NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING

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HOWARD J. KOPEL, PRESIDING OFFICER

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County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

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Monday, December 16, 2024

1:20 p.m.

TAKEN BY: ALEXA LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

Presiding Officer

7th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT

Alternate Presiding Officer

13th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI,JR.

Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer

15th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR SCOTT DAVIS

1st Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

2nd Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES

3rd Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR PATRICK MULLANEY

4th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR SETH KOSLOW

5th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

6th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR JOHN J. GIUFFRE

8th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR SCOTT STRAUSS

9th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP

10th Legislative District

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DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

Minority Leader

11th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR MICHAEL GIANGREGORIO

12th Legislative District

***

LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR, III

14th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR ARNOLD W. DRUCKER

16th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

17th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR SAMANTHA GOETZ

18th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

19th Legislative District

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MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

TOP COPS:

OFFICER STACEY DOLAN

POINTS OF PRIVILEGE:

John Herslin

Sgt. Al Staab, III

William Burke, IV

Frank Riso

Michael Plactere

Trevor Tebaldi

Alex Minicozzi

Kenny Minicozzi

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Welcome, everyone, to this session of the Legislature. This is the final session of the year. It is also the final session at which one of our favorite members is attending. We're losing Siela Bynoe to the State Legislature, which she's going to do as ferocious and fine job fighting for her constituents as she's done over here. And we're all going to miss her.

LEGISLATURE BYNOE: Thank you, Presiding Officer. I'm at a loss for words. But as they say, there's a time to come and there's a time to go. But all of what sits in between that has been probably the most impactful, meaningful part of my career as a public servant. I've been in service to the region for 25 years. Much of that as a direct service provider working with housing authorities in both Nassau and Suffolk County. But coming here to the Legislature, I'll never forget my first day sitting to the

far left of me, February 24, 2014, began a journey. A journey where I was able to serve constituents intentionally with intensity based on my compassion to make sure that I could lighten the load of those residents and taxpayers alike. And it was here, that I forged relationships, that we as a collective were able to do great work. It was here as I sat in the Minority, and despite that, was able to deliver for my constituents $69 million in capital funds (applause). Able to make sure that we were able to deal with environmental impacts here in Nassau County, which I think are very important, especially as a breast cancer survivor. I wanted to make sure that I did some work to make sure we would know what was in our water.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working across this aisle. First capital project I worked on was with Laura Schaefer, and we were able to make sure that people had the ability to have

dignity when they use the restrooms at our Westbury Public Library. And it was here I crossed the aisle and worked with Fran Becker, to make sure that mental health first aid was achieved. It's really the closing of what I consider my highest honor, to this point, to be in service. And it's with that that I will always extend my advocacy to not just Senate District 6, but the greater Nassau County. And it's with that that I look to go to the New York State Senate and bring balance. Balance so that we can achieve what we know is important here in Nassau County.

So with that, I say to my colleagues, who I've served some of them for the duration of the ten years and some a shorter span of time: I wish you good health, I wish you God's blessings, and I pray that he keeps you as you continue to labor here in Nassau County and do the good work. Thank you.

(Whereupon, applause.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: With that, Legislator Bynoe, for the final time, why don't you lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance? Would you do that for us? Thanks.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance is said.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. And I think our IT tech, Steve, we're saying goodbye to Steve as well. We wish you Godspeed. And in your in your next job, you're going up to Albany; that's kind of strange, but okay. Good luck to you.

Legislator Mule, go ahead, please.

LEGISLATOR MULE: Siela, you are my colleague, you are my friend. You are someone I have learned from so much. The presiding officer used the word ferocious. I would use the word tenacious. And I said it all over the the campaign trail when I was knocking on doors for you, speaking to groups, I said, I know her as my colleague, and I

love it when she's on a roll because I'm like, oh, this is good. But what I'm most pleased about is that you will be my senator, and I know that you will be fighting for your constituents the same way you fought for your constituents here. I know you will be successful. I look forward to collaborating with you. You know we already have some projects that I've already lined up. It's very exciting and I look forward to being on the journey with you vicariously.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you very much.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you. And again, I would like to echo some of the statements made by Debra Mule and my other colleagues. Truly, Siela, it was a pleasure and honor to work with you. You are truly a humble public servant and you do not know the meaning of the word, "no". You always try.

It was an honor just to work with you on several projects such as the State

of Black Nassau County. Your constituents are very lucky to have you. And I know that this is not a sad occasion because you're still going to be in public service, and so that's the one redeeming quality about today.

But again, it was so great to work with you. The level of diligence and care you put into your work product is by far above all. And it was truly an honor to work with you. As they say in the poem "Phenomenal Woman", you truly are. We might forget what you said. We may forget what you did. But we will never forget how you made us feel. And you made us feel proud. Congratulations. Thank you.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

And, Presiding Officer, I'm sorry. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that I have young scholars here from Uniondale High School. And if you would just stand, scholars.

So, as many of you would know, I

like to acknowledge the scholars and I spend quite a bit of time with them in these chambers, and it's to show them and to teach them that we might be on different sides of the aisle and we might disagree, but we can do that without being disagreeable, and we can do that with respecting one another. And so I always like to make sure that they know that over 95% of the time we vote together. And it's important that they see their government at work. So thank you for spending the time with me on my last day in this chamber. God bless you.

(Whereupon, applause.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. We now move on to several presentations.

First, we start with with Top Cops and President Shevlin, are you here? Please go ahead.

MR. SHEVLIN: Good afternoon, and thank you for having us here today. As usual, as we wind down the year for our last Top Cop of the year, I'd like to give a nice shout out to Siela; we love you. Keep doing you. And God bless and good luck in the future.

It's nice to be up here and not be talking about a tragic situation. Something where there's arrests, tickets, whatever; all the bad things, the cops are sometimes portrayed as, but to stand here next to Stacey as the Legislative Top Cop of December 2024, I'll tell you a little bit about her story.

Officer Dolan has been a Nassau County police officer for 17 years. In her 17 years, she was always been an officer you can rely on. It's what she

does, where she lives, that makes her special. Officer Dolan is one of the presidents of the Padre Pio Foundation. The Padre Pio Foundation raises money for children in need that are suffering from an illness. They assist in paying for their medical bills, and in some cases, they pay for the less fortunate families to go on a vacation with their child. And around the holidays, they go to hospitals and deliver toys to children that can't make it home.

Officer Dolan recently became a Nassau County police vocalist. She joined a band that gives veterans who suffer PTSD free music lessons, and the free lessons allow these veterans to be part of the band and gives them hope. The band then performs at various functions, but their main focus is performing for free at VFW halls for veterans and their families.

For her dedication at work and for her community, the PBA is proud to honor

Police Officer Stacey Dolan as Legislative Top Cop for December of 2024.

MS. DOLAN: I don't even know what to say. Thank you so much. I am overwhelmed by this and so honored to receive this award. I want to say a special thank you to all the legislators. A special thank you to the Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder, as well as the Nassau County PBA. And of course, my husband, who has always supported me and he's always pushed me to be the very best version of myself. I, again, am overwhelmed. And I just, I love being able to give back to the community in any way that I can and any way that I could find. And a special thank you to my mother and father, who is no longer with us, for showing me the way for that. I owe it to them. So thank you.

INSPECTOR CRAWFORD: Good afternoon. I'm Inspector James Crawford, the commanding officer of the police academy, and PO Dolan's Supervisor. Stacey's an

exemplary police officer and serves as a role model to her fellow police officers and the recruits she teaches. Her dedication on and off duty distinguishes her. We thank her for what you do. And on behalf of the Police Commissioner, we thank you for taking the time to recognize her.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Thank you. And we'll call you up for a quick photo right after the the next presentation, which will come from the fire marshal.

(Whereupon, off the record discussion.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I'm told that this has been moved to January. So then, guys, why don't you just come right up? We'll take that photo now?

(Whereupon, photos taken, citation given.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Next, we have two points of personal privilege. We'll start with Legislator Giuffre honoring John Heslin.

LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Thank you, Presiding Officer.

Please come to the podium. Barbara, why don't you come, too?

