

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
PRESIDING OFFICER

FULL LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
CHAIRWOMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

May 20, 2013
1:20 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES
516-747-7353

A P P E A R A N C E S:

NORMA GONSALVES
Chair

KEVAN ABRAHAMS
Minority Leader

ROBERT TROIANO

CARRIÉ SOLAGES (Arrived at 1:27 p.m.)

DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

JOSEPH SCANNELL (Arrived at 1:26 p.m.)

FRANCIS X. BECKER

HOWARD KOPEL

VINCENT MUSCARELLA

RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

JUDI BOSWORTH

WAYNE WINK

MICHAEL VENDITTO

JOSEPH BELESI

DENNIS DUNNE, SR.

DENISE FORD

JUDITH JACOBS

ROSE MARIE WALKER

DAVID DENENBERG (Arrived at 1:26 p.m.)

WILLIAM MULLER
Clerk of the Legislature

LIST OF SPEAKERS

ALAN SHERMAN	10
ALLISON WESLEY	14
DR. ANDREWS	16
LAURIE RUDERMAN	19
JOANNE BORDEN	25
CAY FATIMA	29
ARLENE WALKER	30
REGINALD GRIFFIN	36
JAMIE BOGENSHUTZ	37
DAVID VIANA	40
ANDREW RANDAZZO	43
CHARLES MCCALLISTER	44
GREG MAY	51
ROB WALKER	51
RICHARD CLARK	51
ROSEANNE D'ALLEVA	58
EILEEN KRIEB	85
TIM SULLIVAN	89
LINDA REED	94
DAN VALENTINO	98

LIST OF SPEAKERS (cont'd)

ARLENE O'DELL 106
SERGIO ARGUETO 108

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Muller,
3 would you please call the roll?

4 CLERK MULLER: Deputy Presiding Officer
5 Nicolello?

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

7 CLERK MULLER: Alternate Deputy
8 Presiding Officer Kopel?

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

10 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Troiano?

11 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Here.

12 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Solages?
13 (No verbal response.)

14 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Ford?

15 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

16 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Scannell?
17 (No verbal response.)

18 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Becker?

19 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Present.

20 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Muscarella?

21 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

22 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Bosworth?

23 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Here.

24 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Wink?

25 LEGISLATOR WINK: Here.

2 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Venditto?

3 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Here.

4 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Belesi?

5 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Here.

6 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Dunne?

7 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.

8 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Jacobs?

9 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.

10 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Walker?

11 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

12 CLERK MULLER: Legislator DeRiggi-

13 Whitton?

14 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

15 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Denenberg?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CLERK MULLER: Minority Leader Abrahams?

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

19 CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer

20 Gonsalves?

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

22 CLERK MULLER: We have a quorum.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very

24 much.

25 At this point, Legislator Dunne would you

please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance?

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We will take a moment for the young student at Hofstra who was fatally -- it's very difficult to talk about it -- who lost her life a few days ago in a tragic accident.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was taken).

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You may be seated.

At this time, Legislator Wink has requested a point of personal privilege. Legislator Wink.

LEGISLATOR WINK: Good afternoon, everyone.

It's not often that we have -- well, it is often that we have outstanding students throughout Nassau County. And we, in fact, just recently held points of personal privilege for a number of semifinalists and finalists for the Intel Science Awards. But it's very rare, by any standards, even by Nassau County standards, that

2 we have a Presidential scholar in our midst.

3 Alan Sherman is a young man from Roslyn
4 High School who, in addition to being an Intel
5 Semifinalist and who will talk about the project
6 that he had, but in addition to that, out of 3800
7 possible Presidential scholars in the entire
8 country, which is obviously a fraction of one
9 percent of all the college seniors -- excuse me --
10 -- high school seniors in Nassau County or
11 anywhere in the country. Alan Sherman has been
12 one of 141 students nationwide to be selected as
13 a presidential scholar.

14 His resume is impeccable, quite frankly.
15 He scored a perfect 2400 on his SATs. Some of us
16 only remember 1600 being the perfect score on the
17 SATs, but that goes back aways. Not only did he
18 have a perfect score, but in order to become a
19 presidential scholar they needed to weigh not
20 only his academic achievement but his artistic
21 excellence, his leadership, citizenship, service
22 and contribution to the school and to the
23 community at large. So, all of these things,
24 quite frankly, made him head and shoulders above
25 just about every other student in this country.

2 He is going to Northwestern University
3 come September, where he is seeking a combined
4 bachelor of science and medical degree, which I
5 think we all have a pretty good sense of just how
6 difficult it is to get a medical degree in this
7 country, and Alan is on the fast track to that.

8 I'm going to invite Alan to come up, if I
9 could, along with Alison Wesley, who is his
10 teacher/advisor for this program. I'd like Alan
11 to talk a little bit about the Intel project that
12 he had which, as I understand it, Alan's project
13 was born out of the fact that Alan's mother was
14 diagnosed with what ended up being a benign brain
15 tumor. Clearly, anytime you hear the word brain
16 tumor it can be an incredibly, incredibly
17 difficult and frustrating time for the best of
18 families. Alan used that experience to create an
19 Intel science project that made him a
20 semifinalist in the program.

21 So, Alan, Ms. Wesley and our principal as
22 well, if you could come up. Alan, you can come
23 up to the microphone first and then I'll come
24 down to see you. If you could just hit the red
25 button and tell us a little bit more about

2 yourself than I did and tell us about your
3 science project, if you would.

4 MR. SHERMAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
5 Wink, and for everyone here in Nassau County for
6 inviting me over and for honoring me in this
7 really remarkable achievement.

8 A little bit about my Intel project.
9 Like Mr. Wink said, it was born out of this
10 family incident that occurred, where my mom, when
11 I was in ninth grade, she was diagnosed with a
12 disease called meningioma. Meningioma is
13 basically a benign brain tumor that sits at the
14 base of the brain. While the tumor was benign,
15 it required surgery. There was a period of time
16 where basically I was living at home pretty much
17 with myself and my brother while my mom was in
18 the hospital and when my dad, who is a physician,
19 was taking care of her.

20 What really got me thinking -- the
21 operation obviously was a complete success and my
22 mom has made a fully recovery. But what really
23 got me thinking was my mom had access to really
24 premiere healthcare because of my father. He is
25 a radiologist and he was able to seek out

1
2 recommendations from former patients and other
3 healthcare providers as to who would be the best
4 surgeon to perform the risky procedure.

5 I thought to myself what happened to
6 everyday people who do not have access to
7 recommendations and who have to make critical
8 decisions about their healthcare without really
9 any knowledge. So that's why I set out to design
10 this project that analyzed the factors that both
11 laypeople and healthcare providers value when
12 selecting their primary care physician.

13 Specifically what I looked at is I looked
14 at the variables of medical school ranking and
15 interpersonal skill. Medical school ranking
16 being the factor that people were going on these
17 online websites and seeing rankings of medical
18 schools. I found literature that said the
19 typical audience, the layperson/audience may
20 perceive a physician who graduated from a highly
21 ranked medical school to be significantly more
22 competent than a physician who graduated from a
23 lesser ranked medical school. But the literature
24 was supporting the idea that this may not be
25 true, that physicians who graduated from any

1 medical school still graduated with an MD degree,
2 and that their competency cannot be measured by
3 the ranking of the medical school. So that's one
4 of the variables that I still have to look at.
5

6 I also looked at the interpersonal skill
7 of the physician, how interpersonal the physician
8 was with his or her patients, how he established
9 bedside manner, and traits along those lines.

10 And I designed this mock profile of a physician,
11 manipulating the medical school, either a highly
12 ranked medical school or a poorly ranked medical
13 school, and the interpersonal skill, having good
14 interpersonal skill or bad interpersonal skill.

15 Basically, I surveyed about 150 lay people and
16 150 healthcare providers as to how they perceived
17 this physician, and what I found was really

18 surprising. Lay people were significantly
19 affected by the medical school ranking. So they
20 perceived the physician who graduated from the
21 highly ranked medical school to be significantly
22 more competent than the physician from the poorly
23 ranked medical school. But healthcare providers
24 were not affected. They said the physician who
25 graduated from either medical school was just as

2 competent as a physician who graduated from the
3 lower ranked medical school. Similarly, I found
4 that the lay people were significantly affected
5 by interpersonal skill, but the healthcare
6 providers were also affected, even though the
7 difference was much more pronounced among lay
8 people. So this offered some sort of hope for
9 me, personally, because there has been some talk
10 about physicians with the new legislation related
11 to the universal healthcare being more tempted to
12 focus on the critical aspects of care and less on
13 the interpersonal aspects. Both played an
14 indispensable role in the healing process. So
15 the fact that healthcare providers were
16 significantly affected by interpersonal skill was
17 heartening on my part -- on my perception because
18 it shows that healthcare providers are responsive
19 to the needs of patients and that they do care
20 about the interpersonal needs of them.

21 LEGISLATOR WINK: That is absolutely
22 wonderful. Thank you very much, Alan. It's
23 always interesting how perception can affect
24 reality when it comes to hearing the right
25 schools or the right recommendations or whatever.

2 Ultimately, at the end of the day, we know that
3 so much of our medicine, you know, I think we
4 would argue most doctors have good quality
5 medical background, irrespective of their
6 education. But at the end of the day, the
7 interpersonal skills seem to weigh so much into
8 how much we appreciate our doctors.

9 So I want to thank you very much for
10 that.

11 Ms. Wesley and Dr. Andrews, do you have
12 anything to say about Alan or your program?
13 Because it really is a wonderful, remarkable
14 program that I think brings out the best in so
15 many of our students in Roslyn. And I'm hoping
16 that the both of you are going to be there a good
17 long time because I have a second grader in the
18 Roslyn Schools that I'm hoping will benefit from
19 your tutelage as well.

20 MS. WESLEY: Thank you very much.

21 Alan really is exceptional. I've been at
22 Roslyn High School for 23 years, and I've been
23 doing this kind of work for about a dozen years.
24 He is a pleasure to work with. He is so
25 independently driven and curious and thorough.

1 This award derives sort of primarily or
2 initially from having the perfect SAT scores.
3 But he's so much more than that. It's widdled
4 down beyond that. The last time Roslyn High
5 School has a presidential scholar was I think 22
6 or 23 years ago, my first year at Roslyn High
7 School, a kid I hardly knew at all. It's funny
8 that it takes -- maybe it makes sense that it
9 takes long. Anyway. He's truly a fabulous
10 student.

12 About our program, what I'll say about
13 our program, and really many other programs in
14 Nassau County, is that we are lucky here to have
15 districts that invest in giving kids this kind of
16 opportunity. To have this mechanism -- when I
17 was growing up a lot of the awards that Alan
18 received were present. I grew up in Great Neck.
19 I went to an excellent high school, but there
20 wasn't the same kind of culture. And the culture
21 that we've build in the schools by creating these
22 programs and supporting them, you know,
23 administratively, from my colleagues, from the
24 community, makes a huge difference, I think, in
25 terms of kids getting involved. And I think we

2 give our kids really a wonderful opportunity that
3 in most of the country is not available to them.

4 I hope, you know, as times being what
5 they are with economics and budgets, that we can
6 continue to offer these kinds of opportunities to
7 the kids of Nassau County.

