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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

PETER SCHMITT,  
Presiding Officer

FULL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

PETER SCHMITT,  
Chairman

1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

Monday, March 6, 2012  
(Reconvened Meeting of February 27, 2012)  
1:14 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICE  
(516) 747-7353

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2     A P P E A R A N C E S :3     PETER SCHMITT,  
4         Presiding Officer,5     NORMA GONSALVES,  
6         Deputy Presiding Officer7     HOWARD KOPEL,  
8         Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer

9     DENISE FORD

10    JOSEPH SCANNELL

11    FRANCIS X. BECKER

12    VINCENT MUSCARELLA

13    RICHARD NICOLELLO

14    JUDI BOSWORTH

15    WAYNE WINK

16    ROBERT TROIANO

17    KEVAN ABRAHAMS,  
18         Minority Leader

19    ROSE MARIE WALKER

20    JOSEPH BELESI     (1:14 p.m.)  
21                             (Not present 2/27/12 meeting)

22    DENNIS DUNNE

23    JUDITH JACOBS     (Not present 2/27/12 meeting)

24    DAVID DENENBERG

25    DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

26    CARRIE SOLAGES

27    WILLIAM MULLER, Clerk  
28         Of the Legislature

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1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Sorry for the  
3 delay. There was a problem with the sound  
4 system. I would ask all members to please  
5 come to the chamber and ask everybody to  
6 rise -- we've done that already.

7 We are reconvening the meeting of  
8 the legislature on February 27th at this  
9 time. So the legislature is back in  
10 session.

11 I'm going to call some of the  
12 items that we were not able to call on the  
13 27th. I'm going to call Item Number 69 of  
14 2012 which is an appointment to the district  
15 court of Colin F. O'Donnell. Mr. O'Donnell,  
16 are you here?

17 MR. O'DONNELL: I am.

18 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: We need a  
19 motion. May I have a motion, please?

20 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

21 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Moved by  
23 Legislator Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator  
24 Muscarella. Now, does anybody have any  
25 questions of Mr. O'Donnell?

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 (No verbal response.)

3 Is there any public comment?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 All those in favor of the  
6 appointment of Colin F. O'Donnell to the  
7 District Court please say aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 Any opposed?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 The item carries unanimously.

12 The item carries 10 to nothing.

13 Congratulations, judge. I understand Judge  
14 Marano is waiting for you. You can go right  
15 over and go to work.

16 Now I would like to call Calendar  
17 Item Number 43, the appointment of Douglas  
18 J. LaRose to the district court. May I have  
19 a motion, please?

20 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Moved by  
23 Legislator Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator  
24 Nicolello. Anybody have questions of Mr.  
25 LaRose?

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 (No verbal response.)

3 Is there any public comment?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 All those in favor of the  
6 appointment of Douglas J. LaRose to the  
7 District Court please say aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 Any opposed?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 The item carries unanimously.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding  
13 Officer Schmitt?

14 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Mr. Abrahams.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: My  
16 colleagues and I have just reported to the  
17 chamber, if the record could reflect that we  
18 are here.

19 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Let the record  
20 so reflect. Thank you very much. We have  
21 everybody.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:  
23 Congratulations.

24 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT:  
25 Congratulations, judge. You can go over and

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 see Judge Marano and go right to work.

3 MR. LAROSE: Thank you so much.

4 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Thank you. I  
5 would like to note for the record that  
6 Legislator Belesi and Legislator Jacobs have  
7 joined us. They were not present on the  
8 27th.

9 Now I would like to call for the  
10 confirmation or the appointment of Police  
11 Commissioner Thomas Dale. Commissioner  
12 Dale, are you here? I need a motion to  
13 confirm Commissioner Dale.

14 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

15 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Moved by  
17 Legislator Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator  
18 Dunne. Anybody have any questions for  
19 Commissioner Dale?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 Is there any public comment?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 Let's take a vote. Call the  
24 role, Mr. Muller.

25 CLERK MULLER: Yes. Deputy



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 Presiding Officer Gonsalves?

3 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Yes.

4 CLERK MULLER: Alternate Deputy

5 Presiding Officer Kopel?

6 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Yes.

7 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

8 Troiano?

9 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: I intend to  
10 vote against the resolution to close the 50  
11 percent of the police precincts in Nassau  
12 County.

13 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: This is to  
14 confirm.

15 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: I understand  
16 that.

17 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: I'm sorry, go  
18 ahead.

19 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: And, Mr.  
20 Dale, you said that this is your plan to  
21 close the precincts. The only closure of  
22 precincts in Nassau County, it's the biggest  
23 change in public safety in Nassau County  
24 before you're even officially on the job.  
25 If that is what you're going to stand on, I

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 need to vote against your candidacy. I vote  
3 no.

4 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
5 Solages?

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: For the same  
7 reasons as mentioned by Legislator Troiano,  
8 I vote no.

9 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Ford?

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: Yes.

11 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
12 Scannell?

13 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: No.

14 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Becker?

15 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Aye.

16 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
17 Muscarella?

18 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Yes.

19 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

20 Nicoletto?

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Yes.

22 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

23 Bosworth?

24 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: No.

25 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Wink?

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 LEGISLATOR WINK: Mr. Dale, the  
3 day the Public Safety Committee voted on  
4 your nomination I said to you that you are  
5 in an extremely rare position. It is very,  
6 very rare for anyone to come here seeking  
7 appointment to a position with their legacy  
8 already having been written.

9 In my opinion, the moment you  
10 proposed, endorsed, and otherwise advocated  
11 for closing half the precincts in Nassau  
12 County, that was the day that I think you  
13 inextricably linked this nomination with  
14 that plan. I can't support that plan and,  
15 therefore, while I wish you success in every  
16 other endeavor, I hope you fail on the  
17 closure of the precincts and I have to vote  
18 no on your nomination as a result.

19 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Belesi?

20 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Yes.

21 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Dunne?

22 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Yes.

23 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Jacobs?

24 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Mr. Dale, I  
25 would like to just say something to you. I

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 met you and I think you are a very fine  
3 gentleman. You appear to be a very fine  
4 gentleman, but I have to tell you something.

5 This is actually a major  
6 experiment in policing that this county has  
7 decided to embark upon. It has not been to  
8 the best of my knowledge and a lot of  
9 research successful any place else in the  
10 country. And where it was tried in one  
11 other place in the country going from 12 to  
12 six within three years, they were back to 12  
13 due to the disaster that it caused.

14 So, to tell you the truth, I  
15 believe it's unfortunate for you, but I  
16 believe your nomination coming on the heels  
17 of what is about to happen in Nassau County,  
18 and I don't like being part of an experiment  
19 that deals with health and safety of the  
20 people that elected me to represent them.  
21 That's what I believe we are voting on today  
22 and unfortunately I have to say no to your  
23 nomination because of it.

24 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Walker?

25 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Yes.

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
3 DeRiggi-Whitton?

4 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I  
5 have to say also that I respect your  
6 experience in New York City, and I know that  
7 you worked for a police force that, if  
8 anything, was adding police precincts, and I  
9 just cannot understand how you can come to  
10 Nassau County and within a month agree to  
11 something that will close half of ours. So  
12 I vote no.

13 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
14 Denenberg?

15 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Mr. Dale,  
16 Acting Commissioner Dale, when you came  
17 before the Public Safety Committee the first  
18 time and you gave us a plan, as you were  
19 speaking on the plan that we were supposed  
20 to vote on, when I asked questions you  
21 didn't answer any. You told me I should  
22 send you an e-mail and then you will answer  
23 it. When you came back you answered only  
24 three questions of mine and then deferred  
25 them all to Deputy County Executive Walker

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 and Deputy Commissioner Krumpter. So you  
3 wouldn't answer the questions, but the only  
4 three things you did say was the closure  
5 plan is not a closure plan, it's a  
6 realignment. Then you said that the plan is  
7 yours. And when I asked you regarding  
8 closing four precincts whether that would  
9 affect the minimum manning requirements that  
10 the patrols actually be filled, you said yes  
11 and then Deputy County Executive Walker and  
12 Deputy Commissioner Krumpter said that  
13 you're going to keep the patrols fully  
14 staffed.

15 The point is, at your whim, once  
16 that closure plan is in there, at your whim  
17 and at the whim of the county executive, you  
18 can reduce the patrol cars, you can get  
19 savings by limiting the number of police  
20 cars in our streets. I think you're going  
21 to do it. So I vote no.

22 CLERK MULLER: Minority Leader  
23 Abrahams?

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr. Dale, I  
25 believe we all see where the direction of

1                   Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2     this vote is taking place and obviously it  
3     appears that you will be confirmed. I  
4     believe everyone on our side of the aisle is  
5     going to remain steadfast in working with  
6     the police department, working with your  
7     office to insure that Nassau County  
8     residents get the best results.

9                   Unfortunately, for the reasons  
10    that have been stated earlier, I think you  
11    have been placed in a very difficult  
12    position, a position which basically  
13    required you to endorse a precinct plan  
14    closure which is not just unpopular but  
15    possibly unsafe in this county.

16                  From that standpoint, I don't  
17    think that it's conceivable from anybody's  
18    position to support your nomination being  
19    that's your first act of office, so I vote  
20    no.

21                  CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer  
22    Peter Schmitt?

23                  CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Commissioner,  
24    let me state for the record that, number  
25    one, I believe that you have the experience

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 and the ability to reinstill, and the  
3 integrity, to reinstill, and the confidence,  
4 in a very badly shaken police department, as  
5 we have all had the misfortune to read over  
6 the past several days.

7 There's an enormous amount of  
8 work that needs to be done on a professional  
9 level, obviously, and I think that you are  
10 the man that can get it done. You enjoy  
11 speaking for the majority, you enjoy our  
12 full confidence that you will be able to  
13 bring your many talents and experience to  
14 bear to rebuild, for lack of a better word,  
15 a way to describe it, to rebuild our police  
16 department.

17 So I'm very happy to vote yes in  
18 favor of your confirmation.

19 CLERK MULLER: By a vote of ten  
20 to nine, the resolution passes.

21 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT:  
22 Congratulations, commissioner, you are now  
23 the commissioner of police.

24 COMMISSIONER DALE: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Now we are



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 going to call Item Number 67 which is the  
3 police precinct reconfiguration plan that  
4 has been referenced here. First of all, let  
5 me take a motion.

6 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Moved by  
9 Legislator Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator  
10 Kopel. The item is in front of us.

11 Let me just state for the record  
12 here, we have had extensive hearings on  
13 this, and I have received many slips of  
14 public comment, but first let me ask if  
15 there are any further questions on behalf of  
16 the legislators and, bear in mind, that  
17 we're not going to conduct a second public  
18 hearing. So I would expect the questions to  
19 cover new ground, but if anybody has any  
20 questions, please seek to be recognized.

21 Legislator Ford.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: Commissioner  
23 Dale, with the proposed realignment of the  
24 police precincts, I know that with the  
25 patrols that are set, 177 sector cars, the

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 fact that, for argument's sake, you are  
3 taking two precincts and you're going to  
4 basically combine them into one precinct.

5 My concern, and I would like to  
6 know, we had discussed this, but I would  
7 like to have this on public record, that the  
8 way that the patrols will be set up so that  
9 if the officers who are currently working  
10 the area known as the Fourth Precinct,  
11 currently known as the Fourth Precinct, will  
12 not be reassigned to work in basically the  
13 area that is in the Fifth Precinct that, at  
14 this time, because this is such a major  
15 change, throughout Nassau County with public  
16 safety, that at this time, and at least for  
17 the next couple of years, that there will be  
18 no intent so that, say, for argument's sake,  
19 if an officer is patrolling the Fourth  
20 Precinct, say Point Lookout starting March  
21 12th, then on the week of March 19th that  
22 police officer will not be reassigned to  
23 patrol up in Elmont.

24 I'm not telling you how to do  
25 this, but I want to rest assured that these

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1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 officers will not be sent and intermingled  
3 at this time in between the precincts or the  
4 way that the geographic locations are set  
5 right now.

6 COMMISSIONER DALE: That's  
7 correct. None of the officers will be  
8 moved. We want to keep them right where  
9 they are. But down the road, as time goes  
10 by, things happen and people move, but our  
11 intent is to keep everybody exactly where  
12 they are.

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: But when you  
14 say "down the road," and I don't want to put  
15 you on the spot here --

16 COMMISSIONER DALE: I would like  
17 to explain that, if I may.

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER DALE: Sometimes  
20 they tell me that in the seniority involved,  
21 with picking posts, there may be some  
22 officers that are in the one precinct that  
23 may prefer to go to another precinct and we  
24 allow that to happen when we can. That's so  
25 if an officer is in one precinct and is now

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 in an area that he has never been before,  
3 and it comes that time of the year that  
4 they're allowed to switch their locations  
5 based upon seniority, we would be more than  
6 happy to maintain that and continue to do  
7 that.

8 So, yes, our intention is to move  
9 nobody, but they themselves may move  
10 somebody.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: So this is the  
12 procedure that you are going to follow?

13 COMMISSIONER DALE: Absolutely.

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: I would  
15 recommend that we continue that until we are  
16 certain that, like all of this is not  
17 jeopardizing or compromising public safety.

18 Also, with the precincts, the  
19 closing of the precincts, do you have any  
20 schedule at this point as to what precincts  
21 would be realigned first or closed first?

22 COMMISSIONER DALE: We are  
23 planning on doing the Eighth and the Second  
24 first.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: What is the

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 time frame? Because my concern is that, I  
3 don't want it so that, all of a sudden; like  
4 within three months all four precincts are  
5 gone. I just want to rest assured that this  
6 is going to be done in a timely, slow manner  
7 so we can evaluate what's going on.

8 COMMISSIONER DALE: We have to  
9 set up a timetable because that's the way we  
10 can measure ourselves. We hope, as long as  
11 everything is going according to Hoyder  
12 (phonetic), in two months we should have  
13 that first one done.

14 Then after we are completely  
15 satisfied with that, we have a two month  
16 timetable for each one, but it's an  
17 approximate. It may take a little while  
18 longer to get the next one done, but our  
19 timetable is two months for each one,  
20 pending as long as it's running smooth. If  
21 we see a knock, or something that we have to  
22 adjust, we will adjust it. It may take a  
23 wee bit longer. That's our guideline right  
24 now, two months for each one.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: Who determines

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 if it's running smooth or not?

3 COMMISSIONER DALE: I guess I  
4 will.

5 LEGISLATOR FORD: Will you take  
6 input from any specific -- do you find that  
7 you will keep an open door with the officers  
8 that are on patrol to get a better  
9 understanding if things are working, or with  
10 the commanding officers?

11 COMMISSIONER DALE: Yes, of  
12 course. I will be talking to the entire  
13 police department, the general staff, of  
14 course, the chiefs and the inspectors. Of  
15 course my door is always open to everybody  
16 up here to give me some input. If you see a  
17 problem, be more than happy to try to  
18 correct it.

19 LEGISLATOR FORD: And with the  
20 community policing centers, there will be  
21 more than just four or five POP officers  
22 there? What about the supervising officers,  
23 who is going to be there?

24 COMMISSIONER DALE: What we are  
25 planning on doing at the moment, and this is

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 what my plan is right now, the First  
3 Precinct we will put the robbery squad down  
4 there with a BSO office. In the Fifth  
5 Precinct, we will put the BSO command and  
6 operations desk down in the Fifth Precinct.  
7 The Sixth Precinct we will put most of the  
8 highway, the highway we can fit in the Sixth  
9 Precinct will be up there. And in the  
10 Eighth Precinct, will be some BSO office  
11 space in that particular location.

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: Are you  
13 considering that some of the concerns are,  
14 like, with the arrests that are going to be  
15 done basically in the areas and then that  
16 would have policing centers? Specifically a  
17 lot of concerns have been raised about the  
18 Fifth Precinct. Is there any intention  
19 that, if need be, that we can always operate  
20 that Fifth Precinct or community center  
21 where you can actually process arrests  
22 there?

23 COMMISSIONER DALE: Yes, we are  
24 not going to remove all the arrest  
25 processing equipment that we have there. We

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 are going to leave all of our options open  
3 until this particular plan is totally in  
4 effect.

5 We also are going to be working  
6 to try to -- a lot of the arrests will come  
7 to headquarters.

8 LEGISLATOR FORD: Right. So I  
9 also ask though then, as you go with this  
10 and when you have the time line, I would  
11 like to see that the Fifth and the Fourth be  
12 the last of the consolidations.

13 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Legislator  
14 Becker.

15 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Fran Becker.  
16 Congratulations on your appointment.  
17 Commissioner, as has been discussed a great  
18 deal, some of these precincts are old and  
19 delapidated and now we're combining two  
20 precincts into one, and the discussion for  
21 refurbishment and reconstruction has been  
22 spoken about a great deal, and that some of  
23 the precincts, at least temporarily, are  
24 going to be a little bit tight as far as the  
25 ability to do certain police work.



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 When do you think we will have a  
3 plan in place for the reconstruction of the  
4 four super precincts, that it has been  
5 somewhat called, a capital plan for the four  
6 precincts?

7 COMMISSIONER DALE: As we speak  
8 right now, we think we can do a lot of this  
9 with moving some of our assets that we  
10 currently have in the precincts. We do have  
11 the First, the Second, and the Eighth we  
12 feel pretty confident that we will be able  
13 to move in there with no major expense that  
14 we can use out of our own budget if we have  
15 to make some telephone lines, some changes  
16 and things like that.

