	FINANCE COMMITTEE 12.4.2023
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2	NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
3	COMMITTEES MEETING
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7	RICHARD NICOLELLO
8	PRESIDING OFFICER
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10	*****
11	FINANCE COMMITTEE
12	HOWARD KOPEL
13	CHAIRMAN
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17	County Executive and Legislative Building
18	1550 Franklin Avenue
19	Mineola, New York
20	*****
21	Monday, December 4, 2023
22	3:19 p.m.
23	
24	TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
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______TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516)414-3516 _____1 __

FINANCE COMMITTEE 12.4.2023

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2	APPEARANCES
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4	LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL CHAIRMAN
5	LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI VICE CHAIRMAN
6	LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT (RECUSED 404)
7	LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER
8	LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER RANKING MEM.
9	LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES
10	LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN (Absent)
11	****
12	MICHAEL PULITZER Clerk of the Legislature
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______TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516)414-3516 _____2 ___

FINANCE COMMITTEE 12.4.2023

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2	ALSO APPEARED
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4	
5	LISA LOCURTO, DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY
6	COMMISSIONER BELYEA, PARKS DEPARTMENT
7	
8	ANDY PERSICH, OMB
9	WILLIAM FIELD, POLICE DEPARTMENT
10	ALYSSA ZOHRABIAN, HEALTH DEPARTMENT
11	ADA MCDERMOTT, DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
12	
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14	COMMISSIONER KEN ARNOLD, PUBLIC WORKS
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18	PUBLIC COMMENT:
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20	MR. SCHNEIDER
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FINANCE	COMMITTEE	12	4 2023

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3	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Mike, will you,
4	please, call the roll?
5	CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, sir.
6	Finance Committee roll call Finance.
7	Legislator Joshua Lafazan is absent.
8	Legislator Carrie A. Solages?
9	LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.
10	CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
11	Arnold Drucker?
12	LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.
13	LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.
14	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose
15	Marie Walker?
16	LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.
17	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Thomas
18	McKevitt?
19	LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.
20	CLERK PULITZER: Vice Chairman John
21	Ferretti?
22	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.
23	CLERK PULITZER: Chairman Howard
24	Kopel?
25	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: I am here.
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2 CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum, 3 sir. CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Thank you. 5 Okay. First we will start with a 6 motion to suspend the Rules. Motion is made by Ms. Walker and seconded by Mr. 8 Drucker. All those in favor of suspending the Rules, say "Aye". 10 (Whereupon, all members of 11

the Finance Committee respond in favor with, "Aye".) CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal response.)

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: The Rules are suspended.

We have a few Consent Items which have gone through previous Committees, and it has been agreed by the Majority and Minority that the require no further debate or discussion. Those items are:

396; 397; 401; and on the Addendum 410 and 414.

Motion by Ms. Solages, seconded by

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	FINANCE COMMITTEE 12.4.2023
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2	Mr. McKevitt.
3	All those in favor of those items,
4	please so indicate by saying, "Aye".
5	(Whereupon, all members of
6	the Finance Committee respond
7	in favor with, "Aye".)
8	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any opposed?
9	(Whereupon, no verbal
10	response.)
11	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Those items pass
12	unanimously.
13	Thank you.
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___TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516)414-3516 _____6 =

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CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Okay. I am going to now call a bunch of items together. All of these items refer to regulating the assessment rolls for various municipalities. And those are items numbers: 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 383, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, and 389. Motion by Mr. McKevitt, seconded by Ms. Walker.

All those in favor of those items, please so indicate by saying, "Aye".

> (Whereupon, all members of the Finance Committee respond in favor with, "Aye".)

> CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any opposed? (Whereupon, no verbal response.)

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Those items pass unanimously.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Number 351. Is a resolution to authorize execution of a tax exemption extension agreement between the County of Nassau and Sunny Lane of Bethpage Development Company.

Motion by Mr. Drucker, seconded by Mr. Ferretti.

Do we have someone on that item? And Mr. Schneider, you just one moment till the Administration presents. And I should tell you, Mr. Schneider, I don't think there's going to be a lot of worry about it. So. You can feel free to come up and speak anyway, but that's up to you.

Lisa?

MS. LOCURTO: Thank you, Legislator.
Lisa Locurto, Deputy County Attorney,
County Attorney's Office.

This item, which is before you, legislators, is for a tax exemption agreement for affordable senior housing cooperative apartments. 351 is Sunny Lane within the Town of Oyster Bay. I know it wasn't cold, but 352 is also a Central

Park estate is another --

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Why don't I go ahead and I can call all of those, and then you can talk to all of them.

So I've already called 351, 352,
353, 354 relate to tax exemption
extension agreements between,
respectively, Central Park Estates
Redevelopment Company, Oceanside Cove
Redevelopment and the Meadows
Redevelopment Company. And motion on that
is Mr. McKevitt, seconded by Ms. Walker.
Now please go ahead and all of them.
Thank you.

