
14 Elections, are most certainly not the  
15 result of a fictional analysis, and one  
16 has to wonder why these co executive  
17 directors would want to create a hostile  
18 relationship between honest citizens  
19 looking for answers to legitimate  
20 questions, and a government agency  
21 mandated with the responsibility to  
22 validate, certify and maintain an  
23 accurate and auditable record of  
24 elections.

25 No honest citizen would call the

1  
2 behavior of these bureaucrats good and  
3 the creation of hostility rather than  
4 honest, forthright dialogue can only  
5 serve to indicate good reason for our  
6 suspicion, and is why we must insist that  
7 the Resolution for an audit of the 2022  
8 general election for both paper and  
9 electronic records be signed and adopted  
10 by your County Legislature.

11 Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All  
13 right. Thank you.

14 Pearl Jacobs.

15 MS. JACOBS: Pearl Jacobs,  
16 Uniondale.

17 I have here: "20-year-old woman  
18 killed, two others critically injured in  
19 Rockville Centre crash"; that was this  
20 morning, 4:25 a.m. Sunday evening, same  
21 roadway, Rockville Centre, Peninsula  
22 Boulevard, "two killed, three badly hurt  
23 in separate Sunday crashes on Peninsula  
24 Boulevard in Rockville Centre".

25 I have a home in Queens, so I

1  
2 receive a local paper. And here, *Queens*  
3 *News*, it says, "Speed cameras, lower  
4 traffic injuries - Department of  
5 Transportation; one year into 24/7  
6 surveillance, fatalities are down by  
7 25%", because they implement Vision Zero.

8 There were 74,683 crashes on Long  
9 Island in 2022; 35,748 in Suffolk; and  
10 38,935 in Nassau, according to the  
11 preliminary statistics maintained by the  
12 University at Albany based Traffic Study  
13 Institute. Of those crashes, 80 were  
14 killed and 14,514 were injured in Nassau  
15 County. Southern State Parkway is one of  
16 Long Island's deadliest roadways, and now  
17 a state trooper has been assaulted by a  
18 drunken driver.

19 Our residential roads, our tertiary  
20 roads, have now become speedways with  
21 reckless and drunk drivers now crashing  
22 into residential homes. What is your plan  
23 of action to put a stop to the out of  
24 control, drunken, drugged and reckless  
25 driving in Nassau County as this is now a

1  
2 crisis?

3 As I said at the last meeting here,  
4 speed cameras are needed on Jerusalem  
5 Avenue, a roadway where a young student  
6 lost his life over 20 years ago. Speeding  
7 and reckless driving along this roadway  
8 has always been a problem, and now it is  
9 much worse. At last February's political  
10 forum, hosted by the Uniondale PTA,  
11 students who attend Turtle Hook Middle  
12 School spoke about the concern for their  
13 safety as they cross this dangerous  
14 roadway. They also asked for additional  
15 crossing guards on Jerusalem Avenue. At  
16 night, Jerusalem Avenue becomes a raceway  
17 with cars racing along this long stretch  
18 of roadway at upwards 80-90mph. Residents  
19 whose homes are located on Jerusalem  
20 Avenue complained not only of the  
21 speeding, but of the excessive noise.

22 Again, please do the right thing and  
23 put the safety of constituents first.  
24 Camera technology has proven to reduce  
25 traffic accidents and save lives.



1  
2 Again, a shout out to Assemblywoman  
3 Solages for stepping up, putting Nassau  
4 County residents lives first and taking  
5 action against the reckless driving  
6 crisis here in Nassau County.

7 And concerning the County  
8 Executive's \$4 billion budget, as a  
9 resident of Uniondale an underserved  
10 community where residents are taxed,  
11 poorly represented, receive no investment  
12 and never mind our deteriorating  
13 infrastructure, we cannot even get our  
14 streets swept. Let's just call this what  
15 it is Taxation without representation.

16 As for veterans, they really do  
17 matter.

18 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:  
19 Please sum up.

20 MS. JACOBS: I'm going to sum up.  
21 Just give me a minute, please.

22 Thank you. I appreciate it. As for  
23 our veterans, they really do not matter.  
24 They fought for our country. Many died  
25 for our country. And they do not receive

1  
2 the basic necessities: Decent shelter,  
3 mental healthcare and healthy food  
4 options. Many of our veterans suffer from  
5 mental health issues and wander aimlessly  
6 through Nassau County. Where's the  
7 outreach? Many of our seniors, especially  
8 seniors of color, are residing in senior  
9 residence that are unsafe, unhealthy and  
10 crime ridden. Will this proposed \$4  
11 billion budget address these long  
12 standing inequities? I would say not.

13 Thank you.

14 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All  
15 right.

16 Cheryl Keshner, the Long Island  
17 Language Advocates Coalition.

18 MS. KESHNER: Good afternoon. My  
19 name is Cheryl Keshner. I'm the  
20 coordinator of the Long Island Language  
21 Advocates Coalition, reading a statement  
22 on behalf of LILAC.

23 We call upon Nassau County Executive  
24 Bruce Blakeman and the Nassau County  
25 Legislature, to begin responsible and

1  
2 humane planning for any possible increase  
3 in the number of newly arrived immigrants  
4 being relocated from the southern border  
5 to the New York metropolitan area,  
6 including Nassau County.

7 We condemn recent statements made by  
8 the County Executive in which he made it  
9 clear that Nassau County would not  
10 welcome immigrant newcomers. Such  
11 statements are divisive and are anathema  
12 to the County's values of compassion and  
13 care. It is essential that Nassau County  
14 recognize the humanity of all immigrants,  
15 including those who are legally asking  
16 for asylum, and that we greet them with  
17 kindness, inclusion and solidarity.  
18 Anything else is cruel and will foster a  
19 climate of fear and hatred within our  
20 communities.

21 Contrary to the belief that  
22 receiving and supporting immigrants will  
23 undermine public safety, it is the very  
24 act of forcing them into the shadows with  
25 no means for employment, schooling,

1  
2 housing or healthcare that creates unsafe  
3 conditions.

4 While many new immigrants may seek  
5 out their own network of support, the  
6 County must ensure that the necessary  
7 resources are accessible to newcomers in  
8 the appropriate language and that  
9 children and their families are not  
10 prevented from enrolling in school or in  
11 essential healthcare, housing or  
12 nutrition programs.

13 We urge Nassau County to foster a  
14 positive plan for long term economic and  
15 social integration instead of embracing a  
16 strategy of rejection, divisiveness and  
17 unsteadiness which will create  
18 generational trauma and negative impacts  
19 for years to come.

20 Immigrants are not to be feared.  
21 They are the fabric of our society and  
22 contribute to our economy and to the  
23 vibrancy of our culture. Many are  
24 essential workers who have cared for the  
25 infirm, who have grown prepared and

1  
2 delivered our food, who have worked in  
3 factories and construction, who are  
4 entrepreneurs, teachers, doctors and  
5 lawyers. There is no reason to believe  
6 that a new generation of immigrants will  
7 make any less of a contribution as long  
8 as we allow them the opportunity to  
9 succeed.

10 The County Executive's job is to  
11 plan to handle unforeseen contingencies  
12 safely and efficiently. By refusing to do  
13 so, he is shirking his job  
14 responsibilities. Many organizations on  
15 Long Island, many of which are here, have  
16 stated that they are ready to assist  
17 newcomers, and Governor Hochul has stated  
18 that she has set aside \$1 billion to  
19 assist municipalities in this endeavor.

20 Instead of politically posturing, we  
21 call on County Executive Blakeman and the  
22 Nassau County Legislature to work  
23 cooperatively with state and county  
24 agencies and nonprofits and to do their  
25 job in a way that will allow for a

1  
2 healthy integration of new and productive  
3 immigrants into our country and to our  
4 county.

5 Lastly, I do want to also remind you  
6 that it's been ten years since Nassau  
7 County made a promise to provide language  
8 access at county agencies, including  
9 interpretation and translation. And the  
10 County has failed to keep that promise.  
11 Now is the time for the County to live up  
12 to its responsibilities.

13 Thank you.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Meta  
15 J. Mereday.

16 MS. MEREDAY: Where does one begin?  
17 \$4 billion Budget. Talk about hysterical.  
18 We're still trying to figure out what  
19 happened with the \$3 billion budget.

20 I stand here and I'm glad that  
21 someone brought up the point with regard  
22 to the veterans services because I read  
23 this nice little piece in *The Herald* by  
24 Mr. Ruderman about improving operations  
25 at the Medical Center. And I stood before

1  
2 this Body on numerous occasions  
3 addressing resources that could be very  
4 insightful, impactful and most  
5 importantly, helpful to our thousands of  
6 underserved veterans in Nassau County. He  
7 writes that we brace for a nearly \$1  
8 billion reduction in aid to close payment  
9 gaps for those who can't afford medical  
10 care. And in many cases, those are our  
11 veterans.

12 But again, it keeps falling on deaf  
13 ears because it seems that the further  
14 embarrassment that's become a global  
15 situation, when you have your former  
16 commander in chief who is under four  
17 indictments and, well, 91 Causes of  
18 Action. It's just ridiculous. And then  
19 you have read *Newsday* where you see that  
20 your County Executive's name is in lights  
21 and the rest of you are maybe, you know,  
22 two points. So what is this? The B and B  
23 and the Etcetera Show? I'm not sure.

24 But for \$4 billion, it's a lot of  
25 money to not invest in the communities

1  
2 that need it the most. We had a  
3 presentation the other night at one of  
4 the community meetings where we have the  
5 police officers that were like, Hey, you  
6 get before your legislative body, tell  
7 them we need more than the one police  
8 radar trailer, particularly in the First  
9 Precinct -- I don't know if the other  
10 precincts have any -- to address the  
11 speed that the speed traps and issues  
12 that are killing our residents as Pearl  
13 and Richard and others have mentioned,  
14 that's something we need to address.

15 But again, with regard to our  
16 veterans and the lack of support services  
17 we need to do a better job. And I haven't  
18 seen anything upcoming in this budget.  
19 Speaking to that, I would hate to bring a  
20 news crew, a national news crew, to our  
21 hard working Veteran Service Officer  
22 office location because they would be  
23 appalled at the conditions that they have  
24 to operate in, the Yeoman's job that they  
25 do, but the conditions they operate in,



1  
2 we need to do better.

3 We have a facility -- the State is  
4 saying that they've had money. The  
5 federal government clearly has money. We  
6 have a budget gap. I don't understand  
7 what the problem is. Actually, I do  
8 understand what the problem is. But the  
9 voters in this county need to basically  
10 wake up and rise up because the issues  
11 that are pertaining to all of us, whether  
12 it's immigrants who are here (buzzer) --  
13 and I will sum up and others were given  
14 the opportunity to do so -- those that  
15 were brought here by choice or by force,  
16 they're here. And if there's an  
17 opportunity for us to do better, I would  
18 think it would need to start with those  
19 men and women who gave their lives on a  
20 variety of battlefields and are dying in  
21 droves as we speak. You know, again, I  
22 know I'm just speaking to the crowd and  
23 someone may be listening with their  
24 popcorn and Pepsi because Meta J. Mereday  
25 is standing here with my five herniated

1  
2 discs and in a back brace. But if I have  
3 to continue to do that until we do  
4 actually affect some change and address  
5 some issues.

6 Finally, a budget that's going to,  
7 yes, rightfully so, increase the number  
8 of police officers that we have on the  
9 street. But has anybody counted the  
10 number of officers that have to ride in  
11 the same broken down cars that they  
12 operate in? And we need to get, as I  
13 said, can we please get one more Police  
14 Radar trailer in the First Precinct, and  
15 maybe the other seven?

16 And again, let's think about our  
17 veterans.

18 Salute to all those who died on 911.  
19 And let's also remember our World Trade  
20 Center first responders like myself.  
21 Thank you. And I'll take my seat.

22  
23 \*\*\*\*\*  
24  
25

1  
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We  
3 need a motion to suspend the rules. It's  
4 going to be necessary for the Chodkowski  
5 settlement, which will be going through  
6 Rules and the Full Legislature later.

7 So moved by Legislator Walker,  
8 seconded by Deputy Presiding Officer  
9 Kopel, all those in favor of suspending  
10 the Rules 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: The  
19 Rules are suspended.  
20

21 \*\*\*\*\*  
22  
23  
24  
25

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2  
3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Now we  
4 are moving on to the Consent Calendar.  
5 These are items that went through  
6 Committees a couple of weeks ago, and  
7 it's been agreed by the majority and  
8 minority that no further debate and  
9 discussion is needed on these items at  
10 this time:

11 Item five, Ordinance 53, Item six,  
12 Ordinance 54; Item seven, Ordinance 55;  
13 Item eight, Ordinance 56; Item nine,  
14 Ordinance 57; Item 10, Ordinance 58; Item  
15 11; Ordinance 59; Item 12, Ordinance 60;  
16 Item 13, Resolution 178; Item 15,  
17 Resolution 180; Item 16, Resolution 181;  
18 Item 17, Resolution 182; Item 18,  
19 Resolution 183; Item 19, Resolution 184;  
20 Item 20, Resolution 185; Item 22,  
21 Resolution 187; Item 23, Resolution 188;  
22 Item 24, Resolution 189; Item 25,  
23 Resolution 190; Item 26, Resolution 191.

24 Motion by Minority Leader Abrahams,  
25 seconded by Legislator Ford.

Any debate or discussion among the  
legislators?

(Whereupon, no verbal  
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:  
Hearing none. All in favor of the  
consent item 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: They  
carry unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*

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2  
3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So now  
4 we're going to Calendar 14, Resolution  
5 179. It is a Resolution approving an  
6 Amendment via Memorandum of Understanding  
7 to the Collective Bargaining Agreement  
8 Between the County of Nassau and the  
9 Civil Service Employees Association.

10 Motion by Deputy Presiding Officer  
11 Kopel, seconded by Minority Leader  
12 Abrahams. That puts the Item before us,  
13 and I'll turn the floor over to the  
14 Administration.

15 MR. PERSICH: Andy Persich, Office  
16 of Management and Budget.

17 The item before you is an MOU with  
18 the CSEA Union which is a deal that:

19 - terms over 13 years that provides  
20 general wage increases between 2 and 3%  
21 over the term of the agreement;.

22 - It also provides a \$3,000 sign on  
23 bonus for some full time employees. In  
24 addition, employees with 15 years of  
25 service or more will get \$2,000 stipend;

1  
2                   - There was a change in the health  
3 coverage to NYSHIP Excelsior;.

4                   - It provides between 4 and 6  
5 million for a healthcare reimbursement  
6 account to help offset some of the costs  
7 that employees might have from the switch  
8 in the benefit;.

9                   - It also, which is the big ticket  
10 item, it fixes unfreeze wages for the  
11 most part to the college chart in a  
12 staged fashion. It will be 60% in 2024,  
13 and it'll be 100% in 2026. So we've  
14 actually restored the chart back to the  
15 pre NIFA wage freeze;

16                   - It also provides vesting for 20  
17 years of service. Now you now have to  
18 vest for 20 years of service starting in  
19 2026.

20                   - It eliminates two vacation days  
21 for the period of 2024 to 2026. That  
22 provides savings in the contract;

23                   - The daily workday will increase  
24 from 6.75 to 7 hours;

25                   - termination will be capped at one

1  
2 and a half times base salary;

3 - Emergency leave is capped at four  
4 days;

5 It was a long, arduous process. I  
6 will say that much. Both sides. As with  
7 every negotiation, nobody gets everything  
8 that they want. But we believe this is a  
9 fair and equitable deal that fits within  
10 the County's financial structure. It also  
11 provides better wages for our employees,  
12 which has been one of the major concerns  
13 that we've heard from this Body and from  
14 the Union and from people around here. So  
15 it's a very, very good, fair deal.

