NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING ****** HOWARD J. KOPEL, PRESIDING OFFICER ******* ****** County Executive and Legislative Building 1550 Franklin Avenue Mineola, New York ******* Monday, February 26, 2024 1:19 p.m. TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL
3	Presiding Officer
4	7th Legislative District
5	* * *
6	LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT
7	Alternate Presiding Officer
8	13th Legislative District
9	* * *
10	LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.
11	Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer
12	15th Legislative District
13	
14	* * *
15	LEGISLATOR SCOTT DAVIS
16	1st Legislative District
17	* * *
18	LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE
19	2nd Legislative District
20	* * *
21	LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES
22	3rd Legislative District
23	* * *
24	LEGISLATOR PATRICK MULLANEY
25	4th Legislative District
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	LEGISLATOR SETH KASLOW
3	5th Legislative District
4	* * *
5	LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE
6	6th Legislative District
7	* * *
8	LEGISLATOR JOHN J. GIUFFRE
9	8th Legislative District
10	***
11	LEGISLATOR SCOTT STRAUSS
12	9th Legislative District
13	* * *
14	LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP
15	10th Legislative District
16	***
17	LEGISLATOR MICHAEL GIANGREGORIO
18	12th Legislative District
19	***
20	LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR, III
21	14th Legislative District
22	* * *
23	LEGISLATOR ARNOLD W. DRUCKER
24	16th Legislative District
25	* * *
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER
3	17th Legislative District
4	* * *
5	LEGISLATOR SAMANTHA GOETZ
6	18th Legislative District
7	* * *
8	LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY
9	19th Legislative District
10	* * *
11	MICHAEL PULITZER
12	Clerk of the Legislature
13	
14	JAMES DARCY, ESQ.
15	Attorney for Clerk of the Legislature
16	
17	
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	TOP COPS:
3	Anthony Difregorio
4	Sergeant Kerry Harracksingh
5	
6	Commissioner Patrick Ryder
7	Tommy Shevlin
8	
9	
10	PUBLIC COMMENT:
11	
12	David Dreishpoon
13	Kathryn Desantis
14	Paul Libson
15	Dawn Tauster
16	Judy Cataldo
17	Lorraine Attias
18	Lynn Krug
19	Chris Jacobs
20	Jeanine Maynard
21	Patty Harris
22	Monica Kiely
23	Meta J. Mereday
24	York Roberson
25	Natalie Longsworth
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	PUBLIC COMMENT (CONTINUED):
3	
4	James Jacobs
5	Marie Reimers
6	Fitzroy Morgan
7	Pearl Jacobs
8	Maryellen Kray
9	
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11	
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	
3	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We're
4	going to get started. As always, we
5	start with the Pledge of Allegiance. I
6	ask you to all rise and I will ask
7	Legislator Davis to please lead.
8	(Whereupon, the Pledge of
9	Allegiance is said by all.)
10	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
11	Mike, would you please call the roll?
12	CLERK PULITZER: Thank you,
13	Presiding Officer.
14	Deputy Presiding Officer Thomas
15	McKevitt?
16	LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.
17	CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
18	Presiding Officer John Ferretti?
19	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.
20	CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
21	Minority Leader Siela Bynoe?
22	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.
23	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Carrie
24	A. Solages?
25	LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.
24	A. Solages?

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2	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Debra
3	Mule?
4	LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.
5	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.
6	William Gaylor, III?
7	LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.
8	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John
9	Giuffre?
10	LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.
11	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Mazi
12	Pilip?
13	LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.
14	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Scott
15	Davis?
16	LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Present.
17	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
18	Kennedy?
19	LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.
20	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Patrick
21	Mullaney?
22	LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Here.
23	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Seth
24	Koslow?
25	LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Here.
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2	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Scott
3	Strauss?
4	LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Present.
5	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
6	Drucker?
7	LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.
8	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose
9	Marie Walker?
10	LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.
11	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Samantha
12	Goetz?
13	LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Here.
14	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Michael
15	Giangregorio?
16	CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader
17	Delia DeRiggi-Whitton?
18	LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Here.
19	LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.
20	CLERK PULITZER: Presiding Officer
21	Howard Kopel?
22	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Here.
23	CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
24	sir.
25	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
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2	As always, we start out with a
3	presentation of our Top Cops for the
4	month. I belive we are having a joint
5	presentation this time by the PBA and the
6	Superior Officers. Mr. Frasetti and Mr.
7	Shevlin, if you would come to the podium,
8	please.
9	MR. SHEVLIN: Good afternoon.
10	I just want to thank you once again
11	for honoring our Top Cops and Top
12	Supervisors, Top detectives. It's very
13	important that we come here every month
14	and recognize all of the hard work and
15	dedication that our brave men and women
16	in blue do on a daily basis.
17	On December 21, 2023, Sergeant
18	Harracksingh and Police Officer
19	DiGregorio were in the Fifth Precinct
20	when a radio assignment came out for an
21	armed robbery in West Hempstead. The
22	suspects were four males who fled the
23	scene in a black Kia. A separate radio
24	notification was transmitted from
25	Hempstead PD about an armed robbery that
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2	happened at the 7-Eleven in Hempstead,
3	where four males were fleeing the scene
4	in a Kia. Officer DiGregorio, while
5	patrolling Elmont, observed the black Kia
6	Soul and did attempt to pull the vehicle
7	over. The vehicle refused. Officer
8	DiGregorio transmitted over the radio a
9	description of the vehicle. The sergeant,
10	while canvassing the area, observed the
11	vehicle. That vehicle intentionally
12	collided into the sergeant's marked
13	police vehicle.
14	
	The sergeant continued to follow the
15	vehicle and then the vehicle collided
16	into parked cars and four males exited
17	the vehicle and ran away. They engaged
18	into a foot pursuit where they
19	apprehended one of the males, and the
20	sergeant apprehended the other male.
21	Other responding officers who were there
22	to back them up apprehended the other two
23	males.
24	Due to the circumstance of the
25	incident, Sergeant Harracksingh is still

