

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES MEETING

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HOWARD KOPEL

PRESIDING OFFICER

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**HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**ROSE MARIE WALKER**

**CHAIRWOMAN**

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**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**\*\*\***

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

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Monday, June 15, 2026

2:13 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

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MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

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

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, madam.

Chairman Rose Marie Walker?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Vice chairman Michael Giangregorio?

LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James Kennedy?

LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Samantha Goetz?

CLERK PULITZER: Ranking member Olena Nicks?

LEGISLATOR NICKS: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.

Viviana Russell?

LEGISLATOR RUSSELL: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Arnold Drucker?

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you. We have a quorum.

1  
2 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you. There  
3 are three items on the Agenda today,  
4 which are Clerk Items 132-26, 134-26 and  
5 147-26.

6 Clerk Item 132-26 is an ordinance  
7 supplemental to the Annual Appropriation  
8 Ordinance in connection with Social  
9 Services.

10 Motion please. By Legislator  
11 Kennedy. Seconded by Legislator Drucker.  
12 So the item is before us. And who might  
13 we have here from administration?

14 MS. OWEISS: Hi. Good afternoon  
15 everyone. Joanne O, Deputy County  
16 Attorney, on behalf of Social Services,  
17 on item 132-26. As legislator, Walker  
18 said this is an item that appropriates  
19 \$2,028,294 received from New York State  
20 Otda to support the Nassau County  
21 Department of Social Services in  
22 connection with its New York State Rental  
23 Supplemental program, which provides  
24 vital rental assistance to individuals  
25 and families who are experiencing

1  
2 homelessnes or facing an imminent loss  
3 of housing. The program is fully funded  
4 by this New York State grant, and there's  
5 no local contribution.

6 MS. OWEISS: Hi. Good afternoon  
7 everyone. Joanne Oweiss, Deputy County  
8 Attorney, on behalf of Social Services,  
9 on Item 132-26.

10 As legislator, Walker said this is  
11 an item that appropriates \$2,028,294  
12 received from New York State OTDA to  
13 support the Nassau County Department of  
14 Social Services in connection with its  
15 New York State Rental Supplemental  
16 program, which provides vital rental  
17 assistance to individuals and families  
18 who are experiencing homelessness or  
19 facing an imminent loss of housing.

20 The program is fully funded by this  
21 New York State grant, and there's no  
22 local contribution.

23 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you.

24 Legislator Drucker.

25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you, Madam

1  
2 Chair.

3 MS. OWEISS: How are you?

4 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Where is this  
5 housing located that you have for the,  
6 you know, the temporary housing for these  
7 people?

8 MS. OWEISS: What this program is, is  
9 it provides supplemental rental  
10 assistance. So it's housed everywhere.  
11 The individuals go out and find an  
12 apartment or a house, and this supports  
13 them paying rent month over month.

14 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So they're  
15 private dwellings or --

16 MS. OWEISS: Anywhere in the county.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: And then there's  
18 a supplement from the county.

19 MS. OWEISS: Yes. The program allows  
20 rent to be paid up to 85% of market rate,  
21 basically, if I'm correct. Yes.

22 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So you have  
23 people going out and looking for these  
24 type --

25 MS. OWEISS: It's part of the whole

1  
2 project. Yes. Either the individual can  
3 go -- we have people who administer the  
4 program. They also assist, but it's  
5 basically a private -- private  
6 apartments, private residence, not  
7 through a shelter or a specific building.

8 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: It's not to a  
9 shelter.

10 MS. OWEISS: No.

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: And it covers up  
12 to 85%.

13 MS. OWEISS: 85% of the market rent.  
14 Right.

15 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Okay. Thank you  
16 very much.

17 MS. OWEISS: You're welcome.

18 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: And oftentimes,  
19 some of these residents have been in a  
20 shelter because there was no place for  
21 them to go.

22 MS. OWEISS: Sometimes this is a  
23 transition to permanent housing for them.

24 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: It's usually the  
25 individual that has to find a place.

