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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

NORMA GONSALVES,
Presiding Officer

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, October 21, 2013
1:07 P.M.

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

3

4 NORMA GONSALVES,
Presiding Officer

5

6 RICHARD NICOLELLO,
Deputy Presiding Officer

6

7 HOWARD KOPEL,
Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer

8

MICHAEL VENDITTO

9

DENISE FORD

10 JOSEPH SCANNELL (1:32 p.m.)

11

FRANCIS X. BECKER

12

VINCENT MUSCARELLA

13

JUDI BOSWORTH

14

WAYNE WINK

15

ROBERT TROIANO

16

17 KEVAN ABRAHAMS,
Minority Leader

17

18 ROSE MARIE WALKER

18

19 JOSEPH BELESI

19

20 DENNIS DUNNE

20

21 JUDITH JACOBS

21

22 DAVID DENENBERG

22

23 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

23

24 CARRIE SOLAGES

24

25 WILLIAM J. MULLER, III
Clerk of the Legislature

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

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

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.
8 Mr. Muller, please call the roll.

9 CLERK MULLER: Deputy Presiding
10 Officer Nicoletto?

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

12 CLERK MULLER: Alternate Deputy
13 Presiding Officer Kopel?

14 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

15 CLERK MULLER: Legislator
16 Troiano?

17 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Here.

18 CLERK MULLER: Legislator
19 Solages?

20 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

21 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Ford?

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

23 CLERK MULLER: Legislator
24 Scannell?

25 (No verbal response.)

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2 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Becker?

3 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Here.

4 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

5 Muscarella?

6 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

7 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

8 Bosworth?

9 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Here.

10 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Wink?

11 LEGISLATOR WINK: Here.

12 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

13 Venditto?

14 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Here.

15 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Belesi?

16 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Here.

17 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Dunne?

18 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.

19 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Jacobs?

20 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.

21 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Walker?

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

23 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

24 DeRiggi-Whitton?

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

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2 Here.

3 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

4 Denenberg?

5 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Here.

6 CLERK MULLER: Minority Leader

7 Abrahams?

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

9 CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer

10 Gonsalves?

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

12 CLERK MULLER: We have a quorum.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good

14 afternoon everyone. I take this opportunity
15 for a point of personal privilege.

16 Something which I certainly respect
17 wholeheartedly, and it's a story I think you
18 all should know.

19 Today we're going to be honoring
20 Chief William Griffin from the East Meadow
21 Fire Department. I have a story to tell.
22 I'm sure the chief of the Fire Marshal's
23 Office, Scott Tusa, and Assistant Chief John
24 Priest are here to really embellish on what
25 I have to say.

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2 On October 6th, 2013, Walter
3 Griffin, chief of the East Meadow Fire
4 Department, had gotten home a bit early from
5 work and was enjoying some well-deserved
6 rest. When, at 2:10 p.m. there came a loud
7 and persistent knocking at the door. When
8 Chief Griffin went to investigate, he was
9 met by his neighbor who was frantically
10 asking for help. The neighbor handed Chief
11 Griffin her ten month old son who was limp
12 and did not appear to be breathing.

13 Chief Griffin ran across the lawn
14 to the chief's vehicle and used the radio to
15 immediately request further medical
16 technicians and ambulances to the scene.
17 Then he reacted quickly as years of training
18 kicked in. Chief Griffin evaluated the
19 child and began the process of infant CPR
20 which included CPR and back blows to clear
21 any potential airway obstruction.

22 After three rounds of successive
23 back blows, chest thrusts, and CPR, the
24 child began to breath on his own and began
25 to cry.

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2 I have known Chief Griffin for
3 many many years, long before I became a
4 legislator, and I know that his dedication
5 and commitment to the fire department is
6 really something that we should praise today
7 as well.

8 East Meadow Fire Department
9 medical director, Dr. John Zaso, also
10 responded to the radio request for
11 assistance, not knowing that the child was
12 actually his patient in his private
13 practice.

14 About the same time that Dr. Zaso
15 arrived, so did East Meadow's ambulance.
16 Dr. Zaso evaluated the child who was
17 breathing fairly normally at this time and
18 accompanied the child and his parents on
19 board the ambulance to the hospital. The
20 child made a full recovery and was
21 discharged from NUMC soon thereafter.

22 Dr. Zaso commented that if it had
23 not been for the quick thinking and
24 professional actions of volunteer Fire Chief
25 Walter Griffin, he was absolutely sure that

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2 this incident would not have had the same
3 outcome and the child would have suffered
4 serious medical harm or even death.

5 For his actions on October 6th,
6 only 15 days ago, we offer Chief Walter
7 Griffin our sincere congratulations. Please
8 join us.

9 I was told that Chief Griffin is
10 a man of few words. So, speaking on his
11 behalf will be ex-chief of the East Meadow
12 Fire Department, and also the assistant
13 chief of the fire marshals, and also with
14 him is the chief of the fire marshals, Scott
15 Tusa.

16 MR. PRIEST: Thank you, Madam
17 Presiding Officer, members of the
18 legislature, as Mrs. Gonsalves had the
19 opportunity to say, Chief Fire Marshal Tusa
20 has given me the opportunity to speak
21 because I am an ex chief from East Meadow.
22 Walter was my first assistant last year.

23 It is ever so right that this
24 body honor that man. He exemplifies the
25 work of the thousands of volunteer fire

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2 fighters in Nassau County. In this story,
3 even more so, as your volunteer fire
4 fighters live amongst you. We are your
5 neighbors. They are your neighbors, and we
6 are there, and Chief Griffin was there when
7 it really, really counted.

8 He accepts this award on behalf
9 of the East Meadow Fire Department. The
10 East Meadow community is about as proud as
11 him as we possibly can be, and your actions
12 today, Madam Presiding Officer, indicate how
13 proud the fire service, the fire marshal's
14 office, and the County of Nassau is of him
15 also. Chief.

16 CHIEF GRIFFIN: I just would like
17 to thank you for this award today. I would
18 like to consider myself a product of my
19 environment. I have been a 24 year member
20 of the East Meadow Fire Department. Without
21 the skills I learned there, this incident
22 would have had a different outcome. So on
23 behalf of the East Meadow Fire Department
24 and my assistant chiefs, thank you very
25 much.

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2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That was a
3 story with a happy ending and something that
4 we can all admire and respect on the part of
5 the Chief Griffin.

6 So, without any further adieu,
7 let us begin with the public participation.
8 The first speaker is Joanne Borden. God
9 bless you, Joanne.

10 MS. BORDEN: Voltaire, a great
11 French enlightenment writer, said, and I
12 paraphrase, "if you love freedom you will
13 cry. I do not agree with what you are but I
14 would defend to the death your right to be
15 it."

16 Isn't that what America is about?
17 Isn't that what you and your party should be
18 about? Liberty, justice and equal treatment
19 for everyone? American principles demand
20 you end our persecution.

21 In spite of my trying to get you
22 to understand transgenderism, you still
23 allow for discrimination to harm us. It is
24 recorded that we are born this way around
25 1500 B.C. Since 1896, doctors have written

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2 we are born this way. Since 1990, medical
3 scientists have found and confirmed
4 physiological evidence that we are born this
5 way.

6 At one time we were accused of
7 causing earthquakes and floods and other
8 naturally disasters. We now know that is
9 not true, it is false. Except for our
10 gender conflicts, we are just like everyone
11 else.