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2	out of work recovering from his injuries.
3	This is a perfect example of how our
4	brave men and women risk everything, we
5	get hurt, and unfortunately, a lot of
6	police officers get killed protecting our
7	communities that we serve. We don't take
8	this lightly, and we thank you for not.
9	Because of their bravery, the four
10	subjects were taken off the street and
11	charged with numerous felonies, which
12	included possession of a weapon.
13	The PBA is proud to honor Sergeant
14	Harracksingh and officer DiGregorio as
15	Top Legislative Top Cops February 2024.
16	(Whereupon, applause.)
17	MR. FRASETTI: Good afternoon.
18	Before I begin, I wasn't here last
19	month, so I want to congratulate everyone
20	on their election and re-election, and
21	the SOA forward to working with
22	everybody.
23	And also, before I begin as well, I
24	just want to congratulate one of our
25	supervisors who's in the back protecting
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2	everyone every day, Sergeant Krukowski,
3	who just had a baby girl. Him, his
4	daughter and his other daughter, who was
5	just born. Well, not him. His wife is two
6	kids had the same birthday, so one in a
7	billion odds. So congratulations.
8	(Whereupon, applause.)
9	MR. FRASETTI: Probably wants to
10	kill me now, but that's all right.
11	A supervisor's job is just that; to
12	supervise. In this circumstance, Sergeant
13	Kerry Harracksingh I think I'm just
14	going to go with Sergeant H after that,
15	I'm going to repeat his name a few times.
16	Sergeant H only had been promoted
17	three months prior to this incident, one
18	of those months was in training, so he
19	literally only had two months on the
20	street. But as the incident folded,
21	Sergeant H, without hesitation, jumped
22	into supervisor mode and immediately took
23	control of this hectic situation. I'm not
24	going into all the details because Tommy
25	already did that, so we all got that
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2	already.
3	So Sergeant H took control and
4	coordinated the police officers, as well
5	as strategically situating the units to
6	ensure civilian and officer safety, as
7	well as a safe apprehension of the armed
8	subjects.
9	Sergeant H, while coordinating, also
10	responded to assist and accounted the
11	subject's vehicle who intentionally ram
12	Sergeant H. This caused Sergeant H's
13	vehicle to spin around. The hit was so
14	hard Sergeant H broke his finger, tore
15	his rotator cuff, has numerous herniated
16	discs in his neck and back, and also has
17	a concussion. He's really not supposed to
18	be out today because he's on sick leave.
19	But we got a little dispensation. Right,
20	Commissioner?
21	COMMISSIONER RYDER: Sure.
22	(Whereupon, laughter.)
23	MR. FRASETTI: But as we were
24	speaking before, he's still going to
25	numerous doctors. He's getting constant
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2	headaches. This was a horrible incident.
3	But Sergeant Harracksingh never lost his
4	composure and continued coordinating the
5	police officers as well as following the
6	subject's vehicle. The subject's vehicle
7	a short time later on crashed into a
8	parked car and the four subjects ran from
9	the scene. Sergeant H immediately exited
10	his vehicle and began chasing one of the
11	subjects, while all the time not knowing
12	if this is the subject that was armed
13	with a gun.
14	Sergeant H, along with one of the
15	police officers were able to apprehend
16	the subject and place him under arrest.
17	The three other subjects were also
18	arrested by the other responding
19	officers.
20	Due to the great teamwork and effort
21	of the police officers and Sergeant H's
22	supervision, all the subjects that were
23	involved were apprehended and numerous
24	cases were closed out, as these subjects
25	were wanted from multiple jurisdictions
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2	as well as different detective divisions
3	throughout the county.
4	If it weren't for the great police
5	work from the police officers and the
6	leadership of Sergeant Harracksingh,
7	these subjects most likely would have
8	continued to wreak havoc in Nassau
9	County, committing more crimes, hurting
10	individuals, and possibly worse.
11	It is for these reasons the Superior
12	Officers Association is proud to stand
13	here with the PBA and honor the police
14	officer and Sergeant Harracksingh.
15	COMMISSIONER RYDER: Good afternoon
16	and thank you again for giving us this
17	time.
18	Both presidents just spoke about
19	this situation, what the cops go through.
20	We just all saw a <i>Newsday</i> this weekend
21	about what's happened in Suffolk County,
22	where there are four suicides by members
23	of law enforcement. Mental health is a
24	real challenge, not only in a public
25	today, but in law enforcement. Our
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I	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	officers not only have to go home at the
3	end of their tour, but they're going home
4	beaten, broken bones, torn rotator cuffs,
5	concussions that will last their whole
6	career. This is some stress that goes to
7	this Department and every other
8	department.
9	Our prayers are with Suffolk County.
10	I spoke to the Commissioner this morning,
11	offering any assistance that we can to to
12	their agency.
13	Tommy Shevlin goes above and beyond
14	when it comes to mental health. All of
15	our presidents of a union have done the
16	same. But it is this Board that has
17	turned around and made it actual law. And
18	it should be law that is duplicated
19	throughout the country. Because what
20	these cops, these men and women, go
21	through every single day, nobody will
22	ever understand until you walk in their
23	shoes.
24	Unfortunately, we get judged harshly
25	on our actions and our reactions, but we
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2	want you to know that we are thankful and
3	grateful for the support across this
4	entire county that backs the men and
5	women in the Nassau County Police
6	Department. And especially grateful today
7	for both the sergeant and the officer for
8	the acts that they've done, protecting
9	the communities here in Nassau County.
10	Thank you.
11	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Sergeant,
12	would you like to
13	SERGEANT HARRACKSINGH: Good
14	afternoon, folks.
15	I just wanted to say thank you to
16	the legislature, to the PBA, the SOA, and
17	especially the Commissioner Ryder for
18	giving us this opportunity to be here
19	today. Thank you for honoring us. It is
20	my pleasure and honor to serve the people
21	of Nassau County, and I'm very grateful
22	that I'm able to do so on a daily basis.
23	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Officer,
24	would you care to say a few words?
25	OFFICER DIGREGORIO: Thank you, all.
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	I'm very proud to be here. Grateful to be
3	a member of this Department. Thank you,
4	PBA. Thank you, Commissioner,
5	Legislature. Thank you.
6	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That was
7	eloquent and moving. Thank you both.
8	You've done a terrific job. All of us
9	appreciate everything that all of you do
10	for the public here everyday of our lives
11	and for making this such a safe county to
12	live and work in.
13	Mr. Solages.
14	LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you,
15	Presiding Officer.
16	To the presidents of both unions and
17	to the sergeant and the police officer,
18	thank you very much for your heroic
19	actions in which you protected the
20	residents of Elmont and the Third
21	Legislative District who truly appreciate
22	your presence, your engagement, your
23	involvement in helping our young people
24	and our businesses, keeping them safe. We
25	thank you. I pray for your speedy
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2	recovery. I thank you for always being
3	present in our community and we need you
4	there. Thank you very much.
5	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Mr.
6	Giuffre and then Mr. Gaylor.
7	LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: In this world,
8	there are sheep, that's us civilians;
9	wolves, those are the bad guys; and sheep
10	dogs. You keep the sheep safe. God
11	bless you.
12	LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: It's a world of
13	chaos we live in. There's no doubt about
14	that. The State has screwed up the
15	criminal justice system. Governor has
16	messed it up. The Legislature has messed
17	it up. Criminal justice reforms, get out
18	of jail free, all these programs that the
19	State has imposed upon us create a
20	problem.
21	You, as my fellow legislator said,
22	are that fine line that keeps Nassau
23	County safe from the craziness that wants
24	to penetrate from the City and from other
25	places into our county.
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2	In the face of unknown danger, our
3	law enforcement officers stand as that
4	thin line that separates order from
5	chaos.
6	Sergeant H and Officer D, if I may,
7	embody the very essence of this
8	commitment and willingness to put
9	themselves in harm's way to protect us.
10	But not only you, the entire police
11	force, the entire law enforcement
12	agencies that make up everything within
13	the county to keep us safe and protected
14	does the same thing. And despite being
15	injured, you're still able to apprehend a
16	bad guy. Bad guys that came to our
17	county to do bad things. They were riding
18	dirty and you caught them. God bless you.
19	I challenge you to keep doing that.
20	The small little things that you see tend
21	to be bigger things. We find guns, we
22	find drugs, we find paraphernalia. It's
23	because you are looking at the little
24	things and keeping the quality of life
25	here at a very high standard. It really
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2	does set you apart from everyone else out
3	there. And we can't overstate how
4	appreciative we all are. And I want you
5	to know that this Legislature, at least
6	on this side of the table, will continue
7	to support you and the Commissioner in
8	all and every aspect that we can. If you
9	need something, ask for it. We'll vote to
10	get it for you. Promise that.
11	Thank you again.
12	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Ms. Pilip?
13	LEGISLATOR PILIP: Thank you.
14	I also agree with my colleague,
15	Legislator Gaylor. I cannot think about
16	this county without you. The amount of
17	time you put in outside, risking your
18	life for us to have a safe county, it's
19	amazing. And our job as a legislature in
20	this county is to support you, to give
21	you the support you need so you can do
22	your job.
23	God bless you and thank you for
24	everything you have done for us. Thank
25	you.
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2	LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
3	Presiding Officer.
4	Just to comment on Legislator
5	Gaylor. You have the support of this side
6	of the aisle as much as they do. You'll
7	always have our support. You should
8	never worry about that. You know, we all
9	agree, all 19 of us. We are as certain
10	as the sky is blue that we are protected
11	on a day in and day out basis by the
12	finest and bravest men and women in the
13	law enforcement. We know that. We take
14	it for granted sometimes. But it's these
15	moments when you come before us with
16	these Top Cop awards that give us a dose
17	of cold water and say, really we need to
18	pay attention. And we do take notice of
19	it. Each and every day when we hear
20	incidents of the bravery and dedication
21	of your men and women, it warms my heart
22	and warms all of our hearts, and it makes
23	us feel proud that we are protected.
24	It's a testament to all of you and your
25	training and your dedication and
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2	commitment to serving.
3	As Commissioner Ryder has said many
4	times, for you guys and gals, it's not a
5	job. It's a calling. And I really believe
6	that. And I think we all do believe that.
7	So thank you on behalf of all of us
8	today.
9	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. We
10	invite you all up to take a quick picture
11	and presentation.
12	(Whereupon, citation
13	presented. Photos taken.)
14	
15	* * * * *
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2	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: This
3	month, as all of you know, is Black
4	History Month, and it is our custom to
5	honor that. This year, we do have a
6	particular person that we are going to
7	honor, and that would be Ms. Lynette
8	Carr-Hicks.
9	(Whereupon, applause.)
10	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: It gives
11	me gives me great pleasure to ask a
12	Deputy Presiding Officer Tom McKevitt to,
13	tell us all about it.
14	LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Sure. Thank
15	you very much.
16	Obviously, February's Black History
17	Month, and we always take an opportunity
18	to go and salute a trailblazer from
19	Nassau County who has contributed so much
20	to the community. And this is a person
21	who is certainly no stranger to this
22	chamber and no stranger to any of us, but
23	it is Lynette Carr-Hicks. She grew up in
24	Westbury, went to college at the Berklee
25	School of Music in Boston. She also

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2	received a master's degree in music
3	education from LIU Post and Brookville.
4	She started her career in Westbury High
5	School in 2000 and then 2007 came over
6	Uniondale High School in the music
7	program, and then 2010 founded the
8	Uniondale High School Show Choir. The
9	name of it is The Rhythm of the Night,
10	which again, is a great name which she's
11	given to it.
12	Lynette has performed at our
13	swearings in the past and they have
14	performed throughout groups and through
15	celebrations throughout the county. When
16	you've seen them perform, you see a
17	number of young people who are taught
18	discipline, teamwork, performance arts.
19	And this is not just simply singing, it's
20	performing, and it's putting their whole
21	heart and soul into the musical
22	performance. And what we've seen here is
23	simply breathtaking. Not only do we
24	recognize this in Nassau County, but
25	through a nation and the world. They've
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2	also performed on the Today show at CNN,
3	The Steve Harvey Show, the Brooklyn Nets,
4	the New York Mets, New York Giants, and
5	even recently at Carnegie Hall.
6	So because, again, you have brought
7	such great pride to Nassau County and
8	instilling in these young people, not
9	only these great skills, but skills they
10	are going to learn the rest of their
11	life, you have gone and improved hundreds
12	and thousands of lives throughout your
13	career.
14	So we just thought as a small token
15	and show the community, we want to salute
16	you as a trailblazer for Black History
17	Month this year on our side. I do also
18	know Legislator Bynoe, who represents
19	Uniondale, would also like to add some
20	words as well in her own.
21	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Lynette. Lynette
22	is a gem, a gem to many. A gem not only
23	to the Westbury and Uniondale school
24	districts, but she is a gem to the faith
25	based community. She is rooted in her
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2	faith. She is a proud, proud member of
3	the First Baptist Church of Westbury,
4	where the pastor is Bishop Lionel Harvey,
5	and that church is so blessed to have
6	you. Because not only do you pour into
7	the young people in our school districts,
8	you embody them with a sense of purpose,
9	even in the church. And I think that that
10	is one of the most important
11	contributions that you can make. And so I
12	am indeed so incredibly proud to be not
13	only in representation of our hometown,
14	Westbury Dragons, but also to be in
15	representation of Uniondale. So it's a
16	double honor for me today.
17	So to mark that occasion, I went
18	undercover and I had some help, and you
19	might want to elbow your daughter sitting
20	next to you (laughter). But I was able to
21	speak, because our families are
22	intertwined, I was able to get to Joy and
23	talk a little bit about you and those who
24	inspired you to take on this assignment,
25	to be such a role model to our young
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2	people and to really birth out their
3	gifts and their talents. She told me a
4	few secrets about who has inspired you in
5	the arts. And because this is the black
6	history theme of this year, African
7	Americans in Art, it is appropriate that
8	you are our honoree.
9	And to mark that occasion, I wanted
10	to do something very, very special
11	because, Lynette, you know, our
12	relationship transcends this place right
13	here. I wanted to do something so that
14	you would know that. And this caucus has
15	joined together to put together a
16	beautiful we commissioned someone to
17	do something for you special. And so we
18	have today a special award for you, where
19	you're standing amongst those who have
20	inspired you like Phyllis Hyman, Lalah
21	Hathaway, Michael Jackson, Kirk Franklin
22	and the like. I say you stand amongst
23	giants because you are indeed a giant.
24	Thank you for all that you do. May God
25	bless you and keep you.