17 When we go to the Third and the  
18 Fifth Precinct, there will be some  
19 modification needed there. But, basically,  
20 with space on the outside, parking and  
21 things like that, we don't see a major  
22 concern there. When we go to the Fifth and  
23 Fourth Precinct, we are going to need, down  
24 if the Fourth Precinct, we are going to need  
25 some extra space in that location to handle

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 what we anticipate handling there.

3 We think what we can do with the  
4 movement of the inside, redoing the kitchen,  
5 taking out one kitchen, we believe we can  
6 get space there. We have a room that we use  
7 for, it's called turnouts, we call turnouts,  
8 where the officers come once or twice a  
9 month and get general instructions. We  
10 think we can use that for office space. We  
11 may wind up getting a small trailer or  
12 something to put out in the back to help  
13 with some of the other personnel needs that  
14 we have. That would be our major expense  
15 and we believe that we can do that from our  
16 old operating budget that we currently have.

17 LEGISLATOR BECKER: The trailer  
18 would be temporary, I hope?

19 COMMISSIONER DALE: A temporary  
20 trailer. We have several temporary trailers  
21 that we use in the department. So we have  
22 them already.

23 LEGISLATOR BECKER: But the plan  
24 for the Fourth, any trailers are going to be  
25 temporary?

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 COMMISSIONER DALE: Yes,  
3 absolutely.

4 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Let's have a  
5 little decorum. Legislator Abrahams.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,  
7 Presiding Officer Schmitt. How are you,  
8 commissioner?

9 COMMISSIONER DALE: Okay.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: A couple of  
11 questions. It is my understanding that  
12 there are agreements being discussed as we  
13 speak that are changing or codifying exactly  
14 what you're saying. Are you familiar with  
15 that?

16 COMMISSIONER DALE: Not 100  
17 percent, no, sir.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Number one,  
19 I think that's a little troubling that you  
20 don't know that these deals are possibly  
21 being put into writing. Actually, some of  
22 the deals that are being talked about don't  
23 even include what you just mentioned.

24 You had mentioned that there are  
25 certain divisions that are being moved to

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 certain current policing center locations.  
3 Is there anything that you could offer the  
4 public or this legislature that would codify  
5 that in writing? You mentioned the robbery  
6 division, the highway division. You had  
7 mentioned BSO being at the Fifth as well as  
8 the Eighth and the First. The first two as  
9 well BSO?

10 COMMISSIONER DALE: The first is  
11 a BSO office, yes.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So is there  
13 anything that you can offer this legislature  
14 or the public that this is being put into  
15 writing and that this is not a deal that's  
16 just based off of a handshake?

17 COMMISSIONER DALE: Well, first  
18 of all, I didn't say I didn't know that  
19 there were deals going on. I said I wasn't  
20 100 percent sure what the deals are. I'm  
21 not involved with the intimate day-to-day  
22 negotiations that are going on with the  
23 labor unions.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:  
25 Commissioner, commissioner. I appreciate

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 that. I appreciate your honesty, but to be  
3 frank with you, I think it's disturbing that  
4 any discussions in regards to detectives or  
5 police officers that's taking place and you  
6 are here testifying in front of this body  
7 and you do not have knowledge of that, full  
8 knowledge of that, I would think that's a  
9 concern. That being said, back to my  
10 original point.

11 COMMISSIONER DALE: I would like  
12 to answer that, if I could.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It wasn't a  
14 question, but go right ahead.

15 COMMISSIONER DALE: The  
16 negotiations are going on almost as we  
17 speak, and I have been waiting to come in  
18 here to speak to you. And I have back in my  
19 office trying to read my notes, go over my  
20 stuff. I cannot, no matter how I try, be in  
21 two spots at one time, sir.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So,  
23 commissioner, can you please elaborate on  
24 what you do know about the discussions that  
25 are taking place?

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 COMMISSIONER DALE: I know  
3 there's talk of moving different units back  
4 and forth, maybe different personnel back  
5 and forth, things along those lines, yes,  
6 sir.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I think  
8 that's obvious, commissioner. Let me. Do  
9 you mind if I fill you in?

10 COMMISSIONER DALE: Go right  
11 ahead.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Apparently  
13 there's discussion about detective squads  
14 remaining at the current locations. There  
15 is also discussion of commanding officers  
16 being at the policing centers. Does any of  
17 this sound familiar?

18 COMMISSIONER DALE: Yes.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So can you  
20 elaborate on that?

21 COMMISSIONER DALE: I don't know  
22 what deals are being made, sir. You're  
23 using the word deals. I don't know -- I'm  
24 not in deal making. I have a plan. I'm  
25 going to stick with the plan.

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But,  
3 Mr. Dale, maybe you are not understanding  
4 exactly what I'm saying. Basically your  
5 plan is changing. What you're saying is not  
6 what's actually being discussed. Unless I'm  
7 speaking out of school here, I would think  
8 that the commissioner of police would have  
9 full knowledge of this.

10 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: I'm going to  
11 interject at this point because -- we're  
12 going to have decorum in this room, that's  
13 the way the meeting is going to be run. I  
14 do not expect you and, commissioner, I would  
15 caution you, you do not negotiate in public.  
16 Whatever negotiations are going on between  
17 the county executive and the unions, whether  
18 you are or not a part of them, and I agree  
19 you can't be in two places at one time. But  
20 I do not want to see negotiations held in  
21 public, and I would remind all of the  
22 members that the item that is in front of us  
23 confers upon the police commissioner the  
24 directive to go from eight precincts to  
25 four.

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.  
3 Schmitt, no --

4 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Under the  
5 jurisdiction --

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No  
7 disrespect to you, Mr. Schmitt -- you  
8 interjected by interrupting me.

9 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Let me finish  
10 the sentence, please.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But you  
12 interjected by interrupting me, if you  
13 remember that correctly.

14 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: There was no  
15 conversation going on when I interjected.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes, there  
17 was. Presiding Officer Schmitt --

18 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: You were not  
19 in mid-sentence.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding  
21 Officer Schmitt, I'm trying to show you all  
22 the respect --

23 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: And I'm trying  
24 to show you all the respect as well.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Then let me



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 finish my questioning of Commissioner Dale.  
3 COMMISSIONER DALE: Commissioner  
4 Dale, do not negotiate in public.  
5 COMMISSIONER DALE: I don't.  
6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.  
7 Schmitt, there's no negotiations in public.  
8 What I'm saying is that what you're  
9 specifying on the record today is changed.  
10 And the bottom line is you're not  
11 representing what's possibly being discussed  
12 and which probably is discussed and is just  
13 going into a writing phrase with the unions  
14 and the county executive. You're part of  
15 the county executive's team, so I would  
16 think that you would have knowledge of what  
17 I'm talking about.  
18 But, apparently, it seems to me  
19 that this plan is ever changing even at the  
20 11th hour, or at the first hour, because  
21 we're past midnight now. So the bottom line  
22 is, this plan just keeps changing, and I  
23 would like to know full well, and have it  
24 codified in writing exactly how its  
25 changing.

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 Now, even if we are talking about  
3 the proposal that Commissioner Dale has  
4 referenced, there is nothing in writing that  
5 specifies that the county will continue to  
6 provide those levels of services at those  
7 locations, is there?

8 COMMISSIONER DALE: No.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So  
10 basically this plan is in flux and it pretty  
11 much creates an opportunity for yourself or  
12 the county executive to change it at any  
13 time. So anything that you promise to  
14 Legislator Ford or Legislator Becker in  
15 regards to any of these divisions, six  
16 months from now can very well not be the  
17 case; am I correct?

18 COMMISSIONER DALE: I wouldn't  
19 say that.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Why would  
21 you not say that?

22 COMMISSIONER DALE: Well, if I  
23 give you my word on something I give you my  
24 word.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 disrespect to you, Commissioner Dale, but  
3 the word from the administration means  
4 absolutely nothing to us. From that  
5 standpoint -- let me elaborate on that.

6 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: You can  
7 elaborate on who the "us" is. You don't  
8 speak for this side of the aisle.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: "Us" being  
10 the nine members on this side of the aisle.

11 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Thank you.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You're very  
13 welcome. That being said, this  
14 administration told us when we went through  
15 a budget process last year there would only  
16 be two precincts cut. Today we are voting  
17 on a proposal that has four precincts cut.

18 So from our standpoint, if it's  
19 not in writing, if they're not actually  
20 going to codify exactly what you are talking  
21 about today, from our position, it's very  
22 clear that this could change at a moment's  
23 notice.

24 So what I'm saying to you today  
25 is that I understand that there are dealings

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 to codify something, maybe part of what you  
3 said, maybe a little bit more, but subject  
4 to not having that before us, I feel it very  
5 incumbent on this legislature to table this  
6 item today until those documents come down  
7 to us. It's very clear to us, if you vote  
8 on this proposal, it is clearly indicative  
9 that you are tying it and you will very well  
10 have to possibly consider a vote on layoffs.  
11 I don't think anybody in this position is  
12 willing to consider that position at this  
13 time.

14 So I would strongly recommend  
15 being that this plan is in flux every single  
16 day and every single minute, I would  
17 strongly suggest that we table this item  
18 today until we get the documents we need  
19 from the county executive which codify  
20 exactly what is going to happen in these  
21 policing centers. Motion to table.

22 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: We have a  
23 non-debatable motion to table.

24 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Seconded by

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 Judy Jacobs. All those in favor of tabling,  
3 please say aye.  
4 (Aye.)  
5 Any opposed?  
6 (Nay.)  
7 The motion to table fails. Are  
8 you completed?  
9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Roll call  
10 on the table.  
11 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Mr. Muller, on  
12 the motion to table, please call the roll.  
13 CLERK MULLER: Deputy Presiding  
14 Officer Gonsalves?  
15 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: No.  
16 CLERK MULLER: Alternate Deputy  
17 Presiding Officer Kopel?  
18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: No.  
19 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
20 Troiano?  
21 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Yes.  
22 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
23 Solages?  
24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yes.  
25 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Ford?

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 LEGISLATOR FORD: No.

3 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

4 Scannell?

5 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: When you're  
6 talking about the most important plan in the  
7 history of public safety in Nassau County  
8 and we're here as of today --

9 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Just vote.

10 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: -- and it  
11 is in flux, we need to have the time to look  
12 at it. There's no rush. We're talking  
13 about people's lives, we're talking about  
14 public safety in Nassau County. We are  
15 talking about keeping people safe, and  
16 keeping officers safe. So I vote to table  
17 this so we can get the details. We need to  
18 get the details in writing. I vote to table  
19 it.

20 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Becker?

21 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Nay.

22 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

23 Muscarella?

24 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: No.

25 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 Nicoletto?

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: No.

4 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

5 Bosworth?

6 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: I don't see  
7 how in good conscience any one of us can  
8 vote for a plan that we have not yet seen.  
9 It's a plan that every time we speak,  
10 there's something different in it. This is  
11 to important and I vote to table.

12 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Wink?

13 LEGISLATOR WINK: This is a plan  
14 written on an etch-a-sketch and it's not  
15 even worth the paper it's written on. I  
16 vote yes.

17 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Belesi?

18 LEGISLATOR BELESI: No.

19 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Dunne?

20 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: No.

21 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Jacobs?

22 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I never voted  
23 in my life in the 17 years I'm here on a  
24 plan that's in flux every minute of every  
25 day, and I don't understand how anyone up

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 here can possibly vote on it. I definitely  
3 move to table.  
4 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Walker?  
5 LEGISLATOR WALKER: No.  
6 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
7 DeRiggi-Whitton?  
8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I  
9 know that I'm a freshman here, but I've  
10 never seen anything like this and I  
11 definitely think we should table this. I  
12 vote yes.  
13 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
14 Denenberg?  
15 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: If I'm not  
16 mistaken, the question is whether I'm voting  
17 to table something that the commissioner  
18 says is still in negotiation and, don't  
19 worry, take me at my word, it's all going to  
20 work out okay. Why would legislators ever  
21 vote on something as is when it is still  
22 subject to negotiation? I vote to table.  
23 CLERK MULLER: Minority Leader  
24 Abrahams.  
25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes.



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer  
3 Peter Schmitt.

4 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: No.

5 CLERK MULLER: The motion to  
6 table fails by a vote of ten to nine. We  
7 are going to take a ten minute recess.

8 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative  
9 Committee recessed at 1:50 p.m. and  
10 reconvened at 2:50 p.m.)

11 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: The recess is  
12 over. I call upon everybody to come to the  
13 chamber. We are going to resume and the  
14 chair is going to recognize Legislator  
15 Denenberg and then we'll hopefully go to  
16 public comment.

17 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Is the  
18 commissioner here?

19 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: He went back  
20 to work.

21 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: That's who  
22 we were having questions of.

23 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Is Krumpter  
24 here?

25 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: We took a

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 break so we could lose the people that were  
3 answering questions?

4 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Is anybody  
5 here? Mr. Clerk, could you get a hold of  
6 somebody from the county executive's office  
7 to find out where Krumpter or Dale or  
8 somebody is to answer questions here?

9 CLERK MULLER: I will do it right  
10 now, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: While we await  
12 the arrival of them, I'm going to start  
13 calling some public comment slips. Julie  
14 Sullivan.

15 MS. SULLIVAN: Hi. Julie  
16 Sullivan from Wantagh. Thank you for the  
17 opportunity to speak today. I was here on  
18 February 6th for five hours and again on  
19 February 13th for eight hours. I was lucky  
20 enough to be in attendance to hear the  
21 information first hand.

22 Unfortunately, most Nassau County  
23 residents did not have this opportunity and  
24 instead they received unsolicited phone  
25 calls from County Executive Mangano and

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 Commissioner Dale using the automated system  
3 otherwise reserved for emergencies. I  
4 received this very call myself on February  
5 24th at 10:57 a.m.

6 I also went to a community  
7 meeting at the Merrick Library hosted by  
8 Legislator Denenberg because, to my  
9 knowledge, Legislator Dunne did not host one  
10 in my district.

11 I listened to Commissioner Dale's  
12 proposal, the questions from the legislator,  
13 and reaction from the community and I am  
14 here to say that I strongly disagree with  
15 the plan to realign or close the precincts.

16 Among my concerns are the fact  
17 that Commissioner Dale offers a plan that  
18 constantly changes but does not offer a  
19 contingency plan in case the realignment  
20 does not work. He does not have an estimate  
21 on what it will cost to update the  
22 consolidated precinct buildings and he did  
23 not address concerns that half of these  
24 buildings, after a realignment, will be in  
25 FEMA designated flood zones. These very

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 zones, County Executive Mangano ordered to  
3 be evacuated during Hurricane Irene.

4 It also concerned me that when  
5 Commissioner Dale presented his plan and  
6 confirmed that it was indeed his plan, he  
7 was simply incapable of defending it on his  
8 own and needed others to field questions,  
9 questions that he as the police commissioner  
10 should have answered. For example, when  
11 asked, he did not even know something as  
12 basic as how many holding cells exist in  
13 each precinct.

14 When looking at a county map  
15 where eight precincts are collapsed into  
16 four, it looks like a simple change. But  
17 when you take people, demographics, and  
18 community activity into consideration, it is  
19 not simple and does not make sense.

20 I heard a saying once. You never  
21 know what crimes didn't occur because a cop  
22 was there. If you look at the realignment,  
23 I'm afraid we'll find out. I'm not a  
24 Republican, nor am I a Democrat, I'm a  
25 Nassau County resident and a new homeowner

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 who wants what's best for me and my  
3 community.

4 I hope when you vote, you will  
5 vote with the same mindset, not as a  
6 Democrat or Republican, but a person of  
7 integrity who wants what's best for the  
8 community that you were elected to  
9 represent. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Thank you.  
11 John O'Connor.

12 MR. O'CONNOR: Good afternoon.

13 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Good  
14 afternoon.

15 MR. O'CONNOR: My name is John  
16 O'Connor and I'm a lifelong resident of  
17 Nassau County. I'm asking all of you up  
18 there, put aside the party politics. I've  
19 read that report. Aside from being  
20 factually inaccurate, it's very heavy on  
21 hyperbole and very short on factual data as  
22 to what the commissioner intends to do with  
23 this county. By simply saying "we are going  
24 to do this" and hope for the best, is merely  
25 setting us up to fail and fail miserably.

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 All of you are elected to have  
3 our best interests at heart, not your  
4 party's, not your own. Take a moment. Read  
5 the report. The one sheet that was given  
6 out when I was here two weeks ago had two  
7 factual errors on it. If there's errors on  
8 one form, how many others are there? Has  
9 anyone actually read this report?

10 You shake your head, but I don't  
11 think you have, Mr. Schmitt. Take a moment  
12 and table this embarrassing thing and fix  
13 the problems that you have had ample  
14 opportunity in the last 18 years to fix.  
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Thank you.  
17 Robert Rappo of North Woodmere, United  
18 Spinal Association.

19 MR. RAPPO: I appreciate if you  
20 can refrain from the cameras. I appreciate  
21 that very much. They make me very nervous.