8 LEGISLATOR WINK: I appreciate that.

9 Dr. Andrews, do you have anything to add?

10 DR. ANDREWS: This is actually my first
11 year at Roslyn, so I'm new to the district.

12 This program is phenomenal. We have
13 students starting in ninth grade. Dr. Wesley
14 does an incredible job with the students. There
15 are semifinalists every year. It's a testament
16 to the district that they do provide these
17 programs and they are not looking to cut them.
18 The opportunities the students have at Roslyn are
19 incredible and the staff is great. And as
20 everyone can see from Alan, he's on his way,
21 there's no question about it.

22 LEGISLATOR WINK: Absolutely. Even with
23 all of that great support that you provide, you
24 still, apparently once in a generation, get a
25 presidential scholar. So I want to congratulate

2 Alan. And I will bestow to you, upon you a small
3 token of my esteem. And on behalf of the entire
4 Nassau County Legislature, I want to congratulate
5 you on your accomplishments and wish you nothing
6 but success going forward.

7 Thank you, Alan.

8 MR. SHERMAN: Thank you so much.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam Presiding
10 Officer, while they go through the recognition
11 that Legislator Wink wants to bestow, if we could
12 just please have the record reflect that
13 Legislator Denenberg has entered the chamber, as
14 has Legislator Joe Scannell.

15 Thank you.

16 CLERK MULLER: And Legislator Solages.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: As well as
18 Legislator Solages.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now, Legislator
20 DeRiggi-Whitton has a point of personal
21 privilege.

22 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Thank you,
23 Madam Presiding Officer.

24 As an elected official, probably one of
25 the best things we get to do is recognize people

1 that make a difference in our community. And as
2 a mom of a child with a health issue, when I meet
3 other parents in similar boats, it's a connection
4 that you get immediately, pretty much. And I
5 have nothing but respect because when something
6 happens, especially to a young child, our
7 children were the same age -- they were both
8 three -- it can really either turn your life
9 upside down to the point where you can't do
10 anything or you can make that decision sometimes
11 to just take this and do what you can to not only
12 help your own child but help those that are also
13 faced with the same situation.

15 Laurie and Matthew Ruderman have a
16 beautiful little girl named Penelope. And
17 Penelope was diagnosed with Leukemia when she was
18 three. They took the route which I admire so
19 much, which is to do something positive for the
20 community. And I'm going to let them explain it
21 to you.

22 But all I can say is it's a pleasure to
23 also have Laurie's mom here, Joanne Schneider.
24 It's such a task that when your child is
25 diagnosed with something that you survive. And I

1 told Laurie I wouldn't have survived it as easily
2 if I didn't have my mom and my parents. It's --
3 I don't think the grandparents get recognized
4 enough. So for one second I just want to
5 recognize grandparents that help parents with
6 children with very serious illnesses.
7

8 Again, this is Laurie and Matthew, and
9 they just want to give you a little background on
10 a very important cause called Penelope's Odyssey.

11 MRS. RUDERMAN: Thank you so much for
12 having us here today. It truly is a pleasure to
13 be able to share what we're doing with Penelope's
14 Odyssey.

15 My daughter Penelope was diagnosed with
16 Leukemia when she was three years old, and had
17 four months of chemotherapy, radiation treatment,
18 and received a life saving bone marrow
19 transplant.

20 During that period she spent a year
21 isolated from normal kid activities like going to
22 the movies or just playing outside with her
23 friends. It was hard for us to watch Penelope
24 miss these experiences. We longed for normalcy
25 as a family.

Every day about 36 children in the United States are diagnosed with cancer. On average, 66 children in Nassau County alone are diagnosed with cancer per year.

Penelope is our inspiration, and she's also representation of the many warriors living and fighting through pediatric cancer.

The events that we host allow children and families to build normal childhood memories not solely defined by cancer. The mission of Penelope's Odyssey is about supporting braveness with kindness. The braveness is seen at every event we sponsor, in the smile of the faces of all the warriors and the kindness is the kindness of all those who help us uphold our mission.

When you experience the journey of pediatric cancer, your life becomes about medicines and hospital stays, and protocols. It's hard experienced family moments that are not based upon illness. Imagine life without picking your pumpkin, sitting on Santa's lap, family fun trips or days at the movies. This was once our reality and it's a reality of many families living on Long Island who are impacted by

pediatric cancer.

Cancer is redefining to one's life and the innocence of childhood becomes redefined. We all know how important play is to child's healthy development. A child's play becomes their work and it helps them make sense of their world. It does not necessarily change due to illness; however, it can become more challenging. How can a child make sense of something that most adults can't make sense of?

Community and friendship, these are critical parts of surviving the journey of pediatric cancer. Our community of warrior parents became our lifeguards when we felt like we were drowning. Fulfilling the need for a vice and the need for validation and understanding from those on the same journey is a huge part of our mission.

We believe and bring families together to support each other, and we are a community of warriors fighting a battle together. The seed for our mission has been planted by our experiences but the generosity and kindness of others help it grow.

2 When Penelope was diagnosed, family and
3 friends joined together to help with resources,
4 food, laundry, babysitting, or just offering
5 their homes so Penelope can go swimming in a safe
6 environment. From early on this port was
7 critical to our survival. But on our journey we
8 met families that had to leave their support
9 behind and move to New York for treatment. Can
10 you imagine how hard this must be?

11 Part of our mission is to help ease the
12 burden on families. We recently helped a mother
13 who came to New York from California so her son
14 can get special treatment for a rare type of
15 brain cancer. She had no friends or family in
16 New York and no place to stay while her son was
17 in the hospital. And in order to allow this
18 mother to focus her attention on her son and to
19 take one worry away from her, we located housing
20 for her, we communicated often while her son was
21 in the hospital, and offered an ear to listen to,
22 and a friend.

23 Children and families diagnosed with
24 cancer struggle with many feelings, some of which
25 are isolation, anxiety, frustration, anger, and

depression. Mental health support is a huge need within this population and one that cannot be ignored.

The goals of Penelope's Odyssey are very simple: We want to be the lifeline for those children and families affected by pediatric cancer, we want a facility where children who are having treatment can come take their mind off their treatment and be able to play in a safe, clean playroom, as well as to enhance their socialization skills, which unfortunately they would be missing without our center.

We also hope to provide support services such as a tutoring from caring teachers and others who are trained in understanding the effects of cancer treatment. For parents, we hope to be a place where they can find advice, support, and a friend who understands.

Families can receive supportive counseling, crisis management, bereavement counseling, and a place where people traveling for treatment can find a place that makes them feel like they are not so far away from home.

It would be naïve of us to believe that

2 Penelope's Odyssey can eliminate all the burdens,
3 although there is nothing that we would want
4 more. What we can do though is be sure that no
5 family walks this journey alone, and we will make
6 sure that what we learn from this process will be
7 shared, and we will make sure that we offer these
8 warriors a chance to just be children, to just
9 play, in hopes that we can provide them an
10 opportunity to make sense of their journey and
11 ease their odyssey.

12 We will honor their braveness with our
13 kindness.

14 Thank you so much.

15 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I just want
16 to say the excellent news is that their daughter
17 is in full remission and is going to live a
18 happy, healthy life.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now at this time
20 we will begin 30 minutes of public participation.
21 Each speaker is asked to stay within the three
22 minute rule. Once the 30 minutes have expired,
23 we will go on to the calendar of the day, and we
24 will resume public comment after the calendar.

25 We will begin with Joanne Borden.

MS. BORDEN: Good afternoon.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good afternoon,
Joanne.

MS. BORDEN: Theodore Roosevelt said no man is above the law and no man below it, so close to home and Roosevelt was wrong. I am the transgender community in Nassau County are below the law. Your inaction keeps us below the law. That perpetuates a wrong, a terrible wrong. Hardworking people are trying to support -- earn a living to support their families and you jeopardize that because when push comes to shove, hard work and dedication means nothing, nothing if their employer learns they're transgender and fires them for it.

You might ask why don't we change -- why don't we solve our own problem? Why don't we solve our own problem and stop being a transgender person? And that sounds like a legitimate question, so I'll tell you why.

I spent a lifetime trying to change but couldn't. Every transgender person I know at one time tried to change but couldn't. Why? The medical profession says we are born this way, and

expressing our inner gender, our true gender is a biological imperative. Simply put, we can't change the way we were made.

Madam Presiding Officer and all women legislators and all women, for that matter, I ask you, can you stop being a woman? And you men, can you stop being a man? Your biological imperative says of course not. It's exactly, exactly the same for us.

You can't stop being yourself; well, neither can we. We can hide it and pretend to be something different in public for fear of loss of our job, our home, even medical attention, and many other life necessities in the pursuit of happiness. But it is impossible to always hide it or to change.

Just as you can't change God's will, neither can we. You can change the law and give us equal rights, equal protection under the law. Say it is wrong to keep us below the law. Say the discrimination we suffer is wrong. Say our fear of not being able to support our families will end. Once and for all, let us live in peace and say Nassau's laws protect all God's children.

2 Thank you for listening, for those that
3 were listening.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
5 Joanne.

6 Legislator Jacobs.

7 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Joanne, look. I've
8 got to tell you something. I have no words that
9 could express how I feel, having written the law,
10 having written something to adjust our Human
11 Rights Law to include everybody. Obviously,
12 because of your appeal to us, you're the one who
13 really motivated me to move on this.

14 There's new people in the audience.

15 When we passed our Human Rights Law, we
16 actually, all 19 of us, thought we had passed a
17 totally comprehensive law that would literally
18 take care of any persecution, prejudice, or
19 whatever that might be out there about anybody.
20 Obviously, we left off a certain sentence that
21 really made it leaving you, in your mind -- and
22 I'm not saying you're wrong and that we were
23 right in what we wrote. I'm just saying,
24 certainly nobody at the time thought that we were
25 leaving any vulnerable. But the fact is we now

2 we have. The fact is we now know that Suffolk
3 and the City, Westchester and I don't know how
4 many other counties -- we might be the only
5 county that doesn't have this line in it, which
6 all it does is give an explanation of what gender
7 is.

8 So, I am mortified that it's taking this
9 long. And I feel badly that you're here all the
10 time asking for the obvious. And I would hope
11 that we both live to see the day when it comes on
12 the floor, to put one line in, which only says
13 that gender is, an explanation of gender. This
14 would make the law comply with the law throughout
15 New York State.

16 Thank you for your perseverance.

17 My but feeling tells me that it will pay
18 off one of these days.

19 MS. BORDEN: Amen.

20 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Amen.

21 MS. BORDEN: And I would say -- I'm a
22 serious patriot, I told you.

23 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I know.

24 MS. BORDEN: I served in World War II.
25 I've been an ideal citizen all my life. And I

2 can't understand how this Legislature, the
3 majority, will not express their patriotism by
4 upholding our country's principles of freedom for
5 all.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
8 Bosworth.

9 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Joanne, as you
10 come back each week or each session and you speak
11 so eloquently about these concerns, that need to
12 be concerns for all of us because once one person
13 is not protected, we're all not protected.

14 Legislator Jacobs, I know you have put in
15 an amendment to have this included. So I
16 respectfully ask the presiding officer to again
17 take a look at this to see if there is a way to
18 have this calendared so that we can discuss it,
19 vote on it, and make sure every citizen in Nassau
20 County is protected.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. BORDEN: Thank you.

23 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Next speaker is
24 Arlene Walker.

25 MS. FATIMA: I would like to introduce

2 the legislature to Retired Colonel Arlene Walker
3 from the United States Army. She is a lengthy
4 resident. This is her first time here.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Cay, would you
6 speak closer to the mic, please?

