

TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

FEBRUARY 26, 2019

10:30 A.M.

BEFORE: LAURA A. GILLEN,

SUPERVISOR

APPEARANCES :

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DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO

COUNCILMAN DUNNE, SR.

MAJORITY LEADER/COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY

TOWN CLERK CABANA

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK SEDACCA

TOWN ATTORNY RA

COMPTROLLER CONROY

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 2/26/19

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I welcome everyone to
2 this regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting.

3 For those of you who have never attended a
4 Board Meeting before, there are meeting agendas Page | 3
5 available in the rear of the Pavilion.

6 If you like to be heard on any matters, you
7 can get a slip from our Safety Officers who are
8 available in the front or the rear of the Pavilion
9 and fill out a slip and indicate what you would
10 like to be heard on and we will call you up.

11 After the Meeting is adjourned, the Town
12 Board will honor our custom of three hundred and
13 fifty years and remain in session to hear Members
14 of the Public that want to be heard on any other
15 matter.

16 Um, this is a civilized Board Meeting. We
17 will not tolerate hooliganism in calling out and
18 cat calling from the audience.

19 If you call out and are disruptive, you
20 will be warned once.

21 If you do it a second time, you will be
22 asked to leave the Board Meeting.

23 Madam Clerk, will you, please, call the
24 roll.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

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1 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Here.

2 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

4 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

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5 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am here.

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

9 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Here.

10 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

11 Goosby?

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

13 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Here.

15 I, now, ask Councilwoman King-Sweeney to
16 lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

17 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Place your
18 hand over your heart.

19 (Whereupon, Councilwoman King-Sweeney
20 lead the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

21 After, the following ensued.)

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will you,
23 please, call the first Public Hearing.

24 CLERK CABANA: Petition of Commissioner of
25 Buildings to demolish & remove a one-story wood

1 frame one-family dwelling with detached garage &
2 remove all litter & debris from property - Elmont
3 (94 Evans Avenue) southeast corner of Evans Avenue
4 & Union Avenue - Department of Buildings. Page | 5

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
6 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone that would
7 like to be heard?

8 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
9 the following ensued.)

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I
11 have a Motion.

12 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I move the Public
13 Hearing be closed and the Petition be adopted.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second the Motion.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,
16 call the roll.

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

18 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

24 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

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1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

3 Goosby?

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

7 Madam Clerk, please, call our next Public
8 Hearing.

9 CLERK CABANA: Petition of Commissioner of
10 Buildings to demolish & remove a one-story wood
11 frame, one-family dwelling & remove all litter and
12 debris from property - near Island Park (240
13 Cathedral Avenue) South side of Cathedral Avenue,
14 forty feet East of Beachview Avenue - Department
15 of Buildings

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
17 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone that would
18 like to be heard?

19 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
20 the following ensued.)

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I
22 have a Motion.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move that the
24 Public Hearing be closed and the petition be
25 granted.

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1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Second the
2 motion.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk.

4 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

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5 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

11 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

13 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

15 Goosby?

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

19 Madam Clerk, please, call our next Public
20 Hearing.

21 CLERK CABANA: Petition of Commissioner of
22 Buildings to demolish & remove a two-story wood
23 frame, one-family dwelling with detached garage &
24 remove all litter & debris from property - West
25 Hempstead (11 Scaneateles Avenue) South side of

1 Scaneateles Avenue, 100 feet East of Mahopac Road
2 - Department of Buildings

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a slip from Dr.
4 RayAnn Havasy. Page | 8

5 DR. HAVASY: Good Morning.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Morning.

7 If you would please, state your name and
8 address for the record.

9 DR. HAVASY: Dr. Ray Ann Havasy. My
10 organization is 1450 Tanglewood Road, Lakeview.
11 Good Morning.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Morning.

13 DR. HAVASY: Um, for four years I have been
14 trying to buy this house, um, it is located in
15 Lakeview where my organization is located, um, I
16 did the same with another house in Lakeview and
17 renovated it.

18 And, what I do with it is my staff, mostly
19 Millennials hard to live on Long Island, I give
20 housing to my staff, to my organization, so, it
21 turns out to be a win-win.

22 The house gets renovated and my staff gets
23 to afford to stay on Long Island.

24 So, we don't have more of a brain drain.

25 So, this house appeals to me because it is

1 on the bus line that goes directly to my
2 organization.

3 For four years, I have tracked it down from
4 Golden Sachs, another bank MTQL, whatever to Page | 9
5 Rushmore homes to the Attorney in Westchester, um,
6 to no avail.

7 I called the District Court and the
8 District Court here is what they told me, ma'am,
9 if you are interested in this house, you have to
10 go to the District Court every Tuesday at 9:30
11 a.m. and hope that it comes up for auction.

12 How long do you have to do this? Maybe
13 two, three years.

14 If we want to do something about zombie
15 homes, make it easier to buy them.

16 I know the Town is trying to do a lot to
17 destroy them, which is a good thing, you know,
18 razing them.

19 So, I am asking you to - - I am asking for
20 an extension on this because I am going to get
21 even more persistent.

22 I hired an attorney to try and track down
23 this house.

24 I like to renovate it.

25 It is doable. I t is not a lost cause.

1 So, I am just asking for an extension.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, could
3 you, please, come forward.

4 Is this structure unsafe?

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5 What is status of this structure?

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I like to ask
7 questions, first, since this is in Lakeview, which
8 is in my District.

9 Are you planning to use this as a rooming
10 house to put staff?

11 How many people will live in it?

12 DR. HAVASY: Two, um, we put two,
13 Councilwoman Goosby, this is a science center.

14 I know you are familiar with it.

15 We have science education, so, yeah, we
16 have two staff members in the other house.

17 These are single people.

18 They are young people, so, they are single,
19 that is what we would like to do.

20 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER: Good Morning, Supervisor and
22 Members of the Town Board:

23 This house has been vacant since 2013.

24 It is in poor shape.

25 However, we can give her sometime to move

1 forward, but as she stated, it could take two more
2 years before she can actually purchase this home,
3 I mean, so, that is the problem.

4 DR. HAVASY: It has a new roof. It has
5 some other new things on it, you know. I don't
6 think it is a lost cause.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Haber, are you
8 here?

9 MR. HABER: Yes.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Would you, please, come
11 forward for a minute.

12 I had a community Town Hall Meeting last
13 night and the issue of vacant and abandoned zombie
14 homes was something that came up at that Board
15 Meeting.

16 Previously, I put forward a resolution,
17 Item Number 123 from the Town Board agenda dated
18 August 2, 2018, um, that related to a foreclosure
19 registry to try to address some of the problems
20 that you just discussed.

21 Mr. Haber, Commissioner, thank you for
22 answering that question.

23 Mr. Haber, if you would just speak to, for
24 a minute, about how the foreclosure registry might
25 address some of the obstacles that this lady

1 has had in terms of trying to purchase this home
2 in foreclosure.

3 MR. HABER: A Foreclosure registry the
4 already have in the Town of Babylon Village and it Page | 12
5 is working quite well.

6 It created a dashboard for homes in the
7 Town that are in various forms of foreclosure or
8 vacant and the Town is the point of contact, is
9 who we reach out to in case we have an issue or
10 the bank servicing it.

11 What happens when a home goes in
12 foreclosure, they trade services, the bank sells
13 and sells it.

14 And, after we saw in 2008 when the crisis
15 happened and the recession happened, no one knew
16 who to reach out to let us know they are having a
17 problem, right, now, who to contact and that is
18 the purpose of the foreclosure registry and on top
19 of that it would generate four million dollars for
20 the Town which could be used to raze homes, you
21 know, help people that are having issues.

22 It would be a win-win with very little
23 issues the Town has to do, but, basically, collect
24 checks and have a dashboard and naturally free up
25 employees doing the work.

1 It would be a win-win on both sides.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

3 DR. HAVASY: That would be marvelous

4 because there are so many of us that are willing

5 to rejuvenate these homes.

6 We just can't seem to figure out how to buy

7 them.

8 It is just a daunting process.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, the longer they

10 are tied up in foreclosure, my time as an

11 attorney, could be quite, quite some time.

12 This time you happen to be here. I like to

13 ask my colleagues on the Town Board to reconsider

14 Item 123 from being tabled and I like you to

15 reconsider adding it to the agenda.

16 I think this Resolution would create a

17 foreclosure registry which would assist the

18 residents in the Town of Hempstead establishing a

19 list, a list of properties that are in the

20 foreclosure process in our Town so we mitigate

21 potential issues of those properties.

22 The monies that would be generated by, um,

23 revenue would be towards enforcement in our

24 Building Department and, um, to help use it to

25 provide guidance to residents on how to connect

1 with the proper agencies or groups that can help
2 them to assist them in the foreclosure sale
3 process.

4 Um, seven other municipalities since have ^{Page | 14}
5 raised foreclosure registries, seven other
6 municipalities have either adopted or are in the
7 process of adopting foreclosure registries because
8 of the value that they bring to enforcement and in
9 education programing.

10 I think it makes sense.

11 I think we should reconsider it.

12 I think we should vote on it.

13 Other places that have adopted or are in
14 the process of adopting foreclosure registries
15 since we first raised it here in the Town of
16 Hempstead are the Village of Babylon, the Town of
17 Babylon, the Town of North Hempstead, the Town of
18 Oyster Bay, the Town of Riverhead, the Town of
19 South Hampton and the City of Long Beach.

20 So, I do ask my colleagues to give some
21 thought; I would be happy to discuss it with you
22 going forward, but I would like you to reconsider
23 pulling that from the table indefinitely.

24 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Madam Supervisor,
25 notwithstanding the infomercial for the

1 Foreclosure registry, we have done detailed
2 analysis on it.

3 This is a one-sided discussion. It is
4 fraught with a lot of issues that are not germane ^{Page | 15}
5 before us.

6 So, I think - - I appreciate Mr. Haber's
7 input and your input, it is not the panacea that
8 it is made out to be.

9 There is a lot of issues with it and it is
10 germane for a topic at another time, but, it is
11 not what it is made out to be.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All I am asking for is
13 a discussion with my colleagues on the Town Board.

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: That would be
15 very nice if you talked to us before and discussed
16 it.

17 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
18 heard. After, the following ensued.)

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: You do these
20 things without letting us know. It would be
21 wonderful if you had something we could consider
22 but we have to take it, now. I agree with the
23 Councilman.

24 CAY FATIMA: Excuse me, Councilwoman
25 Goosby, who I have the most respect for, I am

1 sorry I have to get to work, so, can we vote on
2 the matter at hand which is the house.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: There maybe
4 people in the audience that may wish to be heard. ^{Page | 16}

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I just got a slip for
6 you.

7 CAY FATIMA: Cay Fatima, I apologize is
8 there any representative from the bank, here?

9 (Whereupon, "I am," was heard calling out
10 from the audience. After, the following ensued.)

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We have a bank
12 representative right, here.

13 Mr. Haber, thank you.

14 CAY FATIMA: I don't know if any of you saw
15 an article that was posted in, um, um, the Herald
16 and it was done, it was called "The tale of two
17 abandoned homes."

18 I live on a block Scaneateles Avenue. My
19 name is Cay Fatima, um - -

20 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
21 After, the following ensued.)

22 CAY FATIMA: I have affirm called Catherine
23 Marks & Associates.

24 What we do is community liaison and deal
25 with issues in our community trying to improve it

1 and try to do advocacy for the community and
2 individuals.

3 I have six abandoned homes on my block.

4 This property has been abandoned for - - Page | 17
5 since 2009.

6 Can you please tell the Council Members
7 when it went into foreclosure?

8 JANET WARD: I believe 2011.

9 CAY FATIMA: Has the property owner ever
10 been found?

11 JANET WARD: No and actually I am here
12 representing the bank requesting, as well, um, we
13 want to evaluate this property and secure issues
14 that there may be, so, we are here to help and to
15 make sure this property is secured.

16 CAY FATIMA: The question is to the Town
17 because the Town has been there so many times.

18 If you look, you will see so many
19 violations, um, the grass has been allowed to grow
20 at one time almost five feet tall.

21 My property values are going down and we
22 are planning lawsuits.

23 I have some of them prepared to sue your
24 company because I believe there is something
25 called that I am going to propose, "endangering

1 "the welfare of a community," contributes to the
2 demise of a community.

3 (Whereupon, "you're right," was heard
4 calling out from the audience. After, the
5 following ensued.)

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6 CAY FATIMA: Your negligence has caused my
7 house to go from five hundred thousand - - excuse
8 me for being very stern about this matter to me,
9 almost three hundred thousand, in the two hundred
10 thousand range.

11 So, the amount that I own, let's say that I
12 borrowed from it, I am now, under water and when
13 people get under water like that homeowner
14 probably did, okay, that they walked away.

15 So, this systemic affect will have to stop
16 and it will have to stop with the banks.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Senior Councilwoman
18 Goosby?

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Yes?

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Do you mind if I ask
21 a question on this?

22 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Go right
23 ahead.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: My question to the
25 bank is you started the foreclosure in 2011, we

1 are, now, in 2019, you had eight years to address
2 the issues with respect to this house - -

3 JANET WARD: My client - - I am sorry.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: - - and, nothing has ^{Page | 19}
5 been done.

6 JANET WARD: My client was just put on
7 notice that this Town Board Meeting was being held
8 - -

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Your client had this
10 foreclosure going on for eight years, they didn't
11 have notice of all the problems?

12 This poor woman and others in the
13 neighborhood have had to endure a situation that
14 is really untenable and if the bank had addressed
15 it and took ownership of the property, they want
16 to foreclose on the property, they have to take
17 responsibility for it.

18 And, once they take responsibility for it,
19 they have to make sure that it is clean and safe
20 or they should sell it.