1  
2 MS. OWEISS: I think the  
3 administrator assists. I know we have  
4 landlords that we typically use. But I  
5 think the individual, probably the best  
6 bet to go and find where they want to  
7 live and find an appropriate place for  
8 them. But we do provide assistance also.  
9 It's my understanding as part of the  
10 contract.

11 LEGISLATOR RUSSELL: Is this just for  
12 ongoing assistance or is this also for  
13 like the one shot deal through social  
14 services?

15 MS. OWEISS: This is different than  
16 the one shot deal. This is a separate  
17 funding source, a separate program  
18 allocated year over year by the state.

19 LEGISLATOR RUSSELL: Thank you.

20 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any other  
21 questions or comments?

22 (Whereupon, no response.)

23 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: All in favor,  
24 please signify by saying aye.

25 (Whereupon, all members

respond in favor.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: All right. So  
this item passes and moves on to thank  
you to Finance.

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1  
2 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: The next item is  
3 Item 134-26, which is an ordinance  
4 supplemental to the annual appropriation  
5 ordinance in connection with the Health  
6 Department.

7 MS. ZOHRABIAN: Good afternoon,  
8 Alyssa Zohrabian for Nassau County  
9 Department of Health.

10 Item 134-26 is a supplemental  
11 appropriation in the amount of  
12 \$1,727,077. It is for our WIC program.  
13 The WIC grant provides nutritional  
14 services and food vouchers for women,  
15 infant and children who qualify under  
16 federal nutrition financial need  
17 guidelines. The program serves over 5000  
18 clients monthly at our two sites, which  
19 are in Glen Cove and in Hempstead.

20 Because it's a grant fund, it's  
21 grant funded through New York State  
22 Department of Health, and will have no  
23 impact on the budget.

24 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you. And  
25 you know what? I don't think I asked

1  
2 anyone. Can I have motion, a legislator,  
3 a Legislator Kennedy moves to have that  
4 motion brought forward, and Legislator  
5 Drucker again seconds it.

6 So I'm sorry I didn't do that before  
7 then. All right.

8 Legislator Drucker, you had a  
9 question.

10 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Yes. So have you  
11 experienced any interruption or reduction  
12 in this program as a result of the  
13 federal contraction of funds?

14 MS. ZOHRABIAN: No.

15 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: No, you have  
16 not, because it's been always funded by  
17 the State.

18 MS. ZOHRABIAN: It's funded through  
19 USDA and then through the State and then  
20 to us. But we have not received a  
21 reduction in funding.

22 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So any sort of  
23 impact from the federal government hasn't  
24 hasn't filtered down to this program?

25 MS. ZOHRABIAN: Not to this program,

no.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you,  
Legislator Nicks.

LEGISLATOR NICKS: I have a two part  
question here. The first is, have you  
seen or have there been any changes to  
the guidelines or what the qualifiers are  
meaning has have they changed  
significantly to who's eligible or the  
eligibility?

MS. ZOHRABIAN: Not that I know of.

LEGISLATOR NICKS: Okay. And are you  
seeing an increase in the amount of  
people that we are servicing, I would say  
over the last year?

MS. ZOHRABIAN: I think everything  
has been steady. And we're also, though  
not the only WIC sites in the county, we  
just have two sites. But there are other  
community based organizations and other  
neighborhoods and other communities that  
also received this grant.

LEGISLATOR NICKS: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any other  
questions or comments?

(Whereupon, no response.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: All in favor,  
please signify by saying aye.

(Whereupon, all members  
respond in favor.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: All right. So  
this item passes and moves on to thank  
you to Finance.

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1  
2 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Next is Clerk  
3 Item 147-26 is an ordinance supplemental  
4 to the annual Appropriation ordinance in  
5 connection with the Health Department.

6 May have a motion, please by  
7 Legislator Kennedy and seconded by  
8 Legislator Nicks.

9 And the item is before us.

10 MS. ZOHRABIAN: So this Item 147-26  
11 is a supplemental appropriation in the  
12 amount of \$684,683 is for the Public  
13 Health Emergency Preparedness Grant. It's  
14 a CDC funded program administered by New  
15 York State Department of Health, and it  
16 allows our department to train, prepare,  
17 respond to public health emergencies. It  
18 also identifies funding for trainings,  
19 exercises, drills, PPE response  
20 equipment, and communication support.