MS. LOCURTO: Thank you. These tax abatement agreements which we are extending are created under the Public Housing Finance Law Section 125. Their purpose is to encourage and enable private developers to create affordable housing. The statute dictates the percentages of abatement that are to be applied to the assessed values of the properties. The current exemptions are

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expiring. What we're attempting to do here is to continue to make the senior

cooperatives that exist in the Town of Hempstead and the Town of Oyster Bay to

continue to be affordable. And under the

statute, it permits up to a one time

extension. When you exercise that

extension, you can extend it to a maximum

of 25 years. We're extending it for 25

years. All these resolutions, actually

the County is the pass through providing

because we're the taxing authority on

behalf of the towns and the special

districts and the schools. All of these

abatements were approved by town

resolutions and are authorized by the

towns. This will put them on the roll and

enable the abatements to continue.

The goal here is to continue to provide affordable housing for our seniors. I know counsel is going to come up and speak to see if there could be a greater type of exemption. We can't do that because we're constrained by what

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the state law does. But we did put into the agreements that should there be a change in state law, that the County would be happy to go back and amend these agreements. So those are the four that are before you and we recommend approving.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Thank you. Any questions, any debate?

(Whereupon, no verbal

response.)

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Mr. Schneider, would you care to add something? MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes.

Thank you. Thank you very much. Appreciate the opportunity to speak with all of you today. And Ms. Locurto hit on some of the important issues. I'm not here today to -- I understand that you are likely to approve these, but I want all of you to understand the greater issue that's before you.

Sunny Lane at Bethpage Redevelopment Company Owners Corp. is a senior housing

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community that was formed under the Town of Oyster Bay program, the S2 program for seniors 62 years in age and older. There are many similar co-ops within the Town of Oyster Bay, and as you can see, many others within the county.

When these co-ops were created, they were afforded this PILOT so that they could be affordable. The key word here is affordability. And you heard Ms. Locurto say that the PILOT provided a significant exemption on the payment of certain property taxes. This made sense since these seniors don't use the school systems, amongst other resources.

Enter the problem. The PILOT agreements were granted pursuant to the Private Housing Finance law. Because Sunny Lane is a mutual redevelopment company, as are many of the other ones that you are going to be faced with and have here today, as well as many others that are going to continue to expire pursuant to the following private Housing

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Finance Law provision, the agreement can only be renewed once for a 25 year period, and even worse, it cannot be renewed on the exact same terms as presently exist. And that's what I think you did not hear yet today.

Instead, the agreement is limited to two years at the same rate of exemption that the expiring agreement provided, which I believe was a 94% exemption. And then the benefits sharply slides down until these thousands of seniors lose their benefit completely. The present Private Housing Finance Law section provides that the rate of exemption shall not exceed an average of 50% during the extended term, and the first two years of the extended term shall continue at a rate of existence immediately preceding the expiration of the initial 25 year term, and thereafter shall be decreased in equal biennial decrements.

What does that mean? It means there will be no more affordability to these

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co-ops, where the shareholders and owners are limited in what they can sell their units for, and whose purchasers have restrictions based on their income eligibility.

Well, for these seniors, clearly this would not have been the intent when the PILOT agreements were entered into. And like many laws which provide benefits of this length of time, it's often not contemplated what will happen when that time comes.

Well, for these seniors, that time is now. My firm represents many of these communities. I'm imploring all of you to act now. A new law needs to be adopted so that these benefits are not lost and Nassau County does not wind up with a crisis as a result of the increased cost that these senior citizens will have to pay for taxes that are not contemplated by the County. This would be a windfall to the County at the expense of senior citizens who paid Nassau County taxes for

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years, and need the affordable housing to remain in Nassau County. Remember, the applicants and purchasers had to reside in the Town of Oyster Bay to be able to apply for and qualify for one of these units.

In that regard, in the interim, I requested the County consider the following language to the proposed agreement, which you are considering here today. While the legislator hopefully considers the necessary amendment to the private housing finance law, once a new law comes in place, it can be changed. You heard, Ms. Locurto (buzzer) -- if I could have just a few more seconds, that would be appreciated.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Yeah, sure.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Because it's a very important issue. Thank you.

You heard Ms. Locurto say that they put language into the agreement that says that the County would be happy to amend them. That's not exactly what's in the

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agreement. What's in the agreement is a section that says this agreement may be modified only by written instrument, duly executed by the parties hereto, and shall be construed and interpreted, and may be modified in accordance with the laws of the State of New York. Now it will be. We know that a law needs to be passed. There's been back and forth over whether it's a State Law or it's a Home Rule Law. We'll get to that in a second. I requested that the language that be added would state in that regard to the extent the law is amended, modified or repealed so as to eliminate or modify the requirement of Article Five, Section 120 51A to limit the extension of the tax agreement to be only for one 25-year period and at a rate of tax exemption, not to exceed an average of 50% of the tax exemption originally afforded to Sunny Lane during such additional period--

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Mr. Schneider, it

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seems to me that that your primary issue is, of course, is the state law because this goes as far as the state is going to allow. I am not sure, and I'd have to get advice of counsel, but I'm not sure that that we're even able to, the County, we being the County that were able to do a contract now that prospectively will go ahead and change this the commitment of the County based upon something that the State may or may not do in the future. I don't think that's doable. I could be wrong, but I believe counsel is nodding. So I think that that is the case.

