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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES  
PRESIDING OFFICER

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Space  
250 Post Avenue  
Westbury, New York

Tuesday, March 11, 2014  
6:55 P.M.

1

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

3 LEGISLATOR NORMA L. GONSALVES

4 Presiding Officer

5 13th Legislative District

6 LEGISLATOR MICHAEL VENDITTO

7 12th Legislative District

8 LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES

9 3rd Legislative District

10 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

11 Alternate Presiding Officer

12 7th Legislative District

13 LEGISLATOR FRANCIS X. BECKER, JR.

14 6th Legislative District

15 LEGISLATOR DENNIS DUNNE, SR.

16 15th Legislative District

17 LEGISLATOR VINCENT T. MUSCARELLA

18 8th Legislative District

19 LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

20 Deputy Presiding Officer

21 9th Legislative District

22 LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFFER

23 14th Legislative District

24 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

25 4th Legislative District

1  
2       LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER  
3               17th Legislative District  
4       LEGISLATOR DIANE DERIGGI-WHITTON  
5               11th Legislative District  
6       LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS  
7               Minority Leader  
8               1st Legislative District  
9       LEGISLATOR JUDY JACOBS  
10              16th Legislative District  
11       LEGISLATOR LAURA CURRAN  
12              5th Legislative District  
13       LEGISLATOR ELLEN BIRNBAUM  
14              10th Legislative District  
15       LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFFER  
16              14th Legislative District  
17       LEGISLATOR DAVID DENENBERG  
18              19th Legislative District  
19  
20       WILLIAM MULLER  
21              Clerk of the Legislature  
22  
23  
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1           03-11-14       State of the County Address

2                   LEGISLATOR GONSALVES:     Mr.

3 Muller, would you call the roll.

4                   MR. MULLER:           Deputy presiding  
5 officer Nicolello.

6                   LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:     Here.

7                   MR. MULLER:           Alternate Deputy  
8 Presiding Officer Kopel.

9                   LEGISLATOR KOPEL:       Here.

10                  MR. MULLER:           Legislator Bynoe.

11                  MR. MULLER:           Legislator

12 Solages.

13                  LEGISLATOR SOLAGES:     Here.

14                  MR. MULLER:           Legislator Ford.

15                  LEGISLATOR FORD:       Here.

16                  MR. MULLER:           Legislator

17 Birnbaum.

18                  LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM:     Here.

19                  MR. MULLER:           Legislator Becker.

20                  LEGISLATOR BECKER:     Here.

21                  MR. MULLER:           Legislator

22 Muscarella.

23                  LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA:     Here.

24                  MR. MULLER:           Legislator Curran.

25                  LEGISLATOR CURRAN:     Here.

1           03-11-14     State of the County Address  
2                   MR. MULLER:     Legislator  
3    Schaeffer.  
4                   LEGISLATOR SCHAEFFER:     Here.  
5                   MR. MULLER:     Legislator  
6    Venditto.  
7                   LEGISLATOR VENDITTO:     Here.  
8                   MR. MULLER:     Legislator  
9    MacKenzie.  
10                  LEGISLATOR MacKENZIE:     Here.  
11                  MR. MULLER:     Legislator Dunne.  
12                  LEGISLATOR DUNNE:     Here.  
13                  MR. MULLER:     Legislator Jacobs.  
14                  LEGISLATOR JACOBS:     Here.  
15                  MR. MULLER:     Legislator Walker.  
16                  LEGISLATOR WALKER:     Here.  
17                  MR. MULLER:     Legislator  
18    DeRiggi-Whitton.  
19                  LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON:  
20    Here.  
21                  MR. MULLER:     Legislator  
22    Denenberg.  
23                  LEGISLATOR DENENBERG:     Here.  
24                  MR. MULLER:     Minority leader  
25    Abrahams.

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address

2                   LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:       Here.

3                   MR. MULLER:           Presiding officer  
4 Gonsalves.

5                   LEGISLATOR GONSALVES:       Here.

6                   MR. MULLER:       We have a quorum.

7                   COUNTY EXECUTIVE:       Good evening  
8 and welcome. I would like to begin by  
9 thanking presiding officer Norma Gonsalves,  
10 minority leader Kevan Abrahams and all of  
11 our Nassau County Legislators for hosting  
12 this State of the County address. I  
13 appreciate the presence of my colleagues in  
14 government, District Attorney Kathleen Rice,  
15 our Comptroller George Maragos and members  
16 of our learned judiciary. Also legislator  
17 Fran Becker, thank you for leading us in our  
18 national anthem.

