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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

NORMA GONSALVES,  
Presiding Officer

1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

Monday, January 27, 2014  
1:12 P.M.

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

3

4 NORMA GONSALVES,  
Presiding Officer

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6 RICHARD NICOLELLO,  
Deputy Presiding Officer

6

7 HOWARD KOPEL,  
Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer

8

MICHAEL VENDITTO

9

DENISE FORD

10

LAURA CURRAN

11

FRANCIS X. BECKER

12

VINCENT MUSCARELLA

13

ELLEN BIRNBAUM

14

LAURA SCHAEFER

15

DONALD MACKENZIE

16

17 KEVAN ABRAHAMS,  
Minority Leader

17

18 ROSE MARIE WALKER

18

19 DENNIS DUNNE

19

20 JUDITH JACOBS

20

21 DAVID DENENBERG

21

22 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

22

23 CARRIE SOLAGES

23

24 WILLIAM J. MULLER, III  
Clerk of the Legislature

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

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

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I will ask  
8 the clerk to please call the roll.

9 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
10 Solages?

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

12 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Ford?

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

14 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Curran?

15 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

16 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Becker?

17 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Here.

18 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Kopel?

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

20 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

21 Muscarella?

22 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

23 CLERK MULLER: Legislator

24 Nicolello?

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Present.

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2 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
3 Birnbaum?  
4 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.  
5 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
6 DeRiggi-Whitton?  
7 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:  
8 Here.  
9 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
10 Venditto?  
11 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Here.  
12 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
13 Schaefer?  
14 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.  
15 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Dunne?  
16 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.  
17 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Jacobs?  
18 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.  
19 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Walker?  
20 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.  
21 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
22 MacKenzie?  
23 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.  
24 CLERK MULLER: Legislator  
25 Denenberg?

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2 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Here.

3 CLERK MULLER: Minority Leader

4 Abrahams?

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

6 CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer

7 Gonsalves?

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

9 CLERK MULLER: We have a quorum.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you

11 very much, Mr. Muller. The first order of

12 business is a point of personal privilege.

13 I was approached by Dr. Imhoff,

14 the Commissioner of Social Services,

15 regarding several people who are in this

16 audience today who have gone over and above

17 doing volunteer work. I have always said

18 that volunteerism is the epitome of any

19 community in getting things done.

20 These several people, and I

21 believe there are 30 in all, have conducted

22 several things. First of all, monthly

23 boutiques to raise funds for needy families.

24 That went from February until December.

25 Camp programs for children in foster care

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 and temporary assistance, the volunteer  
3 recognition luncheon to honor all volunteers  
4 and students from fall and spring semesters.

5 During the month of July and  
6 August, Dr. Imhoff worked with organizations  
7 to get school supplies for children on  
8 temporary assistance and foster care.  
9 During the month of July, he worked very  
10 closely with a company that does a  
11 back-to-school program for about 100 of our  
12 children who benefit from new school  
13 clothing and backpacks filled with school  
14 supplies, closely working with service case  
15 workers to make the event a success.

16 Early in September when school  
17 began, letters went out to the school  
18 principals and key clubs in Nassau County to  
19 get students on board to assist with many of  
20 our holiday programs.

21 In fall and spring, Dr. Imhoff  
22 and the volunteers work closely with NCC for  
23 interns interested in social work to come to  
24 DSS and learn about our programs and to  
25 assist clients coming in for services and to

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 enrich the lives of young children in our  
3 playroom area.

4 Dr. Imhoff worked closely on  
5 behalf of the groups within the communities,  
6 Thanksgiving programs, and assisted also by  
7 church organizations with food baskets and  
8 food, especially with the shut-ins and those  
9 who are out of work.

10 The program continues to allow  
11 people to take about 100 children to a  
12 holiday party where they can get their wish  
13 list. He worked closely with schools and  
14 companies in the community to get involved  
15 in the community service. We have a huge  
16 adoptive family program and a toy  
17 distribution program. We assist children on  
18 temporary assistance, foster care and the  
19 shelters. The holiday party for children  
20 and foster care is a huge program. We use  
21 the ballroom at the Marriott which can  
22 accommodate about five hundred people. We  
23 enlist the schools, community, and staff to  
24 help with the toy drive. On this day, we  
25 honor foster children with entertainment, a



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2 DJ, a lovely luncheon, a visit from Santa,  
3 and Mrs. Santa, and every child attending  
4 receives a brand new gift.

5 The various schools and Girl  
6 Scouts make crafts and lovely items to give  
7 to the foster children. The party is also  
8 attended by the media and many of our  
9 elected officials.

10 At DSS, we have an ongoing food  
11 drive. We offer bags of foods to our  
12 clients as they leave the building. The  
13 Dress to Impress Program benefits people  
14 preparing for job interviews entering the  
15 job market.

16 We reach out to the community to  
17 assist us with lovely career wear, and this  
18 was an ongoing program and we were able to  
19 benefit many for the Nassau County job fair.  
20 We continue to work on new projects with the  
21 community.

22 At this point I would like to ask  
23 Dr. Imhoff to please join us at the podium.  
24 He has a list of volunteers who are with us  
25 here today and we have a citation for each

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 of them on behalf of the legislature for  
3 their volunteer work.

4 DR. IMHOFF: Madam Presiding  
5 Officer and members of the legislature. We  
6 want to thank you very much for the honor of  
7 presenting our volunteers who, since 1983,  
8 provided over 31 years of service to the  
9 clients, the families, and the neediest of  
10 our children in the Department of Social  
11 Services.

12 I would like to ask that Deputy  
13 Commissioner Paul Broderick join me at the  
14 podium and I would like to introduce our DSS  
15 director of volunteers, Lynn Campbell.  
16 Lynn, would you come up, please?

17 I'm going to read the names of  
18 the volunteers here with us today:  
19 Catherine Baumgardner, Pauline Campbell,  
20 Virginia Casey.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Excuse me,  
22 Dr. Imhoff, let the recipients remain  
23 standing.

24 DR. IMHOFF: Please remaining  
25 standing. Virginia Casey, Terry DePaolo,

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 Laura Debberling, Mary Johnson, Gloria  
3 Monteverde, Marilyn Bernard, Uerela  
4 Panzerella, Barbara Ware, Jerry Gillan,  
5 Norma Lerner, Marsha Leva, Novelette  
6 Lindsey, Crystal Wilder, Lynn Campbell.  
7 There you have it, ladies and gentleman,  
8 members of the legislature, these are our  
9 DSS volunteers and thank you for honoring  
10 their service today. We really appreciate  
11 it.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're  
13 welcome. At this time we will begin with  
14 the public participation and our first  
15 speaker is Joanne Borden.

16 MS. BORDEN: Good afternoon and  
17 good luck to the new legislators, and the  
18 old ones too.

19 Human rights are derived from one  
20 source and only one source, God. Thomas  
21 Jefferson affirmed that as a national ideal  
22 when he said "every human being born on this  
23 continent has a right to equal, indeed,  
24 identical treatment in the machine of the  
25 law."

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2 As a legislature, your duty is to  
3 protect citizens from discrimination,  
4 protect all your citizens. For transgender  
5 people, you are failing.

6 Worse, you make protection of God  
7 given human rights a partisan issue. How do  
8 you allow your mind to put partisanship  
9 ahead of God, American principles, and your  
10 pledge to the flag of justice for all?

11 How does your partisanship trump  
12 America and Judeo Christian principles?

13 The Gender Clarification Law is a  
14 simple correction to an unforeseeable flaw  
15 in the current laws of obvious intent. The  
16 words actual and perceived gender testifies  
17 to that. Yet, you refuse to protect our  
18 civil rights from discrimination. You allow  
19 transgender people like me to lose our job,  
20 housing, and other conditions including  
21 adequate health care, simply because of who  
22 we are and our biological imperative to be  
23 our true selves.

24 In the last three years, I  
25 presented medical facts quoting scientists

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 after scientist that say transgender is not  
3 a choice. We are born this way. I've given  
4 you reason after reason and demonstrated  
5 repeatedly why transgender civil rights  
6 equal protection is American fair right good  
7 for Nassau County and good for our country.  
8 Yet, you remain silent.

9 The Republican mantra is, mums  
10 the word. The truth of your devotion to  
11 God, country, and your oath of office is  
12 being tested. The wide majority of Nassau  
13 residents, people you are supposed to  
14 represent overwhelming favor transgender  
15 civil rights. Put the transgender law to a  
16 vote and let everyone vote their conscience.  
17 Do it now. Thank you.

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

20 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Joanne, I  
21 just want to tell you that the law has been  
22 refiled, for how many times, I'm trying to  
23 think, maybe the fifth time, fourth time,  
24 and I will not give up. I don't think, in  
25 all due respect, when you look at the whole

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 law, it's hard to figure exactly what we are  
3 looking for, it's just one line, a very  
4 nondescript line, but, yet, would cover what  
5 you are concerned with and what we all  
6 should be concerned with.

7 So it's been filed and I will  
8 send it out to every legislator to deal with  
9 that one line and then they'll understand  
10 what the amendment would be. Hopefully we  
11 will do better that way.

12 MS. BORDEN: Thank you very much  
13 again, over and over. I cannot see what is  
14 partisan about human rights, about civil  
15 rights, what is partisan about it?

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Barbara  
17 Epstein.

18 MS. EPSTEIN: Good afternoon. I  
19 would like to, first of all, welcome all the  
20 new legislators to the county legislature,  
21 number one.

22 My name is Barbara Epstein and  
23 I'm co-chair of the League of Women Voters  
24 of Nassau County Redistricting Committee.

25 The league has been involved in

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2 the redistricting process for over two  
3 years. Working in coalition over the last  
4 year with several good government groups, we  
5 have still not been able to achieve fair and  
6 transparent redistricting process.

7 It's important that we look to  
8 the future and that means dealing with the  
9 sections of the Nassau County Charter  
10 concerning redistricting. We believe that  
11 these sections contradict each other and  
12 therefore stand in the way of Nassau County  
13 having a fair and transparent process with  
14 an independent redistricting commission.

15 Who knows where we will be in six  
16 years with the 2020 census? The careful  
17 selection of members to the redistricting  
18 commission is essential to the fair and  
19 transparent redistricting process that will  
20 result in the voters of Nassau County having  
21 fair representation.

22 We ask the county legislature to  
23 look at the comprehensive report from the  
24 Nassau United Redistricting Coalition on  
25 Redistricting and its specific

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 recommendations. This reports looks what is  
3 done with respect to redistricting in 21  
4 other New York State counties that have  
5 charters like Nassau County. Nassau  
6 County's redistricting process is broken but  
7 not beyond repair. This is an exciting day  
8 because today our county legislature should  
9 take the first step towards reform.

10 We have now I believe submitted  
11 to all of you a copy of our report with our  
12 research and with some of our  
13 recommendations. Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're  
15 welcome, Barbara. The next speaker is Alex  
16 Gomez.

17 MR. GOMEZ: Legislators, I wish  
18 you all the best. My name is Alex Gomez and  
19 I'm here speaking on behalf of the LaFuente  
20 Long Island Participation Project. In the  
21 interest of time, I will keep my statement  
22 brief and short and pretty much to the  
23 point, I promise.

24 It used to be said that voters  
25 used to pick their elected leaders. But we



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2 are finding now that it's more that the  
3 parties are picking their voters.