So today we would like to honor longtime member of the Carle Place community, Mr. John Heslin and Barbara. They are a team; they have celebrated 60 years of marriage (applause). And they have gone above and beyond in the service to the Carle Place community. John is retired from the NYPD, where he served with honor for 28 years. He served in the Army in Alaska for two years from 1959 to 1961 and he has never stopped working for the betterment of the community. Mr. Heslin founded the Carle Place Seniors, which currently has over 180 members and meets every Tuesday with a turnout of anywhere from 80 to 120 on an average

Tuesday.

Additionally, Mr. Heslin is a active in the Carle Place Veterans Club, and he is a charter member of the Carle Place Civic Association, having been one of the people that founded that organization many years ago. He was named by the *Long Island Press* as the recipient of a Community Champion Award, and was recognized in 2017 as Business Person of the year by the Nassau Council Chamber of Commerce. And he also recently celebrated his 84th birthday. So congratulations, John.

We'd like to recognize and thank Mr. John Heslin for his hard work and determination to make our community a better place, particularly in Carle Place. So thank you, John; thank you Barbara. God bless you. And, John, if you'd like to say a couple words, feel free.

MR. HESLIN: All right. I know members of the board here from way back

in 2006 and a lot of other board members, been around a long time and very active. I love the community.

This is the holiday season. Wherever I speak, I try to ask everyone to please take a moment during this holiday to remember the men and women serving in the armed forces. Please take time to think about them, their families and never let them forget.

Back in 2001, when the World Trade Centers were attacked. I lost -- excuse me -- I lost a nephew. I wear this bracelet. Glenn K. Pettit. He worked for many years on Channel 12 News before becoming a police officer. My dad was a police officer in 1939, and his shield number was 3815. In 1965, when I went into the police department, I got that shield, 3815. When Glenn went to the police department, he took the shield 3815. After four and a half years in the police department, he was murdered in the World Trade Center with the photo unit,

which he worked for Channel 12 News. He was running into the towers and the Lord took him to heaven wearing shield 3815.

Once again, please remember those people and remember our armed forces and everyone else. God bless, everyone. Thank you. Thank you for this great honor. Thank you.

(Whereupon, applause.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER: All right. Next we have a personal privilege for Legislator Goetz.

LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

Today, I have the privilege of recognizing seven extraordinary individuals from the Bayville and Oyster Bay area. They went above and beyond to help those impacted by Hurricane Helene that hit at the end of September. They are Sergeant Al Staab III, US Army; William Burke, IV, a teacher from East Meadow; Frank Rizzo from Tri-County Plumbing; retired US Army Staff Sergeant Trevor Tebaldi; Michael Plactere, owner of WeBuyLongIslandHomesFast.com; Alex Minicozzi of General Utilities and Ken Minicozzi president of the Italian American Club of Oyster Bay. These selfless volunteers coordinated donation drives, collected essential items and personally delivered them to the hardest hit communities in Boone County, Kings

Mountain and South Asheville. Their efforts didn't simply stop at delivering supplies. Not only were they bringing water, food, batteries, toiletries, first aid, dog food to those communities in need, but they also stayed. They slept in tents and they endured the weather to help in all the recovery efforts at that time. Frank and Trevor from Tri-County Plumbing went the extra mile by helping restore water and plumbing to one of the towns that were serving, and they were giving people back that critical resource to help them rebuild. These volunteers also crossed paths with a special person who had lost everything, Miss Cookie. She's a courageous woman, and their compassion extended to help with Go-Fund-Me and to raise money to help her get back on her feet. And to my understanding, as you guys keep in touch with her to this day.

These individuals embody the very best of our community. They did something

when others did not. They went down to North Carolina, away from their families, and took time to help those in need. So please join me in applauding and thanking them for their remarkable efforts. You know, we really need more people like you guys. So thank you so much.

(Whereupon, applause.)

LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Come to the podium so you could say a few words.

MR. MINICOZZI: Good afternoon, and thank you for having us here. We really appreciate it. These guys got together one day after watching the television, after Hurricane Helene worked its way up the coast in Florida, impacted Georgia, impacted South Carolina and North Carolina. And probably many more. And we're watching on the TV, and we're seeing these people in the Asheville, North Carolina region, mostly. What they were facing. They didn't ask for that. And they weren't really prepared for that, because who would think that a

storm like that would impact them high up in the hills? So these guys got together and they just knew they had to do something. They weren't sure what to do, but they knew they had to do something. Their humanitarian efforts and their military backgrounds kicked in. And within a matter of hours, not even days, just a matter of hours, they brought two communities, the community of Bayville and the community of Oyster Bay together on a moment's notice, just making phone calls and brought everybody together and put this plan together. The logistics of it, I can tell you, I was involved. It was a challenge, to say the least. The recognition that you're giving us with this citation, is not expected and it was not expected. They did this out of the goodness of a human being helping other human beings. And that's especially true in our country, the United States of America. And this really shows that these young men could put this together so

quickly and so effectively. And people noticed that's the only recognition we really need, is to know that we helped someone that needed help.

I am Ken Minicozzi, president of Italian American Citizens Club and Oyster Bay. These are the fine young men behind me that you just acknowledged a few minutes ago. I think they deserve another round of applause. We thank you very much for the recognition and a citation. You know, my father once said, if you're going to do something for somebody, and you're going to expect something in return, don't do it. And those words still hold true to us today, and it's very nice to see our younger generation that's coming up understands that as well. Again, thank you very much for your time.

(Whereupon, applause.)

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: If it's okay, I'm Delia, I would like to just add, I represented Bayville during

Sandy, and I remember how much that community came together. You were hit pretty much almost equally as the South Shore. It was unbelievable to see what happened with Shore Road and all the homes in the number of streets. And the other person that I represent is Richard Valenti (phonetic), and he loves your family, the Minicozzis, as well as the Staabs. And on behalf of both of us, we were not surprised that you did it because we saw you in training during Sandy. But we're so honored to know the fact that we know you and you all did this, so it's amazing.

MR. MINICOZZI: That was very, very nice of you. Thank you so much.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: I'd just like to add that certainly I've known the Minicozzi family for a long, long time. I'm Legislator Rose Walker, and knowing what you've done in your own communities has been wonderful. But to see you reach out to others that are far away from us

here, the devastation in the Carolinas was horrendous. And my cousin was in Asheville, had met people that they had known from Singapore. They were there and left hours before that storm came in. They live in Winston-Salem, and they got out before that storm hit, or they probably would have been trapped in there for God knows how long. But for what you have done, you've always been a giving family, the Staabs too, all of you, each and every one of you. What you've done for others that aren't in our hometowns, they're far away. But you reached out because you have that that your families gave you from years ago to give back to others and do for others, and what you'd want people to do for you. So God bless. Thank you very much.

MR. MINICOZZI: Thank you very much. It's so very kind. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you, all.

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Now we move to a period of public comment. Public comment period runs for an hour. It is a period during which we are here to listen to comments of the public. This is not a Q&A. This is not a back and forth. Nobody here will answer questions or deal with the subjects with which you're involved. Now, the comments are timed; three minutes. Nobody gets to speak more than three minutes. Once you're done, please just vacate the podium. Understand that if public comment exceeds an hour, then at the point, at the hour point, we'll adjourn the public comment and pick up any remaining people who have not yet spoken, following our proceedings. So if you go over time or if you try to go over time, you're potentially delaying other people and being unfair.

Let's start with Stephanie Capuano and that will be followed by Claudia Bareby.

MS. CAPUANO: Okay. So my name is Stephanie Capuano. I'm a lifelong resident at Farmingdale, originally South Farmingdale, Long Island. I live in Wantagh. As a lifelong resident; I'm 70. I've seen Long Island flourish, and I'm very proud of Long Island and to live in Nassau County. It is expensive -- many of my friends moved after high school -- and so to fill in the gaps, I support the immigrants and I support their protection right now because we need them. Actually, Estee Lauder, where I used to work for 45 years, have supplemented many immigrants to work on their perfume lines. I know the nice people at the gas station I go to, my housekeeper is sweet; and these are really good people. They're not aliens, and I think they need a more legal pathway to become permanent and not to be considered bad people. So I appreciate you letting me speak on this.

And I have -- well, my colleagues have much better things to say than I do,

but I appreciate all your consideration for the things that they might have in store for them. It's pretty scary. And I think I can speak for Long Island that we need immigrants here on Long Island and all the ones that I've encountered are very, very good people.