12 The religious claim to
13 Deuteronomy 22.5 and ignore hundreds of
14 other prohibitions including Samuel 16:7 and
15 John 7:24 which says, man looks on this
16 surface, but God judges us by what is
17 beneath the surface and what is in our
18 heart.

19 If you read Samuel and John and
20 then read Deuteronomy in black and white, no
21 interpretation, there would be no religious
22 prejudice because in God's eyes we are
23 conforming to Deuteronomy.

24 We are God's creations. God's
25 children. We are as we were made as God

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2 made us. It's an easier life to be like
3 everyone else and, at one time or other, we
4 all tried but cannot deny our gender
5 identity just as you cannot deny your gender
6 identity.

7 We can hide our true gender but
8 we cannot do that all the time and forever.
9 Something inside us forces us to claim our
10 true gender, our gender identity.

11 We simply need you to say
12 discrimination on any basis for any reason
13 is not allowed and is wrong.

14 Pass the gender definition law
15 and give us the freedom. Freedom from fear.
16 The very worst part of discrimination. The
17 fear of it. Thank you for listening.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
19 Joanne. Legislator Jacobs.

20 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Joanne, I
21 just wanted to say something to you. You
22 know, I don't know how many times I will put
23 the bill in, but I will not give up.

24 In case everyone doesn't come to
25 their senses by December 31st, usually at

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2 the end of a two year session it has to be
3 resubmitted, I will ask our legal team to do
4 so immediately.

5 MS. BORDEN: Thank you very much.

6 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: So we will
7 keep trying.

8 MS. BORDEN: I mailed each of you
9 a letter recently with a copy of an e-mail I
10 got from a transgender man, born a girl, and
11 in it -- I mean, you should read it, because
12 I can't talk about it in a straight voice.
13 But in it, she hated herself and her
14 childhood was a nightmare.

15 If you don't make it legal, have
16 us a legal voice in this county, there are
17 hundreds and hundreds of people suffering
18 like that, and you should be ashamed,
19 ashamed, to use any excuse not to give us
20 equal protection from discrimination.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Michael
22 Mulhall.

23 MR. MULHALL: Good afternoon,
24 Presiding Officer, members of the
25 legislature, fellow citizens.

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2 Speaking as a private citizen, I
3 just wanted to share my comments to the
4 degree that I am concerned about where we
5 are as a county. I'm concerned about the
6 upcoming election, particularly with the
7 fact if we were to compare records of the
8 previous county executive with the current
9 one, I think it's a significant difference
10 in terms of performance on behalf of the
11 taxpayer.

12 While I will acknowledge that I
13 am a registered Republican and had once ran
14 for office 12 years ago, that does not
15 eliminate my opportunity to speak as a
16 private citizen.

17 The truth be told, there's an old
18 adage that says fool me once, shame on you.
19 Fool me twice, shame on me. And I'm deeply
20 concerned that the Nassau County taxpayers
21 can be fooled into believing that these
22 disingenuous advertisements somehow
23 represent some political value and possible
24 third term for former County Executive
25 Suozzi.

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2 We recognize if we go back to his
3 first term, when you look beyond the
4 sanctimonious 12 bond upgrades that are a
5 result of \$109 million that came from NIFA
6 or the fact that there was more than \$160
7 million in sales tax revenue that were
8 generated to create a one time \$275 million
9 surplus that was squandered.

10 The previous county executive's
11 first term was defined by scandal. We have
12 Former Deputy County Executive Peter Silver
13 involved in a sexual harassment suit. We
14 had Georgie Morganstern come forward to
15 report that there were employees of Nassau
16 County who were working on behalf, or
17 campaigning on behalf of a constituency
18 while on county time. It ended up resulting
19 in a \$35 million wrongful termination
20 lawsuit against the county.

21 In the second term, upon securing
22 a second term, the first thing former County
23 Executive Suozzi did was seek running for
24 governor at a cost of using a million
25 dollars of the county's taxpayer money in

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2 what he claimed was performance bonuses.
3 The question I would ask is, those
4 performance bonuses were often chosen to
5 people who had simultaneously worked on his
6 campaign for governor.

7 I think the last straw that broke
8 the back of many taxpayers of all partisan,
9 political affiliation, was that in 2009,
10 after two terms as county executive,
11 campaigning on the fact that he would not
12 support arbitration, he supports an
13 outrageous and irresponsible almost \$400
14 million arbitration award to the CSEA at the
15 same time the county was facing chronic
16 deficits in the out years, not to mention
17 recovering on the back of one of the worst
18 financial crisis in the history of our
19 country.

20 When you compare it with County
21 Executive Mangano's performance over the
22 last four years, having inherited a
23 tremendous deficit in his first year, he has
24 been able to successfully privatize the bus
25 service at a significant savings for the

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2 taxpayers. He's been able to downsize the
3 non-civil service appointed positions in his
4 administration at significant cost savings.

5 He's been able to introduce,
6 coordinate, and facilitate working with the
7 private sector to create what I think is a
8 smart, common sense solution to
9 redevelopment of the Nassau County Coliseum
10 that's not going to require one dollar of
11 taxpayer money.

12 Whereas, the previous county
13 executive, at one point, in one of his
14 proposals was set to turn over 77 acres of
15 taxpayer property to then owner of the
16 New York Islanders and millionaire Charles
17 Wang for as little as a \$1 an acre in terms
18 of some lease structure, which would have
19 been an outrageous giveaway.

20 CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes
21 have expired.

22 MR. MULHALL: I would conclude.
23 Thank you for my time this morning, and I
24 would like to say that while I have differed
25 with some of the members of the legislature

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2 here who may not be here in the next
3 formation, I wish you, while we may have
4 disagreed, especially my legislator, Joseph
5 Scannell, I believe Legislator Bosworth, and
6 Legislator Wink, I wish them well. Thank
7 you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: The next
9 speaker is Aaron, looks like Watkins, Lopez,
10 is that correct?

11 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good
13 afternoon, Aaron.

14 MR. LOPEZ: Good afternoon. My
15 name is Aaron Watkins Lopez. I'm an
16 organizer with the Bus Rider's Union and
17 also a bus rider.

18 I'm here today to speak about the
19 proposed Nassau County budget which our
20 organization, along with the Transit
21 Advisory Committee -- Transit Advisory
22 Groups, like TriState Transportation
23 Campaign and Vision Long Island believes
24 under funds the buses, with \$2.6 million
25 allocated towards the bus service.

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2 Rider satisfaction with the bus
3 service has decreased tremendously in the
4 past year and so has the ridership.

5 The Long Island Bus Rider's Union
6 has heard hundreds of stories from riders
7 missing doctors' appointments and classes
8 because their buses are late or missing --
9 they're denied job opportunities and deemed
10 unreliable because they are bus riders.

11 We have exposed countless dollars
12 being lost due to a Metrocard read error
13 prompt from ill-maintained fare boxes aboard
14 the buses and numerous riders being stranded
15 because their buses are overcrowded and
16 drive right past them.

17 As well as people with
18 disabilities being too afraid to take the
19 buses because they are unsure if they will
20 actually get to their stop due to
21 malfunctioning audio and visual announcement
22 systems.

23 We believe the NICE bus needs
24 improvement. That they are doing what they
25 can, but they cannot fix their problems with

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2 what little resources the county is
3 providing to them. With additional
4 resources, we can address the overcrowding
5 of buses by running more buses to the more
6 populated routes. We can restore the faith
7 in our community of the transit system,
8 ensuring that residents who rely on the
9 buses are not denied employment or deemed
10 unreliable because they are riders.