And I'll also say that as you can see, there is there is an appetite here to make sure that the seniors do get the maximum that is due that is possible. And so therefore, I would feel rather sanguine about the likelihood that once the State, if and when the State does amend the law, that we will go ahead and do the same here.

So right now -- and I'll say one

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last thing. If we don't pass this now, it's going to go over till next year because. Because it's not going to happen this minute --

MR. SCHNEIDER: I'm not suggesting that you're not passing. I think I started out by saying I expect you to and I I'm fine with that. And I will tell you that I have had discussion with the County Attorney's Office regarding that exact language. We could differ on what can be done if a law is passed and the law is the law, why wouldn't the agreement automatically? Why wouldn't the Legislature comply with the law?

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: You know, we can go around and round with that, but it's not going to really accomplish anything right here.

I think what we have before us is good. Hopefully, we'll get better going in the future. But meanwhile, let's not be let not have the better be the enemy of the good. And let's get this done.

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MR. SCHNEIDER: I'm with you. My only closing point, my point of presenting today, was so that everybody

is aware of the issue, because we've got

legislators here, right, who have the

ability and the power to make sure that

this happens so that the seniors do not

suffer, because I think, as we just heard

from Ms. Locurto and from yourself, that

certainly that is not the intent is to

hurt seniors. We can prevent that. Right.

And I think we need to put this as a high

priority and make sure that it gets done,

because this is not an issue that came up

yesterday. I've been working on this

issue now for a while, and so I implore

all of you to please do what's necessary

and make sure that our seniors are

protected.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Thank you, Mr.

Schneider.

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Mr. Schneider,

listen, I agree with you 100%, but I just

want to make sure you're very clear is

that it's not the ability of the people

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in this panel to change this. You know, you have to work with the Senate and the Assembly. I've already spoken to some of them regarding it. We need to have a lot of conversations. And with the State in general, and my understanding is there may be some reluctance on the State not to do this again, not from our representatives, but we're having a change of state laws. This is something we need to move on as soon as possible. Get this moving, because if this doesn't get done, the ramifications can be quite drastic. I live literally one block away from the Meadows in East Meadow, and this will have devastating consequences on those people, so I'm very well aware of that. But again, we have a much more challenging battle with the State right

MR. SCHNEIDER: I appreciate that.

now. We need to be united in that battle

and move it through as quickly as

possible.

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And what I'll say to you is that what I'm being told by at least one assembly person is that it's actually probably a local law that has to be enacted first.

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Might be. problem is, is that right now it is the Private Housing Finance Law which one of the most, as an attorney worked with years ago, is one of the most convoluted written statutes there is. I mean, my head spins around going through it, and we would prefer it be considered local law because that's easier to be done than a State law. But at the end of the day, it's up to the Speaker's Office and the Majority Leaders Office how that's done. So we'll give that first shot. I agree it's the best strategy to go, but it may not work. Just saying.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Yeah.

I'm with you and I'm appreciative of the fact that that you appear to be working along behind the scenes with this as well, because it is going to have a

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drastic consequence.

And just, you know, I participate in a group of board members of the communities, the co-ops that are part of the Town of Oyster Bay housing units. And they are gravely, gravely concerned. And, you know, this is one here. We have another one that's coming up right behind it and a whole bunch more, because the 25 years is coming due. And, you know, look, the private housing finance law section that it applies to, I agree with what Ms. Locurto said. It's normally typically for developer incentives, but developer incentives then turn into like a rental owner. Here we've got shareholders, their co-op shareholders. And this is not a situation where we want to say to them, well, you got your benefit. It's over. There are new people purchasing every day here, and of course, people that are living on fixed incomes in many of these communities. So I appreciate that and thank you very much.

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LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: We are very aware.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you, Chair. I appreciate that. And to echo Legislator McKevitt's comments. I have recently spoken to directors and residents of two at least two other senior housing complexes in the Town of Oyster Bay in Woodbury. They're not the four that are here. Right. But I will tell you that the residents that I spoke to were panic stricken. And they reiterated to me that they were speaking to their state representatives, imploring them to act on this. And I, of course, am sympathetic and very interested, as all of us are. And, Tom, you've certainly expressed that. So am I to assume that because you're here today on Sunny Lane and Central Park Estates and the other two, that there are others in the Town of Oyster Bay that I know of that are not here. So that means they're going to be coming down the pike soon.