16 There's some things that people are going  
17 to like and some things they aren't going  
18 to like. To the point that this  
19 agreement is is sound and is long, it  
20 provides a good stable base, which is the  
21 primary function of civil service, is to  
22 keep government running in the absence of  
23 who's ever elected or anything else. They  
24 have the key role to make this place run.  
25 So it is a fair deal that I think based



1  
2 on the vote of the Union and how it came  
3 out, I think it's a fair and equitable  
4 deal to both the CSEA and to the County.

5 I'm here to field any questions that  
6 you may have. I know it's a short  
7 synopsis, but I'm sure there's going to  
8 be some questions that you may have.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I know  
10 that a number of the people here who will  
11 be speaking in a moment are concerned  
12 about the retirement health benefits and  
13 the change in the service requirement  
14 from ten years to 20 years effective June  
15 29, 2026. Question for you is: How did  
16 that provision work its way into the  
17 contract?

18 MR. PERSICH: It was a joint  
19 bargaining thing between us and the  
20 Union. And that's really I mean, they  
21 came, and we agreed to it. Because the  
22 fact that we have CSEA members who want  
23 to get short term benefits for a short  
24 term career, that's great. This  
25 lengthened it. But we also monetize them.

1  
2 And like I said in the beginning, the  
3 purpose is not to make short term careers  
4 here, it's to make long term careers  
5 here. So I think a 20 year vesting -- and  
6 it's been changed in the past, just so  
7 we're aware, it has gone up and  
8 accelerated in other in other years. So  
9 this is just another means. In order to  
10 get the wages up, we had to manipulate  
11 numbers and that's how this worked and  
12 that's how we got there.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The  
14 information that we were provided was  
15 that Mr. Dellaverson, who is counsel  
16 retained by NIFA for labor negotiations,  
17 insisted that this provision be in the  
18 contract, which is the reason why it  
19 wound up in this final agreement.

20 MR. PERSICH: We worked with him  
21 hand in hand because this is the way  
22 we've done it in the past, because it's  
23 just the path to get it through NIFA. But  
24 no, it wasn't wasn't his adamant concern.  
25 It was negotiated between the two parties

1  
2 and we agreed to it because it provided a  
3 level of savings that would provide a  
4 better chart. They're getting a credit  
5 for something that they didn't have in  
6 the past. Wasn't insisting, it was a  
7 negotiated thing.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any  
9 legislators have questions?

10 Legislator Drucker.

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,  
12 Presiding Officer.

13 Andy, how much money in dollars will  
14 the County be realizing by switching from  
15 the Empire to the Excelsior Plan over the  
16 course of the contract?

17 MR. PERSICH: Over the course? Just  
18 give me one second. It's a rather  
19 significant number (perusing). About \$210  
20 Million. I had two numbers in my head for  
21 retiree health benefits in total, but a  
22 total of \$210 Million over the 13 years.

23 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: And does that  
24 factor in the additional revenue as a  
25 result of the increase in co-pays that

1  
2 the members will have to pay?

3 MR. PERSICH: That's what the HRA  
4 was set up for. There's an HRA component  
5 to help offset any additional costs that  
6 an employee might have as a result of the  
7 switch in the plan.

8 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Okay, so you  
9 just used the words, "we had to  
10 manipulate the numbers". Would you talk  
11 about --

12 MR. PERSICH: Maybe I should  
13 rephrase that. We calculated the numbers  
14 to come up with a savings to make sure  
15 that we conform to the pattern that we're  
16 we're required to do, which, in fairness,  
17 if I had to do this again, pattern  
18 bargaining is easier because you have to  
19 realize that when you're negotiating,  
20 everybody wants more. And that's just the  
21 term, for lack of a better thing, that's  
22 what unions are here to do. And  
23 management is to say no, so it's part of  
24 the negotiating process. But it's a  
25 calculated number that we calculated to

1  
2 fit in. The wages were the problem here.  
3 And in order to do that, we had to come  
4 up with a different solution. And that's  
5 how we did it. There's a couple of  
6 things. It's common in some of the other  
7 union agreements. There was things that  
8 were good and bad, and this is one of the  
9 things that we came up with that I think  
10 both sides agreed to.

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Okay.

12 I'm going to let my colleagues ask  
13 questions, too. I don't want to  
14 monopolize.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:  
16 Legislator Bynoe.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,  
18 Presiding Officer.

19 Hi, Mr. Persich. I have a question  
20 regarding how you arrived at some of  
21 those salaries. Was there a comparative  
22 study done in terms of interfacing with  
23 other municipalities to determine  
24 salaries that are being paid locally or  
25 regionally?

1  
2 MR. PERSICH: No, we didn't do that.  
3 Every municipality is going to have a  
4 different wage based on the size of their  
5 budgets and everything else. But what we  
6 did is when we looked at the size of the  
7 increases by fixing the OAOB chart, which  
8 is the term, we're centralizing or  
9 simplifying this the step charts and  
10 we're giving the employees a very fair  
11 and equitable deal.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Fair and  
13 equitable --

14 MR. PERSICH: In the sense of what  
15 could fit into our budget and how we  
16 could do this. Look, we can if we start  
17 selectively picking out positions and  
18 everything else, this negotiation would  
19 have went on forever. There are some  
20 positions that sometimes we will do side  
21 MOUs or MOAs, we will do that post that.  
22 But I think when you look at what the  
23 increases are, you will see that it's a  
24 very, very fair deal to the employees and  
25 to the County too, because we can afford

1  
2 to fit that into what we're getting as  
3 far as a credit on the other side of it.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Right. But my  
5 concern is being competitive, right?  
6 Because we have routinely said that we  
7 have challenges being able to expand our  
8 workforce and bring some things in-house  
9 versus having these things provided  
10 through private professional services  
11 contracts. Case in point, I know we were  
12 trying to make sure that a lot of the IT  
13 work, especially in the day and age of  
14 being concerned with cyber security, that  
15 we could bolster that department would be  
16 actualized by way of being competitive.  
17 There were some other departments that we  
18 found out weren't so competitive either  
19 in terms of the salaries; therefore, we  
20 were unable to hire in those positions.

21 You did not spend any time to  
22 determine whether these increases to  
23 those salaries would bring  
24 competitiveness?

25 MR. PERSICH: To the point, did we

1  
2 go out and say, what's Suffolk making  
3 compared to us? No, we did not. But we  
4 came up with a solution that would  
5 provide wages that I think were fair to  
6 the employee that was overwhelmingly  
7 approved by the Union itself. And I think  
8 a lot of the things we were doing were  
9 very messy when we did these things by  
10 doing waivers and everything else. But if  
11 you look at what the average ranges for  
12 the increases -- look, we can't afford to  
13 pay people. I'm going to use a number, \$1  
14 million, because I'm sure everybody wants  
15 to make the most. But we had to fit it in  
16 to what we could actually budgetarily  
17 afford.

18 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I hear you. The  
19 excuse then of coming back to this Body,  
20 when we asked those questions of you, of  
21 of the Administration, into the future  
22 when we can't hire in these positions,  
23 that, we can't compete with Suffolk or we  
24 can't compete with other parts of the  
25 region is going to fall flat with me



1  
2 because this is when our Administration  
3 should have been doing that work. And you  
4 can rebut or --

5 MR. PERSICH: Maybe the better way  
6 to answer is, I don't think, and I think  
7 our Union representation will tell you  
8 that I think we're not far off from some  
9 of the Suffolk numbers, which is probably  
10 our biggest competitor. If that's what  
11 you want to call it, our neighboring  
12 county. I think when you look at what  
13 we're paying in our wages compared to  
14 them -- we looked at this many years ago.  
15 But the point is, is that certain  
16 positions, we couldn't just selectively  
17 pick out what positions. There are other  
18 positions that are going up rather high.  
19 And there's some positions that are  
20 actually, you know, fair and equitable.  
21 And I think to your point, I think we  
22 have to wait and see right now to see if  
23 that holds true. But I think this is  
24 going to entice people to come to work in  
25 Nassau County, because what we did as far

1  
2 as wage increases and step charts. So I  
3 think it's a TBD. To say that it's it's  
4 that we're not competitive with Suffolk  
5 or we're not competitive with New York  
6 City. We're comparing apples to oranges  
7 sometimes. But I think our chart, when  
8 you look at it, when you look at Suffolk  
9 County, I think probably would be  
10 somewhat comparable.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. I hope I'm  
12 clear to what I'm saying.

13 MR. PERSICH: Your point is taken.

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: And I don't put  
15 that at the feet of the Union. I'm  
16 putting that at the feet of the  
17 Administration because you have come  
18 routinely and told us that we cannot hire  
19 in-house because we're not competitive.  
20 And I'm saying if we went through this  
21 process and the Administration did not do  
22 any work to ensure that we are  
23 competitive and that we can attract  
24 people to come here, then shame on you  
25 guys in this process. I'm making that

1  
2 clear in this moment.

3 And then I wanted to talk a little  
4 bit about the actual healthcare component  
5 of this CBA to the extent that Excelsior  
6 is now going to be replacing the Empire  
7 plan, correct?

8 MR. PERSICH: That is correct. We  
9 are taking the entire union body and  
10 putting it in there in totality.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I spent some time  
12 speaking to the Union and I had some real  
13 grave concerns, as we all did. And they  
14 were able to explain to us a little bit  
15 about how this plan will work locally and  
16 why some of the concerns and the angst  
17 that was birthed out of this process by  
18 some of their employees regarding  
19 Excelsior was because we're actually  
20 going to be the biggest bargaining unit  
21 that will sign into Excelsior, and we  
22 will be bringing it the largest number of  
23 membership into that plan, correct?

24 MR. PERSICH: That is correct.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. And so what

1  
2 I was learning was that some of the  
3 employees were calling around to their  
4 respective doctors and specialists, and  
5 they were told, "Excelsior plan? We  
6 don't have the Excelsior plan. We don't  
7 know what that is". And that's because  
8 there was unfamiliarity to it, because we  
9 may have 1 or 2 small little bargaining  
10 units that are actually in Excelsior. Is  
11 that correct as well?

12 MR. PERSICH: That's correct. Okay.  
13 And so we are bringing the largest number  
14 of membership to Excelsior. And I spoke  
15 to them about ensuring that the doctors  
16 and the providers in the area that we do  
17 some level of a public service  
18 announcement and really do a lot around  
19 awareness that this plan is available  
20 under the United HealthCare umbrella  
21 because because folks are calling doctors  
22 and they're saying we don't accept  
23 Excelsior, we don't know anything about  
24 Excelsior. And so the Union has told me  
25 and they identified the person within

1  
2           their staff that will spend a lot of time  
3           and has spent some time doing some  
4           marketing outreach on that. But I do  
5           think some of that also will fall to the  
6           burden of the County to make sure that  
7           the doctors in the area know what  
8           Excelsior is and that it exists and that  
9           our employees, their patients, can be can  
10          be serviced under that insurance plan. Is  
11          that something that you have been made  
12          aware of?

13               MR. PERSICH: We had extensive  
14               conversations with the Union, with the  
15               State on this stuff. And some of the  
16               concerns that were voiced I think were  
17               not really true. I think there was a lot  
18               of misinformation going out there. But,  
19               you know, let me just say this, and I  
20               don't know what the healthcare insurance  
21               world is going to look like in five years  
22               from now. We're starting to see some of  
23               the effects of Covid pricing and costing.  
24               The downstate region in New York is  
25               probably one of the most expensive places

1  
2 for healthcare in the state of New York.  
3 Just so you're aware, there's two  
4 sections of it that's downstate and  
5 upstate. So I don't know what it's going  
6 to look like and what the future holds as  
7 far as health insurance, I do not know. I  
8 mean, for all of us, the unknown is  
9 there.

10 But to the fact that we were able to  
11 find a plan that fit the needs  
12 financially of what we were trying to do  
13 with the contract was a win for both  
14 sides. And I think there was some  
15 givebacks that the the CSEA members will  
16 be giving. But on the other side of it,  
17 they were there was some financial  
18 benefit as a result of that switch. So I  
19 think it'll even out in the end. We are  
20 contributing between 4 and \$6 Million to  
21 the HRA to help offset any additional  
22 costs that may be had. I was a little  
23 skeptical. I'm not going to lie to you.  
24 But when it all came down to it, I the  
25 way it was accepted with the Union, I

1  
2 think told us told me something, too. So  
3 I think it's a good thing for both sides  
4 is what I will say.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: In terms of  
6 skepticism, I share in that. I don't like  
7 being first. I don't buy first generation  
8 anything because I want people to work  
9 out kinks and I come through later and  
10 sail through with a refined product. But  
11 we are going into this being somewhat  
12 first, especially being so large. I  
13 really would like to make sure that we do  
14 have some level of, you know, some real  
15 eyes that are committed to being on this  
16 plan to make sure that our employees  
17 aren't going to fall through some gaps,  
18 some gray area.

19 And I also want to make sure because  
20 we are first basically to this market  
21 based on the size of our union, that the  
22 County also doesn't in some way have this  
23 balloon. I'm told that there was some  
24 actuarial services that were committed  
25 to this process to make sure that we

1  
2 don't have something balloon at year  
3 five. I'm concerned about that as a  
4 fiduciary. But as an advocate for our  
5 employees, I have trepidation. But 79%  
6 of the Union agreed to do this. I'd like  
7 to think that we're moving into something  
8 that would be great for them into the  
9 future. But we have to keep our eyes on  
10 it. We have to have people that are  
11 dedicated to keeping their eyes on how  
12 this plan is functioning. And I'd like to  
13 have some level of commitment on the  
14 record as to how you plan to do that.

15 MR. PERSICH: Well, I believe  
16 there's a stipulation or condition in  
17 there that we're going to review this on  
18 an annual basis with the HRA to see how  
19 things are working out. Look, we're  
20 trying to provide a good workplace with  
21 good benefits to our employees. So we  
22 don't want to see this fail. We are aware  
23 that we are the largest people in there.  
24 Remember, it's NYSHIP Excelsior. It's not  
25 NYSHIP empire; It's NYSHIP Excelsior,



1  
2 which is a very similar program that I  
3 believe the majority, if not all, the  
4 doctors in the book are in the same book  
5 of the Excelsior Plan. And keep in mind,  
6 NYSHIP -- Let me just give everybody what  
7 I've learned during this process is  
8 something about NYSHIP that we all need  
9 to be aware of. NYSHIP is more like a  
10 wholesale insurance. There's the United  
11 Healthcare, which is not NYSHIP, and then  
12 is Blue Cross Blue Shield, which is the  
13 hospitalization. What we're doing is  
14 NYSHIP is just a pool of insurance that  
15 they're doing, and they're administering  
16 who gets what.

17 As I said earlier, I don't know what  
18 health insurance is going to look like in  
19 five years from now. And I think we all  
20 have to be prepared that something is  
21 going to change. I mean, we just can't  
22 sustain this level of cost when it comes  
23 to health insurance and everything else.  
24 So we'll see what happens. I mean, it's  
25 to be determined what's going to happen

1  
2 in the future. But just keep that in mind  
3 that the landscape may change in the near  
4 future.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: What do you mean  
6 by that?

7 MR. PERSICH: I'm talking about  
8 financially and what I --

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: How it will  
10 impact the County?

11 MR. PERSICH: I'm the finance guy.  
12 You've got to realize, I look at it  
13 through the set of glasses, how much it's  
14 going to cost me. I'm not looking to  
15 harm any employees or anything else.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: That's fine. I  
17 just needed to clear it up because I  
18 don't want people who are listening that  
19 are employees saying he's saying, we got  
20 to see what it looks like in five years,  
21 meaning they don't know what their plan  
22 will look like. And so I just wanted to  
23 clarify that.

24 One other point. The \$4 Million,  
25 it's going to be set aside annually and I

1  
2 guess we'll be prorated something about  
3 proration per month in the actual plan.  
4 So I understand who's eligible, we don't  
5 have any understanding how that will be  
6 administered. And that's because there is  
7 no administrator of that plan in the  
8 moment. Correct?