11 We can fix the erroneous
12 MetroCard system and make sure that people
13 with disabilities feel comfortable on fixed
14 route buses.

15 We can even add additional routes
16 the new developments to foster economic
17 growth in new downtowns, public transport is
18 important to Nassau County and it's critical
19 to our success.

20 A good public transit system is
21 critical to the future of our county. A
22 strong bus system is also beneficial for
23 economic development and provides a sense of
24 independence to bus riders and confidence
25 from local businesses.

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2 This is not a Democratic problem.
3 This is not a Republican problem. This is a
4 people problem that is affecting working
5 people every day.

6 We hope that we have bipartisan
7 support to increase the funding for the bus
8 system and please feel free to reach out to
9 me if you have any questions or concerns.

10 I've also provided each of you
11 with a copy of my testimony to be put in the
12 record. Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
14 very much, Aaron.

15 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Good
16 afternoon.

17 MR. LOPEZ: Good afternoon.

18 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I 100 percent
19 agree with you. Monetarily, I don't know --
20 obviously I do know that we can't put
21 everything back in that would restore
22 everything that would make it what it was
23 maybe many, many years ago.

24 But I certainly know that there
25 are certain areas that are really lacking

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2 such as the northeast quadrant, which,
3 forget about regular bus service. The
4 people who are infirmed that need special
5 buses, do not have any whatsoever, have not
6 had any for now going on two years.

7 At the beginning, the rotary was
8 wonderful but there's just so much private
9 organizations can raise to make up the
10 difference and I know that there are
11 improvements needed on NICE so I have put in
12 a suggested amendment for our caucus which
13 has always been really very supportive of
14 building up the bus lines within our budget
15 of an additional few million dollars to try
16 to help in this effort.

17 So I want you to know you are not
18 talking to deaf ears. It's a serious
19 problem. It's a problem for so many
20 reasons, number one, the fact, we want to
21 get people out of cars. Forgetting anything
22 else, the only way to get them out of cars
23 is to have confidence in their bus service.

24 People who just might not be able
25 to walk like you and I do, do a great job in

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2 an office or maybe cannot talk the way we
3 do, do great jobs in offices and deserve
4 that chance, but they can't get there
5 without Able-Ride.

6 If you divide up a county in four
7 and you decide that a quarter of it can't
8 have it, I don't know what's happening to
9 these people. I really don't. I don't know
10 the end of the story. I knew the beginning.
11 I was very involved in the beginning, I was
12 very involved during what was going on, but,
13 I will be honest with you, I haven't heard
14 back from the people as to what in the world
15 is happening to the student who spoke to me
16 who could not talk, could not walk, did not
17 have use of his arms, but was an A student
18 in college but could not get there without
19 the bus. Or the man who couldn't get to his
20 dialysis without that bus. And I know they
21 don't have that bus. That's two that I'm
22 mentioning. Or the blind woman, I believe
23 she was from the Oyster Bay area, could not
24 get any place without that bus.

25 So, I hear you. And my real

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2 effort here is not that I feel that in
3 million years that anyone can solve it, but
4 that the dialogue must continue, and the
5 only way it can continue is if we show a
6 willingness to add to this. So I'm hoping.

7 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you very much
8 for your support.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
10 Legislator Jacobs. Mr. May.

11 MR. MAY: Good afternoon,
12 legislators. I just wanted to piggyback on
13 the comments of the speaker just now.

14 The county executive announced
15 last week we have added 28 new Able-Ride
16 vehicles at a cost of \$1.2 million that were
17 added to the system. \$780,000 of that was
18 provided by Veolia at no cost to the county,
19 and \$455,000 of that was from federal
20 transportation administration grants.

21 So, in terms of adding funding to
22 the bus system, while we may have
23 disagreements on the annual recurring
24 funding, that does not mean the
25 administration is not taking every

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2 opportunity to invest whether it's in
3 capital expenses or in this case new buses,
4 Able-Ride vehicles.

5 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I have two
6 questions. Do we have drivers for those new
7 buses?

8 MR. MAY: I would believe so, but
9 I can certainly confirm that and get back to
10 you. I would think they wouldn't buy 28
11 vehicles and not be able to use them, but I
12 don't want to say yes and then find out that
13 that was wrong.

14 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: You never
15 know if the money is coming down, that may
16 not be a question that's asked. It may be
17 on that's assumed.

18 Also, to be honest with you, I
19 still would like to know where they're going
20 and I would like to know if they are
21 following exactly the ADA rules, then that
22 means the northeast quadrant is still not
23 being covered, because you need a regular
24 bus line.

25 MR. MAY: Right. And we can

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2 certainly look into that. Obviously, we, in
3 the county, are interested in serving as
4 many people as possible. I will certainly
5 look into that for you to point out that
6 there has been an investment over and above
7 what is in the budget in the system.

8 CLERK MULLER: Legislator
9 Scannell is here.

10 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I'm happy to
11 hear that. But I also want to remind you
12 that any amendment we offer, we will have an
13 offset in the budget that we feel is able to
14 be digested by the county without harming
15 any other group of people and would make
16 this happen. So you can be sure it's not
17 going to be just thrown out there to be
18 sitting up there someplace.

19 MR. MAY: Absolutely and I look
20 forward to seeing the amendment.

21 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Very good.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. MAY: When it's filed.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
25 Ford.

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you,
3 Greg, and I guess I urge you then to look at
4 Legislator Jacobs' proposal in regard to the
5 NICE bus system and I guess maybe any
6 changes in the budget, anything that can be
7 done to help increase the funding for NICE I
8 think would be wonderful. And I thank you
9 very much for getting new buses and all the
10 outreach you are doing with the NICE
11 service.

12 But any of the vehicles that were
13 purchased, are any of them to do with
14 Able-Ride, or are these just strictly the
15 NICE?

16 MR. MAY: These are all Able-Ride
17 vehicles. The 28 vehicles are for Able-Ride

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. I missed
19 that. But there's no plans on expanding the
20 area then for the Able-Ride riders?

21 MR. MAY: I can't say that for
22 certain but as Legislator Jacobs pointed
23 out, the service area for Able-Ride is I
24 believe one half mile, east west or north
25 south of an existing route.

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: Is it a half a
3 mile or a mile?

4 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Three
5 quarters of a mile from an established route
6 and the problem is obviously that, the sad
7 problem, is that obviously in some areas
8 because the bus service has been sporadic,
9 not something to do with the last ten years,
10 it has to do with before that, it was never
11 really very regular in the northeast
12 quadrant.

13 Because of that, if they're going
14 to be sticklers to that, that if you don't
15 have a certain number of people on the bus,
16 you're going to cut those major bus routes,
17 then you lose the Able-Ride almost
18 immediately. That's what so sad and that's
19 what has to be looked at. I don't know
20 necessarily that that can be done in this
21 body. To make sure our budget reflects our
22 concerns to me is very important to us.

23 MR. MAY: Absolutely. And, of
24 course, I will take your concerns to the
25 county executive.

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2 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Thank you.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: Greg, and I'm
4 not trying to put you on the spot or
5 anything, but I know when I had gone down to
6 the NICE bus and we were talking about the
7 Able-Ride, that the plan was, because I
8 think what happens is, with the Able-Ride
9 system, you can have, like, a bus going to
10 one street to pick up somebody, and then
11 somebody else is, like, on the next block
12 and they are picked up by a different bus.
13 It just doesn't seem to be well coordinated.