22 Hi. Good afternoon, folks. As I  
23 was here before the legislative body last  
24 week, I commented -- I made some comments  
25 that I told you I'm a crime victim. I

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1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 became disabled from the crime. Anything  
3 that you folks are going to do, you already  
4 got your mind up. So anything that I could  
5 say, I don't believe I'm going to change  
6 anybody's mind today.

7 My questions will really be for  
8 the County Executive Mangano's office. I  
9 know what he wanted. I spoke to his office  
10 about the plan for the -- with the Nassau  
11 County Coliseum.

12 My first question to the county  
13 executive's office will be, why would you  
14 have a special voting hearing like that in  
15 the middle of the summer when people are  
16 away? They told me that it was a \$400  
17 billion --

18 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Please,  
19 please. This is on the closing of the  
20 precincts.

21 MR. RAPPO: I understand that. I  
22 understand. I understand that, sir. I'm  
23 just telling you --

24 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: I understand.

25 MR. RAPPO: -- why I feel the way

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 I do. This was a \$400 million grant that  
3 would have been given to the county of  
4 Nassau County I was told. The vote did not  
5 pass. And personally I believe this is a  
6 vendetta from the Nassau County executive's  
7 office.

8 One thing I just would like to  
9 say in a comment to all of you, I don't know  
10 if any of you have been a victim of a crime.  
11 I pray not. I think that you would feel or  
12 you would want the help that I didn't have  
13 that day. The ample time for a police  
14 presence at that time. As I say, you can't  
15 be as the commissioner said, you can't be in  
16 two places at once.

17 So, Mr. Mangano, I will hold this  
18 up. This is a picture of your oldest niece.  
19 Your other niece is dead from a car accident  
20 in Bethpage. How many years ago? This was  
21 the daughter of my first cousin. That's  
22 just off the record. Mr. Mangano, you are a  
23 Judas. Anybody that votes for this plan,  
24 you are a Judas. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Hendrick



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 Fyette of Roosevelt? Can you ask outside if  
3 there's a Hendrick Fyette? No? Okay. Paul  
4 Federman of Valley Stream.

5 MR. FEDERMAN: Thank you for the  
6 opportunity to speak. I just want to say  
7 that when we had our meeting in Valley  
8 Stream, Representative Becker said that he  
9 had an open mind about this. I hope that's  
10 still true. We really fear for our safety  
11 in the Fifth Precinct when this plan goes  
12 into effect because it seems everybody is  
13 saying when and not if.

14 I just want you guys to know that  
15 those who vote for this plan, this will  
16 follow you, and we will make sure, the  
17 residents of Nassau County will know that  
18 you are soft on crime. That's how we see  
19 this plan.

20 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Thank you.  
21 Jack McCloy.

22 MR. McCLOY: Good afternoon. For  
23 those of you who have been on the  
24 legislature for a while, you probably  
25 remember that I had been the person that

1                   Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2       brought to your attention the desire of many  
3       of the people in the Baldwin community to  
4       keep the First Precinct on county-owned  
5       property. I was an advocate of that and,  
6       for the sake of the new members of the  
7       legislature, I would just like to let you  
8       know that that was a situation that was much  
9       in flux at the time, and it seemed like it  
10      was going to be moved to leased property. I  
11      was one of the three Baldwin community  
12      members who signed an Article 78 challenge  
13      to keep the First Precinct in county owned  
14      property.

15                   The reason I did that is because  
16      many of us seriously felt that moving it to  
17      leased space was going to cost the county a  
18      lot in the long run. I see the discussion  
19      right now basically divided along party  
20      lines where those on this side of the aisle  
21      are looking at it as a situation where it's  
22      a community situation where we need the  
23      police presence in order to make sure our  
24      community remains safe.

25                   Those on the other side of the

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 aisle are looking at it as a situation, from  
3 my perspective, where you're caught between  
4 a rock and a hard place. The money just  
5 isn't there to support a larger and larger  
6 expenditure for police presence.

7 I had the opportunity to talk to  
8 a number of people that some of you are  
9 casting your votes today about the  
10 situation. From the information that I got,  
11 it seems like the only reason why these  
12 precincts are being closed is because,  
13 contractually, you can't cut the staffs of  
14 active precincts if they're called  
15 precincts.

16 I know that we have to minimize  
17 the budget, but cutting the precincts I  
18 don't think is the right way to do it. I  
19 don't know if there's another way where we  
20 can institute discussions with the police  
21 unions to find out if there's a third way to  
22 look at this without eliminating the  
23 precincts. The reason why I'm mentioning  
24 this is because I think maybe as a Full  
25 Legislature you can ask for the police union

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 to present you with a package that might  
3 include savings without sacrificing the  
4 precincts.

5 I will make it real quick and  
6 say, I do think that anybody who votes in  
7 favor of closing the precincts will have a  
8 rough time with their electorate in the  
9 future. I hope that's not the case. I  
10 really do. And I hope that you consider one  
11 more time tabling this for a possible third  
12 option to the problem. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Thank you.  
14 John Johnson of the Elmont Cardinals Sports  
15 Club. No? Sue Auriemma.

16 MS. AURIEMMA: Hi. Thank you for  
17 allowing me to speak today. My name is Sue  
18 Auriemma. I represent the Greater Council  
19 of Civic Associations in Manhasset. I'm  
20 here today to present a petition on behalf  
21 of Nassau County residents and make it clear  
22 that the public does not want this plan to  
23 pass.

24 The petition has been signed by  
25 5,244 residents, all of these residents are

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 vehemently opposed to this plan. I haven't  
3 seen or heard of a petition in support of  
4 this plan. I will tell, this is not about  
5 politics or party. It's very clear if you  
6 take the time to read the comments on this  
7 petition. In fact, there were many people  
8 who said they were Republicans. They voted  
9 for Legislator Belesi and voted for the  
10 county executive, and they said if this plan  
11 passes, I will not vote for a Republican  
12 next time, I will vote for a Democrat.

13 There were many people who  
14 commented and said, I will allow you to  
15 raise my taxes in order to pay for this so  
16 that the precincts are not closed. People  
17 are concerned. People are opposed.

18 I'm asking you today, while I  
19 submit this to the public record, to please  
20 vote on behalf of your resident. Please  
21 vote in the interest of the county, not  
22 based on politics or party. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Thank you.  
24 Just give that to the clerk, the petition to  
25 the clerk. Where is the clerk?

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: It would  
3 be useful if he listened to the public  
4 comment as well. I'm sorry.

5 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Sitting  
6 outside the chamber, Naomi Feldheim of Great  
7 Neck, Reach Out America.

8 MS. FELDHEIM: Good afternoon and  
9 thank you for the opportunity to speak to  
10 you today. I live in Great Neck. I've  
11 lived on Long Island for most of my life.  
12 My parents brought me here for an education  
13 and for the safety afforded by being a  
14 resident of Nassau County.

15 I've taught here for 28 years. I  
16 have directed a demonstration center for an  
17 early childhood program for low income  
18 families for ten years. I know the island  
19 very well and I know that raising my  
20 children here was a pleasure and they did  
21 have a fine education, but more than that  
22 I'm concerned about the environment in which  
23 we live. It was a safe environment. It was  
24 a safe environment because the police were  
25 well aware of the people in their district,

1                   Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2     as I was well aware of the families of the  
3     children I taught. I think that's what  
4     makes you connected to the public you serve.

5                   If you are a public service  
6     person you know your community. You know  
7     its needs. I don't see, and it seems to  
8     defy logic to me, how cutting the police  
9     precincts in half can give the same kind of  
10    service we have always had from the police  
11    and the same kind of safety we have always  
12    had.

13                  I've organized rallies, I have  
14    participated in rallies. I have been  
15    involved in political movements all of my  
16    life here, and I've always felt that the  
17    police were there for the safety of the  
18    people, whether they agreed with those  
19    people or not politically was irrelevant.  
20    They were there for the safety of the  
21    people.

22                  I hope that our representatives  
23    are also there for the safety of the people  
24    and, as has been said by others, we will  
25    remember in November.

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2 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Thank you.  
3 Dan Levy, Mayor, Village of Saddlerock.

4 MAYOR LEVY: Dan Levy, mayor of  
5 Village of Saddlerock. Mr. Schmitt?

6 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Yes?

7 MAYOR LEVY: Thank you. I'm  
8 talking to you as well.

9 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: I'm listening  
10 to you as well.

11 MAYOR LEVY: When you're ready.

12 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Your three  
13 minutes are running. Take your time.

14 MAYOR LEVY: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: You're  
16 welcome.

17 MAYOR LEVY: As a Republican, I'm  
18 embarrassed by the plan, but that's not why  
19 I'm here. I was here three weeks ago. I  
20 spoke from the heart, and, unfortunately, it  
21 was party politics then, and it's party  
22 politics today probably again.

23 My concern with the plan was,  
24 it's transparency. As a mayor of  
25 Saddlerock, and eight other mayors like me



1                   Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2     in Great Neck, we are not notified about any  
3     of the plan. As a matter of fact, three  
4     days before I read about it in Newsday, we  
5     met with the county representative and told  
6     us specifically none of this was going to  
7     happen. So I don't need to remind you all  
8     how surprised we all were when we read about  
9     it in Newsday.

10                   As far as the hearings are  
11     concerned, surprise was not the word. I had  
12     to get a last minute, last day memorandum  
13     from my good friend Judy Bosworth who does  
14     more work than anybody I know, day and  
15     night, to tell me this is going to happen  
16     and I should be afforded time to speak.

17                   But, back to the subject. My  
18     concern is just like yours. Budget is hard.  
19     The numbers that were crunched were  
20     imaginary at best. If the truth of the  
21     matter is that were going to save \$20  
22     million, then it's embarrassing that we  
23     spent so many days talking about the \$20  
24     million since there are so many other  
25     millions of dollars that didn't collect in

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 dues and fines and fees and we're not going  
3 there.

4 And if the real problem is  
5 dealing with the police union, then why not  
6 bring it on the table. If the police union  
7 is not playing ball, we'll talk to them. As  
8 mayors, as legislators -- I think it's funny  
9 as well, Mr. Schmitt, but the bottom line  
10 is, it's not a game. Closing the Sixth  
11 Precinct is going to affect my constituents  
12 and all of your constituents as well.

13 The bottom line is, its not about  
14 a threat, who is going to vote for who, the  
15 bottom line is, closing the Sixth Precinct,  
16 and combining it with the Third, is going to  
17 be a devastating effect to the residents of  
18 Great Neck.

19 So I urge you all to think about  
20 it one more time before you cast your vote.  
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Thank you.  
23 Adam Haber of Roslyn Nassau Suggestion Box.

24 MR. HABER: Hi, everybody. I'm  
25 Adam Haber, Roslyn School Board. I just

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 want to comment and say there is no doubt  
3 that Nassau County has financial problems to  
4 work out. That's why this whole plan is  
5 being discussed right now. I'm not saying  
6 I'm for or against this plan right now  
7 because there isn't a final cost to the  
8 project. To reconfigure the precincts will  
9 take time and money and it makes sense, if  
10 the police precincts are combined, the move  
11 takes place when the plan is done to limit  
12 the pain of the reconfiguration if there is  
13 one.

14 Please postpone the vote until  
15 the community knows what the final cost will  
16 be. I created a website that is currently,  
17 actually being launched today. The work  
18 site is called Nassau Suggestion Box.com.  
19 There is a large PR TV print and social  
20 media campaign happening this week to create  
21 public awareness of the website. The  
22 website, let all of Nassau County vote and  
23 comment on this and other issues facing it.  
24 The issue of the week on Nassau  
25 Suggestion Box.com says, Nassau wants to

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 consolidate eight police precincts into four  
3 in order to save money. County Executive  
4 Mangano says that there will not be a  
5 decrease to the cars in the street and  
6 Nassau will save approximately \$20 million.  
7 Should Nassau County go ahead with the  
8 consolidation plan?

9 So all I ask is that you wait one  
10 more week, please see how the community  
11 votes, with the feedback, because otherwise  
12 I feel you're operating in the dark. Thank  
13 you so much.

14 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Thank you.  
15 Milagra Vicente.

16 MS. VICENTE: Good afternoon. I  
17 would like Becker's, Kopel's, Muscarella's,  
18 Solages' attention. I'm here today -- you  
19 know, it's really funny because I planned  
20 this big speech because I'm always speaking  
21 out of emotion but, you know what? After  
22 what I saw here, forget about my speech.  
23 I'm going to speak from my emotions.

24 It's really sad today. Today is  
25 a sad day that we are here and we're

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 listening to a commissioner and he doesn't  
3 know what is going on behind doors. He says  
4 this is his plan and he's not even sure.  
5 What's more sad about the situation today is  
6 that all of you Republicans, despite the  
7 fact that he doesn't know what is going on,  
8 and he cannot answer your questions, you  
9 refuse to table it.

10 What that means to me is, all  
11 your Republicans are afraid of Mangano and  
12 not afraid of the residents. Yes, laugh,  
13 because the last laugh will be us residents  
14 when you come up for votes.

15 Mr. Becker, with all due respect,  
16 I invited you to a meeting. You were very  
17 cordial and I was very cordial, and I  
18 allowed every one to make a presentation.  
19 You had an opportunity to speak. You said  
20 you wanted to listen. You heard your  
21 constituents say they don't want this to  
22 pass.

23 Today I have 2,500 votes  
24 including the ones that I gave the previous  
25 two hearings from the Fifth Precinct.

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2 Kopel, Muscarella, Becker, you must listen  
3 to the residents which the Fifth Precinct  
4 covers. I can only talk about the Fifth  
5 Precinct because, you know what, as a  
6 resident, I didn't even have enough time, I  
7 don't know how you could pass this, I didn't  
8 have enough time to study what's going on  
9 with the other ones, but I can tell you one  
10 thing. Baldwin, do we all know that  
11 Rockville Centre detectives are used for the  
12 Baldwin precinct? And the Fifth Precinct  
13 detectives are used for Lynbrook and  
14 Melville? They have their own police but  
15 they feel this is not going to affect them,  
16 but you know better. You know this will  
17 affect your constituents.

18 Somebody sent out facts, a sheet  
19 about facts. Now I have my facts. Fact  
20 number one, this will not save us \$20  
21 million, it will save \$12.2 million. Fact  
22 number two, there will be overtime. Fact  
23 number three, response will be delayed.  
24 Fact number four, two of the precincts will  
25 be in flood zones, and Mr. Krumpter said, if

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 there is a hurricane, that precinct, the  
3 Fourth Precinct will be closed and moved to  
4 the Fifth Precinct.

5 He also said that it should snow,  
6 so I have been praying for snow for the  
7 entire year, because snow will deter crime  
8 according to Mr. Krumpter.

9 Duplicate services. No one here  
10 has taken the initiative to look at the plan  
11 or to look at other things that are going  
12 on, the duplicate services in this county,  
13 and we know there is a lot of duplicate  
14 services.

15 Three, substation in Green Acres  
16 Mall. I have a picture here on a Friday  
17 afternoon closed. It is always closed in  
18 the Green Acres Mall. They said to us in  
19 the meeting that we organized that that will  
20 help with the precinct issue. That's a lie.  
21 I walked there two or three times and the  
22 substation is always closed.

23 Four, we want to save money. How  
24 come they hired Commissioner Hart and Quinn  
25 at \$150,000? If we're trying to save money,

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2 how come they did that?

3 Also, I asked Mr. Krumpter,  
4 Commissioner Krumpter, if you want to save  
5 us money, your salary is \$188,657. If  
6 that's the case, you're going to get a raise  
7 for \$237,000, so why not just stay with the  
8 1,000 and save us money that way. Don't  
9 take a salary raise for your administrative  
10 job, because that's what it is, it's an  
11 administrative job.

12 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Please wrap  
13 up, the bell rang.

14 MS. VICENTE: Also, I want  
15 everybody to understand this. The residents  
16 are saying do not pass this. Listen to us.  
17 Don't be afraid of Mangano. Don't vote by  
18 party line. Don't do a disservice to the  
19 residents and voters. One great thing about  
20 this nation is that we, during general  
21 election, we can cross party lines.

22 So, please, Mr. Becker, I'm  
23 asking you, you are running for Congress,  
24 you cannot run for Congress and be the  
25 Congressperson saying that you are willing



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2 to jeopardize our public safety. Don't do  
3 that to yourself and don't do that to the  
4 residents that voted for you. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Thank you.  
6 Caren Martin of Franklin Square.

7 MS. MARTIN: Hi. I'm Caren Martin  
8 from Franklin Square, lifelong Republican.  
9 Pretty embarrassed. Mr. Mangano, you're  
10 constantly telling everyone you're going to  
11 save \$2 million by realigning our police  
12 precincts. If it was \$2 million, which we  
13 all know it's not, because we have 468,000  
14 plus households in Nassau County, it comes  
15 out to \$44 per household. You are willing  
16 to risk public safety for \$44?

17 That's not taking into account  
18 all the money we're going to spend. When  
19 you merge these police precincts, where are  
20 they going to go? They are already  
21 overcrowded at most police stations, so I'm  
22 guessing you're going to do what sometimes  
23 the jails do, and the schools, and you're  
24 going to buy trailers. I would be real  
25 curious to know how much those trailers are

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 going to cost. That has to be taken out  
3 from your bottom line.

4 The word on the street is Hewlett  
5 Police Station really doesn't want the Fifth  
6 Precinct coming over and I can't blame them  
7 because our criminals will be let loose on  
8 their streets. You had the police academy  
9 in trailers for nine years leaking with a  
10 mold problem.