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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	(Whereupon, applause.)
3	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Many of you may
4	not know her journey, and I'm not going
5	to do it here today. But I'm going to say
6	that perseverance is indeed a gift that
7	God has given you, because you have been
8	through your own challenges in this last
9	year, and I've witnessed it with my own
10	eyes, that God has more work for you to
11	do. So keep striving and keep doing what
12	you're doing, and it's never, ever lost
13	on me at all. What you do for our
14	community. God bless you.
15	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Would you
16	like to come up to the podium and perhaps
17	grace us with a few words?
18	MS. CARR-HICKS: Thank you so much.
19	And I'm so honored. In 2022 and 2023, I
20	had two brain surgeries, and I'm so
21	blessed to be here and so blessed that
22	you even thought of honoring me. And
23	again, I thank you so much.
24	Thank you.
25	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: You want
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	to come up here and we'll take a
3	I'm sorry, did I interrupt you?
4	MS. CARR-HICKS: No, no, I am done.
5	I'm done. Thank you.
6	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: You want
7	to come up? And Joy, you come too.
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1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We now
3	have a period of public comment during
4	which members of the public can address
5	the Legislature as to pretty much
6	anything you want.
7	For those of you who are not
8	familiar with the rules, let me just go
9	over them real quick. It is a one hour
10	period, so we'll go to approximately 3:00
11	today. If we don't finish during this
12	one hour period, if we still have slips,
13	we will go to the business of the
14	Legislature and following that, those
15	remaining people who have not yet had a
16	chance to speak will be given a chance at
17	that point.
18	Now, the public comment is limited
19	to three minutes per speaker. It is not a
20	period of debate with the legislators.
21	It's not question and answer with the
22	legislators. We are here to hear what you
23	have to say. It's three minutes and we're
24	done. Understand that those people who
25	try to go beyond that, we will remind
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2	you. But if you try to go beyond that,
3	what you're doing then is you're taking
4	away time from other people. So please
5	be fair and please be considerate of
6	those other people.
7	We'll start off with David
8	Dreishpoon.
9	MR. DREISHPOON: Thank you so much.
10	My name is David Dreishspoon, and I am a
11	recovering alcoholic. Opiates are a huge
12	part of my story.
13	I live in Long Beach now, and I've
14	lived on Long Island pretty much my whole
15	life. I used to own a crazy catering
16	business for movies and television, and
17	we did the show Law and Order. And I
18	learned a lot about the law, and I
19	learned a lot about drugs, and I catered
20	for that show for 14 years, but I drank
21	and drugged for 40 years of my life.
22	I came into recovery. My brother
23	brought me in because I asked for help
24	four and a half years ago, and I remain
25	sober. I'm in a recovery program.
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	(Whereupon, applause.)
3	MR. DREISHPOON: Thank you.
4	I'm in a 12 step recovery program.
5	Because of anonymity, I don't have to say
6	the name of that program, but I have been
7	involved in Opiates Anonymous. I'm in
8	another fellowship now, but I sponsor
9	guys who are pure opiates, pure heroin,
10	pure pills, amphetamines. When I sponsor
11	alcoholics, if they relapse, they have a
12	good chance of getting to a car accident,
13	hurting themselves or others. But if I
14	sponsor a guy who is a pure heroin addict
15	or absolutely does pills only, and if he
16	goes out and relapses tonight, he has
17	more than a 50% chance of dying because
18	of fentanyl and all of the other things
19	that they put in these drugs these days
20	to kill people. I've sponsored men who
21	have died. I have relatives who have died
22	from alcohol poisoning, from opiate
23	poisoning.
24	I stand before you because I know
25	there's money that's there to be used for
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	help. There is help. I wish that my
3	family members and I wish that my friends
4	and people that I sponsor would have
5	asked for that help or would have got
6	that help, but unfortunately, the
7	resources just weren't there. But there
8	are resources there, and I know that
9	they're there and they can be used to
10	help people. People like me. Just because
11	I have a roof over my head and I have a
12	job in a car, doesn't mean that I wasn't
13	there struggling just like they are
14	today. And with the help of rehab
15	facilities, detoxes, transition centers,
16	outpatient centers, these people can get
17	the help that they need. Those places
18	have to be open. Those places have to be
19	funded.
20	So I ask you from the bottom of my
21	heart, and I pray that you'll open up
22	some of these funds and help these people
23	for the rest of their lives, that they
24	can get the help that I received.
25	Thank you so much.
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I	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	(Whereupon, applause.)
3	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you,
4	sir.
5	Next is Kathryn DeSantis.
6	MS. DESANTIS: Thank you. My
7	question is to the entire membership of
8	the Legislature, I have not seen any real
9	explanations of how the money that has
10	been granted to our county by the federal
11	government for the ARPA money, and also
12	the opioid settlement money about what
13	are the criteria that are used to
14	dispense that money to organizations, and
15	also how you decide how much money to go
16	to each one of those organizations.
17	Also, what are the overall goals?
18	What's your plan for using this money
19	that is really such a gift from the
20	federal government? So I would urge you,
21	please, to take the opportunity to just
22	put it out there with some really good
23	interviews on news 12 or Newsday and
24	explain it to people, because I'm not
25	hearing it. And I think that's a real
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	lost opportunity.
3	Thank you.
4	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
5	Mr. Paul Gibson.
6	MR. GIBSON: Presiding Officer,
7	members of the Legislature. Thank you
8	very much.
9	I am this year celebrating my 40th
10	year in Uniondale; 33 years of which I
11	traveled to Manhattan and came back home
12	every night. When I decided to retire ten
13	years ago, there was an issue on the
14	table that got me involved with the
15	community. It was this issue of a divided
16	Uniondale. That issue was resolved with
17	the support of federal government
18	representatives, New York State
19	representatives, Town of Hempstead
20	residents and others, and believe it or
21	not, this Legislature. And it probably
22	was comprised the way it looks now.
23	Everyone agreed that Uniondale should be
24	united, and steps were taken so that the
25	district that was identified, other than
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1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	Uniondale, was relabeled, and it was
3	relabeled in the census. So it's here. So
4	imagine my surprise that ten years later,
5	we're still fighting this battle.
6	Now, a lot has happened in those ten
7	years in terms of commercial development,
8	residential development, and for a lot of
9	reasons that, maybe economic, maybe
10	social, as these things come into play,
11	they assume areas that they're located in
12	that even though they're in Uniondale,
13	they called themselves something else.
14	And you're going to hear from a lot of
15	people tonight about the reasons why we
16	won that fight before and why we need to
17	win that fight again.
18	So I'm going to leave you with this.
19	I'm not going to try and argue it. I'm
20	going to leave you with this. I have two
21	daughters. But suppose I have a son, and
22	he goes to school and he sits down in
23	class and his teacher says, Howard, I'm
24	going to call you Gertrude, because quite
25	frankly, we need to balance the class.
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2	Girls over here, boys over here. And
3	Howard goes home no offense Howard
4	goes home and he tells his mother and
5	father, mama, that the teacher wants to
6	call me Gertrude. And with righteous
7	indignation, they run up to the school,
8	and they figure it out that this teacher
9	just made a mistake, and they get it
10	corrected. But what happens six months
11	later when the same teacher says, I'm
12	tired of calling you Howard. I'm going to
13	call you Gertrude again. Well, that's
14	where we are. We have an identity. We are
15	proud of our existence in Uniondale and
16	we're going to fight again. And we're
17	going to explain to you all individually,
18	if you have to, why it makes sense.
19	Thank you for your time.
20	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
21	Dawn Tauster.
22	MS. TAUSTER: Good afternoon,
23	Legislators.
24	It's been about a decade since I
25	last had the privilege to address this
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2	Legislature. At the time, I wasn't
3	advocating for myself or for my
4	community. I was serving the County as a
5	Deputy County Attorney. A few years
6	later, after I left the office, my wife
7	served as a Deputy County Attorney until
8	she left last year. We worked hard for
9	ourselves and for the County. We bought a
10	home in Oceanside and we have two
11	wonderful children.
12	In 2021, when I finally stopped
13	fighting against myself and accepted that
14	I was a woman and needed to transition,
15	we felt fortunate to live in Nassau
16	County. That feeling was shattered last
17	week when Bruce Blakeman and Legislator
18	Samantha Goetz held a press conference to
19	demonize trans women and announce an
20	unlawful executive order stripping our
21	right to play sports. Blakeman and
22	Goetz's press conference was a total
23	repudiation of the humanity of trans
24	people, implying that we are cheaters,
25	liars and bullies. The message is

]	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	obvious.
3	Having failed to win the
4	congressional special election by
5	fearmongering on immigration, the Nassau
6	County GOP is going full bore on the
7	anti-trans moral panic, and it is nothing
8	but a moral panic. In the decades where
9	trans women have been playing sports with
10	other women, we haven't dominated or even
11	generally been that competitive. Contrary
12	to Legislator Goetz's claims, the
13	biological process of transition serves
14	to nullify the so-called advantages of
15	birth. But even a dominant trans athlete
16	doesn't deserve these restrictions. We
17	deserve to be accepted for who we are,
18	not treated with scorn or derision.
19	And for Blakeman and Goetz to call
20	trans people bullies the very same week
21	that news broke of the assault on and
22	death of Nex Benedict, a non-binary teen
23	in Oklahoma, it's clear that they want
24	this county to be as hostile and harmful
25	to trans people as any other. After all,
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2	if they think I'm a lying, cheating,
3	dangerous bully, what other rights of
4	mine will they seek to take away?
5	Well, Mr. Blakeman, Legislator Goetz
6	and Mr. Cairo and everyone else in the
7	Nassau GOP and elsewhere who wants to
8	join in this moral panic, you will not
9	take my rights without a fight. And that
10	is a fight that you will lose.
11	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Judy
12	Cataldo.
13	MS. CATALDO: Judy Cataldo,
14	Bellmore, New York. And I'm also speaking
15	on behalf of the Elmont Cultural Center,
16	who happens to be a Haitian organized
17	organization within Nassau County.
18	I'm just so disappointed. Every time
19	I come here, I just hear some more
20	rhetoric, and it's not what I grew up in.
21	We came to Nassau County in 1953. I
22	Listening to Mr. Grouper (PHONETIC). I
23	mean, I'm sorry I mispronounced your
24	name, but it seems like every time that
25	there's a discussion here, it has to turn
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	to politics and has to turn to rhetoric.
3	It's like every moment that you have to
4	speak, it's always disparaging. There's
5	no unity here. What happened to Nassau
6	County? We're supposed to be looking for
7	the constituents. We get money from
8	Covid, were directed to give it to the
9	people. Everything is a battle. I don't
10	understand what's wrong with you guys.
11	It's not the way you were brought up.
12	It's not the way you were raised. It's
13	just a terrible situation. Do the right
14	thing. You say you're here for the
15	people, be here for the people. Show it.
16	Stop with this political god I won't
17	say it, but you know. Stop it, stop it!
18	You're not working for the people of
19	Nassau County. You're not working for the
20	people of the United States. And it
21	doesn't make a difference which political
22	party you are. You're elected to do your
23	duty. Do your duty.
24	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Lorraine
25	Attias.
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	MS. ATTIAS: Good afternoon. Thank
3	you, members of the Legislature, for
4	letting me speak. My name is Lorraine
5	Attias. I'm an over 30 year resident of
6	East Meadow, and I am a senior citizen.
7	So what I want to say is that I know that
8	the president allotted Covid money to
9	Nassau County. That's our money. That's
10	not your money. That's our money. That
11	money was allotted so that we could help
12	the people who live in Nassau County.
13	You've been sitting on that money for the
14	longest time.
15	Meanwhile, the gentleman that spoke
16	about addiction, there are so many people
17	that need help with addiction. There are
18	so many seniors that need help with
19	housing and many, many other issues.
20	There are children in this county that
21	need help. And what are you doing? You're
22	sitting on that money. I don't know what
23	you're sitting on it for. Is it building
24	interest? I have no idea. This money is
25	meant for us. We are the people who