21 I don't understand.

22 JANET WARD: My client can't sell the
23 property.

24 The foreclosure property is not completed,
25 so, they don't have the judgement, so, my

1 Client is not the owner of the property, so, until
2 the foreclosure action is completed in the Court
3 system, we can't sell the property.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: But if - -

5 CAY FATIMA: Excuse me, has it been filed
6 in Supreme Court?

7 JANET WARD: Yes, yes.

8 CAY FATIMA: Has a deed been executed?

9 JANET WARD: No, it hasn't.

10 CAY FATIMA: Has the Judge sent the
11 judgement - -

12 JANET WARD: The judgement hasn't been
13 filed, yet, so, my client doesn't have the
14 opportunity to sell.

15 CAY FATIMA: When is the complaint filed?

16 JANET WARD: I don't have the exact answers
17 in front of me.

18 CAY FATIMA: What does your title
19 represent? What bank are you representing?

20 JANET WARD: I am representing Rushmore.

21 CAY FATIMA: Are they a bank? Are they
22 affiliated with U.S. Bank?

23 JANET WARD: Yes.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Excuse me on second,
25 um, the attorney for the bank, I don't know if we

1 got your name.

2 JANET WARD: My name is Janet Ward.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Janet Ward and you
4 represent the bank?

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5 JANET WARD: Yes.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: What is the name of the
7 bank?

8 JANET WARD: Rushmore.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, so, how far away
10 do you think you are from getting the judgment on
11 this property?

12 JANET WARD: I would say, roughly, about
13 six months.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Six months, okay, maybe
15 you can talk to Ms. Havasy in the back because
16 maybe you can accelerate the process of finally
17 getting a judgment and having a potential buyer
18 for this property.

19 It is in your client's interest and perhaps
20 the community.

21 CAY FATIMA: And, my advice to Dr. Havasy
22 and we talked about this particular issue is that,
23 um, may I ask what the balance is due on the
24 property?

25 JANET WARD: I don't have it.

1 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
2 After, the following ensued.)

3 CAY FATIMA: It would be in the summons and
4 complaint. Page | 22

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: You two go in
6 the back.

7 CAY FATIMA: I appreciate that.

8 On the record, I want to make sure that the
9 Council gets, um, this article.

10 They can go to the Long Island Herald,
11 Google this because this would very explanatory,
12 um, I don't know what the Board wants to do with
13 demolishing it.

14 But, once they demolish it, because it
15 becomes a vacant lot that also brings down - - you
16 have to find someone to build a house, you know,
17 from scratch.

18 So, I know Dr. Havasy - -

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Tell your client to
20 rush more.

21 CAY FATIMA: Absolutely.

22 JANET WARD: Again, it goes through the
23 Court system.

24 CAY FATIMA: This Council person asked you
25 - -

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1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Excuse me, excuse me,
2 Ms. Fatima, your time has expired, now.

3 Ms. Ward you filled out a separate slip. I
4 don't know, you were called to ask Ms. Fatima's Page | 23
5 questions.

6 Is there something that you want to say?

7 CAY FATIMA: Can I use your time?

8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: You will have
9 more time if you go in the back with the two of
10 them.

11 CAY FATIMA: The question is actually posed
12 to this Councilman who said that you had nine
13 years to resolve the issue.

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Ms. Fatima,
15 you know I know you very well, will you, please,
16 go in the back with those two people so you can
17 discuss this to your satisfaction.

18 CAY FATIMA: If the Council person says
19 something, do I rebuttal?

20 I ask the Councilman - -

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: You are out of
22 time.

23 CAY FATIMA: He took up my time. He took
24 up my time.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: No, our Clerk stops the

1 time when we are speaking and runs the time when
2 you are speaking.

3 CAY FATIMA: So, we are going to make sure
4 we don't demolish until some issues are resolved? ^{Page | 24}

5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: We don't know
6 that yet.

7 We didn't get to that, okay, first of all,
8 the three of you go in the back, please.

9 CAY FATIMA: Just for the record, I would
10 not like the building to be demolished as of yet,
11 that is my position.

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: That is in the
13 record.

14 CAY FATIMA: Because it is much easier for
15 us to restore the building than to demolish.

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: This is what we
17 are going to do - -

18 CAY FATIMA: And, I guess we will have to
19 get a temporary restraining Order from the Town
20 against the demolition and I am sure the bank will
21 do the same.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Fatima, Senior
23 Councilwoman would like to address that.

24 CAY FATIMA: I am sorry, what did she say.

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Do you think

1 it would be okay to give them thirty days to try
2 to get this resolved?

3 COMMISSIONER: Absolutely.

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Okay, I
5 recommend that you give them thirty days. A
6 second?

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

8 (Whereupon, "I want to speak on this
9 issue," was heard calling out of the audience.
10 After, the following ensued.)

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: This is not
12 for you, sir. This is not for you, sir. It is
13 not finished, yet, so, let them have their time
14 and when they come back you can speak. Thank you.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: All in favor?

17 (Whereupon, "I want to speak on this issue.
18 No, no, I want to speak on this issue," was heard
19 calling out from the audience. After, the
20 following ensued.)

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: It is a closed
22 issue now.

23 (Whereupon, "I want to speak on this
24 issue," was heard calling out from the audience.
25 After, the following ensued.)

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Procacci?

2 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. 1165
3 Barnes Street, Franklin Square.

4 Um, what didn't get mentioned, here, I
5 believe it is 2016, I didn't come prepared to
6 speak on this issue but we did pass, um, a vacant
7 building law.

8 We did pass a zombie home law and we were
9 supposed to form a registry.

10 So, allegedly it hasn't been - - I believe
11 it hasn't been implemented based on other people
12 that have had these issue because it never really
13 went to that registry.

14 I don't know if the Building Department is
15 actually keeping those records but there was a
16 process by which if people reported zombie homes
17 and what not, that, um, the lienholder, the bank,
18 finance company would be required to cut the grass
19 and do exterior repairs.

20 I did question the law as far as the
21 constitutionality because some of the things in
22 that law, I don't think that they are allowed to
23 do per the Constitution but this Board did pass
24 this unanimously as it is on video in 2016 prior
25 to archiving, so, the thing, the question that

1 needs to be asked by everybody here is I have
2 heard someone saying that the Town did come to
3 this property.

4 So, if they did come to this property, why ^{Page | 27}
5 wasn't it put on that list?

6 And, why didn't the Town follow-up?

7 Why didn't the Building Department follow-
8 up?

9 Why does it come to this matter?

10 The idea was the allegations were that
11 finance companies were negligent and banks were
12 negligent and all this other stuff that came up in
13 the previous administration, if you pass this law
14 and we all thought this law was good.

15 And, it made the newspapers and everything,
16 why wasn't the Town - -

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Felix - -

18 FELIX PROCACCI: - - why wasn't the Town
19 active in dealing with this property?

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Felix, Felix, we
21 were, that is why we are here, today.

22 FELIX PROCACCI: How could the grass get to
23 five feet if that was the case?

24 The law said - -

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You want

1 an answer to your question?

2 FELIX PROCACCI: I don't want an answer
3 from you.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Then don't ask any Page | 28
5 questions.

6 FELIX PROCACCI: These are rhetorical
7 questions and these are things for you to look
8 into, okay.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: These are rhetorical
10 questions?

11 FELIX PROCACCI: You want me to say that
12 beforehand?

13 Why, if the Town knew about that this was a
14 zombie home, why wasn't it on the registry?

15 Why wasn't the Building Department, whoever
16 is in charge of cutting the grass or maintaining
17 the exterior part of the property, during that
18 process, because that is what that law says?

19 And, the idea was the cost of cutting that
20 grass was going to be put as a lien on that
21 property when it was eventually sold.

22 Thank you very much.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, are we
24 maintain the Vacant Home Registry and notifying,
25 um, lenders that they have to cut the

1 grass?

2 You indicated, yes, we are?

3 COMMISSIONER: Yes, we are.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any other ^{Page | 29}
5 slips on this matter.

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Is there
7 anyone that would like to address this issue, if
8 not, may I have vote. I make the Motion that we
9 give the bank thirty days in order to be able to
10 try to come to some conclusion.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

14 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

20 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

22 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

24 Goosby?

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

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1 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

3 Madam Clerk, please, call our next Public
4 Hearing.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:
6 "Regulations and Restrictions" to limit parking in
7 Seaford (To amend Chapter 202 of the Code of the
8 Town of Hempstead)

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
10 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone that would
11 like to be heard?

12 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
13 the following ensued.)

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I
15 have a Motion.

16 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Supervisor, I
17 move that the Hearing be closed and the Item be
18 adopted.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

22 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 2/26/19

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COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney? Page | 31

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

Madam Clerk, please call our next Public
Hearing.

CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:
"Parking or Standing Prohibitions" in Oceanside,
Seaford (To amend Section 202-1 of the Code of the
Town of Hempstead)

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
on this Public Hearing, is there anyone that would
like to be heard?

(Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
the following ensued.)

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I
have a Motion.

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move that the
Public Hearing be closed and the local

1 Law be adopted.

2 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Second.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

4 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

8 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

10 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

12 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

14 Goosby?

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

18 Madam Clerk, please, call our next Public

19 Hearing.

20 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:

21 "Arterial Stops" in Baldwin Harbor, Oceanside, (To

22 amend Section 197-5 of the Code of the Town of

23 Hempstead)

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips

25 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone

1 that would like to be heard?

2 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
3 the following ensued.)

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I Page | 33
5 have a Motion.

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move that the
7 Public Hearing be closed and the local law
8 adopted.

9 SENIOR COUNCIWOMAN GOOSBY: Second the
10 Motion.

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

12 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

16 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

18 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

22 Goosby?

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

1 Madam Clerk, please, call our next Public
2 Hearing.

3 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law to be
4 entitled "Code of Ethics" (To repeal Chapter 38 of
5 the Code of the Town of Hempstead & other Town
6 Board Resolutions relating to ethics & enact a new
7 Chapter 38 of the Code of the Town of Hempstead.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a few slips on
9 this Public Hearing, the first one being Gavi
10 Hoffman.

11 GAVI HOFFMAN: Good Morning, Supervisor,
12 Town Board Members.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Morning.

14 GAVI HOFFMAN: I just wanted to make a few
15 comments on this item, I think it is great that we
16 are looking to expand the Ethics Board.

17 I think it is great any time you look at
18 Ethics.

19 It is critical, um, everywhere across
20 America and especially here in Nassau.

21 What I want to make sure it is important to
22 make sure it has teeth at the end of the day if
23 there is a law that requires ethics compliance and
24 it either takes years to get to the system while
25 whoever is, um, under investigation is able

1 to serve in the position or continue as is, um,
2 that doesn't have teeth, it allows people to drag
3 their feet through the process.

4 Um, additionally, it should allow people to
5 be preferred to the Ethics Board through many
6 channels, not too many, to make it abusive, but to
7 allow for multiple channels, otherwise, people
8 might come up for each other that is how it works,
9 their friends, their colleagues.

10 We should make it that it should be with a
11 lot of private companies.

12 With an Ethics Hotline, you are able to
13 report something that you see that is not
14 appropriate and be able to move forward from
15 there.

16 Maybe it doesn't move forward, maybe it is
17 baseless, maybe people are abusing the system.

18 I rarely heard of an instance in private
19 institutions where people abuse the system.

20 But, it is worth putting it out there for
21 people to report issues that they see that not
22 everyone is aware of.

23 Sometimes you see an ethics violation in
24 private, you should allow it to be an Ethics Law
25 that actually reaches out and makes an impact

1 on our system.

2 You know, adding people is great, but, it
3 has to make sure it has teeth.

4 Um, finally, I would say there should be ^{Page | 36}
5 some kind of, um, impact on the Ethics Committee,
6 itself, meaning, while we have an Ethics
7 Committee, it is great to have them, there should
8 be something to be said for that qualifications,
9 should be clear.

10 We should have an Ethics Committee, that is
11 one that is committed to ethics, one that have
12 some qualifications to get on it, not just, well,
13 they are good people or we know them or they are
14 friends with other people.

15 No, we should have gone out of our way,
16 especially, when it is not a paid position, there
17 should be people of the highest caliber that can
18 be impartial, um, you know similar to, I forget
19 what Town it might be, Oyster Bay, where one of
20 their committees requires people from different
21 Parties, you know, something like that, maybe
22 people from different Parties and independence, as
23 well, except there isn't that kind of partisan
24 issue when it comes to the Ethics Board, you know,
25 Republicans Democrats, third parties, no parties,

1 letting everyone involved that is just my piece.

2 Thank you.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I like to

4 make a Motion to adjourn this Item, um, we worked Page | 37

5 in a bipartisan fashion to come up with an Ethics

6 Law, um, that we all felt very comfortable that

7 was addressing the issues and we understand, now,

8 that our ethics proposal was changed with twenty-

9 six amendments that you're proposing.

10 I think we need time to review each and

11 every one of those.

12 And, then, I suggest, then, that we form a

13 committee meeting together and see if we can get

14 together that we can all agree upon because this

15 shouldn't be a partisan issue, it should be non-

16 partisan.

17 And, we should work together to try and get

18 it done.

19 So, my motion is, let's adjourn this,

20 review the twenty-six revision that were proposed

21 by your office and see if we can come up with

22 something that we can all agree upon.

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I agree wholeheartedly,

25 Mr. Blakeman since we had two competing

1 ethics resolutions in the Fall.

2 We have been working with the Town's Ethics
3 Counsel, Mr. Leventhal to try to come to a joint
4 proposal that we van all be proud of. Page | 38

5 I am glad we moved forward in this fashion.

6 I look forward to working with the Members
7 of the Board.

8 I proposed, as Councilman Blakeman said, a
9 number of amendments, I didn't count them, but, I
10 will take his word for them that there are twenty-
11 six and Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby gave some
12 comments to my amendments.

13 She has commented.

14 And, I think this will be productive to
15 give us time to flush all of these thoughts and
16 come together on, hopefully, one joint resolution.

17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Question on
18 this; did you run all of these changes through the
19 person that you worked with, you and your attorney
20 worked with, you know, to make sure these are
21 correct?

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We worked extensively.