9 MR. PERSICH: We are working to do  
10 an RFP to get an HRA administrator in by  
11 January. We have to. And that's what  
12 we're going to figure out. Some of these  
13 sticking points still are going to be  
14 worked out of the funding, whether it's  
15 single family, what you're going to get  
16 is far as dollars and everything else.  
17 The County will work with the CSEA  
18 membership to bring that to light and  
19 figure out how we're going to administer  
20 the plan. But we know the number is and  
21 we'll figure out determining based on the  
22 population and a pool of people because  
23 it fluctuates all the time. The families  
24 become singles at some point. But we will  
25 work to figure out the logistics of the

1  
2 plan of the HRA.

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Is that like a  
4 side agreement or how does that work?

5 MR. PERSICH: No. When we when we  
6 when we get an HRA administrator, we will  
7 figure out. I would imagine individuals  
8 -- it's like a flexible spending account,  
9 but it's not. It's going to be very  
10 similar to that setup is what I would  
11 say.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Is that something  
13 that routinely we would have had done  
14 during the negotiation?

15 MR. PERSICH: We came up with a  
16 number that the County and the Union  
17 agreed upon based on the population of  
18 the union membership and how much we  
19 thought it was going to cost to fund for  
20 each individual account.

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: And that's \$4  
22 Million.

23 MR. PERSICH: Four million going to  
24 5 to 6. It increases over time, which is  
25 to say that sometimes costs are going to

1  
2 rise and we're trying to offset some of  
3 those additional costs that we might see  
4 in the future.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay.

6 Then my final thing and I want to  
7 close out on is Juneteenth. It appears  
8 that every municipal government in the  
9 region and even some public benefit  
10 corporations are providing Juneteenth to  
11 their employees. And there was  
12 legislation that was filed back when the  
13 federal government announced their  
14 commitment to Juneteenth as a holiday,  
15 and it was filed locally here at the  
16 County. And I think we may have been  
17 first to file, we might have been first  
18 out of the gate. But we're sitting here  
19 last and we don't have Juneteenth as a  
20 holiday and this was not negotiated into  
21 the CSEA contract. I'm just trying to  
22 figure out why that would not have been  
23 the case.

24 MR. PERSICH: What I can tell you is  
25 that we'd have to go back to the other

1  
2 Collective Bargaining Units because we  
3 can't have some with the day off and some  
4 not. We can't have police communication  
5 operators not and we have the Police  
6 Department working. So maybe we will look  
7 in the future to figure out a way that we  
8 could fit this in. But right now, when we  
9 were doing this contract, it was too  
10 complex and it took us almost six months  
11 to get here. We would have had to go back  
12 and reopen the other contracts in order  
13 to get --

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Well some of  
15 those contracts came after.

16 MR. PERSICH: I agree.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: We could have  
18 started somewhere, right? And then we  
19 could have worked to have MOUs for the  
20 others that were settled prior to. And so  
21 this is not my first time addressing this  
22 Administration regarding Juneteenth. And  
23 to me, it's not passing a smell test that  
24 you're moving forward in good faith in an  
25 effort to recognize Juneteenth. And this

1  
2 is something that's being celebrated  
3 across this country. And you mean to tell  
4 me a community that is as diverse as  
5 Nassau County with unions, especially  
6 CSEA that is home to many African  
7 Americans. The bulk of your African  
8 American population sits in that CSEA  
9 bargaining unit. It's lost on me why the  
10 administration would not in good faith  
11 work towards putting that in and hide  
12 behind the fact that other bargaining  
13 units, you'd have to open it up. It's  
14 just in bad taste. I feel that we could  
15 have achieved this. We've achieved more  
16 difficult things in this county than  
17 giving folks the opportunity to have the  
18 Juneteenth holiday. And so I'm not  
19 accepting anything you said on the record  
20 regarding that. I do appreciate  
21 everything else that you stated and  
22 clarified for me.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

24 Minority Leader Abrahams.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,

1  
2 Presiding Officer.

3           Andy, I have some questions on the  
4 financial construction of the agreement.  
5 But just to piggyback on Legislator Bynoe  
6 as it pertains to Juneteenth. Obviously,  
7 Juneteenth is a very significant and  
8 should be acknowledged holiday that's  
9 expressed all throughout the country. But  
10 the county, our county, is becoming more  
11 and more diverse. Legislator Lafazan in  
12 the past has has basically tried to put  
13 in legislation to recognize other  
14 holidays such as Diwali and other  
15 holidays in celebration of that cultural  
16 diversity that our county has. It was  
17 brought to our attention that the  
18 discussion of the Juneteenth holiday  
19 would be an expense to the County if we  
20 were trying to recognize it on that  
21 particular day. But like many  
22 municipalities as well as many in the  
23 private sector, they have recognized as a  
24 floating holiday, which, I would think,  
25 drastically reduce the expenditure. Is



1  
2 that the case or your discussions didn't  
3 get that far or was it was hung up on  
4 that particular day?

5 MR. PERSICH: It was hung up because  
6 of the other CBAs or MOUs that we had in  
7 place. Again, I'm going to say we  
8 couldn't give to one without the other.  
9 It was an arduous process, which I'm not  
10 saying we can't revisit this in the  
11 future. I'm not saying that right now.  
12 I'm not putting it on the hands that we  
13 didn't. But at the point in time, in  
14 order to get this deal done and keep  
15 reopening other contracts, we wouldn't  
16 have a CSEA agreement if we kept going  
17 back and asking. I'm just being honest  
18 with you. It's a long process. We were  
19 trying to fit a square peg into a round  
20 hole at some point.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I get it.

22 I would love to see an analysis and  
23 maybe we can ask Budget Review to do it.  
24 It's also our understanding that the  
25 Hospital didn't need a negotiation,

1  
2 didn't need a contract to be open. The  
3 very same hospital, quite frankly, that's  
4 that's losing a bunch of money but  
5 figured in recognition to its employees  
6 did the right thing and just did an MOU  
7 that recognized Juneteenth for all the  
8 CSEA workers at the hospital. To me, I  
9 can't believe, we're in much better  
10 financial shape, at least by the County  
11 Executive's testament, than the Hospital.  
12 And the Hospital is able to do this, but  
13 we're not? It doesn't seem like there's  
14 a strong parallel here in terms of  
15 recognizing that holiday.

16 MR. PERSICH: Agreed. What I'm  
17 going to say is I think we can revisit  
18 this in a future date. I don't think it's  
19 going to be taken off the table. I hear  
20 what this Body is saying. We will take a  
21 look at it. But I think, again, it was  
22 too complex for where we were at with  
23 this deal, which was a six month  
24 negotiation to try and fit the other  
25 pieces of the other bargaining units to

1  
2 make it -- because it has to all line up.  
3 Because again, I'm going to use the  
4 analogy, I can't have CB operators and  
5 medics being off on a day, even though  
6 the not they work holidays, but I'm using  
7 it as an example. We have to just make  
8 sure we coincide that with the other  
9 collective bargaining agreement so it's  
10 all on the same page.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Two things and  
12 then I'm going to move on.

13 One, it doesn't have to be  
14 recognized -- and I believe based on what  
15 I've seen in the private sector, what  
16 I've seen, other municipalities, it  
17 shouldn't be considered that it can't be  
18 done because it has to be recognized on  
19 that particular day. Other  
20 municipalities, people in the private  
21 sector have recognized it on a different  
22 day, a floating holiday. They've also  
23 recognized it as a cultural diversity  
24 day. So it would basically be  
25 encompassing of many other religious

1  
2 holidays as well. So I think from that  
3 standpoint, we could do a little bit  
4 better. This is the kind of thing that  
5 honestly -- I hear what you're saying and  
6 you know I have the utmost respect for  
7 you, but at the same time, this is the  
8 kind of thing I don't think the CSEA or  
9 any collective bargaining unit should  
10 have to negotiate for this. There's  
11 certain things in terms of recognition of  
12 our employees, I can't believe if we went  
13 back 40 or 50 years that we to have to  
14 negotiate for Martin Luther King Day or  
15 any other important significant holiday  
16 that has come up over the years. There's  
17 certain things that I like to think that  
18 should be incorporated into the County's  
19 holiday schedule, and this is one of  
20 them.

21 That that being said, I want to get  
22 into a little bit of the crux in terms of  
23 how the Agreement was formulated. I was  
24 reading through OLBR's report and it had  
25 indicated that 210, I think by your

1  
2 estimates as well, comes from savings  
3 from the switch from Empire to the  
4 Excelsior.

5 MR. PERSICH: That's correct.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. In the  
7 discussions with Mr. Dellaverson, with  
8 the County, with the Union. Was there a  
9 number that they had to reach? A total  
10 number they had to reach? And could you  
11 share that number with us?

12 MR. PERSICH: How do I say this? Let  
13 me just think about my words here,  
14 because I want to make sure I say this  
15 right. There was not a number they had to  
16 reach. It was a number that we all agreed  
17 upon as far as what the credit would be  
18 for that piece of the contract. Meaning,  
19 we got a number. We went through an  
20 actuary, we got a number that said this  
21 is what we think the costs are going to  
22 be, which on the up front seemed to be a  
23 little higher. But as you go over time,  
24 because we're going to be the largest  
25 participant in the Excelsior plan, the

1  
2           diminishing returns in savings we would  
3           have had scared us too like everybody  
4           else. That's why we got a third party to  
5           look at this and give us what we thought  
6           was a fair number. And we agreed with the  
7           union on what that number would be. Okay.

8           LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm sorry. I  
9           wasn't clear. I wasn't talking about the  
10          savings in terms of the actual Excelsior  
11          versus the Empire program. I was talking  
12          about was there a savings number that  
13          CSEA in terms of what their contract was  
14          going to cost, was there a number that  
15          their contract could not go over a  
16          certain budgeted number?

17          MR. PERSICH: First of all, we had  
18          to stick -- that's why it's broken up. We  
19          had to stick to pattern bargaining, which  
20          is why they ended up getting additional  
21          benefits after 2026. But that's why the  
22          contract is termed that way.

23          But there was not a number in our  
24          head that we said you got to give us \$300  
25          Million in savings. It kind of fit in.

1  
2 When we took the Excelsior Savings, we  
3 were able to manipulate, I don't want to  
4 say manipulate. We were able to calculate  
5 how much we could go with the college  
6 chart. That's why it's 60% starting  
7 January 2024, and then it goes to 100% in  
8 2026.

9 So that's how we kind of fit the  
10 numbers in. We were trying to fix the  
11 step charts and part of that component  
12 was built in between the numbers that we  
13 calculated this step chart to be along  
14 with what the Excelsior program and a few  
15 other things. It wasn't just that one  
16 item, there were multiple of items on it.  
17 So that's how we got to where we figured  
18 out how we could do all these things.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I was going to  
20 get to that. Because if I'm reading  
21 through the OLBR report, obviously the  
22 \$210 Million is a big crux of the  
23 savings, but it also identifies  
24 additional savings that was contributed  
25 towards the actual contract, such as I

1  
2 know CSEA workers are going to have to  
3 work an additional 15 minutes per  
4 workday, and so on and so forth.

5 I do want to get to one particular  
6 item in the savings because I'm just  
7 trying to figure out was it something  
8 that was that needed to be required to  
9 get to a certain number? And that's what  
10 I'm driving at. Obviously, the change in  
11 2026 for individuals that have ten years  
12 of service with the County is going to be  
13 a change. But that particular item, if  
14 I'm understanding it correctly, looking  
15 through all the reports, is going to  
16 generate \$2.1 million in savings and it  
17 impacts roughly about 100 people, right?

18 MR. PERSICH: There at about. Yes, I  
19 would say that's correct.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: 2.1 million  
21 over the life of the agreement.

22 MR. PERSICH: Correct.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And the life  
24 of the agreement is how much, again?

25 MR. PERSICH: Thirteen years.



1  
2                   LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:   And how much  
3                   and how much total money?

4                   MR. PERSICH:   Roughly \$760 Million  
5                   on my cost. I think Maurice is very close  
6                   to what we costed it out at.

7                   LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:   \$760 Million.

8                   MR. PERSICH:   Over 13 years.

9                   LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:   Okay. And I  
10                  don't have a calculator with me, but 2.1  
11                  million is what percentage of 760  
12                  million?

13                  MR. PERSICH:   That's a very small  
14                  percentage. But there's future cost  
15                  savings that will help us with the  
16                  vesting period that we should see.  
17                  Meaning that we have an OPEB liability.  
18                  It's going to assist us with that. And  
19                  again, part of Civil Service's role,  
20                  which is when you went to the Union, we  
21                  collectively bargained with the Union.  
22                  This is what they wanted. This is one of  
23                  the things we can't just start  
24                  selectively pulling pieces out now  
25                  because then it changes the term. I'm

1  
2 just telling you.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No. I'm trying  
4 to understand the rationale.

5 MR. PERSICH: Yeah. But that's how  
6 we ended up where we were at. And the  
7 fact that we're extending it came with a  
8 monetary incentive for you to stay. And  
9 it kind of coincides if you look back.  
10 First of all, there's an age requirement.  
11 I think it has to be 55. The other thing,  
12 too, for the New York State Pension  
13 System, you get your biggest money if you  
14 make the 20 years. So it kind of goes  
15 hand in hand with that. And we don't want  
16 a lot of turnover. The argument was that  
17 we can't keep people, retain people. We  
18 don't want a turnover here. That's the  
19 primary function of civil service is  
20 continuity of services within the county.  
21 And they're the backbone of what we do  
22 here, from deed recordings to ambulance  
23 workers. And I can keep going down the  
24 list. They're the ones. But we don't want  
25 to have turnover. That's what we're

1  
2 trying to prevent. And the fact that  
3 we've offered an incentive to lengthen  
4 the vesting period was the reason we did  
5 it.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It wasn't  
7 monetary.

8 MR. PERSICH: Well, it was monetary  
9 to a point. Yes. It did have some  
10 monetary savings. Our future cost could  
11 probably be higher, too.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It can't all  
13 be monetary because, I mean, there was no  
14 target number in savings that you were  
15 expected from the contract. I mean, we  
16 were kind of thinking, you know, 210  
17 here, 15 minutes here from the savings of  
18 an extra workday. But were we targeted  
19 towards a number?

20 MR. PERSICH: Yes, we were.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Oh, we were?

22 MR. PERSICH: We were targeting  
23 toward a pattern number, which you're  
24 going to hear, 1476, because that's what  
25 we did with the other unions and that's

1  
2 the pattern we established. So 1476 was  
3 the total cost. So to your point, maybe I  
4 didn't answer you properly earlier, but  
5 that's how we got -- how we did what we  
6 did was sticking to the previous patterns  
7 we did for the other unions, which was  
8 1476.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So we were  
10 driving towards a number and then this  
11 actually fit the bill of 2.1 million.

12 MR. PERSICH: Precisely.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Got it.

14 MR. PERSICH: Maybe I didn't answer  
15 that correctly, but I think maybe that  
16 clarified it.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That does  
18 clarify. Okay. All right.

19 And if I understand correctly, the  
20 savings that comes from the Excelsior  
21 versus Empire would save 75%. So the big  
22 crux of the savings comes from that.

23 MR. PERSICH: Absolutely. And that's  
24 how we funded the college charts to  
25 unfreeze the the salary wages that were

1  
2 frozen by NIFA back in 2014. That's what  
3 we did. We unfrozen the wage charts.  
4 College charts weren't frozen. They were  
5 not part of it.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. Now I  
7 understand.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It's a win/win  
9 for everybody. We're unraveling some of  
10 the things that NIFA has instituted, and  
11 that's how we're doing it.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So basically,  
13 if I'm understanding everything  
14 correctly, those individuals that have  
15 worked ten years in the County come June  
16 2026, if they do not have 20 years and  
17 they choose to retire, they will no  
18 longer receive retirement benefits.

19 MR. PERSICH: No, they will. If they  
20 terminate before January, if they have  
21 ten years and they terminate in 2026,  
22 they have the option to leave with the  
23 health benefit.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Maybe I'm not  
25 asking my question correctly. Let me try

1  
2 again.