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2	elected you to do work for us. Do it.
3	Thank you.
4	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Lynn Krug.
5	MS. KRUG: Good afternoon, and thank
6	you for the opportunity to speak.
7	I'm here today to express my grave
8	concerns about how our county is being
9	led, specifically in the way our county
10	executive is failing to act in the
11	interest of county residents.
12	For the fourth year running, tax
13	assessments have been frozen despite his
14	promises to fix the system. There's
15	simply no excuse to keep kicking this can
16	down the road. Residents should not have
17	to continue overpaying or paying tax
18	grievance firms. Get your act together.
19	In his blind quest to foist a giant
20	casino on Nassau residents who don't want
21	it, he is leading an effort to which
22	rules are being bypassed and court
23	rulings repeatedly ignored. The results
24	are now a mess in which the Coliseum at
25	this moment is not being run by anyone.
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2	The casino is not even built yet, and
3	this could cost us bigly. He's deflected
4	blame for the Coliseum mess onto the
5	president of Hofstra University, Long
6	Island's private university, it's the
7	largest one, in a vendetta against a
8	respected institution that dare to call
9	him out for not following the county's
10	own rules. These bullying tactics are
11	clearly intended to send a message to
12	anyone who dares get in the way of his
13	goal of doing big things.
14	He is well known for his anti-mask
15	and anti-vaccine mandate positions.
16	Apparently, he's also anti hospital
17	spending \$10 million of Covid relief
18	funds on parades and golf tournaments,
19	while UMC is on the brink of financial
20	collapse.
21	Instead of attending our county's
22	many needs, he's off fighting culture
23	wars whenever he can get an audience.
24	Just Google Bruce Blakeman, Fox News
25	Bruce Blakeman, Newsmax. You'll lose
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	count of the number of appearances. No
3	wonder he has no time to run this county.
4	Our Culture Warrior executive
5	recently pledged to protect girls by
6	putting an anti-trans athlete ban in
7	place, despite an inability to cite even
8	one instance of this being a problem in
9	our county. Could it be that he's just
10	looking to trigger more Fox News and
11	Newsmax appearances.
12	I could go on for three minutes and
13	you'll know all about this. I do have to
14	ask you, does this stuff make you proud?
15	Does your conscience really allow you to
16	stand by while this goes on? You do have
17	a way to deal with this: New York State
18	law, Article 4, Section 154(d), provides
19	for the removal of the county executive
20	for failure to perform the duties of his
21	office in an honorable, competent, and
22	reasonably efficient manner. I urge you
23	to act on this with the same speed and
24	urgency with which he has been working to
25	secure casino license for his

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1	
2	benefactors. Follow the rules.
3	Thank you.
4	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Chris
5	Jacobs.
6	MR. C. JACOBS: Chris Jacobs,
7	Uniondale.
8	To piggyback off what was said
9	regarding the \$10 million of Covid money
10	County Executive Blakeman wishes to spend
11	in Nassau County 125th Anniversary
12	Celebration. I find that to be a gross
13	misuse of funds that can be used to help
14	the residents of Nassau County with
15	issues plaguing our community, such as
16	mental health and homelessness.
17	I can cite examples such as, in
18	Uniondale, we have a homeless man I see
19	every day commandeering the sidewalks,
20	and nothing's been done about him. I see
21	homeless people all the time after they
22	create encampments off of our highways
23	and Meadowbrook, the Wantagh, all of
24	them. So you can see that for yourselves.
25	I also see them when I go out to
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	eat, I see them languish in our
3	restaurants for extended periods of time.
4	They to tell them to leave and they
5	don't, and they smell up the restaurants.
6	And that's not a good place to have
7	people to eat.
8	I just feel that the money can be
9	used it is your job is the legislators
10	to be the checks and balances for County
11	Executive. He's doing mismanagement with
12	money and not governing correctly. It's
13	your guys job to be the checks and
14	balances. That's how government is
15	formed.
16	Also I just want to touch on another
17	topic. Legislator Bynoe, I know that you
18	had attended the Uniondale PTA summit on
19	February 2nd and you had mentioned
20	something to be true, which is basically
21	that a lot of times utilities do work and
22	they don't seal the holes up correctly
23	and stuff. And there's one right now. I
24	just drove past it, coming here today in
25	front of Turtle Hook. They did some work
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]	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	on it about three weeks ago. So if you
3	can have that fixed they have two. Every
4	day they swerve and hit the brakes,
5	causes a traffic violations and it's
6	dangerous for our residents. So please do
7	handle that as soon as possible.
8	Thank you.
9	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Mr. Kopel, may I
10	address the speaker?
11	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: You may
12	dress quickly, but understand that when
13	you do, you're taking away time from
14	other people.
15	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Sir, could you
16	tell me which utility actually cut the
17	road? If you know.
18	MR. C. JACOBS: I believe it was
19	NatGrid, maybe. I know it was like three
20	weeks ago. I had a lot going on, but I
21	know by the time I would come home in the
22	evening, on each end of Turtle Hook, they
23	have one speed bump now that they didn't
24	properly pave it, and the other ones like
25	a dip hole. So every time you go to hit a
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people swerve in and out, hit the brakes.
It's a traffic nightmare.
LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay.
Mr. Kopel, in the interest of doing
our jobs, we should be able to speak to
our residents when they come here to
address us without it taking from their
time.
MR. C. JACOBS: Yes, that's the
definition of diplomacy.
LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.
PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Jeanine
Maynard.
MS. MAYNARD: Good afternoon. Thank
you for this opportunity to speak.
I am here today to request and
actually demand that legislation that was
proposed by our legislator, Siela Bynoe,
back in January called Title 20 (sic),
get reintroduced to the Calendar and
placed onto the Nassau County Legislative
Calendar. That legislation addresses the
community identity and name. And so I'm
going to read the rest of the statement
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	in the interest of time:
3	"Federal, state and town government
4	recognized this issue with legally
5	aligned decisions in our favor. Through
6	decisive actions in history, the 2020 CDP
7	process and updated map documented
8	military history since 1917 of Mitchell
9	Field, Uniondale. The New York State
10	Resolution of 1984 all reinforced the
11	community name of Uniondale and the Town
12	of Hempstead resolution in 2015, with the
13	2016 follow up that renamed a Special
14	Protection Area for the fire coverage
15	also reinforced the Uniondale naming
16	throughout the entire district.
17	Nassau County government and
18	departments are aware there are remaining
19	consequences to safety and well-being of
20	the Uniondale community, and where
21	coordination of the community name and
22	identity with other layers of government
23	has stalled. This came to light in 2021,
24	when the Nassau County Emergency
25	Communications System, an upgrade, had
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	IOF ALL COURT REPORTING, INC. (310) 414-331052

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	problems with delays in real time site
3	hazard information that was relayed with
4	our Uniondale Fire Department.
5	So in January 2021, Congresswoman
6	Kathleen Rice stepped into the
7	discussions with Google and Google Maps
8	to correct the problem so that we will
9	get real time safety information".
10	This kind of danger to the community
11	shows up periodically because of this
12	mapping issue, and we're not content to
13	sit here and do nothing about it. It's
14	important that all areas be aligned,
15	including Nassau County.
16	Now, in 2024, as Legislator Siela
17	Bynoe is sworn in on January 4th, she's a
18	legislator with the newly defined
19	district boundaries and the new
20	legislative office map that she's given
21	is out of date for her area. So you, as
22	the legislature, provided maps that are
23	out of date, covering the boundaries of
24	your own legislative body's area. You're
25	asking us to trust you that you work with
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[NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	current information. So it
3	disrespectfully showed the old
4	controversial and locally retired naming.
5	These kinds of problems show that
6	this is urgent, and we're asking that
7	Title 20 (sic) be reintroduced to the
8	Nassau County Calendar now.
9	Thank you.
10	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Patty
11	Harris.
12	MS. HARRIS: She said it's Title
13	90.
14	Good afternoon, everyone. In the
15	headlines of <i>Newsday</i> on February 21,
16	2024: "Small plane makes emergency
17	landing on Southern State Parkway near
18	Route 109, in East Farmingdale".
19	In The New York Times, April 15,
20	2019: "A small plane crashed into the
21	front of a home in Valley Stream, New
22	York, into the power lines".
23	In the back of your minds, do you
24	wonder why a plane is flying over your
25	house so low? So your constituents have
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	that same idea when they hear planes
3	flying low over their homes. In
4	Uniondale, the constituents hear many
5	planes flying low between night and early
6	morning.
7	Uniondale neighborhood is becoming a
8	flight pathway. Each time we pray that
9	the plane does not crash into our house,
10	that's how low they are.
11	We ask that you call to redirect the
12	flight path for our neighborhood homes.
13	Do you know how scary it is to hear
14	planes closely approaching your home? The
15	image of how it would feel for veterans
16	who are suffering from PTSD, a person
17	with Alzheimer or dementia, senior
18	citizens and heart patients waking up
19	with the student pilots hovering over
20	their homes.
21	The student pilots fly small engine
22	planes and the big commercial planes,
23	both are flying low over our homes. It
24	takes me to wonder if these planes are
25	supposed to be flying that low.
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	I would like to know, have anyone on
3	the legislative body made a comparison of
4	the flight paths of the minority areas to
5	areas of non-minority areas, because of
6	the fact that why we have to have these
7	planes so low over our house. These
8	planes sometimes I have seen the legs
9	come out, the landing gear come out and
10	we was wondering, is that normal? Because
11	sometimes I understand they have to go a
12	different way, but constantly between the
13	same time, in between the evening to the
14	morning time. So have any of you ever
15	compared that with the minority areas of
16	non color areas?
17	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We're not
18	doing question and answer. But I will
19	tell you one thing. I live in Lawrence. I
20	can practically shake hands with the
21	pilots.
22	MS. HARRIS: I understand that.
23	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: So that's
24	not really an issue.
25	MS. HARRIS: It's not an issue?
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:. It's not a
3	discrimination issue.
4	MS. HARRIS: Excuse me.
5	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We are not
6	going to
7	MS. HARRIS: You was talking for my
8	last three seconds, so let me finish my
9	last three seconds.
10	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Finish
11	your last three seconds.
12	MS. HARRIS: Thank you.
13	I would like to tell you that
14	Nostrand Gardens has written letters to
15	the FAA, and I would like to know if you
16	can find out why do we have to have these
17	student planes flying over our house that
18	low and why we have to have commercial
19	planes flying that low over our homes.
20	You may live in Lawrence, so maybe you
21	should speak up on it.
22	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Monica
23	Kiely.
24	MS. HARRIS: Have a nice evening,
25	Mr. Kopel.
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Yes. Thank
3	you.
4	Monica Kiely.
5	MS KIELY: Hi, I'm Monica Kiely and
6	I'm with "Say, No to the Casino".
7	Once again, I'm surprised that a
8	Legislature that supports our Police
9	Department so unanimously and so strongly
10	also voted almost unanimously to usher in
11	our country's second largest casino to a
12	residential area and an area that's
13	within walking distance of two colleges.
14	So I want to remind you all that you
15	cannot be tough on crime and usher in a
16	casino. Those two things can live in
17	your brain together. They're
18	diametrically opposed. Casinos are well
19	known to be crime magnets and crime
20	incubation petri dishes. So you can't be
21	tough on crime and say yes to a casino.
22	Now it looks like, thanks to the
23	efforts of Hofstra University, that the
24	process will come back to this
25	Legislative Body. And I urge you all to
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	listen to your constituents. We all know
3	a lot more about what's going to happen.
4	We all know a lot more about public
5	opinion than we did a year ago. I urge
6	you all to do it right this time.
7	There was a poll conducted by Siena
8	College and Newsday, and that showed that
9	more Nassau County residents don't want
10	the casino then want the casino. I urge
11	you to disregard the opinions of people
12	who live in Suffolk. You represent
13	Nassau.
14	Bruce Blakeman likes to talk about
15	Long Island, Long Island, Long Island.
16	He's not the executive of Nassau and
17	Suffolk counties. He's the executive of
18	Nassau County. More Nassau County
19	residents don't want the casino than want
20	it. And I urge you to remember who you
21	represent. The people, the residents, the
22	ones who don't want the casino. You don't
23	represent the best interests of LV Sands,
24	no matter where their political donations
25	might be going. You don't represent them.
	TO VEY COUPT DEPODETING INC. (516) $414-2516$