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am talking
24 since Friday, Friday, when you worked on this,
25 Friday?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 2/26/19

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have been working on
2 it since - -

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: The changes
4 that you made on Friday, have you run those
5 through Mr. Leventhal? Page | 39

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I believe, Mr.
7 Leventhal has been in discussion with my Counsel
8 and with my office since September, so, Mr.
9 Leventhal is fully aware of the things that we
10 want.

11 And, we circulated our proposed amendments
12 to the Town Board, so, we can discuss them and I
13 think that is exactly what this Motion is going to
14 allow us to do.

15 So, Madam Clerk, do you want to call the
16 roll?

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

18 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

24 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 2/26/19

1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

3 Goosby?

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

7 Madam Clerk, please, call the next Public
8 Hearing.

9 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law in
10 relation to "Regulation of Marijuana in Town of
11 Hempstead Parks and Park District Parks" (To
12 create a new Section 78-3.5 of Chapter 78 of the
13 Code of the Town of Hempstead.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a number of
15 slips on this Public Hearing.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, before
17 you call people up with respect to this, I have a
18 statement I would like to make about this, if you
19 would allow me.

20 I would like to take this opportunity to
21 clearly state my position on the recreation of the
22 marijuana moratorium.

23 I believe this is a good first step and I
24 join my colleagues with respect to this measure.

25 However, I am unequivocally against

1 Legalization of recreational marijuana in New York
2 State.

3 In the past, I have supported medical
4 marijuana administered under a Doctor's
5 supervision and I still support medical marijuana
6 but, I believe recreational marijuana is an
7 entirely different matter.

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8 I have spoken with health care
9 professionals and law enforcement experts.

10 The vast majority of those I have consulted
11 with have warned of the public health disaster if
12 recreational marijuana is legalized.

13 I urge our State officials to reject this
14 ill-advised plan and I support my colleagues on
15 what I believe is only a first step that we should
16 be taking to make sure that our young people are
17 not exposed to recreational marijuana.

18 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
19 heard. After, the following ensued.)

20 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I agree with
21 you, Councilman one hundred percent and I do not
22 want these places to come up in the Village of
23 Hempstead.

24 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
25 heard. After, the following ensued.)

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 2/26/19

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, I have a number
2 of slips from people that would like to be heard
3 on this matter.

4 The first is Felix Procacci.

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5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: The matter before us is
6 the signs in the Parks, this is 8.

7 The next item is 9 about the moratorium.

8 Right, now, anyone coming up to talk should
9 be talking about the signs in the Parks.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Can we hold them both
11 together since they are related.

12 I move we consolidated the two items for
13 the purposes of uniformity.

14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Second.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will you
16 call the vote on consolidating the items.

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

18 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

24 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 2/26/19

1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

3 Goosby?

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

7 Okay, first slip is from Felix Procacci.

8 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. 1165

9 Barnes Street, Franklin Square, New York.

10 I object to combining two in one because
11 they are two different things and it just gives
12 less commentary to the people.

13 Um, currently, marijuana is illegal.

14 I discussed this many times, here and I
15 took Councilman Dunne's recommendation and despite
16 the fact I didn't want to do it, I called the
17 police the last time the kids were smoking
18 marijuana.

19 And, we called 911.

20 They actually called me on the South side
21 of the Park. They came fifteen minutes later and
22 they came in with their cruiser on the North side
23 of the Park and they didn't even know enough to
24 turn right, head South when they went in.

25 They went right by me.

1 I had to run and tell them where they were.

2 By that time, the kids had left the Park
3 and all the times that I called or people on my
4 Track Club, the parents on the Track Club, they Page | 44
5 called the police and they just escorted them out
6 of the Park and that is an illegal substance.

7 It was illegal, regardless of whether the
8 proper signage was there or not.

9 Now, I would be outraged and my kids
10 probably wouldn't be able to use the car forever
11 if I caught them using illegal drugs or illegal
12 marijuana.

13 The thing is that the signage and all these
14 things, it didn't make a difference when it was
15 illegal, now, if we possibly make marijuana legal,
16 the police, I don't believe, despite what
17 Councilman Dunne said with the long dissertation
18 that he gave about the integrity of the new Police
19 Commissioner and this and that.

20 I don't believe they have a handle on this
21 issue.

22 I don't believe this makes this work with a
23 Town Board ban issue.

24 It is a community issue; all different
25 aspects of community, social services, the

1 Police, the Court system, everybody has to be on
2 the same page.

3 I don't see - - I haven't seen any articles
4 or any indication that is the case when you have ^{Page | 45}
5 agencies all going in different directions, all
6 the good intensions are useless and you could put
7 this down.

8 And, I agree with it in principle and I
9 agree with them both in principle but I just see
10 it as useless, especially, the second part with
11 the moratorium, all that is going to do is create
12 a black market.

13 I live three miles from the City line, the
14 kids can ride their bicycles, the older kids that
15 are there and make a profit, buy the marijuana.

16 And, I just went on a website, today,
17 before I came to the meeting in Colorado and I
18 added my zip code, New York and everything and all
19 I had to do was press, "pay," and I could have
20 marijuana that is currently illegal - -

21 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
22 After, the following ensued.)

23 FELIX PROCACCI: - - Heading towards my
24 house.

25 So, like I said, you have to be a

1 Comprehensive effort and this is just one piece.

2 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I want to respond to
3 that real quick, if I may.

4 If your coaching 5:00 o'clock every Tuesday ^{Page | 46}
5 and Thursday and you know those kids come 5:15 and
6 start smoking, let the cops know 5:15 those guys
7 are always there.

8 It gives them a chance, if you call them at
9 5:15, they are not going to get there until 5:30.

10 These kids are going to be gone, so, if you
11 know that they are going to be there when you are
12 coaching Tuesday and Thursday at 5:00 o'clock,
13 5:15, those kids re going to be there, give them a
14 heads up so they can have the cars there already.

15 If you call them by the time they get
16 there, they will be gone but, you know what, their
17 excuse is going to be, I didn't know, but the
18 signage is going to be up.

19 So, now, they can't say, well I didn't
20 know.

21 So, that is why we need to educate those
22 that think that marijuana is okay, that illegal
23 smoking, vaping, you know what, it will help
24 educate people.

25 That is what we are trying to do.

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Thank you for your comments.

FELIX PROCACCI: The kids leave when the police enter the Park and they are not on a schedule; kids come all different times and different days of the week.

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Procacci.

Rori Gordon?

RORI GORDON: Good Morning, Rori Gordon, Hauppauge, New York.

You have the ability, as soon as it becomes law to put marijuana dealers out of business.

If you decide not to pass the law as a Board, you are promoting illegal committal activities because people are a lot smarter than you may believe and will obtain marijuana regardless.

I equate the situation to prohibition, as soon as alcohol was released, all the moonshiners for the most part, went out of business.

Can the Town of Hempstead afford to give up the tax revenue?

How much more can the Town charge for building permit fees, Park entrance fees, marriage licenses to make up for the shortfall

1 Money that is needed to run the Town?

2 All the politicians have drilled into the
3 public how the Town of Hempstead have forgiven on
4 permit fees due to Hurricane Sandy, seven, eight ^{Page | 48}
5 million dollars, I think, was the last figured
6 plan which, ultimately, comes out of the
7 taxpayers' pocket, whether they had storm damage
8 or not.

9 If you lived in Levittown, you absorbed the
10 loss, even though you do not live near the water.

11 Don't the residents have the right to do -
12 - make up the taxable revenue as opposed to losing
13 the income to the Village permits, ultimately that
14 Village will lose the tax income bonanza just as
15 NIMBY's did not want gambling at Roosevelt
16 Raceway, they gave it away to Jake's 58 which is
17 in a small Village that hit the jackpot in taxable
18 revenue.

19 Would you rather have a license regulating
20 a tax business on your corner or a drug dealer has
21 gotten much smarter and realized I am selling
22 heroin laced joints to kids which starts them on
23 the road to ruination.

24 Every reasonable person considers this law
25 a no-brainer.

1 Kids will get the marijuana legally or
2 illegally just as the folks obtained alcohol
3 during Prohibition.

4 As I see it, politicians put their finger ^{Page | 49}
5 in the wind to see what is best for them except
6 Mr. Blakeman, you did express your opinion.

7 If people come out for the revenue stream,
8 then you will be all for it.

9 I have a question for Laura and Erin, we
10 know you have young children and I know your
11 children, Erin - - I am sorry, I have a question
12 for you and for Laura, we know you have young
13 children are Saints, um, hypothetically - -

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: My children are
15 Saints?

16 RORI GORDON: Yes.

17 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I am just
18 dealing with my son's teacher who emailed me. I
19 can tell you, he is not.

20 (Whereupon, laughter was heard. After, the
21 following ensued.)

22 RORI GORDON: Hypothetically, if they
23 wanted to experiment, unbeknownst to you, would
24 you prefer your children obtaining their marijuana
25 from a taxpaying State facility or a

1 Drug dealer on the corner where kids have no idea
2 what the joint might be laced with possibly
3 heroin?

4 What would be your choice?

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5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I would say probably
6 follow along the lines of Mr. Procacci, if my kids
7 were using marijuana, they would be in trouble.

8 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
9 heard. After, the following ensued.)

10 RORI GORDON: That doesn't answer the
11 question.

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Can I ask a follow-
13 up question; are you suggesting that if marijuana
14 is legal that there will be no one dealing
15 marijuana, is that what you are suggesting?

16 That is insane.

17 RORI GORDON: Well, someone who is 21 will
18 get it.

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I will tell you
20 from years of experience, if it is legal or not,
21 there will be people dealing drugs illegally.

22 It is just the nature of our World.

23 RORI GORDON: Okay, would you rather have
24 your kids - -

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: No,

1 I would rather not have any kids, no, I wouldn't -
2 -

3 (Whereupon, laughter and applause from the
4 audience was heard. After, the following ensued.) Page | 51

5 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: And, I don't think
6 that, you know, by not voting on this or voting on
7 it, that is going to somehow create people smoking
8 heroin-laced marijuana cigarettes.

9 I am not sure of the correlation.

10 RORI GORDON: My girlfriend's daughter
11 started smoking pot heroin-laced - -

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: And, I am sorry to
13 hear about that, that is not whether there is
14 marijuana distribution stores or not.

15 The way you obtain marijuana will really,
16 in essence, be the same if you want to buy it from
17 someone illegally on the street or buy it from
18 someone in a taxpaying store, that is going to be
19 on you.

20 RORI GORDON: It is not different than
21 Prohibition.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It is a lot
23 different.

24 I will tell you why. You cannot properly
25 measure or gage usage of marijuana.

1 You can gage use of alcohol, if you have a
2 glass of wine, you pretty much know your body
3 content and what you had to eat, the ramifications
4 if you have two glasses of wine, you pretty much ^{Page | 52}
5 know that.

6 When you are smoking marijuana, you don't
7 know the strength.

8 You don't know how many puffs. You don't
9 know how it is going to affect you.

10 And, the fact of the matter is it is a
11 complete public crisis right, now in Colorado and
12 when you speak to people in Colorado, they tell
13 you that any of the tax revenue that have been
14 gained as a result of this have gone right back to
15 addressing this public health crisis, where
16 accidents have increase, where work productivity
17 has gone down, where health issues are high, where
18 homelessness has been on the rise.

19 It is not the same as alcohol.

20 I am not putting a stamp of approval on
21 alcohol but, I am saying it is not the same thing.

22 And, the fact of the matter is that it is
23 the same reason I am not for LOTTO and the
24 Lottery.

25 I don't think the

1 Government should be engaged in these activities
2 to raise revenue.

3 I don't think it is a function of
4 government.

5 So, I am against Lotteries and LOTTO for
6 that reason, as well.

7 RORI GORDON: I appreciate your personal
8 opinion.

9 I think instituting a moratorium and
10 kicking the can down the road - -

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: May I say one
12 word?

13 RORI GORDON: You can say lots.

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Would you
15 allow your children go out and buy the marijuana?

16 Is that what you are saying, if you had
17 children and they purchased it?

18 RORI GORDON: I am sorry, repeat that. Do
19 I have children?

20 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: If you had
21 children, I don't know whether you do or not, you
22 may have, I don't know.

23 I don't think so.

24 If you had, though, do you think it would
25 be okay to go out and purchase

1 Marijuana?

2 RORI GORDON: I would much rather them go
3 to a dispensary that know it is not laced with
4 heroin, yes.

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5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: You may not
6 know that, they may not go there because they
7 don't want to be seen.

8 I think what we have come up with is a good
9 idea for, now.

10 We want to have a moratorium on it, that is
11 what we are suggesting and I certainly will agree
12 with that.

13 I think it is money that the government
14 wants, more money and they are finding a way to do
15 it.

16 I don't think it is proper.

17 RORI GORDON: Who is the Council person
18 from Malverne and West Hempstead?

19 It says, here, the residents support
20 recreational use of marijuana in New York.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It says what?

22 RORI GORDON: Long Island Herald, Malverne,
23 West Hempstead residents support recreational use
24 of marijuana in New York.

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Every one of them?

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I find that very
2 difficult to believe.

3 I am in Malverne and West Hempstead on a
4 regular basis, um, I really find that very Page | 55
5 difficult to believe.

6 RORI GORDON: She is going to pass up that
7 article. (Handing to Michele Hanson.)

8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Everything you
9 read in the newspaper is not really true.

10 RORI GORDON: You know I know that.

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Okay.

12 RORI GORDON: I thank you for your time.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Gordon
14 for your comments.

15 Just to respond to a couple of things that
16 you said, um, one is, you say politicians are
17 putting their finger to the wind.

18 We are a representative body, so, it is
19 important for us to listen to our constituents, to
20 listen to the public, to see how they feel about
21 these issues.

22 We are going to hear people on both sides.
23 This is a very hotly-contested, emotional-charged
24 issue.

25 So, as a representative body, it is

1 our duty to listen to our residents on this issue.