7 MS. FATIMA: I'm sorry.

8 I would like to introduce to the
9 Legislature Retired Army Colonel Arlene Walker.
10 She got blown up in a Humvee. When her general
11 said she could walk, they sent her back. She has
12 a lot to say, well three minutes worth, about
13 some of the issues, in terms of police precinct.
14 I would like for you to welcome her warmly,
15 please.

16 COLONEL WALKER: Good afternoon. Thank
17 you for this opportunity.

18 As Fay stated, I'm a retired Colonel from
19 the United States Army. I am -- I served in Iraq
20 twice, and I got blown up in a Humvee.

21 My loyalty to this country is 38 years of
22 service. Now I return home where there are drug
23 dealers on my block. It's like a McDonald's.

24 I wrote to several people. Mr. Robert
25 Troiano, I wrote to your office. I wrote to the

2 Town of Hempstead. No one done anything.

3 These people are constantly selling
4 drugs. They even got to the point where they
5 have a ladder in the backyard where there's
6 constant traffic back and forth.

7 Now, I looked up the definition of
8 easement. An easement is a right of way on the
9 road. That's not true for this particular
10 resident. This is a backyard. I cannot even
11 take my grandkids out there because I fear that
12 someone would jump over the backyard with guns
13 and then there may be a shootout.

14 I wrote to several people and yet no one
15 -- I even went to the precinct -- no one does
16 anything about it.

17 MS. FATIMA: For two years.

18 COLONEL WALKER: For two years.

19 According to Nassau County's definition
20 of easement, an easement's supposed to be
21 conveyed on a deed. This is not on a deed. This
22 is where this drug dealer decided she's going to
23 have people coming through the backyard, through
24 her back door because she knows maybe someone's
25 watching the front door. This is going on for

two years. I have no peace.

I suffer with PTSD. I don't know why no one want to do anything.

MS. FATIMA: She comes to our Lakeview Council meeting every first Monday of the month for two years, talking to a POP officer, a Sergeant Grim. The last meeting he told her let us do our job. Well, for two years we've been letting them do their job.

We've called the district attorney's office; she left messages on their hotline. Finally, I had to use some of my resources to call a DA, but they haven't gotten back to me.

This woman cannot be terrorized anymore. Every Thursday the cars line up. Have some compassion.

There is a Penal Code called 240.46, which basically can make a summons or an arrest. It's a nuisance or loitering but it's related to drug selling. If the little kids know where the drug dealers are, why don't the police?

I'm sorry that I'm losing control too. We're at our wits end.

Someone came to that house next door to

2 her and they got out of the car and it looked
3 like they were going to shoot somebody.

4 Something is going to happen. We don't want to
5 wait until there is a tragedy. We don't want to
6 wait.

7 COLONEL WALKER: Yes. Please be
8 proactive. We know drugs is another thing. Drug
9 control and gun control, they're hand in hand.
10 We do not want another Hofstra candidate on my
11 block. It's going to happen. It's going to
12 happen.

13 People are not doing anything. The
14 police, when you call them, they come after the
15 fact.

16 MS. FATIMA: She called the police
17 precinct last Thursday; no police arrived. This
18 is unacceptable in our taxpaying community of
19 Lakeview. This is unacceptable. And it's
20 dereliction of duty.

21 Maybe we should withhold our taxes to
22 Nassau County until we get action, especially
23 with law enforcement.

24 COLONEL WALKER: I don't know about
25 withholding our taxes. But when I served my

1 country for almost 30 years and put my life on
2 the line and my family let me go for two years
3 and then I got blown up, patched up, and then
4 sent back. Now I come back to a community who
5 don't care, who don't even want to take the time
6 to come out and say you all need to move on.
7 Stop selling these drugs.

8 I have grandchildren. I have young
9 people on my block. I have older people on my
10 block. They're scared to come out. I am not
11 moving.

12 And I want something done.

13 MS. FATIMA: After she went back to
14 Iraq, if it wasn't the fact that she had a heart
15 attack, she probably would still be serving.
16 This injustice has to stop. If we don't stand up
17 for something, we will fall for anything.

18 Thank you.

19 COLONEL WALKER: The only thing I'm
20 asking, do something.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Colonel Walker.
22 Colonel Walker. Cay --

23 MS. FATIMA: Yes, ma'am.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You may answer
25

for her.

What precinct is it?

MS. FATIMA: This is the Fifth Precinct, and it's now combined with the Fourth. The former Fifth Precinct.

LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Cay --

MS. FATIMA: Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Troiano.

LEGISLATOR TROIANO: While the Colonel was talking, I texted my office to see if they were aware of any phone calls or letters from her, and we are not aware of any such contact.

MS. FATIMA: She has copies of them. We left a paper trail.

LEGISLATOR TROIANO: If I can see the copies. And maybe I can get an address before you leave today.

MS. FATIMA: Yes. I will make sure you do. Thank you, sir.

LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Thank you.

MS. FATIMA: Any other questions?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much.

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MS. FATIMA: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Reginald Griffin.

MR. GRIFFIN: Good afternoon.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good afternoon.

MR. GRIFFIN: I'm representing the Nassau Council of Black Clergy. Dr. Dolores Miller is the president. I just have a brief few observations I'd like to share that need to be discussed.

One is to establish a shelter at the visitors at the Nassau County center over there at the jail, the correctional center at the jail. Our visitors are subject to elements of weather.

Number two. My second concern was to establish a test, a bilingual Spanish speaking test for the correctional officers with the Nassau County Civil Service Commission, as well.

Three. Establish a vetting process for qualified candidates to fill the Nassau County Correctional Center Board of Visitors; open a process for public recommendation, please.

Four would be to increase the number of volunteers to provide religious services on the weekends at the Nassau County Correctional

2 Center. It is now three. It was seven.

3 Starting out it was 15.

4 Lastly, I would like to invite the
5 legislator, the Legislature to attend a
6 comprehensive tour of the Nassau County
7 Correctional Center to give some wisdom and
8 thought to the conditions and situations at the
9 correctional center today.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Mr.
12 Griffin.

13 Jamie Bogenschutz. Jamie.

14 MS. BOGENSHUTZ: Good afternoon. My
15 name is Jamie Bogenschutz. I am the executive
16 director of Yes Community Counseling Center, and
17 I am also a very active member of the Youth and
18 Family Services Coalition of Nassau County. My
19 agency serves Massapequa, Plainedge, Farmingdale,
20 Levittown, and the Island Trees communities.

21 I am here today -- I didn't prepare
22 anything. I thought I would just speak from the
23 heart and see where that takes me.

24 I'm here today -- you probably all know
25 why I'm here today, because I've been in front of

2 you for many, many occasions. But I'm here today
3 to just ask you to think about what the summer
4 looks like for many of our programs.

5 There are 30-something of us, contract
6 agencies of the Office of Children and Family
7 Services in the Nassau County Youth Board or
8 Nassau County Youth Services, they've changed
9 their name.

10 We are preparing for summer. And we are
11 preparing for a summer with 35 percent less in
12 our budgets. And I think you probably know what
13 that means for many of us. I think you probably
14 all should have a really good understanding as to
15 what is happening in not just my community but in
16 all of our communities from one end of the county
17 to the other.

18 We are losing more and more kids; you
19 read about it every single day, you hear about
20 the stories. We brought, in front of you, people
21 whose lives have been changed dramatically
22 because of drinking, or drugging, or sexual
23 abuse, or physical abuse, or trauma, depression,
24 suicide, bullying, socialization, divorce, all
25 those kinds of things. We are dealing with this

1 every single day, and we're now dealing with it
2 with a 35 percent deficit in our budgets.

3 We are grateful for restoration of 65
4 percent. But I have to tell you it's just not
5 enough. We need less than \$2 million to make
6 this work for our entire system. And I really
7 believe in my heart of hearts that you support
8 that. So now I need to just say we need more
9 than your words. We need you to make this happen
10 for us. If you don't, you will read more and
11 more, you will hear more and more about children
12 who die on the streets.

13 We are seeing more and more kids now
14 starting to use heroin in the middle school.
15 It's really scary for us because we're feeling
16 like we're doing just about all we can with what
17 we have, and our hands are literally tied behind
18 our backs. We can't do more. We can't. There's
19 nothing left of us.

20 I'm just going to close by saying,
21 please, whatever you can do, take politics out of
22 us. Don't get us stuck in some kind of back and
23 forthness. Just do what is right for the kids
24 and the future of this County because we are all
25

2 depending upon you to make that happen. So,
3 please, whatever you can do to get that 35
4 percent back into the budget for our agencies, we
5 would be profoundly grateful.

6 Thank you.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: David Viana.

8 MR. VIANA: Good afternoon everyone.

9 My name is David Viana. I am the president and
10 co-founder of the Baldwin Civic Association.
11 Today I have two members of the Baldwin Civic
12 Association with me.

13 We are a community-based organization
14 with over 135 members. We actively advocate for
15 different quality of life issues throughout
16 Baldwin. I am here today to discuss one of the
17 issues with one of the county owned parks, Silver
18 Lake Park.

19 Silver Lake is located off of Foxhurst
20 Road, and over the years it has suffered from
21 terrible pollution, water quality that is
22 unacceptable for any resident to deal with.

23 We have collected a petition with over
24 505 signatures of different residents that agree
25 that Silver Lake needs to be better maintained.

2 Last month, County Executive Mangano,
3 along with New York State Assemblyman Brian
4 Curran sponsored a cleanup; that was three weeks
5 ago. Just this past week, there are dead animals
6 literally floating in the water, there are
7 bottles and different types of pollution once
8 again lining the shore of the pond.

9 We have asked several times what the
10 maintenance schedule is for the park as well as
11 other Nassau County parks, and we have failed to
12 get a response. We have been in contact with
13 Legislator Scannell's office over the last few
14 weeks, and they have also contacted the
15 Department of Public Works and have failed to get
16 a response as well, as to what the maintenance
17 would be for the park.

18 Today we are asking for a concrete
19 schedule of when these parks are going to be
20 cleaned. We don't want a one-time cleaning. We
21 want a repeated maintenance.

22 In addition, the sidewalks of the park
23 have been crumbling; we have pictures here to
24 show you. It is just a general unsafe situation.

25 Today, again, we have the original

2 petition to present to County Executive Mangano,
3 because Legislator Scannell already has a copy,
4 as well as pictures. And we would like an answer
5 as soon as possible as far as maintenance for the
6 park.

7 Thank you.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We'll recognize
9 Legislator Scannell. But we would just request a
10 copy of the petition and the photographs.

11 Legislator Scannell.

12 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: Thank you, Rich.

13 Is Shilah here, by any chance? Shilah
14 Shah, the Commissioner of DPW, is she here? Is
15 anybody here from DPW? I know there's got to be
16 a representative, you come to all the legislative
17 meetings.

18 Hey, Rich. How are you doing?

19 Is John Gallo here? It's a drainage
20 issue, as well. It's a drainage issue, as well.
21 Come on up. Didn't you hear what he said?

22 This is the issue. It gets water that
23 comes into the pond and it fills up and that's
24 DPW issue. It's drainage that comes, and it's
25 drainage that's not filtered.

2 MR. RANDAZZO: It actually comes from
3 the bay and fills into Silver Lake. I'm sorry.
4 Andy Randazzo, part of the Civic Association.

5 What happens is it's tied into the canal
6 so it comes in from the bay, fills in, and then
7 it never, ever comes out. It just stays there
8 and just keeps getting filled with junk.

9 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: And it collects
10 debris as well on top of that.