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	You represent the people. And I want you
3	to remember that.
4	And I want you to think about if
5	this casino is allowed to be built, it
6	will never be unbuilt. We will always
7	have it. And I want you to think about
8	the political landscape that will happen
9	after the Sands is here. They are so rich
10	and so powerful. You can see their power
11	operating right now. What do you think's
12	going to happen after they're here?
13	Mr. McKevitt, specifically, you
14	think you can keep them out of Eisenhower
15	Park once they're here? I don't think so.
16	And that'll go for everything else as
17	well. They want their own zone. They're
18	going to do whatever they want. If they
19	get here, don't let them come here.
20	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Meta
21	Mereday.
22	MS. MEREDAY: Lifting every voice
23	and singing. Since this is black history,
24	African American History Month, the least
25	numbered month of the year, we know this
	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-351660

[NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	is a leap year, I will try to stay within
3	those three minutes, since I'm sure that
4	earlier comment was largely directed at
5	me because I'm usually the one that's
6	here most of the time.
7	Where do I begin? First of all,
8	there about seven items on this current
9	agenda that have to do with claims that
10	will compromise and settle. My concern
11	is, why don't we have a fully vested
12	inspector general back on board with
13	Nassau County? Since I do remember a time
14	when the Republicans were so anti an
15	inspector general until Laura Curran won
16	as county executive, and then that next
17	week it was hell fire to get an inspector
18	general on board. Now you got Bruce
19	Blakeman and stop the blank check for
20	Blakeman by the way. He's on board and
21	now all of a sudden you're dragging your
22	feet with an inspector general. Maybe
23	some of those contracts or those
24	compromises would not be in the situation
25	it is to begin with that's impacting
L	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-351661

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	taxpayers.
3	I've also asked, and I'm hoping it's
4	on the record maybe some of the
5	statements that I've made get diluted out
6	of the record I've asked, and maybe
7	Newsday can actually get the information
8	about the number and the cost to county
9	lives, the settlements over the course of
10	the year that are impacting taxpayers and
11	the resources. Maybe, again, Newsday can
12	get that question answered; What's the
13	total figure for 2023?
14	All right. Now let's get to the
15	issue at hand. I was here at the
16	committee meeting when Rules voted to
17	allocate funding to an advertising
18	campaign that I still don't quite
19	understand. When I'm looking at the
20	headlines the other day that says NUMC
21	once again is in jeopardy. This is the
22	same hospital, the single public hospital
23	for this county, for thousands of
24	residents, that continues to get thrown
25	under the bus, unless you're hiring

TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 _____62 ____

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	NC FOLL LEGISLATORE 02.20.2023
2	friends and relatives for the higher paid
3	
	administrative positions. Why is that? We
4	have a hard working, dedicated veteran
5	services agency over there that operates
6	in something that resembles a double wide
7	if you were in the South; it's an
8	embarrassment. It's an embarrassment.
9	I've brought to this Body for
10	those who think I'm just here about
11	complaints and accusations, I brought to
12	this body information in my role in the
13	White House Office of Public Engagement,
14	about the PAC bill before it became law,
15	about the millions of dollars that we
16	could bring to this county to address the
17	needs for our veterans and their families
18	over three years ago. And today, what is
19	happening? Zero. Zilch.
20	Our law enforcement officers the
21	commissioner, talked about the mental
22	health issues with our law enforcement
23	officers. Forty plus veterans are
24	committing suicide every doggone day. We
25	can't brag about what we have if we're

____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 _____63 ____

1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	not doing what we have for the
3	underserved. Get up off your ass and out
4	of Bruce's paycheck and represent the
5	County, the residents, and our veterans.
6	Thank you. I'm done.
7	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: York
8	Roberson.
9	MR. ROBERSON: Good afternoon. I'll
10	be very brief. I've been a Uniondale
11	resident for 46 years, since January
12	12th, 1978. There was no East Garden City
13	in Uniondale when I moved to Uniondale. I
14	am in support of the Uniondale community
15	and the Legislator Bynoe position on the
16	Title 90 proposal to be placed on the
17	Calendar.
18	Thank you.
19	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Natalie
20	Longworth.
21	MS. LONGSWORTH: Good afternoon,
22	honorable legislators. My name is Natalie
23	Longworth, and I'm the vice president of
24	the Uniondale Union Free School District
25	Board of Education.
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	On behalf of the Board of Education
3	and the entire Uniondale School District,
4	we unequivocally agree with the
5	legislation proposed by County Legislator
6	Siela Bynoe that would eliminate the use
7	of the term "East Garden City" in all
8	official Nassau County documents. We
9	believe that this legislation will
10	enforce accurate representations of
11	Uniondale, foster a greater sense of
12	unity among all of our residents, and put
13	an end to a term that for too long has
14	been associated with anti inclusivity and
15	division in our community.
16	The term East Garden City does not
17	adequately depict our geographic reality,
18	as no part of this area shares a boundary
19	with Garden City. While there may be a
20	desire by some to be called East Garden
21	City for development or economic
22	purposes, we do not wish to disconnect
23	ourselves from our vibrant community of
24	color, as that would be an affront to
25	every one of us who choose to live in
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	this truly diverse place. It is
3	especially hurtful to our children who
4	are being made to feel inferior.
5	The relationship between a community
6	and its local public school district is
7	sometimes challenging, but it's always
8	vital. The prosperity of both depends on
9	their mutual collaboration and respect.
10	The Uniondale Union Free School District
11	is for everyone we answer to and support
12	every member of this community,
13	regardless of whether a resident has
14	children in the Uniondale School District
15	facility.
16	To use the term East Garden City in
17	official county documents, is to give
18	legitimacy and credence to a hurtful and
19	divisive term. It has no place in our
20	inclusive community, nor in our county
21	government. The Uniondale Union Free
22	School District supports Legislator
23	Bynoe's legislation that would ban this
24	practice from all Nassau County
25	government actions and all forms.
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	Thank you.
3	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: James
4	Jacobs.
5	MR. J. JACOBS: Good afternoon,
6	Legislators. Thank you for letting me
7	speak.
8	I just want to make a couple of
9	comments and it's just me speaking my
10	truth.
11	Like Mr. York Roberson stated and
12	Natalie Longworth stated, when I moved
13	out here over 30 years ago, there's no
14	such thing as East Garden City. It was
15	just dirt land before the Children's
16	Museum was built, before Cradle of
17	Aviation was built. When this open
18	landscaping was part of the Hempstead
19	plane, nobody wanted it ans was okay to
20	be called Uniondale. But once they got
21	open, which was on what they call Museum
22	Row, and became profitable, then its name
23	was changed.
24	Now Blakeman is supposed to
25	represent all the Nassau County, and as a
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	shareholder, I do support Title 90 of
3	Siela Bynoe's proposition to be put on
4	the table to be discussed amongst your
5	people.
6	I also support Siela Bynoe and
7	making sure that all of us are fairly
8	represented. I don't believe in political
9	parties, but unfortunately when you see
10	how things are, as they always tell me,
11	my neighborhood elections matter and how
12	people vote for their politics, it seems
13	that we don't count. This is me sharing
14	my truth.
15	Also, I was looking at this thing
16	here and I see there was something for
17	housing homeless. It's supposed to be
18	\$175 million to the Town of Hempstead. I
19	was just curious. Hopefully, when that
20	moneys get sent there's accountability.
21	Because Ms. Meta Mereday all the time
22	advocates for veterans and homeless, but
23	yet when she goes to the Town, it's like
24	the money do a Houdini trick. Just
25	sharing my thoughts.

]	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	But I appreciate you listening to us
3	and let us speak our truth. But here's
4	the thing I know to be true, I know
5	elections do matter. I know people wish
6	to be heard, even that they're not part
7	of the political donor class. But in the
8	same token, when I speak to people, at
9	least they look me in the eye. It's okay
10	to look at your phones, to look away, I
11	get that. I am of the old school that
12	you give respect, you supposed to receive
13	respect in return.
14	And forgive me for my cadence,
15	because sometimes I have to learn not to
16	speak fast, but to speak in a certain
17	tone so everybody can understand me. But
18	then at the same token, I just want to
19	make sure that Title 90 be on the table
20	for us to discuss amongst yourselves. And
21	hopefully you vote to keep Uniondale
22	whole. Because here's the thing I know to
23	be true, if certain things like the
24	casino was put in your backyard, you'll
25	raise a whole kind of heck about it.
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1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	But I have a problem with that whole
3	proposition that why that's going to be
4	built first well, there's other
5	issues, but the thing about it, they want
6	to build that first. And then four years
7	later they build all the other things
8	that they promise. And that to me is
9	basically bait and switch and a cat on a
10	stick.
11	So just saying my truth to what I
12	believe was going to happen, because when
13	I moved to Nassau County over 30 years
14	ago because of quality life, it was truly
15	a suburb. And if you pay your fair taxes,
16	you took care yourself first, make sure
17	you live in a decent neighborhood and
18	you've got excellent fire protection,
19	police protection and so forth, people
20	like coming out here. But now it looks
21	like it's all about business and who's
22	going to cut people checks.
23	Thank you for letting me share my
24	truth.
25	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
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]	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	Marie Reimers.
3	MRS. REIMERS: Good afternoon,
4	everybody.
5	I don't even want to come here
6	anymore. Not only that, I pay my taxes.
7	Every time I come here, I have to take
8	time from work to come here. And to me,
9	it's like you sit down here and just
10	making fun of people.
11	Well, today I ask that we put in the
12	record about the casino. You guys are
13	pretending that you don't know. You know
14	very well, because Sands it's partnering
15	with ACF for a \$200,000 grant to open two
16	centers, one in Hempstead and one in
17	Hicksville, because they already know
18	when the casino come, there will be
19	addiction and people will need treatment.
20	So they're doing it. So you guys cannot
21	say you don't know, you know very well.
22	So I put it on the record. You guys
23	cannot say you don't know anymore. Stop
24	playing with people's life. Don't do it.
25	Because when your time is finished,
l	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-351671