4 This goes against the very spirit  
5 of our elections and the very foundation of  
6 our democracy. LaFuente Coalition in unity  
7 with our coalition allies believes that the  
8 decisions about district lines should be  
9 made by the communities affected, the  
10 process should be open and transparent, and,  
11 yes, the system should be open to compromise  
12 as well and not gridlock.

13 We hope that you will take the  
14 materials and the evidence in our report and  
15 take it into consideration. We understand  
16 that the system currently right now is  
17 broken and we hope that today will be the  
18 first step towards fixing it. Thank you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you  
20 very much, Mr. Gomez. Neal Lewis,

21 MR. LEWIS: Good morning,  
22 legislators. My name is Neal Lewis and I'm  
23 the executive director of the Sustainability  
24 Institute of Molloy College.

25 It has now been some 20 years

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2 since the tragic death on Long Island from  
3 carbon monoxide poisoning of celebrity  
4 tennis player, Vitas Gerulaitis. Media  
5 attention at that time served to raise  
6 awareness about the invisible, odorless gas  
7 that is still the number one cause of  
8 accidental poisonings in the United States.

9 In the 20 years since, it has  
10 become standard for homes across the nation  
11 to have carbon monoxide detectors and this  
12 has undoubtedly saved many lives.

13 Unfortunately, even if you have a  
14 good carbon monoxide detector in your home,  
15 your family may still suffer from low level  
16 carbon monoxide exposure that can cause  
17 headaches, chronic fatigue, dizziness,  
18 memory loss, nausea, and a range of symptoms  
19 that your doctor may find hard to diagnose.

20 The carbon monoxide detectors  
21 that are used today that could save your  
22 life from acute poisoning ironically may  
23 provide a false sense of security when it  
24 comes to the chronic low level exposure to  
25 this toxic gas.

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2 A question that many of us should  
3 be asking if we are experiencing recurrent  
4 headaches, fatigue or other symptoms, and  
5 things that, frankly, may be dismissed as  
6 just as something going around, what we  
7 should really be asking is our house making  
8 us sick?

9 So I did raise this issue with  
10 you at your last meeting and I'm pleased  
11 that a number of you have helped in this  
12 awareness campaign. We are really urging  
13 people to become aware of the fact that  
14 there are some basic steps that can be taken  
15 to have your home heating system tuned up  
16 and cleaned once a year as is standard.  
17 This seems to be a common with some  
18 reputable companies, but many people do not  
19 have this done.

20 Also, I should say on behalf of  
21 the Sustainability Institute we have done  
22 interviews with home energy auditors. We  
23 have calculated that a rough estimate is  
24 that there are perhaps 150,000 homes on Long  
25 Island that have low level carbon monoxide

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2 leaks that may be making people sick and  
3 perhaps a little more than half of that is  
4 in Nassau County.

5 The answer is to establish these  
6 better practices, raise awareness, but, the  
7 other part of the answer is, to get a home  
8 energy audit done because that's the one  
9 means that a carbon monoxide detector will  
10 be used that is more sensitive.

11 In fact, the ones that are sold  
12 for most homes have been changed in recent  
13 years to go off at a higher amount, 70 parts  
14 per million, because, in the past, there  
15 were going off too frequently and this is  
16 because this problem is too recurrent.

17 So, there is a lot more I can say  
18 on this. I do want to thank those of you  
19 who have been helping with this effort. I'm  
20 very interested in meeting with any  
21 legislators to see if there are any further  
22 things we can do. I do think that there are  
23 some policy suggestions that are coming out  
24 of this campaign, things that we're learning  
25 that might result in possible legislation,

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2 but, in the near term, our greatest strength  
3 is to raise awareness, encourage people to  
4 establish these good practices, and to get  
5 home energy audits done so you can find out  
6 if what's in your house has been making you  
7 sick. Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you  
9 very much, Mr. Lewis. Eileen Lilly.

10 MS. LILLY: Hello. My name is  
11 Eileen Lilly and I live in Long Beach. I'm  
12 here today to support the Nassau United  
13 Redistricting Coalition Report calling for  
14 redistricting reform in Nassau County. Make  
15 Nassau County the county that gets it right.  
16 Please implement this report. Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.  
18 Angela Martin.

19 MS. MARTIN: Hi. My name is  
20 Angela Martin. I have been motivated to  
21 become a part of this process because I have  
22 learned that the residents of many minority  
23 communities are not getting proper  
24 representation because of ethnic political  
25 values. I would like to see a nonpartisan

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2 committee become responsible for  
3 establishing the district lines. I believe  
4 that every vote should count. The lines  
5 should not be drawn just to suit a political  
6 party. I would also like to have a  
7 legislator interested in my community and  
8 not his own aspirations. Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Steve  
10 McFarlan.

11 MR. MCFARLAN: Good afternoon,  
12 folks.

13 My name is Steve McFarlan. I'm  
14 the Nassau County organizer for the Long  
15 Island Civic Engagement Table which is led  
16 by the Long Island Immigrant Alliance,  
17 Central American Refugee Center, Make the  
18 Road New York, and New York Communities for  
19 Change, those last two are grass roots  
20 organizations representing over \$20,000  
21 working class immigrants and people of color  
22 across Long Island and New York City.

23 The core of our work is voter  
24 registration and nonpartisan Get Out the  
25 Vote work. Last year, just in Nassau

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2 County, we registered 2,000 new voters and  
3 did Get Out the Vote work with 10,000 folks.  
4 That was my 30 second preamble.

5 When we are out on the doors, you  
6 know, one of the things we hear most is that  
7 people want to see the government working  
8 for them. I'm sure you hear that this when  
9 you're out canvassing your campaigns too.  
10 The want to feel like their voices are  
11 heard.

12 That system is broken at the most  
13 basic level in Nassau County because of our  
14 redistricting process, regardless of who is  
15 in charge, is controlled bipartisan  
16 interests. Our democracy, as our other  
17 allies in this coalition have said is found  
18 on the ideal and that everyone has the  
19 chance to be heard and voters get together  
20 as a community of interest and vote for  
21 elected officials of their choosing.

22 I think there's bipartisan  
23 agreement in this room that that process is  
24 broken in the Charter. Legislator Nicoletto  
25 told the Island Now last year that the

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 current charter provisions for redistricting  
3 are designed to gridlock. I think we have  
4 seen that and the courts have agreed.  
5 They've imposed this kind of rationale on  
6 Sections 112 through 114 in the Charter.  
7 But, at the end of the day, there is  
8 inconsistency and a need for something  
9 better.

10 As our report shows, that we're  
11 releasing today, when you allow any  
12 political party to control what  
13 redistricting looks like, it's going to put  
14 its own interests ahead of the interests of  
15 voters. Our proposal is that the voters  
16 have the chance to lead that process.

17 You'll see in this report and  
18 we're excited to be starting the dialogue  
19 with you that, when voters have the chance  
20 to choose, they draw districts that make  
21 sense.

22 Then, when districts and  
23 communities are allowed to be kept together,  
24 we see a government that is more responsive  
25 and a sense that people are being heard.



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2 I don't think anybody wants to go  
3 through what we all went through last year.  
4 We've got almost two dozen folks out here  
5 just today to release the report, and we all  
6 remember being here until, many of us, and  
7 welcome to the new folks, remember being  
8 here until 1:00 a.m. last year. No one  
9 wants to do that. It's a waste of taxpayer  
10 money and it's a waste of your time and it  
11 fosters a sense that Nassau County  
12 government is going to go on regardless of  
13 what people have to say about what their own  
14 community's representation looks like.

15 So we are excited to have started  
16 the dialogue with many of you, and to hand  
17 over today a proposal with -- that is a  
18 comprehensive study of what's possible and  
19 what works and to work out together in a  
20 bipartisan fashion something that is going  
21 to make Nassau County a national leader in  
22 good government, fair redistricting, and  
23 fostering a sense that voters come first in  
24 this county, not partisan interests.

25 We are really looking forward to

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2 the conversation and we'll keep coming out  
3 with bigger and bigger numbers to help make  
4 that happen. Thanks.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,  
6 Mr. McFarlan. Legislator Solages.

7 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Steve, thank  
8 you for coming down here today. I have yet  
9 to receive the report. I'm waiting for the  
10 clerk to pass it down. But Ms. Epstein  
11 mentioned that several other counties have  
12 engaged in this reform; specifically, which  
13 counties and how is it different? How is  
14 their charter different from our charter,  
15 Sections 112 to 116?

16 MR. McFARLAN: It's a great  
17 question, thank you, Legislator Solages.  
18 So, our survey, we actually have on our  
19 website, Nassau United Redistricting.org, on  
20 our website we break down all 21 chartered  
21 counties in New York State and show what the  
22 process looks like.

23 I think the real models, in New  
24 York State we look at, Ulster County did a  
25 really great job of installing a nonpartisan

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2 citizen commission and then there's a few  
3 other models across the country that also  
4 have citizen commissions.

5 What we are proposing is that you  
6 acknowledge that people have a party  
7 affiliation so that there's three Democrats,  
8 three Republicans, and three people who  
9 aren't affiliated with the party. I mean,  
10 the really essential thing is, when our poll  
11 came out last week, I should have mentioned,  
12 there was a poll last year at the end of the  
13 year that showed 81 percent of citizens, 81  
14 percent of the Nassau voters, think citizen  
15 redistricting is a good idea.

16 Frank Moroney, who chaired the  
17 commission last year, said, "but how do you  
18 really ever get to nonpartisan?" And the  
19 way you get to nonpartisan is you have clear  
20 criteria. Ulster does this. A lot of other  
21 counties across the state do it including  
22 Suffolk County. We can get into Suffolk off  
23 line but they actually were a little too  
24 strict. It's important to have common sense  
25 about this. But you have criteria; you

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2 can't have been a political appointee, you  
3 can't have a relative who is an elected  
4 official in the last certain number of  
5 years.

6 I know sometimes in the ancillary  
7 world of politics it seems that there's not  
8 that many people that meet that criteria,  
9 but, of course, there are plenty people, all  
10 of your constituents across the county, and  
11 they know what communities really look like.

12 So you have nonpartisan criteria  
13 to make sure that the people on the  
14 commission represent the interest of  
15 communities. We recommend having some  
16 criteria to make sure there's geographic  
17 distribution, and you install this sort of  
18 two step process that's in the report to  
19 make sure you get even a step further from  
20 partisan interests.

21 But, really, that's the heart of  
22 it. It's making sure that it's regular  
23 folks making those decisions because, at the  
24 end of the day, they know better than  
25 political appointees. It's not even you who

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2 are on the commission, it's political  
3 appointees. Then you build in transparency,  
4 you build in fair redistricting principles  
5 into the charter.

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I understand  
7 that many constituents in my district have  
8 told me that individuals from your  
9 organization have interviewed them and  
10 they've asked me if they could trust the  
11 organization and I said, of course, you have  
12 been pushing a fair process. That's all we  
13 want is a fair process.

14 We are living now, the  
15 post-redistricting. Based on your  
16 interviews with constituents, have you  
17 learned from constituents any clear impact  
18 that these new maps have had on communities?

19 MR. McFARLAN: Yes, absolutely.  
20 I mean, I think you all know it as well as  
21 we do. Legislator Solages, you have done  
22 great work getting to know the district down  
23 in Inwood. At the end of the day it doesn't  
24 make a lot of sense for you to have to drive  
25 through Queens to get to another end of your

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2 district.