19                   First and foremost, thank you to  
20 our veterans for serving as honor guard this  
21 evening. Will all of our veterans please  
22 rise and be recognized. Without your  
23 service and sacrifice we would not enjoy the  
24 freedoms that we enjoy in these United  
25 States. On behalf of a grateful nation, I

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address

2       thank you for your service and

3       dedication.

4                       Let us now take a moment and  
5       posthumously honor Joseph Pascarella, our  
6       Veterans Service Agency Executive Director,  
7       who passed away last year. A man I believe  
8       was our finest director. A dedicated  
9       veteran. Certainly dedicated to the  
10      veterans of Nassau County. Joe leaves  
11      behind a legacy of unparalleled service to  
12      our veterans. Under his leadership the  
13      Veterans Service Agency created  
14      unprecedented housing opportunities for  
15      returning veterans, single parent veterans  
16      and active duty military.

17                      According to data released by the  
18      United States Veterans Administration,  
19      counselors at the Nassau County Veterans  
20      Service Agency significantly increased the  
21      annual amount of cash awards received by  
22      local veterans from under \$1 million in 2006  
23      to \$9.3 million in 2013. The VSA is on pace  
24      to secure a record breaking ten million plus  
25      in benefits for local veterans this year.



1           03-11-14       State of the County Address

2                   Veteran and County Legislator

3   Dennis Dunne and I join all of you in

4   remembering Joe Pascarella for his

5   outstanding efforts and lasting legacy.

6                   We are honored to have Joe's wife

7   Marion, as well as his family here with us

8   today. I ask that they please stand and be

9   recognized. His legacy will live on.

10                  Tonight, I speak to you from The

11   Space, a new theater in the downtown village

12   of Westbury. Nassau County, in partnership

13   with Mayor Peter Cavallaro and the trustees

14   and Legislator Rich Nicolello, worked with

15   Cyrus Hakakian to establish this beautiful

16   new entertainment venue.

17                  From this new theater to new

18   housing opportunities and stores, Westbury

19   is an example of reinventing and

20   revitalizing our downtown business

21   districts. It represents how Nassau County

22   insists on managing its future for the

23   betterment of every resident. I'd like to

24   recognize the mayor here tonight.

25                  Friends, four years ago we

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2 gathered together for the purpose of setting  
3 forth a plan to address the many problems  
4 Nassau County was facing after years of  
5 failed policies. Those policies gave us  
6 high taxes and a poor economy. It was a  
7 recipe for disaster. I put forth a plan  
8 to stop the ever rising real property taxes  
9 burdening our residents and reverse the  
10 trend of rising unemployment.

11                   The foundation of my plan  
12 included freezing real property taxes,  
13 eliminating the home energy tax, reducing  
14 the size of government, launching an  
15 aggressive economic development plan that  
16 focused on job generation and job retention  
17 and ensure that the county government has  
18 the means to protect our quality of life.

19                   As we move forward my plan builds  
20 on these core initiatives. We are  
21 successfully creating an environment for  
22 economic growth. We are seeing new job  
23 opportunities emerge for our residents.

24                   We are encouraging programs that  
25 ensure our young workforce can reside in

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2 Nassau County. And we are vigorously waging  
3 a war on the devastating heroin epidemic  
4 that is plaguing our county, Long Island  
5 and the nation.

6           Friends, together we have worked  
7 hard to eliminate much of the \$378 million  
8 deficit we inherited and we moved Nassau  
9 County forward in a way that has helped our  
10 residents afford the quality of life we have  
11 come to expect in our great county. It is  
12 these policies and this mind-set that has  
13 helped us to ensure that Nassau County is no  
14 longer the highest property taxed county in  
15 the nation and Nassau now provides  
16 opportunities for all who wish to call it  
17 home.

18           Every day more and more local  
19 governments throughout the state are  
20 beginning to understand and embrace these  
21 simple truths that we have known for the  
22 past four years. That is why elected  
23 officials from all across New York are  
24 contacting us to better understand how we  
25 cut taxes while steadily closing a

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2 multimillion dollar deficit.

3                   My administration has and  
4 continues to be dedicated to the task of  
5 cutting wasteful spending, developing new  
6 and efficient ways of providing services and  
7 rightsizing Nassau County government.

8                   Four years ago our county was  
9 bloated and needed to lose weight. A lot  
10 of weight. We put it on a diet by reducing  
11 our workforce by 20 percent.

12                   Nassau County now has six less  
13 departments thanks to efficient  
14 consolidation efforts and 123 fewer  
15 administrators.