14 MR. MAY: Right. I think it has
15 to do with the scheduling

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: But I think
17 they are also looking to bring it up on the
18 computer so they can see where the buses are
19 and they would be able to reorganize the way
20 that the routes are done and streamline
21 everything. So do you know offhand if any
22 of that has been done yet or not?

23 MR. MAY: I don't know offhand
24 but I would be happy to reach out to Veolia,
25 NICE Bus and find out for you.

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
4 Jacobs.

5 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: One last
6 thing, I can tell you why, and I'm not
7 excusing it, but I can tell you why very
8 often we see two Able-Ride buses going out.
9 It's because a person who is picked up who
10 is infirmed is not supposed to be in the
11 bus. There is a certain period of time, I
12 don't have it with me, that they are not
13 supposed be in the bus longer than.

14 So that's why, even though there
15 could be three or four, say, in Syosset, for
16 example, who doesn't have it now, if those
17 three or four pickups, and it's a time
18 constraint type of thing to put someone in
19 and make sure they're secure, it could go
20 over the allowable time limit that the other
21 people are allowed to be in the bus. That's
22 what creates the problem.

23 MR. MAY: Like I said, I will be
24 happy to reach out for both of you on the
25 questions that you have to Veolia.

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2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
3 Troiano.

4 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Thank you,
5 Ms. Gonsalves.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: By the
7 way, you said it correctly.

8 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Did I? I
9 knew that. I didn't know. That's great
10 news about the 28 buses embarked for NICE in
11 general, but do those represent new routes?
12 An additional service?

13 MR. MAY: Well, they are the
14 Able-Ride vehicles so they would not be part
15 of the fixed route system, because the
16 Able-Ride goes to --

17 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: But does
18 that represent new Able-Ride routes that are
19 being put in place or is that just normal
20 maintenance of the buses that you expect any
21 functioning buses to do?

22 MR. MAY: My understanding of
23 these are, these are new vehicles and that
24 they would comply with the Able-Ride route.
25 I understand I'm sort of talking in circles

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2 here but the Able-Ride routes are based on
3 the fixed route. So unless the fixed route
4 changes, I don't believe that the Able-Ride
5 route would change but I would be happy to
6 find out for you.

7 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: So this
8 doesn't represent an additional service that
9 we are going to be supplying to our
10 residents, doesn't seem to?

11 MR. MAY: Well, if there are 28
12 new buses, then you have 28 more vehicles on
13 the road to service Able-Ride.

14 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Maybe, but
15 there might be 28 buses coming out of
16 service.

17 MR. MAY: That's possible. I
18 would certainly be happy to find that out
19 for you. The point of the information was
20 to note that we have added \$1.2 million
21 worth of vehicles to the fleet.

22 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: I don't mean
23 to take away from -- would it be possible to
24 have the NICE management team come give us a
25 report on how they feel the bus service is

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2 going?

3 MR. MAY: I can certainly reach
4 out to them and find out for you,
5 absolutely.

6 LEGISLATOR TROIANO: Thank you.

7 MR. MAY: You're welcome.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: The next
9 speaker is Cay Fatima.

10 MS. FATIMA: Hi, Joanne. As a
11 matter of fact, I saw a documentary on Chaz
12 Bono, Cher's transgender daughter, who is
13 going through a sex change information. So
14 I don't know what the legislative issue is
15 with the transgender issues that you are
16 presenting, but I hope that you will be
17 successful in the following sessions to come
18 for you to reach your goals. I yield to the
19 gentlewoman.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Go ahead,
21 Joanne.

22 MS. BORDEN: After speaking to
23 you for 34 times, I think you could
24 calculate that I don't like sob stories.
25 Simply because I don't want your sympathy.

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2 I want your respect for each and every
3 transgender person as a person. Thank you.

4 MS. FATIMA: You're welcome.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Talk to us
6 about what you came here for.

7 MS. FATIMA: Yes, I'm coming to
8 follow-up on several issues. We want to
9 start first with Roger Kockingham (phonetic)
10 Botanical Gardens. We have several issues.

11 One of the last times that I was
12 here, I said that if the signage at the
13 garden was to be changed to Roger
14 Kockingham (phonetic) that this legislative
15 body and the County of Nassau would be
16 misappropriating the funds that were used to
17 build the garden.

18 I went to my homecoming at
19 Malverne High School over the weekend and
20 one of the residents said to me that it
21 looked deplorable. And it does. The
22 irrigation system never worked. When you go
23 there now there are to flowers. How does a
24 garden not have flowers?

25 I got a letter from the Town of

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2 Hempstead who was supposed to be maintaining
3 it from Dorothy Goosby who sent a letter to
4 Ed Mangano. The letter from Ed Mangano was
5 dated June of this year. I got the letter
6 back some time August, September of this
7 year. It's very miscoordinated.

8 I'm hoping that I don't have to
9 file this notice of claim that we're
10 prepared to do to sue this legislative body
11 and the County of Nassau for the following
12 reasons.

13 1, breach of agreement and
14 contract;

15 2, misrepresentation of the true
16 facts, policies, laws, rules and false
17 representations;

18 3, acting in faith;

19 4, fraud;

20 5, deception, deceit, conspiracy
21 to defraud, disingenuous behavior and
22 material omissions;

23 6, misappropriation of funds;

24 7, negligence, carelessness and
25 recklessness;

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2 8, dereliction of duty;
3 9, governmental obstruction;
4 10, collusion;
5 11, conspiracy;
6 12, defamation of character and
7 slander;

8 And, finally, 13 and 14 numbers
9 copyright infringement, trademark
10 infringement, and, finally, the intentional
11 infliction of emotional stress, pain,
12 hostility, intimidation and harassment.

13 This notice will be filed this
14 week. I waited long enough. Scannell nor
15 Troiano has made the resolution to you or
16 submitted the proper process that I talked
17 about the last time for that to happen.

18 CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes
19 have expired, Ms. Fatima.

20 MS. FATIMA: I needed just a
21 little bit more time. I just needed a
22 follow-up, Kevan Abrahams, with what we were
23 working on in the new contract, where are
24 we?

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes, Cay.

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2 I'm sorry. I had to step out. I had to
3 take an important call. I missed the first
4 part of your commentary. I'm not aware. I
5 walked in the middle and that's the most
6 dangerous thing you can do. But you
7 mentioned some type of lawsuit.

8 MS. FATIMA: Yes.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And you
10 filed a lawsuit already?

11 MS. FATIMA: I will be filing a
12 notice of claim this week.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't
14 want to get into the merits.

15 MS. FATIMA: I will make sure
16 everyone will have a copy because they'll be
17 served.

18 The legislative body -- I'm
19 waiting because someone is talking to you.
20 We will re-address the botanical garden
21 issue in more formal writing and
22 information. I just wanted to follow-up on
23 that, and give the legislature a follow-up
24 on what happened to the homeless teenagers
25 that we found in abandoned homes.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I just
3 wanted to follow-up on one of the things you
4 brought up in regards to the home
5 contractors.

6 MS. FATIMA: Yes.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: There is a
8 draft that my counsel has already drafted
9 which I'm going to review today. Once I
10 review it today, we should be sending it in
11 to be clocked in. Hopefully it will be
12 calendared.

