

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES MEETING

HOWARD KOPEL

PRESIDING OFFICER

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ROSE MARIE WALKER

CHAIRWOMAN

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Monday, February 9, 2026

2:04 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

A P P E A R A N C E S

CHAIRWOMAN ROSE MARIE WALKER

VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL GIANGREGORIO

LEGISLATOR SCOTT STRAUSS

LEGISLATOR SAMANTHA GOETZ

LEGISLATOR OLENA NICKS - RANKING

LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER

LEGISLATOR VIVIANA RUSSELL

MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

1
2 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: At this time, I
3 will call the Health and Social Service
4 Committee to order. And I will ask the
5 clerk to take the roll call.

6 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, madam.

7 Chairman Rose Marie Walker?

8 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

9 CLERK PULITZER: Vice chairman
10 Michael Giangregorio?

11 LEGISLATOR GIANREGORIO: Here.

12 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Scott
13 Strauss?

14 LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Present.

15 CLERK PULITZER: Samantha Goetz?

16 CLERK PULITZER: Ranking member
17 Olena Nicks?

18 LEGISLATOR NICKS: Here.

19 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.

20 Viviana Russell?

21 LEGISLATOR RUSSELL: Here.

22 CLERK PULITZER: Arnold Drucker?

23 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

24 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you. We have a
25 quorum.

1
2 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you. The
3 only item we have on today's Agenda is
4 via Addendum; therefore, I will take a
5 motion to suspend the Rules.

6 Motion made by legislator
7 Giangregorio, seconded by Legislator
8 Drucker.

9 All in favor of suspending the
10 Rules, signify by saying aye.

11 (Whereupon, all members
12 respond in favor.)

13 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: There is one
14 item on the Agenda today which is Clerk
15 Item 27-26. This is a local law to
16 prohibit the sale and distribution of
17 kratom.

18 May I have a motion?

19 Moved by Legislator Scott Strauss,
20 seconded by Legislator Viviana Russell.

21 All in favor, please signify by
22 saying aye.

23 (Whereupon, all members
24 respond in favor.)

25 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Okay. Briefly,

1
2 this item was previously heard in Public
3 safety and would ban the sale and
4 distribution of kratom containing
5 products in Nassau County. Both the
6 majority and the minority have filed
7 legislation towards this goal, and as
8 indicated in Public Safety, it will be
9 the subject of a hearing on February
10 23rd.

11 As we have in the past, I would ask
12 if members of this committee have
13 questions or concerns that they place
14 them on the record here today. To the
15 extent we can address those questions or
16 concerns today, we will. Otherwise, we
17 will make sure that they are addressed at
18 our public hearing and prior to the vote
19 on February 23rd.

20 Would any legislator like to speak
21 on this?

22 Legislator Drucker.

23 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
24 Chairwoman.

25 So we just had a discussion with the

1
2 Public Safety Committee, and I would just
3 like to repeat that, but not word for
4 word, please.

5 We have two bills because I think
6 both caucuses understand the gravity of
7 this situation and how important it is
8 for us to come up with something that is
9 suitable for all of us, and is going to
10 be effective in eradicating this in
11 Nassau County. So I look forward to our
12 collaboration on this. We're going to
13 have meetings, your counsel and mine. We
14 look forward to having a hearing on the
15 23rd and getting this bill passed for the
16 benefit of all of Nassau County
17 residents.

18 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you,
19 Legislator Drucker.

20 Any other legislators?

21 (Whereupon, no response.)

22 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: I would just
23 like to add that many of these shops,
24 too, they realistically look like a candy
25 store, and they entice our young people

1
2 to go in and to purchase products that
3 are certainly really for the detrimental
4 of their health.

5 Is there any other debate or
6 discussion?

7 (Whereupon, no response.)

8 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: All in favor
9 signify by saying aye.

10 (Whereupon, all members
11 respond in favor.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any opposed?

13 (Whereupon, no response.)

14 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: This item passes
15 unanimously. We look forward to
16 discussing this further on February 23rd.

17 There's no other business in front
18 of this committee.

19 May I have a motion to adjourn? By
20 Legislator Samantha Goetz, seconded by
21 Legislator Olena Nicks.

22 All in favor of adjourning, signify
23 by saying aye.

24 (Whereupon, all members
25 respond in favor).

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CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: No.

We are now adjourned and we move on
to Finance.

(Whereupon, meeting
adjourns, 2:08 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)

: SS.:

COUNTY OF NASSAU)

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 9th day of February, 2026.

Karen Lorenzo

Karen Lorenzo

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