11 I would also like to know, all of  
12 you who are in favor of this, I was  
13 wondering if you would be willing to go down  
14 to the police stations that you represent  
15 and spend the night there with your police  
16 officers who you're going to risk their  
17 life, risk your own lives too and go down  
18 there and sit with them in an empty police  
19 station for an eight hour shift. I would  
20 like a show of hands to see which one of you  
21 would be willing to do that. And Mr.  
22 Mangano should go and sit on that tour with  
23 you, being that he's willing to risk every  
24 one else's life.

25 Mr. Becker, I'm not sure if she

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 is your wife, but Clementine is one of the  
3 sweetest ladies in real estate. And I  
4 wonder if she's told you, we all know our  
5 property value is going to go down. If you  
6 take eight precincts and you turn it into  
7 four, we can no longer brag about how  
8 responsive the police is to our community.  
9 I don't want to hear about, nothing is going  
10 to change, because it will change. I'm  
11 wondering how many of you heard of a  
12 kidnaping that almost occurred in West  
13 Hempstead. When they called the police,  
14 they were there within minutes, as usual,  
15 being that our police department is so  
16 wonderful. The woman told me, had they been  
17 two minutes later, this child might have  
18 been abducted, but he was rescued. That's  
19 one incident that I heard of. Are you  
20 willing to put at risk the lives of our  
21 children here in the county? We all know  
22 that a lot of kids are key latch kids and  
23 have to go back and forth by themselves.  
24 You can't do this to them.

25 Mr. Muscarella, a few weeks ago

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2 they had a shooting right down the block  
3 from where you grew up. It was like the  
4 wild wild west by King Umbertos when they  
5 shot from one side of the street to the  
6 other, two gang members, I guess at two  
7 other gang members and it went right through  
8 the gas station on the corner. Is this the  
9 kind of community we want to live in?

10 You can pull this out of a  
11 computer, but our home robberies have gone  
12 up like 216 percent in the Fourth Precinct,  
13 and in the Fifth Precinct -- sorry, that  
14 must be wrong. In the Fifth Precinct it's  
15 gone up 100 percent. That's home robberies.  
16 You're telling us crime is down? What is  
17 going to happen when you merge and criminals  
18 from right across the county know that we're  
19 sitting there like sitting duck?

20 Hewlett also went up, they went  
21 up a good 216 percent. They need their  
22 police stations like we need our police  
23 stations. Baldwin went up like 83 percent.  
24 Norma Gonsalves, how on earth can you put  
25 all the people at risk that are in your

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 community; Hofstra University, Nassau County  
3 Medical Center, the jail, the coliseum,  
4 Eisenhower Park? How can you put all these  
5 people that come in to visit our county at  
6 risk by going along with them? It's all  
7 because you know Mr. Mangano is going to  
8 hand you all a nice county job. That's what  
9 it all comes down to. When we vote you out,  
10 you'll all go --

11 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: The bell rang.  
12 Please wrap up.

13 MS. MARTIN: -- and get a big job  
14 somewhere else, just like Ciotti. He's  
15 sitting at the medical center. Does he have  
16 a medical background? No, he doesn't.

17 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: He has a legal  
18 background.

19 MS. MARTIN: You all went along  
20 with it. I'm a Republican, but like the tea  
21 party, I vote for the best person that is  
22 going to do the job, and I don't think it's  
23 going to be any of the Republicans this time  
24 around.

25 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: All right.

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2 Thank you.

3 MS. MARTIN: Mr. Muscarella, be a  
4 man. Take a stand. Tell them no, okay?

5 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Ma'am, your  
6 time is up. Patricia Maher.

7 MS. MAHER: Thank you. I'm Pat  
8 Maher. I'm a lifelong resident of East  
9 Meadow. I'm here representing myself and  
10 also the Merrick Avenue Civic Association in  
11 East Meadow.

12 I've attended every single one of  
13 these hearings and I also attended the  
14 meeting that Legislator Gonsalves had in  
15 East Meadow and then we also had our own  
16 meeting in East Meadow.

17 I honestly thought I understood  
18 this plan. I came here prepared to speak on  
19 the facts that I knew. After hearing the  
20 previous testimony, I don't understand the  
21 plan. It changes on a daily basis. There  
22 is nothing concrete about it. I can't  
23 imagine that you can vote on a plan that you  
24 don't know that is changing every day. It's  
25 nice to say, you know, I'm going to honor

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 that, I'm going to do this. We all know  
3 that that's not going to happen. Our  
4 commissioner, our new commissioner is not  
5 making those negotiations.

6 So I'm here to ask you, and I'm  
7 here to ask my legislator also to not vote  
8 on this plan. Delay it. Anything. But  
9 please don't vote on this plan. I've heard  
10 so many arguments here. We all know that  
11 home burglaries are up. It's not about  
12 snow. Our special patrols, the POP  
13 officers, they're not in the street, and  
14 that this is only going to delay them  
15 further.

16 Now I heard the BSO and the  
17 robbery squad are going to be in the First  
18 Precinct. Now it's not going to be a  
19 policing center. I'm not even sure what  
20 this plan is about anymore. I'm not even  
21 sure I can even talk intelligently about it.  
22 I haven't seen any numbers and I have  
23 attended all those meetings and not once,  
24 not once, have I seen a financial analysis,  
25 something financial to show that in reality

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 this is actually a cost-savings plan. It's  
3 clear that it's not going to save \$20  
4 million.

5 So I ask you again, and I my  
6 legislator, please don't vote on this plan.  
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Thank you.  
9 Patrick Nicolosi.

10 MR. NICOLOSI: Good afternoon and  
11 thank you. Wow, how ironic. Consolidation.  
12 Can you imagine this, Mr. Muscarella, the  
13 guy that's always against consolidation? I  
14 have been here numerous times -- you're not  
15 now, right? Local control is your mantra.  
16 Your family has done well in politics.

17 I have been here before this  
18 legislature talking about fire districts,  
19 and the fact that we spend more than New  
20 York City for fire service. Mr. Schmitt,  
21 you remember my speech last year? I pay  
22 more for sanitary District Six than I do for  
23 the Fifth Precinct.

24 If you don't remember my speech  
25 about fire, I will remind you, ask me, did



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2 that include ambulance service? We have  
3 duplication of services that I have been  
4 hearing since I have been in this county  
5 since 1967. Have we done anything against  
6 it? Absolutely not. Why? Patronage.  
7 Patronage. That's what's bringing this  
8 county down.

9 What I find ironic about this  
10 plan is that we bring a commissioner from  
11 New York City, and I worked in the city in  
12 the 70s, 80s and 90s, and it wasn't if I was  
13 going to get robbed, it was when. Crime was  
14 rampant in the city until Giuliani took over  
15 and what did he do? The broken windows  
16 theory. Fix crime. Added more police  
17 departments, and more police officers, and  
18 businesses came to the city. What are we  
19 doing here in Nassau County? We can't even  
20 build a coliseum. We're collapsing. What  
21 do you want to do? You want to collapse it  
22 even further. Less police officers, because  
23 that's what's going to happen. Crime is  
24 going to grow.

25 My parents moved here in 1967 for

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2 two reasons, Mr. Muscarella. Not because of  
3 politics, because my father was very happy  
4 in the city, because he voted for a mayor,  
5 and we had somebody to blame, we knew who to  
6 blame. We have more politicians in Nassau  
7 County, City of New York. New York City is  
8 growing. Our young people are leaving. I  
9 hear this constantly and constantly. What  
10 are we doing to fix it? Nothing. We cut  
11 last year from the police department \$15  
12 million of our police officers. We are  
13 cutting again this year. What are we going  
14 to do next year because there is no plan?  
15 What that county needs is an economic plan  
16 and a consolidation plan, all right, but we  
17 need to consolidate the waste, the  
18 duplication of services. The county does  
19 roads, the town does roads. I'm tired of  
20 this nonsense.

21 I look at the town of Hempstead  
22 and all the money they waste on the animal  
23 shelter. It's over \$7 million. Patronage,  
24 patronage, patronage, that's where you need  
25 to cut.

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2 Do not cut from public safety.  
3 I'm sick and tired of listening to this  
4 nonsense because this is not a plan. We are  
5 going to elect another county executive and,  
6 unless we get a person like a Bloomberg out  
7 here, that doesn't care about politics,  
8 that's the only thing that's going to fix  
9 this county.

10 Norma Gonsalves, I'm ashamed of  
11 you. You and I in 2007 sat -- we sat  
12 together and did the civilian police academy  
13 and we learned of 16 weeks that I didn't  
14 miss one class of what the department was  
15 all about. You and I had many discussions,  
16 how we felt crime wasn't down in this  
17 county, that, in fact, we felt crime was  
18 underreported. I'm ashamed of you that you  
19 were my classmate. Don't look at me like  
20 that because you support the police  
21 department and now you're cutting from the  
22 police department.

23 And, Joe Belesi, you want to know  
24 something? One thing about a brotherhood,  
25 I'm not a police officer, but I know

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1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 something about brotherhood because I'm a  
3 union stop steward. Brotherhood lasts a  
4 lifetime. Politics is a very short window.  
5 Think about your brothers. Think about your  
6 brothers.

7 Personally, I'd rather have my  
8 brother standing next to me than all of them  
9 because they'll throw you under the bus.  
10 Unless they reward you like John Ciotti and  
11 give you a \$300,000 a year job.

12 We want to consolidate, let's do  
13 it right. Let's go after the patronage  
14 waste. And, again, don't tell me about  
15 holding the line on taxes. I was here with  
16 Gulotta. That didn't work and it's not  
17 working for Mangano.

18 Last year the sanitary district  
19 seeked to raise my taxes 16 percent, and  
20 this year two percent. That's 18 percent in  
21 two years. Guess what? I paid \$500 and  
22 change for Sanitary District Six that works  
23 three hours and 20 minutes a day, I paid  
24 \$400 and change for the Fifth Precinct. I  
25 want the Fifth Precinct. Get rid of

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 Sanitary District Six. I don't care who  
3 picks up my garbage. Let's cut patronage,  
4 let's cut waste.

5 And, Joe, let me tell you  
6 something. Make sure you think about your  
7 brothers. Brotherhood is a good thing.  
8 These guys will throw you under the bus.  
9 Thank you and have a nice day.

10 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: I have  
11 concluded public comment. There are some  
12 things going on. I'm going to put this  
13 meeting of the legislature into recess and  
14 we are going to go into the committee  
15 meetings that have been scheduled. So we  
16 are in recess. First, public safety.

17 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative  
18 Committee recessed at 3:35 p.m. and  
19 reconvened at 4:05 p.m.)

20 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Deputy  
21 Commissioner Krumpter has joined us, and the  
22 chair recognizes Legislator Denenberg.

23 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Good  
24 afternoon, Deputy Commissioner.

25 MR. KRUMPTER: Good afternoon,

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 legislators.

3 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: When  
4 Commissioner Dale was here, some questions  
5 were directed to Commissioner Dale regarding  
6 the 177 patrol cars, and I pulled out the  
7 record of the questioning before the Public  
8 Safety Commission -- I'm sorry, the Public  
9 Safety Committee of the legislature. And at  
10 the time I had asked you and Commissioner  
11 Dale questions.

12 The shutting of four precincts,  
13 or the renaming of four precincts to  
14 community policing centers would mean that  
15 the minimum manning requirements for the 177  
16 patrol cars could be reduced, correct?

17 MR. KRUMPTER: I believe I  
18 testified that it would not be affected.  
19 That the intent is and the interpretation by  
20 the county is that that will be unaffected  
21 by the realignment of the four precincts.

22 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: But,  
23 contractually, the number of patrol cars  
24 that are required to be manned could be  
25 reduced.

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2 MR. KRUMPTER: Legislator  
3 Denenberg, I have testified repeatedly that  
4 the opinion of the county is that the 177  
5 cars will be unaffected by the realignment  
6 from eight precincts to four precincts.

7 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: For how  
8 long would you commit that?

9 MR. KRUMPTER: I've testified  
10 that the interpretation of the law and the  
11 contracts here is that the four precincts  
12 would have the same number of posts, the 177  
13 posts, and the same staffing rules would  
14 apply in totality that currently exist.

15 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: And  
16 Commissioner Dale was asked a question  
17 before and said that that would be  
18 reexamined.

19 MR. KRUMPTER: I'm testifying  
20 here now that the interpretation of the  
21 county and the attorneys for the county is  
22 that 177 post cars would be unaffected by  
23 the realignment of the precincts.

24 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Would be?

25 MR. KRUMPTER: Unaffected.

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: But they  
3 could be?

4 MR. KRUMPTER: No, I said would  
5 be.

6 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: For how  
7 long is that going to be the interpretation?

8 MR. KRUMPTER: That will be the  
9 interpretation until such time the county  
10 renegotiates an agreement that would amend  
11 that in some way, shape, or form.

12 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: My concern  
13 is that we are making that possible without  
14 the legislature being part of it by reducing  
15 the precincts.

16 MR. KRUMPTER: Legislator  
17 Denenberg, as you are aware, the county  
18 executive is charged with the responsibility  
19 of negotiating with the unions. That's  
20 within his purview. Now, the unions would  
21 have to enter into an agreement or it would  
22 have to come down by the way of an interest  
23 arbitration award or some other grievance.  
24 Obviously there are protocols in place to  
25 insure that doesn't happen unilaterally.



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: But it  
3 wouldn't have to occur with the legislature  
4 if we've already cut the number of  
5 precincts.

6 MR. KRUMPTER: Legislator  
7 Denenberg, the opinion of the county is, and  
8 it has been, and I've testified repeatedly  
9 to this, and I've made numerous public  
10 statements, the position of the county is  
11 that there are 177 posts and the realignment  
12 of the precincts does not affect that.

13 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: But the  
14 statement was that contractually that it  
15 could be affected.

16 MR. KRUMPTER: That wasn't my  
17 statement, Legislator Denenberg.

18 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: You know  
19 what, you keep saying that it's unaffected  
20 and there's an intention to be unaffected.

21 MR. KRUMPTER: I said there is an  
22 interpretation.

23 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG:  
24 Interpretation. But it could be subject to  
25 negotiation?

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 MR. KRUMPTER: Of course it can  
3 be subject to negotiation. That's how the  
4 -- it's a contractually guarantee minimum  
5 staffing.

6 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Okay. I  
7 agree that the minimum staffing could be  
8 subject to negotiation, but as soon as the  
9 number of precincts are reduced, we, as a  
10 body, are no longer part of that negotiation  
11 or part of that oversight. It could be  
12 negotiated if the precincts weren't  
13 realigned, only when the contract came up.

14 MR. KRUMPTER: Only when the  
15 contract or there is some other reason to  
16 negotiate with the unions.

17 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: We are  
18 giving you the some other reason, and that  
19 could affect the sector cars. That's my  
20 concern.

21 MR. KRUMPTER: There are regular  
22 communications, as you are well aware, there  
23 are regular discussions with the union. As  
24 far as the cars, the unions would have to  
25 enter into an agreement or it would have to

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 be handed down by an arbitrator, you know,  
3 that the arbitration would not have to be  
4 approved by the legislature, if it was an  
5 interest arbitration 2016, or if the unions  
6 entered into some type of agreement.

7 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Well, I  
8 don't want to give away the prerogative that  
9 the legislature has.

10 MR. KRUMPTER: I don't think you  
11 are, Legislator Denenberg.

12 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Let me ask  
13 you something, minimum manning is tied to  
14 precincts, not to community policing centers  
15 and that affects the sector cars.

16 But, moving on, if 20 million,  
17 according to the administration, is coming  
18 from those officers leaving, whether it's  
19 pursuant to the incentive plan or otherwise,  
20 correct?

21 MR. KRUMPTER: I believe the  
22 testimony before the legislature that it's  
23 up to \$20 million, and that would be based  
24 on the approval of an incentive.

25 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: So where

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 is the savings from closing police  
3 precincts?

4 MR. KRUMPTER: In order to  
5 realize savings, you have to account for the  
6 reduction of heads. So the incentive is  
7 tied into or the reduction of heads is tied  
8 into the closing of precincts because those  
9 are the positions that are being eliminated.

10 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: But that's  
11 not so if you're putting 48 officers or 48  
12 positions, if you will, we would still have  
13 two people in each community policing  
14 center, that's 48?

15 MR. KRUMPTER: That is correct.  
16 We are eliminating 148 positions and 48  
17 additional positions are being created.

18 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Okay.  
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Anybody else  
21 have any questions for Commissioner  
22 Krumpter, or Deputy Commissioner Krumpter?  
23 Nobody?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 Okay. Thank you. We have one

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 more slip. I'm going to call Jim Carver. I  
3 understand he's not in the chamber. We'll  
4 give him a minute to come down or up or  
5 wherever he is. So we are calling James  
6 Carver, president of the PBA.

7 MR. CARVER: Sorry, we just ran  
8 downstairs.

9 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: We are waiting  
10 on you.

11 MR. CARVER: Thank you, Peter.  
12 Probably the worst kept secret in the world,  
13 we've been talking with the administration  
14 all day about a few different issues.  
15 Obviously the biggest one is, we're talking  
16 about the closing of precincts.

