

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,  
PRESIDING OFFICER

FULL LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,  
CHAIRWOMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

April 22, 2013  
1:09 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES  
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A P P E A R A N C E S :

NORMA GONSALVES  
Chair

KEVAN ABRAHAMS  
Minority Leader

ROBERT TROIANO

CARRIÉ SOLAGES

DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

JOSEPH SCANNELL

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

WILLIAM MULLER  
Clerk of the Legislature

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2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Dunne,  
3 please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was  
5 recited.)

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: A moment of  
7 silence for those who lost their lives at the  
8 Boston Marathon.

9 (Whereupon, a moment of silence was  
10 taken.)

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Muller, would  
12 you please call the roll?

13 CLERK MULLER: Deputy Presiding Officer  
14 Nicolello?

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

16 CLERK MULLER: Alternate Deputy  
17 Presiding Officer Kopel?

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

19 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Troiano?

20 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Present.

21 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Solages?

22 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

23 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Ford?

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

25 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Scannell?

2 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: Here.

3 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Becker?

4 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Present.

5 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Muscarella?

6 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

7 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Bosworth?

8 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Here.

9 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Wink?

10 LEGISLATOR WINK: Here.

11 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Venditto?

12 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Here.

13 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Belesi?

14 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Here.

15 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Dunne?

16 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.

17 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Jacobs?

18 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Before I answer, I  
19 just want to say thank you, Mr. Muller, for an  
20 impromptu showing up, when I had some kids in  
21 from Plainview and giving them a good lesson  
22 about what the Clerk of the Legislature does.  
23 Thank you.

24 CLERK MULLER: Thank you very much.

25 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.

2 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Walker?

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

4 CLERK MULLER: Legislator DeRiggi-  
5 Whitton?

6 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

7 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Denenberg?

8 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Here.

9 CLERK MULLER: Minority Leader Abrahams?

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

11 CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer  
12 Gonsalves?

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

14 CLERK MULLER: We have a quorum.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: At this time we  
16 are very fortunate to have several legislators  
17 who have requested points of personal privilege.  
18 Certainly, when I see all those young faces out  
19 there, I get very, very enthusiastic. So,  
20 without any further adieu.

21 Mr. Becker, would you please call your  
22 point of privilege.

23 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Thank you, Presiding  
24 Officer. And thank you for this opportunity.  
25 Coach Joe, would you bring your boys up front,

2 before the podium?

3 Ladies and gentlemen, in light of the  
4 fact that the Cosmos have chosen Nassau County to  
5 be their home again, it's very exciting for me to  
6 present to you the Football Club of the South  
7 Shore Elite Soccer Academy.

8 This past March they qualified for the  
9 213 indoor national championships, which were  
10 held in Canton, Michigan, during the first week  
11 in March. They were there to compete. For two  
12 days and through five soccer games, the boys made  
13 it to the finals. They eventually did lose to  
14 the San Antonio Soccer Club, but they were named  
15 2013 U.S. Indoor Soccer National Finalists.

16 Now, they were the only New York team to  
17 advance through the bracket, and defeated the top  
18 seated team, Addison Soccer Club, by a score of  
19 six to one.

20 I'm just so proud of these young boys,  
21 and I'm proud of their parents and the coaches  
22 for helping these young people in learning their  
23 skills. But, of course, it was their own  
24 personal self determination and camaraderie and  
25 their hard work that got them so far.

2 I just wanted to take a moment to  
3 recognize them here at our County Seat for their  
4 great work. And, of course we'd like to see them  
5 achieve and do as well next year, as well.

6 Could you join me in a big round of  
7 applause for these fine young men and their  
8 coaches and parents?

9 Coach Joe, do you have anything to say  
10 Coach Joe?

11 COACH JOE: The boys work hard all year  
12 around. They play soccer 12 months a year. The  
13 parents get them to all the games, all the  
14 practices. The families have to be committed for  
15 this to happen. And I'm proud of the families  
16 and the boys for everything they've accomplished.

17 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Great.

18 COACH JOE: Thank you.

19 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Thank you again,  
20 young people. Thanks for coming down.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: What are the  
22 ages?

23 LEGISLATOR BECKER: I'm sorry. What are  
24 the ages, Joe?

25 COACH JOE: They are under eight.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: Under eight.

Amazing. Amazing.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Congratulations.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: We know that it's been hard to keep them seated and quiet because they're such an ambitious group. You are free to leave if you feel you want to. We took the photos outside and we had a lot of fun here. Have a great day. Good luck to you all.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams has a point of personal privilege.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you, Presiding Officer Gonsalves. I don't know how we're going to follow up that act. That was pretty good, Legislator Becker.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But I do have a group of young men to commend as well. I've come accustomed to watching them play. Some of you may or may not know, every summer for the last ten years we have hosted a summer basketball tournament at Centennial Park. Every single year since I started it Coach Burton, who I'm going to ask for Coach to come up with the other assistant

2 coaches, as well as the guys to come up now at  
3 this time while I continue to go through why  
4 we're bringing them forward today. They have  
5 been a part of that summer league, which has  
6 helped with volumes in terms of getting young  
7 people out and seeing them in a positive manner.  
8 They have done very well in that tournament. But  
9 I am bringing them here today because of their  
10 accomplishment.

11 Joe Scannell and myself, we share  
12 Baldwin, both of us, as does, I believe,  
13 Legislator Ford, you have a portion of Baldwin  
14 School District -- so Legislator Ford as well.  
15 We are bringing them forward today for their  
16 accomplishment in terms of winning the Nassau  
17 County Basketball Championship.

18 As some of you may or may not know, they  
19 beat Uniondale in the finals -- right, Coach?  
20 Uniondale has become a very notable powerhouse,  
21 and this is probably the next powerhouse. These  
22 young men had a very tested year. They went on  
23 to the -- oh, okay. They had a very tested year.  
24 They went on to the Long Island Championship and  
25 lost by three points to Northport - three points.

2 I want to give, obviously, the coach an  
3 opportunity to speak. I have citations here as  
4 well. And obviously we'll hear from one of the  
5 young men. Obviously, any one of the legislators  
6 from Baldwin, I want to pass it on to my  
7 colleague Joe Scannell, and I'm sure Denise Ford  
8 would want to congratulate you with the 19 of us  
9 as well.

10 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: Thank you, Kevan.

11 I just want to just thank you guys and  
12 congratulate you guys again. I came down to the  
13 board meeting to personally give you guys  
14 certificates because I'm just so impressed, as a  
15 lifelong Baldwin resident, with what you've done.  
16 I think I had mentioned at the board meeting that  
17 I was a 1980 Baldwin cross country champion, a  
18 one-time county champion. But you guys have done  
19 just an incredible thing; you have won the county  
20 championships seven, seven times in a row. That  
21 is just an unbelievable accomplishment.

22 Like Kevan said and the speaker before  
23 you, it's about the family, it's about your  
24 friends.

25 And what I want to tell you is your

1 community of Baldwin is just so, so proud of you,  
2 my community and your community. Every single  
3 person has been following it. And we are just  
4 extremely proud of you.  
5

6 Coach Burton, we had a chance to speak at  
7 the board meeting. My coach - my track buddies  
8 to this day are still some of my best friends and  
9 I'm 50 now and I still see them. I'm just so  
10 proud of you and the hard work and dedication  
11 that you have done. It's a team. It's teamwork.  
12 It's not just the kids; it's the coaches. The  
13 coaches do an unbelievable job. They spend so  
14 much time away from their families and friends.  
15 It's an unbelievable accomplishment for the  
16 families, friends, and the kids.

17 I, too, want to join Kevan and whoever  
18 else wants to speak because we are just so, so  
19 proud of you guys. And, congratulations.

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: Coach, honestly, all  
21 of you, I think it's wonderful, playing such a  
22 wonderful sport. I guess we were all sort of  
23 distracted by March Madness that we really  
24 didn't, like, get to focus on all of you playing  
25 and achieving this great success.

2 And I'm going to guess. I don't know  
3 whether or not -- is it a co-ed team or is it  
4 just some of the young women are assistant  
5 coaches? Managers. Wonderful. I like to see  
6 that.

7 I'm going to guess -- how many of you  
8 plan on playing basketball when you get to  
9 college? And I'm hoping that maybe this will be  
10 something, by playing here, that you will be able  
11 to utilize this and get scholarships to help you  
12 with your education and everything. But I want  
13 to say congratulations. You all have to be proud  
14 of yourself. Coach, I think that you probably  
15 realize that this is a very good day for you and  
16 a very proud day.

17 Thank you.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I know Rose wants  
19 to jump in too, because Rose actually has  
20 attended -- when we were rained out this past  
21 year, Rose has been very supportive of coming  
22 down and supporting the tournament during the  
23 summer. So I do want to say something -- I do  
24 want to give you that opportunity to speak. But  
25 I do want to piggyback on something that

2 Legislator Ford just said.

3 Not only are these young men very  
4 accomplished on the basketball court, but one of  
5 the young men is actually interning in my office,  
6 Michael Butler, who is going to be attending  
7 Harvard. So they --

8 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Can you take him  
9 one-on-one?

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: He'd take me in a  
11 heartbeat. My knees wouldn't make it past the  
12 foul line.

13 But needless to say, they achieve in the  
14 classroom as well as on the court.

15 I know Rose wanted to say something.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
17 Walker.

18 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I had the privilege  
19 of seeing you play over the years. I still do  
20 Hicksville's book at all the basketball games.  
21 We played you this year in the regular season,  
22 and then we lost in the semi-finals to Baldwin by  
23 five points. It was a tough night for the Comets  
24 but a great night for you young men. Then to see  
25 that you went on, makes you feel good to think

1 that you lost to the county champs, so that was a  
2 plus for us.

3  
4 But I have to tell you, to the coaches  
5 and to the young men, yes, you excel on the  
6 basketball court and, yes, in the classroom, but  
7 the gentlemen standing in front of us are such  
8 wonderful young men. I go from school to school.  
9 You always make us proud and you always make me  
10 feel very good because you're always so polite to  
11 me. Even though I'm at the table keeping track  
12 of those books, you are always great, and the  
13 coaches, and your book people, and so on and so  
14 forth. So just a big congratulations. I'm  
15 certainly very, very proud of you. I look  
16 forward to seeing what you're going to do as you  
17 go on to college. Just have a great time. And  
18 the underclassmen, I'll see you next year at  
19 those games.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Is Josh here with  
21 you today, Coach? No, okay.

22 I want to give Coach an opportunity to  
23 speak. As I said before, we have citations,  
24 certificates of recognition that we'll do  
25 quietly. We'll move to the back.

2 Coach, if you could take the opportunity  
3 to talk about the season, and then obviously one  
4 of the young men that would like to speak.

5 Everybody's moving backwards. Maybe one of the  
6 young men would like to speak, as well.

7 COACH BURTON: Good afternoon. On  
8 behalf of my team, my coaching staff, my AD, we  
9 just want to say thank you for having us here  
10 today. This is a special time, a special moment  
11 for us. This group this previous year did an  
12 unbelievable job. They made history; first time  
13 back-to-back county champions, we won last year  
14 also. For the seventh straight year, okay, we've  
15 made the Nassau County championship. This  
16 doesn't happen without the hard work, commitment,  
17 the dedication of this group of young men behind  
18 me. And I just want to tell them thank you and  
19 it did not go unnoticed.

20 I also want to thank the parents for all  
21 of their support. This group is definitely going  
22 to be missed. And I just want to say thank you.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Is there any  
24 young brave soul that would like to -- maybe a  
25 senior? You may not get this opportunity again.

2 MALE VOICE: We just want to thank you  
3 guys for honoring us. It's a great opportunity  
4 for us to be here. It's good to know that months  
5 after we are still being recognized. It's  
6 something that we're going to remember for the  
7 rest of our lives.

8 We worked so hard. The beginning of the  
9 season was a little shaky for us. We knew we  
10 were going to get it together, and that takes  
11 everyone on the team - the coaches, the managers,  
12 the players, even the parents, the fans. So we  
13 just want to thank everybody for standing behind  
14 us and keeping us going so we can get what we had  
15 to do done.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: State your name.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Young man, the  
18 person that spoke --

19 MR. ABRAHAMS: Michael Abrahams.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Michael Abrahams.  
21 Michael, is your father also Michael Abrahams?

22 MR. ABRAHAMS: Yeah.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I know your dad  
24 very well. He should be very proud.

25 MR. HILTON: Hi. My name is Travis

2 Hilton. I just wanted to thank you guys for  
3 recognizing us. I just wanted to take a second  
4 to thank the coaches, because without them we  
5 would be nothing. They were in the gym with us  
6 five, maybe six days a week working us hard, and  
7 they got us to where we are now. I just want to  
8 have a round of applause for our coaches.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Obviously, we are  
10 very proud of you, not just in this legislative  
11 chamber but the entire county. You went on and  
12 represented us in the Long Island Championship,  
13 and I think that was tremendous. As you said  
14 before, the season started a little bit shaky but  
15 you guys really came out and shined in the end.

16 I have certificates here. And I would  
17 like to welcome Legislator Ford as well as  
18 Legislator Scannell in joining me. I guess we'll  
19 go out to the outer chamber so that we can  
20 continue with the meeting. If you guys would  
21 join me in some photos, and we can properly give  
22 this recognition to you guys.

23 Thank you again for coming in. And thank  
24 you to everybody here for indulging us.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Today we've taken

2 the opportunity to honor Intel Semifinalists.

3 Knowing that this is school time, it becomes very  
4 difficult for all of them to be here. However,  
5 we do have the Intel Semifinalist from Legislator  
6 Kopel's district.

7 It's yours now, Mr. Kopel.

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you, Madame  
9 Presiding Officer.

10 Today we have with us a fine young man  
11 named Jason Kay. Jason, do you want to come up  
12 to the podium, please?

13 Jason is an Intel Semifinalist, and I'm  
14 sure all of you know what that is, that's an  
15 award only give to the finest students, the ones  
16 who really come up with some interesting  
17 research. Now, Jason is doing some research on a  
18 very topical and important subject, which is why  
19 do bullies bully in high school? He studied this  
20 in high school. He did a survey of - what is it,  
21 191 students, Jason?

22 MR. KAY: Yes.

23 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: And he came up with  
24 the motivating factors and other causes. This is  
25 the kind of research that could prove invaluable,

2 I suspect, going forward, in terms of how society  
3 reacts. Is that right, Jason?

4 MR. KAY: Yeah, I think so. I think my  
5 research has a really important pragmatic side,  
6 and it actually has led me to think that the way  
7 we approach bullying, at least in my school,  
8 maybe in all of Nassau County, is completely  
9 wrong.

10 I think -- the motivating factors I  
11 studied were frustrations, stress,  
12 disappointment, and competition. I found that  
13 these internal negative emotional states  
14 encourage and made more likely bullying behavior.  
15 And they all have the same counterweight, and  
16 that counterweight is empathy. I think that the  
17 best thing we can do in the society more  
18 generally and specifically in our school district  
19 is to cultivate empathy from a young age in order  
20 to combat bullying behavior and prevent it in our  
21 schools and workplaces.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: How is it treated  
23 now? Is it just treated punitively?

24 MR. KAY: I don't think it's treated  
25 very well. I feel that it's kind of glossed

2 over. There's been a façade, I think, in schools  
3 of an anti-bullying environment, but my research  
4 suggests that that isn't really what is actual.

5 What particularly is striking is about  
6 two years ago we had a speaker in our school who  
7 talked about his son who committed suicide as a  
8 result of bullying; it was almost fear mongering  
9 in nature. I thought it was a very inappropriate  
10 way to discourage bullying in our schools.

11 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So if they find  
12 somebody who appears to be bullying they would  
13 just punish that person or just separate that  
14 person out, which is kind of too late. It's too  
15 late to have prevented the behavior to begin with  
16 and too late to avoid the damage.

17 MR. KAY: That's right. Not only do I  
18 think that kind of presentation that we had is  
19 not realistic and the fact that we only had one  
20 of those presentations every year or two years or  
21 so, is a completely separate issue.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: How did you choose  
23 your subject when you did your research? Were  
24 they in the school? How did you administer the  
25 survey?

2 MR. KAY: The survey was administered by  
3 my mentor, Dr. Nardi, in class to students who  
4 simply took this five page survey during class.

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So from that you  
6 identified who was likely to be a bully and the  
7 reasons?

8 MR. KAY: Yeah. I basically asked  
9 students to give a moral -- to pass moral  
10 judgment on characters in certain situations,  
11 motivated by certain internal emotional states.  
12 And I found that the emotional states that I  
13 mentioned -- stress, frustration, disappointment,  
14 etcetera -- were very likely to motivate bullying  
15 behavior, and that bullying behavior occurs on a  
16 level which is far higher than suggested in the  
17 literature. I found that as high as -- as many  
18 as 56 percent of the students I surveyed had  
19 committed a bullying action before and that's  
20 startlingly high.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Right. What grade  
22 are you up to now? Where are you at?

23 MR. KAY: Twelve.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Where are --

25 MR. KAY: Senior.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: and you're not a bully, are you?

MR. KAY: Not usually.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay. Good.

What's next year?

MR. KAY: College.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Where, do you know yet?

MR. KAY: The University of Rochester.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Oh. Good luck to you.

Anyone else? Legislator Bosworth.

LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: First of all, congratulations, what an amazing achievement.

I was just wondering if as you were doing this study did the role of the social media come into play in this at all -- Facebook, Twitter, all of that stuff?

MR. KAY: No. Those studies -- or studies on those subjects are kind of ambiguous. It's really difficult to tell what is an influence of social media and what isn't. It's very hard to separate, you know, reality from what you think maybe -- what social media is

doing to kids. So, no, I didn't touch on that.

LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Thank you. It's a study that is so needed, and we're hoping that others will continue your good work or that you continue this good work and hopefully will be able to do something meaningful to combat bullying, which is really prevalent in so many of our schools.

