

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
PRESIDING OFFICER

FINANCE COMMITTEE

RICHARD NICOLELLO,
CHAIRMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

June 30, 2014
1:49 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES
516-747-7353

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

RICHARD NICOLELLO
Chairman

VINCENT MUSCARELLA
Vice-Chair

ROSE MARIE WALKER

MICHAEL VENDITTO

DAVID DENENBERG
Ranking

DELIA DeRIGGI-WHITTON

ELLEN BIRNBAUM

WILLIAM J. MULLER, III
Clerk

LIST OF SPEAKERS

KEITH SAUNDERS. 6
JOHN SARCONE. 28

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I call the Finance Committee to order.

I will act as clerk and call the roll. Legislator Muscarella?

LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator Walker?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator Venditto?

LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Here.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator Denenberg is on his way.

Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton?

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator Bynoe?

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: We have a quorum. The Finance Committee is open.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: On the Finance Committee, the item is on the addendum. We need a motion to suspend the rules.

LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Motion by Legislator

2 Muscarella, seconded by Legislator Walker.

3 All in favor of suspending the rules in
4 the Finance Committee signify by saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 Those opposed?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 That item carries unanimously.

9 So I'm going to call the same item, which
10 is Item 275-2014, an ordinance to adopt the
11 Nassau County budget for Nassau Community College
12 for the fiscal year commencing September 1, 2014
13 and ending August 31, 2015.

14 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Motion by Legislator
17 Muscarella, seconded by Legislator Walker.

18 So that item is in front of the Finance
19 Committee also.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Legislator
21 Denenberg is here for the Finance and Government
22 Services Committee.

23 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Now, again,
24 in the interest of time, I'm asking that we
25 listen to the presentation by the College. This

2 will go to the Full Leg very shortly. It was
3 agreed upon that we will hear the presentation
4 made by Dr. Saunders and his administration to
5 give us the information that we can dwell upon
6 for the next Full Leg meeting.

7 Dr. Saunders, it's time. He's got three
8 committees all at once.

9 DR. SAUNDERS: Good afternoon. I'm not
10 exactly sure what just happened, but I can say
11 that I thank you.

12 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: It's a little
13 confusing to I think each and every one of us up
14 here. But I have recessed rules. I have to
15 unecess it so that you can speak. So it's
16 unrecessed.

17 DR. SAUNDERS: Let me just start by
18 saying thank you for making the necessary
19 adjustments to allow me to present my statement
20 at this point.

21 Presiding Officer Gonsalves, Minority
22 Leader Abrahams and members of the committees, I
23 would like to thank you for providing me with
24 this opportunity to discuss the Nassau Community
25 College budget for fiscal year 2014/2015.

Once again, I believe that the budget for the upcoming year successfully balances the need to fulfill the College's mission by maintaining the affordable high quality education that we offer to our students while, at the same time, achieving this objective in a fiscally responsible manner.

I thought I would start off my remarks by referencing the latest issue of the College's newsletter, *Nexus*. What has just been distributed to you is a pre-production copy. The actual publication, which has a higher print resolution to it, should be available in a few days. I believe that just perusing some of the headlines will give you a real sense of the breadth and depth of NCC's commitment to its students and to the community, as well as the accomplishments of our students and our dedicated faculty. These headlines include: NCC's Day of Service: Educating the Mind - Benefitting the Community; Thirteen NCC Students Win SUNY Student Chancellor's Awards for Excellence; Putting Words Into Action: NCC Vets Go to Washington and Storm the Hill; The Performing Arts at Nassau Community

2 College: Putting on a Show, and so much more;
3 NCC Speech & Debate Team: Award Winners at World
4 Championships; NCC's Men's Tennis Team: National
5 Champions; and Professor Lisa Bastiaans Named
6 Distinguished Professor by the State University
7 of New York Board of Trustees.

