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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
Presiding Officer

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DENNIS DUNNE, Chairman

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, May 6, 2013
1:45 P.M

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

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4 DENNIS DUNNE,
 Chairman

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6 JOSEPH BELESI,
 Vice Chairman

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7 DENISE FORD

7

8 MICHAEL VENDITTO

8

9 JOSEPH SCANNELL,
 Ranking

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10 DAVID DENENBERG

11 WAYNE WINK

12 WILLIAM J. MULLER, III
 Clerk of the Legislature

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LIST OF SPEAKERS

TARA COMISKEY, Detective Sergeant,
Nassau County Police Department.....5

TOM DELANEY, Nassau County,
Office of Emergency Management.....9

KEITH SATHER, Captain,
Nassau County Correctional Facility.....15

Public Safety Committee/5-6-13

2 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Will the members
3 of the Public Safety Committee please take
4 their seats? I'll act as secretary and call
5 the roll. Legislator Wayne Wink?

6 LEGISLATOR WINK: Here.

7 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Legislator Dave
8 Denenberg?

9 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Here.

10 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Ranking Member
11 Legislator Joseph Scannell?

12 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: Here.

13 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Legislator
14 Michael Venditto?

15 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Here.

16 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Legislator
17 Denise Ford?

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

19 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Vice Chairman
20 Joe Belesi?

21 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Here.

22 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: And myself, we
23 have a quorum. The first item to come
24 before us today is Item 190-13, it's an
25 ordinance supplemental to the annual

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2 appropriations ordinance in connection with
3 the Police Department. We also have 191-13
4 which is with the Police Department which
5 reads an ordinance supplemental to the
6 annual appropriations ordinance in
7 connection with the Police Department. So
8 we're going to call them both at the same
9 time. Who do we have today from the police
10 department?

11 MR. MAY: Ms. Tara Comiskey from
12 the police department.

13 LEGISLATOR BELESI: So moved.

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion by
16 Legislator Belesi, seconded by Legislator
17 Ford for these two items.

18 SERGEANT COMISKEY: Good
19 afternoon. Sergeant Tara Comiskey, how are
20 you?

21 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Good.

22 SERGEANT COMISKEY: 190 is the
23 Save, and the item appropriates \$120,000 in
24 funds from New York State Division of
25 Criminal Justice. They'll use the funds to

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2 assist police officers and detectives on an
3 overtime basis to identify and arrest
4 persons who commit the crime of vehicle
5 theft and related insurance fraud targeted
6 high vehicle theft locations. And it also
7 assists in specialized training in the area
8 of motor vehicle theft.

9 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: On that item,
10 do we do that at the train stations?
11 Because I know that Seaford and Wantagh have
12 a lot of cars getting broken into and
13 things. Do we use that at train stations,
14 that money?

15 SERGEANT COMISKEY: I'm not 100
16 percent sure but I can find out for you,
17 sir.

18 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Yes. Get back
19 to me on that. Any other questions from any
20 other legislator?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 The next item is 191.

23 SERGEANT COMISKEY: That item
24 appropriates \$127,042 in funds from the US
25 DOT to provide overtime funding to allow the

Public Safety Committee/5-6-13

2 officers to conduct commercial motor vehicle
3 checkpoints. As part of the checkpoints,
4 the officers will inspect the commercial
5 vehicles to insure that they're in
6 compliance with all federal and state safety
7 regulations insuring safer roadways within
8 Nassau County.

9 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: That's awesome.
10 Are there questions from any of the
11 legislators?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 Is there any public comment on
14 either of these 190, 191?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 There being none, we will have a
17 vote on both of them, 190-13 and 191-13.
18 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 Any against?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 So ruled. It moves on to the
23 next committee which is Finance.

24 SERGEANT COMISKEY: Thank you,
25 sir.

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2 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Thank you. The
3 next item is 192-13, an ordinance
4 supplemental to the annual appropriations
5 ordinance in connection with the Office of
6 Emergency Management, Police Department,
7 Fire Commission, Correctional Center,
8 Medical Examiner and Health Department.

9 LEGISLATOR BELESI: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion by
12 Legislator Belesi, seconded by Denise Ford.
13 Who is here to speak on this item with all
14 these departments?

15 MR. MAY: Mr. Chairman, can we
16 also call Clerk Item 193-13?

17 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Absolutely.
18 You're absolutely right. 193-13 is an
19 ordinance supplemental to the annual
20 appropriations ordinance in connection with
21 the Office Emergency Management, Police
22 Department, Department of Public Works, the
23 Correctional Center. The motion by Belesi,
24 and seconded by Denise Ford goes on this
25 item also.

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2 Who is here to speak on this?

3 MR. MAY: We have Mr. Tom Delaney
4 from the Office of Emergency Management.

5 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Tom, can you
6 explain these to us?

7 MR. DELANEY: Good afternoon,
8 everyone. These are two supplemental
9 appropriations and it was good they were
10 called together because one is our urban
11 area security initiative Homeland security
12 grant, and the other is our state Homeland
13 security program grant. They're very much
14 alike. But these appropriations, the state
15 Homeland security grant, one, is for
16 \$1,159,500; the urban air security
17 initiative is for \$2,247,291.