21 And again, because the grant has no  
22 net impact on the budget.

23 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Okay. Any  
24 questions or comments from the  
25 legislators?

(Whereupon, no response.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Okay. Seeing  
none.

All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Whereupon, all members  
respond in favor.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: And this passes  
unanimously and will also move on to  
Finance.

There's no other business before  
this committee.

May I have a motion to adjourn by  
Legislator Giangregorio and seconded by  
Legislator Nicks.

All in favor of adjourning, signify  
by saying aye.

(Whereupon, all members  
respond in favor).

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: We are now  
adjourned and we move on to Finance.

(Whereupon, meeting  
adjourns, 2:22 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 15th day of June, 2026.

Karen Lorenzo

Karen Lorenzo

|                                         |                                                     |                                                                                                                                                           |                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>\$</b>                               | <b>administered</b> [1] - 14:14                     | <b>aye</b> [4] - 8:24, 13:6, 15:5, 15:19                                                                                                                  | <b>Clerk</b> [4] - 2:15, 4:4, 4:6, 14:2                   |
| <b>\$1,727,077</b> [1] - 10:12          | <b>administration</b> [1] - 4:13                    | <b>B</b>                                                                                                                                                  | <b>CLERK</b> [7] - 3:6, 3:9, 3:12, 3:15, 3:16, 3:19, 3:22 |
| <b>\$2,028,294</b> [2] - 4:19, 5:11     | <b>administrator</b> [1] - 8:3                      | <b>based</b> [1] - 12:22                                                                                                                                  | <b>clients</b> [1] - 10:18                                |
| <b>\$684,683</b> [1] - 14:12            | <b>afternoon</b> [3] - 4:14, 5:6, 10:7              | <b>behalf</b> [2] - 4:16, 5:8                                                                                                                             | <b>comments</b> [3] - 8:21, 13:3, 14:24                   |
| <b>1</b>                                | <b>Agenda</b> [1] - 4:3                             | <b>best</b> [1] - 8:5                                                                                                                                     | <b>Committee</b> [1] - 3:4                                |
| <b>132-26</b> [4] - 4:4, 4:6, 4:17, 5:9 | <b>allocated</b> [1] - 8:18                         | <b>bet</b> [1] - 8:6                                                                                                                                      | <b>committee</b> [1] - 15:14                              |
| <b>134-26</b> [3] - 4:4, 10:3, 10:10    | <b>allows</b> [2] - 6:19, 14:16                     | <b>brought</b> [1] - 11:4                                                                                                                                 | <b>COMMITTEE</b> [1] - 1:10                               |
| <b>147-26</b> [3] - 4:5, 14:3, 14:10    | <b>Alyssa</b> [1] - 10:8                            | <b>budget</b> [2] - 10:23, 14:22                                                                                                                          | <b>COMMITTEES</b> [1] - 1:4                               |
| <b>15</b> [1] - 1:20                    | <b>amount</b> [3] - 10:11, 12:15, 14:12             | <b>building</b> [1] - 7:7                                                                                                                                 | <b>communication</b> [1] - 14:20                          |
| <b>1550</b> [1] - 1:17                  | <b>AND</b> [1] - 1:10                               | <b>Building</b> [1] - 1:16                                                                                                                                | <b>communities</b> [1] - 12:23                            |