8 At a time when the default function in
9 the public debate on so many issues is skepticism
10 and cynicism, Nassau Community College will
11 continue to follow the exhortation of the Chair
12 of the NCC Board of Trustees, Dr. Jorge Gardyn,
13 who, in his remarks at the graduation of over
14 3,400 students last month, urged the graduates to
15 make the good, better and to make the better,
16 best. With your support over the years, we have
17 been able to accomplish this, even amidst trying
18 times, and, with your continued support, we will
19 successfully persist on into the future.

20 In particular, I would like to thank you
21 for your support of the College's capital
22 projects that have enabled us to enhance the
23 educational offerings that we can provide to our
24 students as well as to upgrade the safety and
25 quality of campus life for all of the members of

1 the college community and for those who visit the
2 campus. It is because of this support from the
3 County that we have been able to access an equal
4 amount of state capital funding. These upgrades
5 do not end with the millions of dollars that have
6 been spent in improving our parking facilities.
7 But the reality is that for many students,
8 faculty, staff and visitors, they do, as a
9 practical matter, begin their day at these
10 parking facilities every day. It is very much
11 appreciated.
12

13 I know that you know are interested in
14 the budget basics, and here they are.

15 First, for the sixth consecutive year,
16 the budget does not assume an increase in the
17 property tax allocated to the College. As the
18 county executive and members of the legislature
19 know, several months ago I took soundings as to
20 the receptivity for a tax increase. The message
21 I received back was pretty clear, and this budget
22 reflects that message. Certainly, a case could
23 be made that the current tax burden per household
24 for the College is relatively modest and that an
25 increase on top of that would not be

unreasonable. But I am also aware of the substance of the course, Reality 101, and this budget reflects that reality. Having said that, there is nevertheless, the competing reality that the issue of a tax increase needs to be revisited in the coming years for the College's long-term fiscal sustainability.

Second, the level of spending called for in the upcoming budget is \$216.6 million, which is an increase of 1.3 percent from the current budget as adopted last year. This increase in spending consists largely of increases for health benefits, pension contributions, the contract with the CSEA, and it assumes the approval by this Legislature of the recently negotiated contract with the full-time union, the NCCFT.

Third, the budget calls for an annual tuition increase of \$146 for an annual total of \$4,234. Of course, no one likes a tuition increase. However, to put this issue in context, I have also asked that there be distributed to the members of the committee a listing of the tuitions and tuition increases in area colleges. As you can see, Nassau Community College has the

1 lowest tuition of any of these institutions,
2 including Suffolk County Community College and
3 the community colleges of the City University of
4 New York.
5

6 I would also note that in this budget
7 there are no fee increases or new fees for the
8 students. As such, I believe that this budget
9 allows us to continue to fulfill our mission as
10 affordable, high quality institution of higher
11 education.

12 Fourth, the budget calls for using
13 approximately \$2.5 million in fund balance. This
14 is a matter of concern because although our
15 remaining fund balance is still almost \$7.9
16 million, that amount is a relatively small amount
17 for an institution with an operating budget of
18 \$216.6 million. A large part of the reason for
19 the reduction this year is that it will fund the
20 first year of the proposed agreement with NCCFT.
21 At the time the budget was being constructed, we
22 did not know the parameters of the settlement,
23 and so the decision was made to look to fund
24 balance for that first year. However, it is our
25 intent to fund the subsequent years of that

contract out of normal operating revenues.

Before closing, I would like to address two other issues that are likely to be on your minds.

First, there has been a significant amount of attention given to the County Comptroller's recent report on graduation and transfer rates. As you know, I have communicated my concerns to the county executive and the legislature regarding the methodology of this report and the comptroller's conclusions. This is not to say that I disagree with every statement in the comptroller's report. I certainly agree with the portion that states, "NCC Provides an invaluable service to thousands of Nassau County residents, offering an affordable higher education at a time when tuition at private institutions is soaring." But I believe that it is impossible to reconcile his more negative comments about the quality of the educational experience offered by NCC when you consider the initiatives and the accomplishments of our students and faculty, such as those that I highlighted in the beginning of my remarks when I

1 referenced to the subjects covered in the
2 College's most recent newsletter.