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	you're just going to go away. But the
3	people that become addicted to the
4	gambling, they will lose their home, they
5	get divorced, they don't have
6	relationship with their kids anymore. Why
7	are you guys doing that for? Just because
8	taxpayers are paying you to have a good
9	life?
10	We understand this is not an easy
11	job. We understand sometimes you guys get
12	hurt. We appreciate what you do. But
13	lately, I'm lost; completely lost. I
14	don't have no clue what you're doing.
15	You guys are acting with Blakeman.
16	You cannot tell him no. He's not a mafia
17	boss. He's not. So you guys have to talk
18	to him. The money comes through from the
19	federal government to help the county. He
20	hold the money. He's not using it. Which
21	one of you is standing up to him besides
22	Miss Delia? Who else is? There's 17
23	people here. She cannot be by herself.
24	That's not right. Have some shame. You
25	can let her hanging, just her, only to
I	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	fight him. So what does that supposed to
3	mean? She's a lunatic? What does that
4	supposed to mean? Are you guys her
5	colleague? Where is the help you giving
6	her?
7	You call Blakeman's office. He
8	doesn't answer. People come here, talk to
9	you. You sit down looking at people like
10	they come from the Twilight Zone. Nobody
11	here come from the Twilight Zone. What's
12	going on? Tell me. You guys are not
13	taking questions. When people call your
14	office, you're not answering. What is
15	that? A dictatorship? This is Russia?
16	This is no longer America. Guys, wake up.
17	Wake up. Miss Delia, thank you so much
18	for your job.
19	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Fitzroy
20	Morgan.
21	MR. MORGAN: Good afternoon. I'm
22	here to speak on behalf of a united
23	Uniondale. I'm asking for Title 90 to be
24	placed on your next calendar meeting.
25	My name is Fitzroy Morgan. I'm a
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1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	father of two. I live in Uniondale. I'm
3	one of the fire commissioners in the
4	Uniondale Fire District.
5	It's about doing the right thing.
6	Myself as a commissioner who is elected,
7	I swear to my the residents and
8	constituents to do the right thing, to
9	always do the right thing. I know
10	sometimes it may be difficult because
11	there's influence from outside, but
12	there's nothing wrong with doing the
13	right thing.
14	One of the things that I try to
15	teach my kids, although they have
16	influence from social media and other
17	things: You know what's right, do the
18	right thing. It's easy. You're not
19	reinventing the wheel. The Federal
20	Government already recognizes Uniondale.
21	The State already recognized Uniondale.
22	The Town of Hempstead already recognized
23	Uniondale. We're asking that you join in
24	recognizing Uniondale. Do the right
25	thing.

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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	Most of you may not travel through
3	Uniondale, or you may not know where the
4	borders are in Uniondale. But you know
5	what the right thing is to do. Do the
6	right thing. It's easy. It's not that
7	hard. Most of you are role models to
8	young adults, and one of the things I'm
9	sure that you guys preach to them is you
10	know what's right from wrong. The right
11	thing is easy to do. I'm asking you, do
12	the right thing for the residents of
13	Uniondale.
14	Thank you.
15	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Pearl
16	Jacobs.
17	MS. JACOBS: Pearl Jacobs,
18	Uniondale.
19	The Federal Government, New York
20	State, and the Town of Hempstead have
21	officially recognized a unified
22	Uniondale. Residents of Uniondale request
23	that proposed legislation, Title 90, be
24	put on the Legislative Calendar. This
25	issue has remained at a standstill way
	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-351675