3 And it's tough for folks who are  
4 at the end of some of these longer  
5 districts, I think, the numbers are going to  
6 escape me now that I'm on the spot, but  
7 we're talking about LD 3, we're talking  
8 about 14, 7, I think. These long snake-like  
9 districts, you've done great work getting to  
10 know all of your constituents, but I think  
11 we know in your heart of hearts that people  
12 are going to be rhetoric resented when the  
13 shape of the district is the shape of a real  
14 community, and that affects everything that  
15 is under your purview here and everything  
16 that is in our \$2.93 billion budget; that's  
17 peoples' roads, it's people economic  
18 development programs, it's everything at the  
19 county level. Thank you.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm sorry,  
21 Steve. I hate to bring you back up again.  
22 You can probably answer from there. Maybe  
23 no. They need the record.

24 I didn't get a chance to look  
25 through and we just got the write-up for the

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 report. When are you looking for this  
3 legislature to take this up for  
4 consideration for adoption?

5 MR. McFARLAN: That's a great  
6 question. Right now we are at the point of  
7 educating you. While our posture is really  
8 different now than when this room was filled  
9 last year. We don't have a sign that says  
10 shame. The signs say "let's work together  
11 to get something done." Right?

12 So we have done a whole lot of  
13 work over the last few months including  
14 talking to folks from both sides of the  
15 room. We really want to start having a  
16 conversation jumping off with the  
17 recommendations about what a policy would  
18 look like.

19 But, at the end of the day, this  
20 is something that both parties need to buy  
21 into. I think, as partisans, it's not in  
22 either party's interest, but, as  
23 constituents, and voters of Nassau County,  
24 it's in all of your interests and all of our  
25 interests because we get a system that

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2 doesn't dead lock, doesn't cause multiple  
3 rounds of litigation, and a sense of a waste  
4 of \$500,000, but we also get districts that  
5 look like our county. The time to do it is  
6 now because we are talking about six years  
7 from now.

8 If we wait until 2019, if we wait  
9 until 2020, everybody is going to be  
10 measuring the drapes on their office.  
11 Right? So, we are a little late to the  
12 show. I feel like that's a criticism we  
13 hear from elected officials sometimes.

14 We are early here and we are  
15 serious. We have done our homework. We  
16 want to sit down with you and get something  
17 done.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Steve, I  
19 know that you have been meeting with my  
20 counsel regarding your proposal today. The  
21 dialogue will continue and we will take a  
22 look at the report and communicate with you  
23 as to our findings.

24 MR. McFARLAN: Thank you,  
25 Presiding Officer. I think it's been really



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2 exciting to see the tone of bipartisanship  
3 and getting things done here at the  
4 legislature with the start of the new term  
5 and it slots right into that, as a sense to  
6 deal with the thing that really animated the  
7 county more than anything else in the last  
8 year, I think, and to really do right by  
9 communities of color and by voting rights,  
10 but also just by citizens who felt excluded  
11 and saw a process that was a waste of time  
12 and money. Let's fix it now. Thanks.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Aubrey  
14 Phillips.

15 MR. PHILLIPS: Good afternoon.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good  
17 afternoon, Aubrey.

18 MR. PHILLIPS: I'm here on behalf  
19 of the many residents of the Elmont  
20 community and specifically on behalf of the  
21 Elmont Community Coalition Council.

22 Fair Redistricting. In 1983, 241  
23 Marines, sailors and civilians died  
24 protecting our Democracy. Many of those  
25 individuals were acquaintances, some were

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2 friends, and all of them were my colleagues.  
3 Fair redistricting is not a partisan matter.  
4 It is central to a healthy democracy and,  
5 arguably, the umbilical cord that binds all  
6 elected officials to their constituents. It  
7 is also fair to state that the present  
8 partisan process is broken.

9 Today we are here as custodians  
10 of our democracy to begin an intervention on  
11 behalf of a broken process.

12 First, we urge you to read the  
13 report. It may actually be instructive,  
14 and, second, we are here to insist that you  
15 act constructively and expeditiously on  
16 fixing the inconsistencies in the Nassau  
17 Charter. Thank you.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Tammie  
19 Williams.

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Hi. Good  
21 afternoon. Welcome new members. I see some  
22 smiles there. I'm Tammie Williams. I have  
23 been a registered voter for the past 13  
24 years. I'm an Elmont community resident and  
25 also representing the League of Women

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2 Voters.

3 I value one person one vote. We  
4 all matter and every one deserves to be  
5 heard. I am a mother of a child of autism  
6 and sickle cell. I know the value of life  
7 because I almost lost my son's life last  
8 year due to a stroke. So I know he has a  
9 voice and I am his voice. You all chose  
10 this position for a reason and that is to be  
11 my voice, to be his voice.

12 The current process of  
13 gerrymandering limits the political voice of  
14 our constituents. A solution would be a  
15 bipartisan independent commission which  
16 would exclude elected official from joined  
17 districts on maps. What will your legacy  
18 be? I know what mine is. Mine will be the  
19 mother of a child that will be represented  
20 not based on the content of his ill will,  
21 but his ability to stand up and say I can  
22 live and I can be.

23 Newly elected legislators, please  
24 take seriously and read this report.  
25 Hundreds to thousands of people have fought

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2 to be here today. We have come and will  
3 continue to voice our opinions. We are open  
4 for discussion. And I appreciate each and  
5 every one of you because this job is not  
6 easy. Thank you so much and have a great  
7 afternoon.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.  
9 Legislator Denenberg.

10 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Just to  
11 everyone who came down, of course, it's as  
12 you said, doing this so much earlier,  
13 redistricting, is very commendable, that you  
14 are focusing on it now because, you come six  
15 years from now it's going to be too late, it  
16 really would.

17 What's most interesting, I think  
18 in reading this, is how you resolve this in  
19 a truly non-partisan or bipartisan manner  
20 and still come to an ultimate solution on a  
21 map without elected officials or appointed  
22 personnel making the decision because then  
23 you would inject politics into it, so I'm  
24 looking forward to seeing what you came up  
25 with. Thank you.

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2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
3 Solages.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you.  
5 I want to thank you again very much for  
6 making this an issue now and, you know,  
7 Mayor Ed Koch, may he rest in peace, died  
8 about a year ago, and one of the things he  
9 worked on was getting commitments from  
10 elected officials as to a pledge to fair  
11 redistricting.

12 To my understanding, there were  
13 leaders that signed on to the pledge, but  
14 when it came to actually doing something  
15 about it, they didn't live up to their word.

16 Would you suggest -- and I  
17 haven't read your report yet, but are you  
18 suggesting that this body, I mean, you said  
19 80 percent or 81 percent of the public is in  
20 favor of that, are you suggesting that this  
21 body come to a commitment for fair  
22 redistricting?

23 MR. McFARLAN: Yes. I think  
24 that's the one thing that I want to ask is,  
25 who up here is willing to sit down again one

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2 on one with our coalition and take a meeting  
3 to think about how we can make this happen  
4 because that's exactly what we want?

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: And there  
6 were elected officials who signed on to that  
7 pledge, as I mentioned before, that did not  
8 live up to it, like Senator Jack Martins.  
9 What would be the consequence of not living  
10 up to that pledge?

11 MR. McFARLAN: You know, I think  
12 the other big question --

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on.  
14 Legislator Solages, let's keep politics out,  
15 please. Mr. McFarlan is here to promote  
16 good government, and that's what we are  
17 going to listen to.

18 MR. McFARLAN: The other question  
19 in our poll that will be interesting to you  
20 all, and this breaks down across Democratic  
21 and Republican lines is, would you be more  
22 likely to support your county legislator if  
23 they supported citizen line redistricting?  
24 The number is 77 percent. The top line  
25 results from the poll are on our website,

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2 but there's bipartisan interest in this  
3 basic idea.

4 So we can't, as a grassroots  
5 movement, our job, if necessary, is to make  
6 opposition painful, but we really hope to  
7 take this moment of bipartisanship to foster  
8 a conversation. And I think, I hope to be  
9 able to sit down with folks on this side of  
10 the room and then we'll be able to sit down  
11 with folks on this side of the room and  
12 really figure out how to get this done.  
13 Because, at the end of the day, the Charter  
14 is a ticking time bomb. It's a strong  
15 foundation but it needs revision, so we're  
16 really excited to get it done. Thanks  
17 everybody. And you will keep hearing these  
18 stories.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
20 Kopel.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Steve, I've  
22 actually met not only with you, but several  
23 other people, including Nancy. I haven't  
24 read your report obviously, and I certainly  
25 will look forward with great interest to

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2 reading that, but I am curious if you can  
3 give me a little bit of preview as to two  
4 issues.

5 How do you get those three  
6 nonpartisan members of the commission?  
7 Since it's just my experience that there's  
8 very seldom such a thing as a nonpartisan  
9 person who is actually interested and  
10 knowledgeable in civic life, and I've yet to  
11 meet such a creature.

12 Secondly, I would be interested  
13 in knowing some examples of places where  
14 this type of redistricting, such as being  
15 proposed here, has worked to the  
16 satisfaction of both sides of the aisle.

17 MR. McFARLAN: In state Ulster  
18 County is a really great example of this.

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Is that in the  
20 report?

21 MR. McFARLAN: It's in the report  
22 and there is narrative detail on Austin,  
23 Texas, a great parallel, it's a very  
24 democratic place, but Ulster has a close  
25 party division in their legislature, the



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2 same way we do here and probably  
3 registration from the county, and we have  
4 all this data on all the counties on the  
5 website. When we sit down with you  
6 individually we, will be happy to sort of  
7 break down the most interesting examples.  
8 But, Ulster, I think is really our gold  
9 standard because we're in state, sort of  
10 even party registration as here, and --

11 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: And Ulster is  
12 a place where both sides have been satisfied  
13 with the outcome?

14 MR. McFARLAN: Yes. When they  
15 moved to single legislative districts just a  
16 few years ago, they built into the Charter a  
17 citizen like commission, and there is a  
18 quote in the executive summary report from  
19 the county executive and people feel really  
20 good about it.

21 To answer your first question,  
22 and I sort of mentioned this earlier, I'm an  
23 organizer. I travel in the world of  
24 politics so it does seem sometimes like half  
25 my friends might be a consultant or have

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2 thought about running for office or a thing  
3 like that. But, I think, as you know, when  
4 we step out on to the streets a little bit  
5 more, there are a lot of people.

6 So the basic, who care about  
7 government, who care about taxes, streets,  
8 economic development, and all that kind of  
9 stuff that affects elections and affects  
10 redistricting, and the basic idea is to just  
11 put those nonpartisan criteria in there  
12 which are listed on the recommendation page,  
13 so that you weed out a -- you weed out  
14 people who are professional partisans, which  
15 is not a bad thing, we have a two party  
16 system, it has benefits. But you get those  
17 folks out of the process because their job  
18 is going to be always advancing interests of  
19 their party.

20 So, of course, our proposal, and  
21 this is a conversation, acknowledges that  
22 you are going to have Democrats,  
23 Republicans, you're going to have people who  
24 the numbers say are probably two to one  
25 Republican, but it's somewhere in the

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2 middle. Let's acknowledge that but we've  
3 got to the table people who have something  
4 other than the advancement of a party as  
5 their goal, and who have applied for the  
6 application process because they want to --  
7 and part of the idea here is that the county  
8 executive runs this process, that the county  
9 executive is consulting community leaders,  
10 there's advertising across the county. So  
11 it's people who are civic minded. And I  
12 think we know civic minded folks break down  
13 across the political spectrum.

