	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024
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2	
3	NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
4	FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING
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8	HOWARD J. KOPEL, PRESIDING OFFICER
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12	*****
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14	County Executive and Legislative Building
15	1550 Franklin Avenue
16	Mineola, New York
17	*****
18	Monday, March 25, 2024
19	1:56 p.m.
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23	TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
24	
25	
	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-35161

1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024
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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	***
	II

_____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 _____2 =

LEGISLATOR PATRICK MULLANEY

4th Legislative District

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NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024

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2	LEGISLATOR SETH KASLOW
3	5th Legislative District
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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	***

_____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 _____3 __

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024
1	
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
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14	JAMES DARCY, ESQ.
15	Attorney for Clerk of the Legislature
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	II

_____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 ______4 ___

NC	FIII.T.	LECIS	LATURE	0.3	25	2024

1	
2	TOP COPS:
3	Det. Frederick Hausmann
4	Det. Anthony Derasmo
5	Det. Calamita
6	Det. Keane
7	
8	Officer Kyle O'Halloran
9	Officer Matthew McCready
10	Officer Marisa Caroselli
11	Officer Dylan Schoen
12	Police Medic Joseph Rice
13	Police Medic Krista Watson
14	
15	WOMEN OF DISTINCTION:
16	Denise Ford, Past Nassau County Legislator
17	Maria Jordan-Awalom, Freeport School District
18	
19	POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:
20	East Meadow High School String Ensemble
21	Ms. Pellman
22	Sarah Bano
23	Adam Kastanos
24	Arshia Syeda
25	Alexandra Vazquez

_____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 ______5 __

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1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024
1	
2	POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE (Continued):
3	Eva Kyriakidis
4	Annabel Yee
5	Siimone Colas
6	Azra Demir
7	
8	Sir David Russell Goldberg, Bellmore Merrick
9	School
10	Great Neck South Varsity Fencing Team
11	
12	PUBLIC COMMENT:
13	Susanne Kaebnick
14	Pearl Jacobs
15	Faren Siminoff
16	Ariel Silberman
17	Susan Gottehrer
18	Meta J. Mereday
19	Melanie Creps
20	Gianela Liendo Fuentes
21	Sister Janet Kinney
22	David Tellerman
23	Larry Johnston

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Joan Buckley

Jeannine Maynard

24

25

NC	FIII.T.	LEGISLATURE	0.3	25	2024

1	
2	PUBLIC COMMENT CONTINUED:
3	
4	James Jacobs
5	Leonard Caltabiano
6	David Stern
7	Cheryl Keshner
8	Richard Ginsburg
9	Jason C. Bass
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024
1	
2	ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS
3	MARCH 25, 2024
4	NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
5	
6	- Call to order - Full Legislature - Pledge of Allegiance
Ü	- Roll Call
7	- Presentations
	- Women's History Month
8	- Majority Honoree,
	Hon. Denise A. Ford
9	- Minority Honoree,
	M. Jordan-Awalom
10	- Top Cops
	- Police Officers:
11	Kyle O'Halloran,
	Matthew McCready,
12	Marisa Caroselli and
	Dylan Schoen;
13	- Police Medics:
	Joseph Rice
14	Krista Watson
	- Points of Personal Privilege
15	- Deputy PO McKevitt
	Woodland Middle School
16	Music ensemble
_ 0	- Legislator Pilip -
17	Great Neck South Boys and
_ ,	Girls Fencing Teams
18	- Legislator Koslow -
10	Sir David R. Goldberg
19	Calhoun High School
1)	Cainoun night behoof
20	- Public Comment
21	- Call upon Clerk of the Legislature to
	make an announcement regarding the Locust
22	Valley Cemetery Association
23	- Clerk of the Legislature Michael
	Pulitzer announces: The Locust Valley
24	Cemetery Association, Inc.
25	- Resolution No. 10-24 as to Procedure
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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024
1	
2	- Appointments
3	- Calendar No. 16, Res. No. 39-2024 Charles G. McQuair
4	- Calendar No. 17, Res. No. 40-2024 Robert V. Hughes
5	- Consent Calendar items
6	Items 1. Ordinance No. 9-24
7	2. Ordinance No. 10-24 3. Ordinance No. 11-24
8	4. Ordinance No. 12-24 5. Ordinance No. 13-24
9	6. Ordinance No. 14-24 7. Resolution No. 30-24
10	8. Resolution No. 31-24 12. Resolution No.35-24
11	13. Resolution No. 36-24 14. Resolution No. 37-24
12	15. Resolution No. 38-24 17. Resolution No. 40-24
13	18. Resolution No. 41-24 19. Resolution No. 42-24
14	20. Resolution No. 43-24
15	- Non-consent calendar items - 9. Resolution No. 32-24
16	Legislator McKevitt recused Legislator Strauss recused
17	- 10. Resolution No. 33-24 - 11. Resolution No. 34-24
18	Adjourn
19	Remaining public comment, if any
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(Prior to start of meeting)

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: We're privileged, from the East Meadow High School String Ensemble under direction of Ms. Nicole Pellman is here to conduct, I think Beethoven's Andante con moto, which is arranged by Bud Caputo. I think he's a little bit after Beethoven at that point. But again, I'm going to thank the students coming here today and please give your attention as they do their performance. Thank you.

> (Whereupon, East Meadow High School String Ensemble performs.)

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Again, I want to thank Ms. Pellman and the East Meadow High School String Ensemble. And if I get this correctly, we have Sarah Bano, Adam Kastanos, Arshia Syeda, Alexandra Vazquez, Eva Kyriakidis, Annabel Yee, Siimone Colas and Azra Demir.

Again, thank you very much for gracing us with your presence this

	NO DILLI I DOCTOLABUDE ON OF 2004
1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024
2	(Whereupon, official start to meeting.)
3	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Welcome,
4	everyone, to this session of the
5	Legislature. As always, we're going to
6	start with the Pledge of Allegiance, and
7	I'll ask the Legislator Scott Strauss, to
8	lead us.
9	(Whereupon, the Pledge of
10	Allegiance is said by all.)
11	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
12	Now, Mr. Pulitzer, would you please call
13	the roll?
14	CLERK PULITZER: Thank you Presiding
15	Officer.
16	Deputy Presiding Officer Thomas
17	McKevitt?
18	LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.
19	CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
20	Presiding Officer John Ferretti?
21	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.
22	CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
23	Minority Leader Siela Bynoe?
24	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.
25	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Carrie

1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024
2	A. Solages?
3	LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.
4	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Debra
5	Mule?
6	LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.
7	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.
8	William Gaylor, III?
9	LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.
10	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John
11	Giuffre?
12	LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.
13	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Mazi
14	Pilip?
15	LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.
16	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Scott
17	Davis?
18	LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Present.
19	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
20	Kennedy?
21	LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.
22	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Patrick
23	Mullaney?
24	LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Here.

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CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Seth

•	NO DILLI I DOTOLAMUDE 02 05 2004
1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024
2	Koslow?
3	LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Present.
4	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Scott
5	Strauss?
6	LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Present.
7	CLERK PULITZER: Deputy Minority
8	Leader Arnold Drucker?
9	LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.
10	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose
11	Marie Walker?
12	LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.
13	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Samantha
14	Goetz?
15	LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Here.
16	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Michael
17	Giangregorio?
18	LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Here.
19	CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader
20	Delia DeRiggi-Whitton?
21	LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.
22	CLERK PULITZER: Presiding Officer
23	Howard Kopel?
24	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I am here.
25	CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,

____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 _____14 __

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sir.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.

This month, as many of you know, is Women's History Month, and in accordance with our custom, we have presentations to This year, we were going to have one each for the Majority and Minority. We'll start with the Majority presentation.

We were casting about trying to decide who we were going to designate as our awardee this this year. There's just so many people who are deserving and prominent. And somebody said, well, what about Denise Ford, Legislator Ford, who spent so many years over here at the legislature? She is one of the best people that I know. And I believe that that my colleagues here on both sides of the aisle, who know her and have known her for years, will all enthusiastically agree. She is one of these people who has engaged in public service for many, many years. She's always done it and

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continues to do it for the right reasons.

And what I mean by the right reasons is

she just wants to serve. She is not

interested in cameras. She's not

interested in microphones. She is just

interested in just being a good

representative, doing what the people

want, doing what the people need, and

making sure that everyone is taken care

of in the right way. And so it is my

great pleasure to announce that

Legislator -- I'm still calling you

legislator -- Denise Ford, and we just

did not want her to leave. I think there

was almost a vote here not letting her

leave, right? Yeah. Escorted by

Legislator Gaylor, I'm so proud and

honored to announce Legislator Denise

Ford as as our awardee for the Women's

History month, as our woman of

distinction (applause).

Denise and as part of your

punishment for this, for accepting this

award, you're just going to have to

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listen to one or two other people even before you get to speak

LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Denise, as your replacement, I'm sure you're tired of hearing me speak so much, but I personally can never say enough about you. As somebody who was from afar, just one of your constituents for so many years, I'm sure most people up here know what you do, what you've done for the community, not just Nassau County, but all the way down to the Fourth District. But finally, the strength and perseverance that you've shown over not just the past 20 years, but your lifetime is truly a testament to the person who you are. And being tasked with attempting to fill your shoes, I hope to be half the woman that you are. So thank you for everything again (applause).

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Anyone else?

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Denise, from across the aisle, but still

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very close. You've been a pleasure to deal with and you've also been someone that's been very reachable. I felt whenever there were issues, especially those that politics should never touch, you were always there to listen and support. And I truly enjoyed working with you. I'm going to say we went to jail together so many times to inspect the jail, but you really your heart was in the right place with all of these items. And it's true, you're not only someone who is respected, but you earn that respect because you're an example of sometimes life does give you some challenges, but you keep going and you could be a great example for so many others. So congratulations. This is a very well deserved honor. We miss you already. When I saw you there before, I didn't even register that you were back. I'm like, oh, she's here. So I'm just so used to seeing you, but it's great to see you again. Don't be a stranger (applause).

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LEGISLATOR WALKER: Denise, although you're not sitting here with us, I'm very blessed because over the past 21 years, because that's when we first met, Denise was running for the Legislature, and I was running for a Town of Oyster Bay councilwoman. We both won those spots, and we both had the 20 years together in public service, whether it was in two different places or together here in the legislature. But, all that you do when everything that's been said about you, there could be so much more. And you're just a wonderful, amazing woman who's given so much of yourself to your community and certainly to the County as a whole, to what you did in your previous job climbing up those telephone poles and making sure we had our phone service and all the wonderful things and sharing our stories as moms and single moms now and grandparents together.

But like I said, we miss you very, very much. We're so proud of you. Proud

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to be our chosen honoree this year at our Women of Distinction. And I am so honored and proud to call you my dear friend. Thank you (applause).