| <b>15th</b> [1] - 17:14                 | <b>Annual</b> [1] - 4:7                             | <b>business</b> [1] - 15:13                                                                                                                               | <b>community</b> [1] - 12:22                              |
| <b>2</b>                                | <b>annual</b> [2] - 10:4, 14:4                      | <b>BY</b> [1] - 1:23                                                                                                                                      | <b>connection</b> [5] - 4:8, 4:22, 5:14, 10:5, 14:5       |
| <b>2026</b> [2] - 1:20, 17:14           | <b>apartment</b> [1] - 6:12                         | <b>C</b>                                                                                                                                                  | <b>contract</b> [1] - 8:10                                |
| <b>2:13</b> [1] - 1:21                  | <b>apartments</b> [1] - 7:6                         | <b>CDC</b> [1] - 14:14                                                                                                                                    | <b>contraction</b> [1] - 11:13                            |
| <b>2:22</b> [1] - 16:5                  | <b>appropriate</b> [1] - 8:7                        | <b>certify</b> [1] - 17:10                                                                                                                                | <b>contribution</b> [2] - 5:5, 5:22                       |
| <b>5</b>                                | <b>appropriates</b> [2] - 4:18, 5:11                | <b>Chair</b> [1] - 6:2                                                                                                                                    | <b>correct</b> [2] - 6:21, 17:11                          |
| <b>5000</b> [1] - 10:17                 | <b>appropriation</b> [3] - 10:4, 10:11, 14:11       | <b>Chairman</b> [1] - 3:7                                                                                                                                 | <b>COUNTY</b> [2] - 1:2, 17:6                             |
| <b>8</b>                                | <b>Appropriation</b> [2] - 4:7, 14:4                | <b>CHAIRMAN</b> [1] - 2:5                                                                                                                                 | <b>county</b> [3] - 6:16, 6:18, 12:20                     |
| <b>85%</b> [3] - 6:20, 7:12, 7:13       | <b>ARNOLD</b> [1] - 2:9                             | <b>chairman</b> [1] - 3:9                                                                                                                                 | <b>County</b> [6] - 1:16, 4:15, 4:20, 5:7, 5:13, 10:8     |
| <b>A</b>                                | <b>Arnold</b> [1] - 3:22                            | <b>cHAIRWOMAN</b> [3] - 10:24, 12:4, 14:23                                                                                                                | <b>COURT</b> [1] - 1:23                                   |
| <b>adjourn</b> [1] - 15:15              | <b>assist</b> [1] - 7:4                             | <b>CHAIRWOMAN</b> [22] - 1:12, 2:4, 3:2, 4:2, 5:23, 7:18, 7:24, 8:20, 8:23, 9:3, 9:5, 10:2, 13:2, 13:5, 13:9, 13:11, 14:2, 15:3, 15:8, 15:10, 15:22, 16:2 | <b>Cove</b> [1] - 10:19                                   |
| <b>adjourned</b> [1] - 16:3             | <b>assistance</b> [5] - 4:24, 5:17, 6:10, 8:8, 8:12 | <b>changed</b> [1] - 12:10                                                                                                                                |                                                           |
| <b>adjourning</b> [1] - 15:18           | <b>assists</b> [1] - 8:3                            | <b>changes</b> [1] - 12:8                                                                                                                                 |                                                           |
| <b>adjourns</b> [1] - 16:5              | <b>Attorney</b> [2] - 4:16, 5:8                     | <b>children</b> [1] - 10:15                                                                                                                               |                                                           |
| <b>administer</b> [1] - 7:3             | <b>Avenue</b> [1] - 1:17                            | <b>clerk</b> [2] - 3:5, 3:24                                                                                                                              |                                                           |