14 If we weed out professional  
15 partisans, all due respect to them, and get  
16 some of those civic minded folks to the  
17 table, then you can reorient the  
18 conversation, and it becomes, not how do I  
19 make sure I have the seat for the next  
20 years; it becomes what is this community?  
21 What is really the shape of this community?  
22 That should be the conversation, and,  
23 frankly, since we became a chartered county  
24 there hasn't been because the parties have  
25 controlled the process.

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2 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Typically,  
3 wouldn't you agree that it's the party  
4 that's out of power at a given moment pretty  
5 much everywhere, that is the one which is  
6 most interested in fairness? And, also,  
7 that I think that people who do  
8 redistricting often out clever themselves  
9 where you have redistricting lines which are  
10 overtaken by events and by population shifts  
11 and you really can't plan those things, so I  
12 don't know.

13 MR. McFARLAN: As an organizer,  
14 working with --

15 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I'm just  
16 simply saying it's a good idea. It's a  
17 noble idea. I'm a little bit skeptical as  
18 to how realistic it is so I will be very  
19 interested in reading this and discussing it  
20 further.

21 MR. McFARLAN: The last thing  
22 that I would just say, as an organizer  
23 working with teen African American working  
24 class communities, immigrant communities,  
25 voting rights is why our organization is at

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2 the table because this is ultimately a  
3 process -- gerrymandering tends to hurt the  
4 political power of minority communities.  
5 That's why we are here.

6 But I think, for all of you, the  
7 most instrumental pitch I would have is that  
8 that Charter says in Section 112, do it  
9 within six months. It says in Section 113,  
10 make this commission and have a process.  
11 The charter is a conflict. There were two  
12 lawsuits because the Charter is internally  
13 inconsistent. We need to do something about  
14 that.

15 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: There is no  
16 question about that part, I think there  
17 probably might be nobody here who would  
18 disagree with that. That's one thing. The  
19 Charter is inartfully drawn and maybe that's  
20 not the only place. But that's a separate  
21 issue entirely.

22 MR. McFARLAN: I think when we  
23 sit down to try to fix this so that voters  
24 come first next time, our proposal is meant  
25 to be a tool and we are excited to be at the

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2 table with all of you to think about --  
3 we've already got to sit down and fix it, so  
4 let's figure out how to do it the best way  
5 possible.

6 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Okay. Thank  
7 you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Don't sit  
9 down.

10 MR. McFARLAN: And we've got  
11 stories from your constituents across the  
12 county too about why this matters to them,  
13 so -- I don't want to talk too long.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We have  
15 exceeded 30 minutes, however, I know  
16 Legislator Jacobs would like to speak, ask  
17 you a question or two, and then she will be  
18 the last legislator. We have two more  
19 speakers, not on this topic.

20 MR. McFARLAN: It's really about  
21 the strength of our coalition and not about  
22 me.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I know.  
24 So, in all fairness to those other two, I  
25 don't want to tell them that they have to

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2 wait until the end of the meeting. So,  
3 Legislator Jacobs, please.

4 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: And I will be  
5 very quick, Steve. I know we've met and I  
6 agree with the word that Norma used to  
7 describe this. It is noble. It is very  
8 important. It really is. I have been here  
9 a long, long time, and I know it would be  
10 helpful, yes, a lot of us may look and say,  
11 well, what's going to happen to us, but,  
12 eventually, we'll realize that that's not  
13 really the question to be asking. It's  
14 what's going to happen, how fair.

15 I do have two suggestions as to  
16 how we can fill those three seats that are  
17 supposed to be nonpartisan. I was just  
18 mentioning to Kevan when I was young, and I  
19 got involved in government, I guess you'd  
20 have to say, but really civic in Nassau  
21 County, I may have been registered in a  
22 party, but I was totally nonpartisan. I  
23 still vote how I feel for a person.

24 But that's when to grab people,  
25 when they're young, when they have an issue.

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2 That has nothing do whether you're a  
3 Democrat or a Republican, whether it's  
4 zoning or road work or sewers or the  
5 environment or whatever, those are the  
6 people that most likely are the ones that  
7 have not yet been tainted by different  
8 political parties but are really in it for  
9 the right reasons. I don't think it's that  
10 hard to find three of them in all of Nassau  
11 County. That's number one.

12 Number two, I must tell you,  
13 although I think Howard already mentioned it  
14 slightly, the Charter, our Charter for  
15 Nassau County, is a total mess. I mean,  
16 there is no lawyer on either side, I happen  
17 to know this from experience on either the  
18 majority or minority side, no matter which  
19 side we were on at any given time, that  
20 doesn't realize that forgetting what  
21 redistricting contradicts itself, you don't  
22 understand for how many times, for any  
23 matter at all, you will go from page, let's  
24 say, 23 to page 26, to find out that on 28  
25 that they're saying 23 was really right. I



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2 mean, I'm not accusing anyone of anything  
3 that was on the original committee because I  
4 think it was a yoman's job that they did.  
5 But it's really been too long. It's 18  
6 years already that no one has really grabbed  
7 it and I think it's almost like a full-time  
8 job to rewrite the Charter.

9 Because, whenever we say that  
10 this particular section is wrong, someone  
11 will say to us, that's not the only place  
12 that it's wrong. This needs a year of  
13 rewriting.

14 So, I just want to tell you that  
15 this Charter is an enigma to most of us who  
16 really look at it in the contradictions that  
17 it has within it. That's really going to be  
18 one of your main problems. Maybe not for  
19 your particular issue, but for the entirety  
20 of it together. So I just thought I'd share  
21 that with you.

22 MR. McFARLAN: Thank you,  
23 Legislator Jacobs. We appreciate it. And I  
24 think the stories you're going to hear from  
25 the folks who remain to testify will show

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2 that nothing cuts to the heart of people's  
3 real interests as voters and for their own  
4 voting and civil rights in this county as  
5 this issue. That's why we want to fix this  
6 first.

7 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Right.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I said  
9 that we exceeded the half hour of public  
10 comment, however, I have two more speakers.  
11 I'm going to take those two more speakers  
12 before we move on to the full calendar.

13 That person, or one of the two  
14 people, is Jack McCloy.

15 MR. McCLOY: Good afternoon,  
16 members of the legislature. Some of you may  
17 have remembered I have addressed this body  
18 before on issues from fair timing of red  
19 light cameras, to changing our assessment  
20 situation to make it better, and to minimize  
21 wrong way driving.

22 Today I'm here to speak to you  
23 about something else. I would like to  
24 mention to you something that I don't think  
25 your aware of. One of the members of the

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2 legislature, my legislator, is in clear  
3 violation of the Nassau County Charter.

4 Prior to be being elected to the  
5 Nassau County Legislature, she was elected  
6 to the Baldwin School Board and has been  
7 acting as its president for quite a while.  
8 At the December 2013 public meeting of the  
9 Baldwin School Board, I thanked her for her  
10 service, wished her good luck with her new  
11 duties as legislator and stated that the  
12 position of legislator did not allow her to  
13 remain on the school board. She stated that  
14 she is unaware of any statute that  
15 prohibited her from holding both offices.

16 I mentioned that the Nassau  
17 County Charter, Section 104, paragraph two,  
18 states in part "no county legislator shall  
19 hold any other public office." This is very  
20 clear. Once sworn in as legislator, she  
21 vacated her elected position on the Baldwin  
22 School Board by operation of law.

23 The Nassau County Charter says  
24 she cannot hold both offices simultaneously  
25 and case law supports the interpretation

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2     that she can't hold both offices  
3     simultaneously, yet, she steadfastly refuses  
4     to step down from the school board even  
5     though, technically, she already resigned  
6     when she took her legislative oath of  
7     office.

8                   I do not know if this is due to  
9     circumstances but I'm publicly calling for  
10    her to stop voting on Baldwin School Board  
11    matters in violation of the Nassau County  
12    Charter.

13                  It's my understanding that if she  
14    continues to vote on school board issues if,  
15    in the future, her votes are deemed to be  
16    adversely, financially, impactful to the  
17    school district, she can be held personally  
18    responsible since indemnification as a  
19    school barred matter already expired.

20                  I bring this matter to your  
21    attention since we have not been able to  
22    handle this amicably on the local level and  
23    I hope your new colleague will not further  
24    proceed down the wrong path by continuing to  
25    defy the Nassau County Charter.

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2 Laura, I ask for your resignation  
3 on the Baldwin School Board.

4 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFFER: Thank you,  
5 Mr. McCloy. I'm confident that according to  
6 the Charter, specifically the section that  
7 you cite, allows me to remain as a  
8 legislator and finish out my term which is  
9 over in five months on the Baldwin School  
10 Board.

11 As you know, being a former  
12 candidate yourself, it's an unpaid position.  
13 And, as I'm sure you know as a Baldwin  
14 resident, Baldwin right now is going through  
15 a transition. I think it's very important  
16 to have continuity on the board right now  
17 through this transition.

18 MR. McCLOY: The Nassau County  
19 Charter makes no provision whether the  
20 position is paid or unpaid. It just clearly  
21 states that you cannot hold, so I will  
22 quote --

23 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFFER: Excuse me.  
24 I'm going to interrupt you.

25 MR. McCLOY: I will quote, "no

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2 county legislator shall hold any other  
3 public office."

4 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFFER: Thank you.  
5 This is not the place for this kind of  
6 debate.

7 MR. McCLOY: It's exactly the  
8 place.

9 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFFER: This legal  
10 debate.

11 MR. McCLOY: We've tried to take  
12 care of this in the Baldwin forum.

13 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFFER: I've made  
14 my position clear.

15 MR. McCLOY: And you cut me off  
16 every time I try to mention this there.  
17 This is the place. This is a violation of  
18 the Nassau County Charter. You're starting  
19 off on the wrong foot and your colleagues  
20 should know about this.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I thank  
22 you, Mr. McCloy.

23 MR. McCLOY: Thank you.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: John  
25 Budnick.

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2 MR. BUDNICK: Once again,  
3 congratulations on your installation as the  
4 new Nassau County Legislature. I would like  
5 to particularly commend Legislator Ford,  
6 especially for looking so well today after  
7 Saturday. That pointed out a severe severe  
8 problem.

9 Number one, in Long Beach, where  
10 I used to be in charge of the district  
11 attorney's office, that that city is, often  
12 during the summertime due to traffic  
13 problems, totally cut off from the rest of  
14 Nassau County. And I have to point out that  
15 that's the fourth hospital serving the south  
16 shore of Nassau County that is disappearing,  
17 and we are being very, very poorly served,  
18 and these medical problems are increasing,  
19 not decreasing.

20 One of them that is increasing,  
21 and speaking now for a moment as director of  
22 Drug Free Long Island, is our heroin  
23 problem. Horrendous. A number of years ago  
24 under a prior administration, the county  
25 came to close Topic House. That was a

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2 horror show that occurred. Nobody did  
3 anything. We have an increasing problem.  
4 We have to find increasing and better ways  
5 to combat these people's problems and assist  
6 them. We are not right now doing it. We  
7 have no inpatient facilities in Nassau  
8 County. Especially where people who are  
9 basically medically indigent can proceed to,  
10 except Nassau County jail.

11 Cantiague Park, I want to report  
12 that all of those vehicles that Legislator  
13 Jacobs had complained about, creating a  
14 conversion from a park use to an industrial  
15 use, all those cars are gone. I went there  
16 this morning myself to examine it.