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Denise, in case you ever wondered what it was like to eavesdrop at your own funeral without having to actually go through, you know, the whole dying thing (laughter) Now you know what it's like.

MS. FORD: I'm dying of embarrassment.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Seriously, I'm so happy that you've agreed to do this and to be here with us. And it's just great to see you again. You know, just got to come in more often and just say hello.

MS. FORD: Thank you very much, all of you. And it really is indeed an honor.

I'm thrilled, actually, to be back here to see all of you, but not as a legislator. So, you know, and I have to say that I'm very happy with Pat

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Mullaney, that he is now my representative, that somebody I could call upon and count upon to get things done in our community. And I have to say that I haven't blushed in so many years, and I just feel like my face is on fire right now, and I'm sort of speechless. So

I will be very brief.

All of you, when I left, I left a lot of friends. Each and every single one of you, we all have our stories and the fun times and we reveled in the accomplishments that each of us made and we all shared when we had to work on very, very difficult topics and issues, that we found it in ourselves to be able to come together and do what needed to be done. So I have to say that I look at you - and for the new legislators that they didn't have an opportunity to work with, I wish you a great success.

Also, for those that are still here that served with me, I hope that you all get an opportunity to retire after 20

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years so that you really know what it's like when you say, wow, I can't believe how time flies and how many years. Rose, I'm sorry. You still have a long time to go before you get the 20 years with the Legislature.

But it really is indeed an honor. Being a woman that achieved a public service, to be able to be elected to represent my district for so many years, uh, was just an unbelievable experience. I got to make a lot of friends, so many people that I have come in contact with, to be able to have served and to learn about so many issues and so many facets of Nassau County government. Yes, the jail was one. How many times did I go walk through a sewage treatment plant, taking a look at streets, looking at signals. You never knew what the day would bring and where you were going to end up as you had to go out to serve your community.

It was a labor of love. Although I

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miss all of you, I have to say that I'm very happy that I'm not getting those 11:00 calls or the ones that a 5:00 in the morning because, construction, for whatever reason. And you will get it because you still are getting those calls.

To everybody here, I think -- and especially when I look at these young women behind me -- never be afraid to try to achieve what you wanted to. You never know where your life is going to bring you. And sometimes you may be -- and I'm going to take something from what Patrick had said. Sometimes when you you get dealt with lemons, you have to find yourself that you can make lemonade. And even though a lemon can get peeled and it takes away the protective core, you know, you still be able to squeeze something out of it to get that juice. So remember, you always have something inside you that will keep you moving forward. And always remember that no matter what happens, you NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024

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can you can achieve your dreams. And you could really scale the heights of glory, so to speak.

But thank you all. This is indeed an honor. It was always something when I honored somebody here to be have chosen. I really want to thank my caucus for this. And I love you all. And thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Denise, want to come up for a photo? (Whereupon, photos taken.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I'd like to call on Legislator Koslow.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Thank you, Presiding Officer.

It's especially relevant as we do this honor today, that there are so many young students here today. And I look at the first two rows and I see all those female students as we're here to celebrate Women's History Month and honor achievements of female leaders, especially those who have been leaders in the face of struggle.

Today, we're honoring a friend of mine, Maria Jordan-Awalom. She is a proud mom from Freeport. She's lived in Freeport most of her life. She got her start advocating on the PTA. Maria, if you could come up to the podium, please (applause).

As I was saying before, Maria got her start advocating as a PTA member. She's been involved with the school board in Freeport, second term as a trustee and

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third year as president of the school

board. I sit here with my colleagues,

trying to figure out how to run a county.

And anybody who's willing to run a school

board, gets my vote of confidence,

because I would not touch that from

anywhere in this world because it's a

very difficult job advocating for our

kids. But that's what she does. She

fights for our children. She fights for

her family. She fights for all of us. She

fights for social justice. She fights for

public education, for athletics for the

children. And she represents the Black

and Latino communities that she lives and

works with, and she fights for resources

for them.

Everyone in this room, especially all the young students here and all the women can learn from her and draw on her strength as an example. I'm honored today to present you with this award and humbled that you were able to join us here today. Congratulations, Maria

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(applause).

MS. JORDAN-AWALOM: Thank you.

Thank you for this recognition. There are many times that I wonder if what we do in our advocacy efforts actually make a difference. The world is a vast and complicated place and the problems we face in our communities can seem far too complex to ever make a dent in.

So I thank the Legislature for this recognition, especially Legislator Kolsow for thinking of me. Every piece of advocacy and involvement in my community is out of the love and respect that I have for Freeport, our school community, and most of all, our future generations. It is with the utmost gratitude that I humbly accept this award on behalf of all the women out there who continue to fight the good fight. So thank you (applause).

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Every month at this time, we are privileged to have a presentation of Top Cops, which is an honor for those police officers and other public first responders who have done exemplary service for the County and its and its residents.

We're going to start with Police Officers Kyle O'Halloran, Matthew McCready, Marisa Carosello and Dylan Shoen and police medics, Joseph Rice and Krista Watson.

MR. RE: Good afternoon. I'm David Re, the second vice president of the Nassau County PBA. Unfortunately, Tommy Shevlin couldn't be here today. But on his behalf and on behalf of all our members, we want to thank the Legislature for its continued support and for honoring the heroic efforts of the police officers who serve the people of Nassau County on a daily basis.

Today, we present to you four officers and two police medics who swift

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response and combined efforts saved the lives of a pregnant mother and her unborn child.

On January 20th, 2024, police officers from the Seventh Precinct received a 911 call for an unconscious pregnant female who wasn't breathing. She was six and a half months pregnant and suffered from cardiomyopathy, which caused her heart to go into fatal arrhythmia. Police officer Kyle O'Halloran was the first on the scene and found her unresponsive and not breathing. She was turning blue and had only a faint pulse. He started CPR immediately and when Officer Matthew McCready arrived, he began to assist. Within minutes, Officers Marissa Caroselli and Dylan Shoen joined the other officers in their efforts. Officer Caroselli quickly attached an AED which advised the officers to shock her, and they did. She began to breathe slightly and the officers continued CPR. When police, medics Joseph Rice and

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Krystal Watson arrived, they applied advanced Life Support intervention. The officers never stopped CPR and it continued in the back of the ambulance by Officers Caroselli and Shoen while the medics treated her. She was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital where she arrived breathing and with a strong pulse.

Two lives were saved that day because these officers and medics had quick action training and their ability to perform under pressure. And for that, the PBA is proud to present to you Officers O'Halloran, McCready, Caroselli and Shoen as well as Police Medics Rice and Wilson, and we're grateful to you for recognizing them as your Legislative Top Cops for March 2024 (applause). Thank you.

COMMISSIONER RYDER: So first I'd like to congratulate Maria, who unfortunately knows my telephone number too well. And again, great partnerships

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with our community, which we're always thankful.

And Legislator Ford who told me she did not retire Pat, I'm sorry. She's been calling me left and right (laughter).

So today, a lot of people don't understand what goes on in this Police Department. We have some of the greatest volunteer firemen in the country that go out there and leave their families at 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning as EMTs and EMTs to go out and serve. But we also have the greatest police medics in the country. These guys and gals are as close as they could be to what a surgeon does out there in the field. Their professionalism, their training is above everybody else and they do a great, great job.

But these officers that stand also behind me are trained by our police medics. And they go to the fire police academy and they receive a training done by partnership, but lead by our police

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medics that turn out a great product as they go out in their EMR type training.

This is all because of what we in this

Department, in this Legislative Body and

our County Executive think forward. We're

thinking about what is the next step to

be better not relying on what we've done.

These officers will go back to new

training this year, given again at the

police fire academy, and that will make

them better. Our police medics have

gotten new tools where they actually -- a

couple of years ago, we talked about they

had a drill into a young kid's thigh bone

to relieve the pressure and bring down

his fever. That doesn't get done too many

places in this country. That's what makes

this such a great county.

But again, we don't do it without the support. That's why our new police academy and the new training village is being built as we speak. It's because we are forward thinkers, and it's because of

the leadership that we have in this

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county. And we just want to say thank you and congratulations to them behind me. Thank you (applause).

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Would any of you like to speak to us?

OFFICER CAROSELLI: Hi, everyone. Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Marissa Caroselli. I'm a police officer with Nassau County, and I'm about to hit my 20th year this summer. So for me, it's a bit of an emotional thing because this is a highlight of my career.

On that day in question, we saved two lives. Two souls were saved. And really, we're just the lucky ones who were there. Anyone who was working those cars that day would have done the same exact thing that we did. We're all very interchangeable because we are trained so heavily and so professionally. And that's the thing that when I live a little bit further east that I really miss and makes me worry, truly. We have a paid professional police force with

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uncompromising morals and with a training that is not matched anywhere else. And our police medics, you don't see that anywhere else. And that is why we are able to respond in such a timely fashion and on that day, every second counted until souls are going to live. And that baby is expected to be born Easter Monday. And that's a true miracle. Thank you (applause).

LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Today, I have the privilege to honor and extend our deepest appreciation to a few of our extraordinary police officers and police medics. It is sometimes forgotten that in addition to being police officers and making arrests and preventing crimes, they are also the first responders and they save lives.

Recently, the situation unfolded that epitomizes the valor and dedication of these unsung heroes. A call for help came in reporting an unconscious pregnant woman who wasn't breathing. In those

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critical moments, our officers sprang into action without hesitation, and their use of CPR and the AED helped keep the pregnant woman alive until the medics arrived. This allowed our amazing police medics to perform ALS intervention and not just save the life of the pregnant woman, but her unborn child. This swift response, coupled with their unwavering commitment to duty, undoubtedly made all the difference. They demonstrated

remarkable professionalism and courage in

a situation where every second mattered.

To our esteemed police officers and police medics, I extend my heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the entire community. Your tireless efforts, often performed under challenging circumstances, do not go unnoticed and make profound difference in the lives of those who you protect and serve.

Once again, thank you to our courageous police officers and police medics for your unwavering commitment to

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the duty and for embodying the true essence of heroism. You are the guardians of our safety, and we are immensely grateful for all that you do.

Thank you (applause).

LEGISLATOR PILIP: I also say this, as we celebrating our women's month and as a mother of seven children, I was pregnant six times; the last one twin girls. I know the risk we are taking as a woman when we are going through pregnancy. The fact you were on time and you were able to save the mother's life and the baby's life is just incredible. In Jewish faith is called a mitzvah. The biggest kind human being can do is save people. And you guys keep doing this in Nassau County. And we are so proud of you. And thank you for being there always to protect our residents. God bless you. Thank you (applause).

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Hang out on the side for a moment, we have the detectives.

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MR. BOURGIGNON: On behalf of the Nassau County Detectives Association, I'd like to thank everybody for acknowledging our four detectives: Detective Anthony Derasmo, Detective Fred Hausmann, Detective Ryan Keane, Detective Joe Calamita, who took a very dangerous individual off the streets, who used a firearm and struck a house several times while occupied.