And how many minutes do I have? I have 1.37. I appreciate any effort to keep them safe, and we need to have some kind of protections for them right now for what they're going through in Nassau County. They have contributed so much, have helped our businesses and they've helped fill in the gaps, as I've said, helped Long Island flourish, actually. I have so many things to say. And I think I can speak for many of my fellow colleagues that, we need to expedite the paperwork somehow. I'm willing to volunteer to do anything I can do to help with this situation. I really don't want to see the emotional turmoil that Long Island is going to go through because we

have immigrants all around us. They're not aliens. They are immigrants. They are human beings.

Thank you very much for your time. I know I missed some things, but, I just want to say thank you for listening to me.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right. Claudia Bareby, followed by Richard Clolery.

MS. BAREBY: My name is Claudia Bareby. I'm director of the South Shore Women's Alliance.

In response to County Executive Blakeman support for mass deportation, we're here to request that the Minority Affairs, Public Safety, and Health and Human Services legislative committees convene hearings to address how Nassau is preparing for the ICE raids expected early next year. Some of our undocumented immigrant neighbors have lived here for decades, owning businesses and homes, and are responsible, taxpaying county

residents. We must engage in open dialogue, take measures to protect these individuals, and foster compassion and respect for all residents, regardless regarding their immigration status. The plan to deport 1 million undocumented criminal immigrants is based on pure propaganda. Out of an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants, approximately 650,000 have criminal records. One-fifth of those are for traffic violations, far less than 1 million. Policies that unjustly label a broader population of immigrants as criminals are likely approximately 4.7 million mixed status families in our nation faced workplace raids. It is imperative to consider the human stories behind the statistics. Picture this, hard working landscapers, cleaning ladies, restaurant workers, all vital members of our communities are suddenly swept away while the children are left in schools wondering where their parents

have gone. Immigrants contribute 21% to the Long Island's overall economy. The absence of immigrant Long Islanders would not only jeopardize our farms, but would make groceries even more unaffordable. Supporting our immigrant population is a matter of economic necessity. While your undocumented immigrant constituents are unable to vote for you, they have undeniable rights. But are these families aware of those rights and the protections available to them? What is the County doing to ensure that families are not separated? How is Nassau County engaging with the organizations that are addressing these issues? It is essential for the County to not only hear these concerns, but also take steps to alleviate the anxiety.

The Minority Committee must seek insight from relevant stakeholders. The Public Safety Committee must understand that immigrants who are hesitant to report crimes jeopardize the safety of

all residents, and the Health and Human Services Committee must report how it supports systems or providing essential services. It is vital for legislators to not only understand the challenges faced by their immigrant constituents, but also champion efforts of government and nonprofit organizations fostering a climate of trust and collaboration. Therefore, the South Shore Women's Alliance respectfully request that the Nassau County Legislature convene hearings as soon as possible -- (buzzer)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We are done.

MS. BAREBY: To address the threats of mass deportation, to protect our immigrant neighbors and ensure the services--

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Richard Clolery is next. Followed by Petros Krommidas.

MR. CLOLERY: Hi, my name is Richard Clolery. This will be my last speech for

this year. I am hoping that you guys will -- Look, I'm just going to be blunt. Congestion pricing is going to go through whether we like it or not. I know that there are opposition here on Long Island. I can respect their views, but what is that going to accomplish? I mean, people like me, we come to the City a lot. We need public transportation. Yes, I know the MTA doesn't always do a good job managing their finances, but why should we suffer? I mean, we do our part to make sure the MTA does theirs.

Anyway, also, because of this, a lot of people here on Long Island, I'm almost fairly certain, will want to depend more on Long Island Railroad to get them to and from the City because of congestion pricing. We need ways to ensure that people can get to the their railroad station they need to get to. That means increasing funding for buses or try and find ways to improve.

Anyway, we also need to pass our

capital budget. I don't know what's going on, but I keep hearing stories that capital budget has not been passed. Despite Republican majority.

Anyway, also, there's also another reason why we need increased funding for the buses. I keep hearing stories that you guys want to push through this whole casino thing for the Nassau Coliseum. I want to ask you something: Do you guys have a sound backbone to make sure everything is all set up and ready to go? I don't think you guys do. We need public transportation that will help people get you from the new casino, and also, hopefully we reduce traffic. Goodness knows, we could really use that. Especially since we keep hearing stories about pedestrians being used as target practice for cars. I mean, are we not tax payers or are we, well, deadweight? Am I right, am I wrong?

Anyway, I wish you a great holiday season and good day.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Petros Krommidas. Forgive me if I didn't get that exactly right. Followed by Corrine Kaufman.

MR. KROMMIDAS: Immigration is an issue that is highly personal to me. Both my parents are Greek American immigrants, and I'm a proud first generation American. My parents are from Ios, Greece, a Greek island off the Turkish coast. Both of them made their way to a beautiful country in the 1990s. I never took for granted the opportunities that were afforded to them here. As such, they worked indefatigably to secure a better life for themselves and their family. My dad worked as an ice cream man, making what he could so he and my mother could get by. My mother went on to attend Queens College for an undergraduate degree and Hofstra University for her master's degree. Despite not knowing the English language in her early American and educational years, she'd studied with

the Greek dictionary on one side of the table, the American textbook on the other, having to translate every word in order to teach yourself the language to get through school at the same time. I remember watching her study late into the night, the whole house dark, yet her office light lit as she made her way through her studies. She's now in an early intervention ABA therapist who teaches young autistic children here in Nassau County. She, a Greek American immigrant, has been helping our disabled youth for over two decades now as a result of Nassau County's investment in her. I, myself, am a birthright first generation American. I went to Oceanside school districts. I did not speak the language when I started elementary school here; however, Nassau County took me in with open arms. It's English as a second language Programs gave me an opportunity to learn how to speak English while also not falling behind in my studies.

Oceanside did not throw me out, it invested in me. Oceanside schools have terrific music programs. Though I didn't speak the language early on, our schools music departments taught me language relevant to all of our American ears. That of John Philip Sousa and Louis Armstrong. I remember being taught to stand for the flag and echo the Pledge of Allegiance. I remember singing God Bless the USA by Lee Greenwood alongside my new American classmates. In those moments, I felt immense pride for being American and felt eternally grateful for the opportunity to further challenge my family here and climb towards the American dream.

I mentioned my story because it is a microcosm that speaks to the very moral fiber of our nation. We take in those who seek to better their lives through American values and free enterprise principles through sheer hard work, tenacity and perseverance, and provide

opportunities for them to build themselves and their families up. So in turn, they build our societies up and consequently pass on this others to the next generation. Who by example have been taught to do the same. This is what America is all about. We find the best in each other. We invest in each other, and the natural byproduct is a stronger, bigger, more formidable nation. This provides an example to the world at large that humanitarianism, despite global chaos, is alive and well, for we are forever a beacon of hope that not only domestically, but internationally. Nassau County would be remiss to cooperate with ICE for these reasons.

Unequivocally, we must not break up families, but rather stomp out divisiveness. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Corrine Kaufman.

MS. KAUFMAN: Good afternoon. I would like to thank Legislator Delia

DeRiggi-Whitton for inviting me here, and to all the legislators for having me here. We have met before. As you know, my granddaughter, Paige Grace Gibbons, passed away two years ago from Fentanyl poison by taking a fake Percocet. I also have a new family with the same mission, and that is one comprised of many local people who have lost members to substance abuse and fentanyl poisoning. We are the family of survivors of loss. I have met them through their advocacy events, rallies and meetings with government officials. They have worked hard on educating others, and I can speak for them to say that it is discouraging not to see settlement funds used for strong, proactive programs yet. Currently, the County has over $90 million in settlement funds. We are watching the slow drip of settlement funds when we really need those funds to be working to prevent these disasters. The funds were established because people were dying

from addictive opioid drugs being pushed in the marketplace by companies that had profited from harming people. Today's vote may add more funds to that, that are meant to fight such damage. You all hold such great power in your hands to save lives through expediting these funds. It's time to save lives now with the use of settlement funds. When this landmark settlement was made, I was overjoyed. Opioids were killing 18 to 45-year-olds at a high rate. I would expect the County to establish a broad reaching program to save lives, see a plan that would offer transparency of spending future endeavors, and shed light on how our county would spend these funds and how they're going to help our residents.