17 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Excuse me, I  
18 don't mean to interrupt you, I followed  
19 through on this from the beginning. I have  
20 been like a frequent visitor to that area  
21 and, as of this morning, they are gone. It  
22 only took about four months, five months, to  
23 make that happen, when, in fact, it was an  
24 alienation of park land.

25 MR. BUDNICK: Yes, and I have to



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2 comment that Nassau County acted to correct  
3 it but we still have no action with  
4 reference to Hempstead Harbor Beach, the  
5 north end of which has been converted to a  
6 bus terminal, the fishing pier has been  
7 converted to a commercial dock. There are  
8 commercial tug boats, barges, and other  
9 vessels there.

10 I have been up to the town of  
11 North Hempstead several times. They don't  
12 seem to understand what a conversion of park  
13 land for park purposes to commercial  
14 purposes as being illegal under New York  
15 State law.

16 One other thing, we, on the south  
17 shore of Nassau County, starting in Freeport  
18 and Roosevelt extending east to West Babylon  
19 Babylon and Lindenhurst, are being denied  
20 representation in the New York State Senate  
21 because of the governor's decision to not  
22 hold a special election.

23 I wanted to commend everybody for  
24 the fact that we are having a special  
25 election to replace an empty seat here on

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 the Nassau County Legislature. I am  
3 appalled that the almost 300,000 people in  
4 that district are being treated like chopped  
5 liver.

6 CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes  
7 have expired, Mr. Budnick.

8 MR. BUDNICK: All right.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Would you  
10 like to wrap it up?

11 MR. BUDNICK: Thank you very much  
12 and have a very nice day and thank you for  
13 your time and trouble putting up with me.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Budnick. The last speaker and, I said  
16 there are only two, but I was handed another  
17 slip. So, Scottie, I'm not going to let you  
18 sit there until after the meeting but I am  
19 going to hold you to three minutes,

20 MS. COADS: Good afternoon and  
21 thank you for not letting me wait too long.  
22 No, I apologize for putting my slip in late,  
23 but I do want to ditto everything that was  
24 said already.

25 On behalf of the NAACP New York

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 State, I just want you to know that we are  
3 going to continue to defend democracy by  
4 making sure that these lines are going to be  
5 drawn properly. And, so, this redistricting  
6 commission has to happen. It just must  
7 happen.

8 We saw what it did not having an  
9 independent commission. We saw what  
10 happened last year. Lines were drawn where  
11 minorities were put in districts where they  
12 would not have been counted for anything.  
13 Would not have been considered for any  
14 issues, any programs that would not have  
15 been represented well.

16 So, it is so important that we  
17 make sure that this time we are on top of  
18 all of this. We have six years to go. But,  
19 you know what? We're going to stay with it  
20 and we're going to hammer this through until  
21 it's done.

22 The other part I would like to  
23 see happen, in addition to the redistricting  
24 commission, we also need a redistricting  
25 independent staff.

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2 I testified before this body  
3 maybe about seven times last year, and I  
4 also testified about six or seven times in  
5 front of the state commission, and what I  
6 saw was appalling. Even the staff, the  
7 monies went, whichever side was in charge,  
8 the money went to pay for whatever. Even  
9 though the \$500,000 were given to, or  
10 whatever it was, that was given to the  
11 Democrats and the Republicans at this  
12 legislative body, we only got to see some of  
13 it spent. When we demanded to have copies  
14 made for our constituents, copies of the  
15 maps, where did the money go?

16 So, we don't want -- we want an  
17 independent staff as well. It can't be  
18 right if we are going to have an independent  
19 commission, and the staff is going to be  
20 used by the majority. I don't care which  
21 party it is. I'm not on any party's side,  
22 especially since I have experienced some  
23 things recently. I'm not on anybody's side.  
24 I'm on what's right for the community.

25 Believe me, the NAACP will stay

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2 in the forefront because we are going to  
3 continue to defend democracy. We are going  
4 to fight for fair representation at the  
5 polls and it will not end.

6 I thank you Judy Jacobs,  
7 Legislator Jacobs. You have been stalwart  
8 in representing your community, many of you  
9 there, but I have to point it out to you,  
10 everything that you said, I agree with you.  
11 Citizenship, citizenry is so important and  
12 we, the NAACP, we are going to make sure we  
13 hold your feet to the fire. Thank you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm going  
15 to ask for about a 10-minute recess. In the  
16 meantime, I'm going to ask all of my  
17 colleagues on both sides of the aisle to  
18 join me up here.

19 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative  
20 Committee recessed at 2:20 p.m. and  
21 reconvened at 2:35 p.m.)

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm going  
23 to be all over the calendar primarily  
24 because there are several appointments, so  
25 confirmation of appointments are to be made

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2 by this body, and the individuals are here,  
3 and all due respect to those individuals and  
4 they have waited long enough, I'm going to  
5 call them first, and then go back and forth  
6 so we can all be confused.

7 I'm going to call Item 18, a  
8 resolution to confirm the county executive's  
9 appointment of Melvin Harris, Junior to the  
10 Nassau County Commission of Human Rights.

11 A motion, please.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

13 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr.  
15 Nicolello made the motion and Legislator  
16 Muscarella seconded it. Welcome, Mr.  
17 Harris. Would you like to share a few words  
18 with us?

19 MR. HARRIS: I would. Thank you,  
20 Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves and  
21 Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams and this full  
22 body of distinguished leaders throughout  
23 Nassau County.

24 There is a proverb that says  
25 "much is given, much is asked for, much is

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 received," and today I stand here, the  
3 president of NAACP, one who has spent their  
4 entire life fighting for the rights of all  
5 human beings on this earth. I want to thank  
6 you for this crowning moment in my life this  
7 afternoon. I just want to say thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have to  
9 comment on something said, Mr. Harris.

10 Way back when, I taught at a  
11 school whose motto was, "to much is given,  
12 much is required." And I think you said it  
13 all.

14 MR. HARRIS: Thank you.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes,  
16 Mr. Abrahams.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I have  
18 known -- I believe this is going to pass  
19 unanimously and I've know Mel Harris for  
20 some years and I know his civic work with  
21 the most regarded civic association and he's  
22 ascended now to the NAACP. He's a good guy,  
23 a good man. He will serve this body very  
24 well. It is my strong belief and my  
25 recommendation to my side, this side, if

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2 they will listen, but it would be my strong  
3 recommendation that we vote in the  
4 affirmative for somebody that's going to be  
5 really good for the Human Rights Commission,  
6 and I wish you the best in that position,  
7 Mel.

8 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, sir.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.  
10 Legislator Becker.

11 LEGISLATOR BECKER: I know this  
12 is a county executive's appointment and I  
13 believe we have the support of this side of  
14 the aisle, but I would just like to echo the  
15 sentiments of the minority leader that, Mr.  
16 Harris, you are a terrific person, I know  
17 you personally. You come from the trenches  
18 and you care about people. I have worked  
19 with you personally on a few issues, and  
20 you're a great person. I think you're a  
21 great addition to the minority board. I  
22 feel you are going to do a great job and  
23 we're pleased and honored that you're  
24 willing to accept the position. So, thank  
25 you for your service.



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2 MR. HARRIS: Thank you,  
3 Legislator Becker.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other  
5 comments?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 Is there any public comment?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 There being none, all those in  
10 favor of confirming the appointment of Mr.  
11 Harris to the Commission on Human Rights  
12 signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 Any opposed?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 The confirmation passes  
17 unanimously. Congratulations.

18 MR. HARRIS: I thank this body.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I said I  
20 was skipping around.

21 The next item is Item 15, a  
22 resolution to confirm the county executive's  
23 appointment of Michael J. Ferrandino to the  
24 Correctional Center Board of Visitors  
25 pursuant to Section 2004 of the Nassau

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2 County Charter.

3 A motion, please.

4 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by

7 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator

8 Kopel. Go ahead.

9 MR. FERRANDINO: Good afternoon.

10 I would just like to thank everyone for the  
11 opportunity to serve Nassau County. It's my  
12 honor and privilege to be able to be  
13 nominated and hopefully be able to work in  
14 this role. Thank you.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're  
16 welcome.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any  
18 questions, comments?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 Is there any public comment?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 There being none, all those in  
23 favor of the confirmation of Mr. Ferrandino  
24 to the Board of Visitors signify by saying  
25 aye.

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2 (Aye.)

3 Any opposed?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 Mr. Ferrandino, you are confirmed  
6 unanimately. Congratulations.

7 MR. FERRANDINO: Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: The next  
9 item is Item 17, a resolution to confirm the  
10 county executive's appointment of William C.  
11 Mahlan, Junior to the Nassau County  
12 Commission on Human Rights.

13 A motion, please.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

15 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
17 Deputy Presiding Officer Nicolello, and  
18 moved by Alternate Deputy Mr. Kopel.

19 MR. MAHLAN: Good afternoon,  
20 members of the legislature. It is my  
21 privilege to be appointed and I look forward  
22 very much to your assent and that I will be  
23 able to serve the residents of Nassau County  
24 to the best of my ability.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any

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2 questions of Mr. Mahlan?

3 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: May I?

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
5 MacKenzie.

6 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: I just  
7 wanted to comment that I know Bill  
8 personally and professionally for many years  
9 as a practicing attorney and also on a  
10 personal level and he will be a fine  
11 addition to the board.

12 MR. MAHLAN: Thank you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Very nice.  
14 Any other comments?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 Is there any public comment?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 There being none, all those in  
19 favor of the confirmation of Mr. Mahlan to  
20 the Nassau County Commission on Human Rights  
21 signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Any opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 Your confirmation is unanimous.

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2 MR. MAHLAN: Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES:

4 Congratulations.

5 There's one more. Item 19,  
6 resolution Number 9, a resolution  
7 reappointing Christopher L. Troisi to the  
8 Sewer and Storm Water Finance Authority on  
9 the recommendation of Comptroller George  
10 Maragos pursuant to Section 1232C of the  
11 Public Authority's Law.

12 A motion, please.

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

14 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
16 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator  
17 Kopel. Okay, Mr. Troisi, you're doing it  
18 again. You're on.

19 MR. TROISI: I just want to say  
20 thank you for the possibility of being  
21 reappointed.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any  
23 questions for Mr. Troisi? Yes, Legislator  
24 Abrahams.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How are

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2 you, Mr. Troisi?

3 MR. TROISI: Pretty good, sir,  
4 how are you?

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Good, good.  
6 I have some questions because obviously  
7 since the last time you came before this  
8 body there's been some changes that have  
9 occurred with Nassau County sewer systems.

10 I'm sure you've probably read  
11 about Bay Park and the situation that we  
12 have there, but also our practices over the  
13 last couple of years and how it impacted  
14 Cedar Creek and everything along those  
15 lines.

16 I'm interested to know, and I  
17 know of your union background from -- I grew  
18 up in a Local 3, so my dad was an  
19 electrician, also contracted under Welsbach  
20 believe it or not. He's retired now, but  
21 was a member of Local 3 as well. So I  
22 appreciate your union obligation and  
23 membership to that.

24 But I'm curious to know,  
25 obviously now with the insurgence of what

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2 the state is doing, there's going to be an  
3 insurgence of money, probably close to 800  
4 some odd million dollars that's going to be  
5 coming through the sewer system. I'm not  
6 too sure how verse you are to be able to  
7 talk about your past practices on the board  
8 versus going forward, but, more importantly,  
9 has your experience in your financial  
10 background has that been strengthened in the  
11 last couple of years?