I'm going to pause for a second. I've spoken to quite a few of you already about our detective shortage here in the County. We currently have no letters in to come to the Detective Division. I think we've all agreed that without a robust Detective Division, the County suffers, the citizens suffer. At this point, we're still under 300 detectives. Again, I've sat with some of you. I look forward to sitting with the rest of you. I asked the ones that I've sat with to please share what I've conveyed to you about our issues and problems. I know

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they're long in history. So I'll move on.

On January 9th, 2024, at approximately 11 a.m., Third Squad Detectives Anthony Dersamo and Fred Hausmann became involved in an investigation of an assault with a firearm that occurred in the confines of Hempstead Village. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that the perpetrator did fire two rounds from a handgun into a residential location, thankfully missing the occupants of the residence. The perpetrator then fled the location in an unknown direction.

Detective Derasmo and Detective Hausmann worked tirelessly to recover video surveillance from the area, with the assistance and collaboration from the Hempstead Police Department. The detectives were able to quickly identify the perpetrator. Over the course of the next several days, the two detectives, along with the assistance of Detective

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Calamita and Detective Keane, worked diligently to locate any additional required media to locate any additional witnesses and video surveillance to further strengthen the prosecution of this violent perpetrator, as well as locate and apprehend this individual.

The four detectives, while canvassing, did observe the subject. They did end up chasing the subject and suffered serious injuries. The subject was charged with criminal use of a firearm, second; criminal possession of a weapon, second; criminal possession of a firearm; assault in the second degree; reckless endangerment; resisting arrest; criminal mischief in the third; the perpetrator kicked out a window of a Hempstead police vehicle; as well as an open New York State Family Court warrant.

As the president of the DAI, I am proud of these detectives and all my detectives every day for the hard work they do. They are working so much harder

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with so much less. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER RYDER: So as I said earlier, we don't rest on what we've done. We always want to get better. You just heard, we're always trying to improve and get more recruitment into the detective division.

These detectives though today it's about them. It's about what they did that day, chasing down an armed subject that's already shot into a house where innocent people sit by themselves with their families. Supposed to be in a peaceful setting, and somebody blasting rounds into your house.

Detectives do it every single day. They go out on the street, they risk their lives. They don't know if they're going to get to come home to their families. And if you look behind me, there's a bunch of strollers in the back. That shows how young our young detectives are and our young police officers. We are a family. We recognize them as family,

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and we make sure that we work together to get those results that keep all of you safe when you sleep at night. So again, very proud of them and very thankful for the work they've done. Thank you (applause).

DETECTIVE HAUSMANN: To the Nassau County Legislators, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, we would like to thank you for acknowledging us today for all the hard work that we have done.

Even though you only see four of us here today, it's a team effort. It takes the entire squad to do what we do every day. In addition, we would like to thank also the Commissioner, Commissioner Ryder, our CO Lieutenant Dan Stellar, the DAI, everybody who supports us on a daily basis. We're proud to work for the county of Nassau. And we'll continue doing what we do on a daily basis.

Thank you (applause).

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Detectives, great work, my compliments.

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On behalf of myself and Legislator Bynoe, who represent the Village of Hempstead, we would like to compliment you for all the great work that you did in helping to keep the village safe.

This is a great example of how good police work gets results. When you got the call, you came to the location, you identified the situation, you investigated, you got video.

Secondly, one of the most important parts of what you did and which is, as you know, very good police work is you collaborated and you collaborated with the Village of Hempstead Police and got additional information. Once you got that information, you were then able to disseminate that information within the Detective Squad. And but for that, the detectives who are also here and being honored today wouldn't be aware of what happened. And the fact that they were able to -- this wasn't random, that you actually knew who you were looking for,

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you recognize them. And then when trouble came, you didn't run from it; you ran to it. And that's what good police work is all about. It's about doing your work, investigating, collaborating. Well done. Thank you (applause).

> (Whereupon, citations presented. Photos taken.)

> > *****

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Next, Legislator Pilip has a point of personal privilege and the Great Neck South Boys and Girls Fencing Team. Boys and girls, you want to come up to the podium?

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Thank you, Presiding Officer.

Today, I am honored to be able to celebrate a remarkable achievement in the sport of fencing. It is with great pride and joy that we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Great Neck South Boys and Girls Fencing Teams for their outstanding performance and for achieving the impressive title of Long Island Champions. What makes this victory even more amazing is that it marks the first time in the history of our school that both teams have achieved this accomplishment in the same season. This victory is a testament to the unwavering dedication, hard work and sheer determination exhibited by each member of both teams. These athletes have

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demonstrated incredible commitment to their sport. Their pursuit of excellence has led to this momentous victory, and they have showcased the true spirit of teamwork and sportsmanship along the way.

To the coaches, whose guidance and expertise have been instrumental in shaping these athletes into champions, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your tireless efforts and unwavering support have been invaluable and nurturing their talents and fostering a culture of excellence within the teams.

To the parents, families and friends who have stood by these athletes through every victory and defeat, we thank you for your encouragement and support. Your role in nurturing their passion for fencing and cheering them on from the sidelines has played a significant part in this success.

On behalf of the entire Great Neck community, I extend my warmest congratulations to the Boys and Girls

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Fencing Teams for their remarkable accomplishment. You have made us very proud and your legacy will forever be carved in school history. Here is to many more victories and achievements in the near future. Go Rebles. Very proud of you (applause). Coaches or boys and girls, you want to say a few words from your experience?

MS. SAGEVICK: Thank you very much. I'm Coach Sagevick.

Thank you for taking the time to acknowledge these hardworking, dedicated, talented young athletes. These athletes have spent countless hours practicing and honing their skills. Not only are they outstanding athletes, they are also academics earning scholar athletes this year.

This year stands out because this group of phenomenal athletes and students have won Long Island championships. Winning this award does not come from one touch or one bout or one win in the

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season. To win this award means everyone has contributed over the course of the entire season. It is a team's success. I just want to share how proud I am of these athletes, and I look forward to what they have to do in the future (applause).

MR. BARAVARIAN: Good afternoon everyone. My name is Joshua Baravarian. I'm the boy's head coach.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with immense pride and honor that I stand here before you today to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our Great Neck South Varsity Fencing Team. In fencing, physical prowess intertwines with mental agility, setting it apart from traditional sports. It is a dance of blades where split second decisions define victory or defeat. At its peak, fencing is a strategic ballet with precise footwork, graceful lunges, and masterful parries honed through hours of meticulous training. Fencers are not just

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athletes, but strategists anticipating their opponents next move like a grand chess master demanding unwavering, unwavering focus, lightning fast reflexes, and a deep understanding of the psychological dynamics at play.

Our high achieving fencing team has navigated this complex landscape with finesse and determination. In winning both the Nassau County and Long Island championships, they've made history. No other Nassau County school has ever had both these teams capture this elusive prize. For the boys team, this is their third county championship in four years and their second Long Island Championship.

For the ladies, while this is their sixth consecutive Nassau County Championship, this is their first Long Island Championship also, and marks the first time in Nassau County women's history that a Nassau County team has won Long Island's. They have both represented

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not just themselves, but our entire district, proving that greatness is achieved not through isolation, but through shared effort and unwavering support.

As we revel in their triumphs, is crucial to recognize their sacrifices and dedication and hard work that's fueled their journey. While our student athletes have reached new heights on the fencing strip this season, they've also demonstrated remarkable achievements in the classroom. With an outstanding 94% of our team earning the scholar athlete distinction, they collectively maintain a cumulative 95 grade point average. This is a testament to their commitment to both athletic and academic success within one of the nation's top school districts.

Our high school fencing team has not just won championships, they've etched their names into our school's history, inspiring future generations.

Thank you (applause).

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LEGISLATOR PILIP: Thank you so much. I have a citations to give each one of you. I will meet you in the back of that room. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: For our next point of privilege. Legislator Koslow.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Thank you, Presiding Officer.

I'm going to ask David Russell Goldberg to come to the podium, please.

I requested this point of privilege to bestow further honor on an exemplar of humanitarianism in the Bellmore Merrick schools community, Calhoun social studies teacher David Russell Goldberg.

Mr. Goldberg, or I guess I should call you Sir Goldberg, was recently knighted by the Parte Guelfa, a Florentine Order dating back to 1266. The party is a storied society, receiving its official approval from Pope Clement IV. It was founded by Knights of Florence, who freed their capital of Tuscany. In

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the 16th century, the Grand Duke of Tuscany established that the mission of the Parte Guelfa was to preserve the world. Originally only for Italians, the order recently began to allow among its ranks knights and dames of all nationalities and religions.

As part of as part of the knighthood ceremony, Sir Goldberg went on a march to the Basilica di Santa Croce, where Dante and Michelangelo are buried.

Sir Goldberg has led a life of humanitarianism, advocating for environmental preservation and for peace in order to earn his knighthood. He has enriched the minds and souls of his students as a social studies teacher bringing his passion for peace to the classroom.

In a special class called voices of the past, he's taught students about human rights abuses, from the Rwandan genocide to the Holocaust, and how to lead lives that abhor hatred and

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violence. As a knight of the Parte Guelfa, he must further his long standing commitment to humanitarianism.

I am humbled to give Sir Goldberg this recognition, won with less grandeur than his investiture, but a recognition that I hope inspires the people of Nassau County to lead a life worthy of knighthood. Congratulations (applause).

SIR GOLDBERG: Thank you very much, Legislator Koslow and the entire Nassau County Legislature. I'm deeply honored for this tremendous recognition.

The Parte Guelfa, the Organization that knighted me in Europe with 26 other extraordinary people, are committed to sustainable development and to making a difference in the lives of others so we leave this world a better place for those who come behind us. It is a charge that I give to my students every day, right here in Nassau County, and is a charge that I have to honor all of my colleagues in Bellmore Merrick Central High School

NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024 District, who also challenged their students to that cause. I want to thank you all very much, and I want you to know that I am deeply honored. Thank you very much (applause). *****

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: What we have now is a period of public comment. The period of public comment will last one hour. Exactly one hour. Please note, everyone, that comments are limited to three minutes. If you try to go over the three minutes, just know that you're eating into other people's time. there are any slips that are left over following the expiration of that hour, you will be heard after we finish the regularly scheduled business of the Legislature.

Also know that the public comment period is not one for questions and answers. We are here to listen to your concerns. We will hear your concerns. And if you wish to actually discuss this with your legislator, by all means contact her or him in their office and I'm sure everyone will be very happy to talk with you.

> Let's start now with Jason Bass. MR. BASS: Good afternoon, Nassau

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Legislature. My name is Jason Bass and I'm currently a resident of 99 Randall, a co-op located in Freeport, New York.