MR. KAY: I really hope so. And if it's going to be done, we need to strike at the roots; I can't emphasize that enough. From a young age empathy needs to be cultivated -- kids in even pre-K, first grade and second grade -- otherwise there's not much you can do about it with presentations about kids who have killed themselves as a result of bullying; they just simply aren't effective.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Kopel.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Jason, there was one more. You're not getting off the hook.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Jason, hi. Judy Jacobs.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Jacobs.

2 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I just wanted to say  
3 something to you. I think it's a phenomenal  
4 study that you entered into with this. And I so  
5 wholeheartedly agree with you about starting at a  
6 very young age. By the time they're even in  
7 first or second grade, their roots are set. I  
8 have grandchildren that range in age from three  
9 to 21, I could tell where it begins and it begins  
10 even way before third grade, way before. And I  
11 think maybe parents need some lessons. Just go  
12 over to any ball field. I wish you could take it  
13 one step further and watch them when they're  
14 little and they're playing in these junior -- we  
15 saw all these wonderful athletes just now, but  
16 watch them when they're playing in kindergarten  
17 and first grade and watch the parents -- some  
18 parents, very few, but watch them in action and  
19 you could almost handpick the children that will  
20 follow as if that's supposed to be the way you  
21 act towards people.

22 MR. KAY: I completely agree. The way  
23 parents act is extremely important --

24 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Absolutely.

25 MR. KAY: the impact on how their

1 children will act, because they spend so much  
2 time with them and they see them as role models.  
3 It's very well documented that children imitate  
4 the actions and attitudes of their parents.

5  
6 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Absolutely. And if  
7 you have compassions, and you have caring, and  
8 you have empathy, there is no way, in my mind,  
9 that doesn't rub off on children, which is a good  
10 thing.

11 MR. KAY: I think you're absolutely  
12 correct.

13 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: And if you don't  
14 have it, it's a lost cause all the way. So I  
15 agree with you.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. KAY: Anyone else?

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: One more.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Carrie Solages.

20 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Congratulations,  
21 Jason. Very impressed with your work. And  
22 congratulations on going to Rochester next year,  
23 it's a great school. I have a question for you.

24 Is that gentleman right there your  
25 teacher, Mr. Russo?

MR. KAY: No. That's my principal. Dr. Nardi, the one in the scarf, that's my mentor.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Great, great. Because Mr. Russo was my chemistry teacher back in junior high. Again, let's compliment the family and the teacher of Jason.

MR. KAY: Thank you very much.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Congratulations.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay.

MR. KAY: Any further questions? Criticisms?

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I think you've got a future possibly in public speaking as well.

MR. KAY: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now we have -- I believe the next point of personal privilege is Legislator Denenberg.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: There are three Intel Semifinalists from the Bellmore/Merrick Schools, so I would ask Emma McNamara, Josh Pollack, and Corey Wald to please come up. We'll start with Emma.

Emma is a senior at Calhoun High School, and she wants to become a paleoanthropologist;

2 did I pronounce that correctly?

3 MS. MCNAMARA: Close.

4 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Close. I had a  
5 feeling I was getting that wrong.

6 My background is engineering. And I will  
7 tell you today, if I had to do anything, compared  
8 to what Emma, Josh, Corey or any of the Intel  
9 Semifinalists have to do now, it would pale by  
10 comparison. What you learn today and the  
11 accomplishments of our students today, to become  
12 Intel Semifinalists, is so much beyond anything  
13 that I was doing when I was in high school. I  
14 know today I'd really struggle to get into any  
15 engineering school. But Emma, next year, is  
16 going to University of Pennsylvania. She plays  
17 clarinet in Calhoun's wind ensemble, which is the  
18 top program in Nassau County, she is Secretary  
19 General of the Model United Nations Delegation,  
20 and she contributes regularly to the Science  
21 Club. So, in addition to majoring in  
22 anthropology and earning a doctorate in the  
23 field, Emma has a lot of other plans. But rather  
24 than me talking about her project for Intel, why  
25 don't you tell us about it, because I know that I

2 would struggle to understand it.

3 MS. MCNAMARA: So my project was called  
4 Female Dominance Hierarchies as a Predictor of  
5 Relative Canine Size Dimorphism in the Macaca  
6 Genus. Essentially, I looked at the differences  
7 in tooth size between males and females for  
8 various species in the genus and then I connected  
9 that difference to the level of female tolerance.  
10 I found that there is a positive correlation  
11 between the level of female tolerance and the  
12 expression of canine dimorphism.

13 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Does anyone have  
14 any questions? Judy Jacobs has a question, and  
15 then so does Delia DeRiggi.

16 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: So in my  
17 terminology, what does it say -- what is your  
18 final, you know, in our language, what would it  
19 be that you discovered?

20 MS. MCNAMARA: Okay. I looked at a  
21 particular genus of monkeys; they range from all  
22 the way from North Africa to Japan. Essentially  
23 what I did was I took the female relations and I  
24 tried to connect them to the male relationships.  
25 A trait that typically is a good indicator of the

2 male relationships is canine dimorphism, which is  
3 a special kind of sexual dimorphism in which the  
4 tooth size, the canine tooth sizes of the males  
5 and females tend to vary. You see males with  
6 these larger, fang-like canines. And so,  
7 essentially what I found is that when the females  
8 more tolerant towards each other you saw higher  
9 levels of canine dimorphism, which essentially  
10 means that the males are fighting more for mates.

11 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: And the females play  
12 hard to get? Just wondering. Very good.

13 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Did Legislator  
14 DeRiggi-Whitton have a question?

15 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: What you're  
16 saying is -- was there a correlation between the  
17 way that the male and the females species got  
18 along as well, related to the size of the teeth?

19 MS. MCNAMARA: Essentially, if you saw  
20 males with larger teeth, the females are more  
21 likely to be tolerant of each other.

22 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Oh. Okay. That's  
23 good.

24 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Men with  
25 big mouths, is that what we're --

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: You can see why I love it here. Anyway.

As part of the competition it was found that by making the connection that Emma McNamara made, she clarified the selective factors for key evolutionary trait, isn't that true?

MS. MCNAMARA: Certainly. Canine dimorphism is seen throughout primates. And in order to understand exactly what selects for this type of selection, per say, is my study clarified that a little bit.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: University of Pennsylvania is lucky to be having you as an incoming freshman.

MS. MCNAMARA: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Next is Josh Pollack. Josh is a senior at Kennedy High School, and he is the thirtieth Intel Semifinalist from Kennedy since their advance science research program began in 2004. The title of Josh's project is emotional face recognition. And before he tells us about this project, I want to let everyone know that Josh, next year, is an incoming freshman majoring in

2 Biology at Cornell University.

3 Josh's goal is to go to medical school  
4 and become a surgeon. Like I said, it's clear  
5 that today's seniors are well above where we were  
6 even ten years ago. I think it's phenomenal what  
7 you're doing.

8 Josh, please tell us about your project.

9 MR. POLLACK: The title of my project  
10 was Emotional Face Recognition. What my mentor  
11 and I did was we took face -- pictures of faces,  
12 human faces, showing either a fearful emotion or  
13 a happy emotion and we superimposed the word  
14 happy or fear across the nose bridge of the face,  
15 and we set up a task where these images would be  
16 shown to participants for about a second at a  
17 time, and then they'd have another two seconds to  
18 respond to the prompt, which was asking whether  
19 the face itself, not the word shown, was happy or  
20 fearful. We ran this project on typically  
21 developing participants, mainly some of my  
22 friends I got from school or some of freshman at  
23 Hofstra University where my mentor was. We  
24 compared this data to the results that children  
25 with autism who performed with this study. For

1 the controls we found that when the word didn't  
2 match up with the face, in other words if the  
3 picture was of a happy face but the word across  
4 it said fear, they'd normally take a significant  
5 longer time in actually responding to the task  
6 and the question of whether the face itself was  
7 happy or fearful. Compared to the autism group,  
8 the autism group showed much longer reaction  
9 times for all of the trials and it really  
10 highlighted the deficits that children with  
11 autism have in processing some of these emotions.  
12 The difference in reaction time between the  
13 trials where the faces matched and the ones where  
14 the face didn't match, for the children with  
15 autism there wasn't that big, significant  
16 slowdown, which also just highlighted more of the  
17 deficits that children with autism have in  
18 processing faces and their emotions.

19  
20           LEGISLATOR DENENBERG:     How would the  
21 project and what you found help or can it help in  
22 finding a cure to autism?

23           MR. POLLACK:     Well, it's not really  
24 pushing us towards a cure, it's more pushing us  
25 towards our general understanding of how they

2 perceive things differently compared to the  
3 mainstream population. It could lead to the  
4 discovery of different neuropathways that are  
5 underrepresented in children with autism versus  
6 over expressed in children with autism, and from  
7 there it could push us towards a cure and how to  
8 effectively treat and reconnect some of these  
9 pathways or disconnect some of the overactive  
10 ones, should we go down that route.

11 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Any questions?

12 Judy Jacobs.

13 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I want to tell you  
14 something. You are hitting on something  
15 extremely important. And I can tell you as a  
16 grandma of a young little boy who is doing really  
17 so much better than anyone ever thought he'd do,  
18 who happens to have autism. One of the first  
19 things early childhood education does with him  
20 was showing him all different faces - from happy  
21 to sad, to fearful, to shocked. I never quite  
22 understood why that was so important; now I see  
23 what you're saying. He knows it just by looking  
24 at somebody, how they are. If his mom puts on a  
25 sad face, he goes don't cry. So that goes a long

2 way. That shows that something's clicking in  
3 there.

4 They are on the verge of doing that with  
5 all of these children.

6 MR. POLLACK: And it really helps.

7 I have a twin brother who was diagnosed  
8 with -- he's on the autism spectrum. He was  
9 diagnosed when he was in like -- I think we were  
10 both three years old. The whole basis of my  
11 facial recognition came from when we were both in  
12 kindergarten and he would have flashcards of  
13 faces, with like the face being happy and on the  
14 back it would say happy. He would have to look  
15 at these faces to really learn what each face  
16 meant because he really couldn't understand if  
17 someone was happy, like, what kind of face they  
18 would make. He's really come a long way. He's  
19 totally mainstreamed. He's declassified. He's  
20 in totally regular classes. He's going to New  
21 Paltz next year. He's doing really well.

22 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: That makes me feel  
23 pretty good. That's very good. Thank you.

24 MR. POLLACK: He's at the point where  
25 you wouldn't even tell he had any disability back

when he was younger.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Let me conclude by saying that Josh is very well rounded. He's a member of three honor societies, received numerous science and math awards, but also participates in several clubs at JFK, including One World, Model Congress, of course the Science Club, he works for Tutors for a Cure, as well as Moo La La Frozen Yogurt, which is right off of Merrick Road.

Again, Josh, congratulations.

MR. POLLACK: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Next from Bellmore/Merrick, a senior at Mempham High School, Corey Wald. He has an exceptional scientific mind - AP scholar with honors, a member of six honor societies, as well as a member of the Gilder Lerman and Mempham's ELITE, which is Enriching Learners in Tomorrow's Education Programs. The title of Corey's project is the Sky's the Limit, an Investigation of Cloud Cover on Major League Baseball Performance. So this is a project that at least some of us up here, we not only are very interested, but we

1 think we might be able to understand it, until  
2 you explain it to us. Why don't you explain your  
3 project? Legislator Muscarella and myself are  
4 thinking that we probably should have talked to  
5 you before we drafted our fantasy league team.

6 MR. WALD: It would have helped.

7 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: It would have  
8 helped. Okay.

9 MR. WALD: My project, I went back -- I  
10 used the 2007 to 2010 Major League Baseball  
11 seasons, and I got my baseball data from  
12 baseballreference.com and the percent cloud cover  
13 from the National Weather Climatic Data  
14 Association. So for my study I devised four  
15 different variable groups: the 0 to 29 percent  
16 cloud cover group; 30 to 79; 80 to 100 percent  
17 cloud cover; and then the night groups, which  
18 served as the control for my study. So I  
19 basically inserted four years of data into one  
20 massive Excel spreadsheet and then statistically  
21 analyzed each game into each category to see if  
22 there were any significant differences between  
23 any of the four groups, using numerous baseball  
24 variables, such as batting average, on-base  
25

2 percentage and slugging percentage, walks,  
3 strikeouts, homeruns, and etcetera.

4 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: So cloud cover  
5 favors the hitter and a clear day favors the  
6 pitcher?

7 MR. WALD: That's correct.

8 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: What about at  
9 night?

10 MR. WALD: At night it favors the batter  
11 as well.

12 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Oh, okay. Come  
13 on, Vin, you've got to have a question.  
14 Legislator Wink.

15 LEGISLATOR WINK: How are you? That's  
16 an interesting fact. The one caveat I guess, as  
17 I understand it, Dwight Gooden historically was a  
18 500 pitcher during the day and he was unhittable  
19 at night. So I don't know how that plays in.

20 MR. WALD: It's Dwight Gooden.

21 LEGISLATOR WINK: It's Dwight Gooden, of  
22 course.

23 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Good answer.

24 LEGISLATOR WINK: There are scientific  
25 anomalies, I guess, huh? That's actually a

pretty fascinating thing. It doesn't apply to my softball league, by the way, I can tell you that. It was sunny yesterday and I went four for five.

Congratulations. Good luck.

MR. WALD: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other?

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: He didn't tell that he was hitting against his seven year old daughter's softball team.

Corey is pursuing biomedical engineering at Drexel College next year, which has perhaps one of the best work-study programs of any college.

And I would close by saying Corey, Josh, and Emma are joined here today not only by their family but also by the school's science teachers and programs. So I have to really hand it to the Bellmore/Merrick Schools -- Mempham, JFK, and Calhoun -- for doing such a great job and for the support that they give our students.

Corey, Josh, Emma, we're looking forward to great things. And from all of us, congratulations.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I believe that's

2 the end to points of personal privilege.

3 It's now time for public comment. I  
4 would like to remind the speakers that there is a  
5 three minute limit, and there are a number of  
6 people who are wishing to speak before the  
7 legislature today.

8 I'm going to begin with a young lady who  
9 was here not too long ago, but because we cut off  
10 the public comment period, she had to leave and  
11 could not wait until it resumed. So I'm going to  
12 be calling Cay Fatima.

13 MS. FATIMA: Good afternoon, ladies and  
14 gentlemen of the Legislature. One of the reasons  
15 why I'm here, we're representing our Lakeview  
16 Council. Mr. Ameen -- Lateef Ameen will briefly  
17 speak on a different topic.

18 I'm here for two particular topics; one  
19 has to do with an amendment to a local law in  
20 Consumer Affairs. And as you know, Presiding  
21 Officer Gonsalves, we discussed trying to get  
22 this law that Legislator Abrahams proposed on the  
23 agenda. It was -- the law was finalized and  
24 drafted back in 2010, so three years is a  
25 considerable amount of time.

2 This law is very important. Right now,  
3 if a regular construction person went and did  
4 some damage to your home or did something  
5 illegally, we can utilize their license as a way  
6 of barring them from continuing business here in  
7 Nassau County. But because a new homebuilder can  
8 do damage to a new home, demolition old buildings  
9 without proper notice to our building departments  
10 in our Towns of North Hempstead and Hempstead, we  
11 need some way to rectify and equalize this  
12 situation. Someone who can just put a sidewalk  
13 in has to have a license. And we feel also that  
14 this new homebuilder license should be added to  
15 our already existing Consumer Affairs.

16 What is the procedure of getting it on  
17 the agenda, if we could just briefly speak to  
18 that issue?

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It depends. A  
20 legislator has to really file the -- you're  
21 talking about an amendment?

22 MS. FATIMA: The amendment is drafted,  
23 ready to go. Legislator Abrahams can you speak  
24 to what is needed, please?

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I believe we

2 filed it. My counsel is in the back. But I  
3 believe we filed it this year already. Actually,  
4 I don't know if it needs to be filed for this  
5 year. It's part of this session. It's been  
6 clocked in. From our standpoint, it just needs  
7 to be calendared.

8 MS. FATIMA: And that procedure is the  
9 vote of the Rules Committee?

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, no. It just  
11 needs to be -- I stand -- Presiding Officer  
12 Gonsalves, I stand to apologize. We have not re-  
13 filed it for this particular session yet. We  
14 need to re-file it. We need to re-file it for  
15 this session.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And then we'll  
17 take a look at it.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We'll make sure  
19 we get that. We'll do it today. We'll make sure  
20 we file for it today.

21 MS. FATIMA: Okay. So it will be re-  
22 filed today, and then the next procedure would  
23 then be to --

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The next  
25 procedure would be for it to get calendared so

1 that it can be debated and discussed in the  
2 committee.  
3

4 MS. FATIMA: Okay. And how long do you  
5 think it would take to get calendared, in your  
6 estimation?

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Cay, it has to go  
8 through committees. Once it's approved in  
9 committees then it would be calendared for the  
10 Full Leg. It could be a month. It could be two  
11 months.

12 MS. FATIMA: So the next step would be -  
13 - which committee would it go to?

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm trying to  
15 think. It probably would go to -- to be  
16 perfectly honest, Cay, I really don't know which  
17 committee it would go through. It pertains to  
18 consumer affairs legislation, correct?

19 MS. FATIMA: Yes.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And it's already  
21 on the books.

22 MS. FATIMA: I'm sure there are some  
23 procedures within the legislative rules to  
24 expedite certain things. This has been proposed  
25 since 2010.

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: But it had to be  
3 re-filed again. Once we go into a new session  
4 anything that exists at the end of the previous  
5 session really needs to be re-filed for the new  
6 session.

7 MS. FATIMA: So it's going to be re-filed  
8 today.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes.

10 MS. FATIMA: And then I'm sure there are  
11 some, what we call managerial discretions --

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Then we're going  
13 to review it and see what would be the  
14 appropriate committee to put this on. We have  
15 committees May 6, but it may not be in a timely  
16 enough fashion, so it may have to go to the  
17 following month.

18 MS. FATIMA: When you say we, who are  
19 the we that you said has to review it? Let me  
20 just reiterate. It's going to be put back on the  
21 table as of today, and then it goes today to the  
22 we that you are talking about. Who are the we  
23 that you're referring to?

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: My staff will  
25 review it.

MS. FATIMA: Okay. So you need a copy of the law, is what it is?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes.