3 If I'm in the County, currently  
4 right now I have three years, in 2026, if  
5 I choose to terminate from the County --  
6 I'm sorry, that wouldn't be right. In  
7 2030, if I choose to terminate from the  
8 County and I have ten years, which is  
9 after 2026, I would basically no longer  
10 be able to get retirement benefits in my  
11 11th year.

12 MR. PERSICH: Correct.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Right? Am I  
14 saying is that correct? I want to make  
15 sure I'm saying it correct.

16 MR. PERSICH: Right.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So that  
18 particular change impacts 100 people, as  
19 I said before, roughly more than I don't.

20 MR. PERSICH: Approximately 100.  
21 It's roughly around 100. It might be a  
22 little north of 100.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: This was an  
24 initiative that was negotiated between  
25 the Collective Bargaining Unit and the

1  
2 County. Did the County look at the  
3 individuals that are impacted to  
4 determine some of the criteria that you  
5 talked about in terms of -- like you  
6 talked about incentive to stay. And I  
7 totally understand that. Look, I've been  
8 here 22 years. You know, I got incentive  
9 to stay to some degree. So I get that.  
10 But I guess what I'm asking is, did the  
11 County do an analysis to determine what  
12 that makeup of individuals was? Because  
13 maybe some of those individuals don't  
14 have the ability to stay? I don't know,  
15 because, look, I'm not going to try cast  
16 aspersions or figure out the age of  
17 individuals. But say, for example, if I  
18 came to the County later in life, maybe I  
19 came at the age of 52, maybe 55, and now  
20 I'm being forced, not being forced, but  
21 I'm being asked in the Agreement to now  
22 work to the age of 75, did the County do  
23 that analysis to determine where a lot of  
24 those people lie?

25 MR. PERSICH: We did an analysis. We

1  
2 looked at it again. But I hate to say  
3 this, and I'm not diminishing the people  
4 who are impacted. So let me just say  
5 that. But we we did this agreement for  
6 the masses of the people in order to give  
7 them a financial benefit as a result of  
8 this. This was one of the means to get  
9 there. So we didn't look at the  
10 individual. We didn't say we're looking  
11 to harm Joe Smith because they don't have  
12 it. It was a financial benefit that we  
13 got to do other things with inside the  
14 contract.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I get that.  
16 And obviously, all of us, the 19 of us  
17 are here, we're all fiduciary officers of  
18 the County, and we're going to look at  
19 the confines and the Agreement in terms  
20 of how it saves money for the County. I'm  
21 just trying to make sure I understand  
22 some of the rationale. Because to me, if  
23 we were able to do that analysis -- and  
24 this kind of ties into what Legislator  
25 Bynoe started with when it pertains to



1  
2 Juneteenth. And this is all about how we  
3 treat and how we give respect to our  
4 employees. What I'm trying to say is  
5 that we talk about it's hard to hire  
6 people. It becomes even harder when you  
7 have people that, whether it's 100, 200,  
8 whatever the number is, that feel this  
9 way, that feel that they've been treated  
10 unfairly. I think if there was an  
11 analysis that showed that if there is a a  
12 younger person that could achieve that 20  
13 years and it's still within their  
14 retirement scheme to be able to do that,  
15 I understand why you want to incentivize  
16 that person who may be 28, 30 years old  
17 and you want them to work to 50 in the  
18 County, totally get that. But if we did  
19 an analysis and we saw that some people  
20 were a little bit later in life and they  
21 were looking forward to that retirement  
22 branch, and then we suddenly pulled the  
23 rug out from them and we tell them,  
24 instead of going to 65, you got to go to  
25 75 to get the same benefits you would

1  
2 have got at 65, and that analysis showed  
3 that the number was smaller -- this is  
4 the kind of thing, like I said, same  
5 thing about Juneteenth -- it shouldn't  
6 have to be negotiated. It's the kind of  
7 thing that if it impacted 30 or 40  
8 people, we should just be doing it  
9 because it's the right thing to do. And  
10 when we're talking about numbers of 2.1  
11 million savings for all of the people --  
12 and granted some folks that will fall  
13 into the area, that they will keep  
14 working, that number is going to be  
15 reduced, I would think -- the folks that  
16 wanted to stop working, I can't believe  
17 that that number is drastically that much  
18 higher. I would love to see that  
19 analysis. I'm not going to see that  
20 analysis today, I'm guessing because  
21 obviously it can't be provided in the  
22 time for this vote. But I would love to  
23 see that analysis because I can't believe  
24 we are talking about millions of dollars,  
25 not even close to the \$2.1 million of the

1  
2 folks that are nearing retirement age  
3 that would have to put in an extra ten  
4 years, and to be able to do the right  
5 thing and give them health insurance  
6 benefits instead of them having to do the  
7 20 years instead of do the ten. Just the  
8 grandfather. I'm not talking about  
9 starting anew. I'm talking about taking  
10 care of those that are there already. But  
11 I envision that analysis is not coming.  
12 And like I said before, I just want to  
13 state my position in regards to this on  
14 the record in terms of how we're treating  
15 our employees.

16 MR. PERSICH: It's noted and it was  
17 negotiated between the two parties. We  
18 looked at it and this is what we thought  
19 was a way to fit the pattern bargaining.  
20 This is the way we did it.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I get that. I  
22 get the fact that it's been negotiated.

23 MR. PERSICH: We negotiate for the  
24 3800 other people who did this, which was  
25 the thing that we did. And it was

1  
2 overwhelmingly approved by the  
3 membership.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I get the  
5 fact that it's been negotiated. I totally  
6 understand that. And I understand that it  
7 takes two to tango. Trust me, I totally  
8 get that. But like I said, the County has  
9 definitely has recognized the fact that  
10 it has become very hard to hire people.  
11 That's very largely part because of the  
12 salary scale, which I'm glad to see both  
13 sides have come together to address. But  
14 I also think it's the treatment. So I do  
15 think in this aspect we could have done  
16 better. And I do believe also in this  
17 aspect that I don't believe that it would  
18 have cost a tremendous amount of money if  
19 we did the proper analysis to determine  
20 the folks that are being impacted, that  
21 100, 200 or whatever number is. I truly  
22 believe that that number is going to be  
23 smaller when you start to look at the  
24 individuals that are very close to that  
25 retirement. Unless you did that analysis

1  
2 already.

3 MR. PERSICH: We did an extensive  
4 analysis on the number of individuals. We  
5 didn't look at names or who it was or  
6 anything else, but there was an analysis  
7 done. There are certain people who will  
8 have ten years that have the ability to  
9 retire of that pool of people.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Andy, I don't  
11 want to belabor this, but the analysis  
12 that was done, what was the criteria that  
13 was used?

14 MR. PERSICH: It was the selection  
15 of based on age and years of service. You  
16 know what I mean? And you know, when  
17 their hire date was. There was an  
18 analysis done of who's going to fall into  
19 that window or a bucket of where they  
20 were going to land.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What was the  
22 age cutoff?

23 MR. PERSICH: I don't even know off  
24 the top of my head. We used a different  
25 variety. We had to look at hire date

1  
2 first because that's what it was the way  
3 it was done. Okay. But the other thing  
4 too, was that we looked to see how many  
5 people would be impacted and what the  
6 savings would be based on those people.  
7 So that's how it was done.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It just it  
9 just seems to me if there was -- and  
10 look, I'm not going to speak for the  
11 Union. Obviously, I understand when  
12 you're putting together this type of  
13 agreement, it's like looking at a knitted  
14 sweater and you start pulling the string,  
15 everything starts to unravel. The Union,  
16 you said it before and I think they've  
17 said it to us in the past, they put in  
18 many, many years to get to this point to  
19 where they are today. Look, we are not  
20 trying to unravel their deal or unravel  
21 something that you said 79% of the  
22 membership has voted for. What we're  
23 trying to figure out is, it seems like a  
24 very small percentage of folks that are  
25 being impacted by this. We're talking

1  
2 about a tremendous deal. One that's going  
3 to be able to save the County over \$230  
4 Million, if I understand correctly. And  
5 it just seems to boggle the mind, of that  
6 savings, we talked about 2.1 million of a  
7 \$760 million deal, and we're talking  
8 about 100 people. I understand everything  
9 is tied together, but it just seems like  
10 we're missing the ball again in terms of  
11 trying to take care of our employees.

12 But thank you again, Andy, for your  
13 testimony today.

14 MR. PERSICH: Thank you.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:  
16 Legislator Ford.

17 LEGISLATOR FORD: Hey, Andy, how are  
18 you?

19 MR. PERSICH: How are you?

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. I won't be  
21 as lengthy.

22 First of all, I just want to  
23 congratulate the County as well as the  
24 Union on negotiating this contract. I  
25 know that is not accepted by everybody

1  
2 here, but overall, I guess when you look  
3 at it globally, it is a good contract.  
4 Not only does it save the County money,  
5 but it does appear that we're going to  
6 look at some salary increases for many of  
7 the CSEA workers who are here in the  
8 County. I believe that it is going to  
9 result in some higher starting salaries  
10 that will attract more and more people to  
11 come to work for the County?

12 MR. PERSICH: Yes, that is correct.

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. But I know  
14 that you might not have captured every  
15 title and maybe not every title will be  
16 competitive with whether or not it's with  
17 Suffolk County or Rockland County or  
18 whatever. But when we talk about the  
19 living wage adjustment, is this something  
20 that can be utilized so that if we find  
21 that in one of the job titles, that we're  
22 just not getting people applying for the  
23 job, maybe it's starting at \$35,000, but  
24 it really should start at \$45,000. Is  
25 this something that can be looked at to



1  
2 compensate for that shortfall of salary?

3 MR. PERSICH: Absolutely. We've  
4 been doing that with some of the  
5 positions with salary waivers which drive  
6 you crazy because it impacts not the  
7 person in the title. I mean, the people  
8 that are sitting in the titles, they get  
9 bumped up as a result of that. With this  
10 new salary chart, you have to wait and  
11 see what it's going to look like. I mean,  
12 everybody's got to understand the  
13 economy's roaring right now. But, you  
14 know, people come here like myself. I  
15 worked on Wall Street. I ended up in  
16 government. I'm here 18 years now. We  
17 have to wait and see what happens because  
18 sometimes those people come here for  
19 different reasons, is what I will say.  
20 And the salary chart, let's see what  
21 happens now that we move some of the  
22 beginning steps. There was some problems  
23 with the OAOB Chart. Let's see what  
24 happens. We'll see if we're not  
25 attracting in certain -- there's certain

1  
2 job classifications. We cannot negotiate  
3 individuals in a contract. We cannot  
4 negotiate individual titles. If you want  
5 to do that, we would have been here for  
6 six more years. They would not have a  
7 contract. We would have been stuck in the  
8 mud. That's why when we looked at it,  
9 this was the most efficient way. We can't  
10 look at individual titles. We will  
11 address those separately as a side MOA  
12 and then we'll see if we're not getting,  
13 for an example, if we're not getting  
14 clerks or something else and we need to  
15 do something to to that, up the salary  
16 grade that we can do that.

17 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you. And  
18 with the negotiations, NIFA had hired  
19 Dellaverson.

20 MR. PERSICH: Yes.

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: Was this  
22 individual party to all of the  
23 negotiations between the Union and the  
24 County?

25 MR. PERSICH: We, the County, and

1  
2 the Union and NIFA worked together  
3 collaboratively to do this deal.

4 LEGISLATOR FORD: So they were  
5 together.

6 MR. PERSICH: It's how we did the  
7 other ones. As painful as it may be,  
8 we're still under the control period. So  
9 in order for this contract to pass, we  
10 need to work with them to see what fits  
11 in the boundaries of what the contract  
12 would look like.

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: And they would  
14 give advice and how to save money, how to  
15 bring it more in line?

16 MR. PERSICH: It was a give and  
17 take. The expertise between all three,  
18 because it was a tri party agreement, for  
19 lack of a better thing. It was the Union  
20 itself, the County and NIFA worked  
21 together to formulate this Agreement.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: Off the top of  
23 your head, how many years is Dellaverson  
24 been working for NIFA?

25 MR. PERSICH: Since 2020, I think.

1  
2           LEGISLATOR FORD: Yeah. I think it  
3 was like right before the pandemic --

4           MR. PERSICH: Yeah.

5           LEGISLATOR FORD: If my memory  
6 serves me. I remember going to the  
7 hearing on that.

8           MR. PERSICH: It was either '18 or  
9 '19, I think.

10          LEGISLATOR FORD: Over three years.  
11 Well, it's a lot of money.

12          Okay. So then but then I guess also  
13 then when you take a look at the  
14 employees who were raised from 10 to 20  
15 years, and I know I listened to your  
16 responses to both Legislators Bynoe and  
17 Abrahams on it, but when you looked at  
18 the analysis, was there any  
19 consideration, perhaps, that if you were  
20 trying to achieve a certain savings of --  
21 I guess right now the savings would be  
22 2.1 million? Is that a year that you're  
23 saving by pushing the people to 20 years?

24          MR. PERSICH: It's a cumulative  
25 number over the term. The point is,

1  
2           though, we were trying to get additional  
3 monies for other things that were in  
4 there. So it was a component of savings  
5 that had to be calculated.

6           LEGISLATOR FORD: But it was  
7 basically a 2.1 million?

8           MR. PERSICH: Yes.

9           LEGISLATOR FORD: I know that the  
10 time frame when when people were able to  
11 get benefits and retire had jumped many  
12 years ago from five years to ten years,  
13 it was a five year jump. Was there any  
14 consideration looking at this,  
15 considering the age of the employees and  
16 the number of employees that would be --  
17 and I understand you can't go by every  
18 job title, but something like this was  
19 going to impact a number of employees  
20 that maybe to go from ten years to 15  
21 years rather than 20 years.

22           MR. PERSICH: I would respectfully  
23 say that they're still going to have the  
24 same complaints with 10 or 15 and 20, you  
25 know what I mean? So it's been changed in

1  
2 the past. I've worked for another  
3 municipality where they've changed the  
4 vesting period. I mean, it's not an  
5 uncommon thing in labor practices to  
6 extend vesting periods for that.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Is there any  
8 possibility at any later date perhaps  
9 that something like this can be looked at  
10 and considered, considering that it's not  
11 going to take effect until 2026?

12 MR. PERSICH: I don't want to  
13 guarantee anything because I don't have  
14 the contract in place. Right now, we  
15 have a contract. We're going to move  
16 forward with what we have and then the  
17 chips will fall where they have to at  
18 this point. And then we'll deal with if  
19 there's fallout, we'll address it like we  
20 do with everything else. Government is  
21 ever changing here.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: All right.

23 My last comment then, I just wanted  
24 to bring up about Juneteenth as well.  
25 Considering that it is a holiday that

1  
2 many other employees throughout the state  
3 and the country do get to celebrate and  
4 have time off. And I understand that  
5 consideration, like whether or not going  
6 back to the the unions as if you're going  
7 to have to reopen their contracts. But I  
8 would think that if the Administration  
9 did say that they wanted to acknowledge  
10 Juneteenth as a holiday, that the Unions  
11 would accept it as a holiday, you  
12 wouldn't have to reopen a contract to  
13 negotiate to give them something.  
14 Correct?

15 MR. PERSICH: Let me put it to you  
16 this way. There's a cost by giving  
17 another holiday. So that's what we'd have  
18 to figure out. And then we'd have to look  
19 at the individual Collective Bargaining  
20 Agreements. Will we do it simultaneously?  
21 I don't know. It would be better if we  
22 had all the unions wrapped up together,  
23 but we're working to get there so that  
24 once we have all the unions, maybe we  
25 review this at a future date. We're

1  
2 getting to the terms of the other deals,  
3 which is coming up. Remember, they're  
4 terming in July of 2026. So we're getting  
5 there. So I'm not saying we're walking  
6 away from it. But at this point in time,  
7 it's not subject for what we're looking  
8 for here because it wasn't wasn't part of  
9 this agreement. But we will look into it  
10 in the future.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: But I think it  
12 probably would have been just to send a  
13 nice message to everybody that, you know,  
14 by allowing the CSEA workers to be the  
15 first county workers to be able to have  
16 this as a recognized holiday, then it can  
17 open the door so that if the other unions  
18 would like to come back and maybe speak  
19 to the County about it. But I really  
20 think that it should have been something  
21 that should have been negotiated and  
22 given to the employees. Considering the  
23 importance of that date.