I'm present today to bring your awareness to structural damage throughout the property and the loss of heat during the past couple of months. My grievance is when I, or residents reach out to our local government, located in Freeport or even Nassau County, we are told no one can take in our complaint. In turn, this makes it difficult on residents, unlike residents in New York City, to seek a resolution. Fortunately for me, my legislator at the time, Debra Mule, did provide assistance. I would like to extend my gratitude at this time in front of her colleagues. It took a heroic effort for that resolution, or to start the process for that resolution of getting our building inspected, which still has scaffolding erected.

Nevertheless, I believe a resident should not have to call their legislator.

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They should be able to reach out to their municipality, Department of Buildings, and place of complaint and prompt an investigation by inspectors like New York City has.

I encourage reforms in which residents can place complaints to their local Department of Buildings. Buildings must submit an engineering report every decade with their local municipality. Repairs have to be timely rather than at the board's discretion. These reforms have taken place in Florida due to the collapse that was evident in their condominiums. There has been a lot of reforms there and other places.

I want to thank you for your time. If you have any questions, let me know. Again, my name is Jason Bass, and I'm a resident at 99 Randall located in Freeport, New York.

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Richard Ginsburg.

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MR. GINSBURG: Good afternoon. I am Professor Richard Ginsburg, the current chair of the Theater and Dance Department at Nassau Community College, in its 60th year in helping students find their dreams.

Years ago, I took my son to Philadelphia Constitutional Hall, and I said, look at these eyeglasses that are sitting on the table there. And I pointed to the green table in front of Hamilton's table. And I said, Max, that was your great, great, great grandfather's eyeglasses when he signed the Declaration of Independence. I was incredibly impressed; he was not. He was six.

I further thought about Roger Sherman and Benjamin Franklin. And Franklin said in 1776, we would either hang together or we will hang separately. And I have a fear of reprisal here, but I need to speak in state some truths. Nassau Community College is the gem of the county and the state educational

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system, or so it had been. I started teaching in 1984. That's 40 years ago. And another lesson about math is that a cup of coffee in 2008 was \$2.44. Today on campus, it's \$5.95. So even if you use the new math, that's doubled. And the college budget from the County for our students education has increased since 2008. It seems that my son and daughter's education, both who attended Nassau Community College, should at least be the balanced with the increased metric of the cost of a cup of coffee. We can only polish this gem of Nassau if we pay for

There is now a misguided process at the table at Nassau Community College to combine 29 departments into six. We will lose accreditation, our future students and over 100 disciplines without true oversight. We need these working programs in Nassau. No school in the entire New York State system has only six departments, not one. The Administration

the Polish.

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has told us it's not a cost savings measure. Then why do it? Please stop this madness. Can only eight of you do the job that you're representing? How about four who should be voted off the office? Who should be voted off the island?

One of our current students, Jessica Nunez, was just featured in Newsday last month. And she is the Northeast award winning performer in the music theater and now headed to Washington for the Kennedy Center Scholarship Competition. This past December, alumnus Billy Crystal was awarded the Kennedy Center Honor for the Performing Arts. She is our gem. She is your gem. Thousands of professionals have learned their first skills at Nassau Community College. I am being forced to step down from chair as are 24 other chairs (buzzer).

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Please conclude.

MR. GINSBURG: With no financial gain for the college and a death to all

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of our students future education. Please polish the gem. Because if we do not hang together, we will hang separately. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Keshner.

MS. KESHNER: Good afternoon. My name is Cheryl Keshner. I am a Nassau County resident. A community advocate who has worked for years defending Long Island's underserved communities. And I work as a senior paralegal and community advocate with the Empire Justice Center specializing in public benefits issues. I also coordinate the Long Island Language Advocates Coalition, which works to protect the rights of our limited English proficient community members.

Recently, I received a mailer from County Executive Blakeman which contained inflammatory and hateful rhetoric about immigrants. The flyer stated, "so long as I am your county executive, Nassau will never become a sanctuary county or spend

our tax dollars on services for

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non-citizens". He further insinuated that any expenditure spent on immigrants who erroneously claimed were all entering the country illegally, would steal money from our local schools and other essential services. Incredibly, this came right on the heels of his executive order targeting the transgender community. The county executive seems more intent on sowing division for his own political gain than on uniting our county and learning the facts. Long Island is made up of a diversity of immigrants of varying statuses who contribute significantly to our economy and our culture. Many immigrants are not yet citizens due to a complex and backlogged immigration system. Some are legal permanent residents. Others are dreamers who came here as young children. Some are

recipients of humanitarian parole due to

crises in their home countries, and still

others may be in the process of adjusting

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their status as victims of domestic violence or human trafficking. And let's not forget that many immigrant workers, both undocumented and undocumented, kept us alive by manufacturing and harvesting food, delivering essential goods, and caring for our poor and infirm residents during the Covid pandemic.

The County has a legal obligation to serve all people equally without discriminating against them, to ensure that all children are provided with an education, regardless of status, that all people can receive assistance from the Police, the Fire Department, the Department of Health and from the Department of Social Services in a crisis. This divisive rhetoric will only further drive our marginalized communities into the shadows and destabilize them.

We have seen where anti-immigrant rhetoric by county officials has led in the past, where in Suffolk County,

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xenophobic comments made by a former county executive contributed to the death of Marcelo Lucero and Ecuadorian immigrant, and to several several attacks on immigrant day laborers. This led to an investigation by the US Department of Justice, revealing a pattern of bias by the county police department and resulting in years of costly litigation.

It is hypocritical that Nassau County recently launched a campaign calling on people to report hate crimes, when in fact the County Executive is inciting hate and driving a wedge between county agencies and the people they are supposed to serve.

The County Legislature needs to take a stand in support of all our community members and prohibit the use of our tax dollars on hateful county propaganda. We stand united against these attacks and ask that you join us in standing up against hate and making sure that all of our community members feel welcome and

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protected. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: David Stern.

DR. STERN: My name is Dr. David Stern. I'm a full professor teaching physical sciences at Nassau Community College. I'm also the classroom vice president for the NCC Federation of Teachers, the union representing the full time faculty.

We ask the County Legislature to investigate the dire situation at NCC, which seriously jeopardizes the college's accreditation. Acting College leader Maria Conzatti and Jerry Kornbluth have been misleading you regarding the state of the college. You don't need to take our word for it, but we ask you to examine the information and data independently.

Last June, I spoke to the Legislature and informed you that the college did not have a current strategic plan as required by our middle state's

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accreditation. Acting College leader

Maria Conzatti followed my statement by

making the knowingly misleading statement

that the College, in fact, had a plan and

will provide it to the Legislature. That

plan was never supplied because it was

not approved by our BOT until just last

month. And this approved plan is very

incomplete. It's missing perhaps the most

important section that should be in a

strategic plan of a higher education

institution, and that's providing key

performance indicators and how they will

be assessed. The plan also includes a

diversity sub plan that several years out

of date. In fact, it has affirmative

action vice president that left the

college over two years ago.

Amazingly, missing from the strategic plan that was approved last month, acting college leader Maria Conzatti's major plan to dismantle the

college by eliminating 24 of the 30

academic departments with only six mega

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departments to manage over 80 degrees and certificates.

Just to note, the smallest community college in New York state, Canton, which has less than a thousand students --Nassau Community College has over 11,000 students -- has more than ten departments, and those departments include separate nursing departments, science, math, English, etc.. Her plan is to have six mega departments that have no direction.

The strategic plan highlights: highlight of it is Guided Pathways as the major goal of the plan. Guided pathways is supposed to give more direct direction to our students to succeed. By lumping all these departments into six mega departments, it's antithetical to this goal. The plan will result in a loss of accreditation for degrees that require that the department chair have expertise in that area.

Such loss of accreditation is going

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to include nursing, mortuary science, many of the allied health areas.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Please conclude.

DR. STERN: These careers are in high demand in Nassau County. As you already heard, these mergers into six giant departments will not save the college money. And Maria has said that to the faculty several times. We know that each one of you have expressed support for Nassau Community College, and we appreciate that.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Sir, you are taking time from other people.

DR. STERN: I'm just letting you know, we need your action to investigate what's going on at the community college. We trust you share a belief that a great county deserves a great community college, and we put our faith in your desire to do that. Thank you (applause).

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Leonard Caltabiano.

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MR. CALTABIANO: Good afternoon.

My name is Lenny Caltabiano. I am the chief executive officer of Kids Therapy Services. I am also a licensed psychologist and a certified school psychologist in New York State.

I'm here again today to follow up on the urgent matter regarding the need for increased rates for preschoolers with disability, increased rates for those providers that service those children.

I want to first thank all the legislators that have reached out and have shown genuine support for this initiative for increased rates. Just to remind you, it's been over 25 years since these providers have had increased rates.

Today, I come to you with a petition which which was started about a month ago and today has nearly 2500 signatures. I have included a copy of this petition, which I will submit, which was conducted through Change.org. I suggest you go to the Change.org website. I included the

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the QR code here as well, and you can see also see the comments. The petition is presented in the order in the dates in which people have signed the petition. Please note that these signatures include parents, providers, school district personnel and other concerned residents.

It should be further noted that it is not just residents from Nassau County that signed the petition. There are a few reasons for this: One, providers, for example, often come from other counties, namely Suffolk County, to provide services to Nassau County children and vice versa. To this extent, we will also be presenting this petition to the Suffolk County Legislature as well.

It is critical that we continue to push to increase these rates for the providers. We are now fast approaching April 2024. The clock is certainly ticking, and with each passing month, the ability to operate a preschool, therapeutic and educational service

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program is becoming more bleak. It cannot be emphasized enough that the increase has to be impactful. It has to be impactful enough for the providers to return to this field and to remain in this field. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: James B. Jacobs.

MR. J. JACOBS: Good morning, Presiding Officer Kopel.

I appreciate you calling me, sir. I saw two articles in Newsday about the deputy sheriff application. And my question of inquiry and curiosity is that would the County Legislature have accountability over the deputy sheriff militia that County Executive Blakeman wants to form? And my second question is that if he does deploy them, would there be checks and balance by the County Legislature to make sure that the particular deputy sheriff -- I call them militia, because they want these people be armed -- that there'd be a checks and

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balances for them not to be abusive to when they're serving or protecting the

public when an emergency happens. I just

need point of clarification. And I know

it's not answer point, but as a concerned

shareholder and a community resident in

Uniondale, I just want to make sure.

Because I'm a big fan of the Nassau

Police Department, I think they're

excellent in the First Precinct. But when

you have another layer of deputy

sheriffs, they may not be totally trained

out there with no firearms, I just make

sure that my community is being protected

by qualified people. It was in Newsday

Sunday, the application. And I'm not sure

which day, on Thursday, they had the

information about deputy sheriffs being

appointed under control of County

Executive Blakeman. So I just need that

particular information from one point of

clarification. So thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Mr.

Jacobs, I would encourage you to contact

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- you've got an excellent legislator --

MR. J. JACOBS: She is too, but she's one person. And your collective body my understanding --

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: But this is not a Q&A, so I would encourage you to contact her office. And I am confident that you'll get the information you need.