11 MR. VIANA: Would we be able to get a
12 schedule for maintenance?

13 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: Nice job, David.
14 Thanks for coming down. We just are so
15 frustrated, just like you, everybody in the area.
16 It's an unbelievable health issue. It's an
17 aesthetic issue as well. It's something that
18 should have been jumped on right of the bat.
19 Like I said, we've sent e-mails and spoken --
20 Shilah should be here too, as well; it's
21 reprehensible that she's not. You coming down
22 certainly, absolutely helps.

23 We appreciate all that everything you do.
24 Because everybody working together can help make
25 it better. Silver Lake should be better than it

2 is, and it's not and that's shame.

3 Thanks, David.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Just let me
5 correct one thing. It's not reprehensible that
6 the Commissioner of Public Works is not here.
7 This is public comment, number one. Number two,
8 the commissioner is not present at each meeting.

9 I trust the Offices of Legislator
10 Scannell will continue to convey the issues and
11 work with the Department of Public Works to get
12 the maintenance that you require.

13 MR. VIANA: Thank you.

14 MR. RANDAZZO: Thank you.

15 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: Can we get a
16 schedule, Rich, from DPW as to what the schedule
17 is for David? Okay. They said that they're
18 going to call us back, because I wasn't on the
19 record. They will call us back and tell us what
20 the schedule is.

21 Thanks, David.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Charles
23 McCallister.

24 MR. MCCALLISTER: Good afternoon. I'm
25 here on behalf of the Second Chance Re-Entry

2 Program pertaining to Nassau County Board of
3 Visitors. I would like to ask that the presiding
4 chairwoman and the legislators make way for a
5 possible meeting regarding the appointees for the
6 Board of Visitors. I ask this because the Second
7 Chance Re-Entry Organization we receive numerous
8 letters from Nassau County Correctional Center
9 regarding issues from medical to mental,
10 recreation to housing, and the suicide situation
11 that's been going on over there. They've
12 mentioned to us that they are not getting any
13 type of meaningful response from the
14 administrators at the facility.

15 I understand that there is a board of
16 visitors that has been allowed and preparing
17 itself to be conformed. We would like to meet
18 with the legislatures, the presiding officer to
19 give some input into some of the issues that's
20 being voiced from the facility.

21 I thank you kindly for your time.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: My understanding
23 is that the county executive has made
24 appointments to the board of visitors and that,
25 in fact, they are before us now. We have to go

2 through the process of actually approving the
3 appointments. Our counsel, Chris Astuni, will be
4 getting your contact information for the
5 presiding officer, because you mentioned a couple
6 of times that you wanted a meeting with some of
7 the legislators.

8 MR. MCCALLISTER: I want to make one
9 more comment.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Go ahead.

11 MR. MCCALLISTER: One of the main issues
12 is that the people who have been elected by the
13 county executive, I'm sure that that's his
14 priority, that consideration is looked at as to
15 the qualification of people presiding on this
16 board of visitors because there is some sensitive
17 issues that regard criminal justice and
18 management. And hopefully people who are being
19 appointed are familiar or have some type of
20 knowledge or workability with that particular
21 advisory committee.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: As I said, we are
23 reviewing the appointments. We will be assessing
24 their qualifications to make sure that they are,
25 what we believe, qualified to serve in the

function for which they've been appointed.

MR. MCCALLISTER: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
Denenberg.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Sir? I just
wanted to thank you for your efforts.

You came down before this for a long
time. A number of people, including Legislator
Jacobs and myself, Legislator Abrahams had put in
a number of names for the full selection of the
full number, seven numbers. It ended up going to
court, costing the county money for no reason at
all, as far as I'm concerned. It's unfortunate
because the county executive hasn't appointed the
proper number of members to that board yet.

Hopefully selections will come down to us
and we will get a full board as quickly as
possible.

Thanks for your efforts.

MR. MCCALLISTER: Thank you kindly.
Just to add one more -- we would like to share,
before you actually consummate these names, just
share with you some things that's been going on
recently that has been going on previously.

2 Hopefully in consideration of the names, the
3 qualifications will go along with the situation.

4 Again, thank you.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
6 Jacobs.

7 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Hi. I just wanted
8 to say to you that the main thing to remember
9 with this board for all of us is that this should
10 not be politics entering into it, it should be
11 done together, 19 members, in a bipartisan way,
12 and to really make sure that every appointment
13 makes sense. It shouldn't be any kind of a board
14 that is out there to create problem, but rather
15 to find solutions if there is a problem that
16 needs to be solved. There are some that are very
17 easy to solve that have been brought to the
18 attention of a lot of us who have shown interest,
19 and I think that that is all you're really
20 saying. Give you a chance to speak to everybody
21 to explain what we need on this board and to give
22 every name that's submitted a fair opportunity
23 for review. That's what I believe would be the
24 best way to approach this.

25 MR. MCCALLISTER: That's exactly what

I'm saying.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Okay.

MR. MCCALLISTER: Thank you, again.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thirty minutes have now expired, and we are going to go into our calendar for today. But we will hear those who have submitted a slip right after the calendar. So please bear with us, it should not be that lengthy, hopefully. And we will get to each of you who have submitted a slip.

At this time, Mr. Muller, please.

CLERK MULLER: Madam Presiding Officer, we have an emergency, a recommendation from the county executive to the County Legislature at a meeting of the County Legislature on May 20, 2013, for the adoption of an emergency, resolution declaring an emergency for immediate action upon a resolution requesting the Legislature of the State of New York to enact and the Governor to approve a bill to amend the Civil Service Law in relation to reduction of positions based upon seniority with an employer.

Please entertain a motion to accept this emergency.

2 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
5 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Kopel.

6 CLERK MULLER: You have to vote.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes. All those
8 in favor of the emergency signify by saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 Any opposed?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 The emergency is established.

13 CLERK MULLER: The underlying emergency
14 resolution for Clerk Item 2007-2013, which is now
15 Emergency Resolution 3-2013; an emergency
16 resolution declaring an emergency for the
17 immediate action upon a resolution requesting the
18 Legislature of the State of New York to enact and
19 the Governor to approve to amend the Civil
20 Service Law in relation to the reduction of
21 positions based upon seniority with an employer.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
23 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Kopel.

24 Mr. May, who do we have here to speak on
25 this item?

2 MR. MAY: Chief Deputy County Executive
3 Rob Walker is going to answer any questions on
4 this item.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Walker.
6 Welcome.

7 CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER:
8 Good afternoon. This local law or the home rule
9 that's before you, we had previously, the
10 administration met with the members of the board
11 of the correctional center employees, now known
12 as COBA. This legislation -- the vice president
13 is here, Mr. Clark, that could answer any
14 questions that you have. But they obviously are
15 on board and have requested this of us, and we
16 ask for your support.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I believe I saw
18 Mr. Clark before. Is he in the room? Would you
19 like to address this, Mr. Clark, and give us your
20 point of view?

21 MR. CLARKE: Good afternoon. President
22 Jaronczyk wanted to be here but he got called
23 away on a family emergency, so I'll speak on his
24 behalf.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And your name is?

MR. CLARKE: I'm sorry. Richard Clarke,
First Vice President for COBA.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: What can you tell
us about this home rule message?

MR. CLARKE: As you are aware, with the
fiscal crisis, back in January 2012 there was a
demotion of 30 frontline supervisors. The
process which had to be followed was Section 80
of Civil Service which required the demotions to
be done by time with the county not time and
rank. So, following that process, we lost a lot
of senior corporals during the demotions.

This legislation would change or amend
Section 80 of Civil Service Law. If there are
demotions, which we hope there aren't, it would
be done by time and rank.

I'd also like to point out that all the
corporals were reinstated as of October 2012.
This bill would be -- there would be no financial
impact.

That's about it.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions
from the legislators? Legislator Ford.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Good afternoon.

2 I'm just, like, a little confused in
3 regard to this. You're saying if somebody has 30
4 years in the corrections, regardless of where
5 they worked -- I'm going to guess. Is this going
6 to just impact those that work at the jail that
7 are members of your union and not those that are
8 working at the jail that are members of the CSEA?
9 Am I correct on that?

10 MR. CLARKE: That's correct. It would
11 be limited to the Division of Correction, COBA
12 members only.

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. But what
14 happens if a CSEA member then gets a promotion?
15 I'm going to guess at that time in whatever job
16 he had as a CSEA, does that time to into his new
17 title if he enters into your union?

18 MR. CLARKE: No. It does not. It would
19 not count.

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: What you're saying is
21 if somebody was 30 years working in the jail and
22 had ten years as a corporal -- you're working in
23 the jail but you had 20 years as a corporal,
24 like, you just spent a short amount of time and
25 then got promoted to a corporal, so that it would

2 be the person with the 20 years as a corporal
3 would retain their job and it would be the person
4 with the ten years that would be, you know, like,
5 demoted?

6 MR. CLARKE: An example would be if we
7 had an officer there for 15 years, let's say, and
8 he was a corporal for seven --

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay.

10 MR. CLARKE: and then we had another
11 officer who was there for 20 years and he just
12 became a corporal in the last year, so he had a
13 year as a corporal, because he had more time with
14 the county he would keep the position as corporal
15 and the corporal with seven years would be
16 demoted back to correction officer.

17 LEGISLATOR FORD: And this change that
18 you're asking for, this is going to impact every
19 job title in your union?

20 MR. CLARKE: That's correct.

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: Can I ask you -- can I
22 ask you, like, how do your members feel about
23 this? This is such a change.

24 MR. CLARKE: They support it because it
25 would be going by time and rank, which is pretty

much how it's done with other departments. Back in 2004, the county police department followed the same route and changed their seniority as well.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Would this impact, God forbid there were layoffs, would it still be -- but that would still then go by last in, first out, regardless of job title?

MR. CLARKE: Okay. I was just unclear. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Denenberg.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Thanks for being here, Mr. Vice President.

MR. CLARKE: Sure.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Other large departments have already implemented the same home rule message to the state?

MR. CLARKE: That's correct. New York City, the City of Buffalo, Monroe County Sheriff's Department, and again, the Nassau County Police Department.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: And it really kicks in, in the situation of demotions where

2 we're only looking at your rank --

3 MR. CLARKE: That's correct.

4 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: and the time in
5 that rank before you're demoted.

6 MR. CLARKE: Correct. Correct.

7 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Okay. Thanks.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
9 questions?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 Any public comment regarding this item?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 There being none, time for a vote. All
14 those in favor sending the home rule message
15 regarding this item signify by saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 Any opposed?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 The item passes unanimously.

20 MR. CLARKE: Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're welcome,
22 Mr. Clarke.

23 CLERK MULLER: Madam Presiding Officer,
24 we have an another emergency from the county
25 executive regarding Clerk Item Number 2008-2013;

an emergency resolution declaring emergency for immediate action upon a resolution requesting the Legislature of the State of New York to enact and the governor to approve a bill to amend the Tax Law in relation to extending the authority of the County of Nassau to impose hotel and motel taxes in Nassau County and to amend Chapter 179 of the Laws of 2000, amending the Tax Law relating to hotel and motel taxes in Nassau County and the surcharge on tickets in places of entertainment in such county in relation to the extending certain provisions thereof.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion by Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Kopel.

All in favor of establishing the emergency signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The emergency is established.

Now for the home rule message.

