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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

PETER SCHMITT,  
Presiding Officer

GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

HOWARD KOPEL, Chairman

1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

Monday, February 6, 2012  
6:10 P.M

REGAL REPORTING SERVICE  
(516) 747-7353

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

HOWARD KOPEL,  
Chairman

DENISE FORD,  
Vice Chairman

FRANCIS BECKER

DENNIS DUNNE (Substituted by  
Rose Walker)

WAYNE WINK,  
Ranking

DAVID DENENBERG

ROBERT TROIANO

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LIST OF SPEAKERS

ROBERT MARIN, Chief Counsel,  
Nassau County, Office of  
Housing Community Development.....5

## Government Services Committee/2-6-12

2 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Government  
3 Services and Operations come to order. I'm  
4 going to call the roll. Legislator Ford?

5 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

6 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Legislator  
7 Becker?

8 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Present.

9 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Sitting in for  
10 Legislator Dunne, Legislator Walker?

11 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

12 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Legislator Wink?

13 LEGISLATOR WINK: Here.

14 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Legislator  
15 Denenberg?

16 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Here.

17 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Legislator  
18 Troiano?

19 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Here.

20 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Okay. We've got  
21 one item on the calendar and that is 94 of  
22 '12, an ordinance supplemental to the annual  
23 appropriation ordinance in connection with  
24 the Office of Housing Community Development.  
25 May I have a motion, please?

## Government Services Committee/2-6-12

2 LEGISLATOR BECKER: So moved.

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Moved by  
5 Legislator Becker, seconded by Legislator  
6 Walker. Who is here to speak on this?

7 MR. MARIN: Good evening,  
8 legislators. Robert Marin, chief counsel.  
9 This is an annual appropriation from HUD  
10 for \$339,260 for a housing initiative to  
11 help affordable housing. We intake clients.  
12 The difference with this grant from our  
13 other grants is the purpose of this grant is  
14 to help individuals through counseling to  
15 get back on their feet so that this does not  
16 become a recurring or lifetime supplement  
17 like unfortunately so many of our programs  
18 are. So it helps with rent, one time costs,  
19 provides counseling and helps them to try to  
20 get back on their feet.

21 That is also the criteria for  
22 eligibility is that you have to be, if you  
23 will, viable for lack of a better term,  
24 speaking very bluntly and frankly, a  
25 candidate to be self-sustaining within a

## Government Services Committee/2-6-12

2 reasonable period of time. So that it is  
3 that type of program as opposed to something  
4 that becomes recurring.

5 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Fully funded by  
6 HUD?

7 MR. MARIN: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any questions?

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Legislator Ford.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: Good evening.  
12 How many clients are you working with right  
13 now, do you have a number?

14 MR. MARIN: Right now I don't  
15 have an exact number. I know it's a limited  
16 number. It's limited funds that we have and  
17 within that budget there are only a number  
18 of limited people that we can help. I don't  
19 have the exact number off the top of my  
20 head.

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: But you said  
22 this is basically a new type of a program?

23 MR. MARIN: It's a new  
24 initiative. It's a hybrid, if you will,  
25 from a Section 8 program, rental assistance

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2 rental subsidy program in that -- the  
3 criteria is viability so it does not become  
4 a lifetime subsidy for an individual.

5 LEGISLATOR FORD: Considering  
6 that Section 8 vouchers are very hard to  
7 get, you know --

8 MR. MARIN: The list is closed,  
9 since 2003.

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: So for somebody  
11 who may be on the list for Section 8, but  
12 they're not at that point to be able to  
13 maybe take over Section 8 voucher that was  
14 abandoned by somebody else, all right? Is  
15 this something that could help somebody like  
16 that?

17 MR. MARIN: Possibly.

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: That they can  
19 come down for some sort of training and to  
20 just basically, if they can demonstrate that  
21 they have a job, maybe by having a certain  
22 amount of funding for a short period of  
23 time, were they able to find housing and be  
24 able to get themselves established?

25 MR. MARIN: Yes. That would be

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2 the goal of that. It's a short term shot in  
3 the arm program, if you will. Shot in the  
4 arm of funding, if you will.

5 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Any other  
7 legislators have questions? Legislator  
8 Troiano.

9 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: It's just  
10 not clear to me, is the program providing  
11 rent supplements in addition to education  
12 and counseling and advocacy, or --

13 MR. MARIN: Yes. It's a more  
14 complete program, whereas in the Section 8  
15 program it's strictly income eligibility,  
16 strictly rent subsidy and you can have it  
17 for life as long as you meet the income  
18 eligibility criteria.

19 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Is there an  
20 income test here as well?

21 MR. MARIN: Yes, there is an  
22 income threshold. It's the same income  
23 threshold but it's also in addition to --  
24 all of our programs, all of our programs  
25 always have an income threshold. Generally



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2 it's no higher than 80 percent of the area  
3 income for Nassau County, that's as a  
4 general rule for all of the programs, some  
5 are lower but, as a general rule, yes, it's  
6 always income eligible, in addition to  
7 income eligibility on this program, it's  
8 also, again, viability, for lack of a better  
9 term, in terms of showing that you have  
10 income sustainability and the ability to be  
11 self sufficient in a reasonable period of  
12 time.

13                   LEGISLATOR TROIANO: What's a  
14 reasonable period of time?

15                   MR. MARIN: It's discretion.  
16 It's usually a year, six months. That's  
17 really up to the counselors in accordance  
18 with the regulations.

19                   LEGISLATOR TROIANO: So if after  
20 let's say a year someone hasn't graduated,  
21 do they get dropped?

22                   MR. MARIN: Yes. This is a  
23 finite -- this is designed to be finite for  
24 the reasons stated and also simply because  
25 the funding does run out. It's not a --

Government Services Committee/2-6-12

2 like the Section 8 program is funded  
3 annually, this may not be. This may not be.

4 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Anyone else?

6 Yes, Legislator Walker.

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: And basically  
8 this program would help someone who is  
9 really not eligible for Section 8 for the  
10 most part?

11 MR. MARIN: When you say "not  
12 eligible" it's ineligible because the list  
13 is closed so it's really not an available  
14 option at this point. The list has been  
15 closed since I think 2003. The Section 8  
16 option is really not an option.

17 This would be an intermediary  
18 were Section 8 available between Section 8  
19 and going to DSS for emergency housing  
20 placement. This is one step above that and  
21 one step below Section 8 in terms of the  
22 program. Where Section 8 is lifetime, and  
23 DSS is emergency, this falls in the middle.  
24 So if I made it worse and confused everybody  
25 by saying that, I apologize.

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2 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: All those in  
3 favor of moving this item please say aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 Anyone opposed?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 The item is moved. Motion to  
8 adjourn?

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Moved by  
12 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator  
13 Becker. All those in favor of adjournment,  
14 signify by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 Any opposed?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 We stand adjourned. Next is  
19 Finance.

20 (Whereupon, the Government  
21 Services & Operations Committee adjourned at  
22 6:17 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 22nd day of February, 2012.

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FRANK GRAY