16                   We have cut energy costs, reduced  
17 the number of vehicles in our fleet and  
18 took the task of eliminating 2,300  
19 excessive copy machines and 1,700  
20 duplicative phone lines. These innovative,  
21 practical and efficient solutions not only  
22 saved tax dollars but allowed us to continue  
23 important services to our residents.

24                   For example, greater efficiencies  
25 were made in our bus system, where a private

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       company now operates Nassau-owned buses  
3       saving taxpayers \$23 million a year and  
4       provides ridership with reliable, efficient  
5       bus service and more routes.

6                   All without raising cash fares.  
7       Efficiencies were also made at the county  
8       jail, where Sheriff Mike Sposato produced an  
9       annual saving of \$7 million by bringing  
10      private health care professionals into the  
11      jail to provide health care on-site, thereby  
12      eliminating the costly expense of correction  
13      officers accompanying convicts to local  
14      hospitals and clinics for treatment.

15                   Sheriff Sposato, please stand and  
16      be recognized.

17                   We are also administering several  
18      cost-saving programs in the Department of  
19      Public Works, where commissioner Shila  
20      Shah and her team has successfully converted  
21      all traffic lights to LED and instituted a  
22      state-of-the-art snowplow monitoring system  
23      that provides real time data showing the  
24      location and speed of the plow, whether the  
25      sander is on or off and whether the plow is

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       in operation on county roadways. We have  
3       successfully met every weather challenge,  
4       from the ravages of Hurricane Sandy, to this  
5       year's relentless series of snowstorms.

6                       The Department of Public Works  
7       have provided superior service to our  
8       residents. Will commissioner and our  
9       snowplow operators please stand and be  
10      recognized.

11                      This dedicated workforce is one  
12      important reason we are working with NIFA to  
13      lift the wage freeze to recognize jobs well  
14      done while achieving long-term structural  
15      and reoccurring savings for our taxpayers.

16                      I would like to recognize our  
17      Office of Emergency Management for superior  
18      response to Hurricane Sandy and other  
19      weather events. Their efforts under crisis  
20      were spectacular. Due to the efforts of our  
21      first responders collectively under the  
22      office of Emergency Management no lives were  
23      lost during that powerful storm. In fact,  
24      Nassau County received the prestigious  
25      National Weather Service designation as

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       Storm Ready.

3                        Would the men and women of OEM  
4       please stand and be recognized.

5                        These achievements of our  
6       workforce continue in the Department of  
7       Social Services where Commissioner John  
8       Imhof and his team of fraud investigators  
9       have recovered and prevented \$15.3 million  
10      in Medicaid fraud while continuing to  
11      deliver outstanding important social  
12      services.

13                      John Imhof, please stand and be  
14      recognized.

15                      I would like to acknowledge Fire  
16      Marshal Scott Tusa for his work in  
17      consolidating and establishing a  
18      state-of-the-art training and education  
19      center at Nassau County's fire fighting  
20      training facilities. Some of the best in  
21      the nation.

22                      Scott, please stand and be  
23      recognized.

24                      And Health Commissioner Larry  
25      Eisenstein for his leadership in safely

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       evacuating six nursing homes and a hospital  
3       in the face of Hurricane Sandy and for  
4       bringing national honors to our great county  
5       by winning three national model practice  
6       awards.   The highest number awarded to a  
7       local health department in the United States  
8       in 2013.

9                       His team of nurses and health care  
10      professionals was is second to none.

11     Larry, please stand and be recognized.

12                      Executive director Eldia  
13     Gonsalves for her exemplary work leading the  
14     coordinating agency for Spanish Americans.  
15     Please stand and be recognized.

16                      Parks commissioner and now our  
17     county attorney, Carnell Foskey for  
18     expending athletic and family entertainment  
19     options, such as our fabulous free summer  
20     concert series, Octoberfest, Barkfest,  
21     candlelight nights, the Long Island Fair at  
22     Old Bethpage Village Restoration and our  
23     annual Cruise to the Show Car Show and  
24     parade to name a few.

25                      Nassau County residents are using



1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       and enjoying their wonderful parks system  
3       again, as they should be.

4                       Carnell Foskey please stand and  
5       be recognized.

6                       Commissioner Lisa Murphy for  
7       successfully overseeing the merger of six  
8       departments which resulted in a new  
9       Department of Human Services which include  
10      the departments of Mental Health, Chemical  
11      Dependency, Developmental Disabilities  
12      Services, Senior Citizen Affairs, the Office  
13      of the Physically Challenged and the Nassau  
14      County Youth Board.