3
4 It is not my intent to go over in detail
5 my concerns about the methodology underpinning
6 the comptroller's report. And let me say from
7 the outset that the issues of graduation and
8 transfer rates being below our hopes and
9 expectations is a real one, which we have
10 directed our attention to and brought to the
11 county's attention before the comptroller issued
12 his report. This is an issue that is, in fact, a
13 concern of all community colleges, even those
14 with graduation and transfer rates higher than
15 NCC's. We are exploring the reasons behind the
16 decline, and it will take the commitment of all
17 members of the campus community to diagnose the
18 causes and support meaningful and concrete
19 solutions. I believe that the commitment is
20 there and will be sustained.

21 I do, however, have to take note that the
22 comptroller's suggestion that the primary causes
23 for the decline in these rates is campus turmoil,
24 does seem to fly in the face of the data in his
25 own report. Suffolk County Community College and

2 Westchester Community College also experienced
3 declines in the graduation and transfer rates,
4 but the comptroller's report does not discuss any
5 campus turmoil that they might have experienced.
6 Also, the comptroller's report sets out a
7 timeline of the campus turmoil that includes the
8 period from 2011 to 2012 when Nassau Community
9 College's graduation and transfer rates actually
10 rebounded by approximately 20 percent. I would
11 also note that, according to the comptroller's
12 report, Suffolk and Westchester did not
13 experience a similar rebound during that same
14 period. So, I stand by earlier statements that
15 the comptroller's linking any decline in Nassau
16 Community College's graduation and transfer rates
17 at NCC to campus turmoil is overstated and
18 unsubstantiated. Nevertheless, let me reiterate,
19 work to improve the graduation and transfer rates
20 does need to be done, and members of the campus
21 community are prepared to roll up their
22 collective sleeves to do it.

23 Second, I also want to report on an item
24 that was mentioned by the comptroller last year
25 dealing with the accounts receivable at NCC.

These are monies owed to the College, including from unpaid tuition from students. At the time, the comptroller reported that from 2007 to 2011, Nassau Community College had \$14.2 million in account receivables. Last year, we pointed out that the number had been reduced by approximately \$4 million from the time period the comptroller reviewed to July of 2013. That reduction in the accounts receivable can be attributed to the steps that had been instituted by the College during the subsequent time period of the comptroller's report. These steps, including not allowing a student to register if he or she has bills in arrears and the increased use of collection agencies as a matter of last resort continue to bear fruit. As a result, the current level of the accounts receivable for the time period included in the comptroller's audit is \$9.7 million. We anticipate making further progress in dealing with the accounts receivable. Currently, we are collecting 95 percent of the overall receivables owed to us at the beginning of each semester. Again, we are committed to exploring ways to make additional progress in

1 this area, and we are confident based on the
2 experience of our current efforts that we will.

3
4 In conclusion, I would like to thank the
5 members of this committee and of the legislature
6 as a whole for your continued support of Nassau
7 Community College. Yes, challenges remain ahead
8 of us which will require ingenuity and
9 persistence to overcome. But I believe that the
10 College is up to the task for the benefit of our
11 students, their aspirations, and the communities
12 in which they live.

13 Thank you very much.

14 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I hope I'm on it.
15 I'm a little confused as to which we're committee
16 we're doing.