12 MR. TROISI: Yes. The more that  
13 I get involved in it, the more I understand  
14 it, but, what I think I bring to the  
15 authority is a construction background, say  
16 -- let's just say if they come up and say  
17 that we're going to change every piston and  
18 manerfinator (phonetic) valve in Bay Park  
19 and Cedar Creek, and it's going to be a cost  
20 of \$500 million, I'm going to be the one  
21 that says, first things first, there's no  
22 such thing as piston and manerfinator valve,  
23 so, you know, there's --

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I didn't  
25 hear what you said.

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2 MR. TROISI: There's no such  
3 thing as a piston/manerfinator valve which  
4 means that where anybody else on the board  
5 that has more of a financial background  
6 wouldn't even understand that. So I think I  
7 bring more of a construction background and  
8 being that I do work construction I've also  
9 worked as a foreman in New Town Creek in the  
10 city and also during Super Storm Sandy I was  
11 assigned to the Rockaway treatment plant.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I mean, I  
13 appreciate your construction background, I  
14 think that's vital, but, at this time, which  
15 is probably a little bit different, I think  
16 it would be critical to have folks that have  
17 a financial background in addition to that.

18 This county is going through a  
19 transition where we are going to be looking  
20 to bond -- I'm sorry, looking to spend  
21 hundreds of millions of dollars. We have  
22 never encountered this before. I would  
23 think it would behoove us to make sure we  
24 bring in folks that -- and I appreciate your  
25 service, but I think it would be critical



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2 for us to bring in folks that have a  
3 financial background, especially since we  
4 are talking about a body that is entitled or  
5 named the Sewer and Storm Water Finance  
6 Authority.

7 MR. TROISI: I understand what  
8 you are saying but I also think there is a  
9 balance between everybody on the board,  
10 that's why it's a board. That's why it's an  
11 authority. There are seven people assigned  
12 to that. I think we all play off each other  
13 and we all can do a positive thing for  
14 Nassau County.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. I  
16 defer now to Legislator Solages and  
17 Legislator Denenberg.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
19 Solages.

20 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: How are you  
21 doing today, sir?

22 MR. TROISI: Pretty good. How  
23 are you?

24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: That's  
25 great. It states here in the information

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2 you submitted that you're the vice chairman  
3 of the Independence Party?

4 MR. TROISI: Yes.

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: How long  
6 have you held that position?

7 MR. TROISI: Two years now. I  
8 think -- maybe about a year and a half.  
9 Whenever Chairman Brian was nominated.

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Mr. Melius,  
11 is he also a member of that party?

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Excuse me.  
13 I think the questioning is out of order.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: It's totally  
15 appropriate. I'm asking questions about the  
16 Independence Party.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We are  
18 trying to identify his credentials to be  
19 part of this commission. So, if you don't  
20 mind, direct your questions as to his role  
21 on this commission, as Minority Leader Kevan  
22 Abrahams did. And, I think in all fairness  
23 to Mr. Troisi and to you too. Don't put  
24 yourself in that situation.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: In fairness

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2 to Legislator Solages' question, I believe  
3 the resume that Mr. Troisi has provided  
4 indicates that he is a member of the  
5 Independence Party. That's why I think  
6 Mr. Solages is asking these questions.

7 If we want to submit that as part  
8 of the record, we should, but that  
9 information isn't like we dug it up  
10 somewhere, it was actually --

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I don't  
12 believe you did. Trust me, I don't believe  
13 you did.

14 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Well,  
15 bringing up the point --

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Through  
17 the chair, Mr. Becker.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr. Becker,  
19 I'm bringing up the point on why Mr. Solages  
20 has brought up the point.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes, okay.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: He  
23 basically disclosed it on his resume.

24 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Who supports  
25 the Democratic Party. We don't know --

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2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Becker,  
3 you're out of order.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: How often do  
5 you interact with the individuals in that  
6 party in terms of meetings?

7 MR. TROISI: As far as who? Rick  
8 Molando?

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: And other  
10 individuals in that party.

11 MR. TROISI: I meet with Rick  
12 about probably once a month. That's about  
13 it.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: So you have  
15 met with him and other individuals of that  
16 party during the month of January?

17 MR. TROISI: Wait, this is  
18 ridiculous. Guilt by association?

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No. If  
20 you don't go through the chair -- are you  
21 going to ask him questions regarding the  
22 position he is being appointed to and his  
23 qualifications, or are you going to make a  
24 political statement here? I'm not going to  
25 tolerate it, Legislator Solages. I think we

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2 all want to know if Mr. Troisi is a viable  
3 candidate for the sewer and water  
4 commission. That's where our efforts should  
5 be. I know Newsday is here. I was going to  
6 say something else. Let's be fair, okay?  
7 And I think in all fairness --

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm just  
9 concerned their investigation is going on  
10 and I don't want to appoint anyone involved  
11 in an investigation.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I  
13 understand that, but he also takes an oath  
14 of, I guess you would say, confidentiality,  
15 whatever goes on in that commission is going  
16 to stay in that commission. I believe that  
17 is the case.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I  
19 understand. But, as a legislator, I have an  
20 obligation to perform my due diligence to  
21 make sure that the people that we appoint  
22 have any baggage that could hurt this body.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And I'm  
24 going to say to you, he is obligated to the  
25 commission, all right, to maintain a code of

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2 confidentiality. What goes on in that  
3 commission, stays within that commission.  
4 He's not going to reach out to whomever you  
5 think he's going to reach out to.

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I never  
7 implied that.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And say,  
9 oh, guess what we did today?

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If I may,  
11 Madam Presiding Officer.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I really  
13 am getting tired --

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If I may, I  
15 just want to see if I can try to wrap this  
16 up.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Please.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And I mean  
19 wrap it up in terms of what you guys feel is  
20 the -- I believe what Legislator Solages is  
21 connecting is the information that Mr.  
22 Troisi has provided on his resume. I don't  
23 think that you have to be any type of  
24 clairvoyant to know that if Mr. Troisi has a  
25 relationship or some type of agreement or

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2 understanding or is a member of the  
3 Independence Party, and then obviously, if  
4 there is some type of possibility that,  
5 whether it be Oheka Castle or anything that  
6 anyone in the Independence Party could  
7 benefit from, we would like to know that he  
8 would basically see it as a conflict and  
9 recuse himself from all those particular  
10 discussions as well as those meetings. I  
11 think that's where we are driving at with  
12 this particular issue.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I would  
14 hope that's where you are going, but it  
15 doesn't sound that way to me.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I think it  
17 is.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: In all  
19 fairness, I think --

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If  
21 Mr. Troisi believes that that would be a  
22 conflict of interest, we would just like to  
23 hear that he would recuse himself from those  
24 discussions.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: As we do

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2 as legislators, when we feel there is a  
3 conflict, we recuse ourselves. And I'm sure  
4 he can do the same.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If he can  
6 just respond to that so that we can have a  
7 clearer understanding, that would be fine.

8 MR. TROISI: I just have  
9 something to say. I feel like this is  
10 almost like a witch hunt that I'm being  
11 brought into for no apparent reason. I'm  
12 here to be reappointed to the Sewer and  
13 Storm Water Authority. If it says on my  
14 resume that I'm part of the Independence  
15 Party, that's all it is, I'm part of the  
16 Independence Party. Just like everybody on  
17 this board is part of a party. I don't  
18 understand. Nobody is sitting here in any  
19 "scandals" that might be in the paper.  
20 Nobody is grilling you people, you know, and  
21 I just feel like -- I'm just doing something  
22 that should be good for Nassau County and  
23 I'm being almost, I don't know, almost  
24 ostracized.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr. Troisi,



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2 I think what we are driving at is that,  
3 basically, where's there is a conflict --

4 MR. TROISI: The conflict has  
5 nothing to do with me, sir.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Why would  
7 you say that?

8 MR. TROISI: Because my part of  
9 the Sewer and Storm Water Authority is just  
10 that. I'm part of that authority, that's  
11 it.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But what  
13 I'm saying is, your relationship with the  
14 Independence Party.

15 MR. TROISI: I have a lot of  
16 relationships but it's got nothing to do  
17 with -- it's not a political position. It's  
18 an authority.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What I'm  
20 saying is, you know folks in the  
21 Independence Party of Nassau County,  
22 correct?

23 MR. TROISI: So do you.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes. But  
25 those measures are not coming before us

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2 today, are they? Okay.

3 So, what I'm asking Mr. Troisi,  
4 if those measures did come before you, would  
5 you recuse yourself, where you knew people  
6 that are members of that party?

7 MR. TROISI: I don't feel that --  
8 I don't know if I should answer. This is  
9 not something I typically do.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's see  
11 if we can break it down a little more  
12 clearer.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: What would  
14 you think would be something that he would  
15 have to recuse himself on?

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If there  
17 was somebody that he knows that's a member  
18 of the Independence Party that basically has  
19 something, a contract, or something that has  
20 come before --

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Guys, vote  
22 on things on a regular basis knowing that we  
23 have friends in the business.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.  
25 Nicolello, every single time I recuse myself

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2 when there is something that I should recuse  
3 myself from.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We all  
5 vote on a regular basis on contracts, on  
6 entities --

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
8 Becker, through the chair, and that goes for  
9 you too, deputy presiding officer. Finish  
10 your point.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We are  
12 trying to find out if there is anything that  
13 he would feel the need to recuse himself if  
14 he basically has associations with any  
15 particular person. So, basically, Mr.  
16 Becker is going to continue to scream  
17 without his microphone on.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm going  
19 to jump in too. You can't make him commit  
20 to that. That's inappropriate. That's not  
21 a conflict of interest in the law.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It is,  
23 actually.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: He has to  
25 be guided by what the actual law is, not

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2 these created conflicts. None of us will be  
3 able to vote on anything.

4 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: When Jay  
5 Jacobs had camps in our parks, you didn't --  
6 the whole time you didn't recuse yourself.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What is  
8 that now?

9 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: When he had  
10 his cousin on those camps that were in our  
11 parks, you didn't all recuse yourselves  
12 because Jay Jacobs --

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't  
14 even know what you're talking about.

15 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: And really  
16 should recuse yourself, you didn't do that.  
17 Why do you expect him to do the same?

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't  
19 know what you're talking about, to be  
20 honest.

21 MR. MAY: Madam Presiding  
22 Officer, may I address, please? Chris,  
23 we're going to the issue of conflict of  
24 interest. There is counsel to the Sewer and  
25 Storm Water Authority, and if there was any

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2 issue that may be a potential conflict of  
3 interest, that would be addressed to counsel  
4 with the Sewer and Storm Water Authority.  
5 And, if it was a conflict of interest, a  
6 disclosure would be made at that time.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
9 Denenberg, stay on topic.

10 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Chris, my  
11 questions are different than what you may or  
12 may not have put into your resume.

13 You have been on the board about  
14 a year now?

15 MR. TROISI: Yes, sir.

16 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: And votes  
17 come up with respect to, if you look back  
18 over the last four years, there are votes  
19 that come up with respect to financing,  
20 bonding, contracts, and also there's been  
21 rumors with respect to privatization,  
22 whether it's just the operations, or a  
23 private funding deal with Morgan Stanley,  
24 I'm sure you have at least heard all of it,  
25 although that hasn't come to the Sewer and

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2 Storm Water Authority yet, correct?