2 And, in terms of kicking the can down the
3 road, right, now, we are in a very gray area.

4 We don't know what is going to happen.

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5 The State looks like it is going to pass
6 this legislation.

7 But, it hasn't been passed, yet.

8 We don't know what that legislation is
9 going to say because it hasn't been finalized.

10 We don't know what municipality will have
11 jurisdiction to opt in or opt out.

12 It looks like it is probably going to, so,
13 as a Township for us to press pause and wait and
14 see how the legal landscape shapes out is the most
15 responsible thing we can do right, now.

16 So, we know what the landscape is in order
17 to take any action that we decide ultimately with
18 public input is the appropriate action to take.

19 So, that is why we think collectively we
20 came together as a Board and we decided that this
21 is the best way that we can wait and not waste
22 taxpayer dollars because right, now, we don't know
23 if we will have the option to opt in and/or opt
24 out.

25 If we opt in and we think there is

1 some zoning regulations that come into play, we
2 will have to do a study that will cost money, that
3 will cost taxpayer dollars.

4 If the County opts out, then, it is a none ^{Page | 57}
5 issue and we don't have to spend that money.

6 So, this is why we, as a Board, came
7 together and selectively met and decided that a
8 moratorium is a best way for us to proceed right,
9 now.

10 So, we can see what the legal landscape is
11 as it shapes out, as legislation unfolds.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: And, for the record,
13 did you read this article, Rori?

14 RORI GORDON: Yes.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It is one resident
16 from Malverne and one resident from West
17 Hempstead.

18 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from the
19 audience. After, the following ensued.)

20 RORI GORDON: Okay.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is not West
22 Hempstead and Malverne, that is one resident from
23 West Hempstead and one resident from Malverne and
24 if you read this article, you would find that the
25 Denver Police Chief said, DUI's since legalization

1 of recreational marijuana that has increased 33
2 percent.

3 If that is not a public safety crisis, I
4 don't know what is.

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5 RORI GORDON: And on the flipside, there
6 are articles all over the Internet where Denver is
7 prospering, so, you believe what you want to
8 believe.

9 I guess that is what it boils down to.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Gordon.

11 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: If I could add
12 a few comments, I definitely agree with what
13 Supervisor Gillen said and that is why I joined
14 her in calling for the moratorium and I think the
15 Board is aligned on this issue.

16 I think this is an incredibly complicated
17 issue.

18 It is a new issue that is facing the
19 Country right, now and I think to push that pause
20 button and have a moratorium is really the prudent
21 thing.

22 I think doing the Press Conference, I said,
23 I have been surprised by the, um, comments and
24 passions of both sides and people don't fit easily
25 into boxes, in this dialogue, actually, some of

1 my most Libertarian friends strong support, um,
2 the legalization of the recreational use of pot.

3 Um, and, yet, some of my most Liberal
4 friends are opposed to it.

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5 So, I think it is a complicated issue.

6 It is one, I believe that I am against but
7 I do think we need to have a dated-driven
8 conversation.

9 And, for that reason, yesterday, I met with
10 a former official in Obama White House and he also
11 served President Bush, um, and some Members of the
12 Town Board also joined me in that conversation.

13 So, we need to have a dated-driven
14 conversation to be respectful to people on both
15 sides of this issue.

16 It is potentially a scary issue for all of
17 us.

18 And, I think we just need to better
19 understand it.

20 This is not a bunch of politicians kicking
21 the can down the road.

22 In this case, this is a bipartisan effort
23 to fully understand this important issue, that's
24 all.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, there is - -

1 the County is having a community input meeting and
2 they will be hosting it right here in Town Hall
3 next week on March 5th, I believe it is 7:00 p.m.,
4 um, 7:00 p.m. here at T own Hall where you can
5 also speak to your County Legislator,
6 representatives who, in fact, are the people that
7 have the authority to decide whether or not we, as
8 a County, will opt in or opt out.

9 Ms. Gordon, your time is up.

10 The next speaker is Mr. - -

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I want to say
12 one thing, I want everybody to know we have not
13 had meeting together.

14 When we vote on this, this would be the
15 first time we actually voted on it.

16 We have to have open meetings, you know.

17 We have not had a closed meeting on this.

18 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I misspoke.

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: No, no, I just
20 want to make sure.

21 Someone will say later on, that we voted,
22 we were together and we met.

23 We did not.

24 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: No secret
25 meetings.

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1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: No secret
2 meetings.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: There were no secret
4 meetings.

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5 We met with people from, um, the Counsel to
6 the Majority, Counsel from the Town Attorney's
7 Office, um and Counsel from my office all got
8 together and met, that is when we first started
9 discussing this with full participation and what
10 was involved.

11 Dave Hanson?

12 DAVID HANSON: Good Morning, David Hanson.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry, can you
14 speak into that microphone and state your name and
15 address for the record.

16 DAVID HANSON: Sure, good morning,
17 everyone, Dave Hanson. P.O. Box 7645 in Garden
18 City, New York.

19 I really think that, um, we are wasting our
20 time discussing this issue.

21 And, I really think this issue is something
22 for the State and the Federal Government because,
23 basically, I really think that the State
24 supercedes the Town, the County, the Villages, the
25 whole entity falls on New York State.

1 This is something for Cuomo to deal with.

2 And, putting signs in the Parks is a waste
3 of taxpayer money, at this time when we are facing
4 so much foreclosures, here in Nassau County
5 because of the taxes.

6 So, I really think that you guys are
7 wasting your time, here and you are using your
8 privilege and overstepping your boundary as far as
9 the Constitution of the United States.

10 So, I really think that we should allow
11 Cuomo and his team in Albany to do their job
12 because the State supercedes every agency
13 including the Port Authority.

14 I worked for twenty-three years, so, we
15 should put this on hold and wait until for Albany
16 and once Albany passes that, it is the law on
17 every entity that falls in the United States.

18 All them to do it.

19 They will not do it any time soon.

20 So, I think this is for Albany, not for the
21 Town.

22 It is a waste for taxpayers' money when you
23 have people making up signs, overtime, to put
24 these signs up in all of these Parks, I think we
25 have better things to do to run this Town.

1 And, I really think that every Member here,
2 I told you guys the last time about when I worked
3 for the Port Authority, they have drug-sniffing
4 dogs that are well-trained to do this job. Page | 63

5 And, I really think that you guys are
6 wasting your time.

7 This is something for the State to decide
8 and the Federal Government, not the Town, at this
9 time.

10 So, I suggest you guys put this on hold and
11 leave it for the State to do and leave it for the
12 State to hack because we have other things like
13 this lady saying the home across her street is
14 abandoned for so many years.

15 We must hold the bank accountable.

16 We must hold, um, the people who own these
17 homes, it is the bank because they were involved
18 in this problem way back when they gave people
19 homes when they could not afford them.

20 And, the law says, if you willfully knowing
21 that they could not afford a home, you need to go
22 to the State Attorney General's office.

23 There is money there to help them for free.

24 A lot of people don't know that.

25 The Town is really playing games with

1 people, that is why I love Kentucky.

2 I love that State, that is why I spend a
3 lot of time there, now, because my home, my home
4 is twelve hundred thousand.

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5 My home, here is sixteen thousand and
6 Goosby is talking, that is why I run - -

7 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
8 After, the following ensued.)

9 DAVID HANSON: I think it is something for
10 the State and the Federal Government, not the
11 Town.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Hanson.

13 Susan Gottehrer?

14 I am sorry if I said it wrong.

15 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: Hi, Good Morning.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Morning.

17 Could you just state your name and address
18 for the record, please.

19 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: Yeah, Susan Gottehrer,
20 New York Civil Liberties Union. 33 Farm Street,
21 Hempstead.

22 Um, so, I think there is some things that
23 are also not being said, that are really important
24 to this.

25 Um, the New York Civil Liberties Union

1 strongly recommends that localities consider the
2 role that they can play to undue the harm of
3 criminalization and to ensure that the communities
4 who have lost the most to prohibition stand to Page | 65
5 gain the most with thoughtful legislation.

6 Am I also understand there is going to be
7 voting on this after this Hearing?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We will be voting on
9 the moratorium and the signage and banning any
10 kind of smoking.

11 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: And, I generally asked
12 and I ask this of Town Governments, when you have
13 a Hearing and then you vote immediately after the
14 Hearing, it really can make a sense of just a
15 perfunctory Hearing, um, to the residents.

16 So, I would ask for you to think about this
17 for a little while longer before, um, you take the
18 vote.

19 Um, the data analysis has found out that
20 four our of five of those arrested for marijuana
21 possession are Black and Hispanic, Latino despite
22 similar abuse across Race and ethnic backgrounds.

23 And, I think this is a real issue, here.

24 In Nassau and Suffolk Counties nearly
25 twenty thousand people were arrested for

1 Possession from 2010 to 2017, two out of every
2 three arrests being Black and Latino.

3 These are the highest rates of low-level
4 law enforcement in the State outside of New York ^{Page | 66}
5 City.

6 Over the course of decades, hundred and
7 thousands of people across the State have suffered
8 the inhumanities and indignities of incarceration
9 based on bias policing.

10 The ramifications have been loss of
11 housing, unemployment, loss of child custodies, in
12 some cases and loss of livelihood - -

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, ma'am, with all
14 due respect, that is not the matter that is before
15 us.

16 I think that we could have a discussion on
17 criminalization.

18 And, I certainly would love to have that
19 discussion.

20 Certainly, you know, on a Federal level, if
21 you watch President Trump and the bipartisan group
22 in Congress came up with new laws that have less
23 penalties and criminalized certain acts.

24 Basically, what we are talking about, here
25 is not putting people in jail.

1 It is not about bias.

2 This is something that affects all people
3 and recreational marijuana does not know religion,
4 does not know race, does not know ethnicity, does ^{Page | 67}
5 not know gender, does not know sexual preference,
6 that is something that crosses all barriers, all
7 lines, income, social, racial, completely
8 everybody.

9 And, it is a public health crisis and it is
10 a problem in our community.

11 And, if you want to talk about
12 decriminalizing certain acts, I think that is a
13 fair comment and we should have that and if there
14 is a disproportionate enforcement, we should
15 discuss that, as well, so that it is fair and it
16 is reasonable.

17 But, that is not what is before us right,
18 now.

19
20 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: I believe what is before
21 you is the smoking in the Parks and there will be
22 criminal offenses for smoking in the Parks, is
23 that correct?

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes.

25 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: So, then, that does

1 matter, here.

2 So, what we are asking is for that one
3 provision that you are considering, we would ask
4 you to consider civil penalties, lower penalties, ^{Page | 68}
5 um, desk ticket appearances, um, things like that
6 as far as criminalization goes, because as I said,
7 the enforcement of this is very different along
8 racial lines.

9 And, I think we don't want to become, um,
10 complicit.

11 And, I also recommend, um, anti-bias
12 training for police.

13 So, that those number could get a little
14 better.

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I know we are not
16 discussing this right, now, but I have to jump in,
17 especially as someone who is former law
18 enforcement to say arresting people for marijuana
19 is bias is - -

20 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: No, I am supplying you
21 with data.

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay and I am
23 explaining to you that either marijuana is
24 marijuana or it is not marijuana.

25 There is no middle road.

1 So, if someone is arrested for marijuana it
2 is because they deserve to be.

3 If they are written a ticket for marijuana
4 it is because they deserve it. Page | 69

5 It is not bias.

6 It is not bias to any Race, it is not.

7 Maybe the arrest numbers are different.

8 Do you have numbers in there how many
9 people are arrested for marijuana that leads to
10 other crimes?

11 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: I am sorry, could you
12 back up a second, though, maybe arrest numbers are
13 different.

14 That is the important, that is important
15 and all I ask is that this Board take a look at -
16 -

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: No, I am
18 disagreeing with you to claim that it is bias is
19 not really factual, that police are enforcing
20 marijuana in a bias manner.

21 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: Well, I mean - -

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: That is really not
23 that fair.

24 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: Well, I can get you
25 information.

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1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Great thank you.

2 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: You're welcome.

3 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I lived it.

4 I don't need the information, but, thank Page | 70
5 you.

6 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: That is very racial of
7 you, um, okay - -

8 (Whereupon, laughter was heard. After, the
9 following ensued.)

10 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: So, as far as the
11 criminal aspect, we would ask people with those
12 penalties - -

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Excuse me, if I may - -

14 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: Yes.

15 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Um, the penalties are
16 the same as if you are smoking in the Park, the
17 same as if you are vaping in the Park, if you are
18 using marijuana in the Park, the same enforcement,
19 so, it is not like it is much worse.

20 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: I understand that and I
21 am glad that you raise that because we would
22 recommend - -

23 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
24 After, the following ensued.)

25 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: - - Low level offences

1 in general to come down to civil offenses.

2 There is no reason to feed the
3 incarceration.

4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: It is not that they are ^{Page | 71}
5 going to prison.

6 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: I understand there is a
7 way that people can end up in jail.

8 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Let me tell you
9 something, I belong to a lot of different
10 coalitions; opioids and vaping and all of that,
11 the kids are scared to death of this stuff.

12 They think it is okay and they are being
13 bullied into doing it.

14 They think, you know if they see that it is
15 an educational thing that we are doing, here, also
16 letting the kids know that stuff is dangerous, it
17 is not good.

18 It is not good and I don't are what you
19 say, so, what happens is they see it, they say,
20 you see, you see, vaping and vaping is better than
21 cigarettes.

22 No, it is not.

23 You know marijuana is better than alcohol;
24 no, it is not.

25 You know, COPD and emphysema comes

1 from marijuana but nobody tells you that.

2 So, we are just educating the people it is
3 bad, don't do it.

4 Don't do it in our Parks when our kids are ^{Page | 72}
5 watching a concert with us in the Park and the guy
6 next to you is smoking pot.

7 You want that for your kids?

8 I know I don't want it for my
9 grandchildren.

10 So, you know, we are doing something about
11 it.

12 There should be a law and we are doing it.

13 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: I agree there should be a
14 law.