17 Let me just say this to you. I'm one of
18 these people that believes in and has always
19 backed and obviously has been a great friend to
20 Nassau Community College, just as Nassau
21 Community College, in my mind, has been a great
22 friend, a tremendous help, and a terrific
23 backbone for so many students in our communities,
24 in the county, throughout the county, throughout
25 all communities that really desperately need a

1 two year point where they could get their
2 finances together to perhaps to then be able to
3 go to the next step. I have never diminished
4 that in my mind. I have always appreciated that.
5

6 And I want to take my hat off to you
7 because we all know that the state had put a cap
8 of two percent for all school districts. Most
9 stayed within that two percent cap. A few even
10 were able to get their budget passed the second
11 time around, going above the cap. But you were
12 very wise, I believe, in the College because you
13 knew this county has held their tax increases to
14 zero for quite a few years now. You didn't even
15 go with fee increases to make up that difference.
16 And as much as I know how difficult -- I have
17 nine grandchildren, three of them are in college,
18 so I know what my children are going through with
19 that. But I have to tell you that my hat goes
20 off to you that you are the lowest in the display
21 that you gave us of all the tuitions throughout
22 the state.

23 I've always felt it was a jewel in our
24 crown to have you. I always felt that in terms
25 of being a bargain, this is a bargain. I read

1 Mr. Maragos's report and I have to tell you that
2 I don't think in any way, shape, or form he
3 convinced me that the quality of education has
4 diminished. He said it. I can say anything. I
5 can say it's raining outside and see sun and then
6 I have to prove it to you that it's really
7 raining. I don't see where the education, the
8 quality of education has diminished. So I really
9 find fault in the report with that. I'm sure Mr.
10 Maragos felt it was a very good report.

11
12 The reality is that you've got a great
13 school, that you help to give people a choice
14 when people are falling on hard times. Who knows
15 if maybe the graduation rate has diminished
16 because certain points of the economy have
17 improved and maybe a lot of young people are able
18 to leave community college and go on before they
19 graduate from college. So I wouldn't want to
20 attach any validity to just statements made in
21 the air.

22 I go with the fact that you've been a big
23 plus for us. You've always been available. It's
24 not like -- unfortunately it's an increase in
25 tuition; that I feel for the students very much.

1 Obviously, throughout the country that is going
2 on. You've stayed below levels of other colleges
3 that are comparable and yet giving excellent
4 education.
5

6 I wish you my best in your going forward
7 and continuing your excellence. I hope the
8 graduation rate increases. If the fact for the
9 decrease isn't that students have left to go on
10 to four year schools sooner than their graduation
11 date. That will only take time, like you said,
12 to process, to review, and to see if there is a
13 problem, where it might exist.

14 In my estimation, and I was a teacher,
15 and I am an educator. The worse thing that I
16 could ever hear from someone is that they cannot
17 afford to go to college. In this day and age,
18 unfortunately, just like in prior -- many prior
19 years ago, high school was the pivotal point to
20 get through high school. You not only need your
21 bachelor's, in many cases you need your master's
22 to even go on to teach and to do anything that
23 you really have your mindset.

24 I applaud you. I appreciate it. I like
25 the fact that you kept tight with your budget in

2 recognition of reality, like you said. And
3 congratulations.

4 DR. SAUNDERS: Thank you very much.

5 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: You're welcome.

6 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Legislator Ford.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'm over here,
8 President Saunders.

9 I concur with Legislator Jacobs. I think
10 Nassau Community College is an absolutely jewel,
11 especially here in Nassau County.

12 One of my sons had the pleasure of going
13 there. Of course he stayed for four years
14 because he needed to get his credits. It was a
15 great education for him without incurring a lot
16 of the cost. My other son went to a private
17 college and that was just a mere \$47,000 a year
18 as compared to the tuition that my Harry paid.

19 For me, I think they do get a good
20 education. It's a great institution. And I
21 think it helps. A lot of times, like Judy was
22 saying, now a days it's not just a high school
23 diploma that will get you into a lot of the jobs.
24 Even with Civil Service, you need some college
25 credits. For so many students, for many young

1 people who know that they don't want to enter
2 into professions such as a doctor, a teacher, a
3 lawyer, for them to be able to accrue those
4 credits that they need for some jobs, for some
5 positions out there, it's a great way of getting
6 them without incurring a great cost. And I know
7 a lot of students also use Nassau Community
8 College as a way of getting basically what we
9 used to refer to as liberal arts credits under
10 their belt so that they can then afford to go
11 away to a four year college. So I commend you.