24 MR. PERSICH: Again, I couldn't have  
25 CSEA and the other collective bargaining



1  
2 units because they support each other.  
3 Everybody works in tandem together. For  
4 argument's sake, if we shut down  
5 Juneteenth or that day, we shut down the  
6 county CSEA people, there's a cost  
7 associated with that. But then PBA, SOA,  
8 DAI, and the other ones that don't have  
9 that -- I don't know how this would work,  
10 is my point, you know what I mean? And  
11 there would be additional costs as a  
12 result of that, which then would undo  
13 pattern bargaining, which is what we  
14 strive to do here. We will take a look  
15 at it. I'm not going to say that we're  
16 not.

17 LEGISLATOR FORD: I would strongly  
18 recommend.

19 MR. PERSICH: We will review it  
20 again after we have everything wrapped  
21 up. And we will take a look to see if  
22 there's a mechanism with all six  
23 bargaining units to come back and look at  
24 that.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: I do hope that you

do. All right. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We have a couple more legislators.

But let me just ask you this, Andy. The contract term will start December 31, 2017?

MR. PERSICH: Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The CSEA has been without a contract for that length of time?

MR. PERSICH: That is correct.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So we're going on six years, correct?

MR. PERSICH: That is correct.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The term extends to December of 2030?

MR. PERSICH: That is correct.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So the CSEA obviously is our largest workforce?

MR. PERSICH: Yes, they are. Let me just see if you agree with this. There's certain things that had to be priorities in this. We want a fair wage for our employees. You have to fit within the

1  
2 NIFA pattern.

3 MR. PERSICH: Yes, that's basically  
4 what we were eluding to.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: And it  
6 had to be affordable within the budget  
7 and four year plan, correct?

8 MR. PERSICH: Absolutely.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: And  
10 you mentioned before it was  
11 overwhelmingly approved by the CSEA  
12 members.

13 MR. PERSICH: Yes, it was.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All  
15 right. My colleagues have made some very  
16 good points, especially on this issue of  
17 the length of service for health benefits  
18 and retirement. But we're presented today  
19 with two options: Voting yes or voting  
20 no. Correct me if I'm wrong, we cannot  
21 change specific terms of the contract.

22 MR. PERSICH: No, you cannot.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So if  
24 we vote it down, you are back to the  
25 drawing board on the contract, number

1  
2 one. Number two, although this has been  
3 approved overwhelmingly, there's no given  
4 that whatever it is you come up with next  
5 will be approved. Correct?

6 MR. PERSICH: That is that is  
7 correct.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We've  
9 seen that the opposite way with one of  
10 our biggest unions recently, where they  
11 voted down a contract and then we get a  
12 contract that's very similar and was  
13 voted up.

14 MR. PERSICH: That is correct.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So to  
16 vote this down because on this provision,  
17 no matter how important it is to to so  
18 many people, is a risk that we will then  
19 set the negotiations back for months, if  
20 not years.

21 MR. PERSICH: Absolutely. Not only,  
22 it was a long negotiation process to  
23 which was almost six months that we  
24 started negotiating. And that was  
25 extensive: Weekly, bimonthly meetings,

1  
2 meeting regularly trying to figure out  
3 things. So what it would definitely  
4 impact the process on what the deal might  
5 look like.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank  
7 you. Legislator Ferretti and then  
8 Legislator Solages.

9 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Actually, the  
10 Presiding Officer just took a lot of my  
11 thunder right there, but he says it much  
12 more eloquently than me. So thank you,  
13 Presiding Officer.

14 But just look, after six years, I  
15 think it's six years now. I guess about  
16 six years where the CSEA's been without a  
17 contract. I just want to congratulate the  
18 Administration as well as Ron Gurrieri  
19 and the CSEA team that worked together to  
20 get this done. And obviously no contract  
21 is going to make everybody happy. I  
22 understand that. I understand the  
23 frustration of some of the people in this  
24 room over some things. So believe me, I'm  
25 not minimizing or diminishing that

1  
2           whatsoever. But at the end of the day,  
3           the bottom line is that this  
4           Administration, along with the CSEA, has  
5           gotten something done that has been  
6           unable to get done for the last six  
7           years. And I think that's an  
8           accomplishment.

9           Just my two cents with regard to in  
10          the future, looking at additional  
11          holidays, whether it's Juneteenth or any  
12          other holiday, there's obviously a cost  
13          to any additional holiday being  
14          instituted, but there wouldn't be if that  
15          was exchanged with a holiday that's  
16          currently on the books. So at least I  
17          don't think it would be. So maybe that's  
18          something that could be considered in the  
19          event that there is a movement towards an  
20          additional holiday. I know there are some  
21          holidays, specifically Lincoln's birthday  
22          right now. That's a Nassau County  
23          holiday. That's not a holiday in  
24          virtually every other jurisdiction or in  
25          school districts. So anyway, that's just

1  
2 an idea I'm throwing out there for the  
3 future to think about.

4 Again, I want to thank you. The  
5 administration, the CSEA, for all this  
6 hard work. I know this was not easy. And  
7 it's a pretty good accomplishment, as  
8 illustrated by the 80% of the union  
9 membership that voted for it.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. PERSICH: Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:  
13 Legislator Solages.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you very  
15 much. Thank you, Presiding Officer.

16 Thank you, Andy for answering all  
17 these questions. Like Legislator Ferretti  
18 said, his thunder was stolen by  
19 Legislator Nicollelo, a lot of those same  
20 questions I had regarding Juneteenth were  
21 also asked by my colleagues, Legislator  
22 Bynoe, Abrahams and Legislator Ford.

23 The idea of just trying to give up  
24 one holiday for another holiday may put  
25 communities against each other. Whether

1  
2           you're looking at Columbus Day or Freedom  
3           Day or Emancipation Day, or Juneteenth,  
4           as we're talking about here, I think the  
5           County should be embracing all  
6           communities and giving an opportunity for  
7           most communities to celebrate important  
8           holidays.

9           You said that with respect to  
10          Juneteenth, there was a cost. What cost  
11          would it be for the County to celebrate  
12          Juneteenth? What would that cost be?  
13          Three million, two million?

14          MR. PERSICH: If we give an  
15          additional holiday, it means that that  
16          would be an additional cost if we swapped  
17          it out or did something else --

18          LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Was there  
19          analysis?

20          MR. PERSICH: Yeah. I think we've  
21          done an analysis. I don't have the exact  
22          number right now, but I think it's  
23          roughly around \$3 Million it would cost  
24          us.

25          LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: That would pale



1  
2 in comparison to the benefit of having  
3 Juneteenth recognized as a holiday. I  
4 mean, as a county legislator, I have  
5 community events where I encourage  
6 individuals, for example, to take the  
7 test to become a police officer or to  
8 apply to become a county employee. And,  
9 you know, it's concerning now that in  
10 addition to these concerns to this, now  
11 school districts may have an upper hand  
12 in providing attractive positions. You  
13 know, I feel for these workers who made a  
14 reliance upon certain statements that  
15 were made to them, and now they are out  
16 of healthcare benefits. I'm concerned  
17 that we may not be attracting the best  
18 candidates, especially now when people  
19 learn that Juneteenth is not celebrated  
20 in this jurisdiction. It's celebrating  
21 Suffolk County, it's celebrated Queens  
22 and Brooklyn and all these other areas,  
23 but not in Nassau County. So I'm  
24 concerned as to the process. What  
25 efforts were made by the Blakeman

1  
2 Administration to recognize it as a  
3 holiday?

4 For example, the body cameras, there  
5 was one certain union that took the lead  
6 and say, hey, we're going to wear body  
7 cameras for the benefit of our officers  
8 in our community. You know, other unions  
9 were not doing that. We could have taken  
10 that same lead and that same example of  
11 leadership with this opportunity. But we  
12 didn't.

13 MR. PERSICH: I will take the  
14 concerns of this Body in Juneteenth back  
15 to my principals here. But again, we  
16 would have had to renegotiate the other  
17 contracts in order for this to work.

18 What we don't want to happen is, is  
19 we do something for one union and then we  
20 have a problem with the other unions. I  
21 think possibly after we get all the other  
22 Collective Bargaining Agreements, after  
23 this one, which hopefully will be  
24 ratified by this Body and by NIFA, we  
25 will get the other two outstanding unions

1  
2 and then maybe we'll revisit this and  
3 bring all six bodies together and we  
4 figure out a way of doing that.

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I mean, I want  
6 to make our county workforce and all our  
7 unions the most diverse, the most  
8 talented body possible. I'm concerned  
9 that especially with respect to this  
10 Juneteenth issue, that we may have an  
11 issue now in attracting quality  
12 candidates who are African American.

13 To my understanding, you know, the  
14 largest number of African Americans in  
15 the county workforce, is that in the  
16 Parks Department?

17 MR. PERSICH: I don't know the  
18 diversity of each individual department,  
19 Legislator. I'm being honest with you. I  
20 don't know who works where or their  
21 ethnic persuasion. I'm being honest with  
22 you. I do not know that.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I understand.

24 MR. PERSICH: You have to keep in  
25 mind that civil service is a competitive

1  
2 title, meaning that this test for certain  
3 positions that you have to be listed on  
4 and everything else. So I think there's a  
5 process that is part of New York State  
6 Civil Service law that has to be  
7 followed, too.

8 To your point, yes, we want to  
9 attract a diverse workforce that the  
10 mirrors the community that it represents.  
11 And I think it's part of this  
12 administration to keep that process going  
13 along. Again, we want to get the  
14 contract in place. Now, there's some  
15 other side things that always come out  
16 after negotiation. Maybe there's a fix  
17 that can happen in the near future.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Okay.

19 Again, my last statement again is  
20 with respect to the individuals that may  
21 have issues with respect to having this  
22 new healthcare package and plan honored  
23 to please assist them. Just don't leave  
24 them hanging. When they called to get  
25 that service and they're told, oh, we

1  
2 don't take that plan. If that does  
3 happen, you know, or there are key  
4 differences, please don't leave them  
5 hanging. Thank you.

6 MR. PERSICH: Not the intention of  
7 of the Administration or the Union or  
8 anybody to undermine anybody's benefits  
9 at this point.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All  
11 right. We have a bunch of slips. So let's  
12 go to the public comment portion.

13 Thank you, Andy. Maybe just hang  
14 around.

15 MR. PERSICH: Thank you.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Eva  
17 Brodsky.

18 MS. BROSKIE: Hi. I'm Eva Broskie,  
19 and I'm one of those 100 or so people  
20 that our union chose not to protect. I'm  
21 very disappointed by the new 20 year  
22 lifetime medical benefit to leave when  
23 you get it. I'm an older individual who  
24 took this job with the promise of  
25 lifetime medical after ten years. With

1  
2 the new rule I would have to work until  
3 I'm 82 years old to obtain that. I  
4 understand that in these times, lifetime  
5 medical is a huge expense for the County,  
6 but I was hoping that by some way you  
7 could find a way to grandfather those 100  
8 people in to keep the promise that I was  
9 given when I was hired.

10 Thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

12 Colleen Riebl.

13 MS. RIEBL: Good afternoon. My name  
14 is Colleen Riebl. I've worked for Nassau  
15 County since February 9, 2018 as a social  
16 welfare examiner. I began at \$26,000 a  
17 year. When I was hired, I was told after  
18 six months I would get a \$5,000 increase,  
19 and I did. And after another six months,  
20 probation was over, and now I'd receive  
21 another \$5,000 increase, which I did. I'm  
22 up to 36 then. That's because what I was  
23 told was true. And at that time I was  
24 hired, I was told after ten years of  
25 employment I'd be entitled to my

1  
2 healthcare, paid for for the rest of my  
3 life.

4 Right now, I have to work an  
5 additional 15 years in order to get 20  
6 years and receive this benefit. Why? Why  
7 shouldn't I be able to believe what I was  
8 told? Like those \$5,000 things?

9 Why, when I was told that this is  
10 part of working for Nassau County as a  
11 civil servant, now this benefit can be  
12 taken away?

13 Now let's talk about civil servants.  
14 You, along with me, we're all civil  
15 servants here. Our police. It was  
16 wonderful to see the police. They deal  
17 with people that are criminals and  
18 addicted to substances. People with  
19 severe mental illnesses and just those  
20 who just need to be listened to. Then  
21 after that, those criminals, the ones  
22 that are found guilty, go to jail. Then  
23 the corrections officers see them. After  
24 that, it's the parole and probation  
25 officers.

1  
2                   However, one thing you may not have  
3                   thought of, those same individuals who  
4                   have dealt with the police, the  
5                   corrections officers and probation and  
6                   parole are my clients. That's who I deal  
7                   with every day. And I do a darn good job.  
8                   I have 130 clients right now. I work my  
9                   tail off. I took the test to be a Social  
10                  Welfare Examiner II in June of 2019. It  
11                  took until last September for me to get  
12                  my promotion. That was \$6,000 difference.

13                 I'm an eligibility requirements  
14                 civil servant. I have to make sure all  
15                 the clients provide and complete all the  
16                 requirements to receive and be eligible  
17                 for public assistance.

18                 I'm asking you, I'm begging you,  
19                 please consider grandfathering in those  
20                 employees who began working for our  
21                 County, thinking that in the end, I would  
22                 finally get what I deserve.

23                 The editorial today says 100 people.  
24                 I'm really hoping you consider that. And  
25                 I disagree with the gentleman that was



1  
2 here. I'm sorry. I don't know his name  
3 that our salaries are going to be  
4 comparison with Suffolk. That's all  
5 relative. If you're making what I'm  
6 making now, which is \$46,000, say \$3 an  
7 hour difference between Suffolk County  
8 and us, that's \$90 a week, \$400 a month,  
9 \$4,800. That's 10% more for me. If you're  
10 making 80,000, it's only 5%.

11 So, yes, it might be okay for those  
12 people who are making that amount of  
13 money. But at 46,000, paying my mortgage,  
14 my taxes in Nassau County, it's very,  
15 very, very difficult.

16 I thank you so much for your time  
17 and thank you so much for putting all the  
18 thought into this.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank  
20 you very much.

21 Brian Flaks.

22 Hello, Brian.

23 MR. FLAKS: Hello there. I'm Brian  
24 Flax. Some of you know me. I'm not here  
25 from my organization. I'm here as a ten

1  
2 year retiree. It seems like really  
3 nobody's talking about the retiree aspect  
4 of the health insurance change. If you go  
5 to NYSHIP and you look at the Empire Plan  
6 book that's there, it's 163 pages. The  
7 Excelsior Plan is only 80 pages. So right  
8 there, that tells you there's a  
9 difference in the plans.

10 On the HRA they're implementing,  
11 from what I understand, Medicare eligible  
12 retirees are not eligible for the HRA. So  
13 right now, there will be a difference in  
14 the insurance between a retiree and an  
15 active person. It's always been the same.

16 Co-pays. I have some prescriptions  
17 that I pay for 90 days, \$60. That now  
18 goes up to \$100.

19 No more hearing aids. I got hearing  
20 aids now because all the fire alarms are  
21 used to check the noises. That's not  
22 covered anymore. There's some other  
23 things that aren't covered anymore. And  
24 now you have a lot of retirees who live  
25 down in Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas,

1  
2 because they can't afford to live here.  
3 They moved there and they don't even know  
4 about the changes. And a lot of these  
5 doctors don't know, like people said,  
6 they don't know about it.