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MR. SCHNEIDER: You're 100% correct. There are many others. We're talking about thousands of seniors that are going to be impacted by this.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Yeah, they were panic stricken. They basically, as we can all possibly imagine, someone who's, let's say in their 70s or 80s. Now, faced with the prospect of not being able to afford where they live is very scary.

MR. SCHNEIDER: The housing was put in place for affordability. It's kind of totally contradictory, right? That's why I say this is one of those, I think, unintended consequences that needs to be fixed. I would be surprised if any assemblyman or senator would would think this was something that doesn't need to be done.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I think you're preaching to the choir on both sides here, so that's not an issue.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: You may be surprised.

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LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I'm hopeful.

And I'm hoping that our state representatives are very sympathetic to and we should certainly monitor their progress up in Albany. But this is a worthy endeavor for all of us to get behind.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Ms. Walker.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Mr. Schneider, I want to thank you, too. When this came to me a good while back -- I don't live in one of those developments, but I represent the residents who do. And as Legislator Drucker said, and Legislator McKevitt, they were panic stricken and their boards were panic stricken as to, what are we doing here? And so right away we got on it. We had our counsel working with them too, and speaking with them and getting all the information. And it is something we can tell you that we will be continuously working on here and working with our state representatives, who also represent those residents here.

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I just hope the rest of the state is equally willing to work with us and do the right thing for our seniors.

I wasn't on the Town Board when these first came to fruition, later, as additional ones were built. You know, I was a part of it and then moved on to the Legislature, but this was to make sure our residents could stay in their home communities and close by, be by their families and be able to live here. And we don't want to see them, especially now, as many of them have gotten older, we have enough issues to face with them as they've gotten older, because for some of them, it's hard for them to live by themselves anymore. So they have additional things to have to face. But it's something that we will all be working on together. And I'm sure the rest of us here, I know there's many more in the Town of Oyster Bay, but I'm sure there's others in Town of Hempstead in other places where they're going to be

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faced with the same issue.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Yeah. No, you're 100% correct. And I do want to thank you. I know you've been very helpful in the past to the Housing Board members and residents of the Town of Oyster Bay is program. The Town of Oyster Bay has also been very, very helpful. I know that they're fighting in the background too as well. But obviously anything that each of you can do to assist, obviously, with regard to the State would be certainly greatly appreciated, because it's a problem that I think none of us wanted on our doorstep when it comes.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I have one final question.

Just procedurally, if we pass these four resolutions and there's no state law in effect, what happens?

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: The state law does work now.

MR. SCHNEIDER: No, no. He's correct. What happens is, you're allowed

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a two year -- it's two years at the same rate. So most of the co-ops have a 94% exemption I think it is. And they're going to get two years of that. Now Sunny Lane, which is before you was already one year into it. So they're into their second year. So they're about to be in a situation. If you look at the schedules behind the agreements they decline rapidly after that. So they're going to wind up paying higher tax to the County very quickly.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: If the resolutions are not passed?

MR. SCHNEIDER: No, no, no. If the resolutions are not passed, they lose their exemption completely. So passing the resolutions, I think everybody probably agrees --

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: We're doing the maximum that we can do right now in state law --

MR. SCHNEIDER: We need to make sure that we don't just pass the resolutions

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and then do nothing. I've spoken to some people who don't even realize what these schedules are, they think their PILOTS are getting suspended.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: We need to all of us work towards getting the State to do what it needs to do, and then we can do what we need to do.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I'm just trying to understand the ramifications of it now; right now.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: It declines rapidly.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Okay.

MR. SCHNEIDER: I've been told that that if we don't get these passed, that the Assessor's Office will then reassess them basically at their full value. They'll pay 100% tax.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Immediately?

MR. SCHNEIDER: Yeah, that's what

I've been told.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: That's what I wanted to know.

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CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Lisa, did you have
something to add?
MS. LOCURTO: That's what I was
going to speak on.
CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Okay. Thank you,
Mr. Schneider.
MR. SCHNEIDER: Thank you very much.
CHAIRMAN KOPEL: All those in favor
of numbers 351; 352; 353 and 354, please
so indicated by saying, "Aye".
(Whereupon, all members of
the Finance Committee respond
in favor with, "Aye".)
CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any opposed?
(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)
CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Those items pass
unanimously.

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CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Next item is number 390. Which is a resolution authorizing the County Executive to execute a grant agreement. On behalf of Parks and the Community Healing and Caring Center, Inc. And there's a motion by Mr. McKevitt, seconded by Mr. Solages.

COMMISSIONER BELYEA: Good afternoon. Darcy Belyea, Parks Commissioner.

Presenting Hotel/Motel Tax Agreement again between the County and Community Healing and Caring Center Inc. A nonprofit organization based in Valley Stream. The requested amount of funding is \$6,757. The purpose of the agreement is to provide the organization to allow them to provide a program to youth to address issues of worthiness, accountability, and identity through dance and music.

Term of this agreement is April 1st, 2023 through March 31st, 2024. The funding source is the Hotel/Motel Tax

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Grant Fund.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Okay, you know what? They've got a few more I see. So let me call all of them and then we can go through all of them.