17 There is a lot of concerns that  
18 have been raised by not only the unions but  
19 by the public over the past three weeks I  
20 guess this is. Most of it is about public  
21 safety. It's not about police jobs. This  
22 is about public safety and the response time  
23 that we provide to the citizens of Nassau  
24 County.

25 Under the current plan as it

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 exists, with the information that we have,  
3 it is our belief that that compromises  
4 public safety. Having said that, we have  
5 had talks with the county executive to try  
6 to alleviate the concerns for public safety  
7 talking. I've talked to some legislators.  
8 I think I heard you, Denise, talking before  
9 about Point Lookout and Elmont. That's one  
10 of our concerns. You have people going into  
11 neighborhoods that they're not familiar with  
12 to take away the concept of community  
13 policing, which is what this county is all  
14 about.

15 You are now prepared to make a  
16 vote on a plan that goes against everything  
17 that has made this county successful. We  
18 can argue about crime stats, go back and  
19 forth, we can talk about peaking and not  
20 peaking at different times, whether crime is  
21 up or down, but the bottom line is we still  
22 have the lowest crime rate of any  
23 municipality of its size because of the way  
24 we police.

25 Over the past year, year and a

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 half, we have seen anti-crime patrols and  
3 five of the precincts eliminated. We have  
4 seen DWI dedicated patrols in each of the  
5 eight precincts eliminated. We have seen  
6 the set DWI, which is the highway of three  
7 police officers eliminated. We have seen  
8 motor carrier patrols eliminated. Now we're  
9 talking about eliminating precincts.

10 I don't think today is a good day  
11 to take that vote. I think you should wait  
12 and make sure it's right. I know you waited  
13 a week. We have talked for a week and made  
14 a lot of strides. We're almost there. To  
15 take a vote right now is premature in my  
16 opinion. That's what great about this  
17 legislature. You guys meet almost on a  
18 weekly basis on a Monday, and we are talking  
19 about something that's serious. We also  
20 understand about the financial impact the  
21 county is having right now.

22 Again, both sides have to work  
23 together. And what we've seen here today,  
24 and I actually want to bring up something.  
25 My board of officers are here. I heard,

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 Peter, you make a comment before about  
3 disciplining the police department and  
4 everything. We have had a couple of  
5 isolated incidents, but let me say this loud  
6 and clear. There are no finer police force  
7 in the world than the men and women that  
8 serve the Nassau County Police Department.  
9 For anyone to suggest any type of  
10 shenanigans or whatever that's going on here  
11 is not appropriate.

12 Everybody has got to get their  
13 heads together and stop fighting and sit  
14 down before you take this vote. Both sides  
15 need to understand what we need here. We  
16 need to the keep the buildings open. Our  
17 worry is that two months from now, or a year  
18 from now, or two years from now, that if you  
19 do vote this, and it looks you guys are  
20 going to do this, that the four community  
21 centers will then be eliminated. Where are  
22 the assurances that those buildings are  
23 going to stay? People in Great Neck need  
24 the same police protection as the people in  
25 Baldwin, Seaford or Massapequa, as they do



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 in the Fourth Precinct, all over the county.

3 Again, the commissioner was up  
4 here before with not much information and  
5 he's talking about putting trailers. We  
6 went through trailers with the police  
7 academy, if you remember, for years until we  
8 finally got into your district, Peter, in  
9 Massapequa. We were in trailers. Is that  
10 what we want to be known for? People drive  
11 by and there's trailers? You got to go to a  
12 trailer?

13 I just urge you all, guys, I'm  
14 telling you, don't make a mistake, wait  
15 another week. Give us a time to figure this  
16 out because this is all going downhill real  
17 fast.

18 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: I move to  
19 table.

20 LEGISLATOR WINK: I second that.

21 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: That's out of  
22 order. That motion has already been  
23 decided. Jim, I would just concur with your  
24 statement about the finest police  
25 department. But I think you would have to

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 agree with me, given what has been in the  
3 newspaper for the past week, that there are  
4 areas of concern that the new police  
5 commissioner needs to address, from the  
6 crime lab right down through the very  
7 unfortunate situation that has developed  
8 with high ranking, highest levels being  
9 charged. I know it's innocent until proven  
10 guilty.

11 MR. CARVER: That's correct.

12 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: But there is  
13 room and a lot of work that has to be done.  
14 That's all I was alluding to.

15 MR. CARVER: We can all throw  
16 stones and we are not here to do that. We  
17 are here to get this right. People come  
18 here over the last few weeks of seeing this  
19 show sometimes, you know what I mean?

20 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: I thank you  
21 for coming down. I'm going to call the  
22 question. I'm sorry. I didn't have a slip  
23 for you.

24 MR. LEARNED: I'm sorry, thank  
25 you, Peter. Again, Gary Learned from the

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 Superior Officers. Again, I'm not going to  
3 repeat everything that Jimmy said. You know  
4 we were against this plan. There are still  
5 things about the plan that we're not happy  
6 with, yet, we feel if it's going to pass,  
7 and it seems that you have ten votes to pass  
8 it, what we have been trying to do is make  
9 this thing better for the public and make  
10 this thing better for the residents.

11 I know you had some people from  
12 Elmont speaking. I remember that one  
13 gentleman from the sports club. I play that  
14 for my wife and kids when he talks about her  
15 daughter when she gets to the precinct and  
16 calls him and says she is safe, that she's  
17 in front of the precinct.

18 We have been working today and we  
19 will work as long as it takes in order to  
20 make this work for the public, in order for  
21 it to save money for the county, and, in  
22 addition, you talk about supervisory issues,  
23 you're cutting 55 supervisors from my union  
24 at a time when you are concerned with  
25 supervision. We are trying to work those

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 items out. I feel we are making a lot of  
3 progress.

4 So, again, to vote on it today, a  
5 plan that when they told you when they were  
6 going to implement it, the Second and Eighth  
7 Precincts would close 30 days from the time  
8 the legislators passed this proposal, and  
9 then every two months thereafter, another  
10 two precincts would close. You have a lot  
11 of time. They're not looking to tomorrow to  
12 institute this plan.

13 So to be reasonable and to wait  
14 one week to try to resolve these concerns,  
15 you're not voting no, you're just voting to  
16 sit down and give us a chance to work  
17 something out. I know Legislator Ford has  
18 mentioned a few times that you had concerns  
19 and you were saying, why don't you come to  
20 the table. We're at the table.

21 So for you now to pass this thing  
22 when your request was to come to the table,  
23 I'm asking you, we are at the table. We are  
24 going to try to make this thing work for the  
25 public for all those residents that spoke,

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 and, in addition, save money for the  
3 financial crisis, just please do the right  
4 thing and table this today. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Thank you.

6 MR. CICCONE: Hi. I'm Glenn  
7 Ciccone, President of the Detectives  
8 Association. I have been up here several  
9 times in the last month. I basically  
10 articulated to you all of the concerns of  
11 removing detectives from four of the  
12 precincts and exchanging them to the other  
13 four precincts. I'm not going to go over  
14 it. I think Jimmy did a great job covering  
15 all of our concerns.

16 We have been negotiating with the  
17 county executive. He's been listening.  
18 Public safety is our absolute absolute  
19 concern. This isn't a contract negotiation,  
20 this is public safety. I have been a  
21 lifetime resident, and both Jimmy and Gary  
22 also. Our concerns are Nassau County and  
23 the residents. I have told you over and  
24 over again that condensing these precinct  
25 squads is insane. I have used the cruise

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 ship as an example. It's almost like a  
3 storefront. Just to have two people sitting  
4 in a precinct and having a storefront with  
5 the window dressing, you open the door and  
6 there's basically nothing left in there.  
7 It's an empty store. It's useless.

8 So the plan right now is  
9 absolutely insane the way it is. We are  
10 looking to work with the county and build a  
11 better plan. I know the NBA has Linnsanity,  
12 and with this Mangano plan it will be  
13 Mansanity.

14 I just ask you to table this and  
15 give us a chance to work it out so public  
16 safety comes number one.

17 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Thank you.  
18 We'll call the question and we'll have a --  
19 I'm going to call the question and we're  
20 going to have a roll call vote. Madam  
21 Clerk, will you call the roll?

22 CLERK WEISS: Deputy Presiding  
23 Officer Gonsalves?

24 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you  
25 very much. I do agree that we have the

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 finest police department in the country, not  
3 in the state but in the country. And for  
4 over 25 years, I have worked closely with  
5 members of the county police department in  
6 many different capacities, such as a  
7 community leader, project director of a  
8 crime watch program, a member of the  
9 citizens police academy whose meetings I  
10 attend on a regular basis, and now  
11 legislator.

12 I've had a professional  
13 relationship with the department, fighting  
14 for adequate staffing and, most importantly,  
15 the problem oriented police. Our goal was a  
16 mutual one, public safety and still is.

17 As part of public safety, almost  
18 \$200 million was allocated to purchase  
19 commuters, printers, cell phones for our  
20 precinct cars. In addition, a state of the  
21 art 911 public safety center was opened in  
22 Westbury.

23 Today, my major priority, public  
24 safety, continues to guide me in making my  
25 decisions regarding the proposal before us.

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 With the same 177 patrol cars, and I do  
3 believe that Commissioner Dale did say that  
4 the rotation could change based on contract,  
5 but it does not say that 177 patrol cars  
6 will not be in focus. 48 additional  
7 officers on the street involved in community  
8 neighborhoods and special units such as BSO  
9 -- excuse me, I listened to you. Now you  
10 listen to me. I have your concerns at heart  
11 as well -- and special units such as BSO,  
12 highway patrol, narcotics, robbery squad,  
13 and other units located at the policing  
14 centers, and receiving answers to many of my  
15 questions. I believe that public safety  
16 will not be compromised and services to the  
17 public will not be curtailed.

18 We are voting to give the police  
19 commissioner the authority to implement the  
20 proposal. However, it is still a work in  
21 progress as you heard from the union leaders  
22 and it will continue to be a work in  
23 progress to constantly reassure you and us  
24 that what we say, when we say public safety  
25 is not being compromised, is not going to be



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 compromised. I vote yes.

3 CLERK WEISS: Alternate Deputy  
4 Presiding Officer Kopel?

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Yes.

6 CLERK WEISS: Legislator Troiano?

7 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: We have  
8 heard today, in the last couple of minutes,  
9 that this is a work in progress. I think  
10 from the beginning that it's been a rush to  
11 judgement. We have seen a new commissioner  
12 come in and actually before he was he  
13 commissioner seen him rush to judgement to  
14 propose a plan that slashes by 50 percent  
15 the number of precincts in Nassau County. I  
16 am not a police officer. I am not too  
17 familiar with policing methods. But he had,  
18 at that point, zero days in the job which I  
19 have to contrast against, which there are  
20 probably thousands of years of policing  
21 activity experience in this room right now.

22 My sense from hearing your  
23 comments today, and the way we reacted to  
24 people's comments is that your are four  
25 square against this proposal today. We

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 found a rush to judgement from the new  
3 commissioner. We find a rush to judgement  
4 today where we are told that the plan is a  
5 work in progress, a plan that the  
6 commissioner can't even speak to what it is.

7 This legislature has been asked  
8 to hold a vote for just one week. Still we  
9 go forward with a rush to judgement and the  
10 risk of compromising public safety. For  
11 what benefit? We're told we are going to  
12 save \$20 million. Then we're told it might  
13 only be 17. Then we're told only \$12  
14 million. And that doesn't include the cost  
15 of retrofitting police precincts.

16 If you breakdown \$20 million,  
17 that works out to \$3 a month to the average  
18 Nassau County resident. When I weigh the  
19 balance and the risk to public safety versus  
20 the savings to the Nassau County taxpayer, I  
21 am not persuaded this should be move  
22 forward. I vote no.

23 CLERK WEISS: Legislator Solages?

24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I've taken  
25 the time to talk to the great people of my

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 district from the everyday mother, to the  
3 everyday father, to the police officers that  
4 serve at the Fifth Precinct and I am more  
5 than convinced that this plan will lead to  
6 increased crime and we cannot fail with our  
7 public safety.

8 We can not afford to put in  
9 jeopardy the lives of so many great people  
10 who live in this district, who pay the  
11 highest taxes in this country, in return for  
12 what, less services? This plan does not  
13 make any sense. It lacks transparency, it  
14 lacks details. As we heard from the  
15 commissioner today, it's a plan that changes  
16 at every minute and every second.

17 I vote no to give the  
18 commissioner authority to implement this  
19 plan. I also ask that we consider, like in  
20 Elmont, the consideration of incorporating  
21 the village so that we can have our own  
22 public safety. We must take matters into  
23 our own hands once we see that our leaders  
24 do not stand or represent us. I please to  
25 ask you to never forget and always remember

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 what happened today, and to not give up on  
3 democracy and to always put faith in our  
4 system of government. I vote no to  
5 implement this plan.

6 CLERK WEISS: Legislator Ford?

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: This is the  
8 biggest change in Nassau County's history.  
9 I urge the commissioner to proceed  
10 cautiously with this plan. I am thankful  
11 that he will take the time between each  
12 precinct closing and will maintain the  
13 patrols in their respective geographic areas  
14 and is willing to process arrests in the  
15 Fifth Precinct.

16 I expect the commissioner to  
17 maintain the patrol supervisors as well as  
18 putting more personnel within each police  
19 center, as well as also keeping a minimum of  
20 detectives in each location.

21 I also urge him to work with the  
22 union leaders as they represent years of  
23 experience and have the knowledge that is  
24 needed as he proceeds with this plan. There  
25 is no doubt that all of you together have

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 the public and the police best interests at  
3 heart. I vote yes.

4 CLERK WEISS: Legislator  
5 Scannell?

6 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: Again, we  
7 heard no details. It was extremely  
8 frustrating today to hear the police  
9 commissioner come up again and have  
10 absolutely no idea about what was going on.  
11 That is completely unacceptable. That's the  
12 first reason, I'm extremely upset today. No  
13 details to the plan.

14 We need just an extra week. One  
15 week would simply be enough time to maybe  
16 hash out some details, and when you're  
17 talking about people's safety, talking about  
18 public safety, talking about lives, just by  
19 asking for literally one week to possibly  
20 move and get this deal negotiated and worked  
21 out, I think that's completely unacceptable  
22 and it lacks no common sense on all the  
23 people who were going to vote for it.

24 Literally, the most important  
25 vote in the history of the Nassau County

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 Legislature, as Denise Ford just said, is  
3 happening right now, and all we want is an  
4 extra week to talk and negotiate this  
5 through and that's not happening.

6 The numbers again, the numbers  
7 just simply don't add up. They're saying  
8 they're going to save \$20 million. They're  
9 not going to save it. The Office of Budget  
10 Review, which is not Republicans, it's not  
11 Democrats, it our Office of Independent  
12 Budget Review, said that we're only going to  
13 save \$12 million. So that means that we  
14 have other places to look and they haven't  
15 even looked there.

16 We have \$38 million in TPVA fines  
17 that are outstanding. There are millions  
18 and millions of dollars there that we can  
19 use. The Office of Budget Review said it  
20 was just 12. We can use that \$38 million  
21 from TPVA money. We have \$38 million in  
22 sewer money that's going to come in next  
23 year as well.

24 So there's TPVA money, there's  
25 millions of dollars in sewer money, which

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 nobody has even talked about and it's out  
3 there and they should be using that instead  
4 of -- to save the \$12 million.

5 It simply doesn't make common  
6 sense. People move to Nassau because we  
7 have the best county and the best police  
8 department in the country and what we should  
9 be doing is helping them and supporting  
10 them. By going from eight precincts to four  
11 is completely unacceptable. The First  
12 Precinct in Baldwin has been the cornerstone  
13 of the Baldwin community, my home town,  
14 where I was born and raised and where I'm  
15 raising my family for over 75 years. It's a  
16 symbol of public safety that people  
17 absolutely wanted to stay. That's why I'm  
18 voting no.

19 CLERK WEISS: Legislator Becker?

20 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Before I  
21 vote, it's important to put today's events  
22 into some kind of historical perspective.

23 I was elected as one of the first  
24 Nassau County legislators in 1996. After  
25 getting this body up and running, I was

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 reelected by a great margin as was then  
3 County Executive Tom Gulotta. We were a  
4 majority of 14 to five. But, by 2000, only  
5 four years in office, the train wreck was  
6 inevitable because of a decade of bad budget  
7 practices and quick fixes finally happened.

8 Instead of truly fixing the  
9 county's problematic finances, we tried to  
10 tax the problem away. We raised taxes as  
11 Republicans by ten percent being told it was  
12 the right thing to do, ignoring the tax  
13 budget -- the no tax budget of County  
14 Executive Gulotta, and found ourselves  
15 deservingly plunged into the minority.

16 From 14 to five, we were then  
17 nine members in Republicans and Democrats  
18 ten. Yes, in 2000, the Democrats took  
19 control of the county and in 2002, with the  
20 election of Tom Suozzi as county executive,  
21 they would control the county and its  
22 finances for a total of ten years.

23 As a person who appreciates good  
24 government over party politics, I welcomed  
25 the election of Tom Suozzi. I felt he was a



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 person of great intellect and energy and I  
3 looked forward to his governance. I felt  
4 the county finally had someone who would,  
5 with the cooperation of the legislature,  
6 finally fix the county's finances.