I have three line items. One that I'd like to see is the strong support of service providers who are doing vital work in the county. They're the first line of defense that should receive funding from the settlement. They help to

cure and heal people. Secondly, and one of the most inexpensive, please, please put fentanyl detection strips in the Narcan kits. It's way overdue. And please set up a free program through pharmacies where people can get Narcan kits. You can get one from the State and they need to be available everywhere. And the detection strips is the only way to know if a drug has fentanyl in it.

Very dear to my heart is wanting to get mental health and drug education into the schools. In an era of depression, isolation during Covid, internet bullying and unhappiness, we're in a mental health crisis. I would like to see Narcan workshops in all county schools, with mandatory workshops twice a year, and stigma free mental health workshops. We have a public health crisis. Please, please quickly develop a plan. Make Nassau County so proud that we'll stand out as leaders against drugs, the enemy, drugs.

Honorable County Executive Blakeman, please release those funds. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right. Juli Grey-Owens, followed by Maria O'Leary.

MS. GREY-OWENS: Good afternoon. My name is Juli Grey-Owens. I'm the executive director of Gender Equality in New York, an organization that advocates for transgender, gender nonbinary, and intersex New Yorkers. I've been providing three minute trainings to this Legislature to ensure their members and staff have a better understanding of our community.

First, a quick review of what I've already presented. A person whose personal identity matches the binary male or female designation given to them at birth is known as cisgender. A person who does not identify with the binary sex designation given to them at birth is known as transgender. Transgender

individuals represent around 6/10 of the world's population, which translates over to over 8000 people in Nassau County, 17,000 people on Long Island, and over 117,000 people across New York State.

Being transgender is neither a lifestyle nor a choice. Reputable medical organizations recognize transgender identities as a disconnect between the sex assigned at birth and the gender role that the brain identifies with. It is important to understand that male and female brains have structural differences. They tend to have different volumes in certain areas of the brain, and they function differently. Research studies show a clear correlation between transgender people's brains and their gender identity. Transgender people's brains are wired like the gender they identify as, not the sex assigned to them at birth. We know this because researchers found that participants who were trans women, someone like me, had

similar brain structure and neurological patterns to cisgender females. They found similar results when assessing the brain activity of transgender men. Their neurological structure and patterns mirrored cisgender males.

There are four characteristics that every human being can be defined by. These characteristics are biological sex, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation. Today I will focus on biological sex.

It is important to understand that there is a significant difference between the terms sex and biological sex. Sex is the designation made at birth based on the observed physical characteristics of the baby's genitals. Unless something appears wrong, there's no further observation or study into the body of the baby. No DNA testing or a full observation of the baby's internal organs is done at the time of birth. That sex designation will be used on all legal

documents for that person from that point on, unless it's legally changed. However, biological sex can only be determined by the full evaluation of genital configuration, reproductive organs, hormones, and genetics. This characteristic will lead us to next month's topic of a community of people called intersex. Thank you for your attention.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Maria O'Leary. Followed by Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds.

MS. O'LEARY: My name is Maria O'Leary. I live in East Meadow, in the house I grew up in, and I am the parent of a 23-year-old transgender young adult who's also a Nassau County residents.

Last month, I got pretty fired up about Transgender Day of Remembrance. Today, I'm here to wish you a very happy holiday and remind you of a resource that's available to all of you. I work closely with Juli Grey-Owens, who is the

executive director of Gender Equality New York, which is a statewide nonprofit focused on improving the lives of gender expansive New Yorkers. Our work falls under four pillars: We aim to educate, advocate, connect, and empower the transgender, nonbinary, and intersex communities and their allies across the state. Juli just spoke about biological sex. This is an example of the way we educate you and the public with factual and scientifically backed information.

As you know, there is a ton of misinformation out there about the trans, nonbinary, and intersex communities. So it's easy to make light of or misunderstand the complexities of the transgender experience. My son realized his gender identity when he was about 14-years-old. He says he always knew he was different. He just didn't have the vocabulary to articulate how. Figuring out he was transgender was somewhat of a relief for him. For me, it was fraught

with peril. But I've come a long way in the last eight years. My desire to educate myself drew me to gender equality New York, and my friendship with Juli is an unexpected but incredibly welcome blessing in my life. I hope you take the opportunity to get to know this talented, passionate, incredible advocate. Juli trains legislators, law enforcement, healthcare workers, college students, civic organizations, and churches and synagogues. Basically, if you invite us, we will show up.

For anyone who's here today and for all of you, you can visit our website at GenderEqualityNY.org and reach out to us about customized training. You've all got brochures in your packets.

I hope the New Year brings you peace and unity. There is work to be done. I am hopeful that we can work together to benefit all residents of Nassau County.

Thank you and Happy Holidays.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Dr.

Jeffrey Reynolds will be followed by Judy Cataldo.

DR. REYNOLDS: Good afternoon. I'm Jeff Reynolds. I'm president and CEO of Family and Children's Association, a 140-year-old organization based just a couple of miles from here.

This year, we'll wrap up serving more than 37,000 of our neighbors with a variety of services most germane to this conversation. We run two state licensed addiction treatment centers, one in Hicksville, one in Hempstead. We run three recovery centers. We opened the first one on Long Island seven years ago, and in our addiction service area, we serve about 12,000 Long Islanders.

I've been before you a number of times talking about the opioid crisis that you just heard from Corrine Kaufman about. And increasingly it's not been good news. We haven't seen much movement in the rate of fatalities in this region. To call it a public health emergency is

to sell it short and to miss out on the human component of this.

You can imagine my glee two years ago, when I was invited to a press conference by the County Executive to announce the distribution of opioid settlement funds. FCA got $645,000 a year for four years to run a program called SHERPA. It's a program in which folks with lived experience, they're in long term recovery themselves, go into hospital emergency rooms after an overdose. They go into unsafe sober homes. They go to people's houses, and they get them into treatment and get them linked up to care. In essence, they save lives. This year, we served 503 people, more than the 450 we promised. But on December 2nd of this year, I got a short e-mail from Jill Nevin that said, please see the attached correspondence. Attached to that e-mail was a one page letter letting us know that the contract had been cancelled. I've e-mailed the County

on more than a dozen occasions to ask why, to ask what will happen to these 500 people, to ask what will happen to the five staff in recovery who will no longer have a job on December 31st, the riskiest night of the year. I've gotten no response whatsoever. Not only is the pace of opioid settlement funds leaving the county woefully slow, now we're going backwards. Now we're taking money from an organization that knows how to do this work; 140 years experience. I've got 35 years worth of experience in the addictions field. I've now got to say to those 500 people, I wish you the best of luck. I hope somebody can help you. Not only do I want an explanation from the County, I want to know how we're going to handle the transition of services. I want to know what will happen to the folks who call us on December 31st. I'd love to have some answers. So if I haven't gotten them, I don't know to what extent the Legislature has the power to reverse this

decision, but I would strongly encourage you to weigh in with the Administration to see if you can have a conversation, since they won't respond to me, and to see what we can do to restore these services to people that are very, very, very much in need. That need hasn't gone anywhere. It remains today. I shudder to think that we're going to lose lives over the course of this winter that were completely preventable fatalities. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: When I announce the next person, you might as well get ready to come up as soon as the person before you finishes. This is Judy Cataldo, and next will be Cheryl Keshner.

MS. CATALADO: Excuse me. I'm going to yield my time to Mimi Pierre Johnson.

PRESIDING OFFICER: That's fine. Okay.

MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Judy. Thank you all of you that yield your time to me.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Just so you understand, three minutes is three minutes doesn't matter.

MS. JOHNSON: So can you restart the clock?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Restart the clock, please.

MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. My name is Mimi Pierre Johnson, CEO of Elmont Cultural Center from Elmont, and I thank everyone that yield their times to me. And I thank my legislator, Carrie Solages that was fighting in Manhattan this morning. I thank everyone who stands up for immigrants.

I'm Haitian American. I am a proud Haitian American. The person that gave me my first American flag and the Nassau County flag was John Ciotti, a Republican. I'm actually going to talk to those of you on this aisle because you already know what's going on. I want to

give you two examples. You now have students from Haiti within our school system that when they hear the police or siren or anything or a noise they go under the desk, they forget they're no longer in Haiti. They don't have to be afraid in that way.

