

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES MEETING

RICHARD NICOLELLO

PRESIDING OFFICER

HEATH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ROSE MARIE WALKER

CHAIRWOMAN

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Monday, December 4, 2023

3:07 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

A P P E A R A N C E S

LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER - CHAIRWOMAN

LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP - VICE CHAIRWOMAN

LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

LEGISLATOR MICHAEL GIANGREGORIO

LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON - RANKING

LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER

LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN (ABSENT)

MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

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

ALYSSA ZOHRABIAN, HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1
2 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: I'd like to call
3 the Health and Social Services Committee
4 to order and ask the Clerk to please take
5 the roll.

6 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, Madam
7 Chair. Health and Social Service roll
8 call.

9 Legislator Joshua Lafazan is absent.

10 Legislator Arnold Drucker?

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

12 CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
13 Delia DeRiggi-Whitton?

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

15 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.
16 William Gaylor, III?

17 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Here.

18 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Michael
19 Giangregorio?

20 LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Here.

21 CLERK PULITZER: Vice Chairwoman
22 Mazi Pilip?

23 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

24 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
25 Chairwoman Rose Marie Walker?

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CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Here.

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

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you.

There is only one Item on the
Agenda. Clerk Item 396-23, which is an
ordinance supplemental to the annual
appropriation ordinance in connection
with the Health Department.

May I have a motion, please?

By Legislator Giangregorio, seconded
by Legislator Drucker.

MS. ZOHRABIAN: Good afternoon.
Alyssa Zohrabian, Nassau County
Department of Health.

Item 396-23 contains five
supplemental appropriations. The first
supplemental appropriation is in the
amount of \$490,000 for the STD Disease
Intervention Services grant. Staff in
this grant confirm the diagnosis and
treatment of the infection with the
health care provider. The patient is
interviewed, counseled, and education is

1
2 provided. Partner notification and
3 referrals for testing are also provided.

4 The second supplemental
5 appropriation is in the amount of
6 \$145,955 for the Drinking Water
7 Enhancement Grant to protect and enhance
8 the public water supply in Nassau County,
9 and to ensure the safety of the drinking
10 water.

11 The third and fourth supplemental
12 appropriations are in the amount of
13 \$44,137 and \$5,978,226, respectively. And
14 that is for the Ryan White grant. The
15 federal government provides these funds
16 for comprehensive health and social
17 services for people living with HIV and
18 AIDS in Nassau and Suffolk counties.
19 Nassau County is the designated grantee
20 for both counties. We contract with
21 United Way of Long Island as technical
22 support agency. This award also includes
23 \$449,000 for a minority AIDS initiative
24 to address disparities in access,
25 treatment, and care for racial and ethnic

1
2 minorities.

3 And the fifth and final supplemental
4 appropriation in this item is in the
5 amount of \$74,425. It is a newly awarded
6 grant from the National Association of
7 County and City Health Officials titled
8 Infectious Disease Outbreaks Enhancing
9 Forecasting and Analytics Capabilities
10 for Local Health Departments. This grant
11 will help proactively predict and analyze
12 disease outbreaks to better protect the
13 public health.

14 All five supplemental appropriations
15 are 100% grant funded from either New
16 York State or from the centers for
17 Disease Control, and will have no net
18 impact on the budget.

19 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you. Any
20 questions from the legislators?

21 Legislator Drucker.

22 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
23 Madam Chair. I have a question on
24 supplemental number 19.

25 How do the local water providers get

1
2 access to any part of those funds which
3 are used to evaluate emerging or volatile
4 contaminants?

5 MS. ZOHRABIAN: This is for the
6 second one for the Drinking Water
7 Enhancement Grant?

8 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Supplemental
9 number 19, for \$145,955.

10 MS. ZOHRABIAN: Yeah. So that
11 program assures that the 46 water
12 districts in Nassau County adhere and
13 comply to part five of the New York State
14 Sanitary Code and the Nassau County
15 Public Health Ordinance. So that's use by
16 our Division of Environmental Health.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Right. But how
18 did they get the money to help them in
19 their evaluation? Every water provider
20 has wells in their own community, in
21 their own district, their own whatever.
22 And they want to be able to evaluate
23 their own in that community.

24 MS. DESIMONE: Ann DeSimone, Health.
25 So they can check their own water supply.

1
2 But this grant does the double check and
3 has our staff go out and actually sample
4 the water. And that this money takes care
5 of, that pays for the sampling.

6 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Well, who asks
7 the County to go out and double check?

8 MS. DESIMONE: It's a public health
9 law.

10 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So you have to
11 go out to all of the providers?

12 MS. DESIMONE: Correct.

13 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So this money
14 obviously is not a lot, but it's enough
15 to help with the existing funding that
16 you have to do this outreach.

17 MS. DESIMONE: It pays for the staff
18 and the the specimen how they do the
19 bacteriological sampling at the lab.

20 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you.
21 That's really what I wanted to know.
22 Appreciate it.

23 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Can I just ask
24 too, we know that the water districts do
25 all their own testing, and I know the

1
2 water districts that Arnie and I
3 represent, they do plenty of testing
4 because they have a lot of issues. But do
5 you find that your testing matches their
6 testing, or have you found that there are
7 often times where you find something they
8 don't?

9 MS. DESIMONE: We're going to have
10 to get back to you on that. That's too
11 much program detail for us to answer you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Okay. I mean, I
13 would assume. I mean, the water districts
14 are very, very attuned to what they have
15 to do. So I would hope that answer is you
16 find them to be doing the right thing.
17 But just I'd like to know that.

18 MS. DESIMONE: That's a good
19 question.

20 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Mazi.

21 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Thank you. I
22 would like to know, are you checking all
23 the water districts? How often?

24 MS. ZOHRABIAN: I don't know how
25 exactly how often we can ask program and

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get back to you on that.

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any other
legislators?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any public
comment?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Hearing none,
all in favor of Clerk Item 396-23, please
signify by saying, "Aye".

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

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any nays or
abstention?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: This will move
on to Finance.

Thank you both for your

1
2 presentation.

3 There is no other business with this
4 Committee. May I have a motion to
5 adjourn?

6 By Legislator Gaylor, seconded by
7 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

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

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

14 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: We will move
15 onto Finance.

16
17 (Whereupon, the Health and
18 Social Services Committee is
19 adjourned, 3:15 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)

: SS.:

COUNTY OF NASSAU)

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 4th day of December, 2023.

Karen Lorenzo

Karen Lorenzo

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