MR. J. JACOBS: But all I'm asking, as the County Legislative Body that you're also supposed to be the checks and balance with the County Executive. That's my understanding that when the County Executive does something, he has to run things by you collectively as a group. You say I can speak, my piece. This is me, just sharing my thoughts.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Yes.

MR. J. JACOBS: Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right. Thank you.

Jeannine Maynard.

MS. MAYNARD: Good afternoon. I'm Jeannine Maynard. I co-facilitate the

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Greater Uniondale Area Action Coalition, and I'm also vice president with The Land Trust. I have three points to make.

First, I'm here to remind our request that it's Uniondale, not EGC, Title 90 legislation moved to the Legislative Calendar.

And as a new point of fact, it is not new. But it is something that I'm asking for you to pay attention to. Is that on the Nassau County website, the Clerk of the Legislature's page, on the home page of the Nassau County Clerk, the maps are incorrect. The Legislative district map is offensive and out of date with information. And the Legislative District Two map is wrong and offensive as a proposed district. They are both dated February 26th, 2013. I'm asking for the County to correct these points of reference in its website, and bring the County Clerk up to date. Thank you. It's another reason why we need this legislation.

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The second thing I want to mention

is that I've been really deeply upset

going through Eisenhower Park with the

temporary stadium impact. I've seen a lot

of smoke belching in the area, and the

scale and scope of the build is totally

different from what any resident that I

have spoken with expected. I'm asking

for a moratorium on new structure

building in the park until we can really

come to terms about public notice on the

intent and scope of such things. And

also, we need a full environmental review

process for the stages of impact, because

this is a stage of build that's going to

look different than the end stage. And

the kinds of degradation to our park is

just horrible. It's really frightening.

We also want to remove the eco

incentives from the notices about

buildings and placing buildings in the

park, because they seem to promote a

particular politician rather than the

well-being of entire Nassau County.

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That's not the intention of our parks. And if our parks are overbuilt, that's a deep loss.

The last is to thank the Legislature. It made a notice public notice for its award to the Uniondale Community Land Trust through their home funds. And we are in process of doing a sustainable, affordable build at 478 Uniondale Avenue. We appreciate that support and we'll continue to do good work because of it. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Joan Buckley.

MS. BUCKLEY: Hello. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I hadn't planned on speaking, so I'm sure I'm going to be under the three minutes.

My name is Joan Buckley. I'm one of the faculty at Nassau Community College. I'm presently chairperson of the Department of Nursing. I started my career at Nassau in 1971 as a student. I've attended East Meadow High schools.

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I'm definitely born and bred in Nassau County, so I do owe all of you for many of the things that I give my thanks for.

My concern as chair and an alumni of the Nassau Program nursing is that monetary issues are starting to really show a change that's really not going to be reversible if it's not really awarded some kind of attention now.

I started teaching at Nassau 2008. There were 32 full time faculty for nursing. I'm chair now, and we are fortunate if we have 12 healthy faculty because things happen for 12 courses. This year alone, we limited our adjuncts and reduced it by 44 positions. We realized there's budgets and believe me, in healthcare, money is always an issue. Taking care of every patient, you want to make sure that they're getting what they deserve for what they can afford, and what the hospital can afford to give them. But this is becoming really serious, and my concern is I get closer

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to retirement is that the program won't be able to sustain itself. And any of you that have been in any of our hospital systems in Nassau County know that if you have a Nassau nurse, you have a dedicated professional.

So that's all I wanted to say. And thank you for giving me this opportunity.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Larry Johnston.

MR. JOHNSTON: Good afternoon. My name is Larry Johnston, and I'm one of the owners of New York Therapy Placement Services. NYTPS has been servicing special needs children on Long Island since 1996 in Nassau County. We have been before you in the past to articulate our concerns regarding the fact that reimbursement rates for preschool services have not been adjusted in almost three decades. I'm not here to go over everything exactly, but to re-engage you.

Outside of a few legislators present today, many before you have not shown any

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interest in this topic. E-mails that we have sent directly to you have been ignored. No doubt you receive numerous e-mails every day, but as a vendor who has done business with the County for almost three decades faithfully and is attempting to articulate to each of you the seriousness of this topic, then to be ignored as eye opening. My goal this week is to once again attempt to make contact with your offices to try and schedule a meeting.

Legislator Walker, we certainly are willing to meet with you and your health committee to discuss this issue.

Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, we would welcome discussing our concerns with you and would love to see this be one of your caucus's agenda items.

And finally, Presiding Officer Kopel, we realize that this issue will get no traction without some supportive input from you.

As you can see, I want to engage

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each of you regardless of your political affiliation, as I strongly believe that this is a bipartisan issue. These children have no political affiliation. Their only concern through their parents is to be given the same opportunities that children who don't have special needs have, but the opportunities can only happen with additional services given to them. This is not only a moral and ethical issue, but a legally mandated issue on your part.

Parents are more engaged than ever in the outcomes of their children with a special needs or not. Keeping these rates purposely and artificially low for almost 30 years unnecessarily puts Nassau County at a dangerous level of legal exposure. Each of you has a fiduciary responsibility to make sure that the county's cost structures are implemented in a manner that limits that exposure.

In a recent Newsday article that brought forth this issue, the County

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Executive's Office mentioned that this should be a state issue and implied cost shifting. While that is certainly up for debate, until that happens, Nassau County is solely responsible for the administering of this program.

The same issue is also being brought simultaneously to Suffolk County Legislative Body and the County Executive's Office. There, though, we have had significant direct interaction, unlike here. Even with their reimbursement rate, 12% higher than Nassau, they have recognized the difficulties of providing services with antiquated rates.

In conclusion, the Nassau County Legislature has a similar history to the preschool program. For 20 years, the Legislature never received a raise. In 2015, it recognized that this low salary, coupled with tremendous responsibilities, limited number of people who would be willing to serve in this capacity. That

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year, this Body voted themselves a significant raise along with future yearly increases based on a CPI. If the Legislature is to be consistent in their thought process, then it should follow the same pattern for preschool reimbursement rates as it did their

Thank you very much.

salaries.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: David Tellerman.

MR. TELLERMAN: Hello, my name is David Tellerman. I am the director at New York Therapy. We've been to the Legislature meeting two times in the past few months to inform you of the crisis that preschool special education is in. In attendance at these meetings where agencies, providers, parents and school districts.

As a reminder, special needs preschool children receive services of speech, occupational and physical therapy.

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A recent survey of school districts found that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of children not receiving their services. The number one reason for this is that Nassau County reimbursement rates are the lowest of the 62 counties in the state. Providers are not willing to work for these rates that have not changed in 27 years. Yes, you heard that

correctly 27 years.

Since that time we attended the Legislature meeting, we have been fortunate enough to be able to meet and speak with several concerned legislators that fully understand the crisis and ultimately want to help right this wrong. Thank you to all that we met with. Children need to receive the legally mandated special education services.

This past February 11th news, they had a full page article that spoke to the crisis at preschool special education is facing in Nassau County. Some highlighted quotes from this article are:

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- "The ability to provide legally mandated therapies to young children with developmental delays in Nassau County has hit a financial crisis mode".

- "Providers of preschool related services say Nassau rates are amongst the lowest in the state and are calling on county lawmakers to increase funding through Nassau Health Department".
- "It's almost impossible to hire therapists, said Susan Lubrano. To watch children not get the services is really sad".
- Here's a quote from an editorial follow up that Newsday did. "The County has failed to provide the necessary tools and funds to help prepare our children, and the County Health Department is in dire need of funds to rectify the situation".

Unfortunately, we are facing the same crisis in Suffolk County. We have met with the Deputy County Executive and they fully recognize the significant

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problem. They continue to follow up with us on the progress of getting this rate changed.

As I mentioned, we've been here two times previously, met with several legislators, one on one, and have yet to have received the meeting that we had requested. We request a meeting with County Executive Bruce Blakeman in order to make an immediate change in the reimbursement rates.

Please help these preschoolers with disabilities receive their legally mandated services. And I have a copy for each of you of the Newsday article, and I'll give that to you now (handing).

Thank you everybody.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Please hand it to the Clerk.

Sister Janet Kinney.

SISTER KINNEY: Good afternoon, members of the County Legislature. My name is Sister Janet Kinney. I'm a member of the Sisters of Saint Joseph,

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and I am the director of the Long Island Immigration Clinic.

I am also speaking here today because of my great concern regarding the recent public statements from the Nassau County Executive and other members of his office in speeches, news releases, and in mailings regarding persons who are immigrants, and most specifically comments about those seeking asylum in our country. These statements are inaccurate as well as divisive in their rhetoric. And merely perpetuate the negative stereotypes about the members of our immigrant communities here on Long Island.

I have seen firsthand the conditions that these individuals and families have been fleeing from. I have heard their stories when they come to the clinic seeking help with their asylum applications. These persons are not criminals, yet they are frightened and very fearful, coming long distances with

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little more than the clothes on their backs and very few possessions fleeing horrific, horrific situations of persecution and violence. They would not be making these long treks for weeks and months on feet, if the conditions in their home countries were different.

I keep hearing the phrase, "they are not legal or illegal", and these are not correct terms. Once they demonstrate to officials at the border a credible fear of peril preventing them from returning to their countries, they have a legal right protected in U.S. Immigration Law to make their case for asylum before an immigration judge.

It has been stated again and again that we are not a sanctuary county here. And point of fact, the number of persons seeking asylum and coming to this county is not significantly higher than years past. Buses are not coming in droves from New York City over populating our schools.

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Point of fact, these individuals are not using public benefits because they are not entitled to receive them. They want to work care for themselves and their families. They're the backbone of so many of our industries here, filling jobs others don't want. And most of these people are not necessarily undocumented. They are, in fact, paying taxes and

contributing to our economy.

So first, let's get our facts straight. But secondly, most importantly, let's sit down together to find solutions and not perpetuate soundbites that fuel discord and animosity about people that you do not have the full knowledge of their situations. We are a nation of immigrants, called to treat everyone with dignity and respect. We would truly welcome a conversation with you further about this.

Thank you for your time and attention.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Gianela

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Liendo Fuentes.

MS. FUENTES: Hello. Good afternoon, Nassau County Legislature. My name is Gianela Liendo Fuentes. I'm a licensed social worker in the state of New York, and I also work as a social worker at CARECEN (Central American Refugee Center). I appreciate the time to speak in front of you.

With Sister Janet's comments, I also am here in representation of the population that we serve here on Long Island.

I grew up on Long Island, and as much as you are here in this room, I identify myself as an immigrant, not from this country originally. And I came here as a child and faced a lot of the same barriers and systemic imbalances and inequalities that exist on Long Island.

I went to Brentwood High School, graduated along with a lot of fellow peers who today are doctors, lawyers, great contributing members of society and

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some who are not. That's just the way life is, right.