12
13 And I also like your approach, that
14 rather than looking at the decline in the
15 graduation rate as just fluffing it off, you want
16 to see what was the reason for it. And to try to
17 do whatever you can to find the cause and to
18 change the course with the graduation rates, and
19 I think that you are going to find that answer.

20 For me, I know sitting out the audience,
21 going out there to Nassau Community College, the
22 parking, the parking was a big concern for me. I
23 had many of my residents call up about it. And I
24 have to commend you. The College did respond and
25 took the necessary action to give better parking,

better lighting, and a better parking environment for the students. And I thank you very much for everything.

DR. SAUNDERS: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

Legislador Denenberg.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Let's talk about the tuition increase. I'm sure you're proposing this and you think it's a fair increase. But given some of the negative publicity that's come out recently, you don't think that enrollment is going to be effected by the increase because comparatively our increase is less than in other areas?

DR. SAUNDERS: I think that by virtue of the fact that our increase is less than other areas, it will increase the consideration for students coming to Nassau in contrast to other institutions.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Okay. I would think if Suffolk's going up 250 and we're only going up 150 that that is a consideration. What about New York City?

2 DR. SAUNDERS: We're lower than the CUNY
3 community colleges as well.

4 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: How much is CUNY
5 going up?

6 DR. SAUNDERS: I have a sheet that I
7 distributed that shows the breakdown of all of
8 the increases of the institutions.

9 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: I see CUNY is
10 7.1. Nassau is 3.6.

11 DR. SAUNDERS: 3.6

12 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Westchester is
13 1.9 but still higher, right?

14 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Yes.

15 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: So what's your
16 plan to address the issue with graduation and
17 some of the negative publicity that was, in fact,
18 I think even today put in *Newsday*.

19 DR. SAUNDERS: We have a rather
20 comprehensive plan. The first that we're doing
21 is that we are just exploring to identify what
22 the exact problems are. We have made
23 presentations to both the democratic and
24 republican caucus on Nassau Community College by
25 the numbers, which has identified what we see as

1 some of the initial concerns that we should focus
2 our attention on, in terms of drilling down and
3 getting additional information to positively
4 impact what's happening to our students. We will
5 continue that process. We will continue to look
6 at the numbers to make sure that the numbers are
7 accurate and to utilize all of the resources that
8 we have available to us.

10 A component in our most recent contract
11 from the NCCFT is the creation of a retention
12 committee by the full time faculty to look at
13 multiple strategies that can be employed by
14 academic areas to impact our students more
15 positively in terms of their experience every day
16 in the classroom and helping them to address
17 those deficiencies that they have in a way that
18 will result in a higher level of success.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm sorry. Dr.
20 Saunders --

21 DR. SAUNDERS: Yes.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you for
23 taking the time, for being here today. And we
24 look forward to asking our more in-depth
25 questions in two weeks, as we agreed to with the

2 majority. But thank you.

3 DR. SAUNDERS: You're very welcome.

4 Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Finance Committee,
6 we are going to do the same.

7 On Item 275, all in favor signify by
8 saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 Those opposed?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 That item carries unanimously.

13 I'm going to place the committee in
14 recess.

15 (Whereupon, the Finance Committee
16 recessed at 2:20 p.m.)

17 (Whereupon, the Finance Committee
18 reconvened at 4:21 p.m.)

19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Items 240 and 241
20 are executive session items and I will call them
21 later, at the end.

22 Items 242 and 243 are ordinance
23 supplemental to the annual appropriation
24 ordinance in connection with the district
25 attorney's office.

2 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

3 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by Legislator
5 Walker, seconded by Legislator Muscarella.

6 Any discussion?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 Any public comments?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 Hearing none; all in favor signify by
11 saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 Any opposed?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 Those items carry unanimously.

16 Item 244-14 is a resolution authorizing
17 the county executive to execute a grant agreement
18 between the County of Nassau, acting on behalf of
19 the County Department of Parks, Recreation and
20 Museums and Bangladeshi Heritage Inc.