|                                                                                                          |                                                             |                                                                 |                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE                                                                     |                                                             |                                                                 |                                                                  |
| <b>covers</b> [1] - 7:11                                                                                 | 1:16                                                        | [2] - 2:5, 3:11                                                 | <b>IN</b> [1] - 17:13                                            |
| <b>D</b>                                                                                                 | <b>exercises</b> [1] - 14:19                                | <b>Glen</b> [1] - 10:19                                         | <b>increase</b> [1] - 12:15                                      |
| <b>deal</b> [2] - 8:13, 8:16                                                                             | <b>experienced</b> [1] - 11:11                              | <b>GOETZ</b> [1] - 2:7                                          | <b>individual</b> [3] - 7:2, 7:25, 8:5                           |
| <b>department</b> [1] - 14:16                                                                            | <b>experiencing</b> [2] - 4:25, 5:18                        | <b>Goetz</b> [1] - 3:15                                         | <b>individuals</b> [3] - 4:24, 5:17, 6:11                        |
| <b>Department</b> [7] - 4:21, 5:13, 10:6, 10:9, 10:22, 14:5, 14:15                                       | <b>F</b>                                                    | <b>government</b> [1] - 11:23                                   | <b>infant</b> [1] - 10:15                                        |
| <b>Deputy</b> [2] - 4:15, 5:7                                                                            | <b>facing</b> [2] - 5:2, 5:19                               | <b>grant</b> [7] - 5:4, 5:21, 10:13, 10:20, 10:21, 12:24, 14:21 | <b>interruption</b> [1] - 11:11                                  |
| <b>different</b> [1] - 8:15                                                                              | <b>families</b> [2] - 4:25, 5:17                            | <b>Grant</b> [1] - 14:13                                        | <b>Item</b> [6] - 4:6, 5:9, 10:3, 10:10, 14:3, 14:10             |
| <b>down</b> [1] - 11:24                                                                                  | <b>favor</b> [7] - 8:23, 9:2, 13:5, 13:8, 15:5, 15:7, 15:18 | <b>guidelines</b> [2] - 10:17, 12:9                             | <b>item</b> [8] - 4:12, 4:17, 4:18, 5:11, 9:6, 10:2, 13:12, 14:9 |
| <b>drills</b> [1] - 14:19                                                                                | <b>favor)</b> [1] - 15:21                                   | <b>H</b>                                                        | <b>items</b> [1] - 4:3                                           |
| <b>DRUCKER</b> [14] - 2:9, 3:23, 5:25, 6:4, 6:14, 6:17, 6:22, 7:8, 7:11, 7:15, 11:10, 11:15, 11:22, 12:3 | <b>federal</b> [3] - 10:16, 11:13, 11:23                    | <b>hand</b> [1] - 17:14                                         | <b>Items</b> [1] - 4:4                                           |
| <b>Drucker</b> [5] - 3:22, 4:11, 5:24, 11:5, 11:8                                                        | <b>filtered</b> [1] - 11:24                                 | <b>health</b> [1] - 14:17                                       |                                                                  |
| <b>dwellings</b> [1] - 6:15                                                                              | <b>Finance</b> [4] - 9:7, 13:13, 15:12, 16:3                | <b>HEALTH</b> [1] - 1:10                                        |                                                                  |
| <b>E</b>                                                                                                 | <b>financial</b> [1] - 10:16                                | <b>Health</b> [7] - 3:3, 10:5, 10:9, 10:22, 14:5, 14:13, 14:15  |                                                                  |
| <b>Either</b> [1] - 7:2                                                                                  | <b>first</b> [1] - 12:7                                     | <b>Hempstead</b> [1] - 10:19                                    | <b>J</b>                                                         |
| <b>eligibility</b> [1] - 12:12                                                                           | <b>food</b> [1] - 10:14                                     | <b>hereby</b> [1] - 17:10                                       | <b>James</b> [1] - 3:12                                          |
| <b>eligible</b> [1] - 12:11                                                                              | <b>forward</b> [1] - 11:4                                   | <b>hereunto</b> [1] - 17:13                                     | <b>Joanne</b> [2] - 4:15, 5:7                                    |
| <b>emergencies</b> [1] - 14:17                                                                           | <b>Franklin</b> [1] - 1:17                                  | <b>Hi</b> [2] - 4:14, 5:6                                       | <b>June</b> [2] - 1:20, 17:14                                    |
| <b>Emergency</b> [1] - 14:13                                                                             | <b>fully</b> [2] - 5:3, 5:20                                | <b>homelessness</b> [2] - 5:2, 5:18                             | <b>K</b>                                                         |
| <b>equipment</b> [1] - 14:20                                                                             | <b>fund</b> [1] - 10:20                                     | <b>house</b> [1] - 6:12                                         | <b>Karen</b> [2] - 17:16, 17:17                                  |
| <b>everywhere</b> [1] - 6:10                                                                             | <b>funded</b> [6] - 5:3, 5:20, 10:21, 11:16, 11:18, 14:14   | <b>housed</b> [1] - 6:10                                        | <b>KAREN</b> [2] - 1:23, 17:8                                    |
| <b>Executive</b> [1] -                                                                                   | <b>funding</b> [3] - 8:17, 11:21, 14:18                     | <b>housing</b> [5] - 5:3, 5:19, 6:5, 6:6, 7:23                  | <b>Kennedy</b> [4] - 3:13, 4:11, 11:3, 14:7                      |
|                                                                                                          | <b>funds</b> [1] - 11:13                                    | <b>HOWARD</b> [1] - 1:7                                         | <b>KOPEL</b> [1] - 1:7                                           |
|                                                                                                          | <b>G</b>                                                    | <b>I</b>                                                        | <b>L</b>                                                         |
|                                                                                                          | <b>Giangregorio</b> [2] - 3:10, 15:16                       | <b>identifies</b> [1] - 14:18                                   | <b>landlords</b> [1] - 8:4                                       |
|                                                                                                          | <b>GIANGREGORIO</b>                                         | <b>imminent</b> [2] - 5:2, 5:19                                 | <b>last</b> [1] - 12:17                                          |
|                                                                                                          |                                                             | <b>impact</b> [3] - 10:23, 11:23, 14:22                         | <b>Legislative</b> [1] - 1:16                                    |
|                                                                                                          |                                                             |                                                                 | <b>Legislator</b> [12] -                                         |