7 So as a retiree, we have to look to  
8 the legislative body to fight for us  
9 because the CSEA doesn't fight for the  
10 retirees anymore. Like most unions, once  
11 you retire, they wash their hands of you  
12 and that's it.

13 I'd also like to know we're changing  
14 our insurance. The non-union employees,  
15 do they stay on the Empire or do they go  
16 to the Excelsior now? Used to be one  
17 insurance for everybody in the county.  
18 And I remember years ago they changed it  
19 to another company, BPA, I think it was  
20 called. It was a disaster. And they had  
21 to bring everybody back under the same  
22 NYSHIP umbrella.

23 You guys have to please consider  
24 what the plight of the retirees are going  
25 to be. Co-pays are going to be higher and

1  
2 everything if they can't get the HRA to  
3 cover some of the difference. Some of  
4 these new people in the 80s who retired  
5 who have no other means of an income.

6 And that's it. That's all I got to  
7 say for it. I just appreciate your time  
8 and listening.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.  
10 Thank you, Brian.

11 Susan Naftol.

12 MS. NAFTOL: Hello, I'm Susan  
13 Naftol. I live in Plainview, New York. I  
14 work at the Department of Health.

15 Contract (noun) - A written or  
16 spoken agreement, especially one  
17 concerning employment, sales or tenancy  
18 that is intended to be enforceable by  
19 law.

20 When I spoke at the last Legislative  
21 session a few weeks ago, I started by  
22 stating this definition as I think it's  
23 very important and is the crux of my  
24 issue with the proposed contract. When I  
25 became a CSEA worker hired by Nassau

1  
2 County back in April 2018, one of the  
3 agreements I made with the County was  
4 that after ten years I would be fully  
5 vested. There was an offer and an  
6 acceptance. This verbal contract informed  
7 my decision, as it did when I turned down  
8 jobs in school district this past April  
9 and decided to stay with the County after  
10 passing a promotional exam.

11 I had already had five years in and  
12 decided the lower salary with the County  
13 was balanced by the benefits. Now I'm off  
14 the list and my options are zero. As  
15 vestment was contractually agreed upon by  
16 both the employer and the employee, I  
17 believe we should be grandfathered in.  
18 Let this new contract affect new hires,  
19 not me or us. As is the case with many of  
20 us. I'm not 25. I'm 60. For me to reach  
21 the 20 year carrot that is being dangled  
22 as per the new proposed contract, I would  
23 not be able to be fully vested and retire  
24 until I'm 75 instead of the 65 as was  
25 originally agreed upon. This is

1  
2 unconscionable. There are others who  
3 would have to work into their 80s. How  
4 are we supposed to afford secondary  
5 insurance when we haven't had to plan on  
6 this added expense later in life?

7 I would like this proposed contract  
8 to be negated or renegotiated with the  
9 stipulation of grandfathering in and  
10 applying this other proposition to the  
11 new hires who can then decide if this  
12 agreement is acceptable to them. Because  
13 it's definitely ot acceptable to me or to  
14 us.

15 I want to I want to add that I find  
16 it objectionable that the gentleman who  
17 was here and spoke for the proposed  
18 contract that he thought the county  
19 workers would expect their benefits after  
20 ten years. We only expect it because that  
21 was the agreement that we signed on for.

22 I would also like to add that \$210  
23 Million is going to be saved under this  
24 Excelsior plan and the cost of keeping  
25 the few of us vested until ten years is

1  
2 2.1 million. If you grandfathered us all  
3 in, the County would still save over \$200  
4 million. So there's should be no reason  
5 why this could not be agreed upon.

6 I say throw this contract out. If it  
7 can't be amended, send them back to the  
8 to the table and renegotiate. We have  
9 been done a dirty. And that's not  
10 appropriate.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:  
12 Lilyann Fisherman.

13 MS. FISHERMAN: Good afternoon. I  
14 was hired and started with the DOH in  
15 August of 2020, during Covid. I accepted  
16 the job to come into the office every  
17 day, and at that time I thought I was  
18 putting my life in jeopardy because I'm  
19 at high risk for Covid.

20 At this time, many of my new  
21 coworkers were working from home, either  
22 part time or full time. My starting  
23 salary was a little over \$32,000, and I  
24 repeat that a little over \$32,000. Then  
25 you ask, why did I accept? It is because

1  
2 the one thing I needed most was insurance  
3 and I was guaranteed I'd be covered for  
4 life at retirement after ten years of  
5 service. Ten years of service would put  
6 me at 66 years old, \$32,000 was promised  
7 medical coverage sounded great, so I  
8 accepted the position with the proposed  
9 contract. I have to work 20 years to be  
10 vested in medical, so I'd have to work  
11 until I'm 76. Really? Is that fair? I  
12 could have easily accepted a position  
13 with twice as much pay if I knew that  
14 this would happen. This proposed change  
15 is good for new young hires and those  
16 that have very close to or over 20 years.  
17 This benefits those that hired later in  
18 life like myself.

19 Actually, most people only work at a  
20 job for seven years, and that's why I  
21 started here later in life. I don't think  
22 I'd make the 20 years. Who's to say that  
23 if, and that's a big if, I do work for 20  
24 years, then that the next contract would  
25 say 25 years. Is this 20 guaranteed or is



1  
2 it possible that that could change in  
3 2026?

4 I'm upset because I was guaranteed  
5 something and it is not happening now. So  
6 you lied to me when I was hired? I  
7 believe that this 20 year vestige should  
8 be for new hires and those that were  
9 hired before this contract takes effect  
10 should be grandfathered in. Like myself.

11 And another thing in the contract,  
12 15 minute time change. Although it  
13 doesn't seem important, I have two jobs  
14 to make ends meet. That 15 minute makes  
15 the difference between I make it to my  
16 job on time or not.

17 And my last point is the increase  
18 with the health insurance. The co-pays go  
19 up and everything like that. And yes,  
20 that they say that they pay a difference,  
21 whatever the difference will be comparing  
22 the two medical plans. Who's to say that  
23 all the people in Nassau County will  
24 actually take the time to fill out those,  
25 the HO (sic) whatever they're saying? So

1  
2           you're going to be saving money that way,  
3           too. Is that taken into account with the  
4           savings? I'm not sure. I don't like the  
5           contract. Thank you for hearing.

6           PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

7           Vivian Sasson.

8           MS. SASSON:     Good afternoon. My  
9           name is Vivian Sasson and I work at the  
10          Department of Health. I'm here again to  
11          speak about the proposed CSEA contract,  
12          specifically the vesting period for  
13          health benefits. Please understand the  
14          importance of this issue to me and many  
15          others.

16          When I was hired by the Nassau  
17          County Department of Health, it was not a  
18          very easy decision for me to make. At  
19          the time, I was receiving job offers from  
20          much higher salaries. I was advised that  
21          I was overqualified for my position here  
22          at the DOH, as I hold an MBA in Executive  
23          Management. But I still considered the  
24          position. The pay was below market, but  
25          the benefit of having a ten year vesting

1  
2 period to be eligible for retiree  
3 benefits was truly an attractive and  
4 wonderful benefit.

5 Although the compensation for the  
6 role was below market based on what was  
7 communicated to me about the ten year  
8 vesting requirement, to be eligible for  
9 retiree benefits made the decision to  
10 accept the position very easy.

11 After discussions with my husband  
12 and verification numerous times from our  
13 Human Resource Department on the whole  
14 benefits package, I accepted the  
15 position. I felt that this was a good  
16 move for me and my family.

17 To my surprise, upon reading it in  
18 the proposed contract this summer and  
19 with no prior knowledge that this was  
20 even on the table, we had the rug pulled  
21 out from under us. The benefit I was  
22 relying on was now taken away.

23 Under the proposed contract,  
24 employees will be required to work a  
25 total of 20 years to be eligible for

1  
2 retiree benefits. Under the proposed  
3 contract anyone who is hired within the  
4 last 4 to 5 years are disregarded. Based  
5 on this proposed contract, I will be 78  
6 years old when I can retire. And who  
7 knows if it will be altered in 2030.

8 I can't understand why at the table  
9 it wasn't raised to either move it up 12  
10 or 15 years or to even grandfather us in  
11 like so many other contracts have been  
12 done.

13 Adding an additional ten years is a  
14 lifetime to some of us. I accepted my  
15 position and I'm giving my job 150% every  
16 single day. Have not called in sick once.  
17 I'm living up to my end of the bargain,  
18 but the county and the CSEA are not  
19 living up to theirs.

20 How could the Union allow so much to  
21 be given away? And the gentlemen here  
22 said it, that they wanted this, they  
23 wanted this, they wanted this. Where was  
24 the back and forth? Where was the  
25 negotiating? Everything that our union

1  
2 allowed to be given away affects us, and  
3 it has a monetary cost to us.

4 Fifteen minutes extra each day is 39  
5 hours. That's five and a half days. Six  
6 vacation days over three years is 42  
7 hours.

8 Let's talk about the incentive to  
9 work here: \$3,000 for full time, \$1,000  
10 for part time, \$250 for seasonals.  
11 There's some extra money that you could  
12 put towards the retirees.

13 I hope that our Legislature doesn't  
14 let us down, and I hope you vote to have  
15 this renegotiated. I believed I had a  
16 union that was working for the better of  
17 all, as they say, but instead the Union  
18 has failed us.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank  
21 you.

22 Jackie O'Loughlin.

23 MS. O'LOUGHLIN: Hi, my name is  
24 Jackie O'Loughlin. I've spoken before. I  
25 feel we're kind of getting repetitive, so

1  
2 I'm going to get into the whole nuts and  
3 bolts.

4 I took a job at the Nassau County  
5 Department of Health in 2020. I'm a  
6 licensed SLP. I have a master's degree as  
7 an independent consultant. I had no  
8 benefits. My husband was carrying  
9 benefits that were costing us a fortune,  
10 and every year cost us more and more and  
11 we got less and less benefits.

12 I took the job at the Nassau County  
13 Department of Health specifically for the  
14 benefits. When I started working, my  
15 salary was in 2020, \$22,800. That was my  
16 starting salary. I was embarrassed to  
17 even tell people that that was my  
18 starting salary. I had a degree. I went  
19 to school and I am working for less than  
20 minimum wage.

21 I interviewed and I was told that  
22 the benefits were really why most people  
23 took the job. And if you think about it,  
24 once I started working, the truth is the  
25 only people who are taking jobs for this

1  
2 pay are people who are already  
3 established in Nassau County, people who  
4 have houses, people who are at the age  
5 where they can accept this lower pay  
6 because the benefits are what we're here  
7 for.

8 So I took the job specifically for  
9 the benefits for life. I'm lucky that I  
10 am a therapist and I could do therapy on  
11 the side to counter act the hit I took to  
12 my salary. But I couldn't pass up the  
13 lifetime benefits. I took two more tests  
14 and I received promotions. And I'm  
15 kicking myself because literally five  
16 months ago, I was offered jobs in schools  
17 for twice the salary that I'm getting.  
18 But I said, you know what? It's worth the  
19 sacrifice because I need these benefits.  
20 It's what I needed at the end.

21 I was so happy to be part of a  
22 union. I figured that I finally had a  
23 union job and I would have protection and  
24 it would protect me from what actually  
25 just happened to me. So I'm really not

1  
2 asking for anything other than what was  
3 promised to me when I began my career  
4 here in August of 2020. And I know the  
5 gentleman said that he doesn't want short  
6 term careers. Yes, I was going to give  
7 ten years. I wasn't going to walk out the  
8 door. After ten years. I had 15, maybe I  
9 even had 20 years in me. But I also don't  
10 want to work with one foot in the grave  
11 either. I just ask that we be given the  
12 consideration.

13 Thank you.

14 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:

15 Next is Renee Campanile.

16 MS. CAMPANILE: Hi. Thank you for  
17 allowing me a moment to tell my story.

18 I was hired by the County in  
19 November of 2016 under the old contract,  
20 which expired in December of 2017. When  
21 the accounting firm that I worked for  
22 merged with the big firm in Manhattan, I  
23 decided to see what was available on the  
24 island, so I took the civil service exam.

25 At my interview, like so many



1  
2 others, I was disappointed when I was  
3 told the salary, but a few things told to  
4 me at my interview changed my mind. One  
5 was that it would be a service to the  
6 residents of Nassau County. The other was  
7 that I would be vested in health  
8 insurance in ten years.

9 So I took a cut in salary. I brought  
10 over 30 years of experience in public  
11 accounting and my CPA license over to the  
12 County. When the contract expired, for  
13 six years, I went to all the union  
14 meetings and events that we were invited  
15 to and was told that the Union and the  
16 County would work together to not take  
17 the health insurance away from the  
18 retirees.

19 Well, my retirement plans that I've  
20 had for the past seven years are now null  
21 and void. I will be four months shy of  
22 ten years on June 30th, 2026. This means  
23 that I would have to work an additional  
24 ten years. That would be an additional  
25 nine years past my retirement age. I will

1  
2 not be able to retire at retirement age  
3 because my pension, after ten years of  
4 service with Nassau County, will not  
5 cover the cost of health insurance.

6 I'm asking the County and the Union  
7 to please not abandon the employees that  
8 counted on being vested in ten years.  
9 Please don't shrug us off. All of us that  
10 were hired should be grandfathered in  
11 with everyone else. It's not just those  
12 that were hired prior to June of 2016. It  
13 is unfair and cruel that we're not  
14 included. I'm hoping that an addendum to  
15 the contract could be considered.

16 Thank you.

17 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:

18 Anna Maria Redmond.

19 (Whereupon, public questions  
20 where the rest of the  
21 Legislative Body is.)

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: They can hear  
23 you in the inner office. It's not like  
24 they're missing anything and they'll be  
25 right back to the table.

1  
2 MS. REDMOND: Hello. My name is Anna  
3 Maria Redmond. I thank you for letting me  
4 speak.

5 I'm here to speak about the new  
6 local union contract. I would like for  
7 you to please disapprove this contract.

8 When I was hired, I was told that I  
9 would get the insurance benefit for life  
10 after working for ten years. I and many  
11 people are affected by this new contract  
12 in a negative way. I personally missed  
13 the cutoff date for the ten year  
14 insurance benefit by four months as well.  
15 All we want is to be grandfathered in.

16 I took a \$4,000 cut and pay with the  
17 knowledge that I would be getting the  
18 insurance benefit after working for ten  
19 years to only now have that taken away  
20 from me. With this new contract, I would  
21 have work, I would have to work until I'm  
22 75 years old, assuming that it doesn't  
23 change again.

24 Please disapprove this contract  
25 unless it can be amended.

1  
2 Thank you.

3 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:

4 Cathleen D'Angelo.

5 MS. D'ANGELO: Good afternoon,  
6 everyone. Thank you for allowing me this  
7 time to speak.

8 My name is Cathleen D'Angelo. I'm  
9 one of the 100 plus members who are  
10 affected by our union contract, changing  
11 the vesting for medical benefits in  
12 retirement from 10 years to 20.

13 I accepted this position with the  
14 understanding we were under a contract  
15 that your medical in retirement vested at  
16 10 years. This affects myself and my  
17 family as I will have eight and a half  
18 years in on the date that it changes to  
19 require 20 years for vesting.

20 I am respectfully requesting  
21 consideration for myself and all affected  
22 to be grandfathered into the ten year  
23 medical vesting. I truly hope you will  
24 take consideration and that you will  
25 disapprove this contract. I do appreciate

1  
2 your time.

3 Thank you.

4 DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:

5 Thomas Bergmann.

6 MR. BERGMAN: Thank you and good  
7 afternoon. It's an honor to be able to  
8 address you.

9 I am part of the group of the 10 to  
10 20, but I'm not here to speak about that.  
11 Because I do want to speak about the  
12 retirees who I speak to every day as part  
13 of the Comptroller's Office.

14 The broader numbers, you may not  
15 know this, that \$210 Million is actually  
16 a transfer from retirees to my salary. So  
17 that \$210 Million is not evenly taken out  
18 of all our healthcare. Any retiree who is  
19 over 65 and an individual, the County  
20 premium goes from about \$460 down to \$72.  
21 That means \$390 of healthcare costs per  
22 month are being shifted to retirees over  
23 25.