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

22 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by Legislator
24 Walker, seconded by Legislator Venditto.

25 Any discussion on this item?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 Any public comment?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 All in favor signify by saying aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 That item carries unanimously.

8 Item 245-2014 is a resolution authorizing
9 the signing of a New York State Department of
10 Transportation supplemental grant agreement for
11 funds to support police enforcement of high
12 occupancy vehicle laws on the Long Island
13 Expressway.

14 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

15 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by Legislator
17 Walker, seconded by Legislator Muscarella.

18 Any discussion on this item?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 It went through Public Safety before.

21 Any public comment?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 All in favor signify by saying aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 Any opposed?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 That item carries unanimously.

4 Item 250-14 is a resolution authorizing
5 the County of Nassau to file an application for
6 federal assistance with the U.S. Department of
7 Housing and Urban Development.

8 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by Legislator
11 Walker, seconded by Legislator Walker.

12 This is the CDBG grant, the Home
13 Investment Partnership and the Emergency Solution
14 Grant.

15 It's before the committee. Do we have
16 any questions? Legislator Bynoe.

17 MR. SARCONE: John Sarcone, Director of
18 Housing.

19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you, Mr.
20 Sarcone.

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. I have a
22 couple of questions.

23 MR. SARCONE: Sure.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: The first question is
25 what is the process for submitting the fiscal

2 year 2014 action plan to the legislature?

3 MR. SARCONE: We have two public
4 hearings, one earlier in the year to announce the
5 funding for the upcoming year, and then we have
6 an application process where our consortium
7 members submit their plans to our office, and
8 then we have a second session where we announce
9 the projects that we are going to fund.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Do you remember what
11 dates?

12 MR. SARCONE: We just actually had our
13 second meeting last Tuesday of our public
14 announcement.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. So we're in
16 the process of?

17 MR. SARCONE: Once this body approves
18 the action plan and then it goes to the Full Leg,
19 from that point we submit our approved county
20 action plan to Housing and Urban Development,
21 from which they have 45 days to come back, either
22 approve or submit changes.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. And so we have
24 at this point made our decisions as to exactly
25 which projects we want to fund, correct?

2 MR. SARCONE: Correct.

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So can you talk to me
4 a little bit about that process, how we identify
5 which projects we feel should be funded and to
6 what dollar amount?

7 MR. SARCONE: Like I was alluding to,
8 the first meeting that we have actually puts the
9 dollar amount each program is funded. There are
10 three programs in our urban consortium action
11 plan. The first one is our CDBG program, home
12 investment program, and our ESG program. So once
13 we make the funding announcements, our
14 application process starts and by April 1 all of
15 our consortium and public service members submit
16 their projects for our review and then we make a
17 decision based on that.

18 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm specifically
19 dealing with CDBG right now. I'm sure that there
20 are more projects than money.

21 MR. SARCONE: Correct.

22 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So what kind of
23 process? Is there a committee that then goes
24 over these applications and determines which are
25 more important to be funded or what are the

1 priorities?

2
3 MR. SARCONE: To answer your question,
4 we ask our municipalities to prioritize, since
5 there is not enough funding to fund every
6 activity. So based on that and committee
7 recommendations, then we make our decisions. We
8 are also in our 30 day comment period. So if
9 anyone from the public, as well as the
10 municipalities have issue with their funding
11 amounts, this is the time.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. So, as I know,
13 HUD is drastically cutting funding to all of
14 their programs. I know CDBG and under this
15 umbrella, HOME are also impacted. It's been
16 brought to my attention that the reduction in the
17 funding is pretty significant, but we are still
18 one of the top funded programs in New York.