15 We are asking you to take a look at what
16 the consequences of those laws are and how those
17 laws are enforced, that is it.

18 I see my time is up.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Just for the record,
20 I checked with Council just to confirm a first
21 offense is not criminal in nature.

22 It is a two hundred and fifty dollar fine.

23 It is a violation and it is a desk
24 appearance and there is no arrest.

25 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: I would still

1 implore you to look at the enforcement numbers.

2 There is a bias component to it that is
3 very, very important.

4 And, I am just asking that under the guise^{Page | 73}
5 of a Public Hearing that deliberations that needs
6 to happen, um, I love what you said about there is
7 a lot of different people coming at this from a
8 lot of different ways.

9 I haven't heard anything about the criminal
10 justice system, yet in these arguments.

11 And, I am presenting them to you, um, so, I
12 really would ask - -

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: We will keep an eye on
14 it and will watch and see if that is a problem,
15 then we will try to catch it.

16 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: It is already a problem
17 across the Country.

18 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: It hasn't happened here,
19 yet.

20 If it does happen, we will take care of it.

21 We will keep an eye on it.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, ma'am.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I will be happy to
24 read the information that you can pass off to my
25 office.

1 SUSAN GOTTEHRER: Yes.

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Thanks.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mark Wenzel?

4 MARK WENZEL: Good Morning, Town Supervisor ^{Page | 74}
5 and Town Board.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Morning.

7 MARK WENZEL: Mark Wenzel. I am Assistant
8 Director of Yes Community Counseling Center at 152
9 Center Lane in Levittown.

10 I want to thank the Board for their
11 comments, for their concerns, for obviously your
12 investment of time and energy and looking into
13 this matter.

14 And, I totally want to come out and support
15 the moratorium at this point.

16 I very much respect Dennis Dunne for all
17 his work with the coalition and certainly, um,
18 Councilman Blakeman for your statement on the
19 issue.

20 Personally, I believe legalization is a
21 nightmare, as far as I am concerned and the whole
22 issue as a parent, as an adult, I think that our
23 job in the World is to make the World a better
24 place for the next generation and I think this is
25 totally going in the wrong direction.

1 Um, as an agency that does prevention and
2 treatment, we are, if you look at the physical,
3 you know, possibilities or windfall, if you want
4 to call it that, that might come out of this, it ^{Page | 75}
5 totally would be undone by all of the drain on the
6 resources, law enforcement, judicial, health care
7 insurance, every which one of them is going to
8 suffer, you know, as evidenced by what is
9 happening in some of the States that have realized
10 particularly in Colorado.

11 To put a moratorium on this and ask for
12 more time to better understand, not only the
13 legislation and the laws that are coming out of
14 the State, whatever the State determines to do,
15 but, then, to determine how we are going to move
16 forward with that and implement that locally.

17 I think it is the right way to go at this
18 point, as much as I love a fight against the
19 legalization, I think that is where we have to be
20 at this point, here, um, without having some kind
21 of testing.

22 As you said earlier, alcohol, we can
23 evaluate a person's level of, um, disability, um,
24 we have testing for that.

25 We don't have that with marijuana.

1 We don't have that with pot.

2 Until we have some kind of formal test to
3 be able to do that, how are you then going to tell
4 employers, okay, as a business, how do you
5 determine what you are going to do in terms of
6 testing your staff?

7 When was the last time that they used?

8 Are they able to do their job?

9 Are you going to get into a car with a
10 driver with Uber?

11 Are you going to get into an airplane with
12 a pilot?

13 You know it was at least twenty-four hours,
14 it was forty-eight hours, goes much longer with
15 pot than it does in alcohol.

16 It feels like we are going to try and
17 figure a way to make money off of the young
18 people, off of the adults who are having addiction
19 problems, having problems with mental health and
20 you are really struggling and in some way that is
21 going to payback, you know, this community.

22 If you look at Colorado, they are still
23 struggling with budget issues, especially, in
24 light of all the stuff that is going on.

25 So, I certainly want to come out in

1 favor of the signage.

2 I don't want my kids going into a Park, my
3 grandkids going into a Park, so, I agree with both
4 issues - -

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5 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
6 After, the following ensued.)

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: And, I want to thank
8 you, sir for coming and later on in this meeting,
9 we are going to be voting on, um, whether to hire
10 Mr. Barry Rolanski from the Tempo Group as a
11 consultant to us, um and also to act as a referral
12 for people who have children that have issues with
13 any kind of drug or alcohol problem or suicide
14 prevention and also for Veterans.

15 So, um, we are fulfilling a campaign
16 promise to do that and we will move forward with
17 that, hopefully, today, so that we have someone
18 that can advise us just like you advise people in
19 your community about what needs to be done.

20 When someone calls you up, your agency, you
21 refer them to the right place.

22 You make sure that they get the information
23 that they need because we are not going to stop
24 this completely.

25 There are a lot of components.

1 There is also the treatment components, as
2 you know and the therapy and all of that, that is
3 the stuff, also, that has to be involved in the
4 mix. Page | 78

5 So, that we can have a healthier society
6 and our children can be healthier and our Veterans
7 who come home and traumatic and stressful
8 situations, can be reintegrated into the community
9 without relying on alcohol and drugs and things
10 like that.

11 Thank you and God Bless you for your work.

12 MARK WENZEL: Thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Sir - -

14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Ladies, first.

15 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Thank you for
16 coming in.

17 The previous woman from ACLU was speaking
18 and I was trying to organize my thoughts and I
19 don't think they are yet organized but, I do want
20 to comment on what she said and also what you said
21 and maybe bring us together and prove why we need
22 a moratorium.

23 Um, you mentioned that, um, we don't have
24 full understanding of the time and impairment that
25 people are under after they smoke pot.

1 And, I think we need to really understand
2 that and from a drug testing prospective from
3 folks that we have in the Town of Hempstead
4 workplace, um, CDL drivers, people that are in, Page | 79
5 um, important public safety jobs, whether it is,
6 um, pilots, truck drivers, whoever it maybe, I
7 think we really need to get a handle on what that
8 is and to really understand legitimate concerns of
9 the Minority community, who do feel impacted by
10 this issue over years of, um, address on this.

11 And, I do represent a large Minority
12 population and I have heard very legitimate
13 concerns and frankly I want to give voice to those
14 concerns and to understand those concerns.

15 So, the woman from the ACLU, I don't know
16 if she is still here.

17 You might be surprised, I was really
18 listening to what she was saying and we need to
19 understand that and really understand the impact
20 of legalizing pot on this community because if the
21 Minority communities are the truck drivers that
22 work for us, are the ones plowing the snow and if
23 we test them for pot and we have to terminate them
24 as a result, we need to really understand the
25 impact on this important community and not dismiss

1 it on either side.

2 So, I want to give voice to that community,
3 give voice to their concerns and really do a deep
4 dive into the data over the next year as we
5 explore this moratorium.

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6 Thank you so much.

7 MARK WENZEL: If I may, the issue of
8 decriminalization is different than the issue - -

9 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Exactly a huge
10 impact it has on the Minority community, we do
11 need to acknowledge that.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, sir.

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Just to add to your
14 argument, the New York State PTA is against
15 legalization of marijuana.

16 New York State Medical Society, of course,
17 is against it because of the impact on the medical
18 society of what is going on with marijuana.

19 They are against the legalization of
20 marijuana and New York State Police Organization,
21 who have to enforce all of these laws right now,
22 it is a nightmare for them.

23 Once it hits the streets, it is going to be
24 very, very difficult, so they are against the
25 legalization of marijuana.

1 We just want the kids to know that. You
2 don't see it in the media.

3 You don't see that in the newspapers.

4 You don't see it anywhere but all these Page | 81
5 organizations are against the legalization of
6 marijuana.

7 All you see is, oh, it is better than
8 alcohol.

9 No, no, no, we want to help the kids and
10 give them something to educate them a little bit
11 and let them look at it on their end.

12 They will decide, but, we are going to put
13 out stuff letting them know what is the downfall
14 of any use of any hallucinate or whatever it is to
15 help get you high.

16 You know, get high on life.

17 MARK WENZEL: Thank you.

18 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
19 heard. After, the following ensued.)

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, sir.

21 Ruthann McCormack?

22 RUTHANN McCORMACK: Ruthann McCormack. I
23 am the Project Coordinator for the Rockville
24 Centre Coalition for Youth.

1 We are a drug-free community. We are a
2 drug-free coalition.

3 Our main focus is prevention, education and
4 to, um, address the needs in our community and our ^{Page | 82}
5 surrounding community, especially, with our youth
6 that are vaping at an epidemically high amounts.

7 And, also vaping marijuana and, um, they
8 are also becoming dependent on marijuana and the
9 nicotine is putting them into addiction.

10 I just want to say that we support the
11 moratorium and the law.

12 And, I am going to address, now, the
13 revenue issues regarding, um, the legalization of
14 recreational marijuana.

15 As you know, according to the Governor, the
16 State is currently wrestling with closing a
17 mammoth budget deficit this year of 2.3 to 2.8
18 billion dollars more deficits to address in the
19 outer years.

20 With such enormous holes already facing the
21 State, the legalization of cannabis at this time
22 which promises tax revenues of three hundred
23 million Statewide makes even less sense.

24 We already know that the three hundred
25 million will be thwarted by the increase cost

1 of law enforcement, health, mental health
2 counseling, education and treatment programs
3 subtract the startup/ongoing annual thirty-plus
4 million costs for the Office of Cannabis
5 Management, as well as, the intangible costs of
6 the pain and anguish visited on communities of
7 every demographic that are already struggling with
8 opioid abuse and the promise of sharing those
9 revenues with sixty-two Counties, nine hundred and
10 thirty-two Towns, sixty-two Cities, ten Native
11 American reservations and over thirty-four hundred
12 local governments ring very hollow.

13 What is very clear, however, from the
14 dollar signs in everyone's eyes is at the same
15 time governmental costs will rise.

16 The cannabis industrial complex will be
17 laughing all the way to the bank.

18 So, I just want to say, um, for every
19 dollar that States receive in legal revenue, it
20 costs them over four dollar due to the affects of
21 the legalization has had an impact it has on
22 communities, on their health care on their law
23 enforcement.

24 We have been hit hard in Rockville Centre
25 with this.

1 In the past month, we have lost four young,
2 um, people struggling with addiction, mental
3 illness that used, um, drugs to cope with their
4 mental illness and it did not end well for them. Page | 84

5 Um, marijuana impairs learning, we all know
6 that.

7 I count the kids that are caught in school
8 with marijuana.

9 They know how bad it is but they get
10 hooked but they can't stop.

11 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
12 After, the following ensued.)

13 RUTHANN McCORMACK: Thank you for hopefully
14 passing the moratorium and the law.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I would just like to
16 say I don't know the circumstances of the young
17 man's death, but I understand that last month you
18 had an eighteen year old boy that committed
19 suicide, our condolences.

20 We are setting up this office so that there
21 is a place where Moms and Dad and kids can call
22 to get referred to the correct agency that they
23 need to get their families healthy, mentally,
24 physically and addiction-free.

25 RUTHANN McCormack: Thank you and I am

1 working with Catholic Health Systems, four
2 programs that are ongoing, addressing addiction.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am sure our Counsel
4 will be coordinating with you and Catholic Health ^{Page | 85}
5 Agencies to make sure that we are able to get the
6 information out on the services that you provide
7 to your community.

8 RUTHANN McCORMACK: Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Ruthann, I just
10 want to say a quick thank you for all that you do
11 in Rockville Centre and the surrounding
12 communities.

13 I know you and I have worked together on a
14 lot of events, whether it is Narcan training or
15 opioid forums for both young and old.

16 Um, you have visited me in communities that
17 are not very close to Rockville Centre and brought
18 people to experience what we are offering.

19 I want to say thank you for all you do for
20 Rockville Centre, for the Town of Hempstead.

21 It doesn't go unnoticed.

22 So, God Bless.

23 RUTHANN McCORMACK: Thank you, Councilman
24 and thank you for bringing your expertise in law
25 enforcement to, um, to your job for the Town

1 of Hempstead.

2 And, thank you, Laura, for everything that
3 you do and Erin Sweeney, we met your Dad when we
4 went to D.C. and he welcomed us with open arms and ^{Page | 86}
5 we had some great conversations about this issue
6 with him.

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Great.

8 Supervisor, I want to say something, I will
9 jump in after her.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I want to thank you for
11 all the good work that you do.

12 You know I am a member of the Rockville
13 Centre community and currently my daughter was at
14 the funeral for one of the young people that you
15 described.

16 And, I want to do what we can and make sure
17 that doesn't happen.

18 RUTHANN McCORMACK: And his Mom said to me
19 when I paid my respects, "just keep stopping it."

20 So, we will keep doing it.

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: If I could add,
22 first of all, thank you for, most importantly,
23 thank you for being, here, today.

24 You know I mentioned before I do have
25 serious social justice concerns about this.

1 I think they need to be addressed.

2 I think we need to separate those issues.

3 I think that your voice and people like you
4 is what is so important.

5 What is one hundred percent clear to me,
6 um, many people behind the legalization of pot are
7 the same types of people who have been behind big
8 tobacco and big alcohol.

9 There is no doubt about that in my mind.

10 So, we need to almost separate those two
11 issues.

12 I know financially we will never be able to
13 compete with big tobacco and big alcohol and, now,
14 pot.

15 But, people like you and the Moms out
16 there, whether it is Rockville Centre, Wantagh,
17 Seaford, wherever it is, your loud voice can
18 counteract the million of dollars that,
19 unfortunately, is being spent in Washington,
20 right, now is atrocious what is going on by
21 lobbyist organizations and companies like JUUL.

22 They are spending millions of dollars
23 hiring lobbyists and influencing politicians.

24 And, I urge everyone in this room to find
25 the money, look at the money and vote those people

1 out.

2 Thank you for being here.

3 RUTHANN McCORMACK: Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was ^{Page | 88}

5 heard. After, the following ensued.)