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	too long, and residents have been and
3	continued to be disrespected. Thank you,
4	Legislator Bynoe.
5	Next, stop the blank checks.
6	Regarding the misappropriation of Covid
7	relief monies, homeless people that are
8	living on our streets and in encampments
9	across our county can benefit, can
10	benefit from the \$10 million that County
11	Executive Blakeman wants to use to throw
12	a party.
13	Yesterday, County Executive Blakeman
14	was a guest on Channel 7 Up Close, where
15	he spoke regarding fairness and equity in
16	sports, referencing the transgender
17	sports issue. For Blakeman to speak
18	regarding fairness and equity is the
19	height of hypocrisy when minority
20	communities here in Nassau County have
21	advocated for fairness and equity for
22	decades. Yet, fairness and equity has yet
23	to be realized by minority communities.
24	Referencing the recent court rulings
25	regarding the proposed casino project and
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	the lack of transparency and violation of
3	open meetings rules. Where was the
4	fairness and equity there? Where is the
5	fairness and equity when the majority of
6	this legislative body. And thank you,
7	Presiding Officer (sic) DeRiggi-Whitton,
8	you did not vote. Where was the fairness
9	and equity there? Where's the fairness
10	and equity when the majority of this
11	legislative body demonstrated no concern
12	for the health and safety of Nassau
13	County students, residents and youth,
14	when you voted yes to the lease transfer
15	to move the casino project forward?
16	Where was the fairness and equity
17	when knowing that the DEC, the New York
18	State Department of Environmental
19	Conservation, has identified Nassau
20	County minority communities Hempstead,
21	New Cassel, Roosevelt and Uniondale as
22	minority communities that have been
23	disproportionately disadvantaged by air
24	pollution and high asthma rates among
25	minority youth?
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	Supporting a massive casino project
3	that would further deteriorate the air
4	quality of minority communities, where
5	asthma rates among youth and Uniondale
6	are currently at 17% and Hempstead at
7	25%. Is this fair and equitable? Words
8	are cheap when they are not backed up
9	with integrity and moral action.
10	Say, no to hypocrisy; Say, no to the
11	casino; Say, no to "Sandsa Claus", and do
12	the right thing for Nassau County
13	residents.
14	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Mary Ellen
15	Cray.
16	MS. CRAY: Good afternoon. Thank you.
17	As reported in May of 1853, in The
18	New York Times, during the turmoil
19	pre-Civil War, some gentleman from Turtle
20	Hook petitioned to change the name to
21	Uniondale, supporting the Union in the
22	times when there was issue in the country
23	of secession.
24	In 1898, the Garden City School
25	District did not wish to educate the
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	transient children of the military at
3	what became Mitchel Field. During its
4	long career, Uniondale Community Council
5	supported Mitchell Field is in Uniondale.
6	There has been a constant assault on the
7	integrity of the Uniondale community, so
8	Nassau County is behind the times. It's
9	time to catch up. I urge you to put the
10	issue officially on the agenda.
11	Thank you.
12	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
13	This concludes our public comment period.
14	We're now going to go to the to the
15	Legislative Calendar.
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2	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: The first
3	several items that I'll call are our
4	appointments and we'll start off with
5	Calendar 15, which is Resolution 17 of 24
6	and Calendar 17, which is Resolution 19.
7	Calendar 15 is a resolution to
8	appoint Marissa Brown to the Board of
9	Directors of the Nassau County Local
10	Economic Assistance and Financing
11	Corporation.
12	Calendar 17 is a resolution to
13	confirm the County Executive appoint of
14	Marissa Brown to the Nassau County
15	Industrial Development Agency.
16	I have a motion from Mr. McKevitt
17	and it is seconded by Mr. Koslow.
18	Do we have any debate and discussion
19	on those motions on those appointments?
20	MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Are
21	they here?
22	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Marissa,
23	are you here?
24	MS. BROWN: Good afternoon. Thank
25	you, County Legislature, for having me
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	today.
3	My name is Marissa Brown, and thank
4	you, County Executive Blakeman, for the
5	recommendation.
6	I currently serve as a regional
7	coordinator with the New York State
8	Senate. Prior to that, I worked for the
9	Town of North Hempstead. Both of these
10	roles require me to stay informed on what
11	local issues or legislations may impact
12	the district or part of that district, be
13	it positively or negatively, and of
14	course, interact with the communities
15	that I'm engaging with.
16	Before that, I was a soldier and
17	family readiness group leader in Fort
18	Carson. That role required me to
19	collaborate with battalion commanders and
20	battery commanders; so captains, majors
21	and the lieutenant colonel in that unit,
22	and increasing engagement and ensuring
23	effective communications from over 280
24	soldiers in that unit and the families
25	that they were connected to.
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	Working in a small group with other
3	dedicated individuals is something I've
4	done before. As I've already stated, it's
5	something I've done as a TA and a special
6	needs classroom; something I've done as a
7	collegiate lacrosse player where I won
8	three consecutive national championships;
9	and something I did when I was a
10	committee member on the Long Island
11	Metropolitan Lacrosse Foundation
12	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
13	Committee.
14	I'm excited and eager to work
15	alongside some respected individuals who
16	I've had a chance to meet and increasing
17	and promoting the economic development
18	here in Nassau. So thank you guys for
19	your time.
20	(Whereupon, applause.)
21	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Well,
22	thank you. Any the debate or discussion
23	on this appointment?
24	MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
25	have a statement that we're going to
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	make.
3	Ms. Brown, it's nothing personal at
4	all. You seem extremely impressive. And
5	we hope you do an incredible job.
6	But we've just been having an issue
7	with the process lately. With many of our
8	developments and proposals, we find as a
9	Minority Caucus that we are reading about
10	things in <i>Newsday</i> . That's how we're
11	getting a lot of our information. I've
12	been here for a long time, and it feels
13	that now we are kept in the dark much
14	more than we have in the past. And
15	because we're upset with, again,
16	different processes that we're now seeing
17	come undone and other areas, at this
18	point we are not going to support the new
19	members. We really just feel that until
20	we have some type of professional respect
21	and professional inclusion, we cannot
22	trust the process. So again, it's nothing
23	personal at all. It's just that right
24	now, and I hope maybe you can even help
25	us bring this to the fruition, which is
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]	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	for us to be notified and included as
3	well. But at this point, we cannot
4	support the nomination.
5	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Legislator
6	Pilip.
7	LEGISLATOR PILIP: Mrs. Brown, your
8	background, your experience, absolutely
9	incredible. I'm very proud of you. And
10	you have my support. Congratulations.
11	Thank you.
12	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Legislator
13	Gaylor.
14	LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Ms. Brown, how
15	are you?
16	First of all, I'd like to thank you
17	for your support to the military. I saw
18	2019 and prior you had a period where you
19	worked as a readiness group leader. I
20	myself am a retired military officer,
21	having served 23 years. And I know the
22	importance of our Family Support/Family
23	Group Readiness Program that allows our
24	soldiers to stay focused on mission while
25	knowing that families are well taken care
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1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	of in the community back home is well
3	served.
4	Absolutely, a very distinguished
5	resume that you have. I know you're
6	going to do a great job and
7	congratulations.
8	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Mr.
9	Ferretti.
10	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Ms. Brown, if
11	you could just come up one more second,
12	please.
13	Preemptive congratulations. Very,
14	very well qualified and very impressive
15	resume.
16	In serving on the IDA, I would just
17	ask that when projects come before you,
18	you make sure that as a Legislative Body,
19	we are made aware of these projects and
20	just commit to that for me, because we
21	want to know what's going on in our
22	individual districts. If something's
23	going on in my district, I'd like to
24	know. Is that something you're amenable
25	to?
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I	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	MS. BROWN: Yes, absolutely.
3	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: All right.
4	Great. Thank you very much. And
5	congratulations.
6	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
7	Anyone else?
8	Legislator Giuffre.
9	LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: So, Ms. Brown,
10	I got to know you a little bit over the
11	last few months. I was pleased to see
12	that you were nominated for this
13	position. You're highly qualified. And I
14	will be voting in the affirmative to
15	support you in this position. So thank
16	you.
17	MS. BROWN: Thank you.
18	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Anyone
19	else?
20	(Whereupon, no verbal
21	response.)
22	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right,
23	well, congratulations preemptively again,
24	as was said. We'll get to the vote in a
25	moment.
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	Legislator Walker.
3	LEGISLATOR WALKER: I know it was
4	mentioned before. Often it's members of
5	the IDA that make sure the developer
6	reaches out to the legislator who is
7	involved in that district, because often
8	we don't get that information. And we'd
9	like to hear ask our questions to the
10	developer firsthand. And so you did say
11	that you would you would make sure that
12	we were aware of that, that you would
13	reach out and let us know. But even
14	encouraging the developer to reach out to
15	the legislator or often to the community
16	to get the communities feeling for an
17	input as to what they feel about that
18	development.
19	Thank you very much.
20	MS. BROWN: Absolutely. Thank you
21	for your time.
22	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Anyone
23	else?
24	(Whereupon, no verbal
25	response.)
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I	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Nope. You
3	can sit safely.
4	Any public comment on this
5	appointment? On this appointment,
6	please.
7	MS. MEREDAY: Again, I'm saddened
8	that you have to have the Minority Leader
9	say that there is no representation, or
10	let's just say, no illumination on their
11	side with someone in a position that this
12	is important. Not to take anything away
13	from you, Miss Brown or Mr. Manzella.
14	Again, that this side here, this
15	side there, this is a county with a \$4.1
16	billion budget. We got no time for sides.
17	Lives are being lost. Opioid crisis was
18	brought up earlier. The gentleman stood
19	up here and spoke and put his heart out
20	about his addiction. I interned in
21	Nassau County at the then Department of
22	Drug and Alcohol Addiction. Where is
23	that?
24	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Excuse me.
25	Do you have any comments on this
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	appointment?
3	MS. MEREDAY: Oh, don't worry, I'll
4	go get it within my three minutes. Don't
5	worry. You'll get it. Sometimes people
6	need a lead in. But here we go.
7	The concern, because of the projects
8	and the conversations, I believe there's
9	a lawsuit with the courthouse right up
10	the block with two developers. What's
11	the resolution for that? What are these
12	two young these two candidates going to
13	bring to the table in terms of the
14	representation, if their side doesn't
15	even have the information about these
16	candidates? Public is always left out
17	until we hear about it in <i>Newsday</i> and
18	News12.
19	What is going to be different now
20	that's going to make this scenario more
21	palpable for residents, particularly in
22	communities where we don't have the
23	benefit of public or private sector
24	infrastructure investments, because your
25	body, again, giving the County Executive
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	that seems to be free reign on our money,
3	lack of resources to educate, to elevate
4	the variety of businesses and not for
5	profit organizations and entities, to
6	benefit community residents, to keep
7	people here.
8	You're talking about this casino
9	that's going to generate jobs when the
10	county can't seem to generate jobs that
11	have any kind of diversity, inclusion or
12	equity.
13	So the question again is not, okay,
14	this is great. You're coming to the table
15	with a paper that says your resume speaks
16	to this. What are you specifically going
17	to do that's going to make a change, a
18	positive and proactive change that's
19	going to be inclusive, diverse and
20	equitable?
21	So yes, that speaks to this, but it
22	still goes back to why can't we have the
23	functioning and paid and commissioned
24	inspector general on board with 2024?
25	Thank you.
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2	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Legislator
3	Ferretti.
4	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: The goal of
5	the Industrial Development Agency is to
6	create jobs. That's what the IDA does. It
7	gives out PILOTS to stimulate
8	development, and the developer has to
9	guarantee a certain amount of jobs.
10	That's what this vote is about, putting
11	somebody on the board to create jobs.
12	Quite frankly, I'm disappointed it's not
13	going to be unanimous in support of that.
14	But that's what this is exactly about.
15	Thank you. Okay.
16	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All those
17	in favor of this appointment?
18	(Whereupon, off the record
19	discussion.)
20	MS. HARRIS: Patty Harris,
21	Uniondale.
22	I would like to know, you said that
23	the IDA is to create jobs and give
24	PILOTs. Since that is the case, the PILOT
25	comes on to the rest of the taxpayers. So
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	if you have a company that is a \$4
3	billion making, what kind of PILOT should
4	they get? And we want to know if she gets
5	on here or I'm sure you're going to vote
6	yes or you already voted yes. Is everyone
7	on the idea for having a \$4 billion,
8	maybe, possibly, company coming into
9	Uniondale and giving them a PILOT. Are
10	you comfortable with that? Because we are
11	not comfortable with it.
12	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All those
13	in favor of this appointment, please so
14	signify by saying, "Aye".
15	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Aye.
16	LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Aye.
17	LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Aye.
18	LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Aye.
19	LEGISLATOR PILIP: Aye.
20	LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Aye.
21	LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Aye.
22	LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Aye.
23	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Aye.
24	LEGISLATOR WALKER: Aye.
25	LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Aye.
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2	LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Aye.
3	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Those
4	opposed?
5	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Nay.
6	LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Nay.
7	MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Nay.
8	LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Nay.
9	LEGISLATOR MULE: Nay.
10	LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Nay.
11	LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Nay.
12	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: So the
13	vote is 12 to 7.
14	I will confess, being new here at
15	this particular job, I understand that,
16	public comment on legislative days is
17	restricted to hearings. Let's move on.
18	Calendar 16 is a resolution to
19	appoint Joseph M. Manzella to the board
20	of directors of the Nassau County Local
21	Economic Assistance and Financing
22	Corporation, and Calendar 20, which is
23	Resolution 22 of 24, is a resolution to
24	appoint the County Executive's
25	appointment of Joseph Manzella to Nassau
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	County Industrial Development Agency.
3	We have a motion by Ms. Walker and
4	seconded by Ms. Goetz.
5	Mr. Manzella, are you here? You
6	want to come up, please.
7	MR. MANZELLA: Good afternoon,
8	ladies and gentlemen. I would like to
9	first start off by saying thank you to
10	County Executive Blakeman and members of
11	the Nassau County Legislature for giving
12	me this opportunity.
13	A little over a year ago, I was
14	serving the residents of New York City as
15	a police detective, and I can honestly
16	say that I did not see myself here today.
17	In March 2023, I retired from the
18	New York City Police Department and
19	started my new career as a business
20	representative with the Eastern States
21	Joint Board. Eastern States Joint Board
22	is a labor union organization that
23	consists of six local unions, with the
24	membership of approximately 15,000
25	members.
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	You may ask yourselves how a retired
3	detective and a business representative
4	for a union organization would benefit
5	the county being part of the Nassau
6	County IDA board. Well, for years, I made
7	countless split second decisions in
8	numerous situations. I was also a problem
9	solver. I worked alongside a variety of
10	people to help them find solutions.
11	In my current career, I am part of a
12	labor organization that represents
13	approximately 15,000 members. It requires
14	me to work together with businesses to
15	find solutions to challenges that may
16	surface and handle contract negotiations
17	with employers.
18	This organization is always working
19	alongside businesses, remaining fair and
20	looking for ways for the business to stay
21	competitive and have retention for their
22	employee employees. I always wanted to
23	see a business continue to grow,
24	strengthen the economy and create job
25	opportunities. As a Nassau County
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	resident myself, I always make an effort
3	to support our local small businesses.
4	If I'm given the opportunity to sit
5	alongside the other board members, I will
6	always keep an open mind for new business
7	opportunities in Nassau County that will
8	bring economic growth and elevate the
9	County's competitiveness in New York
10	State. So thank you for your
11	consideration.
12	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Mr.
13	Manzella, we look forward to having you
14	serve.
15	Do we have any debate or discussion?
16	MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
17	want to say this basically the same
18	statement, which is nothing personal, and
19	we hope that the two of you bring good
20	new insight to this board, especially
21	like my colleague, Legislator Ferretti
22	mentioned, when a PILOT is being
23	discussed in a one of our districts, it
24	would really help if we're notified
25	before it comes to us for a vote. We
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2	really need to understand. And honestly,
3	we could even help if we are aware and
4	it's something that we feel would help
5	the community. But unfortunately, like we
6	said many times, you know, we get our
7	information via <i>Newsday</i> or right before
8	and, it's just not the way I believe
9	in what the IDA is supposed to do. Do I
10	think that they've given out too many
11	PILOTs lately? Yes. Do I think that we
12	should really look at some of the PILOTs?
13	And I hope maybe you would, you know,
14	really consider whether or not PILOTs are
15	doing what they're supposed to do or if
16	it's basically, I think what it's become
17	is the image is just helping wealthy
18	developers.
19	So again, I support PILOTs when
20	they're necessary, but I think it's just
21	become almost expected from anyone who's
22	doing business. And I hope that you use
23	your skills from your prior job, as well
24	as your current occupation, to really
25	make the best decisions for Nassau
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2	County.
3	Again, our statements here today are
4	not directed at you at all. It's just
5	that we want to see a change in the
6	process. Thank you.
7	MR. MANZELLA: Understood. Thank
8	you.
9	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Deputy
10	Presiding Officer McKevitt.
11	LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Mr. Menzella,
12	I do look at your experience and you are
13	working with a number of unions which,
14	work on some hospital organizations,
15	manufacturing, airports. So when you see
16	applications come before you with the
17	IDA, are you going to try taking
18	consideration as to how those affect
19	union employment and whether these
20	applicants are going to be indeed using
21	project labor agreements and employing
22	union wages and union labor as far as
23	these projects are concerned?
24	MR. MANZELLA: Yes. I'll always keep
25	an open mind and take into consideration
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	many things. Yes.
3	LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Thank you.
4	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Anyone
5	else?
6	(Whereupon, no verbal
7	response.)
8	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. All
9	those in favor of this appointment,
10	please, the appointment of Mr. Manzella
11	to the Board of Directors of the Nassau
12	County Local Economic Assistance and
13	Financing, as well as to the Nassau
14	County IDA.
15	All those in favor of this
16	appointment, please so signify by saying,
17	"Aye".
18	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Aye.
19	LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Aye.
20	LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Aye.
21	LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Aye.
22	LEGISLATOR PILIP: Aye.
23	LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Aye.
24	LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Aye.
25	LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Aye.