I want to tell you about little kids that should be in kindergarten or in elementary school in Haiti right now. When they hear the noise, they are under their beds, not in school hiding so that they won't be killed. These are the people that are here, that has been here, that work, that pay taxes, your neighbors.

When we hear rhetoric, you think it's just words. It's not just words. You are moving family members, our friends. I'm an American citizen. So many of us are. But if you can remember your ancestors, your family members, how they came here, what they went through, we are all immigrants.

But there's a different type of harassment that is happening right now. As the holidays are here, I want you to go home and think about what fear is in families that lives next door to you. We are on the ground fighting for things like language access. Thank you, Cheryl.

Other needs in the community, because we have rhetoric that says that they're not allowed to have anything. They're animals. They eat animals. This is a fear that rhetoric is doing, because nothing has happened yet. But there are things that has continued to happen for a long time. There was a time when you came in here you could talk to both sides. Peter Schmitt once told me, yeah, yeah, go home and go to sleep because we had a conversation.

And I just want you to understand the type of immigrants that is in your districts now. They are not criminals. They are not killers. Because if we're going to look at killers and other

things, right, it is not the immigrants that goes into the schools to shoot our children. It is not the immigrants that are coming here right now -- (buzzer)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: You're finished.

MS. JOHNSON: I knew that was going to happen. If you can just allow me two seconds and I'll finish two seconds.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Two seconds.

MS. JOHNSON: Don't think of it as the rhetoric that is happening, but think about human beings. Let's bring dignity and civility back to our communities.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right. Thank you. Cheryl Keshner followed by Angela Lampe.

MS. KESHNER: Good afternoon. Can you hear me? Okay. My name is Cheryl Keshner. I'm a Nassau County resident. I've been an advocate for Long Island's immigrants for about 35 years, working with people who are decent, hard working,

who are the backbone of our community, who contribute to our culture and our economy, who are our brothers or sisters, our teachers, our friends.

I attended a meeting on October 2nd, which was hosted by the Nassau County Police Department for Hispanic Heritage Month. At that time, Commissioner Ryder was asked specifically, will the Nassau County Police Department cooperate with mass deportations if a certain individual gets elected? And at that time, he said, absolutely not. I think Commissioner Ryder recognized that for the police to play such a role, that would be detrimental to the relationship between the police and the community. Witnesses would not cooperate in prosecution of crimes. Domestic violence victims will not come to the police if they needed help. Victims of hate crime would not come to the police and it would create a further wedge. Subsequent to that, County Executive Blakeman made some

incredibly reckless comments, stating that Nassau County would utilize the Police Department in order to cooperate with deportations, whether it be with ICE, with the FBI, or with any other source. Okay, I am calling on you, Legislator (sic), to act with a conscience. Now is the time to take action.

The incoming president recently made comments stating that sensitive locations were going to be changed right now schools, hospitals, weddings, funerals and other places that should be safe and sacrosanct are off limits to ICE, certainly without a judicial warrant, but the incoming president is threatening to revoke that. Are we going to allow that to happen here in Nassau County? Are we going to allow this reign of terror to separate families, to prevent people from seeking healthcare, from seeking social services and other types of essential help?

Also, this hate speech. Hateful words have hateful consequences. We just saw a teen killed in New York City when he was asked if he spoke English. We remember when Marcelo Lucero was killed in Patchogue because he was an Ecuadorian immigrant. Okay, so now is the time to stand up and take action. I'm asking you, legislators, which side are you on? We're counting on you. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right. Angela Lampe to be followed by Meta J. Mereday.

MS. LAMPE: Good afternoon, sir. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I appreciate it very much. My name is Angela Lampe. I am from El Salvador. I came to this country in 1963, and since 1963, I came to Nassau County. And I continue paying my taxes in Nassau County for this great nation.

My name is Angela Lampe living here. I am here today on behalf of the Committee to Protect Immigrants and

Workers Rights in Hempstead and all over the United States. I am speaking out because Bruce Blakeman made it clear that he does not value immigrants in Nassau County and will cooperate with ICE to help Trump in the deportation efforts. I thought that we have learned a lot, but we have not. We going backwards. Especially with Mr. Trump. Bruce Blakeman is using facts. He is using immigrants as a scapegoat to blame, to blame them for any problems politically or inconvenience. The truth is, immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than United States born citizens. In fact, while the immigrant population has grown in this country, crime rate has decreased significantly. This is very, very important to understand the difference of what he's saying and what's going on. In this immigration rhetoric and any efforts into to support mass deportation will have negative impact and even neighborhoods and entire community, by

creating an atmosphere of fear, family separation or having any contact with government agencies, children, both citizens and non-citizens, will be among those who suffer the consequences. Workers who suffer workplace abuse, another explosion from employees like why should their healthcare, safety violation, sexual harassment and more will continue to support -- we will continue to support and silence because they will not trust the police and other information authorities, although they have rights like everybody else. The truth is, the immigrants documented. Undocumented are not part of the Long Island's Upper or Long Island community. We sustain the economy in many industries like construction, landscaping, agriculture, restaurants, and more healthcare workers and domestic workers. Hateful rhetoric leads to hateful actions. We have seen this before in Long Island when immigrant day laborers were

beaten. And then Marcelo Lucero, was killed tragically.

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Okay. Thank you. Next speaker is meet Meta Mereday.

MS. MEREDAY: I actually should get six minutes considering I waited 3.5 hours to not be called on that horrendous hearing for the Sands DEIS, but anyway, I digress.

Earlier today we heard some great presentations and accolades for individuals who went above and beyond the call. Those gentlemen from, I believe, from Bayville that stepped up and went down. Those citizens are still suffering from Hurricane Helene. We have residents who are still suffering here from Superstorm Sandy. And then the gentleman who also spoke, who was recognized by Legislator Giuffre, common thread there, veterans, military. All the other speakers have talked about the lack of resources, lack of support, lack of support services, for those who are

feeling that the immigrants are going to be the challenge and they're the problem, I suggest if, in fact, we have this purported mass deportation, those of you who have never washed that dish, flip that hamburger, cut that grass, start working out. Okay? Start working out the signs that are going up now for help wanted in Nassau County and across this region. Forget the signs at this point, all of you, because some of you already have two and three jobs, but that are high paid. You got pensions. The casino workers average salaries $38,000. So all those that ran around talking about high paying jobs, even for that casino, that's going to be more toxic and detrimental than anything we've ever seen, again, it's going to be a problem.

But veterans for me, that's the heart of why I come here. That's the heart of why I bother with my 911 related injuries. I feel all of that. I share all of that. I'm concerned about all of that.

I was here at the committee meeting with stop DWI numbers, 45% in Nassau County versus a statewide number of 20%. That's going to be a problem. But I guess maybe it'll stop the drinking because some of you that have that extra time are going to have to do that extra work, but I digress.

The evening meetings, we need to have more evening meetings with this county, and we need all of you to better promote the fact that residents need to be here. I see there's a request here for research. I see that the county executive tweaked the budget. I didn't see anything additional for veterans services for widows. When I leave here, I got to get on the phone with a 97-year-old widow who just had her funding cut off. People are talking -- (buzzer).

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.

MS. MEREDAY: You're very welcome. But I still feel I should get my extra --

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Nancy

Umana. Followed by Jorge Muniz Reyes. Go ahead, please. Just push the button.

MS. UMANA: My name is Nancy Umana. I'm here on behalf of Latino Justice Pearl. I'm also here with the workplace Project and with a lot of other non-profits and community members in Nassau County. If you can all please stand up for me. Thank you. So I'm here to address the statements made by Nassau County Executive Blakeman supporting mass deportations and designating immigrants as more likely to be criminals. This shows that he believes he is sworn in to serve only some of his constituents in a community where 1 in 5 residents is Latino and 1 in 5 were born outside the United States. This is a xenophobic rhetoric. This kind of phobic rhetoric jeopardizes public safety, including by discouraging community members from reporting crimes or otherwise interacting with law enforcement. This endangers everybody. Latino justice is committed

to protecting the right of Latinos and immigrant residents of Nassau County and we will hold the County accountable under our ongoing lawsuit in Nassau County. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Jorge Muniz Reyes.