13 MS. FATIMA: Okay. To follow-up
14 with the homeless teenagers, let me just say
15 both have residences now. One resident is
16 in Nassau County jail, so we know where he
17 is, and there will be a news article coming
18 out about that and how he got arrested and
19 the circumstances.

20 The young lady is doing well.
21 She's gainfully employed and has assisted
22 living situation. So on one side, did well;
23 the other side fell through the cracks.

24 When I contacted Nassau Haven,
25 which is the teen shelter, the director said

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2 that he had gave -- he had an open house for
3 all of the villages and the county police
4 department to come and see what he's doing.
5 He gave them pamphlets and subsequently
6 these pamphlets don't get distributed to the
7 police officers.

8 When these teens were first were
9 told and removed from the home, they should
10 have been given some type of information as
11 to where they can go, how they can get help.
12 The police department -- they were all
13 under, especially the boy was underage and a
14 minor. The police department should have
15 not just said, get out of the house, but the
16 young man lived in the community and gone to
17 the mother's house, because the mother was
18 responsible for the teenager.

19 We have to have a coordinated
20 system so that young people don't become a
21 fodder and go on a merry-go-round in this
22 criminal justice system.

23 I will conclude with that. We
24 did get Whitfield Road done. But I did
25 request the contract from the clerk's office

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2 and never received it. I never got a call
3 back from the legislative clerk with regards
4 to that. The community wanted to know about
5 the engineering problems that caused the
6 problem to Whitfield Road. We are grateful
7 for the resurfacing but we are afraid that
8 engineering problems never got resolved and
9 that the problems are going to happen again.

10 Any questions?

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
12 Cay.

13 MS. FATIMA: Okay.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have one
15 more speaker within the 30 minute time slot.
16 So, Mr. Budnick, please.

17 MR. BUDNICK: Thank you very
18 much. I am here to speak for just a couple
19 of minutes about what has happened to
20 Hempstead Harbor Beach Park after the county
21 transferred it a number of years ago to the
22 Town of North Hempstead. It has now been
23 converted and the north portion of it has
24 been converted into a bus terminal. Also,
25 had the fishing pier closed and there are a

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2 number of commercial vessels docking there.
3 And, additionally, the northwest
4 section has been converted into a highway
5 department used -- that's where they are
6 storing about two dozen road sanders.
7 Now, I used to be the park ranger
8 there many many years ago. I used to
9 recommend this place to everybody that I
10 could. In fact, when I was working in the
11 district attorney's office, I arranged to
12 have the office picnics there. That was
13 many years ago.
14 Meanwhile, this place is in need
15 of having the rights when the Town of North
16 Hempstead received the property, it was
17 subject to the rights of all Nassau County
18 to use it as a park. That can't be done
19 properly the way it's currently being run.
20 I have 19 copies of various
21 pictures, copies of a recent case from the
22 Village of Kings Point where they had
23 converted a park there to a public works
24 use. And the decision from Judge Fineman in
25 our Supreme Court in the Appellate Division

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2 was that they had to stop that forthwith,
3 and gave them 90 days to do so.

4 So, anyhow, let me hand up this
5 material to, I was going to say our esteemed
6 clerk, but I guess it will be our esteemed
7 assistant clerk, and ask that the fact being
8 that you are in effect the trustees for the
9 residents of Nassau County, that
10 consideration be given, and I leave this in
11 your hand to try to ameliorate this
12 situation because it's not proper.

13 Under the New York State Parks
14 Trust Provisions it is not legal. And,
15 quite frankly, because of an additional
16 thing, some erosion that apparently occurred
17 there, a large part of the beach is fenced
18 off from the public who can't get to the
19 beach.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: John, we
21 will be looking into it.

22 MR. BUDNICK: Thank you very
23 much. Off to Mr. Muller. Thank you all for
24 your time and trouble.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on.

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2 Legislator Bosworth.

3 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: You brought
4 up some of those wonderful points. I just
5 wondered if you have gone to the Town of
6 North Hempstead to register your concerns?

7 MR. BUDNICK: I am a North
8 Hempstead resident now.

9 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: That's not
10 what I asked you. I said, have you --

11 MR. BUDNICK: I didn't hear you,
12 sorry.

13 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: I said, you
14 have concerns about this and I can
15 understand them. Have you registered those
16 concerns with the Town of North Hempstead?

17 MR. BUDNICK: Yes, I have indeed.
18 One of the things that I'm about to give you
19 is a copy of a letter I sent early in July
20 to the North Hempstead town attorney. Okay?
21 I got a call from somebody in the town
22 attorney's office, identified themselves
23 that way, and I just asked them to get this
24 corrected as quickly as possible.

25 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: So just as

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2 you've come to us as a legislature, I think
3 if you're going to do parallel things, it
4 would properly behoove you to go to the town
5 council.

6 MR. BUDNICK: I shall.

7 LEGISLATOR BOSWORTH: Great idea.

8 MR. BUDNICK: Thank you very
9 much. Thank you, Ms. Bosworth. Have a
10 wonderful day.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
12 very much. Thank you, Mr. Budnick. That
13 ends public --

14 MR. PABLO: I was told I could
15 speak. Ms. Gonsalves, Ms. Brennan --

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Just one
17 moment. I will not exclude you from
18 speaking, however, I think it's important
19 that you should have signed in and let us
20 know that you are on the roster. I know you
21 may have spoken to Ms. Brennan regarding
22 your need to speak.

23 I will be kind enough to say yes,
24 three minutes, and, after that, we need to
25 get on to the calendar. So but you really

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2 need to fill out a form. Go there and speak
3 and then, remember, we have a three minute
4 limit. Just say what you have to say in the
5 three minutes that are allotted to you.

6 MR. PABLO: Thank you, Ms.
7 Gonsalves. Hello, everybody, how are you?
8 My name is Paul Pablo Askedall.

9 Today is my birthday, so please
10 indulge me. You kind of let me slide. I'm
11 speaking on behalf of my mother and my son
12 who is a soldier and also, bear with me, I
13 have a tumor and I would like to say to
14 Mr. Denenberg, thank you, because he took
15 pride in asking about my problem.

16 I'm Gringo Latino, and Latino
17 Gringo Paul Pablo, a registered republican
18 for 35 years. Most of you know me from Tiny
19 Town, actor, singer on American Spanish TV,
20 and I have helped the VIP with the Bush
21 Campaign in the past.

22 One, the reason why I am here
23 today. My father, while working for Nassau
24 County Police Department as an ambulance
25 driver, a drunk woman hit his ambulance, and

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2 he ended up with two parts broken in the
3 arm, 150 stitches, and a head, in and out,
4 blood pressure lower than a 60 over no
5 bottom reading, hence, almost dead, sharing
6 it with a cut and a cut and bruise, and
7 explain what the administration did in a
8 minute. Newsday was told not to print
9 regarding accident.

10 Two, I was driving an army
11 soldier from base to base, that was son, and
12 had not seen in ten years, it was a father
13 son trip. To make a long story short, I
14 know I was in the right, and I got a ticket
15 for not moving over. I can not, due to the
16 car to my left, the sun was in my eyes, I
17 was heading west, and I did slow down and I
18 was given a ticket with the wrong birthday
19 on it. After I received the ticket, I
20 received a warning at the ticket, and had
21 small patches on the dashboard, which was
22 for Black, Hispanic, Women's Rights, Gays,
23 and my civil rights were violated because I
24 was told to remove them. They weren't
25 complicating my view, the sun was. The

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2 court, my son asked the courts if it could
3 be continued so he could attend, but it
4 wasn't.