Also, I graduated from Stony Brook University, a very diverse college. And not to get into tokenization because my story is not unique, but I do want to share that with you, because County Executive Blackman's comments have been very hurtful and perpetuate a stereotype that in the media has been used to demonize and provide a lot of hateful rhetoric towards immigrants, towards migrants, towards people, human beings who come here for the same opportunities that I have been granted, that I have been given.

America is very well known for opportunities, and arguably that is what I have received here, but not without having to defend who I am and the people that I serve, the people that we serve, here on Long Island, specifically.

I want to believe that Executive Blakeman recognizes his own ancestry and

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knows that immigrants are very vital to this society, to the world, to America.

So I don't have too much prepared, but I did want to put this on on record and have a paper trail that we are here and I, myself, an immigrant, am ready and willing to serve everybody who comes here.

I'd like to appreciate your time again. And thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Melanie Creps.

MS. CREPS: Good afternoon, Legislators. I know it's been a long meeting. I think we're all getting a little bit tired. If you have to stand, it's fine. But I'm just going to count you as a cheerleader with my squad. So go ahead and stand up and I'll be good with it.

I'd like to start with a question for each of you. Please think of an immigrant that, you know, maybe it's a friend, a colleague, a neighbor. Maybe

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it's someone in this room. I want you to think of that immigrant, and I want you to consider the mailer that Mr. Blakeman sent out and how that person that you know felt when they received that, what they thought and what they felt in that moment.

The reality is that the anti-immigrant language in that mailer attacks not only non-citizens, but every citizen on Long Island. This hateful language falsely vilifies those who are coming to our region, desperate and looking for hope and looking for opportunity.

We've seen time and time again that this type of anti-immigrant rhetoric, like Executive Blakeman, stirs up xenophobia in our communities. And because of that hateful language, it can make your neighbor, your friend, your colleague fear for themselves. If a person's feeling stressed already about personal finances, about the economy at

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large, about taxes, and they receive that mailer, they now have words that will cause them, perhaps to fall victim to the false narrative that immigrants are a reason for their fears. They may begin to despise someone who looks different or sounds different than they are, because they're looking for someone to blame for their fears and their hardships.

And while that mailer tried to express a desire to protect the economy, tried to protect our tax dollars, in reality it's blatantly misinformed. Immigrants are key to keeping our economy strong. They provide a statistically higher economic output than the US born in this region. They also are providing key staffing to industries across our region that are grossly understaffed.

In short, if the half million immigrants across Long Island were to leave, our economy would crumble. If you're concerned about your tax dollars being used, I encourage you to inform

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yourself and recognize the economic value that immigrants are bringing to this region, and don't believe the lie that they're draining our tax dollars, when in fact they're doing the opposite.

And if you're here truly because you care about our community, then please take time to consider those immigrant friends, neighbors, colleagues who received that mailer and stand with us against that hateful rhetoric.

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Suzanne Kaebnick.

MS. KAEBNICK: My name is Suzanne Kaebnick. I'm the NCC FT secretary and a professor in the English Department. I'm going to focus right now on the losses in academic programming and student support that particularly the English Department has suffered, and programs that have been merged into it.

For example, Nassau Community College used to have a Reading and

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Developmental Education Department. It was merged into English. It no longer

has any support for coordinating its

classes.

There used to be a Language

Immersion Program at Nassau Community

College. This served all of Nassau

County. It closed its classes at the end

of the 2023 semester. And on top of that,

coordination of the ESL writing programs

was cut this spring, and there is no

support for ESL in terms of speaking and

reading now, this semester.

We've seen cuts in support for our,

AA degree in English, our AA Creative

Writing degree, and for Coordinating

Learning Communities and Gateway

Pairings, which is a signature part of

the Administration's strategic plan and

which are supposed to sort of fill in for

the lack of the developmental education.

We've suffered the cuts for the

coordination of our English/Writing

Program and Placement. That coordinator

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is in charge of all the placement for both developmental and composition courses and first year composition.

We lost support for assessment of our courses. There's no release time for coordinating multidisciplinary programs include women's history, women's studies. We were we were not able to have a Women's History Month at Nassau Community College this year.

There is no support for coordinating the Honors Program in terms of release time. The Nassau Review and International journal that provided an opportunity for applied learning for our students, is now closed. We had to quit that because there was no administrative support for it.

We lost administrative support for the Long Island Writers Project. believe that has ended. There's nobody working on it now at the college.

At the same time as all these losses, the college has spent millions of dollars on athletic programming, hundreds

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of thousands of dollars on outside counsel, and decided to spend a multi million dollars SUNY grant for a non-existent HVAC program that's not begun yet.

Proposed mergers include moving philosophy and communications into English (buzzer).

I'll wrap up. Some of you have attended NCC or have family members who have attended. Now more than ever, this generation of students that have suffered from the pandemic need NCC and I hope that you will do all you can to keep NCC as a low cost public higher education option in Nassau County for the future.

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Gottehrer.

MS. GOTTEHRER: Good afternoon. My name is Susan Gottehrer. I am the director of the Nassau County New York Civil Liberties Union. I'm here today to discuss county Executive Blackman's

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recent comments demonizing and ostracizing noncitizens in Nassau County. I'm directing comments to the Legislature to remind you that you are not an extension of the Executive Branch. We still have separation of powers in Nassau County and that in addition to laws, Nassau County must follow, you and the Executive Branch of becoming the face of an unwelcoming, hostile place to live.

If you haven't noticed, Bruce Blakeman is on a media tour and it seems he is running for vice president. He is using several vulnerable communities, such as immigrant communities, as his personal punching bag and political launching pad. And you should make it clear to him that you will not tolerate making anyone feel unwelcome in this county, or be dehumanized and demonized because it might get him onto New York City TV shows.

And there are laws about children being able to attend school, and about

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sick people being able to get medical care. And I really have to wonder how much Mr. Blakeman really does care about protecting Nassau County wallets, as he says he does, from the way he spends his time.

I sat here this afternoon listening to preschool budget problems, Nassau Community College, and we know we have 1000 other budget problems in this county. It is virtually impossible for someone to pay rent in Nassau County if they have a single income. Maybe he would like to spend his time on those kinds of issues, instead of chasing ghost issues that really have not been a problem here.

What I do know is that our budget numbers in Nassau County reflect our values. The amount of money we spend on the criminal justice system is exorbitant, but the amount of money we spend to make sure that people have jobs, housing, and opportunity, all the things that keep people out of the criminal

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justice system, is minimal. So if Bruce Blakeman was really outraged by our poor wallets, maybe he'd like to spend more time in helping us all survive and thrive than in pointing his finger at vulnerable communities and tell us that they are the problem. They are why we are struggling. They must be erased and prohibited. Very clever, Mr. Blakeman. Don't look at me, he says. Look at these people, for they are to blame for your problems in life. They are to blame. This is cynical and cruel politics. And I'm looking to the Nassau County Legislature to make sure that Nassau County is a welcoming place.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Ariel Silberman.

Thank you.

MS. SILBERMAN: Good afternoon. My name is Ariel, and I'm a student at Nassau Community College. It was a pleasure to recently run into an alumni of NCC from one of the first graduating classes. Speaking to her, it became

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evident that we shared a unique bond, one which quietly exists among a considerable portion of the county. We stand as a living testament to the greatness that this college sparks in its students.

I know what the statistics are for neurodivergent students both starting and completing college education. I also know that the wonderful individuals behind me and back at the college helped me beat those odds. One of my professors once said, if you can't bet on yourself, who else is going to? It is precisely that belief in myself that brings me here to you today, in hopes that you understand what a predicament we are in.

A policy was put in place this semester that is wreaking havoc at NCC. This ill advised policy states that the class will not run without 22 students or more. This led to a widespread cancellation of many classes, including two of mine. This endangers students graduating on time, and limits the

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diversity of classes offered to both enrich the student experience and fulfill degree requirements.

As an honor student, one of the benefits of smaller class sizes, which helps retention. Now the honors program is in jeopardy because of this rule put into place as a cost cutting measure. This hurts students with sudden cancellations and a lack of courses to both instruct and nurture flourishing minds. This did not have to occur, as our Chief Acting Officer Conzatti has been before you twice now and is not asked for proper funding for us. As a first gen college student who got their start at Nassau, she should know better than most how important it is we are financially supported.

Another program that will struggle as a result of this policy is the Achilles Program for twice exceptional students, of which I am the proud president. Achilles students are high

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potential gifted students with learning disabilities and as such, flourish under

particular instruction. Our Achilles

trained professors are excellent at this,

but the 22 student minimum rule puts this

in danger. How can our advisors put us in

the proper classes if they're constantly

under threat of being canceled? How will

we make it to graduation if we can't get

the classes we need? This is not equal

education that is devoted to education

for every student. This is a cynical and

calculated bid to destroy the college for

profitable gain.

community colleges are the great equalizers of education. Students who are not afforded much opportunity elsewhere go through its doors to have a chance. I took a chance on Nassau and its instructors took a chance on me. I am living proof that late bloomers still bloom, just in their own time. Nassau is my heart. It is my home. Please do not be

silent witnesses to its destruction. And

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please don't listen to the Admin who are filling you with lies. Listen to the students. That is where your loyalty should be.

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Faren Siminoff.

DR. SIMINOFF: Good late afternoon. I am Dr. Faren Siminoff. I am first and foremost an educator. And secondly, I am proud to be the president of the NCC FT. I represent not only the full time instructional faculty, but our counselors, our advisors, our librarians, our technologists, our technical assistance who work in English, math and science labs and our dedicated professional faculty in the Bursar's, the Registrar's and other offices that serve the college and our students. We are the college's human infrastructure. We are the first line of contact of services that our students, your students, the students of this county receive.

As some of you may know by now, the full time faculty has overwhelmingly passed a vote of no confidence against the Board of Trustees, against CAO Maria Conzatti and its senior administration.

It's not a vote that we took lightly, but we took it because as dedicated as we are to this college, its mission, its students and this county, we need to get

the message out that the College is in

trouble, and we can't wait until the

College's mission simply collapses.

I'm not going to repeat a lot of the things now that our students and our faculty have said, but I want you to know that this county needs this college. We serve the County. We help grow your demographics. And we all know the county has a demographic problem. Your population is really pretty flat. Our students stay, they stay, they live in the county. And they are your future nurses, your future teachers, your future accountants, your future detectives, and

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a whole range of professionals that this county needs. The College is not being well served by its current administration or its Board of trustees. We ask you that you meet with us, you listen to what we have to say. We don't just give opinions, we back it up with data. We back it up with facts. Please, for the sake of our students and our students who need us even more.

As we all know, the pandemic has been very, very hard on students and we have an entire generation of students that need a place like Nassau Community College, where they find dedicated faculty to serve them and to guide them into a prosperous future. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Pearl Jacobs.