MS. FATIMA: We will make sure that this copy, if I could give this to the clerk, that you will have this immediately. William, would you accept this?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: The procedure really is they're going to resubmit it today, and then it's going to be forwarded to me --

MS. FATIMA: Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: for review with my staff.

MS. FATIMA: So I just want to make sure you have it. I don't want it to get lost. I'm one for, you know, efficiency. You'll have it in a couple of moments. You've already had a copy; I've presented this copy before to the legislators.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Cay, in defense to the presiding officer. This is something that you and I have worked on for many times. I believe you worked on it with Dave Gugerty and Michelle Darcy, among others. This has been

2 something -- it's not a new thing. This has been  
3 submitted in previous legislatures before. In  
4 defense of the presiding officer, she wasn't in  
5 that role.

6 MS. FATIMA: Yes. Yes. I see.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just from her  
8 standpoint, we have not filed it while she has  
9 been presiding officer. I feel fairly confident  
10 that, you know, if we re-file it today, it will  
11 go through the normal practice and hopefully  
12 we'll be debating and discussing it in a month to  
13 come.

14 MS. FATIMA: The reason I say that, the  
15 last time I was here in December I got the same  
16 scenario. If we can take the transcripts, it's  
17 almost the exact same dialogue. I'm concerned  
18 that the process of her getting it re-filed and  
19 all of that should have been in place because I  
20 said I'd be back in 2013 to make sure that it  
21 gets on the agenda. I don't want this to be  
22 procrastinated.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What I will do --  
24 Michelle Darcy from my staff will reach out to  
25 you when we re-file it --

2 MS. FATIMA: Okay.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: and let you know  
4 that it's been re-filed. From that standpoint,  
5 once it is, we can work with the presiding  
6 officer to work out any differences.

7 Obviously, the majority should have an  
8 opportunity to review it and see if it's  
9 something that they can support. There are only  
10 nine votes on this side that support it, so from  
11 our standpoint we need somebody from the other  
12 side to help us; I'm not saying they would or  
13 wouldn't. I'm just being fair to them. They  
14 should have a chance to review it and see if they  
15 would like to support it. If they'd like to  
16 support it then we can get a bill.

17 MS. FATIMA: I'm counting on the support  
18 of my friend, Francis Becker. I'm counting on  
19 some other support there that we also had. I  
20 also presented it to Howard Kopel last year and  
21 the year before. They are aware of the  
22 importance.

23 Just briefly. You also mentioned last  
24 year that I had to get with, I guess our new  
25 minority counsel, minority counsel is not Mr.

2 Gugerty anymore.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr. Gugerty is  
4 now the chief of staff of the legislature on the  
5 democratic side, minority side.

6 MS. FATIMA: Right.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The minority  
8 counsel is Peter Kleins. I believe the person  
9 that I know has been integral in working on this  
10 has been Michelle Darcy.

11 MS. FATIMA: Okay. I'm going to write  
12 down Ms. Darcy's name.

13 Finally, the other new proposed that we  
14 talked about in Consumer Affairs was licensing  
15 for debt collectors and collector agencies and  
16 junk debt buyers. I have been a victim and  
17 others have been a victim of something called  
18 also sewer service in which law firms and  
19 plaintiffs, these giant junk debt buyers claimed  
20 to have served people, but they just want the  
21 default judgments so that they then can go and  
22 garnish and levy people's bank accounts.

23 As you know, since 2008 many of our  
24 consumers here in Nassau County have been saddled  
25 with credit card defaults, etcetera, but do not

2 even know that they've been sued by these  
3 plaintiffs. For Nassau County not to have a  
4 consumer affair's license for collection agencies  
5 and businesses of that like, I can't phantom.  
6 That would be like a doctor not having a license  
7 for a medical practice. Why don't we have a  
8 license for collection agencies?

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Cay, the reason I  
10 was looking side to side is I was trying to find  
11 Michelle Darcy, who I know spoke to you about  
12 this particular bill.

13 MS. FATIMA: No. She has not reached  
14 out to me as of yet. I'd like to perhaps take  
15 two or three minutes.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: She'll come down.  
17 I was under the impression that maybe some  
18 discussions had happened and from that standpoint  
19 we were trying to research some of the  
20 jurisdictional issues that were confronting us.  
21 The best thing might be to have Michelle spend a  
22 few minutes --

23 MS. FATIMA: It's something as easy as  
24 getting a template from New York City and other  
25 states around. Thirty-eight attorney generals

2 have recently sued one of the major junk debt  
3 buyers, Midland Funding, there are several  
4 others, Main Street Acquisition, etcetera. Main  
5 Street funding, their parent company, Encore, is  
6 a multi-billion dollar industry. And the abuse  
7 in this industry is just too prevalent going on  
8 in Nassau County for us not to be aware of it.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Definitely.  
10 Let's just spend some moments after you guys are  
11 done.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
13 Muscarella would like to say something.

14 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Just quickly,  
15 without going into the merits of all of this.

16 The procedure is that it gets logged into  
17 the clerk's office, the clerk then forwards it to  
18 the majority and I guess the minority staff, and  
19 then they investigate. It's within the purview  
20 of the presiding officer and the majority to  
21 determine whether or not they feel to go forward,  
22 that that's the kind of legislation that they  
23 want to then put into process to go through the  
24 committee procedure.

25 We get many, many bills that get

2 submitted every year to the legislature that  
3 don't eventually make itself to the committees or  
4 to the general counsel for -- general legislature  
5 for review. It goes through a series of  
6 processes during which it gets evaluated not only  
7 for whether it's a good idea, a bad idea, whether  
8 it's drafted properly or not, whether it's within  
9 the jurisdiction of the county legislature -- and  
10 I don't know whether this is the case or not.

11 But I don't know about process servers and debt  
12 collectors, whether or not we're preempted by  
13 maybe state law or federal law. I don't know the  
14 answer to that. I'm just trying to lay out that  
15 it goes through a process. When a bill gets  
16 submitted it does not guarantee that that bill  
17 will eventually get to the floor for a vote by  
18 the entire legislature.

19 MS. FATIMA: In my research, many  
20 counties here in New York State have licensing --

21 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: That maybe; I  
22 don't know the answer to that. I haven't looked  
23 into it.

24 That's just the process by which it goes  
25 through -- it gets given to the clerk, then it

1 goes to the majority and minority, then we do  
2 review, then the majority would decide whether or  
3 not to, with the presiding officer's final say,  
4 whether or not that goes to committee for the  
5 further process to go before the legislature in  
6 its entirety.

8 MS. FATIMA: Okay. Just as a warning, I  
9 hope there's a good reason not to because there's  
10 certainly many, many millions of good reasons why  
11 we should.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Ameen.

13 MR. AMEEN: Thank you. Good afternoon  
14 again, ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature.  
15 Abdulateep Ameen is my name, and I'm here also to  
16 represent Lakeview, as was previously said.

17 I would like to bring to your attention,  
18 once again, the situation, very serious and  
19 dangerous situation we are experiencing on  
20 Woodfield Road in Lakeview. If you would take a  
21 ride two blocks north of Eagle Avenue and just go  
22 all the way up Woodfield Road to Lakeview Avenue,  
23 you're going to find that sometimes you might  
24 thing your vehicle is falling off the road  
25 because of the sinks, the depth of the sinks that

1 we have there. This is a main thoroughfare.  
2 This is a bus route. It's highly dangerous  
3 because of the fact that vehicles have to be  
4 dodging the sinks and the potholes and manhole  
5 covers and at the same dodging the buses and  
6 other vehicles on the road.  
7

8 Now, quite a few cars have gotten damaged  
9 because of this condition. I don't know what we  
10 are waiting for. Maybe we are waiting for people  
11 to start losing their lives.

12 Two years ago we were promised that this  
13 was going to be remedied. Last year we were  
14 promised that it was going to be completed last  
15 year. I don't know what happened. But we are  
16 taxpayers. I would like to know where our tax  
17 dollars are going.

18 There's also the capital improvement  
19 funds that's allocated to ensure the residents a  
20 better quality of life. It seems like we are  
21 being cut out as being beneficiaries of this.  
22 But we vote. Don't be surprised if, when you  
23 come to Lakeview, the votes are not there. We  
24 have to address this situation. I am prepared  
25 to, if we don't have this addressed and remedied

2 in a timely fashion, you might find your offices  
3 bombarded with summonses from our practice  
4 because you guys swore in to represent your  
5 constituents. If you are not doing that, well  
6 then we really have no more uses for you and we  
7 have to bring you up charges.

8 I just want to make this appeal. I would  
9 like to know what the status of this and who is  
10 responsible for getting this done. With that, I  
11 pray that we have a timely resolve of this. We  
12 have been taken for a ride much too long.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Troiano,  
15 would you like to speak?

16 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Sure. Good  
17 afternoon. You're quite right, the situation on  
18 Woodfield Road is extremely dangerous, and it's a  
19 situation that really stems back more than a  
20 decade, when the roads were constructed  
21 improperly. As a result of that, there are now  
22 sunken areas in the road, particularly when  
23 you're heading in a southerly direction, that  
24 really could cause a car to veer off the road  
25 into a sidewalk, into a home, into oncoming

2 traffic. And you also quite rightly state that  
3 it's been on the next to do board for at least  
4 two years now, and that's a situation even as  
5 recently as eight days ago when I spoke to the  
6 Commissioner of Public Works - is she here, by  
7 the way - and I was told that -

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: The commissioner  
9 is not here.

10 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: just eight days ago  
11 that the commissioner and her staff are in the  
12 final throws of negotiating the contract with a  
13 contractor to fix Woodfield Road. That contract  
14 should be completed, in fact should have been  
15 completed just this past week, and that work  
16 could potentially start, and we've been told this  
17 before, could potentially start prior to May 28,  
18 when the county executive is expected to visit  
19 Woodfield Road, will have a chance to see it for  
20 himself if, in fact, work has not started.

21 MR. AMEEN: Very well.

22 MS. FATIMA: And do we know how the  
23 contractor that bid on this is?

24 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Did it originally?

25 MS. FATIMA: Yeah, who did it

1 originally. There seems to be, according to  
2 Commissioner Shah, it was an engineering problem.  
3 So we don't want a cosmetic issue and then --

4  
5           LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Cay, you may  
6 recall, it may have been last year that a  
7 cosmetic fix was done and everybody knew at that  
8 time that that cosmetic fix wouldn't last and the  
9 road would have to be restructured. And they  
10 were right, the cosmetic fix has not lasted, it's  
11 now a danger again, and hopefully we'll see the  
12 restructuring work done starting this spring.

13           I think it's appropriate for you to hold  
14 us accountable, but in particular to hold DPW  
15 accountable for actually getting this work done  
16 because it is a real danger.

17           MS. FATIMA: Finally, is there a way for  
18 us to see what the engineering plans are before  
19 they begin the work, because it seems the  
20 engineering issue has to be fixed? I don't know  
21 who the engineering firm was who did the original  
22 job, but there is some negligence and liability  
23 there. And if this same company is bidding on  
24 contracts in Nassau County, hey, fix the problems  
25 that you created in years past before you're

2 allowed to keep bidding on more and more  
3 contracts and we're giving you more and more  
4 money.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Let me reassure  
6 you, I will reach out to the commissioner of  
7 public works and find out the status of the  
8 contract and also the design plan that is  
9 associated with that contract. Once that  
10 contract is filed it will go through the Rules  
11 Committee and at that particular time the Rules  
12 Committee will vote to approve the contract.

13 MS. FATIMA: And someone perhaps from  
14 your office can notify us, because that would be  
15 something on the agenda of the Rules Committee  
16 that someone from the public could at least have  
17 to --

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: At the Rules  
19 Committee, okay, we do ask for public comment on  
20 the contract.

21 MS. FATIMA: Yes. Our community  
22 wouldn't want to miss that.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No. That's why I  
24 said, Cay, I will reach out, as well as  
25 Legislator Troiano, to Commissioner Shah and find

2 out what the status of that contract is and also  
3 the design plan associated with that contract.

4 MS. FATIMA: And what caused the  
5 previous problem. Lakeview is built kind of like  
6 on sinking sand. If you saw the recent news of  
7 the cars falling through sink holes, I'm sure -  
8 and trust me when I say, if any of you have to  
9 drive down this --

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Ameen, we  
11 will move forward on this, to reassure you that  
12 we're not going to be sitting on it. It is a  
13 safety hazard. It has already, according to  
14 Legislator Troiano, he has indicated that  
15 Commissioner Shah said a contract is in place, I  
16 think then it's time for us to see that contract  
17 and see exactly what it is.

18 MS. FATIMA: Thank you.

19 MR. AMEEN: How soon will we be hearing  
20 from you, as far as that is concerned?

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Excuse me?

22 MR. AMEEN: How soon could we expect to  
23 see the plans?

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: If the contract  
25 has already been awarded and Commissioner Shah

2 sends down the paperwork to us, it could come on  
3 the Rules Committee on May 6. But again, it  
4 depends on -- and we have the liaison to the  
5 county executive here with us today and I know  
6 he's listening and he will try to let us know the  
7 status of where that contract is and when it can  
8 come to us.

9 MS. FATIMA: So the plans, obviously, in  
10 order to get the contract had to have been  
11 devised already.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I can't say that,  
13 Cay.

14 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: That is true, the  
15 plan has been devised.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Are you talking  
17 about, I'm sorry, the design plan?

18 MS. FATIMA: Yeah.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Without the  
20 design plan the contract would not be awarded.

21 MS. FATIMA: Okay. Okay. So thank you  
22 very much. I'll be in touch with Legislators  
23 Troiano and Scannell. I think we're still split.

24 And thank you so much for extending the  
25 time.

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're very  
3 welcome. Only because we had a lot of questions.

4 MS. FATIMA: Yes. I'm sorry. I  
5 appreciate your time.

6 MR. AMEEN: Thank you so very much.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And our apologies  
8 to the others who are here waiting to speak.

9 Joanne Borden.

10 MS. BORDEN: Good afternoon. Dr. Jean  
11 Wilson, editor of *Harrison's Principles of*  
12 *Internal Medicine*, said, "It's important that all  
13 society recognize that gender development is not  
14 always clear cut. The only appropriate way to  
15 assign these people one or the other sex is to  
16 allow them to choose for themselves."

17 Dr. Wilson did not mean choose literally.  
18 Gender needs to be left to us because only we can  
19 know what is inside us. That something inside  
20 each of us relentlessly drives us, compels us to  
21 achieve our true inner sex, at least some of the  
22 time.

23 A born girl related what she told her  
24 parents when she was young and it speaks well for  
25 all transgendered people. Mom, Dad, there's a

1 man inside me. That man or woman inside us will  
2 not leave and will not stay buried. I was able  
3 to quit smoking in spite of a nicotine addiction  
4 and a habit repeated over 50 times per day, seven  
5 days per week for over five decades. That habit,  
6 reinforced with a million repetitions, was within  
7 my power to stop. But expressing my true gender  
8 was impossible to contain.  
9

10 I fought her for almost eight decades -  
11 sh, don't tell anyone. I fought her for almost  
12 eight decades and always that lost, that woman  
13 inside always won. I could only sneak and hide  
14 her from everyone. Is it God, nature, both or  
15 something else?

16 I tried but I haven't been able to figure  
17 it out, just as I can't figure out your  
18 opposition to transgender equality. Do you deny  
19 me equality because you think I'm immoral, have  
20 sexual motives, criminal intent? I sincerely  
21 hope it's one of those bad things because if it's  
22 politics it would make me feel very sad, sad to  
23 think that politics can point people away from  
24 the American spirit, equal justice for all.

25 I only ask protection from unfair

2 discrimination. Treat transgender people like  
3 people, equally, just like everyone else.

4 Clarify the meaning of gender as the law's  
5 authors intended and what this body believed was  
6 true when you voted for the present law.

7 CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have  
8 expired.

9 MS. BORDEN: Pass the Gender  
10 Clarification Law now.

11 Thank you for listening.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,  
13 Joanne.

14 Legislator Jacobs.

15 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Joanne, it's very  
16 important to me -- I listened very intently ever  
17 since you came here. As I told you, I take the  
18 law we passed for human rights protection very  
19 seriously and I certainly thought that we had  
20 covered everything that we should have covered.

21 Obviously, and I believe you, and we've  
22 certainly looked it up, that the City,  
23 Westchester, Suffolk has a line in their law that  
24 is more inclusive than even what we thought we  
25 had passed. And we really -- I can't speak for

2 all 19 of us right now because there are some new  
3 people that joined the legislature since the  
4 Human Rights Bill, which we were all very, very  
5 proud of, originally passed this legislature.

6 But I'd like to read the line. I have  
7 already filed my Bill. I guess Cay isn't here  
8 right now. We've already filed this a few times.  
9 I just recently filed it and sent a copy to every  
10 member of this legislature. So I'm very hopeful  
11 that once I have a chance to talk to the  
12 presiding officer, you will see this come up.  
13 This is all it says.

14 It says, "The intent of this Legislature  
15 is to clarify the original intent of this  
16 Legislature by amending the Nassau County Human  
17 Rights Law definition section to guarantee to all  
18 persons in Nassau County equal and effective  
19 protection against discrimination to all  
20 persons." And to tell you the truth, that is all  
21 we ever wanted when we passed it. And this gives  
22 an explanation of what gender is without going  
23 into a total long, drawn out, four paragraph  
24 explanation. This is what New York City has.  
25 This is what Westchester has. This is what

2 Suffolk has. This is what most people have in  
3 their human rights bill that have bodies such as  
4 this that decided to adopt something that was  
5 fair to all. It seems so innocuous to me and yet  
6 I know it's very powerful to you. And I'm  
7 sincerely hopeful that you will see this.

8 Just as the original bill was supported  
9 19 to nothing, I am still hopeful that you'll see  
10 this passed 19 to nothing. And I would urge this  
11 legislature to put it through committee as  
12 quickly as possible.

13 So I just want you to know, hopefully  
14 it's on its way.

15 MS. BORDEN: Thank you very much.

16 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Okay.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,  
18 Legislator Jacobs.