5 Three, my father passed away and
6 I faxed and told all the Republicans
7 including Mangano to attend. No one did,
8 but they did for the other ambulance drivers
9 and not even condolences or sympathy or
10 letters or cards from anyone.

11 And, by the way, last Friday, I
12 attended a Hispanic Society dinner in
13 Hicksville regarding Mangano and I would
14 like to thank the New York State Hispanic
15 Organization for a great dinner.

16 Four, why can't my mother get the
17 same health benefits as the wives of
18 detectives and police officers receive?
19 Which her brother was a cop for 41 years and
20 never retired, died on the job because
21 Nassau County is paying for one person now,
22 not two. Why are ambulance drivers any
23 different?

24 And, five, I'm coming down to
25 close, my Uncle Joe Martinez contributed

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2 enormous funds to GOP and I assisted heavily
3 until 2000 when I started to assist both
4 parties. If someone could respond regarding
5 health especially regarding child abuse and
6 long standing registered Republican since
7 able to vote, I, my mother, father, why is
8 it that I can correspond to both parties and
9 only Democrats can reply back asking if they
10 can help, while not Republicans
11 corresponding back?

12 And, regarding ambulance
13 accident, my father and the drunk woman, why
14 would the Republican Administration pay the
15 woman five grand so she can keep quiet and
16 not counter-sue the county almost killed my
17 father working for the county? Because she
18 received no ticket, no jail time.

19 CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes
20 have expired.

21 MR. PABLO: Well, I'm speaking
22 for two people --

23 CLERK MULLER: I only have one
24 slip, sir.

25 MR. PABLO: As for King's office

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2 regarding paying my mother, please, Joe, I'm
3 almost done, please, please, this is my
4 first time and last time I'm here. I have a
5 tumor, I'm dying, please.

6 Telephoned Peter King's office
7 for my senior citizen mother regarding she
8 could not afford to pay both her taxes and
9 pay her health insurance, \$400 a month at
10 the same time. King replied, if she needs
11 money, tell her to sell her house and land.

12 So, to close, my mother's tax
13 bill just went up \$400 for the year, total
14 now, \$2,000 every six months on a fixed
15 income. When it comes to not raising taxes,
16 I say, Thanks, Ed Mangano, for raising my
17 taxes, and my attorney is Thomas Gulotta,
18 and, like Gulotta, guarantee Mangano
19 reelected will do the same thing. And, as
20 they say in Spanish to me, Mangan-no,
21 Suozz-E. Because Suozzi, to address that
22 other gentleman before, he closed the
23 precincts and he wanted to tax the public
24 for the coliseum. No Republican have helped
25 me or my mother after all these here, but

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2 Democrats asked if they can. So I disagree
3 with that gentleman.

4 So I would like to personally
5 thank Ms. Gonsalves for allowing me the
6 opportunity for me to speak. I thank you
7 very much. Muchas Gracias, thank you,
8 adios, Good-bye everybody, and I really
9 appreciate you letting me speak.

10 We need help. Really, we need
11 help. And I thank you Mr. Denenberg for
12 taking the opportunity to ask me about my
13 tumor. Really I thank you. You took pride.
14 You care for people.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We need to
16 go on, Mr. Pablo.

17 We will go to the calendar and,
18 with the permission of the minority leader,
19 we are going to call two items first which
20 would be the appointments of Item 15 and
21 Item 16.

22 Item 15 is the resolution to
23 confirm the county executive's appointment
24 of Arie Weissman to the Nassau County
25 Commission of Human Rights; and, Item 16 a

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2 resolution to confirm the county executive's
3 appointment of Patricia Aitken to the Soil
4 and Water Conservation District Board
5 pursuant to Section 63 of the New York Soil
6 and Water Conservation District.

7 A motion, please.

8 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

9 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Second.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
11 Legislator Muscarella, seconded by
12 Legislator Jacobs. Any questions regarding
13 the two appointees?

14 Would you please join us at the
15 podium, Patricia and Arie. Any questions?
16 Anything you want to ask of the two
17 appointees? Anything you would like to say?

18 MS. AITKEN: I just have a very
19 short statement, if you don't mind.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Fine.
21 That's why I asked you.

22 MS. AITKEN: Just briefly, the
23 Soil and Water District is an agency that
24 constructively brings together environmental
25 groups such as the Cornell Cooperative

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2 Extension, the U.S. Green Building Council
3 and Friends of the Bay, as well as
4 businesses, academia and the government to
5 protect, preserve, and restore Nassau
6 County's environment.

7 The districts top priority is to
8 assist the government and land owners in
9 improving their infrastructure to reserve
10 soil and water resources and to improve
11 water quality, to raise awareness about how
12 to use green practices and build community
13 gardens.

14 The mission of the district is to
15 preserve soil and water resources, improve
16 water quality, construct and control and
17 prevent soil erosion, prevent flood water
18 and sediment damages, assist in the control
19 of floods, control and abate non-point
20 sources of pollution, protect public lands,
21 and promote the health, safety, and general
22 welfare of the people of Nassau County.

23 Many of these initiatives will
24 provide significant assistance to the county
25 in dealing with their MS4 obligations.

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2 The unique aspect of a soil and
3 water district is that it can work across
4 political lines for partnerships with towns,
5 villages, counties, private, public and
6 non-profit organizations that other agencies
7 cannot. We can also obtain funding from New
8 York State and the DEC that are not
9 available to everyone. The district can
10 work on both public and private lands.

11 I look forward to working with
12 the Soil and Water District and I thank you
13 for affording me this privilege. Please let
14 me know if I or the district can be of any
15 assistance to any of you or any of your
16 constituents. Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.
18 Arie.

19 MR. WEISSMAN: Good afternoon.
20 Before I say anything else, I want to thank
21 County Executive Mangano for his trust and
22 confidence in me. Implicit in his decision
23 to nominate me for service for this most
24 important position in the commission.

25 I also want to thank all of you

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2 for the opportunity to appear here today
3 both to communicate my eagerness to serve
4 and also to answer any questions about my
5 qualifications.

6 I was born in Israel and came to
7 this country when I was three years old. I
8 have enjoyed many benefits and opportunities
9 that so many outside of the U.S. associate
10 with America; education, professional
11 opportunity, the ability to raise children,
12 and to provide even more opportunities to
13 them.

14 Unfortunately, even in America,
15 and even in New York, and Nassau County,
16 sometimes the wrong things get in the way
17 and people are faced with undue obstacles
18 preventing them from fulfilling their
19 potential, assessing opportunities or even
20 being safe.

21 Ensuring that the citizens are
22 able to enjoy their human rights seems very
23 basic. But, as you all know, it requires
24 vigilance and focused attention.

25 Throughout my life and career, I

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2 have found it important to seek out
3 opportunities to minimize these impediments
4 for others. My volunteer work as a mentor
5 to students in the New York City Department
6 of Education with the United Ways here on
7 Long Island, the National Kidney Foundation,
8 and as an advisor to the county executive on
9 issues affecting the Jewish community, all
10 have their origins in that desire to serve.

11 I am also fortunate in that I've
12 been able to combine service with my
13 professional career in executive roles at
14 the advertising council, the Arcus
15 Foundation, Harlem United, and the
16 Foundation For Newark's Future.