MS. JACOBS: Good afternoon. Pearl Jacobs, president of the Nostrand Garden Civic Association in Uniondale.

My shirt today says, "Minority Communities Don't Matter", and I don't

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take that lightly. I don't wear my shirts lightly.

I want to first thank you, Legislator Bynoe, for overseeing the Jerusalem Avenue road repairs. It's concerning that we had to engage our Nassau County legislator just to have our roads repaired correctly, and other Nassau County communities, road repairs are done professionally the first time. This is the second time that we had to engage our legislators to have them go over work that should have been done correctly the first time.

I have here Anthony D'Esposito selected funding: Baldwin, \$1.2 million; Long beach, \$2.5 million; Freeport, \$330,000; Town of Hempstead, over \$2 million; Oceanside, \$750,000; Rockville Centre, \$241,000; Island Park, \$600,000; Lynbrook \$406,000; and the Five Towns \$3.6 million; Uniondale, nothing; Roosevelt, nothing; Lakeview, nothing. This is racial injustice. I'm going to

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call it what it is: Racial injustice.

Like I said, I do not wear my t-shirts,

lightly. I mean, what I say and I say

what I mean. This is racial injustice. He

is there to represent all constituents of

District 4; yet, he selectively excludes

Uniondale, Roosevelt and Lakeview

Majority/Minority communities.

So I then say if minority communities are not represented, they're not invested in and they're ignored, then we should not be paying taxes. This clearly screams taxation without representation.

When President Obama was running for president, he was maligned. He was criticized. He was called all sorts of unmentionable names. But he said, I don't care what you say. If I'm elected, I don't care who doesn't vote for me, but I will represent every American. And that's what he did. Even though he was disrespected more than any other president from the beginning of the

United States of America. For our communities to be excluded, disenfranchised, disinvested, this is racial injustice. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you,

Meta Mereday. Come up and wrap it up for

us.

MS. MEREDAY: Nice to see other voices being lifted in this chamber.
Unfortunately, too often it falls on deaf ears.

Good afternoon. And in the spirit of Women's History Month, even though I'm still trying to figure out who ordains what month for whom. I do know the history of Black History Month or initially Negro History Month, or African American History Month. But the history that pertains to people of color, particularly African Americans, is not a pretty history.

I stand here again looking for some answers in a county that has a \$4.1 billion budget, but the majority of those

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who pay the taxes are not represented.

There seems to be a fear here. I don't
know what it is of because folks are
spending money like it's water, and our
water quality is one of the worst in the
country. Again, what are we doing here in
2024?

Recently, the FBI reported the most biased in hate crimes: 29% anti-black; 17% religious orientation; 16.8% sexual orientation. We need to do better here in Nassau County. Even though we're touting that we're one of the safest counties in the country, it's not safe for somebody who looks like me for a number of reasons. I have been profiled myself, but as a black woman, if I decide to have a baby, I'm three times more likely to die in infant mortality, along with my child. Something's wrong with that situation.

I sit here in a county where we tout the number of veterans that we have; yet, and still, you designate \$15 million on American Rescue Plan funding: \$1 million

is going to Farmingdale; \$1.7 million is going to PAL. I've been before this Body to try to get funding for the plagued NUMC, which houses our very hard working Veteran Services Agency --

And I like the fact that the presiding officer can sneak a meal, but residents can't bring any food or liquid into the chamber. But it's all good. Do what you gotta do.

-- But our Veteran Services Agency is struggling and something that represents a double wide in either location. But I'm sure our Veterans Day, you're all going to have your little lapel pin on. And now that Covid is over, you can get back to having the parades and the pancake breakfasts, and they continue to suffer, dying at 44 per day, 44 per day. And the VA boasts that 50% of those veterans that are committing suicide have not gotten to the VA. Why is that? Where are they going? They're not getting help, and they sure as heck are

not getting help here in Nassau County.

What is the fear in this county. When you

can't verify your Inspector General who

is doing such a great job? But when a

Democrat got elected, you needed to have

one. When the Republican got elected, all

of a sudden you don't need one and the

money is going out the window (buzzer).

Nassau County spending money like water. You're going to hear it here, 3/25/24, the things you are spending my money on are going to come back to bite you, but unfortunately, it's going to bite us more. And the fight against diversity, equity and inclusion that those on the Majority party think is going to impact me? Trust me. Again, those who are going to be impacted are your wives, your daughters, your girlfriends, your granddaughters. White women are the ones who are going to be impacted the most. Not women of color. You know what? We shall still thrive. We

should still survive, because that's our

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Mr.

Pulitzer, you have an announcement to make?

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you. Sir.

The Locust Valley Cemetery Association has presented an application to take by deed and to set aside for cemetery purposes certain land situations in the Incorporated Village of Lattingtown, Town of Oyster Bay, County of Nassau, State of New York.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Now we're going to consider Resolution 10-24 is the procedure, which is a resolution.

MS. MEREDAY: So so I'm done, right.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Well, you had four minutes. Everyone else had three. Yes. You're done.

MS. MEREDAY: Really? Other people went over three minutes. But it's all good. I can see how this year is going. And it's all right.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Resolution directing the Clerk of the Legislature to

NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024 1 2 publish a notice of hearing on the application by the Locust Valley Cemetery 3 Association, to be held May 20th, 2024. 5 That motion is made by a Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt, seconded by Legislator 6 Siela Bynoe. 8 Any debate and discussion on that? (Whereupon, no verbal 10 response.) 11 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right. 12 All those in favor, please say, "Aye". 13 (Whereupon, all members of 14 the Full Legislature respond in 15 favor with, "Aye".) 16 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any 17 opposed? 18 (Whereupon, no verbal 19 response.) 20 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That item 21 passes unanimously. 22

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Now we

have several appointments to consider.

Calendar 16, Resolution 39-2024, a

resolution confirming the appointment by

the County Executive of Charles G.

McQuair as a judge of the District Court

of the County of Nassau for the Fourth

Judicial District, pursuant to Section

21(D) of Article 6 of the Constitution of

the State of New York.

That motion is made by Alternate

Deputy Presiding Officer Mr. Ferretti,

and it is seconded by Legislator Scott

Davis.

Sir, you'd like to make a statement,

yes.

MR. MCQUAIR: I'm Charles McQuair.

I want to thank the County Executive and

the Legislature for this appointment.

As a city attorney and coming up the

ranks all those years, I'm especially

humbled that I'm getting this

appointment. I want to thank my wife and

my family for supporting me.

1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024
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2	Thank you.
3	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
4	Are there any?
5	MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Hi,
6	Charlie, I want to congratulate you and
7	Ida on becoming judge. I've known you. I
8	think, God, before you were a high school
9	grad, I think. Anyway, congratulations.
10	And you've worked hard. It's a tough
11	job, but I'm sure you'll be up to it.
12	MR. MCQUAIR: Thank you.
13	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Anyone
14	else?
15	(Whereupon, no verbal
16	response.
17	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Hearing
18	none. All those in favor of this item,
19	please say, "Aye".
20	(Whereupon, all members of
21	the Full Legislature respond in
22	favor with, "Aye".)
23	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any
24	opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal

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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024
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2	response.)
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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Calendar 17. Resolution confirming the County Executive's appointment of Robert Hughes to the Nassau County Vocational Education Extension Board.

Motioned by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Giangregorio.

MR. HUGHES: Good afternoon.

I've met quite a few of you before, but for those who don't know me, Bobby Hughes, lifelong Nassau County resident. I am currently in my 45th year as a active member of the East Meadow Volunteer Fire Department, where I served as Chief of Department from 1997 to 1998. I am very recently retired as the chief instructor of the Nassau County Fire Service Academy and I also served on the Nassau County Fire Commission from 2014 to 2020.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank the County Executive and all of the members of the Legislature for this opportunity.

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Thank you.

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Bobby, there's probably no one better qualified for this position. So I want to congratulate you for your retirement. We're not letting you get away that easy.

Again, thank you for your service.

And thank you for the service you're
going to continue to give to the people
of the County.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right.

Anyone else? Yes.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Tom said it best, but I just want to congratulate you, too. Certainly enjoy your retirement, although we're keeping you very, very busy.

For everyone, Bobby's also very involved and leads our Fire Department Pipers with the County. So thank you for that, too, and all you do. I could tell you on Saint Patrick's Day, I don't think

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their day ended till late at night because they tried to cover every place that they were invited to, and they were invited to many. So I thank you for that. You were at many, many different places throughout the county and you made it work, and you always looked happy and smiling. And I thank you for that. And congratulations.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.

All those in favor of this

appointment, please say, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members of

the Full Legislature respond in

favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any

opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal

response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That item

is unanimous.

Congratulations.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We're going to skip over to Ordinance 11-2024, which is supplemental to the annual appropriation in connection with the Health Department.

That motion is made by Mr. Drucker, seconded by Ms. Goetz.

MS. DESIMONE: Hi. Good afternoon. Health Department, Ann DeSimone.

Item 46-24 is a Supplemental

Appropriation in the amount of \$302,000

for the Immunization Action Plan. This is

year two of a five year grant funded

through the New York State Department of

Health. This grant promotes the

importance of immunization for all ages

and staff work with healthcare providers

to improve immunization coverage rates.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any questions? Any debate?

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Thanks, Howard.

Hi. I guess basically because of the recent news with the possible outbreak,

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or at least one case of the measles, we were just wondering if the \$302,000, is any of that specifically allocated towards either education or any other kind of compliance?

MS. DESIMONE: Yes, it certainly is. We do education for the healthcare providers as well as the families. We go in and do audits, we check vaccination records of pediatricians and adult providers for immunizations. It's a very large education piece with the providers.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: you do a campaign for that?

MS. DESIMONE: We do 36 visits a year with different healthcare providers. After the audit of the records, we do a very large education piece with the providers to make sure they get their patients in on time and vaccinated.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: All right. I guess you're keeping a close eye. And so far there's only one case from what I understand. I was just

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reading a little bit about how one case can, you know, can trigger 12 to 18 cases very easily.

MS. DESIMONE: Yes. It's a very easily transmitted disease. And we're watching it very closely.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: All right. We just wanted to put that on the record. I appreciate it.

MS. DESIMONE: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: It relates to this in some ways. We had many people here talking about many people coming into this country that we're really not documenting. How can we address that as a Health Department? Because many of them are coming from countries that have no vaccinations whatsoever. I'm sure it's very difficult for you to have any kind of keeping track of that at all.

MS. DESIMONE: It's very difficult. The best thing that can happen is when they go into school, they need a vaccine record. They need to have vaccines;

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otherwise, they should not be in school. That's the New York State requirement that children need to be vaccinated when they're in school. So we do pick them up that way. When the parents register them or their guardians register them for school, we make sure they're immunized.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: And is there a certain timeframe or can they absolutely not enter school without those vaccinations?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: They have to be in processes. There's a couple of different rules. It's a little tricky to to go over all of them. But if they're not attempting to get appointments for vaccines, they need to be excluded in school. They can't be in school.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Okay. Thank you and good luck.