19 Arlene O'Dell.

20 MS O'DELL: Good afternoon. My name is  
21 Arlene O'Dell, and I am the executive director of  
22 the Glen Cove Youth Bureau and a member of the  
23 Nassau County Coalition of Youth Service  
24 Agencies. I'm here today to say thank you for  
25 the 65 percent of youth services funding that we

2 got but we really need 100 percent to be  
3 restored.

4 Summer is coming and many Nassau County  
5 youth service agency programs are in jeopardy.  
6 We are hoping that 35 percent of funding will be  
7 restored to contract agencies so we can plan  
8 accordingly for the summer.

9 I hope you all had a nice weekend.  
10 Unfortunately, I spent my Saturday at a wake, a  
11 wake for a 13 year old girl who resided in Glen  
12 Cove and who took her life on April 16. We  
13 cannot afford to lose any more children. If we  
14 value our youth, we need full funding to help  
15 reach youth and families living in our county.  
16 One hundred percent of funding is essential for  
17 us to do our jobs 100 percent.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Pat Boyle.

20 MR. BOYLE: Hi. My name is Pat Boyle  
21 from Gateway Youth Outreach in Elmont and also  
22 from the Coalition of Youth Service Agencies. I  
23 want to reiterate what Arlene said before.

24 We are appreciative of the 65 percent  
25 that people worked hard to be able to get back to

2 us, and we really are appreciative of that  
3 because we were able to open some of our programs  
4 and make some of the things work that we do.

5 I was listening to the Intel finalists.  
6 Obviously these kids are unbelievably smart, a  
7 lot smarter even in their design of what they  
8 want to do than what I ever was as a high school  
9 senior, that's for sure. I never thought about  
10 how big your teeth were and how it would affect  
11 women. At the same time -- if I did, I would  
12 have got caps. The bottom line with all of it is  
13 that they are thinking about things that most of  
14 us could never even really think about, and I  
15 think that's what happens to our youth service  
16 agencies as well, too.

17 When Arlene came up here and just told  
18 you how she spent her weekend, we never think  
19 that that's the way that we're going to spend our  
20 weekend. We never want it to be the way that  
21 we're going to spend our weekend. But if we  
22 could have been there just a little bit more, and  
23 that's what we always feel as social workers, as  
24 people who work in these areas. We always feel  
25 as though if we had had the opportunity to do

1 just that little bit more, this wouldn't have  
2 happened.

3  
4 If I was just there, if I had said the  
5 right thing to that kid this might not have  
6 happened; that goes through my head over, and  
7 over, and over again.

8 We stopped at the beginning today to talk  
9 about -- not to talk about, to take a moment of  
10 silence for the youth people who were killed in  
11 Boston. They were young people, from eight and  
12 there was a 26 year old. Those are the kind of  
13 things that were kind of a bit out of our  
14 control. I didn't sit there and say what could I  
15 have done to make that different? But I did  
16 think to myself for a short second that if I knew  
17 that there was somebody in Elmont or a  
18 neighborhood like that who was like that 19 year  
19 old who seemed so hateful, so confused, and not  
20 able to make rational decisions, what if I was  
21 there? What if I could have said something to  
22 that kid?

23 Unfortunately, I'm only one person. If I  
24 could have more people working with me who could  
25 do those kinds of things, maybe that other person

2 could have said the right thing to somebody.  
3 Maybe something could have happened. Maybe I  
4 could have been in that 35 percent which, when  
5 you think about it, it's 35 percent more funding,  
6 it's probably only about \$1.2 million right now.  
7 Sales tax revenues are up. We're hearing about  
8 at the end of last year that there was a surplus  
9 in the budget, all these kinds of things.

10 Just one more point. The parents are  
11 coming to me now about summer and they're asking  
12 me whether or not we're going to have a program,  
13 and I have to make a decision now whether or not  
14 to have a summer program or whether to keep the  
15 money and have something that's going to come  
16 back again in September, not really counting on  
17 that 35 percent that we hope is going to come  
18 back, or a portion of it. And I'm kind of being  
19 bullied by the parents; that was another Intel  
20 thing. I don't think that parents see the  
21 empathy for what I'm trying to be able to do  
22 sometimes. They're kind of bullying me a little  
23 bit to get things done, to get them the summer  
24 programs that we need. \$60,000 is what it costs  
25 and that's just about the 35 percent that you

would be giving me that I would need.

Now, people know I'm going out hustling for money everywhere I possibly can. I'm going to run a summer program whether it's with ten kids or 250 kids.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired.

MR. BOYLE: I appreciate it.

The bottom line is, really, please help us. We'll do what we can to make it work. And you might be the one, just by working through me, that saves that one kid.

Thanks.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Pat.

Jamie Bogenshutz.

MS. BOGENSHUTZ: Good afternoon. My name is Jamie Bogenshutz. I am the executive director of YES Community Counseling Center, serving the communities of Massapequa, Plainedge, Farmingdale, Levittown, and Island Trees.

When we walk in here each day we have in our heads what we know is going to be our agenda and what we need to talk to you about. But I didn't have anything prepared when I walked

1 through the doors, and so I figured I would just  
2 let things happen. And so I watched all the  
3 points of personal privilege, and the first  
4 thought that I had was like, wow, here are these  
5 eight year olds and they come up here and they're  
6 so pumped and they're smiling, so proud of their  
7 accomplishments. I'm thinking what a great  
8 thing. It's such a great moment. Then, of  
9 course, being the social worker that I am and  
10 doing what I've been doing for over 35 years my  
11 next thought is so how many of these kids, when  
12 they get to middle school, because we know middle  
13 school is when it all starts to happen, how many  
14 of these kids are going to get disconnected from  
15 sports, they're going to get disconnected from  
16 their families, they're going to start drinking,  
17 they're going to start drugging, and they're  
18 going to start getting involved in a lot of at-  
19 risk behaviors. I say, okay, let's just lose  
20 that thought for a moment, let me just keep  
21 moving on and watch the good stuff that's  
22 happening in the room.

24 Then I watched all these great basketball  
25 players come up here and I'm thinking great kids,

1 wonderful accomplishments. They feel so good  
2 about who they are and what they have done in  
3 their community, for their families, for  
4 themselves, and how so many of them are going off  
5 to college. Then, of course, there goes that  
6 social worker voice inside of me that says  
7 college; leading cause of death for college  
8 students: suicide. Then I think how many kids  
9 over the years, how many hands have we held of  
10 kids who have lost their friends to suicide? You  
11 heard Arlene mention before that the young girl  
12 who died in Glen Cove, and it took me right back  
13 to two weeks ago when we were sitting and dealing  
14 with the fact that we had a 48 year old father  
15 kill himself. Okay.

17           Then I kept saying, all right, let me  
18 just keep paying attention before I'm still not  
19 sure what I'm going to say, and then here comes  
20 this wonderfully brilliant little boy up here and  
21 starts talking about bullying. I'm thinking,  
22 yep, empathy. Empathy is the cornerstone; it's  
23 the foundation of all the prevention work that we  
24 do, starting with little ones when they walk into  
25 elementary school. That's what we do. That's

1 what we teach. That's what we teach our social  
2 workers and teachers to teach. We try to teach  
3 that to parents, and sometimes we're successful  
4 and many times we're not. And when we're not  
5 successful, that's when our waiting -- when the  
6 wait for services gets longer and longer. We get  
7 more and more people who come to us and who are  
8 asking for help.

10           Then I think cloud cover, cloud cover.  
11 How long does a service agency exist under four  
12 years of cloud cover and what does that look like  
13 for us? So, four years of cloud cover, we are  
14 now 35 percent down in our funding. Imaging what  
15 that does to our ability to hit a ball. We can't  
16 hit the ball. We can't do the work that we're  
17 supposed to do. We can't help the kids and  
18 families that we are supposed to help, and so we  
19 got to turn to you again, and again, and again.

20           I'm going to say in closing, I know  
21 you've heard this lots of times, we need both  
22 sides to work together to help us. We have had  
23 our heads smacked this past few years. We have  
24 been reeling in increased issues, from suicide to  
25 drug use, to child abuse, to sexual abuse, to

2 trauma, to hurricanes, and the list goes on, and  
3 on, and on, and on.

4 Without this 35 percent you are keeping  
5 us in permanent cloud cover. We're going to be  
6 limited when you need us, and you have needed us.  
7 We're not going to be able to do what we know we  
8 can do because you are really not giving us all  
9 the strength that we need.

10 I'm begging all of you, please. I know  
11 some of you have really been amazing champions  
12 for us and for youth services. Please get back  
13 to discussion. If there is anything we can do to  
14 help to move the word forward. Please start  
15 talking again. We've got to get this 35 percent  
16 back. We have to keep our kids as strong and  
17 healthy as we can because they're going to be  
18 sitting up here one day and we're all going to be  
19 gone, we're all going to be retired and chances  
20 are we're going to be retired far away from here  
21 because we're not going to be able to afford to  
22 live here. I'm just begging you. Please,  
23 whatever you have to do --

24 CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have  
25 expired.

2 MS. BOGENSCHUTZ: that's easy. I was  
3 just ending.

4 Find us that 35 percent, please. Thank  
5 you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Jamie.

7 We have exceeded more than a half an hour  
8 of public comment. I believe it's closer to 45  
9 minutes. I'm going to beg your indulgence.  
10 We're going to suspend public comment until after  
11 the Full Leg, which should not take that long  
12 because most of the items on the calendar have  
13 already been unanimously approved through  
14 committee.

15 Please bear with us. Those of you who  
16 still want to speak, we will get to you before  
17 the Rules Committee.

18 With the permission of the Minority  
19 Leader, Kevan Abrahams, we agreed to call the  
20 appointment firsts.

21 Items 33 and 34 are for the same  
22 individual, and that is for Dr. Gardyn as a  
23 member of the Nassau Community College Board of  
24 Trustees. It's a reappointment. And of course  
25 the other one which is related is to confirm the

2 county executive's reappointment of Dr. Gardyn to  
3 the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees.

4 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Motion so made.

5 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion by  
7 Legislator Dunne and seconded by Legislator  
8 Walker.

9 I know Dr. Gardyn is here. You may want  
10 to come up and say a few words, please feel free  
11 to do so.

12 DR. GARDYN: Ladies and gentlemen of the  
13 Leg, it has been my honor and privilege to serve  
14 on the Nassau Community College Board for the  
15 last two years. Having dealt with safety data  
16 institutions at Nassau County Medical Center, I  
17 want you to know that Nassau Community College is  
18 one of the gems that the county has that provides  
19 a springboard for a lot of our young people to be  
20 able to make a successful career, to be able to  
21 use the education process to further their goals  
22 and aspirations and to become useful citizens for  
23 Nassau County.

24 I am very pleased to know that the Board  
25 and the Leg has always been very, very supportive

1 of the College. The College Board is very  
2 enthusiastic to be able to continue in its work.

3  
4 Again, I just want to thank you for this  
5 privilege of allowing me to serve.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions of  
7 Dr. Gardyn? Legislator Bosworth.

8 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: It's not a  
9 question. I just want to say it's so nice to see  
10 you. I know we've done health fairs, and you've  
11 always been such a great proponent of making sure  
12 that our residents are well protected with flu  
13 shots and things of that nature. And I know that  
14 the commitment that I saw you bring to that is  
15 what you are bringing and will continue to bring  
16 to the College Board. It's nice to see that this  
17 is going to continue.

18 DR. GARDYN: Thank you very much, Judi.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
20 Denenberg.

21 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Yeah. Dr.  
22 Gardyn, I just wanted to let everyone know, if  
23 they don't already, how much you've done for the  
24 Firefighters Museum and that board in terms of  
25 fundraising as well as organizational work. If

2 that's an indication of what you've been doing at  
3 the College or could do at the College in terms  
4 of financial wherewithal and your ability to get  
5 people involved and raise money, it's a  
6 tremendous tribute.

7 Thank you again for your service.

8 DR. GARDYN: Thank you, Dave.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any - Legislator  
10 Jacobs.

11 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Dr. Gardyn, first, I  
12 want to congratulate you --

13 DR. GARDYN: Thank you, Judy.

14 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: and tell you that  
15 you know that I've -- I feel like I adopted the  
16 College way before I ever became a legislator but  
17 certainly since I'm a legislator. I am always  
18 blown away by your having your priorities  
19 straight. We can go on and on and talk about  
20 everything the College has done, but I know the  
21 Board has so much to do with what happens in that  
22 College.

23 Even what you did during Sandy -  
24 Legislator Abrahams and I walked through your --  
25 what you set up there for the people immediately

1 following the tragedy that happened to all of  
2 them. I just could not believe the amount of  
3 compassion, caring, and willingness to play such  
4 an important role.  
5

6 And to not embarrass you completely, I  
7 think it's wonderful that the College again is  
8 going to be involved with the prom dress program,  
9 which I have visited whenever it's held. I don't  
10 know how many people know this, but you've  
11 allowed so many young ladies, who otherwise would  
12 not have the opportunity to go to their prom due  
13 to the crazy costs, giving them shoes and  
14 dresses, all donated by people who want to be  
15 anonymous, and create a feeling for these girls.  
16 I know what you have there -- cosmetics, hair  
17 dressers, and so many different things to make  
18 them feel so much a part of what they should be  
19 feeling at that point in their lives.

20 In addition to that, you do teach them a  
21 lot and many of them I know go on to higher and  
22 wonderful four year college. I'm always in awe  
23 of this College. I think the day we forget what  
24 a jewel that is in our crown, we should be  
25 ashamed of ourselves. As long as we keep people

on it who are focused and prioritize the way they should, we are enriched for it.

Thank you. Good luck.

DR. GARDYN: Thank you. Again, just one last thing. It's the students that come first, but you have the fabulous faculty there, you have a wonderful administration all working together. They all need applause and backing. We are so grateful for the legislature for always watching out for us.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We have -- Legislator Becker would like to say a few words.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: Doctor, I think you and I have only met really once. I know so much more about you from all the things that you've involved in. You are a true humanitarian. You truly put people first in your life. And it is an amazing thing to see a person like yourself as successful as you are, a doctor, as busy as you are, to do so much for others and to really take the time to be involved in not only just the Community College but the Firefighters Museum and everything else you're involved in. You're

2 really a blessing to each and every one of us and  
3 a blessing to Nassau County, to give the way you  
4 do. I personally want to thank you. And I know  
5 I speak for -- I know a lot of democrats have  
6 said nice things about you, but I wanted you to  
7 know that the republicans feel as equally  
8 affectionate towards you.

9 Thank you so much for all you do.

10 DR. GARDYN: Thank you, Fran.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Dunne.

12 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Back in 1988, Doc,  
13 you stitched up my son's eye in a Locust Valley  
14 wrestling tournament; he was bleeding profusely  
15 and you took care of him. Then I'm on a golf  
16 course with Friends of Long Island Wrestling,  
17 which is a beautiful organization supporting  
18 wrestling throughout all of Long Island, and you  
19 end up being my golf partner, some four years  
20 ago. Then just this year on Super Bowl Sunday my  
21 mom breaks her hip, and who do I call and who  
22 responds immediately? Yourself.

23 You've been all over the place and doing  
24 so many wonderful things that I don't think there  
25 should be a person here who is going to vote

2 against you. Keep up the good work. God bless  
3 you.

4 DR. GARDYN: Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Dr.  
6 Gardyn.

7 All those in favor of the appointment?  
8 Go ahead. Legislator Troiano.

9 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Is your last name  
10 pronounced Gardyn?

11 DR. GARDYN: Gardyn, just like a rose  
12 garden, very easy.

13 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Thank you. It's  
14 been a virtual love fest here. I don't know you  
15 yet so I can't add to that. But I'm sure it's  
16 all true.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It is true.

18 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: But I do want to  
19 add one -- just ask you to, as your role on the  
20 board, just look closely at the selection process  
21 going on now for a new president. And you may  
22 have read newspaper articles about there being  
23 allegations that there's a lack of sufficient  
24 diversity being considered in the process; I'm  
25 not taking sides on that. But I would just ask

2 in your role as a board member to give due  
3 consideration to that and at least you hear what  
4 one side is saying and that you reflect your  
5 thoughts into the selection committee.

6 DR. GARDYN: Will do. Thank you so  
7 much.

8 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any public  
10 comment?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 There being none, all those in favor of  
13 the reappointment and the appointment of Dr.  
14 Gardyn signify by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 Any opposed?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 The items pass unanimously, as expected.  
19 Congratulations, again.

20 DR. GARDYN: Thank you so much.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Item 35, which is  
22 Resolution 73, is a resolution to confirm the  
23 county executive's appointment of Jamie VanDyke  
24 to the Soil and Water Conservation District  
25 Board, pursuant to Section 6 of the New York

2 Water Conservation District Law.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion by  
5 Legislator Nicolello. Seconded by?

6 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Kopel.  
8 Where is Jamie? I happen to know Jamie,  
9 we've met before.

10 MS. VAN DYKE: Hello. Thank you. I'm  
11 so honored that my appointment is finally coming  
12 forward. I've been involved in the environmental  
13 movement for many years on Long Island. I grew  
14 up in Oyster Bay/East Norwich area. In the last  
15 three years I've taken more of a leading role in  
16 the conversation district, at the guidance of  
17 Supervisor John Venditto. I don't know if it's a  
18 coincidence or if you purposely scheduled it  
19 today, but today happens to be Earth Day. So I  
20 want to thank you for recommitting to the  
21 conservation district and bringing this to the  
22 forefront on Earth Day.

23 The Conservation District has been going  
24 through a number of changes the last few years,  
25 and I've been working tirelessly to try and help

2 the district move forward, its platform.

3 I left a work plan for 2013 up in the  
4 front here, as well as my contact information.  
5 You can see it's nine pages long, so I'm not  
6 going to go through it here.

7 The Conservation District -- if there is  
8 anything that comes across your desk that deals  
9 with the environment, please keep the  
10 Conservation District in mind. There are a  
11 number of board members -- actually there are a  
12 number of volunteers who are here today. The  
13 District is connected with just about every  
14 environmental organization on Long Island, and  
15 it's helping move the environmental movement  
16 along.