CLERK MULLER: Emergency Resolution 4-2013, a resolution requesting the Legislature of the State of New York to enact and the governor

1 to approve a bill to amend the Tax Law in
2 relation to extending the authority of the County
3 of Nassau to impose hotel and motel taxes in
4 Nassau County and to amend Chapter 179 of the
5 Laws of 2000, amending the Tax Law relating to
6 hotel and motel taxes in Nassau County and a
7 surcharge on tickets in places of entertainment
8 in such county in relation to extending certain
9 provisions thereof.
10

11 Please entertain a motion.

12 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

13 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
15 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Kopel.

16 Who do we have here to speak on this?

17 MR. MAY: Deputy County Executive Tim
18 Sullivan.

19 MS. D'ALLEVA: Roseanne D'Alleva.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Talk to us about
21 this item, please.

22 MS. D'ALLEVA: It's an extender that
23 happens every two years. We basically impose a
24 three percent tax on per diem rates at the
25 hotels, local hotels. We are basically able to

fund certain programs within the County with those proceeds.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions from the legislators? Legislator Abrahams.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What programs?

MS. D'ALLEVA: Basically, most of the money goes to the Parks Department, some of which is specifically segregated for Old Bethpage, and then we also fund, I believe, the Bureau of Tourism, I believe \$675,000 goes to them.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. And this dates back, how far back again? You said every two years?

MS. D'ALLEVA: It's every two years, but I actually don't know how far back it dates.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I see.

MS. D'ALLEVA: I could find that out for you, though.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If you could.

MS. D'ALLEVA: At least 20 years.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Jacobs.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Roseanne, I'm going to make a suggestion here. I am most likely

2 voting for this. But I just want to say to you
3 that when you decide where the money's going to
4 go, and if you were sitting here today you've
5 heard certain people speak, how about earmarking
6 some of it, a very small amount, obviously from
7 what we've heard, for children and for the mental
8 health division. I mean, honestly, unless you
9 have restrictions as to where it goes. I think
10 we should prioritize only because there is so
11 much going on now in the world itself, and we've
12 all heard, dealing with children, in every bad
13 way and every good way, that I think we'd be
14 remiss because we're leaving a lot of people --
15 there are a lot of holes in that safety net right
16 now.

17 MS. D'ALLEVA: Actually, Legislator
18 Jacobs, I do believe that the way the extender is
19 written it actually has certain caveats and how
20 we can spend the money. Most of it is
21 appropriate for parks programs which, you know,
22 to my knowledge, benefit children. I know you're
23 looking for something else.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I think, if I'm
25 not mistaken, and I'm sure that Mr. Walker will

clarify this as well, that the money is used primarily for historic and educational purposes. Correct?

MS. D'ALLEVA: Yes. It's used for certain museums, parks programs. Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Walker.

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: There are requirements in the law as to how it can be spent. Most of it is spent, actually, with Museum Row, in terms of that provides the assistance to museum cultural events, The Long Island Children's Museum, Old Bethpage Village Restoration. But there are requirements in the law as to how it can be spent. It has to be educational. It can't be on county, lack of better words, county programs. It has to be spent, again, on cultural museum oriented, things of that nature. If we could, I would love to spend it on exactly what you described. However, we don't believe we are legally able to.

MS. D'ALLEVA: I believe 75 percent goes to Museum Row, Old Bethpage, and those type programs.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I appreciate it very

2 much, the both of you, and I understand it.
3 Perhaps there will be some leverage or may be
4 some tweaking of the wheel for the other 25
5 percent. I don't expect a promise now, just a
6 thought process because it scares me about a lot
7 of things that have gone on in the last couple of
8 months that perhaps need us more than you think.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
10 Nicoletto.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Your suggestion
12 was to tweak the wheel or see if there is anyway
13 leeway here. My understanding, from counsel, is
14 that this is all statutory and it's not something
15 that we, on a local level, would control.

16 MS. D'ALLEVA: Yes. It's written into
17 the extender.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I guess we can
19 explore -- our attorneys can explore what the
20 statutes say and see if there is something within
21 the statutory language that gives us some
22 discretion.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Ford.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: Roseanne, thank you
25 very much, and Deputy County Executive Walker.

2 And Legislator Jacobs does bring up
3 something that's very important because a lot of
4 people this summer, when we look at the lack of
5 funding for our youth programs. But I know with
6 the 25 percent, I believe that part of that money
7 is given or allows legislators to fund certain
8 programs through the summer in their own
9 legislative districts.

10 I know for me, our focus this summer had
11 been -- we have some great organizations down in
12 Long Beach and in Island Park that the money that
13 I am receiving I'm using so that we can do arts
14 programs for a lot of our young people, to keep
15 them occupied, as well as movies on the beach to
16 bring families together, so that it would be
17 something safe in the evening. It might just be
18 a couple of nights but it is something that can
19 mean a lot to these children and to the people
20 that live down in that area. I think that that's
21 maybe something that we all can look at to see
22 how we are spending that money and what we are
23 funding as well.

24 Thank you.

25 The hotel/motel tax money.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
Denenberg, you had something.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: This is -- I
think Legislator Ford just stumped on the issue.

Ever since the new administration came
in, the hotel and motel tax used to have a board,
it was called the Hotel/Motel Tax Board that met,
publicly met, and would figure out how to
distribute funds; some went to historical
societies, some could go to programs that had
educational significance. It wasn't all just
Museum Row, although the majority was. It wasn't
all Old Bethpage, although the majority was.

Apparently, now there is no meetings of
the Hotel/Motel Tax Board to say where the
money's gone. Just in the last two months we've
seen contracts that we've voted for because, in
general, it helps the people of Nassau County.
There was a contract for the summer concerns or
for at least some of the summer concerts. I
believe there was a contract that had to do with
car shows. But now we're hearing that apparently
on the majority money goes to each district to be
sent to local youth boards. If that's even

2 remotely true, and Legislator Ford says it's
3 true, then I think all of us want to make sure
4 then that we do get this money. But this money
5 goes to the agencies that were cut so that they
6 can provide educational summer programs for
7 children. And I would venture to guess that all
8 of us could agree that keeping children occupied
9 in physical recreation or otherwise in the summer
10 is educational.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I would like
12 Legislator Ford to clarify something.

13 MS. D'ALLEVA: I do believe that that is
14 the case, that the funds do go for those
15 educational programs within Museum Row, within
16 the Parks Department, and so on and so forth, and
17 also four tourism as well.

18 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Ms. D'Alleva, the
19 money over the years, no matter what
20 administration it was, in large part, I believe
21 Deputy County Executive Walker was accurate;
22 Museum Row gets a lot of it, Old Bethpage used to
23 get more, historical societies have gotten money,
24 educational programs in the parks have gotten
25 some money. This year just look at the -- look

2 at our calendar the last two or three months.

3 The concert series got the money, and that does
4 get to the people and we do get to vote on it.

5 But by a board not meeting and having an

6 attorney, three years after Legislator Bosworth

7 and myself asked for an opinion, finally giving

8 us the opinion -- we asked for it in 10 and we

9 got it in 13 -- that this board doesn't have to

10 meet, leads at least myself and I believe a lot

11 of members of the minority to suspects that we're

12 having no say as to where this money goes. And

13 if the money can go directly to youth board

14 agencies and children for educational purposes,

15 that's where we'd like it to go. And if it's

16 going district by district, you know, the

17 hotel/motel tax is paid by anyone staying in

18 Nassau County, throughout Nassau County, not just

19 for majority districts and not minority

20 districts.

21 MS. D'ALLEVA: I can only say that the
22 contracts that were before you for those events
23 are not being funded by this revenue source.

24 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: It said on it
25 hotel/motel tax. It did.

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: Yes, some of the concerts are. There is no money that goes to any youth groups directly. There is not one contract that goes to a youth group directly for services. The money goes to, as you just said, the museums, Museum Row, some of the summer concert series. I think it also pays for people that do the daytime concerts. Not --

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: The daytime, the car show too, I saw something from hotel/motel taxes.

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: Yes. Anything that's tourism driven, that is what's required under the statute by which the money has to be spent.

There is not one contract, with the hotel/motel tax, that goes directly to youth groups.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: What's the money that was discretionary for districts that could get to a youth program?

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: I honestly don't know of any. That's why I'm confused.

2 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Because it's CRP
3 money, which only the majority gets lately,
4 that's capital projects.

5 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: The
6 hotel/motel tax and there's also an annual report
7 that's filed, as required by law, an annual
8 report that details where every dollar is
9 expended, how it's expended, that's required to
10 be sent, which I believe you would get those.

11 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Rob, I believe
12 that the hotel/motel tax, certainly we're
13 agreeing where most of it went, and we do see the
14 contracts for the concerts series, for the car
15 show, for the daytime concerts, actually for
16 other things, historical societies as well. But
17 there was a time -- I would urge you to
18 reconsider because I think an opinion letter that
19 was three years in the making -- where the
20 Hotel/Motel Tax Advisory Board was at least
21 somewhat of a public process where constituents
22 and legislators can weigh in on some of the
23 projects -- not projects, some of the contracts
24 that the money was expended on, whether it was a
25 local historical society or concerts in Wantagh

2 Park versus concerts in Eisenhower Park.

3 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: I
4 think you went to the one --

5 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: It's just a
6 better open process for something that we all
7 care about.

8 I go to as many as I can. I want to
9 support the programs. I think they're good.

10 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: The
11 Wantagh Park program actually was a great
12 program, as you know because you were there.

13 This Legislature does, I would say if not
14 all, the contracts go before this legislative
15 body; obviously it does not have to be approved.
16 I would say in most cases they're approved
17 probably unanimously because, as you mentioned,
18 they are good programs. If there are particular
19 programs that you would like to see added or that
20 can be funded, let us know and we'll look at it.

21 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: The program is
22 the contracts come, right, they formerly came
23 after the advisory board would meet so there was
24 at least a process by which the public and
25 certainly the legislators could make

2 recommendations to be considered by this board.
3 When the board doesn't meet it's as if no one
4 really has a say, unless you want to vote up and
5 down an individual contract, which is difficult
6 when each individual contract certainly look like
7 they're a good service for people.

8 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: I know
9 we've talked about this at numerous meetings.
10 Any programs that you would like to see added or
11 funded, let us know.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Ford
13 wants to clarify the record.

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: If you actually listen
15 to the remarks I did not say any youth groups. I
16 did not indicate -- what it is is that obviously
17 I had put in a request for funding, requesting
18 for a program to be operated or run post-Sandy.
19 So it is not a youth group or anyone like that.
20 It's basically based on, I guess, like, just
21 running some sort of a program. So it's not a
22 youth group, per say. It's not something
23 established. It's a very, very small amount of
24 money that I requested.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator

2 Nicoletto.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The statute I
4 have a synopsis of the statute here and it has
5 certain areas in which monies can be spent.

6 You have Tourism Promotion Agency, care,
7 maintenance and interpretation for the general
8 public of historic structures, ongoing operations
9 or support programs of those non-profit museums
10 and cultural organizations in Nassau County. You
11 have county, through its Parks Department, to
12 improve and advance the marketability of cultural
13 and historic attractions, and then you have money
14 for the Old Bethpage Village Restoration. There
15 is a portion here that goes to the County's
16 general fund, as well. I'm not sure what other
17 restrictions are on that. So we're talking about
18 a small sliver of money that you could possibly
19 debate going to different causes. But once you
20 do something like that, of course whatever it is
21 that you're funding in the past, you lose. It's
22 a zero sum game. You're just not manufacturing
23 more money.

24 We have to live within what the statute
25 tells us the money could be spent on, and that's

2 where it has to be spent.