3 MR. TROISI: Yes I have heard  
4 some stuff.

5 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Also,  
6 contracts just in your time, I think  
7 renewals, with people or businesses, or  
8 residents that live outside one of our sewer  
9 districts, they have contracts for  
10 wastewater treatment within one of our sewer  
11 districts and you vote on those, correct?

12 MR. TROISI: No, we typically  
13 don't vote on contracts, individual  
14 contracts. It's more of the finance aspect  
15 of it. It's got nothing to do with -- we  
16 don't make any type of clear cut decision on  
17 ABC Contracting gets the award to do blah,  
18 blah, blah. We have nothing to do with  
19 that. This is just strictly finance.

20 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: So if a  
21 contract, an operations contract, or a  
22 contract for wastewater, for treating  
23 wastewater for someone not in the district,  
24 or a business not in the district, if that  
25 kind of contract comes to you or a contract

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2 with respect to privatizing of operations,  
3 if any of those contracts came to you while  
4 you were on this board --

5 MR. TROISI: Those contracts  
6 don't come to us. We never vote on those  
7 types of contracts.

8 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: If any of  
9 those contracts did come to you, if they did  
10 come --

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
12 Denenberg --

13 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: I'm asking  
14 something that -- if such a contract came to  
15 you --

16 LEGISLATOR BECKER: He just said  
17 they don't.

18 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: You are  
19 absolutely the legislator most likely to get  
20 off on a partisan snit every single meeting.

21 My concern is that there could  
22 be, whether it's the financial aspect like  
23 Morgan Stanley, or the privatizing of  
24 operations, or a contract for people to  
25 utilize one of our sewage treatment plants.

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2 If those came to you, would you at least  
3 ensure that they are coming to the  
4 legislature as well before you voted on a  
5 contract like that?

6 MR. TROISI: We don't, once  
7 again, in all due respect, I've never voted  
8 on any of those types of contracts. I don't  
9 think anybody on that board ever has.

10 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: You can  
11 keep saying that. I'm asking you, if a  
12 contract such as dealing with operations or  
13 privatizing the operations or funding -- to  
14 the chair, it's a hypothetical question, but  
15 that's all I can deal with. I can see it  
16 happening.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Listen to  
18 me. Just listen to me. I think we are  
19 confusing the role of the Sewer Authority.  
20 What is the function the Sewer Authority?

21 MR. TROISI: I've got it written  
22 down right here. Do you want me to read it?

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That's  
24 what we need to know, do contracts come?  
25 No.



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2 MR. TROISI: There is no  
3 contracts.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Read what  
5 you've got, Mr. Troisi.

6 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: That's so  
7 unnecessary.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Some of us  
9 think the questioning over and over again,  
10 over something he doesn't do, is unnecessary  
11 too.

12 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: It's not  
13 over and over again.

14 I'd like to know if a contract,  
15 whether it was for funding or privatizing  
16 operations or for new businesses or  
17 residents to come in for wastewater  
18 management, if such a contract, if such a  
19 contract came to you on that board, would  
20 you before you voted on it, ensure it's  
21 coming to the legislature as well?

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Tell him  
23 again.

24 MR. TROISI: Those votes don't  
25 come to us.

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2 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Just the  
3 fact that you are being coached by one side  
4 of the aisle, it really doesn't make me feel  
5 that good about it.

6 MR. TROISI: I was off. I am  
7 answering you. We don't vote on that. It's  
8 strictly -- we are not awarding contracts.

9 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: But,  
10 Chris, you would clearly vote on the  
11 financing for privatizing the sewers if it  
12 was with a Morgan Stanley and that's still  
13 in the four year plan that we have that the  
14 Republicans voted for that the Democrats  
15 voted against, there is still \$800 million  
16 worth of financing with Morgan Stanley for a  
17 private financier and operator of our sewage  
18 treatment plant.

19 My question to you is, that would  
20 come to you. Would you ensure that the  
21 legislature would vote on that item as well  
22 before you voted on it?

23 MR. TROISI: If any type of  
24 privatization that you're talking about, if  
25 it was to come to us, it wouldn't be that

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2 ABC got it or Morgan Stanley, like you keep  
3 reiterating, or anybody, it's either going  
4 to be a yes or no answer on it. The  
5 contract is irrelevant. It does not fall  
6 under us for anybody with the contract,  
7 that's not our job on the authority. It's a  
8 Finance Authority.

9 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: The Morgan  
10 Stanley contract that was actually made  
11 public, so it's not a secret, that was made  
12 public. That is something that the Sewer  
13 and Storm Water Authority would have to vote  
14 on, and I have real questions as to whether  
15 the county exec may try to bypass the  
16 legislature. So you didn't answer my  
17 question. Not even asking whether you would  
18 vote yes or no because you haven't seen it.

19 But it's out there in the public,  
20 and I would want to know that a member of  
21 the Sewer and Storm Water Authority, before  
22 they vote to pass something like that  
23 through, would ensure that it comes to the  
24 legislature.

25 MR. TROISI: If that's policy and

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2 procedure, the way things are done, then I'm  
3 sure it would.

4 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: I'm asking  
5 what you would. Not what you're told.

6 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Madam chair,  
7 it's clear how they're going to vote. Can  
8 we move the question, please? There is no  
9 sense in putting this fine individual under  
10 this type of --

11 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Now you're  
12 watching what Legislator Becker thinks of  
13 public comment and questioning.

14 LEGISLATOR BECKER: You asked the  
15 same four or five questions the same time in  
16 several different ways.

17 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: You  
18 interrupt all the time.

19 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Madam Chair,  
20 I ask that we move the question. It's clear  
21 how they're voting. They're on a political  
22 witch hunt. It's unfair to this fine  
23 individual who want to sacrifice his time  
24 and volunteer for this county, and who's  
25 partisan over there, Mr. Denenberg, nobody

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2 more partisan than you.

3 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Who  
4 recognized you?

5 LEGISLATOR BECKER: No one more  
6 partisan than you. Madam Chair, I ask that  
7 we move the question.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You did  
9 not go through the chair. So I'm not going  
10 to.

11 LEGISLATOR BECKER: I ask that we  
12 move the question.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No. If  
14 we're going to move the question, I'll ask.  
15 Thank you.

16 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Nobody can  
17 get anything in anymore because this man  
18 never stops talking.

19 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: The  
20 audience is laughing at you, Frank.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm going  
22 to call the question. I am going to call  
23 the item. I'm sorry. I really am. I'm  
24 going to call the question, all right?  
25 That's it. I think Mr. Troisi has been

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2 forthcoming.

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can  
4 you just put on the record that I have a  
5 question that I can't ask, is that okay? I  
6 would like that to be on the record.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Go ahead,  
8 Legislator Whitton.

9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I'm  
10 sorry that you're going through this. What  
11 I want you to do is educate us and take us  
12 step by step.

13 Let's say an entity would like to  
14 have their property or an adjacent property  
15 hooked up to the Nassau County sewer system.

16 Is there any role that you would  
17 take in that decision?

18 MR. TROISI: No.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I'm  
20 allowed to ask a question. You know what,  
21 when you make comments like that, I hear  
22 them and it's really inappropriate and  
23 unprofessional. I'm going to address  
24 something if it's rude.

25 MR. TROISI: As a part of the

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 Nassau County Sewer and Storm Water Finance  
3 Authority, I wouldn't play any role in  
4 awarding any type of privatized contract  
5 like that to anybody.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So  
7 if someone came and said, I want to hook up  
8 my property to the Nassau County Sewer --

9 MR. TROISI: Who? I don't mean  
10 to interrupt, but come to who?

11 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: If  
12 there was an application made to Nassau  
13 County to have a property hooked up to  
14 Nassau County sewer, let's say, for  
15 instance, possibly if there were not in  
16 Nassau County even, would that type of  
17 situation come before you?

18 MR. TROISI: No. No. Not under  
19 the Finance Authority, no.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Okay.  
21 So, in other words, in your opinion, you  
22 would have nothing to do with that --

23 MR. TROISI: Not in my opinion.  
24 As my duties on the Finance Authority. Like  
25 I said, once again, we don't award

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2 contracts. Nobody would ever approach me.  
3 Unless they are going to come to Manhattan,  
4 99 Church on a 42 story high rise that I'm  
5 working on right now that I took off today  
6 to come here for, unless you're talking  
7 about me, my role as a foreman on a job,  
8 nobody is coming to me with a contract on  
9 the Finance Authority. That's not the way  
10 it works.

11 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So  
12 there would be no approval by the Finance  
13 Authority as to whether or not we're going  
14 to hook up with someone else?

15 MR. TROISI: No. No, ma'am.

16 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:  
17 Including someone in Suffolk County?

18 MR. TROISI: No, ma'am.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: My  
20 other question, real quick, I just want to  
21 make it known that we really do try to stay  
22 out of politics up here, and I think the  
23 only reason why it was brought up is because  
24 you're an officer in a political --  
25 actually, I think everyone up here was



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2 actually given the line except for me, so  
3 the bottom is, it's sometimes what we're  
4 talking about conflict of interest, and  
5 maybe it's just appearance, but it might  
6 behoove you to think about whether or not  
7 it's a good idea to continue to hold that  
8 position because it does the feeling of  
9 impropriety with us up here.

10 MR. TROISI: I mean, I understand  
11 what you're saying, but I don't see it as  
12 being a conflict of interest. I have no  
13 interest in any type of contract awards.  
14 I'm a Local 3 union electrician in  
15 Manhattan. That's my sole job. That's my  
16 only job. I don't wear two hats. I wear  
17 one hat. That's it.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: But  
19 understand where it's coming from, it's  
20 because you hold an office in a political  
21 position. It's not as if you are just a  
22 member of a certain --

23 MR. TROISI: I understand that.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: It's  
25 because you hold an office. But if you are

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2 going to be on a board, sometimes that is  
3 relevant. That is why we're addressing it.  
4 Because we have had --

5 MR. TROISI: I'm sure most people  
6 on this board in front of me hold different  
7 hats.

8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Not  
9 really. I know I don't.

10 MR. TROISI: I heard Laura Curran  
11 is part of the school board and is also a  
12 legislator. She's wearing two hats.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: But  
14 the bottom line is, when you're part of a  
15 political party and you're going to be on a  
16 board, it just sometimes gives off some kind  
17 of radar. We just went through a lot with  
18 this.

19 MR. TROISI: And we also just  
20 went through a lot with Super Storm Sandy,  
21 and I think the most important thing that we  
22 have to deal with right now is getting Bay  
23 Park back up and running. I think that's  
24 what my job on part of that authority is to  
25 do.

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2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

3 That's true.

4 MR. TROISI: As far as the  
5 finance aspect is concerned.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: What  
7 people don't understand, it's our job as  
8 legislators, and believe me, it's not that  
9 we don't understand, but we want you to  
10 explain it so we make sure we both  
11 understand the same way. It's my  
12 responsibility to make sure that the people  
13 that we are appointing are going to have  
14 Nassau County residents as their number one  
15 and only priority.

16 I appreciate you taking the time  
17 to answer the questions, I appreciate you  
18 understanding why we have our red flag up,  
19 and I would hope that you would possibly  
20 consider that situation. Otherwise --

21 MR. TROISI: I have also been on  
22 the board for a year, ma'am.

23 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I  
24 understand. But there's been things in the  
25 paper about a possible --

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2 MR. TROISI: They also found Big  
3 Foot in Seattle in the paper. I don't  
4 understand.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: But  
6 there's been specific things about a  
7 construction company wanting to build on a  
8 property in Suffolk County which is related  
9 to the Independence Party, and for that to  
10 happen they have to get a sewer hookup. So  
11 it's not as if we reached out into the stars  
12 to find this. There is logical steps as to  
13 why we are doing this. So I appreciate your  
14 time.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Deputy  
16 Presiding Officer Nicolello.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mr.  
18 Troisi, there is nothing inappropriate about  
19 being a member of a party and serving in  
20 your position. There are people in various  
21 political parties and various commissions  
22 involving this county. Every one of us is  
23 as political as you can be.