18 These are split up among a few
19 departments, as you noted, to help them to
20 increase their capabilities to respond to
21 terrorist events.

22 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Awesome. Are
23 there any questions from any of the
24 legislators? Yes, Legislator Dave
25 Denenberg.

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2 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Is there
3 any reason why it's broken into two items?

4 MR. DELANEY: Well, they are two
5 separate grants with two separate
6 supplemental appropriations. Well, it's
7 more than one supplemental, it's several
8 appropriations.

9 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Both of
10 these, clearly both of these are New York
11 State Homeland Security and Emergency
12 Service grants, but how do we determine how
13 to appropriate these grants?

14 MR. DELANEY: In other words, how
15 is the money divided up?

16 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Yes.

17 MR. DELANEY: What happens is
18 this, legislator, OEM, when we get these
19 grants, we are given a list of investment
20 justifications that we wish to adopt.

21 We look at what Nassau County
22 would like to work with. We send out
23 proposals to the individual departments
24 asking them for their gaps. Things that
25 they previously identified that they have

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2 the capability to either sustain or build.

3 With that, we get this all in.

4 We look at the requests and we match them to
5 the investment justifications with the
6 grants and see what fits best for the
7 county.

8 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: So would
9 it be fair to say then, given the scope of
10 the grant, each of these departments made
11 requests and then emergency management
12 decided what each department should get, how
13 it should be divvied up?

14 MR. DELANEY: That's correct,
15 sir.

16 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any questions
17 from any of the legislators?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 Is there any public comment?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 There being none, all those in
22 favor indicate by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 Any against?

25 (No verbal response.)

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2 Both of them go on to Finance.
3 The next item is 197-13, a resolution
4 authorizing the signature of a New York
5 State Department of Transportation
6 supplemental grant agreement for funds to
7 support police enforcement on high occupancy
8 vehicle laws on the Long Island Expressway.

9 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion by Dave
12 Denenberg, seconded by Mike Venditto. Who
13 do we have from the police department?

14 MR. MAY: Again, we have Sergeant
15 Comiskey.

16 SERGEANT COMISKEY: Good
17 afternoon. Sergeant Tara Comiskey. This
18 award will provide funding for police
19 officer overtime and vehicle usage
20 reimbursement for dedicated patrols to
21 enforce the HOV traffic on the Long Island
22 Expressway.

23 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any questions
24 from any of the legislators?

25 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: I do.

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2 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Yes.

3 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: A lot has
4 been made both in Nassau and Suffolk over
5 the years that it's a federal highway 495,
6 the LIE, and it's county police in Nassau,
7 County Police in Suffolk, then sometimes
8 deputy sheriffs in Suffolk doing the
9 policing of a federal highway.

10 Now, over the years sometimes I
11 see some of these grants that go towards I
12 guess paying us back for the time that we
13 are policing those roads.

14 SERGEANT COMISKEY: Yes, sir.

15 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: But is
16 this the only grant we get towards it and
17 how close does it come to the actual cost?
18 Does anyone do a cost analysis of how much
19 it actually cost us to police the Long
20 Island Expressway and how much we get back?

21 SERGEANT COMISKEY: I can find
22 out for you, sir.

23 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Do you
24 know if this is the only grant?

25 SERGEANT COMISKEY: I know we

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2 have other grants but I can't answer your
3 question right now.

4 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: I would
5 really like to take a look. I know it's
6 something that in the past both Nassau
7 County and Suffolk but particularly Suffolk
8 under former County Executive Steve Levy
9 took issue with that the grant money doesn't
10 come near the cost for county police to
11 police what's a federal highway.

12 So I would love to see how much
13 we get back and how much it actually costs
14 us. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any other
16 legislators have any comments?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 Is there any public comment?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 There being none, all those in
21 favor indicate by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Any against?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 This moves on to Rules. The last

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2 item for today is 200-13, an ordinance
3 supplemental to the annual appropriations
4 ordinance in connection with the
5 Correctional Center. Motion, please.

6 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: So moved.

7 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion by Mike
9 Venditto, seconded by Joe Belesi. Who is
10 going to talk on this item?

11 MR. MAY: Captain Keith Sather
12 from the correctional facility.

13 CAPTAIN SATHER: Good afternoon.
14 Captain Keith Sather. Item 200-13 is a
15 supplemental appropriation in the amount of
16 \$25,100. It represents the department's
17 share of the operation impact grant. The
18 funds are used for training, investigations,
19 and information sharing as it relates to the
20 departments gang intel unit.

21 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any legislators
22 have any questions?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 Is there any public comment?

25 (No verbal response.)

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2 There being none, all those in
3 favor indicate by saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 Any against?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 So passes. Goes on to Finance.

8 There being no other items coming before us,
9 make a motion.

10 LEGISLATOR BELESI: So moved.

11 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Entertain a
13 motion by Joe Belesi, seconded by Mike
14 Venditto to adjourn this committee.

15 All those in favor indicate by
16 saying aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 Any against?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 Public Works is the next
21 committee.

22 (Whereupon, the Public Safety
23 Committee adjourned at 1:55 p.m.)

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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 stated:

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