17 If I could also just maybe point out a  
18 few things that we're doing right now, one in  
19 relation to storm water.

20 The Conservation District has a  
21 partnership with the County where we manage your  
22 storm water requirements relating to education,  
23 to schools, to the public. We go to fairs and  
24 represent you. I'd like to highlight trees and  
25 plants. Post-Sandy, we held the first

2 Conservation plant sale this past weekend over at  
3 our headquarters in Jericho at Historic Malcolm  
4 House by the Maine Maid Inn. I'm proud to say  
5 that with the county executive just sending out  
6 one press release -- we didn't know how it was  
7 going to go so we didn't have a full publicity  
8 campaign, but we sold nearly 11,000 plants,  
9 trees, and shrubs.

10 Also, I'd like to point out open space.  
11 If you have any issues with any open space, any  
12 gardens, we do get money from the state to build  
13 gardens. The gardens, though, do have to have an  
14 ecology purpose and an environmentally friendly  
15 purpose. So we can build pretty gardens in the  
16 downtowns and also educate the public on how to  
17 make their gardens more eco friendly.

18 Also, with open space planning there are  
19 a number of preserves where we've done management  
20 plans for invasive species and planting more  
21 native plants.

22 I'd also like to point out education. In  
23 addition to representing the county and going to  
24 a number of fairs and festivals for you, we also  
25 host the annual Long Island Regional Buyer-Thon.

2 I know a number of you attend that every year.  
3 This year it happens to be in Nassau County. It  
4 rotates back and forth between Nassau and  
5 Suffolk. It's actually going to be April 30,  
6 next week, over at Old Bethpage Village. I  
7 encourage all of you to attend.

8 Again, thank you. It's a privilege.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Jamie, I  
10 understand you work closely with Cornell  
11 Cooperative Extension, correct?

12 MS. VAN DYKE: Yes. Which I know is  
13 your baby.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That's right.  
15 And I know that I came to one of your workshops  
16 not too long ago. Cornell was there and I was  
17 hoping that they were there so that they could  
18 avail themselves of your program. So thank you,  
19 Jamie. That's why I said I knew who you were.

20 MS. VAN DYKE: I know a number of you  
21 personally, and I've gotten to know you more and  
22 more in the last few years. I've left my contact  
23 information, especially for some of the new  
24 legislators. I'd hope to be able to have a  
25 meeting with you over the next few weeks.

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Great. Thank  
3 you, Jamie.

4 Legislator Jacobs.

5 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Jamie, hi. I, too,  
6 know you very well, and I am very aware of the  
7 work you've done. I know how much you were  
8 concerned about open space, as we were. As a  
9 body here, republicans and democrats, and as  
10 residents out there embraced and supported the  
11 preservation that went on, you've been wonderful.  
12 I look forward to working with you for years to  
13 come.

14 MS. VAN DYKE: Thank you.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Ford.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: Good afternoon. Thank  
17 you very much for a lot of the efforts that  
18 you're doing. This is just something that you're  
19 talking about.

20 The plants -- I live on the Long Beach  
21 barrier island. Most of us, if not all of us,  
22 have lost our shrubbery and flowers and stuff due  
23 to the storm, which was rather startling for so  
24 many. We never thought that the ocean would kill  
25 as many plants and trees as it has.

2 Unfortunately, I'm going to have to say goodbye  
3 to a 50 year old tree that I have in my yard. My  
4 son's call it the tree of life, but not anymore.

5 When you talk about conservation and the  
6 different type of plants, as you know, we are  
7 going to be rebuilding our dunes; do you work  
8 with that, say, with the Army Corps as to what  
9 might be? I'm just coming out of left field on  
10 this. I'm coming out of the dark. Do you know  
11 if there is any type of plant or shrubbery that  
12 would be best to be planted along the beach to  
13 hold onto the sand and make the dune more  
14 durable?

15 MS. VAN DYKE: We most certainly can  
16 help come up with a management plan, a list of  
17 plants that should be planted. One that just  
18 jumps out at me, I'm sure a number of you are  
19 aware of, the Town of Oyster Bay's Dune Day  
20 planting, that's American Beach grass which we  
21 plant. It grows down horizontally so it helps  
22 hold the sand together.

23 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. I'm going to be  
24 in touch with you.

25 Thank you very much.

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other  
3 legislator? Legislator Walker.

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you,  
5 Legislator Gonsalves.

6 I've had the pleasure to work with Jamie  
7 when I was over in the Town of Oyster Bay. Then  
8 I was very lucky that when Jamie got married, she  
9 bought her home in my community, in my Hicksville  
10 community. I really do look forward to us  
11 working together. Even with a lot of the  
12 plantings that we'll have to do now, tree  
13 plantings and so on and so forth, after Sandy to  
14 make sure that we plant the right trees even  
15 within our neighborhoods. I, too, will be  
16 reaching out to you for advice in that.

17 I thank you very much. Good luck with  
18 everything.

19 MS. VAN DYKE: Thank you.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
21 DeRiggi-Whitton.

22 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Hi. How  
23 are you?

24 MS. VAN DYKE: Good. How are you?

25 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I haven't

1 worked with you directly yet and I would like to  
2 be in contact with you shortly.

3  
4 I was wondering have you had any input  
5 into such things as like the preserves that have  
6 been damaged during Sandy? We've received a  
7 couple of e-mails recently from the Nature  
8 Conservatives just stating that even just from  
9 some of the trucks that were put in, they  
10 basically cleared some of the ground that would  
11 give an opportunity for this invasive type plant  
12 to occur.

13 MS. VAN DYKE: We'd love to come out and  
14 take a look if there is a specific preserve.  
15 There's a number of people -- we have a lot of  
16 mutual connections, who have looked at some of  
17 these preserves already, some of our volunteers.  
18 We also even have the Nature Conservancy  
19 volunteer at our plant sale over at Malcolm House  
20 this past weekend, so it did come up in  
21 discussions a little bit.

22 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: There's  
23 also a major concern of a tree that was cut down  
24 that's remaining in a stream. I've been told by  
25 so many people that that is a major contamination

factor, not only for the ground but for the water that it, you know, flows through it.

My final question is are you aware of the fact that \$3 million has been allotted for replacement of trees on Long Island in Nassau County?

MS. VAN DYKE: We have -- I know that our staff has sent e-mails and maybe made a few phone calls to the Parks Department and DPW. I think Parks is handling the contract --

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Have they reached out to you for your suggestion?

MS. VAN DYKE: They have. They have. Actually, the county did buy some plants at the plant sale this past weekend.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Are you -- I would request, since we have you on our staff and you are the experts in this area that you play a major role in determining what type of trees go where.

MS. VAN DYKE: We'd love to.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: All right. That would be a major request of mine.

Thank you.

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
3 Denenberg.

4 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: The Soil  
5 Conservation District, the funding and your  
6 budget, what is that now?

7 MS. VAN DYKE: Actually, we're up to  
8 about \$81,000 from the county. The match from  
9 the state is 50 percent back. It is a public-  
10 private partnership, so we also do get money from  
11 other sources, including grants. I can tell you  
12 that the state believes so much, especially the  
13 governor, and there's a lot of push with farming  
14 upstate. There is a big push with the  
15 conservation districts.

16 If you take a look at the environmental  
17 protection fund, the only line that received  
18 increased funding in the budget this year  
19 happened to be for conservation districts; every  
20 county has one.

21 The base funding with the state has been  
22 moved up to \$120,000 this year. So the state  
23 will give back \$60,000.

24 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Let me just get  
25 back to my question. The budget for Nassau

2 County Soil and Water Conservation District is?

3 MS. VAN DYKE: Currently about 81,000  
4 and change from the county.

5 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: So the County  
6 gives 81,000, and the state matches half of that?

7 MS. VAN DYKE: Yes. And we also do have  
8 --

9 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: And you say that  
10 that's up. I seem to recall it was -- wasn't it  
11 300,000 just a few years ago or 250,000,  
12 something like that?

13 MS. VAN DYKE: We've depleted a lot our  
14 resources, a lot of our savings which was off.  
15 You need to have money in the bank in order to  
16 receive some grants because you have to spend the  
17 money first before you get reimbursed.

18 With meeting with the county executive  
19 and I think this also having me be appointed  
20 today is showing the recommitment to the  
21 Conservation District and its funding.

22 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Right now it's  
23 81,000?

24 MS. VAN DYKE: Yes.

25 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: What were we --

2 what was it two or three years ago?

3 MS. VAN DYKE: It was a little over  
4 100,000. But we did have money in savings, so we  
5 were asked to use up some of our savings in the  
6 last few years.

7 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Over the years I  
8 know -- I've met you quite a few times. It's  
9 interesting what we can do with that money when  
10 the district is operating and clicking. It's a  
11 good resource.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. VAN DYKE: I can also tell you, if  
14 you look at conservation districts throughout the  
15 rest of the state, they tend to have three to  
16 five people on staff. Because depleting our  
17 budget the last few years, we're down to one  
18 staff member and we're burning out our  
19 volunteers. I can also say that if there is any  
20 type of environmental grant that comes across  
21 your desk and you need a partner, the  
22 Conservation District is highly recognized by  
23 anyone administering the grants at the federal or  
24 state level, so that will help add some weight to  
25 the grants.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Very good to know.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much, Jamie.

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor of the appointment of Jamie to the Soil and Water Conservation District signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

Congratulations to you, Jamie.

MS. VAN DYKE: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We have two appointments to the Long Island Regional Planning Council, the first of which is John D. Cameron, Jr. It's a reappointment by the county executive. And I believe we have the other one, who is Richard Guardino, who also is a reappointment to the county executive's -- to the Long Island Regional Planning Council. Both of you may come up at the same time if you like.

2 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
4 Legislator Dunne on these two items --

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: seconded by  
7 Legislator Kopel.

8 Welcome. And we all know you, John. So  
9 you can say a few words to us too.

10 MR. CAMERON: I'll be brief. And I'm  
11 joined by my partner in crime here, Rich  
12 Guardino, who is a fellow executive board member  
13 with the Regional Planning Council. Rich and I  
14 have been serving together for in excess of five  
15 years on the Regional Planning Council.

16 I think you all know we believe we do  
17 some very important work here, not only  
18 representing Nassau County but on issues  
19 affecting a quality of life here on Long Island  
20 as well as our economic vitality and pursuing  
21 some challenges that we all face here on the  
22 Island for long term sustainability.

23 Both Rich and I are very passionate about  
24 the Council. As you know, it's been challenging  
25 over a number of years with the fiscal

2 constraints we've had. One thing I think that  
3 Sandy has illustrated to all of us is how  
4 important it is for us to work collaboratively  
5 here on the Island and to start thinking as a  
6 region rather than parochially, as Long Island  
7 tends to specialize I think in doing.

8 It's an important body of work. We are  
9 both, as I mentioned, very committed to it. We  
10 put a lot of time into it, a lot of personal pro  
11 bono time. It's an honor for us to do that.

12 We love Long Island, and to the extent  
13 that we can help to address many of our  
14 challenges in conjunction with the legislature  
15 and our fellow elected officials and appointed  
16 officials, we will continue to do that.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And we know you,  
18 too, Mr. Guardino, a long time.

19 MR. GUARDINO: Yes. It's good to see  
20 you all. Thank you very much for this  
21 opportunity. It's really a privilege to serve on  
22 this board.

23 As you're all well aware, we compete in a  
24 global economy, and I think the Long Island  
25 Regional Planning Council is a great voice for

1 the entire region on Long Island. I'd just like  
2 to take this opportunity to say a few words about  
3 John as the Chairman.  
4

5 He dedicates a tremendous amount of his  
6 professional time to the board. Being a member  
7 is one thing, but serving as the chair, he has a  
8 lot of responsibility: setting the agenda for  
9 our meetings, being the spokesperson for the  
10 Council, and he just does an excellent job. So I  
11 wanted to take this opportunity to recognize him.

12 Again, thank you all for this  
13 opportunity.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions of  
15 either Mr. Cameron or Mr. Guardino? Legislator  
16 Denenberg.

17 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: I read something  
18 just about you, John, in particular, which really  
19 shows -- it was signing your accolades as not  
20 just being a leader here in Nassau County but  
21 throughout the region and one of the foremost  
22 practical environmentalists and engineers. You  
23 really understand that good business and a good  
24 way to expand business here is not just pro-  
25 business but pro-environmental and pro-planning,

2 and that you could do it all well together. I  
3 really think your leadership is essential, it has  
4 been, and will continue to be.

5 Thanks for donating so much of your time.  
6 You really don't get anything in return for this.

7 MR. CAMERON: My personal satisfaction.

8 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Really? Okay.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

10 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: As well to Mr.  
11 Guardino. Thanks.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
13 Becker.

14 LEGISLATOR BECKER: I know both of you  
15 gentlemen personally. And I want to thank you on  
16 behalf of Nassau County and all of Long Island  
17 for giving of yourselves and your time and  
18 expertise for the betterment of our County and  
19 Island.

20 Mr. Cameron, we're friends and I know  
21 your professionalism is second to none. As my  
22 colleague Legislator Denenberg said, having your  
23 expertise and your advice on that board is  
24 imperative and really of great value.

25 Mr. Guardino, you served as an important

2 elected official in this County, you're involved  
3 over at Hofstra College. Your participation,  
4 your involvement, you're willing to volunteer in  
5 the way that you do is just incredible.

6 Obviously, you've always had Long Island and  
7 Nassau County, in particular, and the Town of  
8 Hempstead at heart. We really appreciate your  
9 involvement and service as well.

10 MR. GUARDINO: Thank you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other  
12 legislator? Legislator Jacobs.

13 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: First place, I want  
14 to take credit to some degree for John Cameron  
15 because his firm is a neighbor of mine. I know  
16 that he sets a very good representation for all  
17 the buildings around him, so I appreciate that.

18 And I appreciate both of you, the work  
19 that you do, because it's so important, as you  
20 both said, to work regionally right now and not  
21 to allow nimbyism to get involved more than it  
22 should. Everyone has a right to suggest changes  
23 to things that might be proposed. The important  
24 thing is to realize how much the region needs the  
25 proper kind of growth to help economically as

well as environmentally and to grow together.

Appreciate having both of you on.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other legislator?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor of the appointments of John Cameron and Richard Guardino -- reappointment, I should say, to the Long Island Regional Council signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The items pass unanimously.

Congratulations.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

MR. GUARDINO: Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That's the appointments and reappointments. Now we can go to the consent calendar, and then there are a few items that we will call separately.

The consent calendar includes Item 1, 2,

5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31, 32, 38, 39, 40, 41, and I believe that's it. And Item 42.

If you recall, at the beginning of the legislative calendar session I did say that the items that would be called in block were items that passed committees unanimously.

Motion for these items, please?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

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

Any questions on any of these items?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor of these items signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

These items pass unanimously.

Now we go to what we call the non-consent calendar.

2 We're going to go to Item 29, Resolution  
3 67, a resolution authorizing the county executive  
4 to execute a grant agreement between the County  
5 of Nassau, acting on behalf of the Department of  
6 Parks, Recreation, and Museums, and Chamber  
7 Players International.

8 Motion, please?

9 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

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

13 Who do we have here?

14 MR. MAY: We have Ms. Eileen Krieb from  
15 the Parks Department.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.

17 MS. KRIEB: Good afternoon. Eileen  
18 Krieb from the Parks Department.

19 This is a grant funded through the  
20 hotel/motel for \$25,000 to the Chambers to  
21 perform concerts and educational programs during  
22 the summer season and throughout the rest of the  
23 fall for the parks and Nassau County.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions?  
25 Legislator Bosworth.

2 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Hi. Good  
3 afternoon. How are you?

4 MS. KRIEB: Good.

5 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: So this is  
6 becoming a recurring request. I'd just like to  
7 know if we could see the county attorney's  
8 opinion on the role of the advisory committee. I  
9 asked for it several times and have never  
10 received a copy of it.

11 MS. KRIEB: I reached out to the county  
12 attorney's office this morning. I think a final  
13 draft has been submitted and it's being edited  
14 right now, so we expect to receive their opinion  
15 soon.

16 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: But this was  
17 something that we've been told -- he had ventured  
18 this opinion many, many, many months ago, if not  
19 years ago, 2010. I'm a little confused as to why  
20 it's being edited now, especially since I've been  
21 asking for -- this is not the first time I'm  
22 asking for it, as you know.

23 MS. KRIEB: I realize that. The  
24 commissioner has asked for it and that's the  
25 response we got, that it's been drafted and we

2 should expect to receive it soon.

3 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Thank you for your  
4 response. I know that you're responding in the  
5 only way you can. But I just want to register  
6 some shock that where we've been told that this  
7 opinion has been rendered that it's just first  
8 being edited and going to be made ready for us to  
9 see.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. KRIEB: Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes. Legislator  
13 Denenberg.

14 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: You know, Ms.  
15 Krieb, I have joined on several occasions with  
16 Judi Bosworth, and this goes back to committee  
17 hearings or meetings on items back in 2010, where  
18 I'd been questioned about meetings where  
19 historical societies were finally going to  
20 receive some money and people question when those  
21 were hearings of the board, you know, the  
22 advisory board actually met to decide where the  
23 money went. In the last three years it hasn't  
24 met at all, not even once, based on an opinion of  
25 counsel that it only has to meet when it's with

1 respect to Old Bethpage Village Restoration and  
2 then perhaps only for capital projects. But I  
3 think it's incumbent upon all of us to know where  
4 this money is going and why it's being chosen for  
5 certain projects and not others. All of us are  
6 going to, I assume, vote for the Chamber Players  
7 and this contract.  
8

9           But over the years, being accused of  
10 money going to historical societies, which I  
11 think was totally appropriate, and happened at  
12 advisory committee meetings, advisory board  
13 meetings in public, to find out we haven't had a  
14 meeting now in three years, and this is based on  
15 an opinion -- I'll join with Legislator Bosworth.  
16 I think she was nicely saying we were told that  
17 opinion existed already. We were told that  
18 opinion existed in 2010. To find out it's first  
19 being created and revised now is, you know, it's  
20 annoying, to say the least. I don't know why an  
21 advisory committee exists, had been operating so  
22 that all legislators had some input, and now it  
23 doesn't operate, so basically the hotel/motel tax  
24 goes as the administration wants it to go without  
25 any input at all for approving contracts after

2 the fact just seems wrong.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I don't know --  
4 Eileen, I don't know whether or not you would be  
5 aware, but each of us have an opportunity to  
6 nominate programs of historic and educational  
7 nature in our districts. Is that correct?