3 Obviously, youth groups, as Denise Ford
4 has said and as the Deputy County Executive has
5 said, we have not funded those in the past, and I
6 don't even know if we could.

7 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: I don't
8 believe you can.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Okay.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
11 Bosworth.

12 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Thank you.

13 Denise, you just made it sound so good
14 that everyone's ears perked up. And the sense I
15 got was that this isn't the first year that
16 that's been done. It's great to say post-Sandy,
17 but it seems that that's been done before. So my
18 question is from what funds did this money come
19 from?

20 Again, you requested -- clearly a
21 wonderful request. Your area was so devastated.
22 But what funds are being made available --
23 through what funding is this being made available
24 to you?

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Denise is

2 researching it.

3 Anyone on this body can request from the
4 county executive resources for various historic
5 and educational programs within their district.
6 It's not something that just the majority can do;
7 the minority can do it as well.

8 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: You're saying
9 educational, so --

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: For example, I
11 think there are people on this body who are very
12 interested in Cornell Cooperative Extension; I
13 being one, primarily because they run a farm in
14 East Meadow which we purchased a few years ago,
15 and they qualify primarily from an educational
16 standpoint and they are non-profit. So I could
17 request monies for Cornell Cooperative Extension
18 through the hotel/motel tax.

19 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: What a great idea.
20 Seriously.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It is a great
22 idea.

23 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Great idea. I
24 know there are so many of us here who support
25 Cornell Cooperative.

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: But also there's
3 a requirement on the part of the organization,
4 the non-profit organization. They have to really
5 put in writing what they would like to see, and
6 until they do that, there's no movement.

7 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Okay. Again,
8 would an arts program, and arts and crafts
9 program in a park, would that qualify as a source
10 of money to be used for educational purposes?

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Who is going to
12 sponsor the arts and crafts program? A non-
13 profit organization?

14 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: This is the first
15 I'm hearing about this so I don't know. It
16 sounded wonderful, so I'll find out how you do
17 it.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Walker, can
19 you address that question.

20 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: Yeah.
21 Similar -- I'll use some of the examples that we
22 have of what we used it for.

23 Again, I would say a vast majority,
24 probably upwards of 90 percent, is probably spent
25 on Museum Row, and also \$600,000 goes directly to

The Long Island Tourism and Convention Bureau.
We pay \$600,000 and Suffolk pays \$600,000. As depicted in the law, you have to spend it on tourism, things of that nature. For a not-for-profit -- the film festival. I don't know if it's done by -- if it's the --

LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Gold Coast.

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: Yeah. Gold Coast. I think \$50,000 from this fund goes to the Gold Coast Film Festival.

LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: And money well spent.

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: I agree. The county executive wants to make it more.

But those type programs --

LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Who says we don't agree?

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: Any not-for-profit can apply, because you have to be a not-for-profit, and then you have to do cultural programs that follow with the law. Say it was the park district. If the park district wanted to host a program, I would believe that

2 the parks district probably could apply. If the
3 not-for-profit, say, Friends of Great Neck
4 Recreation, I think it would be even easier, they
5 would actually be able to apply to run some type
6 of cultural programs.

7 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: In other words, if
8 the Great Neck/Manhasset EOC came up with some
9 kind of arts education program for the summer --

10 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: It
11 would probably qualify. I would be safe to say -
12 I would say yes, probably, most likely that it
13 would apply. It's got to be tourism related
14 because it's hotel/motel money, bringing people
15 into the area, highlighting tourism in the area,
16 people spending their money.

17 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: So those are two
18 different things. Doing an arts and crafts kind
19 of program in a park --

20 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: That
21 would be covered under the cultural part.
22 There's cultural dollars that is also able to be
23 spent.

24 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Great. Thank you.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Ford

2 needs to clarify for you.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: You're putting me
4 through my paces today.

5 Actually, I requested it only because of
6 the -- under the ongoing operating or program
7 support of those non-profit museums and cultural
8 organizations in Nassau County. So it would fall
9 under that. It's just a small amount of money.
10 So that's how we requested it.

11 Like the Deputy County Executive had
12 said, if you have a club or an organization,
13 under that. So that's basically what it was
14 submitted under.

15 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: It will be
16 interesting to explore. So thank you.

17 LEGISLATOR FORD: You're welcome.

18 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Thank you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
20 Troiano.

21 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Who was the request
22 made of, the county executive?

23 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: It
24 could be. But it really goes through the
25 Department of Parks.

LEGISLATOR TROIANO: So who has approval over it?

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: The legislature. The contract will be --

LEGISLATOR TROIANO: I thought you said that we don't -- there's no requirement that it come to us.

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: No, there is. The contracts go before this legislature for approval.

LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Okay. Can we ask the commissioner for a record of who has applied and who has been accepted?

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: Yes. I'd be glad to get that for you.

In fact, they said every year they're required, under the statute, to actually submit to the State Legislature and to us who actually they awarded to. So we'll make sure you get all the ones that also requested it.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: To the Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes. Legislator Denenberg.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: In response to

2 what Legislator Troiano just asked. There is a
3 hotel/motel tax program report that's distributed
4 at the end of each year. So, like, Long Island
5 Film Festival, which you've been at, which is
6 actually in Bellmore, it's a report that that has
7 25 -- anything that was paid actually does come
8 in an annual report. What it wouldn't have is
9 who the applications are made of. In the prior
10 administration all of us would apply, and
11 Legislator Schmitt had made a big deal and said
12 who do I apply to and it was the Hotel/Motel Tax
13 Advisory Board. Since that board doesn't meet,
14 it was unclear who we would apply to. I usually
15 apply to you.

16 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER:

17 Commissioner of Parks. It goes to the
18 Commissioner of Parks. Parks Department and then
19 it goes through the whole routing process as the
20 contracts do.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We never applied
22 to the board. We applied to the Commissioner of
23 Parks. I don't know where you got that from,
24 Legislator Denenberg. It always went through the
25 Parks Commissioner.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
Jacobs.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Okay. But, Rob, one thing I would like to clarify here. Although I have been, always for the 18 years I'm on this board, a huge supporter of Cornell Cooperative. Because anyone who knows what they do knows that it touches just about everyone's life, including the summer camp they run, which helps children who cannot go to regular camp to be able to go.

The fact to just take money like this, it's great because it's educational, is not what Cornell Cooperative actually needs in the long run in order for them to get the funds from the state and federal government and stay alive. They are on the verge of literally not being able to stay alive because they don't have a line in our budget. They need a line. It's almost more important to them to have a line, regardless of how small amount of it is funded, then not to have a line. Because without that line they don't get that other funding. We could enhance that line by using part of this for tourism, etcetera, and education. But I'm very worried

2 about it.

3 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: Yeah,
4 myself too. I forget what department actually
5 still has -- not that they have a line in their
6 budget, but they have the contract with them. I
7 don't know if it's health or senior citizens.

8 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I was just going to
9 say -- not to interrupt you. It is health. But
10 they are in really very serious problems right
11 now.

12 None of us realize on a day-to-day basis
13 what they do. But they are on the verge of
14 collapse because they were never put in their own
15 line and they always had been, even if that line
16 was almost miniscule.

17 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: We'll
18 reach out to them.

19 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Would you?

20 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: Yeah.

21 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Because it's really
22 a problem.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I just want to
24 clarify a couple of things.

25 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: I have a question,

2 too.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes. I just want
4 to clarify.

5 I am well aware that Cornell needs
6 funding in order to remain afloat and to qualify
7 for a grant from Cornell University.

8 I've been working with the members of the
9 board, as well as the administration. And it's
10 my understanding -- and, by the way, they have
11 not had a line in the budget since 2006. But it
12 is my understanding that we are still exploring
13 the possibility of getting some monies into the
14 budget so that they can remain afloat and meet
15 the qualifications that Cornell University has
16 put forth for them.

17 It's a concern that I believe all of us
18 share and will continue to explore the funding in
19 whatever capacity possible. And I believe it's
20 human services resources.

21 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Right. But I can
22 tell you that it's not since 2006. This has been
23 throughout the prior administration, they had
24 their own line, even though it went down quite a
25 bit.

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: If I'm not
3 mistaken, Judy, I believe that may be the case.
4 However, the money dwindled slowly, slowly, to
5 the point where by 2009 they were not in the
6 budget. To clarify, we did say 2006.

7 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I never would have
8 passed a Suozzi budget without it.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: 2007 is the date.

10 Legislator Scannell.

11 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: Thank you. I
12 agree with you guys wholeheartedly; they deserve
13 a line as well. As small as it is, it gets them
14 the funding. The summer camp is just
15 unbelievable. There are so many kids from Nassau
16 County that go there. It's an affordable place.
17 My daughter has been there for years, and my
18 son's going to go there. It's an amazing place.
19 The people are wonderful. The director is just
20 amazing. My daughter has gone to summer camp
21 affordably and has just had an amazing, amazing
22 time because the people there are just
23 incredible.

24 I just want to thank everybody there.
25 Thank you for continuing to fund it. We would

2 like to make their life easier by giving them a
3 line. I just want to echo Judy, they do an
4 amazing job.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. I think we
6 have straight from the item that was on the floor
7 at the present time, which was the hotel/motel
8 tax home rule message that we want to send; is
9 that correct, Mr. Muller?

10 CLERK MULLER: Yes.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other comment
12 on that particular item?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 We need to give the public an
15 opportunity. Is there anyone in the public who
16 wishes to talk on the hotel/motel tax extension,
17 which is a home rule message?

18 MS. FATIMA: Unfortunately this is the
19 first time I've heard of this tax. As the person
20 from the executive office says every two years.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We request an
22 extension every two years.

23 MS. FATIMA: Okay. How much money was
24 raised in the last two years from this tax?
25 That's one of the biggest questions that we have.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Do we have an answer to her question?

MS. FATIMA: 3.5. And is the monies distributed equitably between all 19 districts or the county executive or the commissioner of parks accepts applications, it says, from non-profit organizations. Can you explain how that process works if someone wanted to apply?

MS. D'ALLEVA: You'd have to apply to the commissioner of parks.

MS. FATIMA: And is there a formal application?

MS. D'ALLEVA: I'm actually not 100 percent sure if there's a formal application. I believe you could just write to them.

MS. KRIEB: Eileen Krieb, Department of Parks.

You just write a letter addressed to Commissioner Foskey and address the details of the program and he will review it.

MS. FATIMA: Okay. And then in the decision making process of the review, where does it go after the commissioner has reviewed it? What is the next step?

2 MS. KREIB: I believe all requests are
3 presented to the county executive's office for
4 final approval, and then we begin the negotiation
5 or the contract for the arrangement that needs to
6 take place to actually fund the program.

7 MS. FATIMA: Okay. Is there a cutoff
8 date in which they can apply? Please. Be
9 patient. This is very important. As
10 constituents, you want to know the facts of where
11 your tax money is going.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay, Cay. Let
13 Eileen answer your questions.

14 MS. KRIEB: There is an annual budget.
15 And so the best is to submit the letters
16 requesting the funding soon.

17 MS. FATIMA: Okay. This is for this
18 fiscal year 2013.

19 MS. KRIEB: It's a calendar year, that's
20 correct.

21 MS. FATIMA: And the other issues, just
22 real briefly, is that there has been a disparate
23 treatment of where parks money goes. In
24 Scannell's district, one of them that's in
25 Lakeview is Tanglewood Preserve. We have the new

2 Cockerham Botanical Peace Garden, although no one
3 wants to call it that now. We have Halls Pond, I
4 believe is about the three in the county. Some
5 of them are passive and active recreation. So
6 I'll write a letter to the commissioner to make
7 sure that our district is not disenfranchised
8 from this \$3.5 million. It seems like a lot of
9 money.