3:12, 4:10, 4:11,  
5:24, 11:3, 11:4,  
11:8, 12:5, 14:7,  
14:8, 15:16, 15:17

**LEGISLATOR [22]**

- 2:6, 2:7, 2:8, 2:9,  
2:10, 3:8, 3:11,  
3:14, 3:18, 3:21,  
3:23, 5:25, 6:4,  
6:14, 6:17, 6:22,  
7:8, 7:11, 7:15,  
8:11, 8:19, 12:25

**legislator [9] -**

4:17, 5:10, 11:2,  
11:10, 11:15,  
11:22, 12:3, 12:6,  
12:14

**legislators [1] -****LEGISLATURE [1]**

- 1:2

**Legislature [1] -****live [1] - 8:7****local [2] - 5:5, 5:22****located [1] - 6:5****looking [1] - 6:23****Lorenzo [2] -**

17:16, 17:17

**LORENZO [2] -**

1:23, 17:8

**loss [2] - 5:2, 5:19****M****madam [1] - 3:6****Madam [1] - 5:25****MARIE [2] - 1:11,  
2:4****Marie [1] - 3:7****market [2] - 6:20,  
7:13****meaning [1] -**

12:10

**MEETING [2] - 1:4,  
1:14****meeting [1] - 16:4****member [1] - 3:16****members [4] -**

8:25, 13:7, 15:6,  
15:20

**Michael [1] - 3:10****MICHAEL [2] - 2:5,  
2:14****might [1] - 4:12****Mineola [1] - 1:18****Monday [1] - 1:20****month [2] - 6:13****monthly [1] - 10:18****motion [5] - 4:10,  
11:2, 11:4, 14:6,  
15:15****move [2] - 15:11,  
16:3****moves [3] - 9:6,  
11:3, 13:12****MS [12] - 4:14, 5:6,  
6:3, 6:8, 6:16, 6:19,  
6:25, 7:13, 7:17,  
7:22, 8:2, 8:15****N****Nassau [3] - 4:20,  
5:13, 10:8****NASSAU [2] - 1:2,  
17:6****need [1] - 10:16****neighborhoods  
[1] - 12:23****net [1] - 14:22****New [10] - 1:18,  
4:19, 4:22, 5:4,  
5:12, 5:15, 5:21,  
10:21, 14:14, 17:9****NEW [1] - 17:4****Next [1] - 14:2****next [1] - 10:2****NICKS [5] - 2:8,  
3:18, 12:6, 12:14,  
12:25****Nicks [4] - 3:17,  
12:5, 14:8, 15:17****none [1] - 15:4****Notary [1] - 17:8****notes [1] - 17:12****nutrition [1] -  
10:16****nutritional [1] -  
10:13****O****OF [2] - 17:4, 17:6****OFFICER [1] - 1:8****OFFICIAL [1] -  
1:23****oftentimes [1] -  
7:18****Olena [1] - 3:17****OLENA [1] - 2:8****one [2] - 8:13, 8:16****ongoing [1] - 8:12****opposed [4] - 9:3,  
13:9, 15:8, 15:22****order [1] - 3:4****ordinance [5] - 4:6,  
10:3, 10:5, 14:3,  
14:4****Ordinance [1] - 4:8****ORGANIZATIONA  
L [1] - 1:14****organizations [1] -  
12:22****Otda [1] - 4:20****OTDA [1] - 5:12****OWEISS [13] -**