19 MR. SARCONE: Right.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm not sure so I
21 need to ask this.

22 MR. SARCONE: Yes.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Are the cuts based on
24 performance at all?

25 MR. SARCONE: That question is better

1 suited to actually housing and urban development,
2 the federal department because they have their
3 own formulas of how they're funding their
4 entitlement communities. It's a very hard
5 question to answer because I'm not in their
6 session, how they determine their funding. I
7 only know from my perspective of what we fund,
8 the consortium.
9

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. Because in my
11 smaller world of public housing funded by HUD,
12 there are pools of money that are specifically
13 based on performance; I'm aware of that upfront.
14 You have not been made aware that any of your
15 funding is based on performance?

16 MR. SARCONE: No.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay.

18 When you make the announcement and the
19 agencies and municipalities, whoever, are
20 notified about the funding being available, is
21 there -- not every municipality or organization
22 will be able to dot I's and cross T's and go
23 straight through the process to be funded. How
24 do you deal with those monies that need to then
25 be put back into the pot and then redistributed

1 or distributed?

2
3 MR. SARCONE: To answer your question,
4 if a municipality has inquiry to how much money
5 they are getting, they can submit in writing to
6 our department and I would review it based on
7 funding availability as well as strength of
8 application.

9 Every one has a chance to review their
10 allotment, and if they feel like they have a
11 particular project they would like to fund, we'd
12 be more than happy to sit down with them and see
13 if we can be of assistance.

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. So let me just
15 give this example. An agency files for - they
16 submit the application, you approve the funding
17 for \$100,000. It's part of the plan. It gets
18 approved. They get the paperwork that they are
19 entitled to this \$100,000, but for whatever
20 reason, it's a reimbursement grant, they can't
21 come up with the capital to them make the
22 investment so that \$100,000 is sitting there.
23 How do you then redistribute that or distribute
24 that money or make it available to other groups?

25 MR. SARCONE: Well, prior to assigning

1 the funds to another municipality, we would ask
2 that consortium member if they had any other
3 eligible activities that we could fund so their
4 community doesn't lose the chance to fund those
5 communities.
6

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. The other
8 question that I had was pertaining to the success
9 of the programs. I'd like to know is there an
10 assessment process to determine whether the
11 projected outcomes have been achieved by each
12 program?

13 MR. SARCONE: Every year HUD and their
14 quality control division has what they call
15 monitoring and they conduct that every year.
16 They issue their findings, if there is. We've
17 come out with workout plans to address those
18 findings.

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Do they randomly
20 select programs or are they doing it on every
21 program?

22 MR. SARCONE: I think the HUD
23 requirement is that if they do not conduct a
24 quality control one year, the federal statute is
25 the next year they must. So I think it's a two

year window.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. Thank you.

MR. SARCONE: You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
Legislator Bynoe. Legislator Walker.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Just a quick
question or comment. I believe you referred to
this before.

I know when we had certain projects that
when I was over in the Town of Oyster Bay that we
would have received or were able to receive the
funding for, but say that particular project
wasn't ready, rather than lose the funding, as
long as they had another project right there
ready to go, they were able to get that money.

MR. SARCONE: Yes. We work with every
municipality to ensure that the funding stays
within that municipality.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Right.

MR. SARCONE: We would recommend and
caucus with them to see if there are any eligible
activities that could be supplemented.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: And on a rare
occasion, if they didn't, rather than once again

lose that money -- I'm going to use Town of Oyster Bay for example -- it didn't go to the Town of Oyster Bay and maybe went to something in Town of North Hempstead so that the money was not able to be used.

MR. SARCONE: With our department, since it's 100 percent federally funded, any adjustment in funding, we would have to make a public notice and notify the public of any changes. We always try to work with that municipality to ensure that they don't lose funding.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: That they could use it somewhere else.

MR. SARCONE: Sure.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you very much.

MR. SARCONE: You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you, Mr. Sarcone.

Do you have any other questions, Legislator Bynoe?

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: That's okay.

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Anything else that you have, obviously you'll have an opportunity in a few weeks.

2 Thank you, Mr. Sarcone.

3 MR. SARCONE: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any public comment?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 All in favor of this item signify by
7 saying aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 Those opposed?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 The item carries unanimously.