24 Now, speaking to the Juneteenth and  
25 all this contract parity, I have to say,

1  
2 switching from Empire and Excelsior,  
3 which is not in any of the other  
4 contracts, seems a little more severe  
5 than asking for Juneteenth. So I don't  
6 understand how we can make the switch  
7 from Empire to Excelsior and not do  
8 Juneteenth. On that note.

9 Also, I'm not sure if you're aware  
10 of this. New York City tried to move to  
11 the Advantage, I guess they lost a couple  
12 of weeks ago. This switch to Excelsior  
13 for existing retirees may also be  
14 overturned. So you may vote for this  
15 contract and then get a \$210 Million hit  
16 if you lose in the courts switching from  
17 Empire to Excelsior. I know the health  
18 reimbursement account is there to avoid  
19 that problem. But if they're saying  
20 they're saving \$210 Million and they're  
21 putting 4 to 6 million per year towards  
22 the HRA, obviously it's not the  
23 equivalent policy.

24 The nuts and bolts. The Excelsior  
25 does not include a Part D plan, so we'll

1  
2 be privatizing Part D for retirees over  
3 65. So retirees who are on Empire and  
4 have that program with Empire will now  
5 have to get that in the private market or  
6 pay active employee rates, which are  
7 lower than the Medicare Part D plans that  
8 are out there that are currently offered.

9 So I urge you to vote against this  
10 measure. Obviously, the 100 of us would  
11 like it for our own reasons, but I think  
12 you are really doing a great disservice  
13 to retirees who don't have a vote.

14 And we want to know why the vote was  
15 as high as it is. Based on turnout, it's  
16 actually only about a 25 to 30% approval  
17 because most people did not vote. So I  
18 worry about that.

19 We also lost a vacation day to bribe  
20 the younger employees who are 20 to 30,  
21 who even with the ten year, would not  
22 vest until they're 55. They would still  
23 have to work to 55 or they would have to  
24 pay for their coverage from when they  
25 left at 35 to 55, hundreds of thousands

1  
2 of dollars. So the 10 to 20 year change  
3 really only impacts people between 35 and  
4 45 years old at hire date because you  
5 still have to be 55.

6 So this plan should be dumped  
7 because it was rushed. It's going to get  
8 sued. And good luck.

9 Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Susan  
11 Chen.

12 MS. CHEN: Good afternoon. My name  
13 is Susan Chen. I work for the Nassau  
14 County Police Department. I was an  
15 industrial engineer with a four year  
16 bachelor of science degree.

17 I would like to present a new  
18 perspective to the Legislature here. What  
19 we do not consider is the people who  
20 actually have the ten years by 2026 that  
21 would not be able to continue working  
22 because they don't know if they can  
23 finish out the 20 years. By making them  
24 retire at 2026 means that the County will  
25 lose valuable resources, brainpower,



1  
2 people who dedicate their lives to  
3 helping others. That's why we took the  
4 pay cut.

5 To reiterate what my other fellow  
6 workers are saying, the increase of a  
7 decade from ten years vested to 20 years  
8 is a life changing amount of time for  
9 many of us as we plan for retirement. So  
10 as a proud public servant, please vote no  
11 to this ratification.

12 Thank you for your time and  
13 consideration.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: David  
15 Gery.

16 MR. GERY: Good afternoon, all.  
17 Thank you for this chance to speak.

18 I want to add a little clarity. None  
19 of us has any issue with changing the  
20 vesting from 10 to 20, but we all have an  
21 issue from changing it during the game. A  
22 deal is a deal. We came in with this  
23 agreement. It was a contract. It was the  
24 basis for a lot of the reason that we  
25 started working here, that some people's

1  
2 spouses stopped working in other places  
3 because we made the assumption that  
4 something that is in writing and is  
5 promised would be honored. The concept  
6 that we would take an existing agreement  
7 and abandon it in progress is  
8 unthinkable. If you change the rules  
9 before the game starts or after it's  
10 done. We all get that. But during?  
11 Unthinkable. What kind of a precedent  
12 does that set? It is the idea that we  
13 have an agreement that we based our life  
14 decisions on. We come in and do that and  
15 it gets changed in progress.

16 I'm here for five years. I started  
17 in 2018. I will now, instead of having to  
18 work till 70, have to work till 80. Not  
19 viable as it is for so many of the  
20 hundreds of us in this position. So there  
21 are two impacted groups. There are people  
22 like me will no longer be able to work  
23 long enough to get lifetime medical. We  
24 are losing lifetime medical.

25 The other group that was just

1  
2 alluded to can get to the ten years, but  
3 they're forced to retire in June of 2026.  
4 They may have worked for two, three, four  
5 or five more years, but not been able to  
6 get to the 20 years. That group is losing  
7 years of income and getting a lower  
8 pension as a result. Both of those are  
9 massive negatives. So I'm no lawyer, but  
10 I do know an injustice when I see one. If  
11 this happened to one person, it would be  
12 an injustice. And injustice to one is an  
13 injustice to all.

14 Furthermore, all the other pros and  
15 cons from this contract, which we know  
16 all complex contracts have, are spread  
17 uniformly amongst everybody. Us, this  
18 group of several hundred are being  
19 totally disproportionately punished  
20 because we're losing the single biggest  
21 benefit that there is. Every other pro  
22 and con we could live with. Losing  
23 lifetime medical is a massive punishment  
24 for us. It's totally unfair to single out  
25 a group like this. Throw us under the bus

1  
2 from a union that's claiming they want to  
3 have unity and parity with pay scales and  
4 medical insurance, but we get totally  
5 abandoned by it. So, yes, you could say  
6 the contract is fair, except to those  
7 several hundred that it's totally unfair  
8 to.

9 That's the main point that I have to  
10 say. Plus, the contract was rushed in the  
11 peak of vacation season in late August.  
12 And a lot of people didn't get a chance  
13 to vote.

14 Thank you for hearing us.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All  
16 right.

17 So we have Item 14, Resolution  
18 number 179. Any other debate of  
19 discussion before we vote on this?

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If I may,  
21 Presiding Officer. I'm going to speak  
22 from a perspective that I think Presiding  
23 Officer, maybe you share with me  
24 Legislator Ford and Legislator Schaefer,  
25 because we're going to be exiting at the

1  
2 end of the year.

3 It's my understanding that the \$210  
4 million in savings from the Excelsior to  
5 Empire savings would start to generate  
6 that savings over the life of the  
7 agreement, but it would start next year  
8 because that's when the change would  
9 happen. I truly believe that if the  
10 County is successful in achieving any of  
11 those savings, it shouldn't be something  
12 that needs to be negotiated. I talked a  
13 little bit earlier about doing the right  
14 thing and if the County is able to save a  
15 nickel that projects higher than the \$210  
16 Million that they're talking about as  
17 savings, they should take care of you,  
18 each and every one of you. I don't see a  
19 reason why they shouldn't. And I think  
20 from that standpoint, that's why I'm  
21 encouraging my colleagues, all my  
22 colleagues, Democrats and Republicans  
23 alike, that will be here, that you ensure  
24 that that happens.

25 I know it's tough to plan and I know

1  
2 it's tough to project. And not knowing  
3 what's going to happen by 2026 in a way  
4 is it's a good thing and a bad thing.  
5 It's a good thing because you have time  
6 to try to figure out what you want to do.  
7 But it's a bad thing because you know  
8 what's coming. But what I'm trying to say  
9 is that if we know that the healthcare  
10 savings is going to start to generate  
11 next year, and if that projected savings  
12 appears to be higher than what the County  
13 had budgeted, we could do the right thing  
14 in 2024 and make sure that every single  
15 person that's in this catchment area of  
16 not achieving the ten years is able to be  
17 protected.

18 I think we all agree on this dais  
19 that we should do that. And I'm going to  
20 encourage -- this is not a political  
21 statement, you know what I mean? I'm  
22 going to encourage my Republican  
23 colleagues and my Democratic ones that  
24 are going to be here after the four of us  
25 leave to do the right thing to make sure

1  
2 that you are made whole.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

4 Legislator Ford.

5 LEGISLATOR FORD: I, too, and I  
6 concur with Legislator Abrahams. I think  
7 that this is something that -- we hear  
8 you. We hear what you're saying. And I  
9 understand the challenges that are going  
10 to be faced by you considering that you  
11 started at such low salaries coming here  
12 to work for the County and where you  
13 thought after ten years you would be able  
14 to get lifetime benefits and the feeling  
15 that you feel betrayed. And I think that  
16 that is something, and I do urge those  
17 legislators that are staying here join  
18 forces together and work with the  
19 administration and try to come up with a  
20 way that you can find it so that before  
21 2026 takes effect, at least give these  
22 employees the opportunity to be  
23 grandfathered in.

24 When you look at it, we're talking  
25 about \$2 million over the course of a

1  
2 contract. And if you think 13 years  
3 divided into 2 million, it really just  
4 comes down to pennies. And considering  
5 that you have to be 55 in order to retire  
6 with the lifetime benefits, there are a  
7 lot of you that will be working for 20  
8 years regardless if you get benefits  
9 after ten years, so you wouldn't be part  
10 of that 2 million. So that cost can even  
11 come down.

12 And I'm hoping that I know that when  
13 we spoke with Andy, who was so kind to  
14 explain everything and answer all our  
15 questions, that there can be some time  
16 and room for possible negotiations. And  
17 and I do agree, because when you think  
18 about can it be I think one of the  
19 presenters did say, what happens if we  
20 make it to 20 and all of a sudden you  
21 find out there's been a change and that's  
22 going to be 25 years. So what do you have  
23 to work here till you're 100 in order to  
24 get lifetime benefits? I do think that  
25 this is something that can be negotiated,



1  
2 and I think it's something that I urge  
3 you, all of you. And while we're still  
4 here, we still have 100 days. Let's try  
5 to see if that we can also prevail upon.  
6 And we're lucky because we do have our  
7 benefits when we retire. So it's like  
8 something that I think that we need to  
9 make sure that we all start paying  
10 attention to this and try to see if we  
11 can find a way, a solution, for all of  
12 you. And I thank you for your service and  
13 taking such low salaries.

14 God bless you.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

16 Legislator Deriggi-Whitton.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: As a  
18 legislator who hopefully will still be  
19 here in January, Andy, if there's a way  
20 that we could get a list of the exact  
21 number. We've been hearing a number of  
22 100, but like we said, we have to take  
23 off those that are intending to work  
24 longer. So if we could get a real number  
25 and find out what that is. It might be

1  
2 closer to 50 people, whatever it is. If  
3 you could help us with that, Andy, I  
4 would appreciate your help with that. If  
5 you could just help us compile a list of  
6 those that are in this situation, out of  
7 the 100, the ones that want to continue  
8 to work, God bless, that's great. But the  
9 ones that are hoping to retire before 20  
10 years, we need that list. We need the  
11 real number.

12 MR. PERSICH: We will compile a list  
13 and send it to OLBR and he will  
14 disseminate it down. How's that?

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Okay.  
16 And I will tell you, I do know that the  
17 Union really worked hard in many, many  
18 ways to to reach an agreement that they  
19 felt was fair and that they felt would  
20 also attract people. And they're smart  
21 people. And I think that hearing this  
22 today, they're going to also -- I've  
23 actually off the record, I've heard that  
24 they're not against the idea. It's just  
25 that they don't have the money to make up

1  
2 the difference. But as Legislator Ford  
3 and Legislator Abrahams, who is a good,  
4 good man, said, if we can find the  
5 savings, which probably will not add up  
6 to be that much and it wouldn't affect  
7 the Union, I don't believe the union  
8 would have any issue at all with us  
9 coming to an agreement with this. We're  
10 Nassau County. We do care about people  
11 and we want that conveyed. And we do  
12 thank you for the hours you put in,  
13 especially during Covid. And we want to  
14 see better than this.

15 We can't guarantee anything at this  
16 moment. But I can tell you as as a  
17 promise to our other Legislators, I truly  
18 believe many of us will be on this and it  
19 will not stop today.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.

21 MR. PERSICH: Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank  
23 you, Andy.

24 Anyone else? Legislator Drucker.

25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I just want to

1  
2 echo some of the comments made too.

3           Unfortunately, this Body very, very  
4 often has to make decisions that are  
5 either yes or no when it comes to very,  
6 very important things that affect  
7 people's lives here in the County, and  
8 all of you are a testament to the  
9 personal effect this contract has on you.  
10 So, you know, it's always a difficult  
11 decision for us, but we also have to  
12 think as fiduciaries, as representatives  
13 of our constituents, we have to think of  
14 the overall larger picture. But that does  
15 not diminish from your personal stories  
16 and the impact it has on us. And I will  
17 tell you that, yes, the Union, and I know  
18 some of them and we all know some of them  
19 and how hard they work for their  
20 membership, but they also gave us reason  
21 for hope and optimism that even after  
22 this contract, if it's going to be  
23 approved, that there is going to be hope  
24 for further negotiation, further  
25 discussion, further improvements that

1  
2 will positively affect you going down the  
3 road. That is my hope and I think it's  
4 shared by every single person on this  
5 dais. And I will tell you that as one of  
6 the legislators that hope to continue  
7 working on behalf of the residents of  
8 Nassau County in my district, that I will  
9 continue to hold the Administration  
10 accountable and follow through, as we  
11 talked about, on whether or not the cost  
12 savings down the road is enough to offset  
13 this very, very nominal differential over  
14 the next 13 years in order to grandfather  
15 you in.

16 Your comments have been heard. We  
17 will take them into account, but we also  
18 have to -- unfortunately, it's a yay or  
19 nay and we have to think of the overall  
20 larger picture. So I just wanted to thank  
21 you all for taking the time to be here  
22 and tell us your stories.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All  
24 right.

25 Thank you, Legislator Drucker.

1  
2 I will now call for a vote on this  
3 item.

4 All in favor, signify by saying,  
5 "Aye".

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

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those  
10 opposed?

11 (Whereupon, no verbal  
12 response.)

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:  
14 Carries unanimously.

15 Thank you all for coming out today.

16  
17 \*\*\*\*\*  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1  
2                   PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:   Item  
3                   one is a hearing on a proposed local law.  
4                   It's a Local Law amending Title 24 of the  
5                   Miscellaneous Laws of Nassau County in  
6                   relation to extending the Hotel/Motel  
7                   Motel Occupancy tax.

8                   Motion to open a hearing by  
9                   Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator  
10                  Drucker. All in favor of opening the  
11                  hearing signify by saying, "Aye".

12                  All in favor, signify by saying,  
13                  "Aye".

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

17                  PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:   Those  
18                  opposed?

19                  (Whereupon, no verbal  
20                  response.)

21                  PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:  
22                  Hearing is open.

23                  Do we have someone from the  
24                  administration to speak on the  
25                  Hotel/Motel Tax?

1  
2 MR. PERSICH: Good afternoon, Andy  
3 Persich, Office of Management & Budget.  
4 This is just a extension of the  
5 Hotel/Motel Tax is a procedural thing  
6 that we do as a result of the state  
7 legislation being enforced. So we have to  
8 extend it in the County Charter.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All  
10 right. Any questions for Andy?

11 (Whereupon, no verbal  
12 response.)

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I need  
14 a motion to close the hearing.

15 LEGISLATOR FORD: So moved.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So  
17 moved by Legislator Ford, seconded by  
18 Legislative Walker.

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

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

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those  
25 opposed?



(Whereupon, no verbal  
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:  
Hearing is closed.

\*\*\*\*\*

1  
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Item  
3 3, same Local Law. Need a motion to move  
4 this.

5 LEGISLATOR FORD: So moved.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: By  
7 Legislator Ford, second by Legislator  
8 Walker.

9 Any debate or discussion?

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: Good afternoon. On  
11 this, have we seen an increase in the  
12 amount of taxes we've received for hotel  
13 and motel occupancy?