17 Again, I am honored to be
18 considered and nominated for this
19 opportunity and will be delighted to take on
20 the responsibility if my nomination is
21 approved. I will be happy to answer any
22 questions.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
24 Arie. I believe Legislator Jacobs has
25 questions or a comment regarding Patricia.

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2 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: A comment
3 really. I would just like to first speak
4 about Pat Aitken because I have a personal
5 friendship with Pat. I met her through her
6 work with the environment, through Friends
7 of the Bay, through her commitment to proper
8 planning, and I only wish you the very best,
9 and you are a wonderful appointment to that
10 board.

11 MR. AITKEN: Thank you.

12 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: And to you,
13 Mr. Weissman, I don't know you well, because
14 I met you twice now, but I'm very impressed
15 by your qualifications to be on the Human
16 Rights Committee, and I wish you well and I
17 think we're fortunate to have someone of
18 your past experience and what appears to be
19 your present experience to be on there and
20 to help us address problems, some of which
21 we heard some of today where it really does
22 need addressing.

23 Thank you, and I wish you both
24 well. Very proud to confirm.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other

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2 comments?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 There being none, all those in
5 favor of confirming the appointment of Arie
6 Weissman to the Human Rights Commission and
7 Patricia Aitken to the Soil and Water
8 Conservation District, signify by saying
9 aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 Any opposed?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 The two appointments are
14 confirmed unanimously. Thank you very much.

15 Moving along to Item 12, which is
16 going to require an amendment in the nature
17 of a substitution. Item 12 on the calendar,
18 Resolution 108, a resolution to adopt the
19 provisions of Chapter 350 of the Laws of
20 2013 known as the Hurricane Sandy Filing fee
21 Exemption and Reimbursement Act.

22 A motion, please.

23 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by

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2 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
3 Kopel. And now for the amendment in the
4 nature of a substitution.

5 A motion, please.

6 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
9 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
10 Nicolello. It's number 12. The amendment
11 in the nature of a substitution, I think you
12 should explain that to them, Greg, please.
13 I can embellish on it, but please speak to
14 it.

15 MR. MAY: Well, just to briefly
16 touch on what the amendment is, the
17 amendment puts into the item itself the
18 chapter and date it was signed into law in
19 New York State. So that's really the only
20 change in the amendment.

21 To speak on the details, we have
22 County Clerk Maureen O'Connell to answer any
23 questions on the details of this item.

24 MS. O'CONNELL: Thank you, Greg.
25 Thank you, everyone. I will be very quick.

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2 This is a bill passed by Senator Skelos and
3 Harvey Weisenberg in Albany to allow county
4 clerks around the state to waive the state
5 portion of the recording fees.

6 What you have before you today is
7 what we call an opt-in bill. You folks on
8 the county level have to opt in to what
9 Senator Skelos had put in at my request.
10 I'm sure that you will be in support of this
11 bill. We are helping our residents save
12 money when they are trying to repair the
13 serious damage they've had to their homes
14 from Super Storm Sandy.

15 You have already waived the
16 portion that the county requires us to
17 collect. But, as a state agent, there is a
18 state portion of that fee which Dean had put
19 in at my request to get that waived as well.

20 So I thank you for supporting
21 this on behalf of the residents who have
22 suffered so much harm, financial and
23 emotional and physical, during the terrible
24 storm. Thank you. Any questions?

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have

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2 Legislator Ford who wishes to make a
3 comment.

4 MS. O'CONNELL: Maureen, thank
5 you very much. This is, like, really good
6 news and especially, like, as we come up to
7 the anniversary of Super Storm Sandy. Is
8 any of this retroactive, or --

9 MS. O'CONNELL: All retroactive.

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: So that if
11 somebody had already paid --

12 MS. O'CONNELL: Yes. They can
13 get a reimbursement.

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: Will you be --

15 MS. O'CONNELL: Reaching out,
16 yes.

17 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
18 much.

19 MS. O'CONNELL: Yes, this was
20 something that I started with Senator Skelos
21 over a year ago, right after the storm, just
22 so that you have a context to put this in.
23 When Hurricane Katrina hit in Louisiana,
24 FEMA went in and gave grants to homeowners
25 to build their homes.

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2 Unlike Louisiana, New York was
3 not given these FEMA funds through grants.
4 They were given the funds to repair their
5 homes and made to record them as mortgages
6 against their property.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Right.

8 MS. O'CONNELL: So we were not
9 really treated fairly in that sense. So
10 once these fees had to be paid to the county
11 clerk's office, we felt they should have
12 been waived. So at my suggestion, Senator
13 Skelos then did this bill for us.

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: I thank you
15 very much and you brought up something very
16 key, because it was actually even in the
17 papers and comments made to us that those of
18 us who were impacted by Sandy, the same
19 rules that they followed for Katrina and
20 Irene, and even for down in Florida where
21 they literally handed money to people who
22 were impacted, we have not had the same
23 generosity at all. I mean, I still have
24 people who haven't basically received a dime
25 for anything, so --

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2 MS. O'CONNELL: Exactly right.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: And even when
4 you had passed, even when you had us pass,
5 so we weren't charging fees for other
6 things. I remember having somebody call me
7 up to -- and when she found out she was
8 going to get back the \$250 that she paid to
9 the county, I'll tell you, sometimes you
10 think \$250 isn't a lot of money, but when
11 you have nothing, it's a lot. So I thank
12 you very much.

13 MS. O'CONNELL: Some of these
14 poor folks still don't even have windows in
15 their homes, so we're very aware -- and
16 since many of them are in my office all the
17 time trying to replace some of the
18 documents.

19 So I thank you also for the hard
20 work that you're doing, especially around
21 Long Beach.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: We're trying.

23 MS. O'CONNELL: We know mutually
24 what the problems are, of course.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very

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2 much.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
4 Denenberg.

5 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Hi. The
6 fees that are being waived now, if they're
7 paid, then we're going to get state funds to
8 reimburse?

9 MS. O'CONNELL: That's correct.

10 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: This is
11 for the mortgage recording?

12 MS. O'CONNELL: These are
13 recording fees that I levy, as county clerk,
14 as a state agent, as an agent of the state.
15 So they're state fees. So the state is
16 going to be reimbursing us.

17 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: So they'll
18 reimburse us and we'll reimburse the people
19 on the south shore that had to encumber
20 these fees just in some case, just to get
21 the SBA loans.

22 MS. O'CONNELL: That's correct.

23 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Which is
24 ridiculous.

25 MS. O'CONNELL: Yes. In fact,

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2 interestingly, some folks when they realized
3 they had to record it, like a mortgage, they
4 walked away from it. They didn't want to do
5 it, it was onerous.

6 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: We have a
7 record of everyone --

8 MS. O'CONNELL: Yes.

9 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Let me
10 just ask the question. No one in my
11 district, for example, anywhere on the south
12 shore, Freeport through Long Beach, to
13 Seaford, Massapeguas, if you encumbered
14 these fees, the county clerk after this is
15 passed, will be able to reimburse without
16 the people having to apply for
17 reimbursement?

18 MS. O'CONNELL: No. There will
19 be an application process that I will be
20 developing with the state going forward in
21 the next weeks to come.

22 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: So we will
23 still have to get the information to people
24 that they can be reimbursed?

25 MS. O'CONNELL: They will have to

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2 come to me or I will be reaching out to them
3 directly to appraise them or alert them to
4 the process.