8 MS. KRIEB: Yes. In the past we've  
9 received them from all the districts.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: So any of you who  
11 do have a project of historical educational  
12 nature can also submit a nomination.

13 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: To the Chair.  
14 When the advisory board met we could discuss why  
15 nominations are going forward or aren't. Now we  
16 could all put one in and then have no idea what  
17 happens with them. None. I would venture to  
18 guess that a lot of us, at least on this side of  
19 the aisle, put in nominations that we haven't  
20 heard about and haven't seen come and don't have  
21 any real input because there's no advisory board  
22 meeting.

23 I'm just reading from the record, and  
24 this is really troubling. We were told, and this  
25 is from either my question -- yes, from my

1 question. When are we going to get the county's  
2 written opinion on what I believe is the  
3 effective disbanding of the Hotel/Motel Tax  
4 Advisory Board? I believe it won't ever meet  
5 again. Mr. May responded to my comment: We  
6 couldn't characterize it as the effective  
7 disbanding of the Hotel/Motel Advisory Board, but  
8 I will get that opinion to you as soon as  
9 possible. I'll speak to the county attorney  
10 after we break for today. This is from June of  
11 2010.  
12

13 It hasn't met in three years. We're  
14 finding out that there really was no opinion at  
15 that time, written opinion, at least. So Mr. May  
16 couldn't give me something that didn't exist.  
17 And I would say it is an effective disbanding of  
18 the board.

19 And it's nice to know that we could all  
20 put in nominations. I've worked with you at a  
21 time when putting in nominations really meant  
22 something and we could follow and go to advisory  
23 board meetings and see why some nominations moved  
24 and some didn't. Late Presiding Officer Schmitt  
25 was very upset that historical societies got some

1 grants and was able to go to advisory board  
2 committee and find out that he had put in a  
3 nomination, which he never knew. And then  
4 because there was an advisory board he put in a  
5 nomination to try to get other historical  
6 societies with contracts. Now, I'm sure that  
7 Legislator Bosworth, who has put in nominations,  
8 Carrie Solages has put in nominations have no  
9 idea where they are. We know one things where  
10 they aren't, they've never been on the calendar  
11 for us to vote for them. So that's the problem.

12  
13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any public  
14 comment?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 There being none, all those in favor of  
17 Item 29 signify by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 Any opposed?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 The item passes unanimously.

22 Item 30, Resolution 68, a resolution  
23 authorizing the county executive to execute a  
24 grant agreement between the County of Nassau,  
25 acting on behalf of the Department of Parks,

2 Recreation, Museums and African Atlantic  
3 Genealogical Society.

4 Motion, please?

5 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

6 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
8 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Walker.  
9 Again, Ms. Krieb.

10 MR. MAY: We have Ms. Krieb.

11 MS. KRIEB: Eileen Krieb from the Parks  
12 Department.

13 This is a grant for the African American  
14 Genealogical Society for exhibits, programs, and  
15 enhancement to their museum.

16 Again, it's funded through the  
17 hotel/motel funding for \$24,000, to advance the  
18 marketability and cultural attractions located in  
19 Nassau County.

20 They presently have several exhibits that  
21 they have in place. The Rosa Parks exhibit is  
22 just being disassembled and Timbuktu is also  
23 disassembled, since we wrote the grants. They're  
24 bringing on some special exhibits on a black  
25 whaler that went to Japan and also a combination

2 of black royalty, those will be their new  
3 exhibits. To enhance those exhibits they are  
4 planning on installing a hanging hardware system  
5 so they can remove and hang up new exhibits on a  
6 regular basis and some extra types of frames that  
7 they could use for utilizing this space within  
8 the museum.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions of  
10 Eileen?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 Any public comment?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 There being none, all those in favor of  
15 Item 30, Resolution 68 signify by saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 Any opposed?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 The item passes unanimously.

20 We have to backtrack a little bit to  
21 Items 26, 27, 28, but we will take them  
22 separately.

23 Item 26, Resolution 64, a resolution  
24 authorizing the county executive to execute an  
25 inter-municipal agreement with the Incorporated

2 Village of Farmingdale in relation to repairing  
3 the roof and bay doors of the Farmingdale Fire  
4 Facility.

5 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: So moved.

6 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Second.

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

10 Who do we have?

11 MR. MAY: Me.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Anybody?

13 MR. MAY: Any questions on this item?

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions  
15 from the legislators regarding this item?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 Any public comment?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 There being none, all those in favor of  
20 Item 26, Resolution 64 signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 Any opposed?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 The item passes unanimously.

25 Item 27, Resolution 65, a resolution

2 authorizing the county executive to execute an  
3 inter-municipal agreement with the Wantagh School  
4 District in relation to a project to procure and  
5 install playground equipment.

6 Motion, please?

7 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

8 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Second.

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

11 Any questions?

12 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: To the Chair.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes.

14 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Given that this  
15 is for Mandalay School and there's been, thanks  
16 to your help two years ago, Mr. May, there has  
17 been a contract for Mandalay School from two  
18 years ago for 20,000 and the school needs 75,000  
19 to build this playground. Having one 20,000  
20 contract coming two years after one has been  
21 calendared and now re-calendared is a bit  
22 ridiculous. If we really want to help the  
23 school, let's not play partisan politics.  
24 Community revitalization projects from democrats  
25 for some reason under this legislature are not

1 being called to the detriment of the same  
2 students you're trying to help.

3 We've heard all kinds of excuses. But  
4 this is ridiculous. This is a contract for the  
5 same school and it's been delayed for over two  
6 years. So with one hand you want to say that  
7 you're trying to help students, with the other  
8 hand you're denying money that they need to get  
9 this playground done. I think it's ridiculous.

10 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So we don't want  
11 this?

12 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: No. We want this  
13 but we also want the democrat's contract that sat  
14 around for two years. So if you really want this  
15 why aren't you calling my contract as well? I  
16 guess you don't really want it, do you? Of  
17 course, no answer. No answer.

18 I want it. I just answered your  
19 question. They need 75; we could give them 40.  
20 You only want to give them 20 two years after the  
21 fact. So you don't really want it, right? Guess  
22 not.

23 But on the record, Mr. May, you did help.  
24 That contract is sitting there and just has to be  
25

2 called by the presiding officer and hasn't been.  
3 Not under Legislator Schmitt and now not under  
4 Legislator Gonsalves. It's just wrong.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other  
6 comments?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 Any public comment?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 There being none, all those in favor of  
11 Item 27, Resolution 65 signify by saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 Any opposed?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 The item passes unanimously.

16 Item 28, Resolution 66, a resolution  
17 authorizing the county executive to execute an  
18 inter-municipal agreement with the Wantagh School  
19 District in relation to a project to procure and  
20 install an indoor scoreboard and shot clock.

21 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

22 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Second.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion by  
24 Legislator Dunne, and seconded by Legislator  
25 Venditto.

Any comments from the legislators?

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: I just note my same comments.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor of Item 28, Resolution 66 indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

I believe those are the only individual items that were asked -- correct? I think that basically is it for the Legislature.

The motion to adjourn, please?

LEGISLATOR BECKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

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

All those in favor of adjourning signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 The session is adjourned.

4 (Whereupon, the Full Legislature meeting  
5 adjourned at 3:15 p.m.)

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: As I promised, we  
7 will go back to public comment. We will take a  
8 brief, just a brief recess after public comment  
9 so we can go to the one item on the Rules  
10 Committee.

11 The first speaker that I had to delay was  
12 John Capobianco.

13 MR. CAPOBIANCO: Thank you. I've stood  
14 here in front of you before on another issue but  
15 today I stand as a resident and in my  
16 professional interest as a horticulturalist.

17 I have served as ten years as president  
18 of the Bonsai Society of Greater New York and the  
19 Long Island Chrysanthemum Society. I am  
20 currently first vice president of the National  
21 Chrysanthemum Society and will be installed as  
22 president this October. I am the curator of the  
23 Bonsai tree collection at the John P. Humes  
24 Japanese Stroll Garden. I'm the artisan resident  
25 at Suburban Water Gardens, and I'm an instructor

2 at the New York Botanical Garden.

3 As you may have guessed, horticulture is  
4 a bit of my life and my own business is as a  
5 landscape contractor, so I think I know a thing  
6 or two about plants, trees, and ecosystems.

7 I was, therefore, very troubled to read  
8 the report by the Long Island Botanical Society  
9 about the chainsaw massacre clear cutting which  
10 occurred at Chelsea Mansion and a number of other  
11 county preserves. It certainly appears as though  
12 a large amount of unnecessary tree cutting has  
13 occurred, which will cost the taxpayers. But  
14 truly the sad part is that the fragile ecosystems  
15 may have been damaged and changed forever.

16 I trust you are similarly concerned. I  
17 know the district attorney is investigating the  
18 Sandy tree removal contracts and the companies  
19 hired to conduct them. To prove your concern, I  
20 would implore you, Presiding Officer Gonsalves,  
21 to call a hearing into the whole tree cutting  
22 program so that we can find out how much damage  
23 has been done and rectify it.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Next speaker is

2 Charlene Obernauer.

3           LEGISLATOR DENENBERG:     Legislator  
4 Gonsalves. To the last speaker, I believe both  
5 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton and myself have sent  
6 multiple letters at this point requesting  
7 hearings not just on the tree removal contracts  
8 but on Sandy-related contracts, as well as the  
9 backup and the accounting on it. It's all well  
10 and good that the comptroller is now looking into  
11 this issue. But it would seem to me to be  
12 incumbent upon the legislature to look at it as  
13 well. Both Legislators DeRiggi-Whitton,  
14 Bosworth, and myself tried to ask at Finance  
15 Committee meetings when the bonding first came up  
16 and we were told by Chairman Nicolello that it  
17 was inappropriate to ask questions about finance  
18 in Finance. It seems to me that we should have a  
19 legislative hearing and do our homework to make  
20 sure that the money is being spent appropriately,  
21 that the work that should get done is getting  
22 done, and that there's backup.

23           I'm getting complaints at the sewage  
24 treatment plants that we're belated in payments.  
25 On tree removal it seems like we're ahead on

2 payments. And I'm also hearing that backup being  
3 required, for example, at some places like the  
4 sewage treatment plants is far more extensive  
5 than the backup that's been required on other  
6 contracts.

7 Given that Mr. Astuni and Mr. McCloy are  
8 yelling and screaming, I think I struck a nerve.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No, you didn't  
10 strike any nerve. Excuse me, Mr. Denenberg.  
11 Your letter was addressed; I did send you a  
12 response. When you have information regarding  
13 the work that has been done during this crisis, I  
14 think you owe it to us to share it. Since you  
15 haven't --

16 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: We have.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You have not  
18 shared any --

19 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Legislator  
20 DeRiggi-Whitton and myself have sent it in to  
21 show you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm sorry. But  
23 you have not sent it in.

24 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Then you're not  
25 reading.

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You did not  
3 submit all of the evidence that you have, that  
4 you have, first of all, that you have evidence  
5 for.

6 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: But the evidence  
7 --

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Not --

9 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: First of all, the  
10 evidence starts with the backup that existed at  
11 the time that the items were even being called  
12 that, in a bipartisan way, we approved bonding  
13 for responsive action under Sandy twice - 90  
14 million and then 190 million or 195 million. So  
15 it was over \$200 million, close to 300 that was  
16 approved. We were questioning in the Finance  
17 Committee the backup that existed at that time  
18 that was there for all of us to look at.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
20 Denenberg, you have been heard. Again, my  
21 response to you is the response that was in the  
22 letter saying that once the review has been  
23 conducted and completed then we will consider --

24 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: But the idea is  
25 we're supposed to be part of the review.

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes, you are.

3 But at the present time --

4 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Can I just  
5 make a --

6 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Let me --

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on.

8 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: finish.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Just hold on.

10 There are claims that have been made by members  
11 of this body, okay, whether or not they are  
12 founded or unfounded remains to be seen. Until  
13 we get that evidence we cannot go forward with a  
14 hearing.

15 I have to --

16 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: But it's our job  
17 to --

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: say something to  
19 you --

20 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: demand the  
21 evidence and to look at it --

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Denenberg,  
23 I'm speaking, okay? I'm speaking.

24 I can recall time and time again when  
25 this body held hearings and a couple of them,

back in 2005 and 2006 regarding the sewer plants,  
and nothing, absolutely nothing happened after  
it.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: That's just not  
true.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Don't you --

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Mr. Dunne, you  
can --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: You just had Mr.  
Dunne interrupting.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're  
interrupting me.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: First of all, we  
ended up with a 700 --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Denenberg,  
you interrupted --

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: million dollars  
worth of improvements --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Denenberg --

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: That we did, David -  
-

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: that this  
administration hasn't done.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: That we did, David.  
We did.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: You didn't do anything, Dennis. Nothing.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Dennis, you're out of order.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Denenberg --

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: You haven't even done a hearing. You did one in February and then you forgot about it. February 2010, three plus years of --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Denenberg.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: That's why --

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: running the plants into the ground. They collapsed under your watch.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Because you and Suozzi did nothing. We had to fix it. We had to fix a falling apart sewage treatment plant because you refused to.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Oh, that's just not true. Every quarter it was --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Dunne.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: I hope this is

2 recorded because you're on record lying.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Dunne,  
4 that's it.

5 Charlene Obernauer.

6 Denise.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: I feel compelled also,  
8 and I guess we could all shout all we want. I  
9 think sometimes we lose perspective post-Sandy.  
10 And I appreciate that everybody is concerned,  
11 rightfully so, that the monies that is being  
12 spent and how we are spending it, whether or not  
13 it is from the federal government right down to  
14 the local city governments and the towns in  
15 regard to responses with Sandy. I am somebody  
16 who is concerned.

17 As I said, in my area we've lost all of  
18 our trees, we've lost our shrubbery, we've lost  
19 our grass. There's very little green, except  
20 that this past weekend we had volunteers come in  
21 and replace a lot of stuff. My heart breaks for  
22 the fact that there were trees that were  
23 destroyed up on the north shore. I do, I welcome  
24 hearings and I welcome everything. But I really  
25 think prior to having hearings on trees, I think

1 we really need to start having a hearing on what  
2 is our response to the victims of Sandy.

3  
4 We are six months later. I have  
5 homeowners who are still not living in their  
6 homes and they don't know if they are going to be  
7 able to return. They are waiting for money,  
8 whether or not it is from FEMA, from the  
9 insurance companies, and then the insurance  
10 companies that send it, send it to the banks and  
11 the banks are holding it up. I have seniors that  
12 are living elsewhere. I have people with young  
13 families that are still living in one bedroom  
14 apartments or in hotel rooms.

15 What we need to do is we need to start  
16 focusing on the people rather than the objects  
17 and things. And I love nature and I love trees.  
18 But if we are going to start fighting for  
19 something, let's start fighting and write up and  
20 call up to our governor and call up to the  
21 president, our congress people, all of our  
22 elected officials that sit above us and tell them  
23 that now is the time to send us our money.

24 We talk about Sandy relief. Very few  
25 people have seen any help. We need to have the

1 money today, not to start coming up with plans.  
2  
3 Because they make us feel that God forbid if they  
4 give us money and we don't spend it properly we  
5 are criminals, and we are not. We are middle  
6 class working Americans. People who live here on  
7 the south shore of New York, very few of us have  
8 gotten the assistance and the help that we need.

9           And I just want to point out that when we  
10 look about things and we talk about Looks Great,  
11 and I know that you have issues, Delia, with  
12 them. But I have to say that right after -- and  
13 I know that there was talk about the fact that  
14 they did some work and they gave money to this  
15 company prior to the Rules Committee -- and I  
16 know that that broke with the protocol. But you  
17 know what? If you lived down in the area and you  
18 actually had seen the mounds of garbage that was  
19 piled in front of everybody's homes -- and it  
20 would have been nice if it was just your  
21 furniture and your curtains and beds, but a lot  
22 of it happened to have been all of the food and  
23 meat products that were in your refrigerators and  
24 your freezers that went over -- we lost power, of  
25 course. But if you happened to have that

2 refrigerator down on your first floor or in your  
3 basement, it went over and everything was then  
4 floating around in sea water and whatever other  
5 kind of water, so it had to be thrown away. We  
6 had to put that food out in front of our homes  
7 and it sat there for well over a week, for  
8 probably about 90 percent of the people, waiting  
9 for somebody to pick it up.

10 I have to say that the county executive,  
11 maybe he didn't follow protocol on that -- but  
12 you know what? It really was something that we  
13 appreciated because it was, all of a sudden, when  
14 those trucks started coming through and started  
15 picking up all of this garbage, it made us feel  
16 better. The fact is that it was hard enough to  
17 part with out possessions, our memories, whatever  
18 else that we had, whether it was for our children  
19 or for us, it made something -- psychologically  
20 it was something that helped lift the spirits at  
21 that time for the people who lived down in those  
22 areas who were severely impacted by Sandy.

23 So I'm asking all of you, let's just -- I  
24 know that we look at -- we start looking at the  
25 small parts of everything that has happened. But

2 let's start getting back to the big picture and  
3 to say what are we doing to help the residents  
4 that were devastated by Sandy that are just not  
5 getting the money that they need?

6 I know we talk about all this other  
7 stuff. But we really need to start working  
8 together and to get the government to finally  
9 send that money down to help these people get out  
10 of this mess.

11 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Presiding  
12 Officer --

13 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Just to what  
14 Denise said.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on.

16 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: But we should  
17 call my laws too, then, which would require 30  
18 day response from insurance companies --

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
20 Denenberg.

21 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: to what she said.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: Can I just respond to  
23 him?

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No. I'll tell  
25 you why. You'll go back and forth and I don't

want it to go that way.