12 Items 260, 261, 262, 263 are
13 appropriations heretofore made within the budget
14 for the year 2014.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

16 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by Legislator
18 Walker, seconded by Legislator Muscarella.

19 Any discussion?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 Any public comment?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 All in favor signify by saying aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 Those opposed?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 Those items carry unanimously.

4 Items 264, 265, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272,
5 273, 274-2014 are ordinances supplemental to the
6 annual appropriation ordinance in connection with
7 the Health Department, Office of Housing and
8 Community Development, Department of Social
9 Services, the Police Department, Nassau County
10 Department of Probation, and Department of Human
11 Services/Office of Mental Health, Chemical
12 Dependency and Developmental Disability Services.

13 Motion, please?

14 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by Legislator
17 Muscarella, seconded by Legislator Walker.

18 Any question on these items?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 Most of these went through committees
21 earlier.

22 Any public comment?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 All in favor signify by saying aye.

25 (Aye.)

2 Those opposed?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 Those items carry unanimously.

5 Item 279-2014 is a resolution to
6 authorize the transfer of appropriations
7 heretofore made within the budget for the year
8 2014.

9 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by Legislator
12 Muscarella, seconded by Legislator Walker.

13 Any discussion?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 Any public comment?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 All in favor signify by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 Those opposed?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 That item carries unanimously.

22 Item 282-14 is an ordinance supplemental
23 to the annual appropriation ordinance in
24 connection with the fire commission.

25 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

2 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by Legislator
4 Walker, seconded by Legislator Muscarella.

5 Any discussion?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 Any public comment?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 All in favor signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 Those opposed?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 That item carries unanimously.

14 We're going to jump to the Finance
15 Committee addendum. We had a motion to suspend
16 the rules earlier, and we considered and voted on
17 Item 275.

18 Do I have consent from the minority to
19 wave the reading of Items 284, 85, 86, 87, 88,
20 89, and 90. I take it that's a yes. Those were
21 read earlier by Legislator Muscarella in the
22 Public Works Committee.

23 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by Legislator

2 Muscarella, seconded by Legislator Walker.

3 Those items are before the committee.

4 Any discussion?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 Any public comment?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 All in favor signify by saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 Those opposed?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 Those items carry unanimously.

13 Now we're going back to the two executive
14 session items, which are 240 and 241.

15 240 is a resolution authorizing the
16 county attorney to compromise and settle the
17 action entitled *Iyanna Davis v. County of Nassau,*
18 *et al.*, pursuant to the County Law, the County
19 Government Law of Nassau County, and the Nassau
20 County Administrative Code.

21 241-2014 is an ordinance providing for a
22 capital expenditure to finance the payment of
23 certain settled claims against the County of
24 Nassau, authorizing \$663,000 of bonds of the
25 County of Nassau to finance said expenditure, and

2 making certain determinations pursuant to the
3 State Environmental Quality Review Act, the Local
4 Finance Law of New York and the County Government
5 Law of Nassau County.

6 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

7 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by Legislator
9 Walker, seconded by Legislator Muscarella.

10 Those items are before the committee.

11 Legislator Venditto makes a motion to go
12 into executive session --

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Seconded by
15 Legislator Walker.

16 All in favor of going into executive
17 session signify by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 We are in executive session.

20 (Whereupon, the Finance Committee
21 recessed at 4:37 p.m.)

22 (Whereupon, the Finance Committee
23 reconvened at 4:45 p.m.)

24 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I'm going to call
25 for a vote on Items 240 and 241-2014.

2 All in favor of these items signify by
3 saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 Those opposed?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 These items carry unanimously.

8 Motion to adjourn by Legislator Venditto.

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Seconded by
11 Legislator Walker.

12 All in favor of adjourning signify by
13 saying aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 The committee stands in adjournment.

16 (Whereupon, the Finance Committee
17 adjourned at 4:45 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 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 11th day of July, 2014.

FRANK GRAY