

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES MEETING

HOWARD KOPEL

PRESIDING OFFICER

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ROSE MARIE WALKER

CHAIRWOMAN

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Monday, February 5, 2024

3:30 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

A P P E A R A N C E S

CHAIRWOMAN ROSE MARIE WALKER

VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL GIANGREGORIO (Excused)

LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP (Excused)

LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT (SUB)

LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI (SUB)

LEGISLATOR SAMANTHA GOETZ

LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON - RANKING

LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER

LEGISLATOR SETH KOSLOW

MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

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CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: I'd like to call
the Health and Social Services Committee
to order and ask the Clerk to call the
role.

6

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CLERK PULITZER: Thank you,
Chairwoman.

8

9

Health and Social Service roll call.
Chairwoman Rose Marie Walker?

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CLERK PULITZER: Substituting for
Legislator Giangregorio will be
Legislator Thomas McKeivitt.

13

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16

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Substituting for
Mazi Pilip will be Legislator John
Ferretti?

17

18

19

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Samantha
Goetz?

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21

22

LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
Delia DeRiggi-Whitton?

23

24

25

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
Drucker?

1
2 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

3 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Seth
4 Koslow?

5 LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Here.

6 CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum.

7 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you.

8 There is one item on the agenda
9 today, Clerk Item 22-24. It's an
10 ordinance supplemental to the annual
11 appropriation ordinance in connection
12 with the Health Department.

13 May I have a motion, please?

14 Motioned by Legislator Ferretti and
15 seconded by Legislator Koslow.

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

19 Item 22-24 includes three
20 supplemental appropriations. The first is
21 in the amount of \$25,349 for a
22 performance incentive award from the New
23 York State Department of Health. It was
24 an award given for a wastewater
25 monitoring project that the Health

1
2 Department did last year. The grant is
3 being used for personal services,
4 equipment and supplies needed to conduct
5 Health Department activities.

6 MS. DOOLING: Hi. Good afternoon,
7 Karen Dooling, Assistant director, Crime
8 lab.

9 The second grant you have is for
10 \$57,433. This is a federal pass-through.
11 It's the 2023 Paul Coverdell Forensic
12 Sciences Improvement grant. This grant is
13 used for overtime for the opioid crisis
14 to reduce backlogs. And it's also used
15 for our laboratory information management
16 system at the Crime Lab.

17 The additional grant you have before
18 you is for \$438,364. This is a federal
19 grant. The funding year '23 Forensic DNA
20 Backlog Reduction Program. This is
21 specifically used for the DNA laboratory
22 to reduce DNA backlogs for equipment,
23 supplies over time and quality assurance
24 instrument contracts.

25 Thank you.

1
2 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any questions
3 from the legislators?

4 Legislator Drucker.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
6 Madam Chair.

7 The appropriation for the DNA
8 backlog, 438,000, will that make a
9 significant dent in the backlog?

10 MS. DOOLING: It's used for a number
11 of things. It's used for a technology to
12 help process samples faster.

13 But, yes, those monies do help us
14 significantly work towards reducing
15 backlog.

16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Can you
17 describe what your backlog is now? s101.

18 MS. DOOLING: So our biggest backlog
19 right now is not processing the actual
20 cases, it's in reviews. So the overtime
21 on that particular grant is used for
22 backlog case reviews. So the goal for
23 the federal initiative is 30 day
24 turnaround time.

25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So will this

1
2 money be also used for staffing to
3 increase staffing?

4 MS. DOOLING: This grant cannot be
5 used for staffing but it is used for
6 overtime okay.

7 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Do we hope to
9 get rid of that backlog from this grant,
10 or we still have a long way to go?

11 MS. DOOLING: We always hope to get
12 that turnaround time to that 30 day mark.
13 That ebbs and flows depending on
14 initiatives, crime stats and many other
15 things. But yes, we do hope to get that
16 backlog down. And this is a grant we get
17 from year to year; a two year award.

18 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Okay. So it's a
19 big step towards doing that.

20 MS. DOOLING: Yes. Thank you.

21 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any other
22 legislators have any comments?

23 (Whereupon, no verbal
24 response.)
25

1
2 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any public
3 comments?

4 (Whereupon, no verbal
5 response.)

6 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Okay. Hearing
7 none.

8 All in favor of Clerk Item 22-24,
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: Then this will
15 move on to Finance.

16 There are no other items before us.
17 Motion to adjourn by Legislator Goetz and
18 seconded by Legislator Drucker.

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

21 (Whereupon, all members of
22 the Health and Social Services
23 Committee respond in favor
24 with, "Aye".)
25

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Finance will be
next.

(Whereupon, above matter
concludes, 3:36 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 5th day of February, 2024.

Karen Lorenzo

Karen Lorenzo

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