15                      Lisa Murphy, please stand and be  
16      recognized.

17                      Collectively my team has reduced  
18      wasteful spending, as well as implemented  
19      efficiencies and technology which have  
20      reinvented county government and saved  
21      taxpayer dollars. In fact, my  
22      administration's success in cutting  
23      wasteful spending resulted in Nassau County  
24      receiving Governor Cuomo's New York State  
25      Government Efficiency Award as well as a \$5

1           03-11-14     State of the County Address  
2 million grant.

3                   I also want to recognize my  
4 economic development team, I work with  
5 them just about every day, led by Joe  
6 Kearney, who have partnered with me to  
7 attract new businesses to our borders,  
8 create and retain jobs and create housing  
9 opportunities for our young workforce.

10                   Will Joe Kearney and our Economic  
11 Development team please stand and be  
12 recognized.

13                   With the support of Presiding  
14 Officer Norma Gonsalves, we have  
15 tackled the decade old dilemma of  
16 redeveloping the Hub by launching a 100  
17 percent privately financed new Veterans  
18 Memorial Coliseum and entertainment  
19 district. The new coliseum will retain its  
20 history of honoring our veterans while  
21 sharing in revenue with the taxpayers,  
22 employ 2,700 people and provide \$10 billion  
23 in economic benefit to Nassau County, as  
24 well as compliment Hofstra University and  
25 Nassau Community College.

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address

2                   An attractive, first class  
3 destination, the Coliseum will include  
4 family fun, sports and entertainment,  
5 including Islander games, the Brooklyn  
6 Nets, the New York Yankees coaching clinic,  
7 heavyweight boxing, a new American hockey  
8 league team and star-studded performers and  
9 family fun entertainment.

10                   The transformed Coliseum is only  
11 the beginning. After completion new  
12 developments will take shape, including a  
13 movie theater, bowling center and themed  
14 restaurants, as well as an exciting phrase  
15 three. We should all be excited about our  
16 future as this economic development project  
17 will enhance our quality of life and provide  
18 job opportunities for residents.

19                   No longer will Nassau County  
20 residents pay the electric bill, pave the  
21 parking lot or buy million dollar  
22 scoreboards. These practices are not  
23 sustainable and are personally unacceptable  
24 to our administration.

25                   Instead, county taxpayers will

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2 shed ostly expenses and share in the revenue  
3 generated at the Coliseum.

4           In addition to a new coliseum,  
5 other 100 percent privately financed pojects  
6 are underway which will result in a new twin  
7 indoor ice skating rinks and a new indoor  
8 pool to accommodate national sporting events  
9 and will increase tourism while providing  
10 youth athletes with state-of-the-art  
11 Facilities.

12           Another public-private  
13 partnership is underway at Old Bethpage  
14 Village Restoration where, together with the  
15 History Channel and philanthropist Lawrence  
16 Kadish, we are establishing the Museum of  
17 American Armor. This facility will not only  
18 serve as a living museum and education  
19 center, but it will be a vibrant and dynamic  
20 tribute to the tens of thousands of US GIs  
21 here in Nassau County who dedicated their  
22 lives to protect our nation and the lives of  
23 those who have faced tyranny around the  
24 world.

25           The positive financial benefits

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       from public-private partnerships, along  
3       with a vibrant, iconic sports and  
4       entertainment center, are only part of  
5       the success we achieved. My administration  
6       recognizes providing our young workforce job  
7       opportunities and attractive entertainment  
8       venues that compete with neighboring city  
9       boroughs is only part of the solution. A  
10      fundamental part of the solution lies in  
11      providing housing opportunities. Clearly,  
12      keeping property taxes down keeps properties  
13      affordable but providing affordable  
14      rental opportunities is an absolute  
15      necessity. The fact is, today's starter  
16      home for many young families is actually  
17      an affordable apartment.

18                    To assist young professionals and  
19      meet employers need for an educated  
20      workforce, my administration, with the  
21      assistance of Legislator Mike Venditto, has  
22      partnered with the private sector to create  
23      more than 1,000 new housing opportunities  
24      adjacent to transit hubs in Hempstead, Great  
25      Neck Plaza, Farmingdale, Mineola, Westbury

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       and will approve two more tomorrow. Our  
3       program encourages developers to convert  
4       empty office buildings into apartments.

5                        To continue this successful  
6       program, my administration, with the  
7       assistance of Legislator Fran Becker,  
8       earmarked federal funds to study the  
9       conversion of empty office space into  
10      residences in Baldwin, Lynbrook and Valley  
11      Stream as well. Our housing initiative not  
12      only assists young families, it revitalizes  
13      downtowns by increasing economic activity  
14      and removing eyesores.