7 But Mr. Suozzi seemed never to  
8 want to be county executive proceeded to  
9 spend the next years running for governor to  
10 the detriment of the county. The lack of  
11 leadership, confusion and bravado left us  
12 with a debacle at the hub with no vision for  
13 the Islanders and the real estate there  
14 currently lacking resources for large  
15 developments. The results, millions in lost  
16 revenues. In addition, tens of millions in  
17 uncollected fines at the parking violations  
18 bureau.

19 In 2000, we were bonding \$100  
20 million annually in refunds for property tax  
21 refunds which I felt was almost criminal or  
22 at least a critical dereliction of duty on  
23 behalf of the current and prior  
24 administrations. I broke with my party to  
25 vote for reassessment.

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 For the next several years, the  
3 county would spend \$65 million reassessing  
4 the county and begin the process of ending  
5 the long suffering practice of revolving tax  
6 cert lawsuits.

7 However, for a moment the cost of  
8 refunds started to tumble, but because of  
9 incompetence and a dearth of leadership over  
10 10 years, the cost of refunds went right  
11 back up under democrat control of the county  
12 which further saddled the county with  
13 another billion dollars in debt.

14 Further, during Mr. Suozzi's  
15 tenure, the state bailed the county out to  
16 the tune of \$125 million because of the  
17 county's failing finances.

18 In addition, during the first  
19 year in office, he raised taxes 25 percent  
20 and with the help of his democrat colleagues  
21 posed on the county and its resident an  
22 energy tax.

23 These are only a few of the  
24 newest revenue raising schemes the Democrats  
25 impose, almost completely ignoring the need

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2 to fix the systematic financial problems of  
3 the county.

4 So perhaps people will understand  
5 why we are forced with a \$148 million  
6 deficit last year and a \$310 million deficit  
7 this year and why many difficult decisions  
8 as today's must be made.

9 Which brings us today two years  
10 since the Republicans took back the majority  
11 and the election of Ed Mangano as county  
12 executive. The same promise I had for Tom  
13 Suozzi, almost a decade ago, and I now have  
14 for Ed Mangano, but unlike Mr. Suozzi, Ed  
15 Mangano has not disappointed me. He has  
16 been strong. He has been courageous. He  
17 has changed both the governmental and  
18 political paradigm here in Nassau County.  
19 No longer will we just simply tax our way  
20 out of fiscal messes of the county or force  
21 the taxpayer to pick up the tab for the  
22 mistakes of government.

23 Mr. Mangano has walked straight  
24 into the storm. He killed the energy checks  
25 and proposed two tax free budgets. He has

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2 worked hard to finally fix the debacle of  
3 the revolving tax cert refund policy that  
4 has crippled this county and its finances.

5 People should understand there is  
6 no joy or pleasure in this. Sure, raise  
7 taxes and you can go on allowing the problem  
8 to continue to fester to avoid the wrath of  
9 those who really want things to change when  
10 we all know they must.

11 I can say also that the police  
12 unions and the CSEA are not responsible for  
13 the problems that we have in Nassau County.  
14 They have worked hard and done well for the  
15 county but unfortunately we are faced with  
16 this financial dilemma that must be fixed.

17 For those of you who think this  
18 is against them, to think there is any  
19 pleasure in this job, in making the tough  
20 decisions, you are very sadly mistaken.

21 It's kind of sad that I have to  
22 sit here and listen to everybody speak, yet  
23 I can't speak for this moment and have a  
24 little quiet so you can understand my vote.

25 Our only satisfaction is that

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 somehow maybe we will leave those who follow  
3 us and our children a little bit more of a  
4 financial and affordable county. I vote  
5 yes.

6 CLERK WEISS: Legislator  
7 Muscarella?

8 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Yes.

9 CLERK WEISS: Legislator  
10 Nicolello?

11 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Let's have  
12 some order, please. Some order here,  
13 please. For those of you who are cat  
14 calling out should be ashamed of yourselves.  
15 We listened to you speak. You should have  
16 the common courtesy to listen to these  
17 legislators on both sides cast their votes.  
18 I know you might think it's easy sitting up  
19 here but, trust me, it's not. You had your  
20 time up at the microphone. Please. There's  
21 a lot of media here as you can see. You are  
22 sending quite a nice imagine of Nassau  
23 County. Who is next?

24 CLERK WEISS: Legislator  
25 Nicolello.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm going  
3 to wait. Thank you very much. The  
4 administration has, to my satisfaction,  
5 established that this plan will not affect  
6 public safety. There's been a lot of talk  
7 about things being in flux and changes, but  
8 some things are exactly the same.

9 After this plan is adopted, 177  
10 patrol cars will patrol the exact same  
11 areas. The police will still have a  
12 presence in each of these communities. The  
13 residents interaction with the police will  
14 be exactly the same.

15 There are some things that will  
16 change, however. There are 156 desk jobs  
17 that will be eliminated and 48 more police  
18 officers in the streets. More importantly,  
19 for a county in fiscal distress and, for  
20 taxpayers, we are saving up to \$20 million a  
21 year. I vote yes.

22 CLERK WEISS: Legislator  
23 Bosworth?

24 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: I fear that  
25 we are watching the infrastructure of Nassau

1                   Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2     County unraveling. I am astounded that this  
3     body is being asked to vote on a plan that  
4     changes daily -- no, actually changes as we  
5     speak. Every time we hear it, we're told  
6     it's changing this way, it's changing that  
7     way, but trust us.

8                   I know that with the closing of  
9     the Sixth Precinct, the new Third Precinct  
10    will go from Manorhaven and Port Washington  
11    all the way down to Nassau University  
12    Medical Center on Hempstead Turnpike.  
13    That's quite an area to cover. You are  
14    combining two precincts, one that's a low  
15    crime precinct, low activity precinct, to  
16    one that's the busiest precinct in the  
17    county.

18                  You are trying to sell us on the  
19    fact that it's not going to hurt my  
20    community. I don't buy it. You have one  
21    desk officer who, instead of controlling the  
22    resources of 26 posts, is now going to be  
23    controlling the resources and allocating the  
24    resources for 50 posts, and you're saying  
25    that's not going to make a difference? How

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2 can it not?

3 This is a plan that we have not  
4 had a chance, because we don't know what it  
5 is, to really examine. It seems to me it's  
6 a plan that's depending upon either a  
7 retirement incentive and, if that doesn't  
8 work, then you're talking about police  
9 layoffs, and that's what you voted for  
10 today.

11 It seems to me that this is  
12 eerily reminiscent of the discussions we had  
13 when we talked about the Nassau Coliseum.  
14 Because, you're right, it did go down almost  
15 on party lines and my colleague said, how  
16 can we vote on a plan when we don't have the  
17 details? And, we were told, oh, don't  
18 worry, by the time people get to vote on it,  
19 they will have the details. Then that  
20 famous August 1st date came, and, guess  
21 what? We still didn't have the details and  
22 we were told, well, the people are voting on  
23 a concept. You know what? I'm not willing  
24 to compromise the public safety of my  
25 community based on a concept, based on



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 theory, based on intentions. I vote no.

3 CLERK WEISS: Legislator Wink?

4 LEGISLATOR WINK: Well, I guess  
5 if nothing else came out of today, Tom  
6 Suozzi should feel good about the level of  
7 support he has on the other side of the  
8 aisle because in the five years I've been  
9 here, I never heard a word of it while I was  
10 here.

11 But, having said that,  
12 Commissioner Dale, and it was echoed by  
13 Legislator Gonsalves, among others, uttered  
14 what I think are the most seven dangerous  
15 words in Nassau County Government, "This is  
16 still a work in progress."

17 The fact that we are being asked  
18 to vote today for the most radical change in  
19 the 87 year history of the Nassau County  
20 Police Department while this is "still a  
21 work in progress," to me, is dangerous, it's  
22 begging for mistakes, begging for problems,  
23 begging for what we all know to be the  
24 single most important function of Nassau  
25 County Government which is public safety.

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2 We are putting that in jeopardy here today.

3 We are asking the public, with no  
4 detail, no information, to accept that this  
5 is all going to work out just fine and, at  
6 the end of the day, when the public sees  
7 that their portion of their tax bill does  
8 not decrease and they continue to pay among  
9 the highest taxes in the country for less  
10 and less service, for less and less public  
11 safety, then and only then will I think the  
12 human cry will really go up.

13 What you heard today here, ladies  
14 and gentleman, is nothing compared to what  
15 you'll hear when that happens. Until that  
16 happens, unfortunately, this legislature and  
17 this county executive are going to go  
18 blithely forward and push a plan that won't  
19 work, can't work, and that is still a work  
20 in progress. I cannot abide that.

21 We are experiencing the  
22 incredible shrinking savings of precinct  
23 closures here as the numbers continue to  
24 drift downward in terms of savings. To what  
25 end? To the end of jeopardizing public

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2 safety. I cannot abide that. I cannot  
3 support that and I vote no.

4 CLERK WEISS: Legislator Belesi?

5 LEGISLATOR BELESI: I vote yes.  
6 I vote aye.

7 CLERK WEISS: Legislator Dunne?

8 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Yes.

9 CLERK WEISS: Legislator Jacobs?

10 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: You know, I  
11 have to say something to everybody here. A  
12 lot of things have happened in that time. A  
13 lot of fighting in the chamber whether it  
14 was the old building or the new building. I  
15 have never seen anything like this where we  
16 are literally changing the way policing is  
17 done in Nassau County on a plan that is  
18 still developing. Where we are willing to  
19 take that shot with the people that elect us  
20 and trust us.

21 You know, in the Grand Thornton  
22 Report, they mention public safety. It's a  
23 big step from a suggestion of theirs to  
24 redraw some existing boundaries of precincts  
25 in order to meet modern conditions meaning

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 obviously there are some high crime areas,  
3 there are some lower crime areas, the big  
4 difference between that and closing half the  
5 number of precincts in Nassau County.

6 I said it before and I'm going to  
7 say it again, this is actually a major major  
8 experiment in policing. Policing where our  
9 police force has made this the safest county  
10 that you can ever ever ask for. Norma  
11 Gonsalves says that she has to state that we  
12 have the finest police force in the country.  
13 I agree with her. I don't know if she knows  
14 that the only other place in the country  
15 that tried anything that was similar to  
16 this, tried it, went from 12 to 6, went back  
17 to 12 in three years, folks, because it was  
18 a fiasco. That's the country.

19 Nassau County, we feel  
20 comfortable enough to go and close half our  
21 precincts? When New York City, through all  
22 these years since the early 70s, has grown  
23 in precincts and, in fact, right now is  
24 working on opening another precinct in  
25 Nassau County. Where are we going here?

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2 What are we talking about?

3 If anything, we are giving people  
4 who are paying high taxes, people like  
5 myself, people like the young people out  
6 there, everybody, at least we're giving them  
7 services for what they're paying. The day  
8 that stops, people will certainly throw  
9 their hands up and say, what am I doing  
10 here?

11 Let me just say something before  
12 I end. I want to say this. I consider this  
13 mega precincts being formed. They're going  
14 to roughly have to manage twice the  
15 communities and territories. They're going  
16 to have twice the posts and positions.  
17 Commanders will be supervising twice the  
18 staff with double the span of control.  
19 Given this, is there any supporting  
20 research, and I want you to be leaving here  
21 with this in mind, is there any research on  
22 how 50 percent consolidations have turned  
23 out elsewhere?

24 Is there any experience in how  
25 other police departments of this size have

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2 served similar populations?

3 Is there any experience as to  
4 what sort of places are now even served by  
5 four precinct systems?

6 And is it realistic for  
7 commanders and lieutenants to be responsible  
8 for activities in almost four dozen sectors  
9 across numerous communities?

10 Folks, I have to tell you  
11 something. New York City has modern  
12 technology and modern technology has helped  
13 precincts to certainly be more essential.  
14 The New York Police Department uses the  
15 latest tools like intelligent led policing,  
16 but has not cut even one, even one, of 75  
17 precincts. So don't buy it. Don't but that  
18 because the police car has computers in it  
19 that that makes it right to cut our  
20 precincts.

21 Absent a study, why not do a  
22 test? Why not do a small pilot out there?  
23 Precincts provide a manageable, local  
24 territory in our communities. I have to  
25 tell you something. Understanding all the

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 impacts and costs to me is totally crucial  
3 before you can make an even informed  
4 decision on such a horrible idea for our  
5 county. I vote no.

6 CLERK WEISS: Legislator Walker?

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I would like  
8 to echo what Legislator Gonsalves and  
9 Legislator Jacobs just stated about our  
10 police force. I do think we have the finest  
11 police force in this entire nation. I  
12 proudly state that no matter where I am  
13 within my district. Many many community  
14 meetings, many many groups that I see, and  
15 whenever I've called on any of our officers  
16 for anything, they have always been there  
17 and I know that will continue.

18 I do also want to state that I  
19 don't think there's a legislator here, I  
20 would guarantee that there's not a  
21 legislator that sits on this body who is not  
22 concerned about the public safety of our  
23 residents. That is our utmost concern. But  
24 I am going to vote. I vote yes.

25 CLERK WEISS: Legislator DeRiggi

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2 Whitton?

3 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Judy  
4 Jacobs keeps saying that she hasn't seen  
5 anything like this before, and I hope that  
6 that's true, and I hope we don't see  
7 anything like this again.

8 In the last six hours, this plan  
9 has changed so many times that to be able to  
10 vote on something that the commissioner is  
11 saying is a work in progress, and that our  
12 own Jimmy Carver, who is in charge of the  
13 PBA, says they need time to digest it. We  
14 haven't seen any facts. It's so difficult  
15 to understand. We always try to rationalize  
16 by understanding what other people are  
17 thinking, and I cannot see how anyone would  
18 feel comfortable voting for anything with  
19 such lack of information.

20 And I think we are elected to not  
21 only consider what our needs are, but also  
22 to consider the thoughts of the people that  
23 elect. And we did not hear one person here  
24 today that thought that this would be a good  
25 idea. It does not save money closing the



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2 police precincts. All it does is affect our  
3 public safety.

4 What David Denenberg referenced,  
5 and what I think we really are going to have  
6 to watch, this is opening the door for them  
7 to be able to change the number of cars that  
8 are in our precinct without us being able to  
9 say a word about it. That's what I think we  
10 have to watch.

11 I absolutely vote no for this and  
12 I really hope that in the future, if  
13 anything else is brought to our attention  
14 for a vote, that more homework is done so  
15 that everyone feels comfortable and that we  
16 make a good example for the people that we  
17 are representing with having the right  
18 information before we make a decision.

19 CLERK WEISS: Legislator  
20 Denenberg?

21 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: I believe  
22 time and again, whether it's through three  
23 public safety hearings and then the hearing  
24 today, if you continue to hear a lie again  
25 and again, it doesn't make it the truth.

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2 And changing a lie in slick terms doesn't  
3 change the fact that it's a lie.

4 The bottom line here is that this  
5 plan does compromise public safety and any  
6 savings, which is continually reduced by the  
7 fact that all these costs have to go into  
8 the new super precincts, or the new  
9 community policing centers, would evaporate  
10 any savings. That's the fact.

11 The truth also is that this  
12 reduction of the force by 100 is going to  
13 happen with an incentive. It doesn't need  
14 closing four precincts.

15 The other lie. Closing four  
16 precincts somehow puts more cops on the  
17 street. You heard from -- we thought we  
18 were going to hear from Commissioner Dale  
19 but once again he's not here. But he wants  
20 us to trust him, but he's not here to even  
21 listen to what you have to say much less  
22 what we have to say, and for the third time  
23 I was asking him questions, he walked out of  
24 a room and left Commissioner Krumpter or  
25 Deputy County Executive to answer the

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2 questions. That's not what any of us  
3 deserve.

4 Let's look at the math. 48  
5 officers, when you look at 24-7 and two  
6 officers in each community policing center  
7 will have to be stationed there. There are  
8 not 48 more officers in the street. We're  
9 losing 100 regardless of this plan. So the  
10 supposed 148 more officers on the street are  
11 100 officers gone and 48 at the community  
12 policing centers.

13 The bottom line then is, where is  
14 the savings? The truth is, there is none  
15 unless this is all about what I fear it's  
16 about. The minimum manning in contracts  
17 that are secured through 2015, key the  
18 number of those 177 patrols that must be  
19 fixed on the number of precincts. You  
20 reduce the number of precincts then, under  
21 the contract you can reduce how many of  
22 those patrols are filled.

23 Commissioner Dale said, I'm going  
24 to consider it but the deal right now is I  
25 want to keep them filled, but we're giving

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2 him, and he's not even here, the authority  
3 to unilaterally reduce our officers in the  
4 street. Does that make any of you feel  
5 comfortable? Any of you? You know, it  
6 doesn't make me feel comfortable and  
7 ultimately that may be a great savings, to  
8 reduce 177 sector cars down to less than 100  
9 because that's what can happen under the  
10 contracts.

11 And you want to say that's  
12 renegotiation, that's unilateral from the  
13 county executive and the commissioner. We  
14 are voting to give away our check and  
15 balance. Right now today. So that might be  
16 a real savings but at what cost to our  
17 public safety? This is not putting more  
18 cops on the street, it's giving the county  
19 executive and the commissioner the authority  
20 to reduce the number of cops on the street  
21 by almost 50 percent only one year after we  
22 lost almost all of our special patrols.  
23 Losing special patrols, whether it was POP,  
24 DWI, anti-gang, heroin task force, or  
25 traffic enforcement, has already cost us in

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2 the streets.