MR. REYES: Hello. Good afternoon. My name is Jorge Muniz Reyes. I work in Nassau, Hempstead Village, Hempstead. I am here today take over the comments of the young woman who just spoke a few moments ago. I'm here as a member of the public, just to say, I think you all seem like intelligent people. And I think what has been announced from our County Executive, Bruce Blakeman, in the headlines is irresponsible, not only morally, not only for the reasons the young woman said, also financially, to be committing at a time when you're raising taxes on so many of us across the board 10%. You're making us pay more. And now you having a blank check for a reckless

president that's trying to deport just workers, people that pay taxes for all of y'all's nice salaries. That news they just said on Sundays, 200 grand in many parts all over. You're paying this. You're getting paid more than ever. You're putting more police on top of us, pay more taxes, and now you're giving a blank check to a reckless person. Who, maybe he won in some parts of Nassau, he didn't vote in my neighborhood. He didn't vote where we're from in Hempstead. And so it's irresponsible. It's reckless. And it's also financially imprudent in a time when, I mean the books, from what I read in the newspapers, it says that you can't even pass a budget without the State getting involved in saying that you have crooked accounting. And that's why you have to have refund everybody for a crooked red light program that's failing and now costing us a lot of money.

So please do the financially responsible thing. Listen to Police

Commissioner Ryder, who said in October when he was asked, is this a good idea? Said, no. We want people to be feel comfortable interacting with the New York Police. We would never want to associate them with a ridiculous program that everybody saw was ridiculous the first time Trump tried it and tried to separate a bunch of families at the border is reckless. Police Commissioner Ryder thinks it's reckless. You should ask him what he said in front of the Latinos in front of the Hispanic heritage event. He said it publicly. He thought it was a stupid idea. It is still a stupid idea. It's a reckless alien, and it's a costly idea to violate people's constitutional rights to have and possibly unlimited lawsuits on the hands of the national taxpayers like myself; reckless.

So for all the reasons that have already been said, this Nassau County Legislature should talk to their executive and let them know, stop the

recklessness, get the books in order, cut the taxes and leave the hard workers alone. There's no reason to give a blank check to a reckless madman, and y'all have time to fix it. So fix your mistakes. That's all I got to say to y'all. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right. This concludes a public comment.

(Whereupon, recess for Rules Committee.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Will you please call the roll for the Full Legislature?

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, Presiding Officer. Roll call.

Deputy Presiding Officer Thomas McKevitt?

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer John Ferretti.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy Minority Leader Sielia Bynoe?

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Carrie A. Solages?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Debra Mule?

LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C. William Gaylor, III?

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John

Giuffre?

LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Mazi Pilip?

Mazi is in attendance.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Scott Davis?

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James Kennedy?

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Patrick Mullaney?

LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Seth Koslow?

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Scott Strauss?

LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Deputy Minority Leader Arnold Drucker?

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose

Walker?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Samantha Goetz?

LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Michael Giangregorio?

LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton?

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Presiding Officer Howard Kopel?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum, sir.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We'll start out with a consent calendar. These are items that have gone through Committees about which the Majority of Minority have agreed. No further debate or discussion is required. And those are Ordinance numbers 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77,

79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 223, 224, 225, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 247, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272.

Motion by Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt, seconded by Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton.

All those in favor of adjourning rules, please say, "Aye."

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

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no verbal response.)

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Those items pass unanimously.

Number seven on the Calendar Ordinance 78, which provides a bond ordinance providing for capital expenditure, authorizing $24,974,267 of

bonds to finance an expenditure.

Motion by Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt, seconded by Legislator John Ferretti.

Mr. Casolaro.

MR. CASOLARO: Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader, Madam Minority Leader and ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature.

On behalf of the Comptroller, I'm Charlie Casolaro, her counsel, and I'm here to appeal to this body to pass Ordinance 78 for the bond issuance. As you know, for the better part of two and a half years, with the support of this body, both Democrat and Republican, with the support of the Administration and the leadership of the Comptroller's Office, dozens and dozens of County employees have spent hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of hours and with great skill, with great care and great success, we put together a contract to replace the current and woefully outdated financial

system that Nassau County uses. This bonding is necessary to fund that project. This is a critical project, this is a necessary project, and this is something that should not be part in my opinion of any debate or negotiation among this body with the Administration. And I say that respectfully, I understand there are issues, but I would ask that this body vote to approve this separate and apart from the issues that you have with the capital plan, with the Administration, that could be worked out at a different time. This ordinance is not part of that. This Body approved this contract on the Rules Committee unanimously. The legislators were briefed fully. We had unanimous support. NIFA approved this contract unanimously. We had support of the Administration and under the leadership of the Comptroller's Office, were at the five yard line.

We are now in the beginning process of working with CGI, the vendor. We have

other outside advisors, the Gartner Group Plante Moran, that are assisting the County. We have countless hours of County labor that could be capitalized under this plan, with this bond ordinance. To shortchange this contract and not give us the chance to fulfill it, would be sad and difficult and problematic. The County needs this new software system. It is woefully outdated. We are operating on the 1992 software, 1995 software, that can't be amended, that can't be updated. It's time to move into the 21st century here with the software. This contract does it.

Most importantly, too, we're under a timeline. This contract has two tracks. The first one would be to try to have this implemented, this new system designed and implemented by 2027. And if we can manage that, we stay within a certain price. If we get pushed out to 2028, we go up another $8.5 million. That could be avoided if we had the funding in

place. We're in the process of hiring the people and we're all systems go.

So I would ask that this body that has been so supportive on both sides that this not be made part of any bargaining tool, that you please vote to approve this bond. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Yes, Legislator Koslow.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Thank you, Chair.

First, before I get into my questions for you, I do have to say I want to wish you, Siela Bynoe, the best of luck. I got to see you as a fierce advocate here, sitting on this dais and in our caucus meetings. And I learned a lot from you in our short time together. As Legislator Drucker said before, sometimes we didn't agree, but that's part of the process how we get better and how we work better for our communities. I learned a lot from you. I appreciate everything you've done, and I have no doubt you're going to continue fighting

and giving the other side of the aisle a tremendous, tremendous job to fight against you up in Albany. Keep it up and keep fighting for your district. Thank you.

Now, with respect to the request before us today for the bond ordinance of the $25 million, you know as well as I do that we support this, and that's evidenced by the fact that we already agreed to give the $12 million at the initial request. And we're all for this because we want this for the community.

MR. CASOLARO: Yes, yes.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: But this is not the only thing the community needs. We need infrastructure repairs. We need jobs for the union workers through the capital plan, and we can't just pick and choose where we're giving the money simply because you need this right now. We need the capital plan in order to do what's best for our communities, in order to be able to fund the projects we need. And

it's incumbent upon the Administration to realize it's not just one project at a time. We have to do everything for this community, for our communities. And that's why we support this. We want to support this. We need this. But we can't just keep giving money one project at a time when the Administration sees fit. And that's why we're urging the administration to present a full plan and hold capital capital plan hearing for 2025 so we can do what we're supposed to do as legislators and bring funding to our communities. Thank you.

MR. CASOLARO: My response to that is, while I understand that, and of course you're elected leaders, you have constituencies and communities to be responsive to, and you have to protect the County as a whole, this does that. This goes a long way in doing that. There are other items that you and the Administration may have difficulty on, you'll come to an agreement on; I

recognize that. I would just ask that this not be held hostage, that this is a critical County infrastructure project. The system that we're working on now is woefully, woefully -- that's not even strong enough a word -- woefully outdated. So this is a critical infrastructure project. And I understand your point.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: One more thing. I agree with you completely, and we all agree with you, but we're not picking and choosing which project. This is why this should be a part of the capital plan. This should be part of the discussion that we will support so we can help everybody, not just one area of Nassau County with the financial system. We need to help everybody, and that's what we want to do and that's what we're asking for.

MR. CASOLARO: I understand.