15                      To further our goal of curtailing  
16      the brain drain, I have launched Nassau  
17      200. This study builds on our current  
18      efforts to attract and retain young  
19      professionals in Nassau County. In the  
20      coming year my administration will launch  
21      a panel of 200 millennial opinion leaders.  
22      They will be charged with the mission of  
23      reversing the migration of crucial talent  
24      off Long Island. From advising my cabinet,  
25      to ratifying select plans and programs,

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       generating new ideas and building new  
3       initiatives, this group of residents, born  
4       between 1979 and 1995, will help us  
5       encourage young people to live and work here  
6       in Nassau County.

7                        It's initiatives such as this,  
8       along with our anti-property tax and pro job  
9       growth policy, that are designed to have an  
10      immediate and profound impact on our future.

11                      An example of our economic  
12      successes can be viewed at the former  
13      Grumman property in Bethpage and Hicksville.  
14      Once a single employer venue dependent on  
15      defense contracts, it is now 600 acres of  
16      diverse businesses. It includes a  
17      state-of-the-art Homeland Security Center,  
18      housing opportunities and Nassau's newest  
19      industry, film and TV production. Nassau  
20      County has quickly become the Hollywood east  
21      of the movie and television industry.

22      Thanks to the support of legislators Rich  
23      Nicolello, Rose Walker and Denise Ford.

24                      Collectively this industry  
25      generated \$144 million in economic benefits

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       throughout the area and employed nearly  
3       2,000 people. Nassau now has more  
4       filming days than four of the five  
5       boroughs put together and regularly  
6       employs electricians, carpenters and  
7       artisans.

8                       Recently Carrie Underwood  
9       performed a live television broadcast of the  
10       Sound of Music on NBC right here in Nassau  
11       County in Grumman studios. In fact, the  
12       most expensive motion picture in history,  
13       the Amazing Spider Man Two, was recently  
14       filmed in Bethpage and will be released  
15       in May.

16                      To continue growing jobs, I have  
17       been in contact with the New York Institute  
18       of Technology, Molloy College, Long Island  
19       University and Start Up New York, and  
20       together we are seeking to attract digital  
21       post production editing here in Nassau  
22       County companies in Nassau.

23                      It is initiatives such as these  
24       that have strengthened our local economy.  
25       Never again will the loss of a single



1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       company such as Grumman be allowed to  
3       assault our economy.

4                   After shedding jobs for more than  
5       ten years, good middle class jobs have  
6       begun to return to Nassau County. We  
7       stand here today with a record that  
8       includes creating and retaining nearly 2,000  
9       jobs and employment opportunities.

10                   From the new Hain Celestial  
11       headquarters in Lake Success, to attracting  
12       a New York City lighting company bound for  
13       LA, jobs are coming back to Nassau County.

14                   Just recently we announced that  
15       manufacturers New York Vanity and Supreme  
16       Screw both are moving from New York City to  
17       Nassau. Manufactures medical screws.

18                   Many local companies are also  
19       expanding their operations including  
20       employers such as Clever Devices, Arizona  
21       Iced Tea, New York Community Bancorp,  
22       Nassau Candy, the new beverage  
23       manufacturer Agua Enerviva, R Best  
24       Produce, parent company of Uncle Guiseppe's  
25       moved their headquarters here as well as

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2 many more.

3                       My aggressive economic  
4 development plan does not stop there.  
5 Through public-private partnerships we are  
6 making an economic future possible for  
7 Nassau County that previously would have  
8 been unimaginable.

9                       Nassau County's economy is  
10 clearly growing. In fact several weeks ago  
11 the State Department of Labor released  
12 statistics indicating a drop in unemployment  
13 here in Nassau County to 5.1 percent. These  
14 statistics remind us that our economic  
15 development and job creation policies are  
16 working, as our employment rate is  
17 considerably lower when compared  
18 statewide and throughout the nation.

19                      To connect employers with  
20 residents, my administration has hosted  
21 several extremely successful job fairs.  
22 In fact, in November, more than 10,000  
23 residents visited our free job fair at  
24 the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

25                      To further assist residents, I,

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       along with the support of Legislator Vincent  
3       Muscarella, launched the Nassau County Smart  
4       Phone app named Nassau Works. This app  
5       lists tens of thousands of jobs available  
6       for our residents, all on your smart phone  
7       and at the touch of a screen. Download the  
8       app today or visit Nassau Works dot com and  
9       find a job opportunity, full time, part time  
10      they are all there.

11                   This application builds on our  
12      success of our smart application, Nassau  
13      Now, which provides an efficient way to  
14      receive important emergency alerts as  
15      well as to report neighborhood issues such  
16      as downed trees, traffic hazards and, yes,  
17      pot holes.