14 MR. PERSICH: We are seeing an  
15 uptick. I think it's a result of a couple  
16 of different things. One is probably some  
17 of the enhanced programs we're doing. And  
18 the other thing, too, is, is I think the  
19 restoration from the Covid hangover,  
20 we're starting to see hotel occupancy  
21 increase as a result of that.

22 MR. PERSICH: Maybe more and more  
23 people have weddings and stuff.

24 MR. PERSICH: Well, we're becoming a  
25 destination point too. I think people are

1  
2 not going as far. So I think they're  
3 coming to Long Island. So we're starting  
4 to see an uptick in tourism. That's one  
5 of the indicators of what's happening.

6 Again, it's the Covid overhang is  
7 starting to get back to normalcy. And I  
8 think you're starting to see the hotel  
9 and the occupancy starting to increase  
10 again.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: And do we oversee  
12 hotels to make sure that they are,  
13 because I know that they charge like when  
14 you go to a hotel, whatever it is, like  
15 \$3 a person or something like that. Do we  
16 audit to make sure that we're collecting  
17 from all the hotels and that they are  
18 giving that fee?

19 MR. PERSICH: I would imagine. The  
20 Administration doesn't have the ability  
21 to audit it, probably be in the  
22 Comptroller's Office to see that. But I  
23 think, yes, there's a process in place  
24 that has to be. On the room charges,  
25 you'll see that there are certain things.

1  
2 In most states, it's a common thing is  
3 what it is. Having done travel softball  
4 with my daughter, I can tell you I've  
5 paid occupancy taxes for years.

6 LEGISLATOR FORD: You could have  
7 sent her to college for four years for  
8 all those charges, right?

9 MR. PERSICH: So, you know.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All  
11 right. Thank you.

12 Any other legislators?

13 (Whereupon, no verbal  
14 response.)

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank  
16 you, Andy.

17 MR. PERSICH: Thank you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All in  
19 favor, signify by 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

1  
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Back  
3 to Item 2, which is a hearing on a  
4 proposed local law.

5 It's a Local Law to Amend Local Law  
6 Number 18 in 1984, as last amended by  
7 Local Law 8 of 2020 and as incorporated  
8 in Chapter IV of Title 9 of the  
9 Miscellaneous Laws of Nassau County in  
10 Relation to Imposing Additional Rates of  
11 Sales and Compensating Use Tax.

12 We a motion to establish the  
13 emergency. Legislator Schaefer makes that  
14 motion, seconded by Legislator DeRiggi-  
15 Whitton. I'm sorry that's to open the  
16 hearing. All in favor, signify by saying,  
17 "Aye".

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

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those  
22 opposed?

23 (Whereupon, no verbal  
24 response.)

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The

1  
2 hearing is open. Andy.

3 MR. PERSICH: Item 259 is the  
4 extension of the sales tax that currently  
5 in place as a result of the state  
6 legislation. It's through to 2025. It's a  
7 procedural thing that we have to do every  
8 couple of years as a result of that.  
9 It's a large component of this county's  
10 revenue and we need to keep it in place.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Anyone  
12 have any questions for Andy?

13 (Whereupon, no verbal  
14 response.)

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:  
16 Hearing none. Motion to close the hearing  
17 by Legislator Ford, seconded by Minority  
18 Leader Abrahams.

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

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

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those  
25 opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal  
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The  
hearing is closed.

Now we need a vote on this local law  
that I just called.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank  
you. Legislator Walker moves it.  
Seconded by Legislator Schaefer.

Any debate a 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

1  
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Item  
3 21, a Resolution Authorizing the County  
4 Executive to Execute an Inter Municipal  
5 Agreement With the Incorporated Village  
6 of East Williston in Relation to  
7 Purchasing and Procuring Multiple Fire  
8 Hose System and Related Items.

9 I'll make the motion, seconded by  
10 Minority Leader Abrahams.

11 The Item is before us.

12 We need to make an amendment in the  
13 nature of the substitution to add a  
14 Deputy County Attorney's signature to the  
15 Resolution so it is properly approved as  
16 to form.

17 Moved by Deputy Presiding Officer  
18 Kopel, seconded by Legislator Solages.

19 All in favor of the amendment,  
20 signify by saying, "Aye".

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

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those  
25 opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal  
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:  
Carries unanimously.

Now the Item is amended. We need to  
vote on the amended item.

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

1  
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We  
3 have one item on the Regular Calendar  
4 which we're going to go back to later on  
5 after the Rules Committee. But in the  
6 meantime, we have an Emergency Calendar  
7 which includes a number of items. These  
8 are emergency items.

9 We need a motion to establish an  
10 emergency as to Clerk Items 286; 287;  
11 288; 289; 290; 291. And that's it with  
12 respect to the items.

13 Moved by Deputy Presiding Officer  
14 Kopel, second by Minority Leader  
15 Abrahams.

16 This is to establish an emergency on  
17 these items.

18 We need a speaker on the emergency  
19 or just on the substance of it.

20 All in favor of establishing the  
21 emergency, signify by saying, "Aye".

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

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those

opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal  
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:  
Emergency is established.

Now, I have to call these items:  
Item 286; 287; 288; 289; 290; 291.

Before we do that, it's unanimous  
consent to waive the reading of these  
items.

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

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All  
right. So a motion by Legislator  
Schaefer, seconded by Legislator Ford to  
put these items before us and now that  
before us, do we have a speaker on the  
school tax items?

MS. SPARA: Good afternoon.  
Michele Spara, Deputy Assessor.

The items before you all have to do  
with the school tax warrants. The school  
tax warrants this year come to

1  
2 approximately \$4.9 billion. That is  
3 approximately an increase of 1.7% over  
4 last year.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.  
6 Could you speak to why this is always  
7 late each year? I think we know the  
8 reason, but if you could reiterate.

9 MS. SPARA: Nassau County has three  
10 school districts that are split with  
11 Suffolk County. Suffolk County assesses  
12 by towns. They are all on a different  
13 schedule. We just received the last  
14 information on Thursday night.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.  
16 It happens every year for you.

17 MS. SPARA: Every year.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Any  
19 questions for Michele?

20 Legislator Mule.

21 LEGISLATOR MULE: Hi.

22 First question, is there an acting  
23 assessor?

24 MS. SPARA: Not at the moment.

25 LEGISLATOR MULE: Okay. So who will

1  
2 be certifying these?

3 MS. SPARA: Currently, we have a  
4 team that is running the day to day  
5 operations of the Department, but I will  
6 ultimately be signing them.

7 LEGISLATOR MULE: Okay. Is that a  
8 legal thing to do since we don't have an  
9 Acting Assessor?

10 MS. SPARA: The administration has  
11 appointed me as Chief Deputy Assessor, so  
12 I believe it's within that purview.

13 MS. ESTES: That's correct.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Could  
15 you just put your name on the record,  
16 please?

17 MS. ESTES: Hi. Karen Estes, Counsel  
18 for Property Assessor.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay,  
20 so that was just you that said, "That's  
21 correct", right?

22 MS. ESTES: That's right.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.

24 LEGISLATOR MULE: Okay. I would like  
25 to request that there be a review of the

1  
2 County Law to make sure that that is  
3 something that we can do legally, with  
4 the County Attorney.

5 Also, do we have any idea when an  
6 Acting Assessor will be coming to to the  
7 Legislature?

8 MS. SPARA: I do not. That is not  
9 part of the items that are before us.

10 LEGISLATOR MULE: Of course. Okay.  
11 Thank you.

12 MS. SPARA: You're welcome.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:  
14 Legislator Solages.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Just a follow  
16 up on the question by Legislator Mule.

17 Do you have any guidance, any legal  
18 authority that shows that you have the  
19 actual authority to serve in that  
20 capacity?

21 MS. SPARA: I am not the County  
22 Attorney, but I'm sure that we can  
23 certainly report back to the County  
24 Attorney looking for an opinion.

25 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Again, just to



1  
2 clarify, you do not have any legal  
3 guidance or clear legal explanation that  
4 confirms that you have the authority to  
5 certify these?

6 MS. SPARA: Again, I'm not an  
7 attorney, so that wouldn't be appropriate  
8 for me to speak on that.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I  
10 thought the counsel answered this.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I didn't get an  
12 answer.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Yes,  
14 she did. I think.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Are there  
16 similar jurisdictions that were in the  
17 same predicament where they did not have  
18 an actual assessor to certify these  
19 records?

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I  
21 think before you did that, I just want to  
22 make clear on the record that the  
23 original question was whether Michele  
24 would have the authority to to certify.

25 MS. SPARA: That is correct.

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: And  
your answer was, yes?

MS. ESTES: Yes.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Based on what  
exactly? What law?

MS. ESTES: Based on what law?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yes.

MS. ESTES: Well, we had the same  
situation last year when Matt Cronin was  
the Acting Assessor and these were  
certified as well.

Right now, I know that they have  
been interviewing --

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: But he was the  
Acting Assessor. We do not have an Acting  
Assessor now.

MS. ESTES: Chief deputy.

MS. SPARA: Matt Cronin was the  
Acting Assessor. After six months, he was  
no longer the Acting Assessor. He was the  
Chief Deputy Assessor. He is no longer  
here. I am currently acting as the Chief  
Deputy Assessor. Same situation it was  
last year.

1  
2           LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Were there any  
3 other jurisdictions or any counties in  
4 New York State that had a very similar  
5 situation? I mean, I just want to make  
6 sure that we have authority.

7           MS. SPARA: I do not know the answer  
8 to that.

9           LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Okay. So can we  
10 have an official explanation in writing  
11 from the County Attorney's Office?

12          MS. SPARA: We can get that for you.

13          LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you.

14          MR. LEIMONE: It's Chris Leimone.  
15 We'll consult with the County Attorney's  
16 Office and get back to you.

17          LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you.

18          PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.  
19 Any other questions?

20               (Whereupon, no verbal  
21 response.)

22          PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank  
23 you, Michele. Appreciate it.

24          MS. SPARA: You're welcome.

25          PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All

right.

Any debate and discussion among the  
legislators on these items?

(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: They  
carry unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*

1  
2  
3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: What  
4 we're doing now is we're going to go  
5 recess. The Full Legislature and call the  
6 Rules Committee for this one item which  
7 we'll consider and which will require an  
8 executive session. Then we'll come out.  
9 If the Rules Committee approves it, it'll  
10 go before the Full Legislature.

11 (Whereupon, recess 4:25 p.m. - 4:38  
12 p.m.)

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We are  
14 back into the Full Legislature as this  
15 has to be approved today.

16 Same item, Item 27, Resolution 192,  
17 a Resolution authorizing the County  
18 Attorney to compromise and settle the  
19 claims of plaintiff as set forth in the  
20 global settlement of PCO cases Chodkowski  
21 versus Nassau.

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Moved  
24 by Legislator Walker, seconded by  
25 Legislator Pilip.

Any debate or discussion?

(Whereupon, no verbal  
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: 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.

And then last motion to adjourn.

LEGISLATOR FORD: So moved.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Moved  
by Legislator Ford, seconded by  
Legislator Walker.

All in favor of adjourning.

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

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those  
opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal  
response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We are  
adjourned.

(Whereupon, Full Legislature is  
adjourned, 4:40 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 18th day of September, 2023.

Karen Lorenzo

Karen Lorenzo



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<b>\$1,000</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 157:9	<b>'18</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 124:8	<b>14</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 70:4, 172:17	208:14
<b>\$100</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 20:23, 146:18	<b>'19</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 124:9	<b>14,514</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 55:14	<b>19</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 68:19, 112:16
<b>\$2,000</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 70:25	<b>1</b>	<b>14-year-old-boys</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 11:3	<b>190</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 68:23
<b>\$200</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 151:3	<b>1</b> <sup>[4]</sup> - 61:18, 63:7, 80:13, 84:9	<b>1476</b> <sup>[3]</sup> - 107:24, 108:2, 108:8	<b>191</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 68:23
<b>\$210</b> <sup>[10]</sup> - 75:19, 75:22, 103:22, 150:22, 165:15, 165:17, 166:15, 166:20, 173:3, 173:15	<b>1.7%</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 198:3	<b>14th</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 3:24, 40:8	<b>192</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 205:16
<b>\$22,800</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 158:15	<b>10</b> <sup>[9]</sup> - 29:6, 68:14, 124:14, 125:24, 164:12, 164:16, 165:9, 168:2, 169:20	<b>15</b> <sup>[11]</sup> - 68:16, 70:24, 104:3, 107:17, 125:20, 125:24, 143:5, 153:12, 153:14, 156:10, 160:8	<b>1984</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 190:6
<b>\$230</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 119:3	<b>10%</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 145:9	<b>150</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 42:22	<b>19th</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 4:15
<b>\$250</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 157:10	<b>100</b> <sup>[18]</sup> - 14:15, 104:17, 110:18, 110:20, 110:21, 110:22, 113:7, 116:21, 119:8, 141:19, 142:7, 144:23, 164:9, 167:10, 176:23, 177:4, 177:22, 178:7	<b>150%</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 156:15	<b>1:17</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 1:19
<b>\$26,000</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 142:16	<b>100%</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 71:13, 103:7	<b>1550</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 1:15	<b>1st</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 2:16
<b>\$3,000</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 70:22, 157:9	<b>106/107</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 14:16	<b>15th</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 4:3	<b>2</b>
<b>\$300</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 102:24	<b>10th</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 3:12	<b>16</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 43:25, 68:17	<b>2</b> <sup>[6]</sup> - 70:20, 84:9, 175:25, 176:3, 176:10, 190:3
<b>\$32,000</b> <sup>[3]</sup> - 151:23, 151:24, 152:6	<b>11</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 50:25, 68:15	<b>16,000</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 49:5	<b>2.1</b> <sup>[10]</sup> - 104:16, 104:20, 105:10, 108:11, 114:10, 114:25, 119:6, 124:22, 125:7, 151:2
<b>\$325</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 46:21	<b>11th</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 3:15, 110:11	<b>163</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 146:6	<b>20</b> <sup>[38]</sup> - 29:6, 56:6, 68:20, 71:16, 71:18, 73:14, 74:5, 106:14, 109:16, 113:12, 115:7, 124:14, 124:23, 125:21, 125:24, 141:21, 143:5, 149:21, 152:9, 152:16, 152:22, 152:23, 152:25, 153:7, 155:25, 160:9, 164:12, 164:19, 165:10, 167:20, 168:2, 168:23, 169:7, 169:20, 171:6, 176:7, 176:20, 178:9
<b>\$35,000</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 120:23	<b>12</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 68:15, 156:9	<b>165</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 29:19	
<b>\$390</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 165:21	<b>12th</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 3:18	<b>16th</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 4:6	
<b>\$4,000</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 163:16	<b>13</b> <sup>[7]</sup> - 20:7, 68:16, 70:19, 75:22, 105:8, 176:2, 181:14	<b>17</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 43:25, 68:18	
<b>\$4,800</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 145:9	<b>130</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 144:8	<b>178</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 68:16	
<b>\$400</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 145:8	<b>13th</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 3:21	<b>179</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 70:5, 172:18	
<b>\$45,000</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 120:24		<b>17th</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 4:9	
<b>\$46,000</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 145:6		<b>18</b> <sup>[4]</sup> - 1:18, 68:18, 121:16, 190:6	
<b>\$460</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 165:20		<b>180</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 68:17	
<b>\$5,000</b> <sup>[3]</sup> - 142:18, 142:21, 143:8		<b>181</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 68:17	
<b>\$6,000</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 144:12		<b>182</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 68:18	
<b>\$60</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 146:17		<b>183</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 68:19	
<b>\$72</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 165:20		<b>184</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 68:19	
<b>\$760</b> <sup>[3]</sup> - 105:4, 105:7, 119:7		<b>185</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 68:20	
<b>\$90</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 145:8		<b>187</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 68:21	
		<b>188</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 68:21	
		<b>189</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 68:22	
		<b>18th</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 4:12,	

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