10 Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're welcome.

12 Any other public comment?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 There being none, it's time for a vote on
15 this item.

16 All those in favor of the home rule
17 message requesting the extension of the
18 hotel/motel tax signify by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 Any opposed?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 The item passes unanimously.

23 Now there's another home rule message.

24 CLERK MULLER: There's a third one.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We need another

2 emergency.

3 CLERK MULLER: We have a recommendation
4 of the county executive to the Nassau County
5 Legislature at a meeting of the County
6 Legislature on May 20, 2013 for the adoption of
7 an emergency resolution declaring an emergency
8 for immediate action upon a resolution requesting
9 the Legislature of the State of New York to enact
10 and the governor to approve a bill to amend the
11 Tax Law in relation to extending the authority of
12 the County of Nassau to impose additional sales
13 taxes and competent and use taxes and extending
14 local government assistance programs in Nassau
15 County.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: On the emergency,
17 motion by Legislator Dunne, seconded by
18 Legislator Walker.

19 All those in favor of establishing the
20 emergency signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 Any opposed?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 The emergency is established. Now for
25 the home rule message.

2 CLERK MULLER: For Clerk Item 2009-2013,
3 which is now Emergency Resolution 5-2013, a
4 resolution requesting the Legislature of the
5 State of New York to enact and the governor to
6 approve a bill to amend the Tax Law in relation
7 to extending the authority of the County of
8 Nassau to impose additional sales taxes and
9 competent and use taxes and extending local
10 government assistance programs in Nassau County.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion by
12 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
13 Nicoletto.

14 MR. MAY: Roseanne D'Alleva from the
15 Office of Management and Budget.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Roseanne, you're
17 up again.

18 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SULLIVAN: Hi.
19 Timothy Sullivan, Deputy County Executive for
20 Finance. Good afternoon, Presiding Officer
21 Gonsalves --

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good afternoon,
23 Mr. Sullivan.

24 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SULLIVAN:
25 Minority Leader Abrahams, and members of the

2 Legislature.

3 Similar to the hotel/motel use tax, this
4 is a sales and compensating use tax for our sales
5 tax. Anything above three percent requires this.
6 This is a biannual, every two years. This would
7 extend 1.25 percent, of which a quarter point
8 goes to the towns and City of Long Beach and City
9 of Glen Cove. This is to extend that 1.25
10 percent through 2015.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions of
12 Mr. Sullivan? Legislator Denenberg.

13 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Mr. Sullivan,
14 this is being done by emergency?

15 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SULLIVAN: I
16 believe it was introduced by emergency, that's
17 correct.

18 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Being that this
19 is done every two years, why is it being done by
20 emergency?

21 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SULLIVAN: The
22 bill number just came down from New York State
23 this past Friday.

24 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: And we have to
25 get -- so we just got it from the state on Friday

and we have to get it before their session ends.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Exactly.

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SULLIVAN:

That's my understanding, yes.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Okay. Thank you.

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SULLIVAN: Thank
you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
questions of Mr. Sullivan?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment regarding this item?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor of
sending the home rule message to Albany regarding
the extension of the sales tax?

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE SULLIVAN: Thank
you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very
much. Thank you, Mr. Sullivan. Thank you,
Roseanne. Thank you, Deputy County Executive

2 Walker.

3 Now, we're going to continue with the
4 calendar. And the first order of business, with
5 all due respect, and I think that we're all
6 waiting for the confirmation of the appointees to
7 the Nassau University Medical Center Board of
8 Directors. So we're going to call that item.

9 Calendar Number 15, a resolution to
10 appoint Frank Saracino as a non-voting director
11 to the board of Nassau Health Care Corporation.

12 Motion, please?

13 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

14 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Second.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
16 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Belesi.

17 Anyone here to comment on this
18 appointment?

19 I don't believe Dr. Saracino is in the
20 audience, correct? Dr. Saracino has served on
21 the Nassau University Medical Center previously
22 as a non-voting member. He has been recommended
23 by the administration at the hospital as well as
24 the board to serve as a non-voting member.

25 Any questions regarding that?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

All those in favor of appointing Dr. Saracino to the Nassau University Medical Center board please signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(Nay.)

Dr. Saracino is appointed ten to nine.

We have -- the next appointment to the Nassau University Medical Center Board as director, the resolution to appoint Linda Reed as a director to the Board of Nassau Health Care Corporation, which is Resolution 86, Item 16.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: I'm proud to make that motion.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Walker.

Now, I'm sure that at this point you would like to address this item. In the audience we do have the appointee, Linda Reed, who will answer your questions and certainly hopefully you

2 will listen intently to what she has to offer.

3 Linda Reed.

4 MS. REED: Good afternoon.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good afternoon,
6 Linda. I think they would like to know something
7 about you. Correct? Is that it? And I think
8 maybe you should introduce yourself as to your
9 background and why you would be the candidate to
10 serve on the Board of Directors at the Hospital.

11 MS. REED: Sure. My name is Linda Reed.
12 I've lived in Nassau County all of my life, all
13 58 years. I have a medical background. I
14 started a program in medical assisting for the
15 vocational school many years ago, an internship
16 with NUMC and Mid-Island Hospital at that point
17 so that our students could go actually into the
18 working field and get some knowledge of what they
19 would be looking at as they graduated. I have
20 been a CPR instructor for I'm going to say 20-
21 something years, I don't even remember anymore.
22 I ran a nursing agency for 13 years. During that
23 time we worked very closely with hospitals, with
24 nursing homes, with home care, other home care
25 agencies, as far as getting the patients the care

2 that they needed, whether it was in a hospital
3 setting, a home setting, or a nursing home
4 setting. I've also worked in a hospital many,
5 many years ago.

6 Right now I do emergency advocate work
7 for the hospitals, both -- well, several
8 hospitals in Nassau County on an emergency basis.
9 It's actually in my resume. It's one of the
10 first things in the resume.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions of
12 Ms. Reed?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 Any public comment?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 All those in favor of confirming the
17 appointment of Linda Reed to the board of
18 directors at the hospital signify by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 Any opposed?

21 (Nay.)

22 The item passes ten to nine.

23 Thank you for volunteering to serve,
24 Linda.

25 MS. REED: And thank you for giving me

2 the opportunity.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We will go
4 through those items which are part of the non-
5 consent calendar.

6 The next item is Item 26, Resolution 96-
7 2013, a resolution to authorize the transfer of
8 appropriations heretofore made within the budget
9 for the year 2012.

10 Motion, please?

11 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

12 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Second.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
14 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Belesi.

15 Who do we have here to speak on this
16 item?

17 MR. MAY: Deputy County Executive Tim
18 Sullivan and Roseanne D'Allewa from Office of
19 Management and Budget.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.

21 MS. D'ALLEVA: Yes. Hello. This --
22 Roseanne D'Allewa - it represents the
23 comptroller's close to fund any negative
24 accounts.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment regarding this item?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor of
Item 26, Resolution 96 signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

All those opposed?

(Nay.)

The resolution passes ten to nine.

MS. D'ALLEVA: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now we're going
to go to Item 20, Resolution 90, a resolution to
authorize the county assessor and/or the county
treasurer and/or the receiver of taxes of the
Town of Hempstead to correct an erroneous
assessment and taxes in accordance with a
petition of the assessor on a specified property
appearing on the assessment rolls for the
specified school and/or county years pursuant to
this resolution, pursuant to the Real Property
Tax Law, the County Government Law of Nassau
County, and the Nassau County Administrative
Code.

Motion, please?

2 LEGISLATOR BELESI: So moved.

3 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Second.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
5 Legislator Belesi, seconded by Legislator
6 Venditto.

7 Who is here to speak on this item?

8 MR. MAY: We have Mr. Dan Valentino from
9 the assessor's office.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.

11 MR. VALENTINO: Are there any questions?

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 Any public comment regarding this?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 All those in favor of Item 20, Resolution
17 90 signify by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 Any opposed?

20 (Nay.)

21 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: There are three
22 nays -- Legislator Scannell, Legislator
23 Denenberg, and Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: So the item
25 passes 16 to 3.

1 Full Legislature - 5-20-13 99
2 The next item is Item 21, Resolution 91,
3 another -- I've been advised to call 21, 22, 23,
4 and 24.

5 21 is Resolution 91, again, to authorize
6 the county assessor and/or the county treasurer
7 regarding the tax assessments in the Town of
8 Hempstead.

9 22, Resolution 92, the same thing within
10 the Town of Hempstead, to partially exempt from
11 real property taxation certain properties
12 situated in various school districts assessed to
13 designated owners appearing on the assessment
14 rolls for the specified school and/or county
15 years pursuant to this resolution.

16 Item 23, Resolution 93, a resolution to
17 authorize the county assessor, once again, and
18 this is the Town of North Hempstead.

19 24, resolution regarding the assessment
20 law, the Town or the City of Long Beach, and
21 that's Resolution 94.

22 Motion, please?

23 Moved by Legislator Walker, seconded by
24 Legislator -- I believe I should say moved by
25 Legislator Ford and -- so we have Legislator

Venditto and Legislator Belesi, who is moving on all three -- all four items - 21, 22, 23, and 24. Correct? Right.

Any comments regarding this?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment regarding this?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor of Items 21, 22, 23, 24 signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(Nay.)

Again, it's 15 to three. The motion carries 15 to three.

We are going to move to the consent calendar, that means both majority and minority have consented to these items.

Item 3, Ordinance Number 75; Item 4, Ordinance 76; Item 5, Ordinance 77; Item 6, Ordinance 78; Item 7, Ordinance 79; Item 8, Ordinance 80; Item 9, Ordinance 81; 10, Ordinance 82; 11, which is Resolution 81; 12, Resolution 82; 13, Resolution 83; 14, Resolution 84; and I believe that is the end -- no, we have another

one -- Resolution 25 - Item 25, Resolution 95;
and Item 27, Resolution 97.

Motion, please?

Just to be sure, Item 17, Resolution 87;
Item 18, Resolution 88; 19, Resolution 89.

Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Walker.

Any questions regarding this?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

All those in favor of these items signify
by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The items pass unanimously. Actually I
shouldn't say unanimously; it's 18 to 0.

Now, now for Item Number 1. We're almost
there. We're almost there. Be patient.

Item Number 1 is a hearing on a proposed

2 Local Law Number 2013, a local law to amend the
3 Miscellaneous Laws of Nassau County in relation
4 to apprenticeship programs.

5 Motion, please?

6 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

7 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Second.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
9 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Belesi.

10 Who do we have here?

11 MR. MAY: Chief Deputy County Executive
12 Rob Walker.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. Thank you
14 very much. Again, welcome.

15 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER: Thank
16 you.

17 This local law -- I think we spoke about
18 it at the last Rules Committee and I know you
19 have a lot of people behind me that have come out
20 to voice their support of the law, of the local
21 law. It came out due to a problem that the
22 county had at some of our job sites.