4:14, 5:6, 6:3, 6:8,  
6:16, 6:19, 6:25,  
7:10, 7:13, 7:17,  
7:22, 8:2, 8:15

**Oweiss [1] - 5:7****P****p.m [2] - 1:21, 16:5****paid [1] - 6:20****part [3] - 6:25, 8:9,  
12:6****passes [3] - 9:6,  
13:12, 15:10****paying [1] - 6:13****people [4] - 6:7,  
6:23, 7:3, 12:16****permanent [1] -  
7:23****place [3] - 7:20,  
7:25, 8:7****PPE [1] - 14:19****prepare [1] - 14:16****Preparedness [1]  
- 14:13****PRESIDING [1] -  
1:8****private [4] - 6:15,  
7:5, 7:6****program [14] -  
4:23, 5:3, 5:16,  
5:20, 6:8, 6:19, 7:4,  
8:17, 10:12, 10:17,  
11:12, 11:24,  
11:25, 14:14****project [1] - 7:2****provide [1] - 8:8****provides [4] - 4:23,  
5:16, 6:9, 10:13****Public [2] - 14:12,  
17:8**

| HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>public</b> [1] - 14:17<br><b>PULITZER</b> [9] -<br>2:14, 3:6, 3:9, 3:12,<br>3:15, 3:16, 3:19,<br>3:22, 3:24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 2:4<br><b>Rose</b> [1] - 3:7<br><b>RUSSELL</b> [4] -<br>2:10, 3:21, 8:11,<br>8:19<br><b>Russell</b> [1] - 3:20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>sites</b> [3] - 10:18,<br>12:20, 12:21<br><b>SOCIAL</b> [1] - 1:10<br><b>social</b> [1] - 8:13<br><b>Social</b> [6] - 3:3, 4:8,<br>4:16, 4:21, 5:8,<br>5:14<br><b>Sometimes</b> [1] -<br>7:22<br><b>sorry</b> [1] - 11:6<br><b>sort</b> [1] - 11:22<br><b>source</b> [1] - 8:17<br><b>specific</b> [1] - 7:7<br><b>SS</b> [1] - 17:5<br><b>state</b> [1] - 8:18<br><b>STATE</b> [1] - 17:4<br><b>State</b> [11] - 4:19,<br>4:22, 5:4, 5:12,<br>5:15, 5:21, 10:21,<br>11:17, 11:19,<br>14:15, 17:9<br><b>steady</b> [1] - 12:19<br><b>stenographic</b> [1] -<br>17:12<br><b>STRAUSS</b> [2] - 2:6,<br>3:14<br><b>supplement</b> [1] -<br>6:18<br><b>supplemental</b> [6] -<br>4:7, 6:9, 10:4,<br>10:10, 14:3, 14:11<br><b>Supplemental</b> [2] -<br>4:23, 5:15<br><b>support</b> [3] - 4:20,<br>5:13, 14:20<br><b>supports</b> [1] - 6:12 | <b>today</b> [1] - 4:3<br><b>train</b> [1] - 14:16<br><b>trainings</b> [1] -<br>14:18<br><b>transcription</b> [1] -<br>17:12<br><b>transition</b> [1] -<br>7:23<br><b>two</b> [3] - 10:18,<br>12:6, 12:21<br><b>type</b> [1] - 6:24<br><b>typically</b> [1] - 8:4 |
| Q                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | S                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | U                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>qualifiers</b> [1] - 12:9<br><b>qualify</b> [1] - 10:15<br><b>questions</b> [3] -<br>8:21, 13:3, 14:24<br><b>quorum</b> [1] - 3:25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>SAMANTHA</b> [1] -<br>2:7<br><b>Samantha</b> [1] -<br>3:15<br><b>SCOTT</b> [1] - 2:6<br><b>seconded</b> [2] -<br>14:7, 15:16<br><b>Seconded</b> [1] -<br>4:11<br><b>seconds</b> [1] - 