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2	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Aye.
3	LEGISLATOR WALKER: Aye.
4	LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Aye.
5	LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Aye.
6	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Those
7	opposed?
8	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Nay.
9	LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Nay.
10	MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Nay.
11	LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Nay.
12	LEGISLATOR MULE: Nay.
13	LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Nay.
14	LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Nay.
15	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: So the
16	vote on this is 12 to 7.
17	LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Congratulations.
18	
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I	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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2	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We now
3	move to the Consent Calendar items. These
4	are items that have previously gone
5	through Committees and have the agreement
6	of the Majority and Minority that they
7	require no further debate or discussion.
8	I will call them all together. That would
9	be:
10	Item 1, Ordinance 5-24; Item 2,
11	Ordinance 6-24, Item 3; Ordinance 7-24;
12	Item 4, Ordinance 8; Item 5, Resolution
13	7; Item 6, Resolution 8; Item 8,
14	Resolution 10; Item 10, Resolution 12;
15	Item 11, Resolution 13; Item 13,
16	Resolution 15; Item 14, Resolution 16;
17	Item 18, Resolution 20; Item 19,
18	Resolution 21; Item 21, Resolution 23;
19	Item 22, Resolution 24; Item 23,
20	Resolution 25; Item 24, Resolution 26;
21	Item 25, Resolution 27; Item 26,
22	Resolution 28; Item 27, Resolution 29.
23	We have a motion by Mr. Kennedy and
24	seconded by Ms. Mule. All those in favor
25	of these?
L	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516101

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	(Whereupon, interruption by
3	public.)
4	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I will
5	clarify this for you. The rules of the
6	legislature provide for public comment
7	before the Legislature. Before we discuss
8	our items. And if there is not enough
9	time for those things, there will be
10	additional public comment following the
11	business of the Legislature. There is no
12	public comment during the Full
13	Legislature meeting on items. There is
14	public comment, of course, when we
15	schedule hearings. There is also public
16	comment during Committee meetings. These
17	are the rules of the Legislature that had
18	been passed by all parties.
19	MS. CRAY: Is it appropriate to have
20	a public comment relating to an
21	appointment?
22	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Whether or
23	not it's appropriate or not is not
24	something that we're prepared to discuss
25	now. We're not going to have a debate on
	IOI KUI COOKI KELOKIING, INC. (JIO) 414-JJIOIUZ

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	that. But you should feel free, ma'am, to
3	speak to your legislator, because all the
4	legislators here unanimously voted on
5	these rules.
6	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm sorry, just
7	for a point of clarification, if you
8	would. You may have that comment at the
9	end of the meeting. Okay. Yeah, she can
10	speak on anything anything in public
11	session after the meeting is concluded.
12	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay.
13	All those in favor of these items,
14	please so indicate by saying, "Aye".
15	(Whereupon, all members of
16	the Full Legislature respond in
17	favor with, "Aye".)
18	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any
19	opposed?
20	(Whereupon, no verbal
21	response.)
22	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Those
23	items are unanimous.
24	* * * * *
25	
l	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516103

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	
3	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We have a
4	few more items. These are, for the most
5	part settlements.
6	First one is Item 7, Resolution 9. I
7	will note that Legislator Goetz has
8	recused herself from this item. She's
9	left the chamber and will take no part in
10	the debate and discussion.
11	(Whereupon, Legislator Goetz
12	leaves the Chamber.)
13	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: This
14	resolution is authorizes the County
15	Attorney to compromise and settle the
16	claims of plaintiff and the action
17	entitled Jakiel Fields v. County of
18	Nassau.
19	We have a motion on that by Mr.
20	Gaylor, and it is seconded by Mr. Koslow.
21	Any debate or discussion?
22	(Whereupon, no verbal
23	response.)
24	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All those
25	in favor of Item 7, please so signify by
	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516104

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	saying, "Aye".
3	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Aye.
4	LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Aye.
5	LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Aye.
6	LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Aye.
7	LEGISLATOR PILIP: Aye.
8	LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Aye.
9	LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Aye.
10	LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Aye.
11	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Aye.
12	LEGISLATOR WALKER: Aye.
13	LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Aye.
14	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Aye.
15	LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Aye.
16	MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Aye.
17	LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Aye.
18	LEGISLATOR MULE: Aye.
19	LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Aye.
20	LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Aye.
21	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Those
22	opposed?
23	(Whereupon, no verbal
24	response.)
25	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That item
	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516105

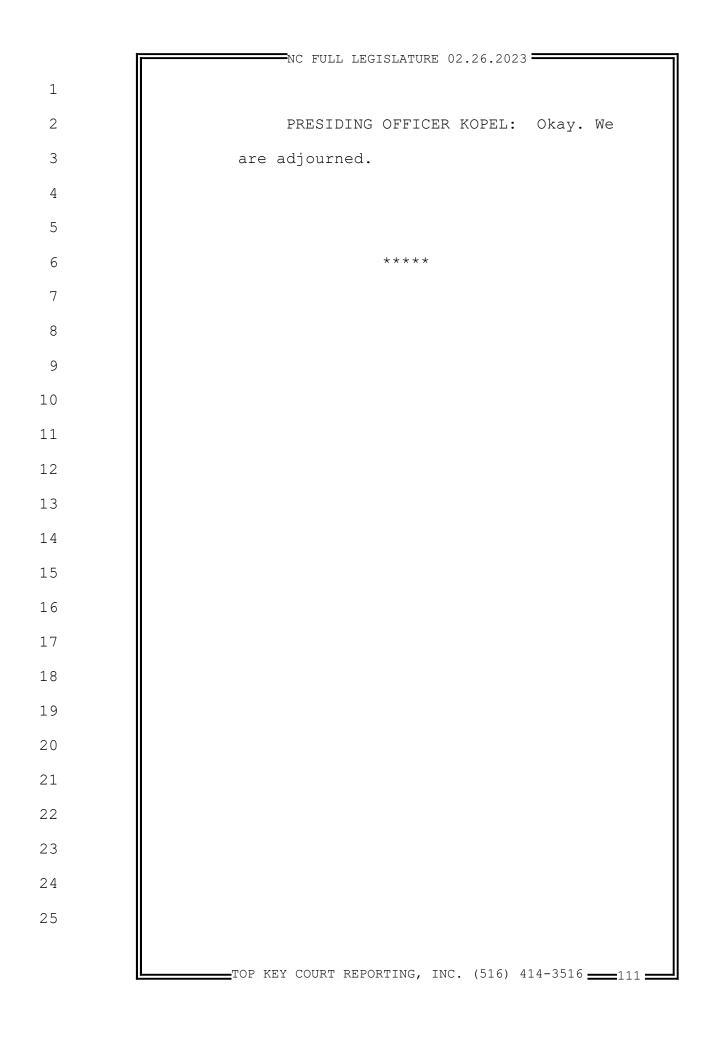
	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	passes 18 to 0.
3	Would you please invite Legislator
4	Goetz back.
5	(Whereupon, Legislator Goetz
6	returns to Chamber.)
7	
8	* * * *
9	
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	TOD VEN COUDE DEDODETING INC. (516) 414 2516
	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516106

1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Item 9,
3	Resolution 11, which is authorizes the
4	County Attorney to settle the action
5	entitled Thomas Smith versus the County
6	of Nassau.
7	We have a motion on that on Mr.
8	Giangregorio and seconded by Mr. Davis.
9	Any debate a discussion on this one?
10	(Whereupon, off the record
11	discussion.)
12	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We have to
13	amend this.
14	We have an amendment in the nature
15	of the substitution, which merely
16	corrects the index numbers set forth in
17	the resolution title. So we have to vote
18	on the amendment. So the motion on the
19	amendment is by Mr. Ferretti and seconded
20	by Ms. Bynoe.
21	All those in favor of the amendment,
22	please so indicate by saying, "Aye".
23	(Whereupon, all members of
24	the Full Legislature respond in
25	favor with, "Aye".)
	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516107

]	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Those
3	opposed.
4	(Whereupon, no verbal
5	response.)
6	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That is 19
7	to 0.
8	Now a motion on the item as amended.
9	And that is a motion by by Legislator
10	Giangregorio and seconded by Legislator
11	Davis.
12	All those in favor as amended,
13	please so indicate by saying, "Aye".
14	(Whereupon, all members of
15	the Full Legislature respond in
16	favor with, "Aye".)
17	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Those
18	opposed.
19	(Whereupon, no verbal
20	response.)
21	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That is 19
22	to 0.
23	
24	* * * * *
25	
	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516108

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Number 12,
3	Resolution 14 is a settlement on the item
4	entitled AJ Richard and Sons versus the
5	County of Nassau. And there's a motion by
6	Mr. Giuffre and seconded by Mr. Solages.
7	(Whereupon, off the record
8	discussion.)
9	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Those
10	motions are made an amendment to that
11	item, which is a nature of the
12	substitution correcting the index number.
13	All those in favor of the amendment,
14	please so indicate by saying, "Aye".
15	(Whereupon, all members of
16	the Full Legislature respond in
17	favor with, "Aye".)
18	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any
19	opposed?
20	(Whereupon, no verbal
21	response.)
22	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: The
23	amendment pass is now a vote on the item
24	as amended, and that was a motion Ms.
25	Goetz and seconded by Minority Leader.
	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516109

I	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	All those in favor of the item as
3	amended, please say, "Aye".
4	(Whereupon, all members of
5	the Full Legislature respond in
6	favor with, "Aye".)
7	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any
8	opposed?
9	(Whereupon, no verbal
10	response.)
11	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That is 19
12	to 0.
13	I I will take a motion to adjourn.
14	And that is Legislator Giuffre and
15	Legislator Davis is231.
16	Anybody opposed to adjourn?
17	All those in favor of adjourning,
18	please "Aye".
19	(Whereupon, all members of
20	the Full Legislature respond in
21	favor with, "Aye".)
22	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Those
23	opposed?
24	(Whereupon, no verbal
25	response.)
l	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516110



	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: And I
3	understand we have a public comment or
4	two.
5	MS. CRAY: Maryellen Cray, Uniondale.
6	Apropos the appointments to the IDA.
7	I would like to state that when Sands
8	first came to the Uniondale community,
9	they categorically stated that they would
10	not ask for PILOT; and, yet, I understand
11	they've made an about face. I think this
12	is really inappropriate. And the
13	communities are the ones that suffer. The
14	school districts are the ones that suffer
15	when these PILOTs are given to them. And
16	not only that, there is also a feeling
17	later on when the PILOTs are over, that
18	the communities have punished them in
19	some way because the taxes went up. So
20	this is a really a lose lose for the
21	Uniondale community and the other
22	communities, especially the hamlets,
23	because you and our towns are our only
24	source of dealing with these people.
25	So I strongly urge you to be very
	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-351612

I	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
1	
2	scarce with giving the PILOTs.
3	Thank you.
4	MS. HARRIS: My name is Mrs. Melvin
5	Harris, Jr.
6	I would like to say to you. Is there
7	a reason why we wasn't able to speak
8	about your other appointment that came up
9	here to make a presentation? Because you
10	had you let us speak.
11	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: You are
12	correct. I did that, and that was an
13	error on my part that that was contrary
14	to the rules of the Legislature. So that
15	was an error in my on my part. But you
16	did speak on that. Yes. And I corrected
17	it right after that.
18	MS. HARRIS: Thank you.
19	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay,
20	sure. Anyone else?
21	(Whereupon, no verbal
22	response.)
23	(Whereupon, the Full
24	Legislature meeting is
25	adjourned, 3:19 p.m.)
I	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516113

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 02.26.2023
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 26th day of February, 2024.
15	
16	Karen Lorenzo
17	Karen Lorenzo
18	
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24	
25	
	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516114

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