Let me call Legislator Jacobs and then I'll call you back.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I think I was supposed to be next, if that --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I haven't heard you say anything. Legislator Jacobs asked me.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I'm further away from you and I've been waving to you the whole time.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You have a hand, raise it.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I have been.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Whitton.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I'd just like to respond very quickly.

Denise, listen, I totally understand what you are saying, and there's a lot of compassion for every area. However, sometimes in a crisis certain people do take advantage of situations, and we owe it to the taxpayers to make sure that doesn't happen.

1           When you were about what you just  
2 mentioned with the check being signed and sent  
3 out prior to the legislature even hearing  
4 anything about it, that had nothing to do with  
5 Sandy; that was Irene, it was in 2011. So it had  
6 nothing to do with your garbage being picked up  
7 or anything like that with this instance. It was  
8 completely 2011, I have all the paperwork if you  
9 want to see it.  
10

11           I also think the whole idea of having a  
12 hearing -- I am upset about this. This has to do  
13 with environmental issues. What it really has to  
14 do with is protecting our citizens' money so that  
15 money can be used correctly.

16           As far as a hearing goes, that's where we  
17 usually get the evidence, Ms. Gonsalves. I've  
18 never been to a hearing where I've had to bring  
19 all the evidence with me. What is the point? I  
20 would be happy to partake in helping you. We  
21 should really be getting the evidence from the  
22 people who have been signing out these \$32  
23 million to date.

24           I understand they say they're premature.  
25 I really hate hearing that because I think it

2 makes us look incompetent.

3           It's almost six months.    April 29 will  
4 be six months.   If we haven't started the  
5 investigation until a couple of weeks ago, not  
6 only are we premature but we are incompetent.  
7 This is ridiculous that that's our excuse for not  
8 having a hearing, that we didn't start looking  
9 into anything.

10           To ask for the names of the  
11 subcontractors four months later after giving the  
12 biggest contract that this county really has  
13 given is just so negligent.   It's really -- we're  
14 not doing our job on the Finance Committee.   The  
15 fact that this has not been before the Finance  
16 Committee is truly amazing too.

17           Again, Denise, I have Bayville.   I was  
18 there pulling garbage out with people.   I saw the  
19 loss.   I saw the devastation.   But for me to say  
20 that it's alright for your taxpayer money to go  
21 to waste because we're busy with other stuff is a  
22 total -- it's not representing our people.

23           Thank you.

24           CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES:    Legislator Ford.

25           LEGISLATOR FORD:    Thank you.

2           Legislator Whitton, you're right, I never  
3 advocate the wasting of taxpayer money. But when  
4 you have an emergency where something has to be  
5 acted upon almost immediately then sometimes you  
6 cannot always follow protocol. We did not  
7 advocate for the spending of all our possible  
8 FEMA money or any other type of money that the  
9 county was going to get from anywhere. I think  
10 what the county executive did at the outset was  
11 to secure debris removal companies -- and whether  
12 or not it was Looks Great -- and these were  
13 companies, from what I understand, that were  
14 passed under FEMA from years ago, and this is  
15 something that logically should be done. This  
16 situation that happened with Sandy is something  
17 that was unprecedented.

18           For me, I have to say that I think in the  
19 beginning that, yes, it was money well spent.  
20 You know why? Because a lot of that garbage --  
21 we had streets that we couldn't even go down  
22 because the way that the garbage was piled up.  
23 One of the primary complaints that I received in  
24 my office was because of the garbage. And I'll  
25 tell you, when Homeland Security, Janet

1 Napolitano, came and toured my street, okay, and  
2 I was standing with her and she took a look at  
3 all the debris that was on my block at that time,  
4 one of the things she said to the city manager  
5 was this must go, this cannot stay, meaning the  
6 debris, because we all know what impact it has on  
7 the psyche of neighbors, of the people that were  
8 impacted by the storm to see all of this.

9  
10 I stood at a rally with people from  
11 Oceanside and the biggest complaint that they had  
12 was where were the garbage trucks to take this  
13 stuff away from us. Even with -- no, you're  
14 talking about Looks Great. The thing was  
15 whatever company that Ed Mangano contracted with,  
16 I think at the outset he was 100 percent in what  
17 he did. If he didn't follow protocol, so be it  
18 at that time. Sometimes you just have to jump on  
19 a situation and take care of it and fix it as  
20 soon as you can.

21 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I don't  
22 know what you're talking about by not following  
23 protocol; it's probably something that we should  
24 discuss in a hearing because that's news to me.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator

2 Jacobs.

3 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: However,  
4 the bottom line is after the --

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: When are you  
6 people going to learn?

7 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: initial  
8 contract was spent, we then went on --

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: There's no cross  
10 conversation.

11 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: and allowed  
12 additional funding even though we were aware of  
13 the fact that many of these numbers are not  
14 matching up. For us to go ahead and award it in  
15 January is really beyond.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
17 Jacobs.

18 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I'm going to say a  
19 few things.

20 Number one. Obviously, having been  
21 presiding officer like you, Mrs. Gonsalves, I  
22 certainly have never shirked -- and I don't  
23 believe you ever shirked when I was presiding  
24 officer -- having a hearing, and we had quite a  
25 few when it made sense to have a hearing at the

1 time.

2  
3 In 1938 was the last year that there was  
4 ever a storm of the immense destruction as Sandy,  
5 so let's keep that in the back of our minds. I'm  
6 sure once all the facts are out through all these  
7 investigations that are going on, there might  
8 have been mistakes made. But I don't believe  
9 that anyone did them for any malicious reasons.  
10 I believe that this was such an unusual storm and  
11 so much destruction -- and I toured Long Beach so  
12 many times and I saw that you guys were living  
13 with there. Not only Long Beach. People get  
14 upset with us because it was all along the south  
15 shore; it was Bellmore, it was part of Merrick,  
16 it was Seaford. It's a disaster, as well as on  
17 the north shore and certainly as well as the  
18 trees.

19 I have a few things -- I just want to  
20 take three minutes.

21 Long Island Rail Road. The Long Island  
22 Rail Road also used Looks Great. I want to say  
23 something that we can do as individual  
24 legislators, a gentleman in Woodbury recently was  
25 in the paper because he was complaining that many

1 trees were taken down in the name of safety for  
2 the railroad, which I know nothing about nor  
3 would I profess to say here that I know anything  
4 about it. In fact, they went up on his property  
5 and took down trees that were never even quite on  
6 top of the rail road. Bottom line is they are  
7 restoring those trees to him. They're coming to  
8 look at this property. It won't bring them back  
9 to obviously the size they were, but they are  
10 coming back to do it. And that's not the rail  
11 road, that is the tree service.

13           The reason I asked to speak is because I  
14 do have something good in the middle of -- first  
15 of all, I want to say one thing. The Rules  
16 Committee that meets on this takes their job  
17 very, very seriously. Wayne Wink, who is on the  
18 Rules Committee, was the chairman of Finance for  
19 years. Obviously, all of us -- Kevan Abrahams,  
20 who sits on the Rules Committee, was the finance  
21 director for the democrats on this legislature  
22 when I was presiding and then he became a  
23 legislator. So we don't have slouches on the  
24 Rules Committee either, as far as finances go.  
25 We don't blatantly okay contracts unless at the

2 time we feel it's important.

3           Were certain mistakes made? Maybe. We  
4 asked for backup, we got backup. So did everyone  
5 else on the Rules Committee. So there was backup  
6 for what we asked for. I don't know if there is  
7 any out there now that there is still not enough  
8 to say that we've gotten all we needed.

9           Sidewalks. I want to talk to all of you  
10 about something that I don't know how many people  
11 up here realize. Usually sidewalks that run  
12 along the main roads of the county, whether it's  
13 the backyard of the person's house or the side  
14 yard are the responsibility of the homeowner.  
15 Very often the homeowner isn't aware that it is  
16 their responsibility, but unfortunately that is  
17 in the Charter. If you border along a main road  
18 that sidewalk is not the county's responsibility,  
19 it's yours. However, and this is the big however  
20 for everybody because a lot of people are  
21 suffering from this. Since they don't know that  
22 it belongs to them, since big tremendous trees  
23 were lifted up and the sidewalks were literally  
24 standing up like that on a flat sidewalk, I found  
25 out that the Town of Oyster Bay is, in fact,

1 getting FEMA money for the construction --  
2 reconstruction of the sidewalk if it's been  
3 damaged in Sandy. They will not do it obviously  
4 if it's just a raised sidewalk that's always been  
5 there.  
6

7 I called our Public Works Department,  
8 they checked and found out yes, in fact FEMA will  
9 reimburse the county for construction on the  
10 sidewalks that have been in disrepair. It's more  
11 than disrepair. We have a liability situation  
12 here that if people are walking with baby  
13 carriages, riding bicycles, elderly people  
14 walking, you can't navigate around these  
15 sidewalks.

16 I think it's important that all 19  
17 legislators realize Public Works wants you to  
18 give them a list of the addresses of the houses  
19 that either back up or have a side yard to the  
20 sidewalks. Once you give them that list they  
21 will put it down, they will fix them, and they  
22 will be reimbursed by FEMA. I don't know how  
23 many people know that. I think it's important  
24 that we start looking beyond the immediate and  
25 see what is making it impossible for people to

1 live right now. Some of them -- I'm not saying  
2 all of them will come out with a solution. But  
3 that's something all 19 of us should keep in  
4 mind.  
5

6 I've started to drive around my  
7 neighborhood. The hardest part is to realize  
8 when you're on a main road which exact house on  
9 the other side of the road -- really, it's their  
10 sidewalk that's up in the air. But you can do  
11 it. It's doable. It's something that people  
12 should realize.

13 Public Works, I wish somebody was here  
14 today, has called me back, has apologized for  
15 their original statement that they are not  
16 responsible for sidewalks, and said anything  
17 damaged by Sandy will be replaced.

18 My only thing I'm saying here is there  
19 are a lot of things that need to be looked at. I  
20 am not an expert on when the hearing should or  
21 should not be held. But I certainly think that  
22 we should keep gathering information. And I  
23 don't think any doors should be closed to a  
24 hearing by this body, even though there are so  
25 many investigations going on at the same time.

Sometimes through a hearing you find out little things like this that could make something --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you for sharing that --

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: very good.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: information, Judy.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: You're welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Nicolello.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I think we again somehow have missed the point that Denise was making, which is that there are people out there that are still hurting. There are people out there that are still hurting. There are people that are not back in their houses and there are people that are living six months later in temporary apartments. There are businesses that will go under unless they get this money. That is the major issue in this county. It's about the people and the hardships that people are feeling. There is not one peep of a sound coming from the minority about that; it's all about Looks Great and the cutting down trees at Welwyn.

2           Look. The comptroller is doing a review.  
3 He is not doing an investigation. He is not  
4 doing an audit. He is doing a limited review of  
5 some of the vouchers that have been submitted to  
6 him. The DA and the AG are looking at prevailing  
7 wage. Once the comptroller finishes his review  
8 there will be some information for us to look at.  
9 At this point it is premature to start a hearing  
10 on what the comptroller is doing because he is  
11 not done yet. Let him finish his review. If  
12 there is any information that is relevant to this  
13 process and how the monies were spent, then  
14 certainly there should be a hearing at that  
15 point.

16           However, one legislator, Legislator  
17 DeRiggi-Whitton, said the numbers are not  
18 matching up. I'd like to know, Legislator, what  
19 you were talking about. What information do you  
20 have that --

21           LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: First of  
22 all, the fact that the four agencies involved are  
23 looking into this is interesting, and I have  
24 spoken to a couple of them. The bottom line is  
25 we have to make sure that the worksheets match

1 the invoices, and there could be a possibility  
2 that some of them don't.

3  
4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Wait, wait. Now  
5 you're saying there's a possibility. Before you  
6 said the numbers are not matching up.

7 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I have been  
8 told that there are a few instances where the  
9 worksheets do not match the invoices.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Where did you get  
11 this information?

12 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: The bottom  
13 line is this --

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: This is what  
15 happens --

16 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: This is  
17 what the truth of the matter is. It's not only -  
18 -

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: If you want to  
20 make an accusation -- that's a pretty serious  
21 accusation to make in public.

22 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I'll tell  
23 you why. This is much more than prevailing wage.  
24 There's other things that are being looked into  
25 as well, okay? And I think we will get the

1 results of a number of different agencies that  
2 are looking into it, sure enough. I do also  
3 think that it's our obligation as Nassau County  
4 Legislators to also do what we could and our due  
5 diligence to prevent this.  
6

7 Denise, just getting back to something  
8 you said, also. As far as I know, Looks Great  
9 Service didn't pick up one piece of garbage from  
10 your area. There's a question as to whether or  
11 not -- I was just told that they were not the  
12 company that did it, Denise. I'm just telling  
13 you straightforward.

14 We have to be careful -- we're not  
15 talking about what's more important. It's all  
16 important. It's very important to take care of  
17 these people, but it's also very important for us  
18 to -- just because -- I understand it's a huge  
19 storm. It was a horrifying thing. But we can't  
20 just turn a blind eye on these people that we're  
21 giving such trust to. We're giving \$72 million  
22 to this one company. There has to be oversight.  
23 This money is not being bonded for. This money  
24 is coming out of our budget. If there are things  
25 wrong, which I have been told that there are

possibilities that there are, then we might -- our being reimbursed by FEMA depends on these records being kept correctly.

There's one other thing. A hearing -- I think transparency is so important for our constituents. Meeting behind closed doors and only meeting with one legislator, however different people want to resolve these situations, I don't think that's the democratic way of doing it.

Look. I hope you're right; I hope Looks Great Service and everyone else did everything right. Wonderful. There are a lot of questions, obviously, because there are so many agencies looking into it as well. They don't look into things unless they find a few things that spark their investigation. There's no reason, if we did everything right, that we don't have hearings, that we don't have the comptroller come in front of the Leg, that we don't have -- for instance, in fact, we don't have the name of the subcontractors. How can you guarantee that they were paid prevailing wage if we don't even know who the subcontractors were? There are so many

things. There are liability insurances that we have - I've never gotten answers to. This is part of our jobs.

There's nothing wrong -- I am all in favor for supporting as much Sandy relief as possible, that has nothing to do with what I am saying. We support the Sandy relief, but then we darn well better be careful with how it's spent.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Just to --

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Well, again --

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Legislator

Nicolello --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Excuse me.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Again --

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: we proposed --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Denenberg.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Wait, wait, wait.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Excuse me.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: I have to respond

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: She made an  
accusation -

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: to something you  
said.

Legislator Nicolello, we proposed two

2 laws that would get people monies quickly --

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
4 Denenberg --

5 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: because we  
6 believe people should get the money.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
8 Denenberg, through the Chair.

9 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: But I'm  
10 responding to something he said.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No, you're not  
12 responding.

13 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: He said the  
14 democrats don't care to give people money, and we  
15 clearly do.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: She made an  
17 accusation and she -- she made an accusation that  
18 the numbers are not matching up --

19 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: But you made an  
20 accusation that we don't want people to -- two  
21 bills that would get people money.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: She made  
23 accusations and she's not backing it up. If she  
24 has any information that the numbers are not  
25 matching up it should be provided to us, the

1 comptroller, and whoever else who can look into  
2 it. If not, she's making outrageous allegations  
3 without anything to support it. Every --

4 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: The purpose of  
5 the hearings is what she said --

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Every bit of what  
7 they did was using technology --

8 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Rich, can I  
9 just answer you? I've been told by specific  
10 agencies --

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I wasn't done.

12 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: that are  
13 looking into this that there are questions -

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You keep  
15 interrupting one another.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Excuse me.

17 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: regarding  
18 this.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Can you just wait  
20 until someone is --

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You've been told  
22 by who? You've been told by who?

23 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: By people  
24 that are investigating this situation that there  
25

1 have been examples of things that are not adding  
2 up.  
3

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Is that the DA?  
5 Have you been in touch with the DA?

6 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I can tell  
7 you -- look. I can tell you this. I'm not going  
8 to give away -- what I can tell you. I requested  
9 the worksheets and invoices, okay. There's no  
10 way --

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You're not going  
12 to give away --

13 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Look.  
14 Rich, I have a lot of respect for you. My bottom  
15 line is this. If there is nothing to hide, let's  
16 go out and show everyone what's going on. If we  
17 don't have the information, how the heck was \$32  
18 million paid? And now we're up to 72 being  
19 allocated. Before we go ahead and do the rest,  
20 if there are enough questions that they have four  
21 agencies -- today the federal government is  
22 involved, also. Listen. There are questions out  
23 there.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: They're looking  
25 at the prevailing wage issue.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Not only prevailing wage. It's not.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Again, you've made an allegation that numbers are not matching up and now you're telling us that some unnamed person in some agency has told you this; we need to know who that is so we can follow up with that information.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Conduct a hearing.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: What I'm telling you is that we should get a copy of the worksheets and we should get a copy of the invoices and you and I can sit -- we can look at this stuff.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's what the comptroller is doing.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: And he hasn't done it. He's still --

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The comptroller is doing it now.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: You know what? It's almost six months to the date.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Look. The DAs

2 jumped in six months later and you called the  
3 comptroller incompetent. The DA jumped in six  
4 months later, the attorney general six months  
5 later, the federal government six months later,  
6 are they all incompetent too?

7 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: No. But  
8 they didn't okay the payment, which is what the  
9 comptroller did.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'll tell you  
11 what. This has become a circus. And the fact of  
12 the matter is right after this storm we needed  
13 our trees cleared. We had people without power,  
14 elderly people, disabled people. We had garbage  
15 rotting in the streets in Long Beach and we had  
16 to get trucks and we had to get people in there  
17 to clean that up.

18 When we make this a circus remember this  
19 is not the last hurricane we're going to deal  
20 with. And it may be a difficult proposition in  
21 the future to get anybody to do work for this  
22 county because of what's going on here.