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Arlene Walker?

7 ARLENE WALKER: Good Afternoon, Supervisor,
8 Council Members.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Morning, state
10 your name and address for the record.

11 ARLENE WALKER: My name is Arlene Walker.

12 I live in West Hempstead.

13 I am a Member of Lakeville Council.

14 And, I just want to say that I do support
15 your memorandum.

16 I want to show you a short video of how
17 drugs affected me - -

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry, ma'am. You
19 can't show us videos, but you can submit anything
20 you like and tell us what is in the video.

21 ARLENE WALKER: Okay, just for the Council
22 Members to look at, can I do that?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: This is your time to
24 comment on the record.

25 If you like to submit a video, we would

1 be happy to take a look at it.

2 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Tell us.

3 ARLENE WALKER: I want you to know - -

4 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Can I make a
5 suggestion, instead of doing that, can you forward
6 it to us because I would like to see it.

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I would like to see it.

8 ARLENE WALKER: Drug dealers are getting
9 smarter, they are using block parties to sell
10 their drugs, marijuana, heroin, everything else
11 and I am a member of the Minority community and I
12 have been a member of the Minority community since
13 I lived in Brooklyn and I know what marijuana
14 does.

15 It is a step-up drug and if we allow this
16 to become legalized when your children, my
17 grandchildren and everybody in this room will be
18 affected, okay.

19 We don't want to go back just like the
20 young lady said, we want to enhance our children
21 for the future, not having, you know, like
22 zombies, okay.

23 So, if we can pass a moratorium that would
24 be the first step because it cost so much damage,
25 not only to my property, to the whole block.

1 And, I want to thank Senior Councilwoman
2 Goosby, at this time, she provided us with public
3 safety officers for this block party.

4 But, after they left, gunfire started.

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5 Somebody could have gotten shot, okay.

6 Somebody could have gotten injured.

7 And, I want to thank you, Senior
8 Councilwoman but we need to do something about it.

9 It is not getting better.

10 It is getting worse and, um, like the
11 previous, um - -

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Councilman D'Esposito.

13 ARLENE WALKER: He is in law enforcement,
14 he knows that marijuana is a step-up drug.

15 It is a step-up drug, so, if you let your
16 children experiment with it, now, then, they coat
17 it with something and, then, you have heroin
18 addicts.

19 Then, you will have cocaine addicts and you
20 will have people like myself probably get knocked
21 in the head.

22 You get robbed. Your house gets robbed.

23 Some needs to do something about this.

24 You need to keep this illegal drug off the
25 streets.

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I ask you to
2 come to my office so we can have a conversation on
3 this, especially, Council you do good work over
4 there.

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5 So you can see what you can do along with
6 my colleagues and work together and try to do
7 something for you.

8 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Ma'am, I have to
9 ask where did you live in Brownsville?

10 ARLENE WALKER: Right off Sutton Avenue and
11 Stone.

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Right by Blackton
13 East Houses?

14 ARLENE WALKER: Yes, I was brought up
15 there.

16 Pulled myself out of that atmosphere and,
17 now, I am living here.

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: God Bless.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Walker.

20 You can email that if you get a card, we
21 will share it.

22 Thank you.

23 Liz Boylan?

24 LIZ BOYLAN: Good Afternoon, um, I just
25 want to thank you for your vision and your

1 foresight to put forth this moratorium to put
2 forth this local law, I support it.

3 And, I look forward to seeing it passed.

4 Um, I just want to say one thing, I find it ^{Page | 92}
5 offensive when people insult politicians that they
6 put the finger up to see which way the wind is
7 blowing.

8 We have to step into your shoes.

9 You are here constantly.

10 Yes, there are issue we agree with and
11 issues we don't, but, I think it is offensive to
12 say that.

13 That being said, um, as a member of the
14 Rockville Centre Coalition for Youth, we are fresh
15 off a conference in Washington, D.C.

16 The coalition is Anti-drug Communities of
17 America.

18 For twenty-nine years they have been
19 meeting to address the drug epidemic, now, it is
20 legalization of marijuana.

21 They educated us and gave us information on
22 the tremendous issues of the debacle that this
23 legalization has provided to the States.

24 The revenue is not there.

25 That is a smoke screen.

1 Um, this is just by the time you are done
2 and Governor Cuomo, you can call them the net
3 affect is going to be less, eighty-three million
4 in 2021.

5 As far as social justice goes, we met and
6 heard Ms. Walker speak.

7 This is a predatory industry that makes
8 money on addictive behavior, not responsible
9 behavior.

10 We met with members of the Minority
11 community while in Washington, yes,
12 decriminalization is something that we are for,
13 that is not legalization.

14 The Bill that Cuomo has put forth has to
15 do with recreational sales of marijuana.

16 It is not medicinal, that is a done deal.

17 Recreational sales is not just recreational
18 sale.

19 It is advertising, distribution,
20 warehousing, transportation, cultivation.

21 Homegrowns; California is experiencing
22 explosions weekly because people decided that they
23 would grow their own pot.

24 Then they take the residual pieces, stuff
25 it into PVC pipes and make this heavy

1 TAC concentrate created easy isobutane which
2 causes explosions.

3 So, this miracle drug, all of a sudden of
4 marijuana to me is, um, something that unless it ^{Page | 94}
5 can bring people back from the dead, don't
6 legalize pot.

7 And, regarding the young people we have
8 lost, one of those Mother's embraced Dan McCormack
9 at the wake and she said, "you need to stop this
10 and stop the legalization."

11 If you hit me in the head with a two by
12 four, it would have been less pain.

13 The pain etched on the faces of parents
14 that have lost their children is enough for me to
15 say do not legalize another drug.

16 Thank you for your foresight and I think
17 that you are on the right track.

18 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
19 After, the following ensued.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Thank you for
21 coming in and for being so well spoken.

22 You made a brief mention about Governor
23 Cuomo and the fact he is permitting the
24 advertising and I am sure you have more detail on
25 it than I do.

1 What I understand Cuomo's proposal is
2 actually no limits on advertising, so, not only is
3 he allowing advertising, it is a free-for-all.

4 If I think about nicotine and alcohol,
5 there is actually and there probably should be
6 even further limits but there are limits on it.

7 But, s far as I know with pot, there are no
8 limits which is unprecedented.

9 LIZ BOYLAN: I just want to submit for the
10 record, I wrote some notes on here.

11 I don't know, the language, if it does not
12 include advertising, warehousing and distribution.

13 If I can submit this, um, and just in case,
14 just to clarify, Governor Cuomo's law, in the law,
15 which is here, two hundred pages, okay, um, it
16 gives municipalities the option to opt out of
17 legalizing marijuana with populations out of one
18 hundred thousand.

19 This is not a case of your time, if given
20 that option, it is in the law, I think people are
21 speaking about and looking at headlines, but they
22 need to see what is in the law and it is on the
23 Governor's website.

24 So, there are certain things, there is also
25 a huge cannabis industrial complex that they

1 are looking to locate somewhere in southern New
2 York.

3 We are southern New York and I know as a
4 resident of the Town of Hempstead and Nassau
5 County, I would not like to see this huge
6 industrial complex of cannabis, here, in Nassau
7 County.

8 This is what we are looking at.

9 Also, for the Parks, Point Lookout and
10 Malibu, it is like an oasis, here.

11 I don't want to smell pot on the beaches,
12 myself, my civil liberties are being violated
13 because I can no longer have clean air to breathe.

14 I cannot have drug-free highways or drug-
15 free communities.

16 Where are my civil liberties?

17 This is about commercialization.

18 This is about violation of our rights.

19 This is about schools and educators and
20 social workers, all these years who have been
21 saying drugs are bad.

22 Our Governor is, now, saying, okay, now
23 that the perception of risk is decreased, pregnant
24 women are smoking pot.

25 This is a bad risk.

1 And, I will say one thing on a personal
2 level, when I came back from Washington from this
3 conference, Ruthann and I witnessed flagged-draped
4 coffin of a soldier who had been killed and his ^{Page | 97}
5 band of brothers were there welcoming that coffin
6 off that plane.

7 As God is my witness, I am fighting this
8 and those soldiers and women over there, they are
9 not fighting for a Nation, they are fighting for a
10 Country that my Italian Father who earned a Purple
11 Heart in World War I, a Country that has
12 opportunity, a way to raise your family will
13 never, ever be a perfect place, but America is
14 great.

15 And, New York was the Empire State and no
16 longer will it be the Empire State if this is
17 legalized.

18 And, I am a Mother of a Marine.

19 Thank you for listening.

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Thank you. Can
21 I say something real quick and a lot of people
22 want to say you are incredibly eloquent the way
23 you spoke and thank you for being here, you
24 mentioned that the money isn't as much as everyone
25 thinks.

1 I don't care how much money it is. I don't
2 care if it was five billion dollars a year.

3 It will never justify, um, these actions
4 but we still do need to look at the methodology Page | 98
5 and we need to look at the data.

6 And, we need to address some of the
7 legitimate and social justice concerns regarding
8 the criminalization.

9 But regarding all of your points, I
10 couldn't agree more and thank you for being here
11 and thank you for going to Washington.

12 LIZ BOYLAN: Thank you very much.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let me just say this,
14 this is insane what is being proposed and every
15 point you have made is absolutely correct.

16 And, I want to compliment you and your
17 colleagues for coming here, today.

18 I want to encourage you that we are ready
19 to keep up the fight.

20 It is not a law, yet.

21 It is only going to become a law if we
22 laydown and let this be done for this generation
23 and to future generations.

24 And, we got to stand up to it.

25 And, we got to say, no.

1 And, we got to say it is insane and it has
2 got to stop.

3 Thank you.

4 God Bless you.

5 LIZ BOYLAN: If it helps if you saw the
6 movie, Dunker in the Darkest Hour, Churchill found
7 a way to save the World when all odds were against
8 him.

9 So, thank you.

10 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

12 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
13 heard. After, the following ensued.)

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Troy Smith?

15 TROY SMITH: Good Morning, thank you for
16 holding this Hearing.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Morning.

18 Could you just state your name and address
19 for the record.

20 TROY SMITH: My name is Troy Smith. I am
21 Deputy Director of Empire State NORMAL.

22 We are the State affiliates for the
23 National Organization for forming marijuana laws.

24 Our mission to serve as advocates for
25 consumers to make sure that they have access

1 to high quality marijuana that is safe, convenient
2 and affordable.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I don't
4 understand, what is your role?

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5 TROY SMITH: I am Deputy Director of the
6 State Chapter.

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: State Chapter
8 and what do you do?

9 TROY SMITH: Well, um, well, a volunteer
10 organization, we are a 501C non-for-profit and we
11 advocate for the utilization of marijuana.

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Oh, okay.

13 TROY SMITH: Um, what I want to bring up,
14 first, is that according to a recent college poll,
15 fifty-six percent of residents on Long Island
16 support legalizing marijuana.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Nobody asked me.

18 TROY SMITH: Do you want them to actually
19 run a poll - -

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Look, here is the
21 situation; there is probably some people who are
22 very, let's say, fair about this, okay.

23 And, they said, well, you know, maybe we
24 should.

25 I am telling you that in my District,

1 talking to people in every single community, the
2 vast majority of people are against legalizing
3 marijuana for recreational purposes.

4 Some people get medicinal and recreational ^{Page | 101}
5 mixed up.

6 I advocate medicinal marijuana use under
7 the supervision of a licensed physician.

8 There has been argument that it can help
9 with seizures and other things, women and men who
10 are being treated for cancer, who, um, are taking
11 chemotherapy, um, there are some medical benefits,
12 but, there are medical benefits to a lot of
13 different drugs that aren't legal, that aren't
14 available without a prescription.

15 This is making a drug you think it is
16 normal.

17 I think it is abnormal.

18 TROY SMITH: For the record, does anybody
19 on this Council have an interest in medical
20 marijuana companies?

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: For the record, I use
22 to be an owner - - part owner in a medical
23 marijuana company.

24 When medical marijuana companies decided to
25 go into, um, recreational marijuana, I had the

1 Company buy me out because I told them morally, I
2 couldn't be part of any organization that would
3 legalize marijuana.

4 I have been very open about the fact that I ^{Page | 102}
5 think medical marijuana under a Doctor's
6 supervision is something that I have supported
7 consistently, but, I also support the use of other
8 drugs under a Doctor's supervision.

9 I do not advocate the use of every drug
10 without a Doctor's supervision and prescription.

11 TROY SMITH: Neither do we.

12 A lot of people, here - -

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: But you do support
14 marijuana?

15 TROY SMITH: Yeah, not every drug, no and
16 we do not consider marijuana a dangerous drug.

17 By the way, um, a lot of people, here,
18 brought up public health crisis and marijuana and
19 they - - what I would like to point out, that we
20 are in a public health crisis right, here, right,
21 now with an opioid epidemic that is a public
22 health crisis.

23 Marijuana is not.

24 There is - - if you are acquainting
25 marijuana to heroin, opioids, you guys need to

1 do a little more research on health, I am sorry.

2 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: It is not a gateway
3 drug?

4 TROY SMITH: No, it is not a gateway drug. Page | 103

5 Okay, if you want a gateway drug therapy,
6 sugar, would you consider sugar a gateway drug?

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I don't think
8 we should even think about sugar in the same way
9 that you are talking about marijuana.

10 Totally different.

11 TROY SMITH: But, they both act on the
12 pleasures centers of your brain.

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Listen - -

14 TROY SMITH: But they train you for a
15 response.

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Everything he
17 said is wrong.

18 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Everybody I know that
19 has a problem with drugs started with marijuana.

20 TROY SMITH: Whoever those people are
21 driving cars - -

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Not one started with the
23 hard stuff, not one.

24 TROY SMITH: Tobacco, sugar - -

25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Believe what you

1 Believe and you can have your opinion.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You have a statement,
3 you have thirty-seven seconds on the clock, I urge
4 you to continue with your statement.

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5 TROY SMITH: No, I rather rebut some of the
6 points that have been made, actually.