3 I will not go along with a plan  
4 giving Commissioner Dale the opportunity to  
5 reduce 177 sector cars to less than 100.  
6 And mark my words, that's going to happen.  
7 I vote no.

8 CLERK WEISS: Minority Leader  
9 Abrahams?

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Today I  
11 hoped for a different outcome. One where we  
12 would see a little more bipartisanship in  
13 regard to a plan that is ill conceived,  
14 rushed and quite frankly wrong for Nassau  
15 County.

16 I find it hard to believe and  
17 being able to vote, one of the last people  
18 to vote, I get to see all the votes before I  
19 actually take my vote, but I find it hard to  
20 believe that anyone up on this dais could  
21 vote for a proposal knowing full well there  
22 are discussions and negotiations regarding  
23 this proposal as we speak going on upstairs,  
24 and they know full well that that could very  
25 well implement to change this plan and still

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 vote for this plan before this stuff  
3 changes.

4 From our standpoint, voting for  
5 an undeveloped plan is a betrayal of our  
6 responsibility as county legislators. I  
7 think we've heard it before that this  
8 particular plan does not save any money.

9 So you got to ask yourselves, and  
10 we have taken the position that we will not  
11 support the incentive, and we have made that  
12 clear to my colleagues to the right, that we  
13 will not support the emergency for this  
14 incentive.

15 They know full well that they do  
16 not have the votes to go forward with that  
17 emergency, but still they are going forward  
18 with the proposal today that will close  
19 precincts in Nassau County, a plan which is  
20 precipitated on the fact that you need to  
21 have the heads reduced in the precincts.

22 So you need to ask them now the  
23 question, the question now will be, how do  
24 you plan to remove those heads because if we  
25 are not given the votes for an emergency on

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 the incentive today, that means that they  
3 are voting for a plan that has layoffs  
4 attached to it. It's just that simple. The  
5 heads for those precincts are not going to  
6 leave any other way.

7 So this is becoming a very clear  
8 decisive decision that they're making, that  
9 they're going to decide to go forward with  
10 the proposal knowing full well that there is  
11 no funding to be able to have the officers  
12 leave on an incentive. That funding is not  
13 here today.

14 So, the bottom line and, I'll say  
15 this in closing, that this plan today, that  
16 any legislator would basically walk away  
17 from the fact, there are no facts, there is  
18 nothing in writing, never been anything in  
19 writing.

20 We have heard discussions about  
21 the robbery division going to First  
22 Precinct, Highway going to the Sixth  
23 Precinct, BSO, being that the Fifth and the  
24 Eighth Precinct, all of that is pie in the  
25 sky because we're doing it based off of the

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 fact that we have a handshake and a wink and  
3 a nod.

4 Well, I'll tell you what. I  
5 don't think you guys, Nassau County  
6 residents, my constituents, deserve a wink  
7 and a nod. We need to see it in writing.  
8 Until we get it in writing, we will vote no.

9 CLERK WEISS: Presiding Officer  
10 Schmitt?

11 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: There's a lot  
12 that I would like to say before I cast my  
13 vote but I'm not going to.

14 Let me just answer what was  
15 raised at the podium by Gary Learned,  
16 president of the SOA and also by Minority  
17 Leader Abrahams.

18 Those discussions that are going  
19 on "as we speak" are discussions about how  
20 to handle the community policing centers  
21 after the precincts are closed and going  
22 forward. Those discussions have nothing to  
23 do with the plan that is in front of us.

24 The plan that is in front of us,  
25 the resolution that we vote upon is no more



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2 and no less than agreeing with the request  
3 of Police Commissioner Dale that the number  
4 of precincts that should be established in  
5 Nassau County is four. What happens after  
6 that falls within the purview of the county  
7 executive and the police commissioner.

8 That's what we are voting on,  
9 from eight to four. Gives the police  
10 commissioner the authority to do that and my  
11 vote is yes.

12 CLERK WEISS: The resolution  
13 passes ten to nine.

14 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: The resolution  
15 passes by a vote of ten to nine. So I'm  
16 going to put the meeting of the Full  
17 Legislature into recess and we will commence  
18 with the committees. We are in recess.

19 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative  
20 Committee recessed at 5:06 p.m. and  
21 reconvened at 6:21 p.m.)

22 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: We are not  
23 calling 126 because there's no accompanying  
24 bond and E-69 has already been approved.  
25 We're going back to the business of the Full

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 Legislature. Is everybody in their seats?  
3 Mr. Clerk, I understand that there are three  
4 emergencies from the county executive that  
5 are to be called at this time. They can be  
6 called collectively.

7 CLERK MULLER: I'm ready when you  
8 are.

9 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Please call  
10 the emergencies.

11 CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer  
12 Schmitt, we have an emergency. It comes by  
13 way of the recommendation from the  
14 administration for the adoption of a  
15 resolution setting forth that an emergency  
16 exists for consideration on an immediate  
17 action upon Clerk Item 111-12. You want to  
18 call these all collectively, sir?

19 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Yes.

20 CLERK MULLER: 115-12 and 116-12.  
21 Please entertain to motion to vote on  
22 whether an emergency is established and to  
23 hear these items.

24 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

25 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

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2 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Motion by  
3 Legislator Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator  
4 Dunne. All those in favor of establishing  
5 an emergency -- let's have a roll call vote.  
6 Legislator Abrahams.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If I may,  
8 thank you, Presiding Officer Schmitt. I  
9 believe we had stated our position on this a  
10 few seconds ago in the Rules Committee. We  
11 have outstanding questions regarding this  
12 item. I don't see again how this  
13 legislative body can take action to move  
14 forward with outstanding questions that are  
15 looming about this incentive.

16 At the same time, again, here we  
17 are. We believe we have questions regarding  
18 the police precincts and we have an  
19 agreement that could be ironed out and  
20 regarding the MOU in putting many of what we  
21 heard today into writing, and the fact  
22 remains that from four standpoint we will  
23 not support this emergency from our side of  
24 the aisle until some of our questions are  
25 answered. We look forward to the answers

1                   Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2     from the county executive at that time. If  
3     his answers are satisfactory, we will move  
4     forward. Thank you.

5                   CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: I appreciate  
6     the comments of the minority leader,  
7     however, it should be pointed out for the  
8     record that these emergencies are to put  
9     this early retirement incentive and  
10    accompanying bond right in front of the Full  
11    Legislature rather than having to wait two  
12    weeks until the next legislative meeting.  
13    I'm told that a delay of two weeks costs  
14    this county \$700,000.

15                   So we could pass this today and  
16    then have a -- that's the payroll, and then  
17    have a two week period to gain our answers,  
18    but, however, you're free to vote --

19                   LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If I may,  
20    Presiding Officer Schmitt, we understand in  
21    regard to your comment, that this will cost  
22    us \$700,000 every two weeks, but I would  
23    think it would be incumbent that you would  
24    put that responsibility on the  
25    administration to come here with some

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 answers.

3 The fact remains that here we  
4 are, we have known for four weeks that we  
5 would be voting on a precinct plan and  
6 there's no answers.

7 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: The precinct  
8 plan is history. That's been decided by a  
9 vote of 10 to 9.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It's  
11 history because we weren't able to answer  
12 the questions. But here we are again,  
13 here's an incentive, I just listed out five  
14 or six questions and we don't have them.

15 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: You listed out  
16 five or six questions which the deputy  
17 county executive said that they would get  
18 you the answers.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Are those  
20 answers going to be provided today?

21 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Obviously not.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So that's  
23 my point. So the point of the emergency is  
24 to go to the Full Legislature and then vote  
25 for in the affirmative.

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Correct.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Which my  
4 answers will not get responded to in a  
5 timely manner before they can get answered.

6 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: So you're  
7 willing to take the delay of two week's time  
8 to get your answers to your questions and  
9 that's fine. I just point out that that has  
10 a cost of \$700,000.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Well, if  
12 you want to take that tactic, that's fine.

13 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: I'm just  
14 saying.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But the  
16 bottom line, as we see it, you're talking  
17 about \$50 million, from our standpoint, we  
18 would like to know some answers in how we  
19 are going to spend that \$50 million of bond  
20 money. Maybe that doesn't matter to you but  
21 it matters to us how we're going to spend  
22 it.

23 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Point taken.

24 CLERK MULLER: Deputy Presiding  
25 Officer Gonsalves?

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: This is a vote  
3 on the emergency?

4 CLERK MULLER: Correct. You  
5 asked for a roll call vote on the emergency  
6 which is not debatable.

7 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Mr. Walker, do  
8 you want to --

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I thought  
10 Mr. Walker had wrote them down, but I can  
11 read them again.

12 MR. WALKER: You said how much is  
13 left of the previous incentive, that was  
14 question one, correct?

15 MS. D'ALLEVA: The 2009 bond  
16 ordinance that you had asked, there's  
17 nothing left on that one.

18 MR. WALKER: There is \$14 million  
19 that's left in the police district fund.

20 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: I thought you  
21 just said there is nothing left.

22 MR. WALKER: There is nothing  
23 left in the bond ordinance. The bond  
24 ordinance for the incentive has zero dollars  
25 left.

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Do you  
3 remember the level of borrowing made in  
4 2009?

5 MR. WALKER: I believe for the  
6 county wide it was \$86 million.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And we spent  
8 all 86?

9 MR. WALKER: Correct. That was  
10 for CSEA and all the police unions.

11 MS. D'ALLEVA: All the police  
12 unions. So we've had like three incentives  
13 since then. That covered like two or three  
14 incentives.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If  
16 possible, I do see Mr. Chalmers in the back,  
17 do you mind?

18 MS. D'ALLEVA: The \$14 million  
19 they are referring to is the reserve fund in  
20 the PDD.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: In the PDD.  
22 Okay. How are you?

23 MR. CHALMERS: Very well, how are  
24 you?

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Good. One



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 of the questions that we were asking was in  
3 regards to previous initiatives and funding  
4 for those initiatives. Is there, to your  
5 knowledge, is there any outstanding money?

6 MR. CHALMERS: There's \$14  
7 million in the employee benefit fund to be  
8 used for police separation termination. I  
9 think that's the answer you're looking for.  
10 14.4 million in the reserves.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: In the  
12 reserves?

13 MR. CHALMERS: Yes.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Not bonds?

15 MR. CHALMERS: In the reserves.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So the  
17 money from the 2009 bond has been exhausted?

18 MR. CHALMERS: That was \$80  
19 million that's been exhausted. Then in  
20 2010, with the 90 million, which was  
21 exhausted and 17 million not too long ago.  
22 That's CSEA, yes.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But the \$14  
24 million that's in reserves --

25 MR. CHALMERS: Is to be used for

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 police separation, termination separations.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Police  
4 terminations separations, which, what are we  
5 talking about? Aren't we talking about  
6 termination separations, paying for  
7 terminations separations in this bond?

8 MR. CHALMERS: That's in the  
9 reserve fund, yes.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm just a  
11 little --

12 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Mr. Tim  
13 Sullivan, can you shed some light on this?

14 MR. SULLIVAN: Good evening, Mr.  
15 Presiding Officer. Yes. Mr. Minority  
16 Leader, the \$86 million, I believe it was,  
17 that was previously bonded by this  
18 legislature, those funds have been  
19 exhausted.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes. That  
21 part we understand. Mr. Sullivan, I think  
22 the question was now going towards the \$14  
23 million that's sitting in the PDD budget  
24 which identified it could be used on  
25 severance and termination, am I

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 understanding that --

3 MR. SULLIVAN: That's a reserve  
4 fund, sir, just like we have fund balance  
5 that I don't think that would be wise to  
6 deplete that at this point in time.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Have you  
8 used that money in the past for termination  
9 and separation?

10 MR. SULLIVAN: No, we have not,  
11 sir.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Never used  
13 it before?

14 MR. SULLIVAN: Not in this  
15 administration, no, sir.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Did you do it  
18 in the previous administration? Never mind.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I have  
20 actually a question for Maurice real quick.  
21 How does this incentive impact your latest  
22 analysis in terms of police closures?

23 MR. CHALMERS: The numbers have  
24 changed a little bit. I think the incentive  
25 was based on 140 heads separating, at this

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 point I guess Chief DC Walker said it was  
3 going to be between 100 and 125, so what  
4 we'll do is, we'll get the actual people that  
5 actually have filed and we'll do a  
6 projection for the remaining 100, 125 which  
7 is what you requested.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Because I  
9 thought your estimation had \$21 million in  
10 term pay?

11 MR. CHALMERS: Correct. That was  
12 based on 108 head separating, no incentive,  
13 it was as capped.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I see.

15 MR. CHALMERS: So that changes.  
16 Now it's 2.5 with the salary plus \$1,000 a  
17 year reserve.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So  
19 basically it's not capped anymore, right?

20 MR. CHALMERS: No, it's 2.5 now,  
21 whereas you should be two, two times the  
22 salaries, 2.5.

23 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Two and half  
24 times salary.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I had some

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 other questions, I don't know if the  
3 administration was able to answer them.

4 MR. WALKER: On how many people  
5 we perceived to leave to reach our savings?

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes, and  
7 then there was also will the positions that  
8 are being vacated, will they be back filled  
9 by police officers taking the incentive?

10 MR. WALKER: Any of the positions  
11 that are being vacated, depending on the  
12 number, again, right now our plan is  
13 predicated on 100 people not being  
14 backfilled. Anything above that will be  
15 backfilled. You will have a new class, for  
16 lack of a better word, that would be put  
17 into the academy and you would have new  
18 employees joining the force.

19 If 250 people left, obviously you  
20 would need a lot more people to be put into  
21 a class, but the budget is predicated,  
22 again, on 100 people leaving the employ of  
23 the county. Just looking at the numbers  
24 today, we have, as I mentioned before, about  
25 60 employees have already signed up for the

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 incentive of which those have been signed up  
3 right in human resources and we have over  
4 Commissioner Krumpter, over 100 that have  
5 actually went to the P&A office of the  
6 police department.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't  
8 want to belabor this with questions after  
9 questions, but it is our position today that  
10 there are some outstanding questions and  
11 some information that obviously we are going  
12 to want to sit down with Mr. Sullivan as  
13 well as Ms. D'Alleva and get some concrete  
14 answer in conjunction with some of the  
15 analysis.

16 I believe Mr. Chalmers is going  
17 to run a new report, and we would think it  
18 would be prudent not to vote this through as  
19 an emergency so we can spend the adequate  
20 time in the next two weeks to get those  
21 answers from that standpoint to see where we  
22 sit.

23 I know Mr. Schmitt does not  
24 agree, but we need to see also where we sit  
25 with the precinct plan that was passed, I

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 think a little rushed, but, nonetheless, it  
3 was passed. So we need to see where the  
4 union sits with some of the memorandums  
5 understanding that it should be furnished  
6 which basically would codify some of the  
7 things that the administration or the police  
8 department had discussed.

9 So, again, considering all that,  
10 we are going to take the position to not  
11 support the emergency today.

12 CLERK MULLER: Do you still want  
13 a roll call vote?

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes.

15 CLERK MULLER: Deputy Presiding  
16 Officer Gonsalves?

17 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Yes.

18 CLERK MULLER: Alternate Deputy  
19 Presiding Officer Kopel?

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Yes.

21 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
22 Troiano?

23 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: No.

24 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
25 Solages?

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: No.  
3 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Ford?  
4 LEGISLATOR FORD: Yes.  
5 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
6 Scannell?  
7 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: No.  
8 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Becker?  
9 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Yes.  
10 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
11 Muscarella?  
12 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Yes.  
13 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
14 Nicoletto?  
15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Yes.  
16 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
17 Bosworth?  
18 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: No.  
19 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Wink?  
20 LEGISLATOR WINK: No.  
21 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Belesi?  
22 (No verbal response.)  
23 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Where is he?  
24 Go ahead and return to him.  
25 CLERK MULLER: Sure. Legislator



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 Dunne?

3 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Yes.

4 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Jacobs?

5 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: No.

6 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Walker?

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Yes.

8 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

9 DeRiggi-Whitton?

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: No.

11 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

12 Denenberg?

13 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: No.

14 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Belesi?

15 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Yes.

16 CLERK MULLER: Minority Leader

17 Abrahams?

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No.

19 CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer

20 Peter Schmitt?

21 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Yes.

22 CLERK MULLER: The emergency

23 fails by a vote of 10 to 9 -- 10 yes,

24 establishing an emergency, 9 nos to

25 establish an emergency. Doesn't have enough

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 votes as required by charter.

3 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: The emergency  
4 fails which means that the items that stand  
5 behind the emergency do not make it the Full  
6 Legislature today. They have already been  
7 through committees and they will be in front  
8 of the Full Legislature at our next meeting  
9 which is March 19th, and as I indicated  
10 earlier, I'm informed that that is a  
11 \$700,000 hit to the county.

12 Okay, now we're going to call the  
13 rest of the items on the calendar that were  
14 left over from the recessed meeting. We're  
15 going to call Calendar Item Number 3 which  
16 is a --

17 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: To the  
18 chair. It's our understanding that the  
19 incentives don't even start -- wouldn't  
20 start till March 22nd. So why would that be  
21 \$700,000?

22 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: You're out of  
23 order. We're past the precinct plan, and  
24 past the incentive.