11:5<br><b>Seeing</b> [1] - 15:3<br><b>seeing</b> [1] - 12:15<br><b>separate</b> [2] - 8:16,<br>8:17<br><b>serves</b> [1] - 10:17<br><b>Service</b> [1] - 3:3<br><b>SERVICES</b> [1] -<br>1:10<br><b>Services</b> [5] - 4:9,<br>4:16, 4:21, 5:8,<br>5:14<br><b>services</b> [2] - 8:14,<br>10:14<br><b>servicing</b> [1] -<br>12:16<br><b>set</b> [1] - 17:14<br><b>shelter</b> [3] - 7:7,<br>7:9, 7:20<br><b>shot</b> [2] - 8:13, 8:16<br><b>significantly</b> [1] -<br>12:11<br><b>signify</b> [4] - 8:24,<br>13:6, 15:5, 15:18 | <b>unanimously</b> [1] -<br>15:11<br><b>under</b> [1] - 10:15<br><b>up</b> [2] - 6:20, 7:11<br><b>USDA</b> [1] - 11:19                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| R                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | V                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>RANKING</b> [1] - 2:8<br><b>Ranking</b> [1] - 3:16<br><b>rate</b> [1] - 6:20<br><b>received</b> [4] - 4:19,<br>5:12, 11:20, 12:24<br><b>reduction</b> [2] -<br>11:11, 11:21<br><b>rent</b> [3] - 6:13, 6:20,<br>7:13<br><b>Rental</b> [2] - 4:22,<br>5:15<br><b>rental</b> [3] - 4:24,<br>5:16, 6:9<br><b>REPORTER</b> [1] -<br>1:23<br><b>residence</b> [1] - 7:6<br><b>residents</b> [1] - 7:19<br><b>respond</b> [5] - 9:2,<br>13:8, 14:17, 15:7,<br>15:21<br><b>response</b> [8] -<br>8:22, 9:4, 13:4,<br>13:10, 14:19, 15:2,<br>15:9, 15:23<br><b>result</b> [1] - 11:12<br><b>roll</b> [1] - 3:5<br><b>ROSE</b> [2] - 1:11, | <b>VICE</b> [1] - 2:5<br><b>Vice</b> [1] - 3:9<br><b>vital</b> [2] - 4:24, 5:16<br><b>Viviana</b> [1] - 3:20<br><b>VIVIANA</b> [1] - 2:10<br><b>vouchers</b> [1] -<br>10:14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| W                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>WALKER</b> [26] -<br>1:11, 2:4, 3:2, 3:8,<br>4:2, 5:23, 7:18,<br>7:24, 8:20, 8:23,<br>9:3, 9:5, 10:2,<br>10:24, 12:4, 13:2,<br>13:5, 13:9, 13:11,<br>14:2, 14:23, 15:3,<br>15:8, 15:10, 15:22,<br>16:2<br><b>Walker</b> [3] - 3:7,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| T                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>TAKEN</b> [1] - 1:23<br><b>temporary</b> [1] - 6:6<br><b>three</b> [1] - 4:3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

4:17, 5:10  
**welcome** [1] - 7:17  
**WHEREOF** [1] -  
 17:13  
**whole** [1] - 6:25  
**WIC** [3] - 10:12,  
 10:13, 12:20  
**WITNESS** [1] -  
 17:13  
**women** [1] - 10:14

## Y

**year** [3] - 8:18,  
 12:17  
**YORK** [1] - 17:4  
**York** [10] - 1:18,  
 4:19, 4:22, 5:4,  
 5:12, 5:15, 5:21,  
 10:21, 14:15, 17:9

## Z

**ZOHRABIAN** [7] -  
 10:7, 11:14, 11:18,  
 11:25, 12:13,  
 12:18, 14:10  
**Zohrabian** [1] -  
 10:8

## —

— [1] - 2:8