18                   The application allows you to  
19      simply take a photo of the problem with  
20      your smart phone and it is sent to my office  
21      and the appropriate department for action.  
22      It will give us the GPS coordinates as well.

23                   This application has been very  
24      successful and recently was utilized to  
25      correct a safety hazard reported by

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       Legislator Judy Jacobs, where we worked on  
3       the issue and we swiftly address it. So  
4       technology helps.

5           In addition to not raising real  
6       property taxes, creating jobs and providing  
7       new housing opportunities for our young  
8       workforce, we have steadily improved  
9       Nassau's finances through a renewed and  
10      mutually respectful partnership with NIFA.  
11      I want to recognize John Kaiman, chairman of  
12      NIFA, for creating a cooperative,  
13      progressive path to fiscal strength.

14           Historically, over the past  
15      several decades, the county's budgetary fund  
16      balance was used to measure its financial  
17      operations. When I assumed office in 2010,  
18      the county's fund balance was \$64 million.  
19      The county's independently audited financial  
20      statements for 2012 indicated that that fund  
21      balance had increased 28 percent to \$82  
22      million.

23           This positive trend will continue  
24      when we receive our 2013 audited financial  
25      statements in the coming months, and we

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2 believe that the fund balance will grow to  
3 over \$100 million, steadily increasing our  
4 fiscal growth.

5           As agreed to with NIFA, Nassau  
6 County is transitioning to a reporting on  
7 a more stringent accounting basis. In 2012,  
8 the county reported a \$27.5 million surplus  
9 on a GAAP basis and continues to show  
10 improvement with respect to the NIFA  
11 statute test. Which is an even more  
12 conservative test than the GAAP reporting  
13 standard.

14           This positive financial news is  
15 the result of extraordinary cost-cutting  
16 efforts. The good news in Nassau is that  
17 these affirmative actions undertaken by  
18 this administration have firmly placed  
19 Nassau County on the road to fiscal  
20 recovery. However, more work needs to be  
21 accomplished to comply with NIFA's new  
22 accounting standard, which basically  
23 eliminates certain revenue items.

24           The single greatest obstacle to  
25 meeting this standard is Nassau County's

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       assessment system, which accounts for  
3       nearly one half of Nassau County's \$3  
4       billion debt. Nassau County is the only  
5       county in New York State to guarantee  
6       returning money it has never received.

7           This hurts every single taxpayer  
8       in our county. I have endeavored to correct  
9       this bizarre and destructive rule. Recently  
10      the Court of Appeals has made it clear that  
11      only New York State Legislature can correct  
12      this waste it.

13           Accordingly, I have met with  
14      state officials, NIFA and Kevin Law of the  
15      LIA, with us here today, and we will work  
16      together to draft legislation that will  
17      correct this billion dollar wasteful system  
18      and build the consensus necessary to get it  
19      passed because it places an unconscionable  
20      burden on every county taxpayer. Hurts you.  
21      Hurts your home value. Hurts our economy  
22      and hurts our commercial values.

23           As we move forward I call on all  
24      the stakeholders to work together to end  
25      the present system, end the billion

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2   dollar waste and treat Nassau County  
3   taxpayers as other taxpayers are treated  
4   throughout New York State. We ask for  
5   nothing more but will insist on nothing  
6   less.

7                        Successfully reinventing and  
8   revolutionizing Nassau County has been a  
9   challenge. However, rebuilding our great  
10   county is an even greater challenge due to  
11   the damage inflicted on our residents,  
12   property and infrastructure by Hurricane  
13   Sandy.

14                      It speaks to the strength of our  
15   residents that we have stood against that  
16   storm and come back from its historic  
17   devastation. But it took a team of men and  
18   women who ignored partisan labels and  
19   displayed extraordinary leadership to help  
20   Nassau County at a time of crisis.

21                      Together with Governor Cuomo,  
22   Majority Leader Dean Skelos, US senators  
23   Schumer and Gillibrand and Congressmen  
24   King and Israel, we have made certain  
25   that unaffected property owners don't

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       bear the tax burden of the reduced  
3       assessment claims from properties damaged by  
4       Hurricane Sandy. As we partnered with these  
5       great friends in government, so too we are  
6       working with federal and state agencies to  
7       address the continued needs of our residents  
8       in a post Hurricane Sandy environment. Some  
9       have still not received the money necessary  
10      to rebuild.