Numbers 391 is between Parks and North Shore Historical Museum; 392 is with East Meadow Public Library; 393 is with Cornell Cooperative Extension; And 394 is with Elmont Cultural Center, DBA, Cultural Center.

Motion by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Ferretti.

All right. Why don't you go through all of them, please?

COMMISSIONER BELYEA: So 391-23 is a Hotel/Motel tax credit agreement between the county and the North Shore Historical Museum in Glen Cove. The requested amount of funding is \$6,500. The purpose is for them to continue the restoration of the buildings storm windows 38 of 60 have been completed to historic preservation standards so far. This funding will allow

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them to do 5 or 6 more.

The term of this agreement is for one year from May 1st, 2023 to April 30th, 2024. The funding source again is the Hotel/Motel Tax Grant fund.

392-23 again, Hotel/Motel Tax Grant agreement between the County and the East Meadow Public Library. The requested amount for this funding is \$10,000. The purpose of the agreement is for the library to provide two cultural programs a swing time big band concert for military veterans, and A Christmas Carol -- which I thought this was kind of cool-- performed by the great great grandson of the author, Charles Dickens. The term of this agreement is for one year commencing on October 1st, 2023 and ending on September 30th, 2024. Again funded by Hotel/Motel tax.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Does that great grandson live here in Nassau County?

COMMISSIONER BELYEA: I don't know, I'm going to find out further. I'll let

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you know. I was I was prepping and I was like, oh, that's kind of cool.

393-23 is an agreement between the County Hotel/Motel Tax Grant Agreement and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County. As you all know, Cornell is housed in Eisenhower Park, where they hold a wonderful farmer's market each year. They also operate the East Meadow Farm and the Sleepaway Camp in partnership with the County. The requested amount is \$65,000. This funding will be used to continue programs for children and adults through the East Meadow Farm, and allow them to operate the farm stand there.

The term of this agreement is from June 1st, 2023 through May 31st, 2024, funded through the Hotel/Motel Tax Grant fund.

> CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any questions? (Whereupon, no verbal response.)

COMMISSIONER BELYEA: Finally --

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Sorry. I didn't 2 3 realize you weren't finished. Go on,

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please. COMMISSIONER BELYEA: Item 394-23.

Again, another Hotel/Motel Tax Grant Agreement between the County and the Elmont Cultural Center. The requested amount of this funding is \$6,757. The purpose is to support the annual Juneteenth cultural celebration held in the Argo neighborhood in Elmont, on Elmont Road and Village Avenue.

The term of this agreement is between April 11th, 2023 and March 31st, 2024. Funding again, Hotel/Motel Tax Grant Fund.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Okay. Now any questions?

Ms. Miss Walker.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Quick question. Back on 393. How are they doing with the camp out east?

COMMISSIONER BELYEA: I'm told it needs a lot of work and that they want to encourage a meeting with the

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Administration. But right now, they are making that education center near the farm. So I think the focus will be on that. And then we're going to return to looking at that. I actually was out there early October and I drove through and it looks aged, but they have children coming

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Okay. I remember bringing my kids there.

some upkeep, possibly.

and we just need to support them with

COMMISSIONER BELYEA: Probably hasn't changed since your kids were there.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Probably not. And it probably needed some work back then.

COMMISSIONER BELYEA: Yeah, and I'm not being funny. I'm serious.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: No, but it was a great place so you like to see it move forward and whatever upkeep they might need to refurbish it somehow and bring it

FINANCE COMMITTEE 12.4.2023

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2	up to today's standards a little bit.
3	COMMISSIONER BELYEA: Exactly.
4	LEGISLATOR WALKER: Great. Thank
5	you.
6	COMMISSIONER BELYEA: You're
7	welcome.
8	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any more?
9	(Whereupon, no verbal
10	response.)
11	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Hearing none. All
12	those in favor of those items, please so
13	indicate by saying, "Aye".
14	(Whereupon, all members of
15	the Finance Committee respond
16	in favor with, "Aye".)
17	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any opposed?
18	(Whereupon, no verbal
19	response.)
20	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Those items pass
21	unanimously. Thank you.
22	COMMISSIONER BELYEA: Thank you.
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CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Number 398. Is appropriations ordinance in connection with Office of Management and Budget.

And that motion is made by Mr. McKevitt, seconded by Mr. Drucker.

Andy?

MR. PERSICH: Good afternoon. Andy Persich. Office of Management and Budget 3.98 is five supplementals for Legal Aid and the 18B. The first one is for fourth counsel. They do these in distributions. So every year we have to redo them. So I'm going to go through them just go over the amounts.