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Finish, your
8 time is limited.

9 TROY SMITH: Yes and it is still running
10 while you were talking.

11 MICHELE HANSON: No, it was not. I turned
12 it off.

13 TROY SMITH: Thank you for your time.
14 I urge you guys to not vote for the
15 moratorium and thank you.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, sir.
17 I do not have any other slips on these
18 Public Hearings.

19 PEARL JACOBS: Good Afternoon, Pearl
20 Jacobs.

21 I usually speak on behalf of Nostrand
22 Gardens Civics, but I am speaking as a private
23 resident.

24 Um, I do support the Town's moratorium
25 regarding this issue.

1 I am against the legislation of
2 recreational marijuana in Nassau County, period,
3 okay.

4 Marijuana is, indeed, a gateway drug.

5 Um, I have spoken to many people, many
6 people in the field of counseling, psychiatry,
7 psychology, um, everyone agrees pretty much the
8 majority, marijuana is a gateway drug.

9 I do have a dear friend who has been
10 struggling with addiction for thirty-five years,
11 now.

12 Um, he started twelve years old smoking
13 marijuana and he is still, now, he is,
14 unfortunately, on prescription drugs.

15 And, um, I also want to say that the
16 driving force to legalizing recreational marijuana
17 is solely monetary.

18 It is true that our Nassau County Police
19 Department is currently on the frontlines fighting
20 the opioid, heroin epidemic.

21 But, again, marijuana is a non-pleasurable
22 drug.

23 And, this will literally handicap our
24 Police Officers regarding, um, enforcing
25 marijuana.

1 And, regarding the signage, I cannot think
2 of a better way to spend taxpayer money than to
3 spend it on the signage.

4 Thank you.

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5 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
6 heard. After, the following ensued.)

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

8 PATTY ADAMS: Patty Adams, Uniondale,
9 Nostrand Gardens Civic Association.

10 As a taxpayer and going to the Coliseum or
11 to schools will there be signage at the school
12 stating what you are going to put in the Parks?

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We can put up signs in
14 our Town facilities, that is where we have
15 jurisdiction.

16 We don't have jurisdiction to put signs in
17 schools.

18 I urge you to reach out to the PTA or your
19 local school officials.

20 PATTY ADAMS: What about the Coliseum?

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: The Coliseum is County
22 property, not Town property.

23 PATTY ADAMS: Okay, thank you.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

25 PATTY ADAMS: Can I say one thing, as

1 far as I am concerned, as a Minority, it is nice
2 to see that people of non-color are so interested
3 how much criminalization is about marijuana for
4 Minorities because it is not - - this drug sees
5 your fingers, your mouth and your brain and your
6 money.

7 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
8 heard. After, the following ensued.)

9 PATTY ADAMS: So, stop saying it is, so
10 much about Minorities.

11 It is about the kids, the adults, the
12 Veterans as a human being.

13 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Thank you.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

15 META MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday, Baldwin
16 resident, advocate for Veterans, clearly a
17 Minority my whole life.

18 Um, I support the moratorium with regard to
19 this drug situation, um, the legalization, the
20 monetary scenario.

21 I agree with the previous speak, Ms. Harris
22 with regard to the usage of the "extensive
23 criminal process," that impacts people of color.

24 We know that.

25 We live it.

1 Um, but, I don't hear as much when you talk
2 about the crisis and opioid crisis that over
3 eighty percent of those that are impacted and the
4 majority with regard to the opioid crisis are Page | 108
5 White male and suburban.

6 Let's stop putting the face of the people
7 of color in these scenarios to use that, um, call
8 the thing the thing.

9 There was the time when there were those of
10 us that spoke against vaping, that, now, is a
11 crisis.

12 We implored our elected officials on the
13 Town and County level and we were told, "Oh, no,
14 there is going to be regulations which will make
15 sure that everything is handled," and that is a
16 problem, now in our community.

17 So, let's address those things.

18 I heard someone speak with regard to
19 Veterans and the legalization of marijuana speaks
20 to recreational marijuana because medicinal
21 marijuana is already legal in the State of New
22 York.

23 Um, again, that needs more monitoring.

24 I just spoke with some folks yesterday with
25 regard to the dispensary in Westbury where

1 many residents including Veterans cannot even get
2 into the facility to get these resources that they
3 do need and it does work, in fact, for those that
4 are experiencing seizures and trauma and things of ^{Page | 109}
5 that nature.

6 And, again, I always encourage anyone to
7 come to either the Town or the County as it
8 pertains to Veterans, um, because I am well known
9 for that.

10 But, let's look at our Veterans who are
11 still seeking housing in the Township and the
12 County.

13 They are still seeking work.

14 They are still seeking contracts in this
15 Township.

16 So, you know, let's look at what is really
17 impacting our Veterans.

18 And, I cannot fully support marijuana in
19 its recreational state because it is still a
20 schedule 1 drug as it pertains to Veterans.

21 So, if the individual government says it is
22 a problem, so then, for the most part, it is a
23 problem.

24 For me, I like the fact that we need to do
25 better with the medicinal outreach aspect of it.

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Meta, if I could
2 interrupt you for one moment because of advocacy,
3 um, tonight there is a meeting in my community
4 about a zoning change that I am proposing that
5 would create transit-oriented zoning for, um,
6 workforce housing and there is an affordable
7 component in it and the preference is for Veterans
8 from that community.

9 They get first choice at the affordable
10 housing component and one of the reasons I did
11 that is because of your advocacy.

12 And, thank you very much for that.

13 META MEREDAY: I appreciate that. Thank
14 you.

15 Um, and I also wanted to say with regard to
16 the programs that seem to come out of the State,
17 we as taxpayers lost out of a billion dollars when
18 the Governor put forth his Start-up New York
19 Program was supposed to generate over one hundred
20 thousand dollars estimated and - -

21 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
22 After, the following ensued.)

23 META MEREDAY: And, actually, it created
24 two hundred and forty-one jobs.

25 So, clearly, um, looking at the State

1 in terms of legalization and the types of programs
2 that puts forth under the guise of increasing
3 money.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Mereday. Page | 111

5 META MEREDAY: I need one other minute
6 because there were other people that were able to
7 speak beyond the three minutes.

8 I will wrap it up.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Please.

10 META MEREDAY: So, I am just, again hoping
11 that we can collectively work together, whether it
12 is the Town as well as the County to address this
13 because if the other outlining areas support this,
14 as we are going around in circles to opt out, we
15 still have to make sure that we have our resources
16 in place to do what we need to do, again, for our
17 underserved constituencies.

18 Thank you.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Mereday.

20 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
21 heard. After, the following ensued.)

22 ANNE BOEHL: Good Morning, my name is Anne
23 Boehl and I am from Lynbrook.

24 I wasn't going to get up to speak and I
25 heard a lot of people were getting the results

1 of some studies that they all did and I was
2 getting the feeling that people weren't opened to
3 them.

4 I never had been asked, Mr. Blakeman, when ^{Page | 112}
5 there are studies, like you and I don't think I
6 would just blatantly dismiss a study because
7 someone didn't ask me.

8 So, I would like you all to keep your minds
9 open to these things.

10 And, I find sometimes that is not happening
11 here.

12 Okay, so, thank you.

13 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
14 heard. After, the following ensued.)

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, okay.

16 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Supervisor, I have
17 a couple things before we vote on this item, first
18 and foremost, I am not sure if the Commissioner of
19 Public Safety is here.

20 Um, I don't - - Commissioner, some of the
21 suggestions and maybe over the next, I know the
22 law will have to be sent to Albany but during that
23 time, perhaps my office and the Town Board can
24 work with a designee from the Supervisor's Office.

25 I think we should work to find

1 somewhere in the Public Safety's budget, um,
2 funding to train our Public Safety Officers
3 identifying marijuana.

4 Secondly, I think we should work with the ^{Page | 113}
5 Commissioner of Conservation and Waterways.

6 I am not sure if the Bay Constables are
7 already trained in identifying marijuana, if not,
8 it should be something that we do our best to find
9 the funding for.

10 I think it will protect not only the Public
11 Safety Officers and our Bay Constables but it will
12 probably protect us legally as well.

13 Second of all, I think we should work with
14 both Police Departments and the Public Safety
15 Department in order to find or establish some sort
16 of method of recovery of need be in the future
17 because we may get to a point where a Public
18 Safety Officer does need to take action.

19 And, I think for their safety, we should
20 make sure that they have all possible, um,
21 resources at their hands.

22 And, lastly, I will turn to Mr. Ra before
23 he steps out.

24 I am not sure how to address this or how to
25 change it but, I think that the resolution

1 right, now, says, "Regulation of marijuana in Town
2 of Hempstead Parks and Park District Park."

3 I think we all agree, here on the Town
4 Board, we are doing that for the best interest of ^{Page | 114}
5 our residents and visitors of the Town of
6 Hempstead.

7 And, I just think that we should,
8 especially with the season on its way, think about
9 including our marinas.

10 I am not sure if we changed the definition
11 of a "Park" to include "marinas" if I would make
12 an amendment to add our marinas.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I would second the
14 Motion to amend to include marinas.

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Our beaches are
16 already Parks.

17 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Correct.

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: So, Supervisor, I
19 put that forward as a Motion.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Ra, do we vote on
22 the amendment?

23 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will you
25 call the roll on the amendment.

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1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

2 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

8 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

10 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

11 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

12 Goosby?

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Thank you very
14 much, aye.

15 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye, I think it is a
17 good addition, thank you, Councilman.

18 Now, we will call Public Hearing number 8
19 as amended, Madam Clerk.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

21 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 2/26/19

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

2 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

6 Goosby?

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

8 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

10 Madam Clerk, we will call the roll on

11 Public Hearing Number 9.

12 We heard the comments together, we should
13 vote separate Public Hearings so, now, we are
14 calling the roll on item number 9, the moratorium.

15 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

16 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

20 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

24 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

1 Goosby?

2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

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5 Madam Clerk, will you call our next Public
6 Hearing.

7 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
8 heard. After, the following ensued.)

9 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Before we do, I want to
10 thank all those that testified.

11 God Bless you, thank you.

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Thank you for
13 coming.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Well, not all of
15 them.

16 (Whereupon, calling out from the audience
17 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, okay, let's
19 proceed with the Town Board Meeting.

20 Madam Clerk, can you call our next Public
21 Hearing.

22 CLERK CABANA: Proposed "Handicapped
23 parking on Public Streets" in Bellmore, Elmont,
24 Oceanside, Uniondale, (Newbridge Road, Remsen
25 Street, Louis Avenue, Jackson Street, Arthur

1 Street)

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
3 on this Public Hearing, is there anyone that would
4 like to be heard? Page | 118

5 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
6 the following ensued.)

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I
8 have a Motion.

9 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Supervisor, I
10 move that the Hearing be closed and the item be
11 adopted.

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second the
13 Motion.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

15 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

21 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

23 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

25 Goosby?

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1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

4 Madam Clerk, please, call our next Public ^{Page | 119}
5 Hearing.

6 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Increase &
7 Improvement of the Merrick Fire Protection
8 District - Town of Hempstead

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a slip from Paul
10 Filliary? (Phonetic Spelling)

11 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
12 the following ensued.)

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any other
14 slips on this Public Hearing, is there anyone else
15 that would like to be heard?

16 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
17 the following ensued.)

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I
19 have a Motion.

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Supervisor, I
21 move that the Hearing be closed and the item
22 adopted.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

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1 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

4 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

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5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye and I would
8 like to acknowledge and thank the Merrick Fire
9 Department.

10 It was a very, um, thoughtful process that
11 we went through and I couldn't have done without,
12 you know, I was going to say something about you
13 but you weren't here, Councilman D'Esposito helped
14 along the way selecting and approving fire trucks
15 is a very complicated process, one that I did not
16 fully appreciate you until we spent hours going
17 over all the specs.

18 I am so thankful for what you do on a daily
19 basis to keep Merrick safe.

20 So, thank you and I vote aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Now, that he is back,
22 Councilman D'Esposito?

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Nice said about me.

24 To the men and women of the Merrick Fire
25 Department, thank you for all you do to keep the

1 Town of Hempstead safe, aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
3 Goosby?

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

5 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye and I echo the
7 thanks to the Merrick Fire Department.

8 I am glad that you are getting new fire
9 trucks.

10 Madam Clerk, will you call the next Public
11 Hearing.

12 CLERK CABANA: Application of 3222
13 Hempstead Turnpike, LLC. for a special exception
14 (Public Garage) to remove the existing one story,
15 3400' retail building and replace it with a one
16 story, 5,352' building to serve as an automotive
17 service and repair facility, approximately 658.94
18 feet West of Gardiners Avenue - Levittown.

19 ATTORNEY BONESSO: Good Afternoon,
20 Supervisor Gillen, Members of the Board, William
21 Bonesso; Forchelli, Deegan, Turrano. 333 Earle
22 Ovington Boulevard, Uniondale, New York, here on
23 behalf of the applicant 3222 Hempstead Turnpike,
24 LLC.

25 The petitioner is the contract vendee

1 of the parcel of property in question situated on
2 the South side of Hempstead Turnpike in Levittown.

3 It is the site of a porcelain tile
4 building.

5 The proposal by the petitioners which is
6 ownership entity for this property, but, it is
7 really, um, the um, Town and Country Jeep Chrysler
8 Dodge Ram dealership.

9 The proposal is to demolish the existing
10 building and build a new five thousand square foot
11 automotive service repair building which would be
12 used in conjunction with the dealership which is
13 located just literally down the street from
14 property on the same side of the street.

15 It will be an automotive repair facility
16 with six bays.

17 Um, it will be to service customer
18 vehicles.

19 Um, all access to the property will be by
20 employees of the dealership.

21 What will happen is the customers who
22 presently take their cars to the dealership
23 property will continue to do so, drop their cars
24 off there, so, you won't have, um, customers
25 accessing this property but rather, they will

1 drop off their cars at the dealership properties
2 down the street and, then, employees will bring
3 them down to the site for servicing and repairs.