11                   Many lessons have been learned  
12      from Hurricane Sandy. From elevating homes  
13      to strengthening critical infrastructure.  
14      Much work is left to be done. And while  
15      Hurricane Sandy was a devastating storm, the  
16      likes of which we never wish to see again,  
17      it has provided the opportunity to  
18      rebuild smarter and stronger.

19                   One example is our Bay Park Waste  
20      Water Treatment Plant where we secured,  
21      in partnership with Governor Cuomo, Majority  
22      Leader Skelos, Senator Schumer and  
23      legislators Denice Ford and Howard Kopel,  
24      \$830 million to rebuild an even stronger Bay  
25      Park Waste Water Treatment Plant which



1           03-11-14     State of the County Address  
2     serves 550,000 residents.

3                     Today, the advocacy for federal  
4     dollars continues as again I join forces  
5     with Governor Cuomo, Senator Schumer and  
6     a dozen environmental groups to obtain  
7     the dollars necessary to construct an  
8     ocean outfall pipe.

9                     Historically and presently, Bay  
10    Park Waste Water Treatment Plant  
11    discharges effluent directly into  
12    Reynolds Channel. I want to move this  
13    discharge two miles out into the ocean,  
14    thus protecting our environment and  
15    increasing recreational boating and  
16    commercial fishing opportunities as well  
17    as strengthening our economy.

18                    I remain optimistic and committed  
19    to fighting for the outfall pipe for  
20    Nassau County residents along with the  
21    legislators that stand with me today. A  
22    stronger, smarter and more resilient Nassau  
23    County is in our future and will be a  
24    reality.

25                    Nassau County is the safest large

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       suburban county in the nation, and I am  
3       happy to report that statistics tell us  
4       it is even safer today.   Police  
5       Commissioner Krumpter and the Nassau  
6       County Police Department have reduced crime  
7       by 14 percent year to date.   Crime is down  
8       by over 11 percent since this administration  
9       took office in 2010.

10                   Nassau's intelligence-led  
11       policing model is a model other police  
12       departments from across the nation are  
13       studying as it combines good old fashion  
14       police work with state-of-the-art technology  
15       and best practices.

16                   From a zero tolerance for  
17       domestic violence to our ground breaking  
18       active shooter seminars, Nassau County  
19       Police Department is making certain our  
20       educational institutions, places of  
21       public assembly and neighborhoods are  
22       safe and will remain so.

23                   With support from Legislator  
24       Laura Schaeffer and Legislator Donald  
25       MacKenzie, this year every school will be

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       eligible to receive two-way communication  
3       devices, which when activated immediately  
4       connects with our 911 center, provides GPS  
5       coordinates and records all audio and cannot  
6       be shut off in the school. This is just one  
7       example of our proactive public safety  
8       policies are being put into effect.

9                       In addition, working with  
10       District Attorney Kathleen Rice, our Nassau  
11       County Gun Buy Back Program took 3,000  
12       illegal guns off the streets. Thanks and  
13       gratitude is offered to our dedicated Nassau  
14       County police force who keep our residents  
15       and neighborhoods safe.

16                      In addition, we have stepped up  
17       our war on heroin. This epidemic is  
18       claiming the lives of over 120 residents a  
19       year and causing 820 overdoses annually here  
20       in the county of Nassau. Far too many lives  
21       are lost and families heartbroken due to  
22       this scourge on our society.

23                      In addition to aggressive  
24       enforcement, education, awareness campaigns,  
25       Nassau is the first county in New York State

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       to train citizens to administer the life  
3       saving overdose prevention drug Narcan. I  
4       want to thank Eden Laiken, my wife Linda and  
5       all those dedicated to this second chance on  
6       life program.

7                        It's not just for addicts. We  
8       just received a story that a 93 year old  
9       person took too many prescription  
10      medications and her family was able to  
11      administer Narcan and was able to save her  
12      life.

13                      But it starts with our youth and  
14      education and awareness, and I'm so  
15      grateful we have some wonderful high school  
16      students who participated in a wonderful  
17      program. I want to recognize the many  
18      students who joined our efforts to prevent  
19      heroin use by creating a public service  
20      announcements for their peers.

21                      We have with us tonight  
22      MacArthur, Valley Stream South, Division and  
23      Hewlett High School students. Please stand  
24      and be recognized.

25                      To keep our county secure and

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       maintain an educated public safety  
3       workforce, we plan to hire approximately 125  
4       police officers a year for the next three  
5       year or four years. These officers will  
6       replace retiring officers and continue the  
7       tradition of safe neighborhoods here in the  
8       count of Nassau.