5 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Shouldn't
6 we know, or --

7 MS. O'CONNELL: Well, the
8 legislation was signed --

9 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Let me
10 finish --

11 MS. O'CONNELL: Signed by the
12 governor about a week ago, two weeks ago,
13 and it's going to be set up by my office and
14 the education department in New York State.

15 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: We
16 wouldn't know or have a list of those
17 people?

18 MS. O'CONNELL: I can go through
19 all my filings and have them, yes.

20 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Because
21 I'm afraid that some people might not --

22 MS. O'CONNELL: Do not be afraid.
23 They will all be reached out to by me.
24 We've already been doing that as well as
25 time has been passing since this started.

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2 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: But
3 there's no way to just give the
4 reimbursement without an application just
5 based on the fact that someone paid it?

6 MS. O'CONNELL: That's correct.
7 A form. We are going to develop a form.

8 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Okay.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
10 Venditto.

11 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Very
12 quickly. Ms. O'Connell, I want to thank you
13 for coming down today. This is certainly
14 something that the residents of the 12th
15 Legislative District, among many others,
16 will be interested in hearing about.
17 Through our work together, I've actually be
18 able to walk refund checks to people's doors
19 down in the Massapequas who are still ailing
20 in a lot of regards.

21 In the event that a resident is
22 interested in following through with this, I
23 take it that I will be able to generate
24 direct correspondence between your office
25 and the resident?

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2 MS. O'CONNELL: Absolutely. I'm
3 going to be -- I envision this as -- my part
4 in this is to amass those who would be
5 entitled to it and reach out to them and let
6 them know. We have not yet to develop the
7 form, but we will be doing that with the
8 state.

9 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Really
10 appreciate it. Thank you.

11 MS. O'CONNELL: Thank you all.
12 Thank you for adopting this. It's very
13 important. I also want to again acknowledge
14 Senator Skelos and Harvey Weisenberg for
15 responding to my urge to get this done, so
16 I'm very appreciative for everybody's
17 efforts. Thank you all.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: First we
19 need to vote on the amendment to the
20 resolution. All those in favor of the
21 amendment which adds the date signed by the
22 governor and the chapter number of the state
23 law, all those in favor of the amendment
24 signify by saying aye.

25 (Aye.)

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2 Any opposed?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 Now, the item as amended. All
5 those in favor of Resolution 108, Item 12 on
6 the calendar signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Any opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 The contract passes unanimously.

11 There's one more item that we
12 want to take separately and that is Item
13 Number 18, Resolution 199, a resolution
14 designating a portion of the county road
15 known as Nassau Road between Davis Street
16 and Greenwich Avenue as Julius Dr. J Erving
17 Way and directing the Department of Public
18 Works to install conspicuous signage along
19 said roadway.

20 A motion, please.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So moved.

22 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion by
24 Legislator Abrahams, seconded by Legislator
25 Dunne. Anybody would like to speak to this

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2 item?

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Minority
5 Leader Abrahams.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Again, I
7 just want to thank the entire legislature,
8 especially Presiding Officer Gonsalves for
9 calendaring this so quickly. This is going
10 to be a street renaming, renaming the Nassau
11 Road corridor from the Southern State to
12 Pleasant Avenue where Dr. J, as we all know
13 him, Julius Erving to a lot of people, where
14 he grew up, it should be a great great
15 project. We're looking to hopefully get
16 this up and running and it's something that
17 can coordinate with his schedule hopefully
18 some time in November or December.

19 As I mentioned before also,
20 Doctor J is also promoting and is going to
21 be looking to promote a book which is
22 something that is going to be something that
23 we're going to encourage. A lot of the
24 young people in that area, as we all know in
25 Doctor J's life, he's overcome many many

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2 obstacles, and I think this would be a great
3 role model for the Roosevelt community and
4 the surrounding communities to have this
5 there and, hopefully, it will also lead to
6 many other involvement projects with Doctor
7 J Enterprises and himself.

8 So I look forward to the street
9 renaming and I would be happy to invite the
10 entire legislature as well and, once I get a
11 date, I will give you guys more than enough
12 notice to come down. It's going to be a
13 great event. I look forward to it.

14 As soon as we are able to
15 solidify a date, I will definitely let
16 everyone here know, and let the county
17 executive know, of course. We need you guys
18 to actually put up the signs and get them up
19 quickly. The quicker the better.

20 From that standpoint, I look
21 forward to inviting everyone here including
22 the county executive and any of our other
23 county wide elected officials as well.

24 Thank you, again, for your
25 response time and your ability and

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2 efficiency to get this done quickly.

3 LEGISLATOR BECKER: I look
4 forward to see you, Legislator Abrahams, to
5 go one on one with Doctor J. Is that what's
6 going to happen? You're going to go one on
7 one with him? I want to see this.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Well, I
9 can't go left. So if he forces me left,
10 then I'm going to be in trouble.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
12 comments regarding this item?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 There being none, all those in
15 favor of Item 18, Resolution 199 signify by
16 saying aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 Any opposed?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 The item passes unanimously.

21 Now with the consent of the
22 minority, we're going to call the following
23 items, Item 1, Ordinance 152; Item 2,
24 Ordinance 153; Item 3, Ordinance 154; Item
25 4, Ordinance 155; Item 5, Ordinance 156;

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2 Item 6, Ordinance 157; Item 7, Ordinance
3 158; Item 8, Ordinance 159; Item 9,
4 Ordinance 160; Item 10, Ordinance 161; Item
5 11, Ordinance 162; Item 13, Resolution 194;
6 Item 14, Resolution 195; Item 17, Resolution
7 198; Item 19, Resolution 200; Item 20,
8 Resolution 201; Item 21, Resolution 202;
9 Item 22, Resolution 203; Item 23, Resolution
10 204; Item 24, Resolution 205; Item 25,
11 Resolution 206.

12 A motion, please.

13 LEGISLATOR BELESI: So moved.

14 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
16 Legislator Belesi, seconded by Legislator
17 Dunne. Any comments or questions?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 All those in favor of those items
20 as called signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 Any opposed?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 Those items pass unanimously.

25 Before we adjourn, if there is anybody else

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2 who has public comment, we are here to
3 listen, but I have no other slips.

4 So, there being none, a motion to
5 adjourn.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can
7 I just make one quick statement? I just
8 want to, again, just request -- I know
9 Comptroller Maragos will be appearing at our
10 next meeting, and I was able to find a
11 statement regarding our FEMA reimbursement.
12 To date, we are still 99 million and change
13 in debt, basically, because we haven't
14 received that amount of FEMA reimbursement.

15 So, this was a hard item to find,
16 it took us quite a while, but I have the
17 document here which I would be happy to
18 share with you.

19 So I'm just putting on record
20 that I request when Mr. Maragos comes to
21 meet us, he's prepared to answer about this
22 debt. To just say that we are hoping to get
23 90 percent or 95 percent, I don't think that
24 any of us up here feel comfortable with that
25 kind of explanation because it's a huge

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2 number from our operational budget. So,
3 again, that's my appreciation and I wanted
4 to put it on the record.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
6 very much. Any other?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 There being none, a motion to
9 adjourn, please.

10 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: So moved.

11 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
13 Legislator Venditto, seconded by Legislator
14 Walker. All those in favor of adjourning
15 this session -- this meeting, I should say,
16 signify by saying aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 Any opposed?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative
21 Committee adjourned at 2:20 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 8th day of November, 2013.

FRANK GRAY