24 There are other people on that  
25 commission some of who have been appointed

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2       by us, some of whom have been recommended by  
3       the other side who are active members of  
4       political parties. For some reason, they  
5       are on witch hunt with the Independence  
6       Party. Put that aside. The fact that  
7       you're background is in labor is something  
8       that is good, as far as we are concerned.

9                   We want to see a variety of  
10       outlooks, variety of backgrounds in this  
11       type of position. For example, this body  
12       has appointed lawyers to this board. No one  
13       has complained about the fact that lawyers  
14       are on the commission. So the fact that  
15       they're saying, you don't have a financial  
16       background, they never brought that up  
17       before.

18                   There are, as you said before,  
19       six times over, with respect to the  
20       conflicts, you mentioned as many times as  
21       you could that you don't vote on contracts,  
22       that's correct. If there is anything that  
23       presents a conflict for you, you will go to  
24       the counsel, disclose it, am I correct with  
25       that?

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2 MR. TROISI: Sure.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Will your  
4 position in the Independence Party influence  
5 your vote in any matter that comes before  
6 you?

7 MR. TROISI: No.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm  
10 calling the question. All those in favor of  
11 appointing or confirming the reappointment  
12 of Mr. Troisi to the Sewer and Water  
13 Authority signify by saying aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 Any opposed?

16 (Nay.)

17 It's 11 to 7.

18 Welcome again.

19 MR. TROISI: Thank you. We are  
20 going to do the consent calendar, Mr.  
21 Abrahams. The next order of business is  
22 calling the consent calendar and I will read  
23 them into the record:

24 Beginning with Item 6, Ordinance  
25 Number 3; Item 7, Ordinance Number 4; Item

1                   Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2       8, Ordinance Number 5; Item 9, Ordinance  
3       Number 6; Item 11, Ordinance Number 8; Item  
4       12, Resolution 2; Item 13, Resolution 3;  
5       Item 14, Resolution Number 4; Item 20,  
6       Resolution 10; Item 20, Resolution 10; Item  
7       21, Resolution 11; Item 22, Resolution 12;  
8       Item 23, Resolution 13; I believe that is  
9       the end the consent calendar.

10                   All those in favor of those items  
11       signify by saying aye.

12                   (Aye.)

13                   Any opposed?

14                   (No verbal response.)

15                   The items pass unanimously. I'm  
16       going to take, I think, a ten-minute recess  
17       to go the non-consent calendar which is only  
18       five items.

19                   I believe those items that were  
20       put forth as part of the consent calendar, a  
21       motion was not taken on those items. A  
22       motion, please.

23                   LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

24                   LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

25                   CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 Legislator Nicoletto, seconded by Legislator  
3 Kopel. Now we will take the vote on them.  
4 All those in favor of those items, signify  
5 by saying aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 Any opposed?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 The items pass unanimously. I'm  
10 going to ask that we take a ten minute  
11 recess.

12 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative  
13 Committee recessed at 3:20 p.m. and  
14 reconvened at 3:30 p.m.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We have, I  
16 believe, several items that were not on the  
17 consent calendar we are going to begin with  
18 the first one. Are we ready?

19 The first item on the calendar is  
20 a hearing on Proposed Local Law Number 2014,  
21 a local law to amend the administrative code  
22 in relation to designating the proper  
23 parties to receive service of process in  
24 actions and legal proceedings against the  
25 county. A motion to open the hearing,



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2 please.

3 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
6 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator  
7 Kopel. All those in favor of opening the  
8 hearing, signify by saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 Any opposed?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 The hearing is now open. Anyone  
13 here speak on this item?

14 MR. MAY: We have Ms. Lisa  
15 LoCurto from the County Attorney's Office,

16 MR. LOCURTO: Good afternoon,  
17 legislators. Lisa LoCurto from the Nassau  
18 County Attorney's Office.

19 This is a local law being  
20 proposed pursuant to the administrative  
21 code, Section 11-4 papers for the  
22 commencement of actions and proceedings  
23 against the county. It specifically says  
24 upon the county executive, the clerk of the  
25 board of supervisors, county clerk, and so

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2 forth. This is different than what's  
3 written in New York State civil procedural  
4 laws and it often causes confusion as to who  
5 the proper party is to serve. This local  
6 law will take that confusion away and, as a  
7 result, it makes it consistent, the local  
8 law, consistent with a recent holding, a  
9 case, Ling Ling Young versus County of  
10 Nassau, and, with this clarification, it  
11 helps advise who the proper parties are to  
12 serve, which helps the residents and helps  
13 the county attorney's office because we  
14 don't have to engage in litigation and  
15 disputing whether or not service has been  
16 proper. So that's why we proposed this  
17 local law and that's why it is before you.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any  
19 questions from the legislators regarding  
20 this item?

21 Is there any public comment?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 There being none, a motion to  
24 close the hearing.

25 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

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2 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: By Mr.  
4 Dunne, and seconded by Legislator Walker.  
5 All those in favor of closing the hearing  
6 signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Any opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 The hearing is now closed.

11 Item 2, proposed Local Law 24-14,  
12 a local law to amend the administrative code  
13 in relation to designating the proper  
14 parties to receive service of process in  
15 actions in legal proceedings against the  
16 county.

17 A motion, please.

18 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
21 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator  
22 Kopel. I believe the testimony was given by  
23 Ms. LoCurto at the hearing.

24 MR. MAY: That is correct.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And this

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 is germane to that hearing. Any questions?  
3 Any comments regarding Item 2?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 Is there any public comment?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 There being none, all those in  
8 favor of Item 2, proposed Local Law 24-14  
9 signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 Any opposed?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 The item passes unanimously.

14 Thank you very much, Mr. May. I'm going to  
15 skip Item 3 because we are going to go into  
16 executive session on Item 3.

17 Four, which is Ordinance 1-2014,  
18 an ordinance providing -- excuse me. I'm  
19 going to Item 5. Legislator Denise Ford  
20 will recuse herself from this item. Item 5,  
21 Ordinance 2-2014, an ordinance providing for  
22 a capital expenditure to finance the payment  
23 of certain adjustments, awards,  
24 determinations, or compromised settled  
25 claims against the County of Nassau,

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 authorizing \$529,289.76 of bonds of the  
3 County of Nassau to finance said expenditure  
4 and make certain determinations pursuant to  
5 the State Environmental Quality Review Act,  
6 the Local Finance Law of New York and the  
7 County Government Law of Nassau County.

8 A motion, please.

9 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by

12 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Deputy

13 Presiding Officer Nicoletto.

14 MR. MAY: We have Lisa LoCurto,  
15 County Attorney's Office.

16 MS. LOCURTO: The item before you  
17 is for a judgment. This item was discussed  
18 fully in executive session at the last  
19 committee hearing on January 13th. If there  
20 are any specific questions about it, I would  
21 recommend executive session and I'm fully  
22 able to do that.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any  
24 legislators have any comments regarding an  
25 executive session, or has all the

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14

2 information been provided that was  
3 requested?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 There being no comment, is there  
6 any public comment?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 All those in favor of Item 5,  
9 Ordinance Number 2 signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 Any opposed?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 The item passes -- I could say  
14 unanimously with the exception of one  
15 recusal. Denise Ford can return to the  
16 chamber.

17 Item 10, Ordinance Number 7, an  
18 ordinance supplemental to the annual  
19 appropriation ordinance in connection with  
20 the health department.

21 A motion, please.

22 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

23 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
25 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14

2 Kopel.

3 MR. MAY: For any questions on  
4 this item, we have Ms. MaryEllen Lorraine  
5 from the Health Department.

6 MS. LORRAINE: MaryEllen Lorraine  
7 from the Department of Health. Item 15-14  
8 is the supplemental appropriation in the  
9 amount of \$9,180,804 and it is for the Brian  
10 White Program. This is 100 percent funded  
11 from the United States Department of Health  
12 and Human Services. We are a designated  
13 area of Long Island, so through an  
14 intergovernmental agreement with Suffolk  
15 County, the United Way administers the  
16 grant.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any  
18 questions of Ms. Lorraine regarding this  
19 item?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 Is there any public comment?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 There being none, all those in  
24 favor of Item 10, Ordinance Number 7 signify  
25 by saying aye.

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14

2 (Aye.)

3 Any opposed?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 The item passes unanimously.

6 Moving on. The two remaining  
7 items are Items 3 and 4, Resolution 1 and  
8 the ordinance pertaining to that resolution.  
9 I believe we are going into executive  
10 session. Item 3, which is Resolution Number  
11 1, a resolution authorizing the county  
12 attorney to compromise and settle the action  
13 Breton, Duran, Martinez-Navarez, and Miranda  
14 vs County of Nassau, et al, pursuant to  
15 County Law, the County Government of Nassau  
16 County and the Nassau County Administrative  
17 Code. I need a motion for that item,  
18 please.

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

20 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
22 Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator  
23 Walker. Calling Item 4 at the same time,  
24 Ordinance Number 1 which pertains to  
25 Resolution Number 1, an ordinance providing



1 Full Legislature/1-27-14  
2 for a capital expenditure to finance the  
3 payment of certain settlements against the  
4 County of Nassau authorizing \$403,920,000 of  
5 bonds of the County of Nassau to finance  
6 said expenditure and making certain  
7 determinations pursuant to the State  
8 Environmental Quality Review Act, Local  
9 Finance Law of New York and the County  
10 Government Law of Nassau County.

11 A motion, please.

12 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
15 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator  
16 Walker. At this point there is a need to go  
17 into executive session. A motion, please.

18 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
21 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator  
22 Kopel. All those in favor of going into  
23 executive session signify by saying aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 Any opposed?

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14

2 (No verbal response.)

3 We are now going to take a brief  
4 recess as we go into executive session.

5 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative  
6 Committee recessed into executive session at  
7 3:40 p.m. and reconvened at 4:26 p.m.)

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We are  
9 going back now. I think there was ample  
10 discussion regarding 3 and 4. The items  
11 were already read into the record. So we  
12 are going to vote on Item 3, Resolution 1.  
13 Item 3, Resolution 1, all those in favor  
14 signify by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 Any opposed?

17 MR. BECKER: I disagree  
18 vehemently with the county attorney's  
19 opinion on this and I vote nay. Disagree  
20 vehemently and I stand up for the workers of  
21 the health department. I think we did them  
22 a disservice.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We have  
24 the idea, Mr. Becker. So it's 17 to 1.  
25 Item

1 Full Legislature/1-27-14

2 Number 4, Ordinance Number 1.

3 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 Any opposed?

6 (Nay.)

7 17 to 1? It's 17 to 1. It's the  
8 end of the calendar so I can ask for a  
9 motion to adjourn.

10 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

11 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
13 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator  
14 Walker. All those in favor of adjourning,  
15 signify by saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 Any opposed?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 We are adjourned.

20 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative  
21 Committee adjourned at 4:28 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 11th day of February, 2014.

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FRANK GRAY