MS. DESIMONE: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Thank you, Rose.

It is a good point really, but kind of a little late. If you are waiting for them

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to come to school and if we are worrying about this disease, I think something has to be a little bit early before the coming to school. If we want to prevent anything, is that the way?

MS. DESIMONE: If they're born here in the United States, we get them very early. Even if the moms come from other countries, we get the kids vaccinated very quickly. But if we don't know about them, that's the problem. We don't know about some of them until they register for school.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay then.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: And that goes

for all our private schools also?

MS. DESIMONE: They all have to follow the New York State rule to be vaccinated to be in school.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Okay. Thank you.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Hi.

Quick question: Are we using wastewater treatment surveillance in order to determine.

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MS. DESIMONE: They are using wastewater surveillance. I don't know enough about the wastewater surveillance program to speak about that, but I can certainly get your questions answered. They are doing wastewater surveillance.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: They are.

MS. DESIMONE: Yes. They have to put requests in to New York State to assist with that. We do have other wastewater programs coming that we're working on.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So by way of carrying back a request, I would ask that you verify that those requests have been made to the State and ask how regularly that type of surveillance would be done and how regularly we get those kind of reports to our Health Department.

MS. DESIMONE: Commissioner Gelman already put in the requests for wastewater surveillance.

> LEGISLATOR BYNOE: For the measles? MS. DESIMONE: Yes.

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LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. Do you know how long that takes or any of that? Can you just let us know that?

MS. DESIMONE: That I'm not sure of. I can get those answers for you. Sure.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

MS. DESIMONE: You're welcome.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: And again, the frequency of the surveillance information and when it's provided.

MS. DESIMONE: I will certainly get that for you.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I appreciate you.

MS. DESIMONE: I believe it will be broken down as far as zip code too.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All those in favor of this Item 11-2024, please say, "Aye".

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

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal

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2	response.)
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______TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 _____128 ____

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Now we 2 have a number of consent items for which 3 the Majority and Minority. They have gone 5 through committees, fully explored and no further debate or discussion is required. 6 And those items are: Item 2, Ordinance 10; Item 4,

Ordinance 12; Item 5, Ordinance 13; Item 6, Ordinance 14; Item 7, Resolution 30; Item 8, Resolution 31; Item 18, Resolution 41; Item 19, Resolution 42; Item 20, Resolution 43.

Motion on those items is made by Mr. Solages. Seconded by Mr. Kennedy.

All those in favor of those item, please say, "Aye".

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

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any opposed?

> (Whereupon, no verbal response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Those

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_____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 ____130 ___

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Now I'm going to call Item 9, Resolution 32 of 24. Let the record indicated Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt and Legislator Strauss are

recusing themselves and absenting

themselves from the chamber and will not take part in any debate or discussion on the item.

> (Whereupon, Legislator McKevitt and Legislator Struass leave the Chambers.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: This item is a resolution authorizing County Attorney to compromise and settle the claims in action entitled North Shore, Long Island Jewish Health Systems 600 Community, LLC and United Business Media, aka United Business Media versus the County of Nassau, et al pursuant to the County Law, County Government of Nassau County and the Nassau County Administrative Code.

Motion by Mr. Mullaney and is seconded by Mr. Gaylor.

——NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024 — 1 2 Any debate or discussion? 3 (Whereupon, no verbal response.) 4 5 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All those in favor of this item, please say, "Aye". 6 7 (Whereupon, all members of 8 the Full Legislature respond in 9 favor with, "Aye".) 10 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any 11 opposed? 12 (Whereupon, no verbal 13 response.) 14 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That item 15 is unanimous. 16 Would you invite back, please. 17 18 19 (Whereupon, Legislators 20 McKevitt and Strauss return to 21 Chambers.) **** 22 23 2.4 25

TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 _____132 =

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024
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2	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Next is
3	Item 1, Ordinance 9-2024, which amends
4	28-2016 constituting the Nassau County
5	Fire Prevention Ordinance.
6	We have a motion by Mr. Koslow and
7	seconded by Mr. Giangregorio.
8	Any questions or debate?
9	(Whereupon, no verbal
10	response.
11	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All those
12	in favor of this item, please say, "Aye".
13	(Whereupon, all members of
14	the Full Legislature respond in
15	favor with, "Aye".)
16	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any
17	opposed?
18	(Whereupon, no verbal
19	response.)
20	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That item
21	is unanimous.
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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Number 10, Resolution 33, and 11, which is Resolution 34.

Number 10 authorizes County Executive to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the Village of Farmingdale. Funded by money received by the County under the American Rescue Plan's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, which has been appropriated to fund contracts with entities to provide services that will comply with the eligible use categories of public health, Negative economic impact, premium pay, water, sewer, broadband infrastructure and emergency relief from natural disasters.

Number 11 authorizes a grant agreement on the behalf of the County with the Nassau County Police Activity League, also funded by ARPA. PAL is a not for profit qualifying 501 C-3 for purpose of providing funds to mitigate financial hardship and to respond to the negative

/

impacts of the public health emergency caused by the Covid 19 pandemic.

Motion is by Alternate Deputy

Presiding Officer Ferretti and Legislator

Kennedy.

Any questions? Any debate or discussion?

Yes.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON:

Thank you, Presiding Officer. Um, the minority caucus plans on supporting both of these initiatives, and we are hopeful that we are going to have some role in determining how the 15 million designated for the legislative projects or wish lists, our asks would be considered.

Again, we will support these. But this Covid money is basically federal tax money. Everyone pays it. Every resident of Nassau County pays taxes. And I really hope that as we're supporting your initiatives, that you also understand the importance of having funding like this be

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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024
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2	spread out throughout the entire county.
3	Again, I would have been very happy
4	to have it divided by 1/19, which would
5	have made it easier, but unfortunately,
6	that wasn't what happened. So at this
7	point, we're just saying we are going to
8	support you. But I hope that we are also
9	considered.
10	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Anyone else?
11	(Whereupon, no verbal
12	response.)
13	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All those
14	in favor of those items, please say,
15	"Aye".
16	(Whereupon, all members of
17	the Full Legislature respond in
18	favor with, "Aye".)
19	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any
20	opposed?
21	(Whereupon, no verbal
22	response.)
23	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Those items
24	are unanimous.
25	****

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2 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Calendar 3 12, Resolution 35; Calendar 13, Resolution 36; Calendar 14, Resolution 5 37; and Calendar 15, Resolution 38; all 6 of which are resolutions authorizing the County Executive to execute Inter 8 Municipal Agreements with respectfully the Roslyn Union Free School District, 10 Village of Kings Point, North Bellmore 11 Public Library, and the Village of Great 12 Neck in relation to various projects for 13 purchase of goods and services. 14 Motion will be made by Minority 15 Leader DeRiggi-Whitton, seconded by 16 Legislator Giuffre. 17 Any debate or discussion? 18 Yes. 19 MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: 20 It's me again. 21 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: 22 message? 23 MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: 2.4 Basically. But it's even a little 25 more detailed with this.

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CRPs are really a vital tool for

improving quality of life for our

communities. It's always been part of the

capital plan, which we all voted for.

Right now, we are going to support these

CRPs. This is going to add to the four we

supported last month. It was also

documented that last year, I believe less

than 25% of the CRP funding was spent on

the Minority districts. It's something,

again, that have a real issue with. I

think something should be beyond

politics. I myself have I believe it's

nine CRPs that are pending, all for first

responders that haven't seen the light of

day yet. I'm hopeful now that they

might, but it's hard to explain to your

fire districts that they're not able to

get their turnout gear because of

politics. And I think it's making us all

look bad. So I hope there's a real effort

from the Administration to do this.

There's also, what we've noticed is

CRPs that have been pending for a year

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and a half, almost two years are now being passed because the lines have changed and they're now represented by the Majority rather than the Minority. So the work was done by the Minority. The the funds were provided by the Minority. Unfortunately, now the lines are drawn, it's the only time that it's being passed.

Again, I'm reaching out -- basically it's a moral ask. I don't have any -although this money is divided equally, we still don't have much say as to what gets called, obviously. And I have to basically rely on the morals and the ethics of our government to make sure that every first responder, especially a school district, whatever we're asking for, is respected and considered because, you know, it's important that not only certain fire districts or firehouse or police or EMS are given these funds because it's really intended for all 19.

I know I'm probably naive after 13

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years, but I'm hoping that things are going to change and that again, I'm asking for the support of the Majority. You might not have full control, but I think if you made mention of this, the issue could be addressed and hopefully all of our fire departments and EMS and schools could receive the funding that

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Anyone else?

they're entitled to.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Just to amplify our Minority Leader's point.

It's gratifying when our constituents and organizations in our respective districts solicit our support for projects that are deemed worthy for the whole community to enjoy. And when we file them and they languish and sit idly for sometimes years, we'd rather be able to go back to our constituents and these organizations and say, here's a nice big fat check. But instead we are relegated to telling them, well, we I filed it, but

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it's sitting in the Legislature not

moving. Yes, it's a feeble excuse on our part, but I think it's emblematic of the dysfunction of the whole Legislature when we can't work together to get things done fairly. And so we're also hoping that you recognize that it's not just a moral request. It's something that benefits all of us as a Legislative Body to look like we work together to get things done for the benefit of everybody. And so we're

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: So let me just say to the Minority, we don't want to hold any of them up. And as a matter of fact, the minute these CRPs come down to us, I can tell you that I believe every single one of us will vote in favor of it. As soon as it comes here, we'll vote for it.

hopeful that things will improve in that

end.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: appreciate it. We know what the holdup is.

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Also just history for the new people. This this isn't what normally would happen in past administration. Just to be clear. Nothing's perfect. Nothing happens as quick as we'd like, but they were much more fair.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All those in favor of those items, please say, "Aye".

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

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any opposed?

> (Whereupon, no verbal response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Those items are unanimous.

Legislator Mule moves to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Giuffre.

All those in favor of adjourning?

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 03.25.2024
1	
2	(Whereupon, all members of
3	the Full Legislature present
4	respond in favor with, "Aye.)
5	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any
6	opposed to adjourning?
7	(Whereupon, no verbal
8	response.)
9	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Nobody is
10	opposed.
11	
12	(Whereupon, the Full
13	Legislature meeting is
14	adjourned, 4:20 p.m.)
15	
16	****
17	
18	(Whereupon, public members
19	wants to make additional public
20	comment.)
21	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: The only
22	the only people that speak after the
23	meeting, or people who did not get their
24	chance to speak beforehand. Everyone gets
25	three minutes. That's your three minutes
	II

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2	CERTIFICATE
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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 25th day of March, 2024.
15	
16	<u>Karen Lorenzo</u>
17	Karen Lorenzo
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