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

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Aye.
LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Aye.
LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Aye.
LEGISLATOR PILIP: Aye.
LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Aye.
LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Aye.
LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Aye.
LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Aye.
LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Aye.
LEGISLATOR WALKER: Aye.
LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Aye.
LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Aye.
PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?
LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Nay.
LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Nay.
LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Nay.
LEGISLATOR MULE: Nay.
LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Nay.
MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Nay.
LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Nay.
PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: So the item fails by a vote of 12 to 7.
I am going to make a motion to

reconsider. Seconded by Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt.

And I will say, before we vote on this motion, that I think that it's shameful to hold the entire County hostage by refusing to vote on an item that everyone on this dais here knows is important, knows that it's costing the County money by delaying. It's costing our taxpayers money by delaying and just makes no sense.

All those in favor of reconsidering --

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can I say something before you --

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: By all means, go ahead.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: We just bonded $12 million. And if you look at NIPS, the money is still is yet to be spent. Most of it, almost all of it. So the bottom line is we support you. And we gave you a really good start. I mean, $12 million for this program is a huge start.

I understand you have, you mentioned 2027 -- but we anticipate we were hoping to have a capital plan done by the time that it's supposed to be done, which is now December 31st. We're ready. December 15th is the actual date, according to the Charter, but we gave the Administration our feedback we've been open to discuss. We've given them dates to meet. I know you might feel that it's not ideal to have to wait, but we're willing to vote for this as soon as it is worked out with the rest of the capital plan. Again, we already showed you with a huge amount of money. That is a huge amount of money we already gave you. And that was just, what, two months ago?

MR. CASOLARO: No dispute.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: I would suggest, let's be honest, a lot of the money's still there. I think it's all of it; last I heard, it was most of it. But I hear all of the money is still there. So start with that. And hopefully

by the time you're ready for more money to spend, we will be ready to support you 100%. Because again, we support the project. We're not going to bond until we have a seat at the table to discuss all the bonding. It's fair. You would do the same thing in the Comptroller's Office. You don't take half a bill and say, okay, you can give me the other half later. It's due diligence. And as Legislator Koslow said, we're being fair.

I understand your urgency for 2028. And I know it's been like three years since we had a capital plan, but hopefully it won't be another three years and then we won't run into a problem with 2028. So again, I'm cautiously optimistic that they're going to have a capital plan in the near future and we'll be happy to support you.

MR. CASALARO: Okay. Thank you for your consideration.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Legislator Bynoe?

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Presiding Officer -- I'm not speaking directly to you, Charlie. I'm just speaking to the Presiding Officer and on his request for us to reconsider.

I want to say that, first and foremost, I support the the Comptroller's effort to modernize the system. I think there would be real benefits to those who are currently contracting with the actual County right now. And I do believe that in the interest of those that would like to partake in procurement opportunities here, especially MWBE, and those that are service disabled veterans, it will it will actually allow them to have a different means of engaging with the County. So I support that.

But my concern is that we do end up here, routinely, utilizing the only leverage that we have in negotiating for things that are important to our districts. And I'd argue that some time ago, I've sat with DPW staff, I sat with

members of the Administration's senior staff, and I illustrate it. Not just because I have traversed these roads and found significant traffic safety issues, but because I engaged Vision Long Island and with AARP for the purpose of doing walk audits on Jerusalem Avenue and in other portions of the district. And then I used New York State traffic data, the accident reports, that illustrated that on Jerusalem Avenue, Nassau Road, Brush Hollow Road, that when compared to other roadways similarly situated in the county, there was an extremely high rate of accident, property damage and physical injury and even fatalities.

So what we're talking about today is making sure that we are able to provide safe roadways for our communities for the purpose of preserving life.

And so while I really believe that we should be moving forward with this contract, I don't think we do it absent of making sure that we are being good

stewards over the trust that has been bestowed upon this Body to make sure that we are preserving life and that we're creating safe streets and we're creating opportunities for traffic calming.

You know that you're hearing about traffic fatalities more now than you ever have. So this, unfortunately, trumps what we want to do on a day-to-day basis for efficiency in the government. So I ask that you reconsider and that you interface with your county executive and ask him to move the plan forward so we can deal with all these issues swiftly and efficiently and with decency and in order. Thank you.

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

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Aye.

LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Aye.

LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Aye.

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Aye.

LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Aye.

LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Aye.

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Aye.
LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Aye.
LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Aye.
LEGISLATOR WALKER: Aye.
LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Aye.
LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Aye.
PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?
LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Nay.
LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Nay.
LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Nay.
LEGISLATOR MULE: Nay.
LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Nay.
MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Nay.
LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Nay.
PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: The motion passes, 12 to 7.
Motion to table made by Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt. Seconded by Legislator Ferretti. All those in favor of tabling this item, please say, "Aye".
(Whereupon, all members respond in favor with, "Aye".)
PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

That motion passes unanimously.

******

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Resolution 226. Resolution authorizing the County Attorney to compromise and settle the claims of Nassau against Target.

Motion by Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt. Seconded by Legislator Ferretti.

Any debate or discussion on this item. All those in favor of Resolution 226, please say, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That item is unanimous.

*****

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Resolution 248. Transfer of appropriations.

Motion by Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt. Seconded by Legislator Ferretti.

Amendment in the nature of a substitution, which adjusts certain budget codes within the transfers and overall reduces the amount transferred by approximately $683,000.

Motion on the amendment by Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt. Seconded by Legislator Ferretti.

All those in favor of the amendment say, "Aye."

(Whereupon, all members respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That amendment passes.

Now on the item. All those in favor of the items say, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That item is unanimous.

*****

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: 14 and 65.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Presiding Officer, if you could just humor me for an end of the year present.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We always do.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: I appreciate it. I just wanted to mention that now that we're accepting this additional opioid money that we really need to see -- not only do we accept the money, but we do what is intended to do with the settlement money. Every time I speak with the Kaufman family or other families, I seriously, just my heart breaks for the rest of the day. It's hard to pull myself out of it. And it happens regularly. I hear that there might be an idea of possibly having to get legislation to push us to do this. But again, I think it's time that we start to really see this money move out. It's unconscionable that we can sit here and let that money just remain stagnant when

there are programs like Dr. Jeff Reynolds does and many other groups do that literally save the lives of these kids and adults. We're accepting Target. It's a good amount of money. We're happy that we won this lawsuit. I'm sorry they didn't put some type of regulation as to the time it had to be spent, but I don't think that they really felt that they had to. I think they knew it was a common sense issue that we would move forward with. I'm sure, I don't know, but I would think you all get questions. I mean, I know we all have causes we care about, whether it's diabetes or autism or other opioid-related issues. How do we sit here as a branch of government and we're okay with this? We're moving into the next year. And, if any of you would like to join us, in really requesting that this be moved forward, I can't think of a more noble cause. I mean, we need checks and balances in this. That's why this government is set up this way. And to

remain silent when something as important is this is just not going forward. I don't know how your residents don't call you as much as they call us. We all have the opioid problem. We all see it and we all have been to funerals. And again, this money is is meant for a reason. That's why we won the lawsuit. And it's just gone on too long. And we really could use your help in making sure -- this is something that's not political. This is something that's not to gain financial interest money. It's not. It's something that it's supposed to help our kids. So I think there's a few issues that we might have to join together with to make sure. I know it's a priority to you guys as well as us, but it has to be treated as such, and we really call on you for it. And we're going to call on you for the future, because the fact that this Administration is doing some of these things is more than just a financial decision. It's really, in my

opinion, a life and death situation.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Thank you for that.

Items 14 and 65, which are respectively Ordinance 85 and Resolution 273.

Ordinance 85 is an Ordinance amending Ordinance 57, constituting the Nassau County budget for the 12 month 2025 fiscal year beginning January 1st and 273 is a Resolution to amend the Multi Year Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2025 through 2028.

Motion by Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt. Seconded by Legislator Ferretti.

Any debate or discussion on this item?

(Whereupon, off the record discussion.)

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

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Aye.

LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Aye.

LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Aye.

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Aye.

LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Aye.

LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Aye.

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Aye.

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Aye.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Aye.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Aye.

LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Aye.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Nay.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Nay.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Nay.

LEGISLATOR MULE: Nay.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Nay.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Nay.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Nay.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Passes 12 to 7.

*****

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Procedural Resolution 11 of '24, which establishes a calendar for meetings of the Legislature for the calendar year 2025.

Motion by Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt. Seconded by Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton.

Any debate or discussion on this item? All those in favor, please say, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That item is unanimous.