23 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: And the  
24 bottom line is --

25 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Let me respond to

what he just said.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: one thing doesn't have to do with the other.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: David --

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Let me finish.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: it's unfair to people who are out there that have been waiting for a while. Let them speak and then you can go ahead.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: One thing doesn't have anything to do with the other. You can't say that I'm not sympathetic to these people that are suffering; believe me, I'm fully aware of it and I'm living with West Shore Road that collapsed.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Excuse me.  
Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton --

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: But that does not mitigate --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Listen. This is public comment time. It's not for us to debate one another. Just to correct the record, Looks Great did pick up the debris in Long Beach.

Sorry. That's it.

Charlene Obernauer. Sorry, Charlene. I know you were standing there --

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I heard not off the streets.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It is her turn to speak.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Norma, let me just say something. You know what? How come you didn't yell when Delia was speaking?

I just want to say something. I don't know who your source is for a lot of the information. But you also know for a fact that it was Looks Great. Right now they are currently working in the City of Long Beach with their trucks helping to clean up the parking malls and to do the planting. So they are in Long Beach right now. They were also the company that took the debris out of Nickerson Beach. It took them three weeks. First of all because, as you said, it's not just them and they subcontracted so they had other trucks working underneath them. But they were the ones that contracted to remove a lot of the debris. They weren't the sole person,

2 the sole company that did it.

3 Delia, you can say all you want but I  
4 live there. I live in the barrier island. I  
5 went around through Oceanside and Island Park.  
6 You can't say because you heard; I saw.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Charlene, it's  
8 your turn. And we're not going to interrupt the  
9 speakers.

10 That's it. I believe, as the gentleman  
11 said, it's public comment time and it's well  
12 overdue, long overdue.

13 MS. OBERNAUER: I hate to interrupt.  
14 Good afternoon everyone. I know many of you. My  
15 name is Charlene Obernauer. I'm the executive  
16 director of Long Island Jobs with Justice. I'm  
17 here today because, as I've expressed earlier, we  
18 have some concerns about the Sandy funding that's  
19 been going through.

20 In particular, we're interested in  
21 introducing a bipartisan bill that would ensure  
22 that there are certain standards attached to  
23 Super Storm Sandy funding, both to protect the  
24 county's finances, to protect the preserves, and  
25 to protect people who have been impacted.

1           Now, let me just say, as people have been  
2 raising these points, if there are -- and we  
3 don't know that there are going to be violations,  
4 as has been alluded to in the *Newsday* coverage.  
5 We don't know that that's going to happen, but if  
6 it does that could jeopardize the county being  
7 reimbursed for these contracts and that's a huge  
8 amount of money that I don't think that the  
9 county or taxpayers can afford for us not to be  
10 reimbursed. So that calls for retroactively or  
11 today for us to really put some transparency  
12 measures in place so that we can ensure that the  
13 taxpayers' money is being properly spent.

14           Let me just -- everybody take a step back  
15 for a second.

16           In terms of other workers' right  
17 violations, this isn't in Nassau County but in  
18 Suffolk County on Fire Island we were kind of  
19 leading the charge when we were hearing directly  
20 from workers, we were talking directly to workers  
21 who were experiencing wage and hour violations,  
22 who weren't being paid prevailing rate, and  
23 that's something that the U.S. Department of  
24 Labor is still investigating. But I know for a  
25

1 fact, I mean, I've talked to these workers who  
2 were experiencing violation. It's not -- while  
3 this has been devastating on our county's  
4 residents, it's also devastating for workers who  
5 are now employed by some of these contractors,  
6 Long Island workers, and who aren't being  
7 adequately paid for their work. So that's a huge  
8 concern that I have.  
9

10 One idea that I want to put forward to  
11 the legislature is in terms of the funding that's  
12 going through, if we had a single web portal - I  
13 know this sounds kind of fancy. But if we had a  
14 single web portal that you could go to and see  
15 where's the funding, who's it going to, we could  
16 see any projects that are over \$500,000 or  
17 \$100,000 would be on this portal, and the public,  
18 the taxpayers, could just keep track of, okay,  
19 this project has been funded, this project has  
20 been funded. These are ideas that are happening  
21 in other parts of the state. These are happening  
22 in New York City. There's a similar bill being  
23 introduced -- I think for people to have just  
24 that level of transparency would have some piece  
25 of mind for the taxpayers who have been hearing

1 these stories.

2  
3 We don't know what's going on. There's  
4 obviously, you know, nothing has been conclusive.  
5 But we do know that the taxpayers are worried  
6 about the money that's been spent because there  
7 have been so many investigations that are going  
8 on.

9 Again, those are our recommendations. We  
10 look forward to meeting with you and talking with  
11 you about some of our ideas so that in the future  
12 -- today is Earth Day. It's April 22nd. I  
13 happen to be someone who believes that this  
14 storm, while tragic, storms like this can happen  
15 again in our lifetime. It can happen again in  
16 the next five years, ten years. And if these  
17 storms do happen again, can we ensure that we  
18 have standards in place so that we don't have  
19 this conversation five years from now.

20 CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have  
21 expired, ma'am.

22 MS. OBERNAUER: Thank you.

23 LEGISLATOR WINK: I just have a comment.

24 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Can I say one thing  
25 to her?

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: If it's not going  
3 to stir up debate.

4 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I can't guarantee  
5 it. I don't think it will.

6 I'd like to just say one thing to you.  
7 First place, I think that if you could suggest a  
8 law that you feel is being done in the City and  
9 elsewhere and share it with the presiding officer  
10 and the minority leader, then the best way to  
11 pass a law here is for the law to come in a  
12 bipartisan way with support of all of us.  
13 There's no reason if there is a law that would  
14 make sense to shed light as we go forward on  
15 everything that's going on, I, for one, would be  
16 very much in favor. But I wouldn't be in favor  
17 of it being from one side or the other; I'd be in  
18 favor of us all working together.

19 No matter what was going on right now,  
20 everyone cares. There is no one up here that  
21 doesn't care about the people, that doesn't care  
22 about what they're left with, doesn't care about  
23 what the neighborhoods look like right now.  
24 Every time I drive I feel like there's more open  
25 space than I ever saw, and the reason is because

1 the trees are gone. So obviously we're all  
2 feeling something. No one is feeling what's  
3 going on in the south shore if they don't live  
4 there. Sorry. I know that because I was there.  
5 And I left there every time I went with tears in  
6 my eyes. I kept dropping things off and dropping  
7 things off. There was no way to make it right  
8 for people that don't have their houses.

10 So if you have something that is a law  
11 that could be in writing that is already passed,  
12 as you said, in other areas, let the two leaders  
13 of this legislature see it, let them share it  
14 with all of us. It will be very unique in this  
15 legislature; let's have a law that all 19 of us  
16 are co-signing and try to get through.

17 That's the only thing I wanted to say to  
18 you.

19 MS. OBERNAUER: Thank you.

20 LEGISLATOR WINK: Madame Presiding  
21 Officer, if I may just very briefly.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on,  
23 Legislator Wink. Legislator Bosworth.

24 LEGISLATOR WINK: That's fine.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator

2 Bosworth.

3 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Thank you,  
4 Presiding Officer.

5 I think we're getting to what we all  
6 really want to be seeing, everybody working  
7 together to do what's right. Certainly what you  
8 are proposing seems to be a good step in that  
9 direction.

10 The only thing that struck me in all this  
11 discussion is it underscores the need for us to  
12 have the opportunity to talk about this. I think  
13 this unleashed this well of emotion and desire to  
14 speak together because we haven't had that  
15 chance. Whether it's a hearing or whatever it is  
16 that you want to call it, I think we need to have  
17 the opportunity to talk about what went right,  
18 because so much did go right. If there were  
19 things that went wrong, we need to know about it  
20 so we can correct it in the future.

21 And that's just what I wanted to say.  
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Wink.

24 LEGISLATOR WINK: Charlene, I want to  
25 thank you very much for being here. I know that

1 specific to your request for a website that will  
2 help us to get this information out and to track  
3 the type of spending that we know we desperately  
4 need here in Nassau County as a result of Sandy.

5  
6           Nearly three months ago, Congressman  
7 Steve Israel and I actually made that request to  
8 the federal government. We are still working on  
9 that. But certainly I think on a local level, if  
10 we can start it here maybe we can get the website  
11 going at the federal level. I look forward to  
12 working with you on this, and I hope all my  
13 colleagues will join us in being able to put  
14 together some real transparency and some real  
15 opportunity to provide information in both  
16 directions for our constituents. So I thank you  
17 very much for being here.

18           MS. OBERNAUER: Thank you. And the only  
19 thing that I would say is that we're not looking  
20 for a bipartisan bill. We're looking for this to  
21 be a completely non-partisan effort. We don't  
22 think that Super Storm Sandy recovery has to be  
23 partisan. I represent a non-partisan  
24 organization, and we are most certainly happy to  
25 talk to each member of the legislature.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,  
4 Charlene.

5 Terry DeFillippo.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thirty seconds.

7 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Just to the  
8 speaker. Not only is it non-partisan, but it's  
9 not just money that was paid out to certain  
10 companies, it's making sure that money is paid  
11 out to companies that are still waiting to be  
12 paid so that the information requested from each  
13 company is the same and it's thorough to make  
14 sure we're protecting taxpayer money; that's what  
15 we've been asking for and that's the kind of  
16 transparency we think is necessary.

17 And in terms of laws, the democratic  
18 caucus does want people to get their money,  
19 that's why we proposed both a 30-day law on  
20 insurance companies to pay or give a good faith  
21 reason not to pay, as well as banks not being  
22 able to hold advance or emergency payments,  
23 because that's what's affecting my constituents.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Terry DiFillippo.

2 MR. DIFILLIPPO: Good afternoon.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good afternoon,  
4 Terry.

5 MR. DIFILLIPPO: I'll make this brief  
6 since so many issues have already been brought up  
7 that I was going to address. This is about the  
8 tree cutting, which has already gathered a lot of  
9 attention here.

10 I've only lived in Glen Cove for about  
11 three years, so I don't know Nassau County that  
12 well. And I'm sure there are many beautiful  
13 places in the County. However, my experience is,  
14 for my money, that Welwyn is the best place for  
15 recreation, as far as I'm concerned. It's a  
16 beautiful park or preserve with grand ole trees.  
17 Perhaps you didn't know that it was designed by  
18 Frederick Homestead, the great landscape  
19 architect who also designed Central Park and  
20 Prospect Park, and many, many other parks across  
21 the country.

22 There are beautiful waterways intricately  
23 designed and special horticultural plantings  
24 there, which our expert has mentioned and which  
25 perhaps have been subject to damage.

1           So I was dismayed to find out and see,  
2  
3           from my own viewing, that a crew had been sent  
4           under the authority of this county government to  
5           just come in and seemingly senselessly and  
6           wantingly clear cut trees in this beautiful area.  
7           I learned later that similar cutting had been  
8           done in other beautiful parks and recreation  
9           areas in this county.

10           I think the best description of what I  
11           have seen was reflected in one commentator's  
12           calling it a chainsaw massacre. Unfortunately,  
13           the result of that massacre continue to lie  
14           strewn about Welwyn Preserve in a very disturbing  
15           way, for those of us who love to go there.  
16           There's carnage everywhere.

17           I wonder why there isn't more of a  
18           motivation by the county government here to find  
19           out how this could have happened under your  
20           authority or the county authority. Shouldn't  
21           there be a sense of responsibility for seeing  
22           that it doesn't happen again? Whatever damage  
23           can be repaired, should be repaired.

24           It seems to me that this is especially  
25           urgent in view of the fact that we are coming to

2 hurricane season again very shortly, and I  
3 wouldn't think that we'd want to go through this  
4 same kind of debate and problems with the higher  
5 government authorities that we're going through  
6 now. For those reasons, I support the efforts of  
7 Legislator DeRiggi and the others who have  
8 supported the idea of a hearing or some kind of  
9 investigation into what happened in order to make  
10 sure that it doesn't happen again.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Mr.  
13 DiFillippo.

14 Gerard Rizzuto.

15 MR. RIZZUTO: Thank you. Good  
16 afternoon. My name is Gerard Rizzuto. I am from  
17 Glen Cove, New York. And I would like to  
18 congratulate you all on recognizing the  
19 contributions, you know, like, for the youth that  
20 were here earlier, to show them that we care.  
21 And one thing that struck me was right after that  
22 we had people coming up here begging for money to  
23 help more youth. They have to come to the  
24 legislature because these things are cut; boggles  
25 my mind.

1 I like trees. I like all that stuff.  
2  
3 But I like people better. And I hear one guy say  
4 it's the people I care about and another one  
5 dababa. I've been here a couple of times and  
6 I've watched you operate. If the majority party,  
7 whichever one it is, comes up with a good idea,  
8 it's a good idea. If the minority party comes up  
9 with a good idea, it's something to be looked at  
10 and held up and held up until the majority party  
11 could say it's my idea. It seems you're playing  
12 politics with our people.

13 Not to have a hearing for something, you  
14 know - you people are paid not hourly. It ain't  
15 a nine to five job you have. You have a 24-hour  
16 a day, seven day a week job. There should always  
17 be time. You can't be too busy to take these  
18 things up.

19 Please, forget about the party politics.  
20 Forget about this stuff. Let's just start  
21 working on the people of Nassau County and bring  
22 the county back to where we don't have to have  
23 federal people looking at us.

24 This county probably pays more federal  
25 tax than most states, and we have them looking at

us like we're second class because we can't manage our own money. That's ridiculous.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Mr. Rizzuto.

Michael Miller.

MR. MILLER: Hi. My name is Michael Miller.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Welcome, Michael.

MR. MILLER: I woke up today and I said, the last time I came here to speak here I remember leaving here saying I'm never going to do that again, I'd rather have an elective root canal. You guys make the public -- you hold these hearings during the day when you have to take off from work. And to witness the way you guys do business is really unflattering to yourself, I hope you might see that.

I'm here on the Welwyn tree thing. Legislator Ford, I agree with you; you're talking about trees when stuff hasn't picked up. Where were those guys who were supposed to pick up garbage? They were in the middle of a forest cutting down trees that we're paying for, that's

1 where they were, because somewhere in this county  
2 somebody told them to do it.

3  
4 Now, the federal government, the state  
5 government, and the Nassau DA is looking into  
6 them. Somehow the Nassau County legislator wants  
7 to talk about it. Let me ground you guys.

8 You are the legislative body for the  
9 highest taxed county in the United States of  
10 America and you are under the auspices of a  
11 financial watchdog. You guys spend money faster  
12 than we can pay tax for it, and that's a real sad  
13 thing.

14 I echo what Mr. Rizzuto said about you  
15 cannot help being in the audience here and think  
16 that this is right along party lines and that's  
17 the deal. Fortunately, you hold these hearings  
18 during the day when none of the people that vote  
19 can actually come witness you guys doing  
20 business.

21 Seriously, when you talk about \$70  
22 million being spent and then somebody coming up  
23 begging for money for a youth program, there's  
24 one pocket of money and that's the county's  
25 taxpayer. Ultimately, we're going to pay the

2 bill.

3 And I'm glad I came here. Another thing  
4 I heard mentioned about, Earth Day. I know it's  
5 trees and trees certainly are secondary to what  
6 happened to some of the people's possessions,  
7 houses, and lives. Again, it's part of the whole  
8 process.

9 June 1 is the start of another hurricane  
10 season. I doubt anything has changed in the  
11 protocol of the way we're going to approach the  
12 next big storm we have, relative to how we did  
13 business with the last storm.

14 The other reason why I came today is  
15 because my legislator, who really gave me hope  
16 for government -- when I called *Newsday* I called  
17 somebody to try to get them to stop cutting down  
18 trees in the middle of a preserve when county  
19 roads in Glen Cove still weren't cleared. She  
20 came. She did the job that I expect from when I  
21 go in that voting booth -- actually, it's  
22 different, I'm dating myself.

23 Really, you've got to take a look at  
24 this. You've got to figure out a way to work  
25 together, to look at the past. The only way of

preventing the past from happening in the future is to change what you did the first time.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Michael.

Todd -- I believe it says Tilton.

MR. TILTON: Yes. The problem -- greetings, everybody.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Greetings to you.

MR. TILTON: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I own property in Glen Head and Glen Cove.

When all this broke and I'm seeing all the hardship in Long Beach and I'm seeing trees get cut down on the north shore, one thing popped into my mind -- FEMA money, and that's really what I think and that's got to be what other people are thinking.

We know about Welwyn. Garvies Point is a mile away, another preserve. The neighbors changed the lock on the gate to keep these people out. Tom Suozzi was down and threw them out of Welwyn. I personally saw two trucks, six men, a quarter mile from my home. Nassau County, I call

2 them sumps and you call them storm water basins,  
3 having trees cut down in them, that no way would  
4 have fallen outside. So the trucks that you  
5 wanted were in my neighborhood cutting trees in  
6 sumps. So it gets down to no supervision, that's  
7 the other part of what an investigation that you  
8 would come up with, to know why Long Beach was  
9 screwed and why Glen Cove was screwed in the  
10 other direction.

11 I was a marine. You put your assets  
12 where they're going to do the most good. You  
13 don't rub your hands together and say let's get  
14 the most we can.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Todd.

17 That ends public comment.

18 Legislator Bosworth.

19 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: You know I'm  
20 listening to these comments about the trees, and  
21 I would be remiss if I didn't add in what  
22 happened to Searingtown Road and Shelter Rock  
23 Road, because it was the same scenario. Someone  
24 came, like a swirling dervish, and cut down every  
25 tree going down Shelter Rock, every tree going

1 down Searingtown. It's Earth Day and you think  
2 about the beautiful flowering trees at this time  
3 of year and they're gone. They are all gone,  
4 every single one of them. So now you see stump,  
5 stump, stump, stump.  
6

7 Certainly, our money and our time and  
8 these good people's time would have been much  
9 better spent dealing with issues that needed to  
10 have been dealt with as an emergency basis; this  
11 wasn't it.

12 I just wanted to add that.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Public comment is  
14 over. In about five minutes we're going to call  
15 a special meeting of the Rules Committee for just  
16 one item.

17 Thank you very much.

18 (Whereupon, the Full Legislature  
19 adjourned at 3:15 p.m.)  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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 25th day of April, 2013.

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FRANK GRAY