Fourth counsel year one at first appearance is \$250,990.50. The second one is for year two, which is for the same amount. The third one is for distribution 13 year one, which is again, this is for Legal Aid, and 18B. This money that gets distributed from New York State legal aid for \$640,854. Then there's year two for distribution 13, which is 480,076. And the last one is for distribution, 12 for

	FINANCE COMMITTEE 12.4.2023
1	FINANCE COMMITTEE 12.4.2023
2	698,604. These are recurring grants that
3	come through from the State Legal Aid.
4	And we have to redistribute them
5	annually. So if there's any questions,
6	I'm here to answer them.
7	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any questions?
8	(Whereupon, no verbal
9	response.)
10	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: All those in favor
11	of those items, please so indicate by
12	saying, "Aye".
13	(Whereupon, all members of
14	the Finance Committee respond
15	in favor with, "Aye".)
16	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any opposed?
17	(Whereupon, no verbal
18	response.)
19	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: That item is
20	unanimous.
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CHAIRMAN KOPEL: 399 and 400 are both transfers of appropriations.

Motion by Mr. Drucker, seconded by Mr. McKevitt.

Are you on? Both of them, Inspector?

INSPECTOR FIELD: I have 399.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Yes. Go ahead please.

INSPECTOR FIELD: Good afternoon. William Field, Inspector, Police Department.

Item 399-23 is two board transfers. The first board transfers The Motor Carrier 21 Grant. This will transfer funds from the salary to our general expense lines.

The second is the GIVE grant. This will transfer. Funding as well in order to maximize reimbursement for the County.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Okay. Thank you. 400.

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MS. ZOHRABIAN: Good afternoon again. Alyssa Zohrabian, Health Department.

Item 423 contains two board transfers to maximize grant funding. The first one is in the amount of \$132, and that is for the early intervention grant. Savings and pension will be utilized to cover salary. The second one is in the amount of \$20,000, and it is for the Ryan White Part A grant fund saved in salary will be used to cover an increase in contractual services. Both programs are 100% grant funded.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Thank you. Any questions?

> (Whereupon, no verbal response.)

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: All those in favor of those items, please so indicate by saying, "Aye".

> (Whereupon, all members of the Finance Committee respond in favor with, "Aye".)

	FINANCE COMMITTEE 12.4.2023
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2	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any opposed?
3	(Whereupon, no verbal
4	response.)
5	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Those two items are
6	unanimous.
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CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Now, on to the Addendum. Numbers 402 and 403 are also transfers of appropriations. Motion by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Ferretti.

MR. PERSICH: Andy Persich Office of Management and Budget.

Item 402 is just redistributing funds withinside the litigation fund as a result of an arbitration award for the Covid time during Covid for the CSEA employees, it's approximately \$28 million. The distribution is to approximately 4200 individuals. And they vary in size based on the number of hours they worked. And basically it just settles an old claim. And this was part of the contract negotiations with CSEA. So it's been long out there. The liability was in excess of \$100 million. And the arbitration award came in at about 24 in total. But with fringe benefits it's another \$4 million making it almost \$28 million.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: So any questions on

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this?

(Whereupon, no verbal

response.)

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: All right. Do you have 403 as well?

MR. PERSICH: Yes, I have 403.

Item 403 is a transfer of appropriations in the ARPA funds of \$10 million. We had appropriated money into '23 budget into a General Reserve. We're now moving it out into a tourism line. As we all recall that the County lost approximately \$270 million, which I think is part of the grand scheme of we're going to take as revenue loss. As the clock is ticking on this money. We plan, once we have finalization between us and the Legislature, to move this money into a somewhat of a Tax Stabilization Reserve. Not sure how we're going to do that yet, but that's part of the plan that we have.

Economic headwinds haven't hit yet. But I do believe that we're headed down

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there, that we're going to be hitting a recession. And I keep saying that. But when that is, I don't know. And considering that inflation this year has been astronomical, it's going to be a little challenging for future budgets, as I can tell you, as the margins get thinner as we go along.

In addition, there will funds made available to this Legislative Body for special projects, along with the County Executive to give to the Legislature for special projects. But they have to be very project specific, meaning the non-recurring items that are in the budget, meaning that we want to give equipment, technology to whatever the legislature would like to do, and the Administration will work hand in hand with the Legislature on how we can disburse those funds.

The \$10 million item before you right now is monies to be spent for the what we're going to call the "125th

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Anniversary of the County", that the plan is to get some advertising out there and have a big event, because this is a thing that promotes tourism and fits with conformity of the ARPA funds. And we believe that this based on what we spent the previous money on, it's been very successful with the concert series that we have with the park, with Joan Jett and

all the other things that we did. We

believe this will be a big success.

The County Executive is going to be putting a plan together in January, going to be soliciting the Legislature to figure out what's the best way to handle this money. And any of these monies that will be spent will have to go through you with contracts and everything else, but we need to get the ball rolling in order to make the plan in order to effectuate this.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: This is just to make the funding available, but it's not for a specific item.

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MR. PERSICH: We're just moving it so that we can get the plan rolling, because it's going to take us time to develop this plan.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: And it doesn't preclude us moving ahead with other ARPA money projects?