*****

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Resolution 12, which designates the official newspaper for the County of Nassau for the year 2025.

Motion by Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt. Seconded by Legislator Ferretti.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Can I be heard on this?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right. Legislator Davis.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: So in terms of the designation of an official County newspaper, the common sense seems to me that the newspaper that we should be using is the one that reaches the most people. The idea of good government is that we are transparent, that what we do is scrutinized, and that we're accountable for what we do. It's my understanding that *Newsday* has been the official newspaper of the Legislature of the County since the inception of the Legislature, and we modified, by

resolution, we amended the Charter in June of this year. And when I say we, it wasn't a unanimous decision. It was along party lines. And I'm trying to figure out or look at why we're doing this. And one of the best metrics or ways we can look at it is by numbers. And I do have some numbers that I want everyone to know. So it's my understanding through Scarborough and Nielsen data that between the dates of February and October of 2024, *Newsday* has a weekly readership of 440,000 readers in Nassau County. The *New York Post* has a weekly readership rate of almost half, 227,000 weekly readers. So why the change? Why now? Why go to an official newspaper that has less readership?

I took the liberty of looking at a little bit more detail, *Newsday* and *The Post*, and I looked at something that I thought would be very instructive and something that I think all of us here in the legislature and all those who are

listening should consider: *Newsday* has a slogan, and that slogan is, "Your eye on Long Island". *Newsday* is based in Long Island, in Melville, but certainly we're all familiar with their articles. We're all familiar with their reporters. We're all familiar with their scrutiny for all of us.

I looked at *The New York Post* to see what their slogan was; there isn't one. I looked to see where *The Post* is headquartered, and they're on Avenue of the Americas in New York City. So we have to ask ourselves, why are we doing this? Why are we going to a newspaper that is not hyperlocal? Why are we going to a newspaper that has less weekly readership? Why are we going to a newspaper that is based in New York City and not in Long Island? Why did we amend the County Charter in order to facilitate this? This is what makes all of us look bad. Because people look at this and they and they wonder, why are we doing

it? People have the right. And me as a new legislator, I welcome the scrutiny. I welcome my feet held to the fire and accountability. And I think we all should. And when we're making decisions that are blatantly political and they have an adverse impact on the scrutiny that the public can place on us, it's just bad government and we shouldn't do this.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Thank you, Legislator Davis.

I will just set forth a few comments about why this was done and relating to some of the items that you just discussed.

First of all, in terms of the circulation, I know the *Newsday* has declined to provide it directly. I'm going to finish. I didn't interrupt you. You're not going to interrupt me. *Newsday* has exhibited consistent bias in terms of its editorial content and certainly they've exhibited an inability

to distinguish between reporting news and and their editorial opinions, which seep into the news. They have historically misquoted, quoted out of context. Going beyond that, in terms of the distribution, New York Post has -- by the way, I should mention it's the oldest continuously published paper in the country founded by Alexander Hamilton -- it has a significant readership here in Nassau County. *Newsday* has a paywall, which blocks people from going ahead and reading what's going on over here. As well as even reading the notices that the County publishes, those are all blocked by a paywall. *New York Post* does not have one. *New York Post* has promised to establish a significant presence here.

Now, here in Nassau in the New Year, they're going to have two full time reporters here in Nassau County. And at least a page or two of Nassau News, devoted to Nassau news and more when there's something significant going on.

And last but not least, they're also going to devote a significant amount of time and publishing space to our local sports teams. That's something that *Newsday* does. I'll say that. And they're going to be doing that as well. And they've got a much better sports section overall. I'll tell you that. At least that's my opinion. Much more robust.

The reporting staff has been hollowed out in recent years. They have a couple local people and for the. Most part they rely on wire services for their news. You look at it and that's all you see for national/international. It's all AP and other wire services.

So all in all, this is a well considered decision. It will not preclude -- by the way, the way things are structured will not preclude the County from publishing items in *Newsday* as well as appropriate. But all in all, this is a good decision. It is a good decision for the people of the county and

it is not going to detract at all from the ability of the county residents, which is the purpose of these notices. It's not going to detract at all, given the lack of paywall from anyone in the county checking these things on a daily basis as needed.

Legislator Bynoe?

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you. So the paywall issue I would consider legit as a concern, but we are seeing currently that the subscriber numbers are solid with *Newsday*. Just today when I had the class in here, as I do normally when I have a class in here, I explained to them what legislators do, and I explained that we legislate. It's in our name, right? We create laws, we vet laws, we vote on laws. That we're fiduciaries, that we manage the funds of the County. But I explained to them, the most important role of government of elected leaders is that we connect them to resources, that we are the access to government. And

access alone is not enough; awareness is. And so *Newsday*, as a means for promulgating any of the legal notices and etcetra, that we would be engaging them for, I think it's shortsighted to say that we're not doing that, because we don't feel that they have sided with our policies, our philosophy, and our political leanings. I have felt misquoted by *Newsday*. I have felt that I didn't get a fair shake with *Newsday*. But at the end of the day, my job is in this role is not to worry about how *Newsday* has treated me. It's about how they're serving our public. So to say that we're not going to support *Newsday* because we don't agree with how they have dealt with us. I think it's shortsighted. It's inappropriate, and it has no place in government or in this chamber.

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Legislator Ferretti, of course.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you,

Presiding Officer. Just for me real quick, two reasons why I'm going to be supporting this.

Number one is the paywall issue. I think it's extremely important that all residents, regardless of your financial ability, has access to this information. And clearly *The Post* is a better choice in that regard.

And secondarily, as a presiding officer touched on, you know, talk about transparency as Legislator Davis did, *Newsday* was asked to provide their circulation numbers. They didn't. They declined to provide it. So there's that lack of transparency from *Newsday* is the second reason I will be supporting this. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. All those in favor of Resolution 246, please say, "Aye".

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Aye.

LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Aye.

LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Aye.

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Aye.

LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Aye.

LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Aye.

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Aye.

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Aye.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Aye.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Aye.

LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Aye.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Nay.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Nay.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Nay.

LEGISLATOR MULE: Nay.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Nay.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Nay.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Nay.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Passes 12 to 7.

******

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: There's a motion to establish an emergency moved by Legislator Walker. Seconded by Legislator Drucker.

All those in favor of establishing the emergency say, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay, that's unanimous.

Amendment Resolution 246, which amends Resolution 387, last amended by 223, to designate newspaper to publish and identify the real property on which real estate tax liens are subject to sale by the County Treasurer for unpaid taxes.

Motion on this item by Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt. Seconded by Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton.

Now amendment in the nature of a substitution, which adds several papers *The Jewish Home, Nassau Illustrated News*

and Seacliff/Glenn Head Herald as publication.

Motion on that amendment by Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt. Seconded by Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton.

All those in favor of amendment number two say, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That amendment passes.

Now, on the item as amended, all those in favor please say, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. That item passes unanimously.

*****

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Motion to establish emergency on Item 390.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Moved by Legislator Walker. Seconded by Legislator Drucker.

All those in favor of establishing emergency on 390, please say, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. That emergency is established.

Now on the Item 390 an ordinance supplemental to the appropriation ordinance in connection with the Office of Management and Budget.

Motioned by Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt. Seconded by Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton.

Any debate or discussion?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All those

in favor of this item, please say, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That item passes unanimously.

******

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: A motion to establish an emergency on Item 391, which is an ordinance amending Ordinance 58, fixing the tax rates, and levying taxes for the 12 month 2025 fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025.

Motion by Legislator Ferretti. Seconded by Legislator Bynoe.

All those in favor of establishing the emergency on 391, please say, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: The emergency established.

Now on the item. Motion on the item by Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt. Seconded by Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton.

All those in favor of Item 391, please say, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, discussion off the record.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: So that's 13-0-6.

(Whereupon, off the record discussion.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I just want to make one comment before we adjourn. Item 52 on the Calendar, I'm told was not supposed to be called. So we're going to strike that item. All right.

Motion to adjourn. Everyone moves to adjourn. Everyone seconds it.

All those in favor of adjourning say, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Happy

Hanukkah.

(Whereupon, the above matter adjourns.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)

: SS.:

County of Nassau)

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of December, 2024.

Alexa Lorenzo

Alexa Lorenzo

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