25 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: You said

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 you're informed about \$700,000, what are you  
3 informed by, your imagination or reality?

4 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Do we have the  
5 backup on this? We'll have a vote on the  
6 item to move real estate into the Department  
7 of Public Works, may I have a motion,  
8 please?

9 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Moved by  
12 Legislator Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator  
13 Dunne. Any debate or discussion?

14 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I would like  
15 to say something.

16 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Legislator  
17 Jacobs.

18 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I believe  
19 that moving real estate into public works  
20 makes absolutely no sense. I believe they  
21 should be closer to where the county  
22 attorney's office is and certainly not in  
23 Hicksville near public works. I just don't  
24 see the reasoning for that. I have spoken  
25 to enough people to feel that there is no

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 reason for it. I don't know how much money  
3 we saved by it. I don't understand.

4 To me, this has to do with use of  
5 land, has to do with legal situations, and I  
6 personally believe it should be joined, if  
7 it's going to be joined anyplace, it would  
8 be at the county attorney's office.

9 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: The  
10 administration feels that it would be better  
11 served by joining it into the Department of  
12 Public Works, and that's what the item calls  
13 for.

14 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I understand  
15 that. I'm just suggesting to all of us that  
16 that does not make any sense.

17 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Well, I would  
18 respectfully disagree with you that it  
19 doesn't make any sense, just because it's  
20 not the way you would like to do it doesn't  
21 mean it doesn't make any sense.

22 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Be nice. Be  
23 nice, and I'm being nice to you.

24 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: I'm being  
25 nice.

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I'm asking  
3 you to be a gentleman and just let me speak  
4 and you can vote any way you want.

5 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Well, thank  
6 you.

7 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: On your party  
8 line. My feeling is that when you're voting  
9 for something like this, to join it with  
10 something, it makes absolutely no sense, as  
11 someone's background is in real estate to  
12 join it with public works.

13 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: So noted.  
14 Anybody else?

15 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Yes, I  
16 would like to add something.

17 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Legislator  
18 Denenberg.

19 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Thank you,  
20 chairman. I would just suggest that over  
21 the last two years in this administration  
22 whether it's been Mr. Schroeder or  
23 Mr. Kelly, real estate being within the  
24 county attorney's office, has moved several  
25 items to us and have moved it fairly

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 expeditiously. All of us who are looking at  
3 public works would notice that public work's  
4 projects are still being implemented from  
5 2009-2010, very few 2011, and we don't even  
6 have a capital budget for 2012.

7 So I would think real estate has  
8 actually worked fairly well and would  
9 continue to do well where it was as opposed  
10 to moving it into a department that has had  
11 trouble catching up.

12 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Okay.  
13 Anybody else? Mr. Walker.

14 MR. WALKER: I just want to  
15 clarify something. First of all, the Office  
16 of Real Estate Services is not within the  
17 county attorney's office today. It is not  
18 in the county attorney's office today, just  
19 want to clarify that.

20 Secondly, it would be safe to  
21 say, and all you have to do is look at the  
22 projects that were bid. In 2010, this  
23 administration in public works bid more  
24 projects that were bid in 2009 and 2008  
25 alone. So all you have to do is go back and

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 get your numbers, you can look on the  
3 website, it's not a hard thing to do. I  
4 know you like to do your homework, Dave, so  
5 you can go do your homework and find out the  
6 real numbers. This administration and the  
7 job that public works has done has bid more  
8 projects, 2010 and 2011, dollar for dollar  
9 than was done in 2008 and 2009 combined, in  
10 the one year in 2010. So just go back and  
11 can find it.

12 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Where's  
13 the capital budget for 2012?

14 MR. WALKER: We are working, as I  
15 mentioned, in conjunction with NIFA on a  
16 borrowing plan because, what as happened in  
17 the past, is this legislature would bond and  
18 pass a capital program and then pass \$150  
19 million in capital spending.

20 As I just mentioned to you  
21 before, none of that work was taking place,  
22 none of the work that was being done, and,  
23 as you know, and should every member of this  
24 legislature knows, before we get any  
25 approval on bonding, it's going to be

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 approved by NIFA, and we're not going to get  
3 \$250 million a year approved by NIFA, it's  
4 going to be project by project that they  
5 have to approve. We are not having happened  
6 what happened before with people not getting  
7 paid. It's going to be approved in a  
8 process that makes fundamental sense so  
9 people aren't out there held harmless with  
10 not getting paid.

11 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: I have  
12 been a legislator here for 12 years. We  
13 have never before, whether it was Gulotta,  
14 Suozzi, or Mangano, not had a capital budget  
15 to us by October of the year before --

16 MR. WALKER: No, you just didn't  
17 do the work.

18 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Didn't you  
19 just hear what he said?

20 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Does he  
21 need your assistance? He's very capable.

22 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: He made it  
23 very clear --

24 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: He said  
25 that we bid more projects, we just haven't



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 implemented them.

3 MR. WALKER: No, no, no.

4 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: He said the  
5 capital, told you --

6 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: He's still  
7 in 2010 and 2011.

8 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: He said NIFA  
9 is not going to approve \$250 million.

10 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: It's  
11 NIFA's fault. You have to ask them.

12 MR. WALKER: Over \$180 million of  
13 projects, they were awarded and those  
14 projects have begun and work is taking  
15 place. I'm not saying that these are  
16 folktale capital projects. These are  
17 projects that people are working, on the  
18 street, working and doing the jobs. So  
19 these are projects that have been awarded,  
20 approved by this legislature, and actually  
21 working.

22 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Legislator  
23 Jacobs.

24 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Mr. Walker,  
25 very quickly, I don't know how we got into

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 capital projects when we're actually voting  
3 on combining real estate into public works.  
4 So getting back to that, can you logically  
5 tell me why you would take probably one of  
6 the best working offices in the county and  
7 move them over to Hicksville to do their job  
8 in real estate not near legal? I didn't say  
9 they were part of legal, I said it's good  
10 for them to be nearer to legal than not.

11 MR. WALKER: Just the work that's  
12 being done. They provide a myriad of  
13 functions, not just real estate in terms of  
14 transfer of properties and things of that  
15 nature.

16 One of the components to handle  
17 is actually the facilities that we have here  
18 in the county. They work in handling the  
19 management of the facilities, the use of the  
20 facilities, they work in conjunction with  
21 DPW on a daily basis in terms of the work  
22 that they perform. So it only makes sense  
23 that they work with DPW.

24 In terms of the functions that  
25 they provide in terms of leases, in terms of

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 the sale of property, they will still work  
3 in conjunction with the county attorney's  
4 office as they do today. They will work  
5 with Kevin Walsh. Kevin Walsh has spent a  
6 lot of time on handling those cases, along  
7 with Mike Kelly and Carl Schroeder. That  
8 will not change. They'll still work with  
9 the county attorney's office on drafting the  
10 documents, on the contracts, and things of  
11 that nature.

12 But they perform, it's not just  
13 an office that performs the handling of real  
14 estate that we're actually selling or  
15 leasing. They work with the parks  
16 department in terms of the leasing which is  
17 done really by an outside contractor and  
18 handled by, I believe it's -- I'm trying to  
19 think of the actual firm, but they handle,  
20 Smith & DeGroat, they actually handle all  
21 the real estate properties by which we in  
22 fact lease properties on parkland space. So  
23 they'll work in conjunction with them and  
24 the county attorney's office. So that is  
25 not changing.

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2 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: All right.  
3 So if it ain't broke, why are we trying to  
4 fix it?

5 MR. WALKER: Well, one, it's  
6 going to allow us to better use the  
7 personnel. One, in particular, an employee  
8 that we have there that's outstanding. It's  
9 a senior account executive that now is going  
10 to be able to be used by public works who  
11 needs the financial assistance and needs a  
12 person like that to perform so we can  
13 continue to achieve additional grants and  
14 things of that nature. So it allows us  
15 better to use personnel, better to use  
16 services.

17 If you look at any meeting that  
18 was held, and I invite anyone to attend  
19 those meetings, the meetings we had with  
20 real estate, you have DPW, you have real  
21 estate, you have the county attorney's  
22 office, it just allows us better flexibility  
23 to utilize personnel, utilize services, and  
24 the -- I do not see any diminishment of  
25 anybody's services that are going to be

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 provided.

3 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I'm going to  
4 ask you a question. Has this been  
5 discussed, and I'm not telling you who you  
6 have to talked to, but Carl Schroeder, a  
7 person who has been there for all of those  
8 years, have had his input on this move?

9 MR. WALKER: Yes, I've had input  
10 with everybody. People don't like change,  
11 just to be honest, I don't know if Carl is  
12 going to say I don't want to go or I do want  
13 to go. People like -- some people don't  
14 like answering. I'm not saying Carl is one  
15 that does that, but it's different. Nobody  
16 wants to -- you're a director and now you  
17 have to report to a commissioner or you have  
18 to share staff. Carl has been nothing but  
19 exemplary since we've been here. He works  
20 very hard. He performs a critical function  
21 and he's going to continue as is Michael  
22 Kelly.

23 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: What are we  
24 saving?

25 MR. WALKER: I don't have the

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 exact dollar figures. Hundreds of thousands  
3 of dollars.

4 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Hundreds of  
5 thousands?

6 MR. WALKER: There is only a  
7 staff of seven or eight employees. So when  
8 you're able to better utilize it -- at the  
9 end of the day, at the beginning, when we  
10 talked about merging human services in with  
11 all the other departments, senior citizens,  
12 youth board, office of physically  
13 challenged, chemical dependency, and drugs  
14 and alcohol, it was met with a lot of  
15 concern. Would you agree?

16 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I would  
17 agree.

18 MR. WALKER: And that was  
19 something we did a lot of due diligence on.  
20 We worked hard. It has worked so well, and  
21 now we have other people that now are coming  
22 forth that are working with us on providing  
23 funding for different contract entitlements,  
24 and now they have brought people together  
25 that were never were together before. We

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 are better able to utilize staff, better  
3 able to utilize the maximization of state  
4 reimbursement and federal reimbursement.

5 It's the same thing now we're  
6 looking at real estate. It allows us a  
7 better opportunity. We lease over \$14  
8 million worth of property in this county.  
9 We lease for county functions. All you have  
10 to look is across the street at One West and  
11 it's an utter disaster. Half the floor is  
12 empty. It's better when you bring all these  
13 people together and you're talking about  
14 leasing and long term commitments is to have  
15 the people that are going to do the work in  
16 terms of capital improvements, in terms of  
17 buildings, facilities, facility management  
18 with the people who handle our real estate.

19 So now it creates an automatic  
20 system of sharing of information. I think  
21 it's very critical to do. The county  
22 attorney component of this is not changing.  
23 They are going to be there. They are going  
24 to take part in this, and they're going to  
25 have every angle of involvement as they

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 currently do today.

3 MR. WALKER: Okay. Well, we will  
4 never agree.

5 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Mr. Walker,  
6 it's your testimony the administration feels  
7 that you will better be able to utilize  
8 personnel by this merger; is that correct?

9 MR. WALKER: And save money,  
10 correct.

11 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Mr. Becker, go  
12 ahead.

13 LEGISLATOR BECKER: One quick  
14 comment. One of the things in my experience  
15 on this county legislature and most recently  
16 in us refurbishing Ocean and Merrick Road,  
17 the real estate, I would constantly call the  
18 commissioner of the Department of Public  
19 Works and ask her the status of the land  
20 that has to be acquired there to move  
21 forward with the project. I call her. I  
22 don't call the real estate department. I  
23 try to find out what is going on with her.  
24 I'm sure that happens hundreds, if not  
25 thousands of times, every year.



1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 So perhaps -- and I applaud the  
3 county executive for saving every dog-gone  
4 nickel and dime of taxpayer money he can  
5 get. So I think the move makes sense to me.

6 MR. WALKER: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Is there any  
8 public comment?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 All those in favor signify by  
11 saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 Any opposed?

14 (Nay.)

15 Let the record show that the item  
16 passes by a vote of ten to nine. Next is  
17 Item Number 8, Clerk Item Number 98, and I  
18 have an amendment in the nature of a  
19 substitution. First we need to take a  
20 motion.

21 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

22 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Moved by  
24 Legislator Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator  
25 Dunne. Now we are going to do an amendment

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 in the form of a substitution. This  
3 amendment has been circulated since February  
4 10th. It is to remove one job title from  
5 Appendix A, the Department of Social  
6 Services director of administration. I will  
7 offer the amendment. Can I have a second?

8 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: All those in  
10 favor of the amendment please say aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 Any opposed?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 The item is amended. Any debate  
15 or discussion on the item as amended?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 Is there any public comment?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 All those in favor of the item as  
20 amended, please say aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 Any opposed?

23 (Nay.)

24 Let the record show that the item  
25 passes by a vote of ten to nine. Next is

1                   Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2    Item Number 21 which appropriates fund from  
3    taxes allocated to the Department of Parks  
4    from the New York Legislature for new and  
5    existing programs. I'm going to call Item  
6    Number 22 at the same time. So can I have a  
7    motion, please?

8                   LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

9                   LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

10                  CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Moved by  
11    Legislator Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator  
12    Dunne. Any debate or discussion?

13                  (No verbal response.)

14                  Is there any public comment?

15                  (No verbal response.)

16                  All those in favor signify by  
17    saying aye.

18                  (Aye.)

19                  Now I'm going to call Item 41,  
20    the appointment of John Coumatos to the  
21    Industrial Development Agency. May I have a  
22    motion, please?

23                  LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

24                  LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

25                  CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Moved by

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 Legislator Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator  
3 Walker. Any debate or discussion?  
4 (No verbal response.)  
5 Is there any public comment?  
6 (No verbal response.)  
7 All those in favor signify by  
8 saying aye. Hold on one second.  
9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Is he here?  
10 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Mr. Coumatos,  
11 come on up. I didn't know you were in the  
12 audience. Have you been here since early  
13 this morning?  
14 MR. COUMATOS: Yes, sir.  
15 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: I'm sorry, I  
16 would have called it earlier. I had no idea  
17 you were here. You couldn't find a better  
18 place to spend the day, that's for sure.  
19 How do you pronounce your name?  
20 MR. COUMATOS: It's Coumatos.  
21 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Anyone have  
22 questions?  
23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes, sure.  
24 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Legislator  
25 Abrahams.

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How are  
3 you, Mr. Coumatos?

4 MR. COUMATOS: How are you?

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Obviously I  
6 have a question regarding the recent news  
7 about your US Department of Labor concerns.  
8 Can you elaborate?

9 MR. COUMATOS: Yes. Basically we  
10 had a disgruntled employee who made a call  
11 to the labor department. Came into our  
12 store. I own a restaurant, BK Sweeneys in  
13 Bethpage. They came in and wanted to see  
14 some of our scheduling. We had a  
15 disagreement. We tried to settle with them.  
16 We complied. Just so you have a background.  
17 We have been in business there, in the Town  
18 of Bethpage, since 1976. 1995 we went  
19 partners and became BK Sweeneys in Bethpage.

20 So we had a little problem. So  
21 instead of fighting it, we complied. We  
22 went down to the labor board. Settled it  
23 and took care of whatever we had to do.  
24 Even though it might show that there was ten  
25 employees, just so you know, my integrity is

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 that we have paid everybody since 1976 in  
3 our store.

4 The problem was with the one  
5 employee which means it goes back to ten  
6 employees in the kitchen. We have never  
7 missed a payment. It was on overtime. We  
8 had paid the overtime but what happens in  
9 compliance is, we had to go back and repay  
10 everybody again if overtime. But our  
11 records show that though.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you  
13 for that explanation.

14 MR. COUMATOS: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Anybody else?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 Is there any public comment?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 All those in favor please signify  
20 by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 Any opposed?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 Congratulations. It carries  
25 unanimously.

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12

2 MR. COUMATOS: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Again, I  
4 apologize for not calling you earlier in the  
5 day.

6 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Mr. Coumatos,  
7 that's what happens when you run a good  
8 business and it's known in the town.

9 MR. COUMATOS: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Now we have  
11 Item Number 46 which is a newspaper  
12 designation for assessment. We have an  
13 amendment in the form of a substitution.  
14 This amendment seeks to add the following  
15 newspapers to the list of newspapers, the  
16 South Shore Standard. I offer the  
17 amendment. Can I have a second.

18 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Seconded by  
20 Legislator Gonsalves. All those in favor of  
21 the amendment please say aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Any opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 Let the record show that

1 Full Legislature/3-5-12  
2 Legislator Howard Kopel has left the  
3 chambers taking no part in the debate or  
4 discussion and will not be voting on this  
5 item. So we will take a motion now on the  
6 item as amended.

7 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

8 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Moved by  
10 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator  
11 Gonsalves. Any debate or discussion?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 Is there any public comment?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 All those in favor please say  
16 aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 Any opposed?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 The item carries unanimously.

21 Please invite Mr. Kopel back into the  
22 chamber. I believe that that is all of the  
23 business of the recessed meeting. Is that  
24 correct? I'll take a motion to adjourn.

25 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.



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Full Legislature/3-5-12

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHMITT: Moved by  
Legislator Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator  
Dunne. All those in favor of adjourning  
please say aye.

(Aye.)

We stand adjourned from February  
27th.

(Whereupon, the Full Legislative  
Committee adjourned at 6:54 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of March, 2012.

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FRANK GRAY