MR. PERSICH: Nope.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Okay, fine.

MR. PERSICH: We haven't touched it. We had money set aside. We just appropriated all the money and now we're just starting to spend it. But sooner or later we're going to have to move the rest of the money because the clock is ticking. It needs to be obligated by 2024. So we're getting we're getting close to that time frame.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any questions?

Mr. Solages?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you.

Thank you very much, Chair.

I'm just trying to understand this better. What do you mean by galas? I

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mean, is my constituent, Tyrone Jones, invited to this gala?

MR. PERSICH: It's going to be open to all county residents. I think there's a plan. I don't have specifics.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Do they have to wear a bow tie? What do you mean?

MR. PERSICH: I think there's a plan to celebrate the County's 125th anniversary that will benefit all residents if they choose to attend these events. I don't think it's just going to be one event. I think it's going to be several things. I don't have a formulated plan yet, so I can't give you the specifics, but it's going to be open to all county residents because that's the only way we could do this.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Really. Who's doing the invitation list?

MR. PERSICH: I can't answer that. I don't think it'll be an invitation list. I think there'll be a lot of advertising telling people that we're going to have

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these events at different locations. Again, I can't speak to the specifics because we don't have a defined plan yet, but we need to have the money in place in order to effectuate that plan.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I don't understand, I'm sorry. A gala? I need more details here. I mean, is this celebrate the anniversary of the County or someone's --

MR. PERSICH: If I said gala, I misspoke. It's for the 125th anniversary of the county. So I would imagine there'll be several events specifically what they are. I do not know. There'll be a lot of advertising to bring people out, like we did with the previous concert series, to get things out there so that people know that this is what we're doing. But again, I don't have a specific plan in place. We're going to develop that plan, but we need the money in place so that we know.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yeah, but I

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want to provide the money where there's a plan. I mean, failing to plan is like planning to fail.

MR. PERSICH: You will have control over that, because all I'm doing is putting money into this budget. And then when the contracts come before you, you will have the ability to say yay or nay to those programs.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What do we put on the invitation for these galas? Will it have just Bruce Blakeman, his name only? I mean, we'll have his name on it for his reelection. I mean, what is the purpose of this gala?

MR. PERSICH: I believe that this is going to be at 125th anniversary celebration for all county residents. I don't know invitations or anything else or specifics other than that.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Social Services or Mental Health. Why don't have this money put in those lines?

MR. PERSICH: Well, let me just say

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that in the 2024 budget, we increased Social Service Programs by almost \$35-40 million. So I think there's ample coverage in there. And what I will say is that the revenue loss which I spoke of earlier, future budgets are going to be challenged because of state and federal budgets are going to get stretched thin, which we're going to need to fund those programs, because despite what we think, we get some federal aid for these programs. But that's not going to be funded in future years. So that would be part of the plan to use that 270 million revenue loss in the future, when we start to see diminished funding in federal and state programs that are not going to be given to us.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Will it be a black tie gala? I need to know, honestly.

MR. PERSICH: I understand, but I --LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: After the pandemic, you know, we've been kind of

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lax with rules of attire. I mean, looking at the US Senate, some senators are wearing hoods. But, really, what is what is the dress code for this gala? I would like to know, please.

MR. PERSICH: I cannot answer that. LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I need to get ready.

Thank you very much.

MR. PERSICH: Understood.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Andy, what were your alternatives or other options besides appropriating the money towards tourism. Before you formulated this idea, you said you had to move the money. It was a little sense of urgency here. Why tourism? Why not Department of Social Services? Why not Mental Health? Why not homelessness? Why not veterans?

MR. PERSICH: Again, the operating budget has covered those issues.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: But you can always use more, 10 million is 10 million.

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MR. PERSICH: There is an economic benefit to the tourism piece of this. And we saw that our Hotel/Motel tax because we're recovering from the pandemic, it is a marketing to get the County back on its feet. And we never really had a program for that.

And it's twofold. As as things increase in costs, we will have the ability as a result of this additional revenues to spend on those things from this revenue coming in from sales tax and Hotel/Motel tax. So there is an economic benefit to this. And I believe that you attract people to this county. And I think it's the first time we're actually saying that please come to Nassau County, please come to the concert series has been very successful. And look, we haven't we're just planning to get the money spent. We haven't spent it yet. If we don't spend it, we'll put it back into the coffers and do something with it.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: But once you

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come back to us for a contract regarding something with tourism and we say, no, it still stays in tourism. And that's a problem. The people who are living under a bridge somewhere, I think they'd rather have something to say about that \$10 million then a gala. Or the veterans or people who are on substance abuse or all kinds of -- it's a matter of priority. You're telling me the priority is tourism. I'm telling you, the priority could be something a lot different.

MR. PERSICH: Respectfully understood. But we have coverage in the '24 budget for those initiatives. So, you know, I don't think that we want people living homeless here in this county. I don't think it's part of this Administration to harm anybody.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: No one says you are.