23 Unfortunately, when the local law was
24 created, the apprenticeship language of \$500,000,
25 there was a carve out that subcontractors under

1 \$100,000 did not have to have an apprenticeship
2 program. Unfortunately, what we have seen,
3 because of that carve out, is contractors were
4 able to navigate through the law, circumventing
5 the law, in many regards, and saying that
6 specific job actions cost \$98,000 or \$99,000, do
7 work off premises, and it became a problem.
8

9 Again, so many of the business agents and
10 leaders of the various unions throughout Nassau
11 County and asked, working in conjunction with
12 County Executive Mangano, to, in fact, make this
13 local law change, and that is what is before you
14 today, to remove that carve out. Any contract
15 above \$500,000 must have an apprenticeship
16 program, no longer any type of subcontract
17 clause, and that's before you today.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions
19 from the legislators or comments regarding this
20 item?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 Should I ask for public comment or was
23 that public comment? I think you said it all.

24 There being no public comment and no
25 legislative comment, all those in favor of -- no.

2 Motion to close the hearing.

3 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
6 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Walker.

7 All those in favor of closing the
8 hearing?

9 (Aye.)

10 The hearing is now closed.

11 Now, what you've been waiting for, and
12 that is the vote on the item, which is a local
13 law to amend the Miscellaneous Laws of Nassau
14 County in relation to apprenticeship programs,
15 and that is Item 2 on the agenda.

16 Motion by?

17 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

18 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion by
20 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Walker.

21 Any comments regarding this from the
22 legislators?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 Any public comment regarding this item?

25 (No verbal response.)

1 Now, a vote on this item.

2
3 All those in favor of Item 2, the local
4 law amending the Miscellaneous Laws of Nassau
5 County in relation to apprenticeship programs,
6 signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Any opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 The item passes 18 to 0.

11 Now, guess what? Thank you for coming,
12 and thank you for your applause.

13 I need a motion to adjourn this session,
14 the calendar for now.

15 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
18 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
19 Nicolello.

20 All those in favor of adjourning the
21 session signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Any opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 We are adjourned.

2 (Whereupon, the Full Legislature
3 adjourned at 3:15 p.m.)

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now, as promised,
5 remember I said to you that we would stay. There
6 were three people, I believe, who wanted to
7 speak.

8 Arlene, are you still here? Arlene
9 O'Dell. Are you here, Arlene? I'm glad you're
10 so patient. Arlene.

11 MS. O'DELL: Good afternoon.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good afternoon.

13 MS. O'DELL: My name is Arlene O'Dell,
14 and I am the executive director of the Glen Cove
15 Youth Bureau and a member of the Nassau Coalition
16 of Youth Service Agencies.

17 I'm here once again to ask you to please
18 work together in serving the families and
19 children residing in your districts and restore
20 the youth service budget 100 percent so we can do
21 our jobs to the fullest and serve the families
22 living in our county.

23 Think about it; summer is right around
24 the corner. What does it mean if youth services
25 is not restored 100 percent? There will be

1 hundreds of youth not attending quality summer
2 programs in our county. There will be many youth
3 who will be placed at-risk due to too much idle
4 time. There will be parents who will not be able
5 to work during the summer because they refuse to
6 leave their children unsupervised. There will be
7 parents who will work and leave their children
8 unsupervised. There will be added costs to the
9 county to pay for youth who get into trouble.
10 There will be added cost to the county to focus
11 on families when parents leave their children
12 unsupervised all day, and let's hope that there
13 are no real serious tragedies as a result.
14

15 There will be fewer dollars spent in the
16 county due to less dollars being generated by
17 families who will no longer be employed because
18 they cannot afford quality programs for their
19 children to attend.

20 One hundred percent restoration to youth
21 services is a win-win situation for the county,
22 it's a win-win situation for the residents, it's
23 a win-win situation for the programs the county
24 offers, and it's a win-win situation for you, our
25 elected officials.

1 Please work together and demonstrate that
2
3 Nassau County cares for and about the families
4 and youth who reside here.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Sergio Argueta.

7 MR. ARGUETA: Good afternoon. My reason
8 for standing here today has to do with the fact
9 that over the weekend we lost yet another young
10 person in an area called the corridor, which is
11 the border of Hempstead and Uniondale. And we
12 started this session with a moment of silence.
13 And while we appreciate that moment of silence,
14 because you've taken time out to notice the
15 importance that is young life, I also would like
16 to encourage you all, regardless of party, to
17 finally take a stand and do what is conscionably
18 right in the memory of this beautiful young girl.

19 You see, we continue to bury young people
20 in this corridor; yet, we have continued to do
21 the irresponsible thing in not funding youth
22 services in this county. We have continued to
23 fund a criminal justice system that is
24 ineffective in dealing with this issue, but we
25 will not fund the programs that keep kids from

1 getting their hands on guns, joining gangs,
2 getting their hands on drugs, and shooting heroin
3 into their veins.
4

5 It's interesting. I wish the union folks
6 would have stayed here with that banner because
7 we so would have loved to use it; build smarter,
8 build safer, build union. Can you kindly take a
9 vote for our youth and say enough of the games?
10 Can you finally step up and say, you know what,
11 we won't let party chairs dictate whether or not
12 we're going to fund the future of youth in our
13 communities? When will enough be enough?

14 I had the pleasure of talking to Mr.
15 Walker right before this legislative hearing, and
16 I asked him, I begged him to do me a favor. This
17 is gonna be a long hot summer, not only because
18 that's the time where bullets increase in my
19 community and that's the time when more young
20 people get incarcerated in my community, but
21 because we know there's going to be along of
22 fundraising going on. If you do not fund us, we
23 will be holding panhandling fundraisers outside
24 of your fundraisers, regardless of party. If you
25 do not want to do what is right, we will start

1 sending you pictures of all young people that are
2 dying in our communities, be they as a result of
3 drugs, as the result of gangs, guns. Instead of
4 being in after-school programs and summer
5 programs, they're out there fending for
6 themselves.
7

8 Ladies and gentlemen, on July 6, 2012 you
9 decided to not do what was morally right and you
10 allowed the youth service system to collapse.
11 And we are still on life support.

12 I am begging you. I am begging you yet
13 again to do what is correct and restore funding
14 to you service. If not, then you leave us no
15 choice because these are our children. These are
16 our children. And if you need me to develop a
17 campaign so we could get some of those tourist
18 dollars, how about hey, come to Nassau County
19 where kids are now being killed on a regular
20 basis?

21 You want to talk about a gardening
22 program? How about the fact that the only
23 gardening programs that the majority of kids in
24 my community get to witness is what happens in
25 Greenfield Cemetery on a monthly basis.

2 Ladies and gentlemen, please, we have
3 better things to do with our time.

4 I know you don't want to deal with us.
5 And believe me, we'd rather be dealing with youth
6 then dealing with you. We want to applaud you.
7 We want to honor you. Give us a reason to be
8 proud of. Do what's right.

9 You have mentioned that you're a
10 grandmother. You have mentioned that you are a
11 father. You have mentioned that you are mothers.
12 You've mentioned that your aunts and uncles. How
13 about we start caring for all kids the way we do
14 our own families.

15 I beg you, please do what's right.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Cay.

17 MS. FATIMA: Will this be on the record?

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes. It's part
19 of public comment.

20 MS. FATIMA: Well, I don't see
21 Legislator Scannell here.

22 On March 18 I was given this very
23 beautiful Citation as being one of the 19 women.
24 I am returning it. I don't know if the person
25 who presented it to me, Legislator Troiano, read

2 it. But it says, Whereas, it is the desire of
3 the Nassau County Legislature to honor those
4 outstanding individuals who render significant
5 contributions for the enhancement and benefit of
6 our County. And by virtue of your passion and
7 initiative of establishing the Roger Cockerham
8 Botanical Peace Garden. I'm going to stop right
9 there and let the Clerk please present this back.

10 Until a few weeks ago, our community
11 received a postcard from Legislator Troiano
12 saying on May 28, save the date, the Lakeview
13 Peace Garden ribbon cutting. Well, there is no
14 such thing as the Lakeview Peace Garden.

15 What I did bring are some gifts, as well.
16 Since I applied -- and I'll make sure the
17 legislator gets copies of this.

18 Today, May 20 is the twentieth year,
19 anniversary when I first proposed this Roger
20 Cockerham Botanical Peace Garden. This very day.
21 It was written in a letter to then-Councilman
22 Curtis Fisher, because we thought the land
23 belonged to the Town of Hempstead. Twenty years
24 later, now, it's being called the Lakeview Peace
25 Garden and there's going to be a ribbon cutting.

2 My community, myself, I had the terrible
3 unfortunate to tell the Cockerham family that
4 after 20 years there will not be a peace garden
5 named for their son. That was one of the hardest
6 things I had to do. Excuse me.

7 For the last two weeks, I have never
8 understood what intentional infliction of
9 emotional stress and pain, because I have been
10 crying uncontrollably just to talk of it, reading
11 the past news articles about the incident,
12 etcetera.

13 What I brought to you today was basically
14 the proposal that I wrote and was accepted by
15 this legislature. The letter from Brad Tito, at
16 the time, and none of it says anything about a
17 Lakeview Peace Garden. It all says Roger
18 Cockerham. Every quarterly report, as well as
19 the 2013 quarterly report, this legislative body
20 authorized payment for the Roger Cockerham
21 Botanical Peace Garden.

22 My community signed petitions. I've
23 worked tirelessly for the last week, not getting
24 any sleep. It's very hard to try to be on the
25 phone negotiating with lawyers. I just spoke

1 with Rob Walker. They would like for you to vote
2 for the Peace Garden ribbon cutting to be
3 postponed.
4

5 But I want to end, if I ever get a chance
6 to be at that dedication to Roderick.

7 Some have asked me why did you name this
8 botanical garden after Roderick Cockerham? What
9 did he do? My answer is not what he did but what
10 he did not do. Rod did not finish high school,
11 did not go to his prom, did not go to college,
12 did not see the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
13 in Washington, did not go to prison, did not get
14 married, did not get to vote, did not get hired
15 by a Fortune 500 company, did not serve in the
16 armed forces, didn't buy a cell phone, didn't buy
17 his first car, did not see his first baby be
18 born, did not experience the 9-11 tragedy, did
19 not see Barrack Hussein Obama become president,
20 he did not ever befriend anyone on Facebook, he
21 did not buy his first house, he did not go to the
22 Million Man March. Rod did not die in vain. He
23 died because adults lost their sensibilities with
24 children.

25 This garden -- excuse me. This garden is

2 dedicated to peace and non-violence to children
3 in the name of Roderick to remind us that we must
4 teach the children.

5 Thank you for the time.

6 It is up to this legislative body to
7 officially make this resolution.

8 We had planned a dedication way before
9 this administration came in. It started with the
10 Gulotta administration. Looked to Suozzi, in
11 which I got the grant. If this is dedicated in
12 any other name, then there would be
13 misappropriation of funds and fraud. That I do
14 know. Either the county executive and Legislator
15 Troiano voluntarily postpone the ribbon cutting -
16 - and, first of all, you ribbon cut supermarkets.
17 This is a sacred, as they say, ground, hallowed
18 ground. It's just not a photo op to be used in
19 political campaigning.

20 Thank you very much.

21 Would anyone like to speak to this?

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Cay.

23 Cay is the last of the speakers. In
24 about ten minutes, the members of the Rules
25 Committee -- we have, I believe, two items, two

2 contracts to deal with. Let's say quarter to
3 four we will be back here.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby state:

THAT I attended at the time and place above mentioned and took stenographic record of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript of the same and the whole thereof, according to the best of my ability and belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this _____ day of _____, 2013 .

FRANK GRAY