9                       With the support of former  
10       Legislator Joseph Scannell and now  
11       Legislator Laura Curran, we have begun  
12       construction of a new state-of-the-art First  
13       Precinct to replace the dilapidated falling  
14       apart facility in Baldwin on county property  
15       that will be owned by Nassau County.

16                      Friends, there is much more. We  
17       have improved our parks through smart  
18       cost-saving partnerships that provide  
19       free entertainment for our residents,  
20       affordable camps for our children and  
21       have continued the games for the  
22       physically challenged by raising the  
23       necessary funds from local residents and  
24       good corporate citizens.

25                      We have honored our veterans and

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       continue to deliver important health and  
3       human services to all our residents. We  
4       have enhanced the lives of so many of our  
5       senior citizens with the many, many programs  
6       that we have such as, on the light side,  
7       senior birthday celebrations that pay  
8       tribute to those who helped build this great  
9       county.

10                       We have certified the highest  
11       number of women-owned and minority-owned  
12       businesses, while also helping a record  
13       number of new Americans obtain  
14       citizenship.

15                       We have launched successful  
16       public-private partnerships that save  
17       taxpayer dollars and we have and continue  
18       to crack down on welfare fraud.

19                       And so many in this room have  
20       worked to implement these programs and  
21       they deserve to be recognized and publicly  
22       thanked. I thank all of you, our  
23       legislators and everyone here, that have  
24       come together to offer great suggestions,  
25       support good policies and make certain our

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2 county is a great place to live, work and  
3 raise a family.

4           Nassau County no longer taxes too  
5 high, spends too much or reforms too little.  
6 We have met each challenge without raising  
7 Nassau County real property taxes and that  
8 will be our goal for the future while  
9 creating more well-paying private sector  
10 jobs.

11           As Ben Franklin once said, By  
12 failing to prepare you are preparing to  
13 fail. Here in Nassau County we will not  
14 accept failure. The cost is too high, the  
15 price is too dear and we are committed to  
16 meet every challenge.

17           The next four years are already  
18 full of challenges and opportunities that  
19 promises to make Nassau County an even  
20 better place to live, work and raise a  
21 family. From breaking ground on a world  
22 class Veterans Memorial Coliseum and  
23 entertainment district, to planning a job  
24 generating phase three for the Hub.

25           From new opportunities at Belmont

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address  
2       Park, to the expansion of the film and TV  
3       industry, much job growth is on the horizon.

4                       From renovating the shuttered  
5       social services building into a  
6       state-of-the-art family court, to building a  
7       new crime lab, there is much work to  
8       accomplish.

9                       From making certain every Sandy  
10      victim is back in their home, to rebuilding  
11      our waste water treatment plant, there's  
12      much opportunity to rebuild stronger and  
13      smarter.

14                      And our wish list of building an  
15      ocean outfall pipe to protect our bay,  
16      boating and commercial fishing remains an  
17      opportunity we must seize.

18                      From planning emergency worker  
19      dorms, to building a state-of-the-art public  
20      safety training center, there is much  
21      planning to be done.

22                      From increasing housing options  
23      for our youth, to strengthening our public  
24      transit system, there is much work to  
25      accomplish.



1           03-11-14       State of the County Address

2                       While there are always critics on  
3 the road to reform, I am reminded of the  
4 words of Abraham Lincoln. "He has a right  
5 to criticize who has the heart to help."

6                       So let us leave here tonight  
7 committed to work across party lines to  
8 honor the people of Nassau County. This  
9 is not about partisanship. It's about the  
10 people of Nassau County. It's about  
11 leadership. It's about fulfilling your  
12 oath. We have accomplished much and can  
13 truly accomplish much more through  
14 cooperation and mutual respect. Together we  
15 can and will meet every challenge and  
16 continue to make Nassau County an even  
17 better place to live, work and raise a  
18 family.

19                      Before I conclude, I would  
20 especially like to thank my wife Linda, sons  
21 Sal and Al and my parents for their  
22 continued love and support.

23                      Friends, the future is bright and  
24 we here in Nassau County have a lot to be  
25 thankful for and a lot to look forward to.

1           03-11-14       State of the County Address

2                   May God bless you and may He  
3 watch over these United States of America.

4                   LEGISLATOR GONSALVES:       Motion  
5 to adjourn made by Legislator Becker.

6                   Second. All those in favor? Any  
7 opposed? It's unanimous. We are  
8 adjourned.

9                   (TIME NOTED: 7:50 P.M.)

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03-11-14 State of the County Address

CERTIFICATION

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

THAT the foregoing is a true and  
accurate transcript of my stenographic  
notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand this 24th day of  
March 2014.

-----

FRANK GRAY