MR. PERSICH: I just believe that this is part of what we need to do to promote this county. And I think this is

	FINANCE COMMITTEE 12.4.2023
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2	a good mechanism to do it.
3	LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So promoting
4	the county for tourism is always a good
5	thing. But there are things way up on top
6	of the list before tourism, in my
7	opinion. Nothing further.
8	MR. PERSICH: Understood.
9	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: We can do them
10	both, right?
11	MR. PERSICH: Right. This is not
12	precluding doing all those other things.
13	There's more ARPA money still available.
14	LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: This is now
15	that we're deciding on.
16	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: We can decide on
17	\$10 million now and we can decide on all
18	those other things later.
19	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: All those in favor
20	of this item, please say, "Aye."
21	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Aye.
22	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Aye.
23	LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Aye.
24	LEGISLATOR WALKER: Aye.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Nay.

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1	FINANCE COMMITTEE 12.4.2023
1	FINANCE COMMITTEE 12.4.2023
2	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: I'm sorry?
3	LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm opposed.
4	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Okay, so this item
5	passes four to two. Thank you.
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CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Next is 404. And that's between District Attorney and Interfaith Nutrition Network.

Legislator McKevitt is recusing himself. Let the records show that he's left the chamber and will not be taking part in any debate or discussion.

(Whereupon, Legislator

McKevitt leaves the Chambers.)

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: One second. So number 404. That's a motion on that is made by Mr. Ferretti and seconded by Ms. Walker.

ADA MCDERMOTT: Good afternoon. Chairman. Legislators Dennis McDermott, Assistant District Attorney. Item 404 is a grant to the Interfaith Nutrition Network or the In to assist in their programs, which mostly consists of the center for Transformative Change and The Mary Brennan Inn to help address the issues of mental health, drug abuse, homelessness, poverty, all driving forces of criminal activity. The term of this

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2	agreement is one year with two one year
3	options, and each year will they will
4	receive \$50,000.
5	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any questions?
6	(Whereupon, no verbal
7	response.)
8	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: All those in favor,
9	please so indicate by saying, "Aye".
10	(Whereupon, all members of
11	the Finance Committee respond
12	in favor with, "Aye".)
13	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any opposed?
14	(Whereupon, no verbal
15	response.)
16	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: That item is
17	unanimous.
18	Please invite Legislator McKevitt
19	back.
20	(Whereupon, Legislator
21	McKevitt returns to Chambers.)
22	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: He's back.
23	Thank you.
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2 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: We have a number of 3 settlements, and those are numbers 405; 406; 408; 409 and 414. Those are 5 settlements with respectively, J Anthony 6 Enterprise; CBW Family Trust; Retail property trust; Corporate property investors; United Artists Theater 8 Circuit. 10 We're going to add to those 358; 359 and 360, which are also settlements. 11

Respectively, with Fairfield Jericho Townhomes; Jericho Atrium; and Kohls Inc.

Motion on all those is made by Mr. McKevitt, seconded by Mr. Drucker.

Now I'll take a motion to go into Executive Session made by Mr. Ferretti, seconded by Mr. McKevitt.

All those in favor of going into Executive Session, please so indicate by saying, "Aye".

> (Whereupon, all members of the Finance Committee respond in favor with, "Aye".) CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any opposed?

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2	(Whereupon, no verbal
3	response.)
4	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: We're in Executive
5	Session to which members of the Rules
6	Committee are invited.
7	(Whereupon, Executive
8	Session, 4:05-4:39 p.m.)
9	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: We're back from
10	Executive Session and we're going to vote
11	on numbers 358; 359; 360. And on the
12	Addendum 405; 406; 408; 409 and 414.
13	All those in favor of those items,
14	please say, "Aye".
15	(Whereupon, all members of
16	the Finance Committee respond
17	in favor with, "Aye".)
18	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any opposed?
19	(Whereupon, no verbal
20	response.)
21	CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Those items pass
22	unanimously.
23	Mr. Ferretti moves to adjourn, Ms.
24	Walker seconds that motion.
25	All those in favor of adjourning,

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FINANCE COMMITTEE 12.4.2023 == please say, "Aye". (Whereupon, all members of the Finance Committee respond in favor with, "Aye".) CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any opposed? (Whereupon, no verbal response.) CHAIRMAN KOPEL: We're adjourned and we're back to Rules. (Whereupon, the Finance Committee meeting is adjourned, 4:39 p.m.)

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	FINANCE COMMITTEE 12.4.2025
1	
2	CERTIFICATE
3	
4	STATE OF NEW YORK)
5	: SS.:
6	COUNTY OF NASSAU)
7	
8	I, KAREN LORENZO, a Notary Public
9	for and within the State of New York, do
10	hereby certify:
11	That the above is a correct
12	transcription of my stenographic notes.
13	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
14	set my hand this 4th day of December, 2023.
15	
16	<u>Karen Lorenzo</u>
17	Karen Lorenzo
18	
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