4 It is strictly servicing and repairs.

5 There is no auto body work, no painting, no
6 collision work, nothing of that nature.

7 So, there is really just an extension of
8 the dealership, if you will and of the services
9 provided by the dealership onto this property.

10 As indicated, the building will be
11 approximately five thousand square feet.

12 The site fully complies with all zoning
13 requirements including parking.

14 There will be twelve parking spaces
15 including a handicapped parking space, which is in
16 compliance one more than required for a façade of
17 this nature.

18 Um, the building will house the service
19 bays, some storage, a machine room, a small locker
20 room for the employees who are working.

21 But, again, it is all affiliated with the
22 Town and Country Jeep which is right down the
23 street and it will be an extension of their
24 service.

25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I have a couple of

1 questions, if I may, it is right next door to a
2 dental - - children's dental clinic?

3 ATTORNEY BONESSO: Yes, pediatrics.

4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Is there going to be Page | 124
5 drilling there, banging?

6 ATTORNEY BONESSO: No, no.

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Scaring the kids, oh,
8 no, it might be the dentist?

9 ATTORNEY BONESSO: No, auto body work, no
10 collision work, no painting work, strictly
11 vehicular servicing repairs.

12 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Excellent, there are a
13 number of violations that were put out by the
14 Building Department, have they been cleaned up?

15 Have the violations - -

16 ATTORNEY BONESSO: This application
17 proposed is a complete redevelopment of the site,
18 so, the existing building, any violations existing
19 on the property will be completely eliminated.

20 This will be a new site development plan
21 involving new pavers, new stripping, new building
22 landscaping and the like.

23 So, any existing violations presently there
24 will be revoked.

25 If the Board has any questions, that is

1 our direct presentation.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

3 I do not have any other slips on this
4 Public Hearing.

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5 PATTY HARRIS: Patty Harris in Uniondale.
6 Who is going in there?

7 ATTORNEY BONESSO: The Town and Country
8 Jeep Chrysler Dodge brand.

9 PATTY HARRIS: Did they give a PILOT for
10 this upgrade?

11 ATTORNEY BONESSO: No, no, IDA benefits
12 associated with this, this is all funded by the
13 applicant.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Bonesso.
15 Anybody else?

16 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
17 the following ensued.)

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, hearing none, may
19 I have a Motion on this application.

20 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I move we close the
21 Hearing and reserve the decision.

22 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Second.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

25 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 2/26/19

1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

8 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

10 Goosby?

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

14 Madam Clerk, please call our next - -

15 We will take a quick ten minute adjournment

16 so our Court Reporter can do what she needs to do.

17 (Whereupon, a ten-minute recess was

18 entertained. After, the following ensued.)

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, we are back on

20 the record.

21 Madam Clerk, if you would call the next

22 application.

23 CLERK CABANA: Application of BOLLA EM

24 REALTY, LLC for a variance from provisions of the

25 "GSS" Ordinance to maintain existing service

1 Station and operate a convenience store as well as
2 area sign, and parking variance located on the
3 South side of Merrick Road between Washington
4 Avenue and Townsend Road - SEAFORD.

5 I have a companion application of BOLLA EM
6 REALTY, LLC for a permit to include existing
7 gasoline service station and install three (3)
8 additional storage tanks each with a capacity of
9 15,000 gallons located on the South side of
10 Merrick Road between Washington Avenue & Townsend
11 Drive - Seaford.

12 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: Good Afternoon, Madam
13 Supervisor, Fellow Board Members:

14 For the Applicant, David Altman, Altman and
15 Browne, LLP. 538 Broad Hollow Road, Suite 301,
16 Melville, New York.

17 Before, I start my testimony, I will hand
18 up certified mail to the Clerk.

19 As I think the Board has become familiar
20 with, this afternoon, my colleague, Chris
21 Tartaglia from High Point Engineering to my
22 immediate right, Chris is the Project Civil
23 Engineer.

24 With me this afternoon is Charles Olivo.
25 Charlie is also a licensed Engineer with the

1 State of New York.

2 Chuck is our expert on traffic and parking.

3 I also have with me this afternoon, John
4 Breslin from Breslin Real Estate. Page | 128

5 John is a licensed Appraiser, here, in the
6 State of New York, um and both of those gentleman
7 will be offering testimony and submitting their
8 reports into the record this afternoon in support
9 of the application.

10 I will also note for the record that the
11 principal applicant, Bolla EM Inc. is here this
12 afternoon to the extent this Board has any
13 questions.

14 Mr. Singh is available to answer those
15 questions.

16 Um, that being said, the subject property
17 is known as 4030 Merrick Road in Seaford.

18 It bears Nassau County Tax Map Number
19 Section 65, Block B, Lot 420.

20 The property is currently zoned "Business
21 X."

22 It was originally developed as a gasoline
23 service station, um, circa 1970, I believe.

24 The C of O that is on record dates back to,
25 I am sorry, yes, 1970.

1 And, it is 197101337.

2 In addition, that gasoline station, which,
3 it is my understanding, now, discontinued service
4 for, approximately, two years, now, um, is, now, ^{Page | 129}
5 vacant.

6 Um, there is also approval for that
7 gasoline station use to operate on the northern
8 half of the property.

9 On the southern half of the property was
10 utilized for commercial parking and approvals were
11 issued for that, as well, parking field approval
12 was issued in 1980 and approval number on that is
13 197901541.

14 Bolla proposes to redevelop the entire
15 parcel consisting of, approximately, forty-eight
16 thousand three hundred and thirty-nine square feet
17 in area or about 1.1 acres.

18 The property has, approximately two hundred
19 and seventy frontage on Merrick Road, pretty
20 substantial.

21 It is located about one hundred and twenty-
22 seven feet East of the intersection from
23 Washington Avenue.

24 Zoning in and around the subject property
25 is predominately commercial with some residential

1 to the South.

2 To the West is a small office use known as
3 "Business X."

4 To the East, we have a small commercial
5 bank and the Canal going to the Greater South Bay.

6 To the North, we have a Stop & Shop
7 shopping center.

8 There is a mixed use retail at the
9 northeast corner of Merrick Road and Washington
10 Avenue.

11 On the northwest corner, we have a movie
12 theater.

13 Directly South of us is a vacant
14 residentially zoned parcel, um, which is owned by
15 the same principals or be it another entity.

16 It is not the subject of this application.

17 It is not considered part of this
18 application.

19 We also have a portion of the Canal and,
20 then, to the southwest, we have single-family
21 residents which abut the property slightly at the
22 southwest corner.

23 They share a common lot line of about
24 twenty-five feet or so.

25 Former gas station, as I mentioned,

1 discontinued in terms of its use, approximately
2 two years ago.

3 It is my understanding in speaking to Mr.
4 Tartaglia a few minutes ago, that the tanks were ^{Page | 131}
5 pulled from that property, probably about eighteen
6 months to twenty-four months ago.

7 Um, the applicant proposes to raise and
8 redevelop the site consistent with the site plans
9 that have been submitted to the Town Board for its
10 consideration, today.

11 The new development will consist of two new
12 curb cuts slightly modified from current existing
13 locations.

14 There will be a curb cuts.

15 Both curb cuts on the South side of Merrick
16 Road, North line of the property.

17 The East curb cut will be for "right in"
18 only.

19 I am sorry, West curb cut will be for
20 "right in only," my apologies.

21 And, the East curb cut would be "right outs
22 only."

23 There will be no "left turns into" the
24 site.

25 The site has been appropriate marked

1 accordingly.

2 And, you can see from the, um, on the site
3 plan, which is up on the video screens, the
4 applicant proposes to install eight multi-private
5 fuel dispensers along with two diesel dispensers.

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6 Diesel dispensers will be in between the
7 empty - - on the East and West end of the canopy.

8 The canopy, itself, which will be directly
9 above the fueling islands will be, approximately
10 one hundred and thirty-two by thirty-two or forty-
11 two hundred and twenty-four square feet.

12 And, then, finally, the applicant proposes
13 construction of a forty-five hundred square foot
14 convenience store on the southerly portion of the
15 site.

16 There is also substantial landscaping which
17 will be included in the redevelopment of the
18 project.

19 And, as you can see, that will run along
20 the South lot line and, then, around and cover the
21 East lot line and parallel to the Canal, itself
22 and, then, towards the back property which is at
23 the northeast corner of the site.

24 There will be some landscaping on the
25 northwest corner, as well, where the proposed

1 ground sign will be located.

2 Right, now, there is a 10 x 15 masonry
3 trash enclosure which will be located on the
4 southwest corner of the site.

5 Um, the applicant finally is proposing in
6 connection with this to install three, fifteen
7 thousand gallon tanks.

8 If you see sort of the gray area at the
9 southwest corner of the, um, next to the, um, fuel
10 pump islands, there is concrete under, which the
11 fuel tanks will be located.

12 There are, um, a number of variances and
13 waivers which are noted within the December 15,
14 2017 letter of continuation issued by the Town
15 Building Department.

16 As well as the notice which is included as
17 part of today's application.

18 I will ask that both the letter of
19 continuation and the denial notice as part of the
20 record.

21 That being said, um, the applicant, as you
22 can see, seeks to redevelop this with a new Bolla
23 Gas Station and convenience store.

24 I know the Board is intimately familiar
25 with the Bolla brand, at this point, having heard

1 a number of applications.

2 Bolla, as the Board knows, operates gas
3 stations to the highest standard, nationally
4 recognized for their quality of service and
5 architectural design and for their, um, good
6 stewardship and membership within the communities
7 which they do business.

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8 And, we looked to continue that here in
9 Seaford and become a meaningful and active part of
10 the community.

11 The site is deteriorated and certainly in
12 need of renovation and a facelift that we propose
13 here, today.

14 With me, today, as I previously mentioned,
15 I will ask to step up and give their testimony are
16 John Breslin and Chuck Olivo.

17 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Could I jump in
18 just for one second, first of all, thankyou for
19 your testimony, your interest in Seaford and, um,
20 I think it is worth noting that Bolla does run
21 beautiful gas stations.

22 And, we are thankful for all they do for
23 the community.

24 Um, I am a life long - - I was born and
25 raised in Seaford.

1 I bought my first house there.

2 I love Seaford. Once you are a Viking, you
3 are always a Viking.

4 Unfortunately, I moved to Wantagh a few
5 years ago but I unfortunately have to leave, I
6 start my first radiation treatment, today.

7 It is all fine.

8 It is all good, full disclosure. I do have
9 to get into the City for a 3:00 o'clock
10 appointment.

11 Um, I reached out. There are a couple of
12 great members from the Seaford community, here
13 with Karen Cass from Seaford, Chamber of Commerce.

14 I know we are in good hands and I know she
15 will continue to communicate with my office.

16 So, I hate to leave and especially at this
17 point where I am very familiar with the site.

18 It has been a site that has been a source
19 of a lot of conversations over the years.

20 So, um, hopefully, we can have a very
21 productive Hearing, today and continue the
22 conversation with my office.

23 I am sorry to run out but I put you in
24 good, able hands of Bruce Blakeman and he will
25 help us on this side.

1 So, thank you.

2 ATTORNY BONESSO: Councilwoman Sweeney, we
3 wish you all the best.

4 REAL ESTATE EXPERT BRESLIN: Good
5 Afternoon. My name is John Breslin.

6 I am principal and President of Breslin
7 Realty. 44 Elm Street in Plainview.

8 I have appeared before this Board on many
9 occasions and in connection with this application,
10 I was asked by the applicant to study the proposal
11 and give an impact with respect to - - give an
12 opinion as to any impacts on real property values.

13 This Board is fully familiar with the
14 applicant's redesign gas stations throughout the
15 Town of Hempstead.

16 As Mr. Altman had described, this property
17 was originally a gas station.

18 Along the front portion of the northerly
19 portion of the site, along with commercial
20 property lot behind that.

21 We had an aerial up on the Board before and
22 if it is possible to go back to that aerial, um,
23 to look at.

24 And, I think it is imperative to look at
25 that, what the aerial does.

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It shows you the demarcation of the development in this particular facility and the outline of the subject property clearly shows that.

What is important is because what it depicts and the influence on real property values in the character of the community and the establishment and development pattern are factors that are existed for many, many years.

And, the redevelopment of this property as contemplated is not going to change that.

When you couple the look of this aerial photograph along with the site plan, you can see that the applicant has maintained, although the development in the site, in the commercial zone and in fact has took back some of what is already developed in the parking area all the way to the southerly border to create some landscaping.

In addition, from the easterly side, that is a residential portion will remain undisturbed.

As well as, to the South, there is a portion that will remain undisturbed.

The Board is aware there is a prior application on the property by another, Quick Tech, which was a much more aggressive application

1 and sought to utilize portions of the residential
2 component.

3 In this case, the applicant is lending the
4 development solely to the commercial utilization, ^{Page | 138}
5 so, that it comports with the existing development
6 pattern that exists along the Merrick Road and in
7 Seaford.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: When you say it is
9 going to preserve, what exactly does that mean?

10 REAL ESTATE EXPERT BRESLIN: Say it again?

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: When you say it is
12 going to be preserved as residential, what exactly
13 do you mean by that?

14 REAL ESTATE EXPERT BRESLIN: They are not -
15 - this development is not touching on the area of
16 the subject property.

17 On the easterly side of the property to
18 the North, um, there is a residentially zoned
19 portion.

20 It is wooded, you can see in that aerial.

21 And, then, you go to the site plan, you can
22 see, um, the buffer side of that just to, um,
23 North of the Seaford Creek.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, there would be no
25 development there?

1 REAL ESTATE EXPERT BRESLIN: No development
2 there at all.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Will there be any
4 beautification?

5 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: If you go back to the
6 colored site plan, if I am not mistaken - -

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Are there trees planted
8 there, now?

9 It is not really clear in the picture in
10 that buffer zone that you are talking about.

11 REAL ESTATE EXPERT BRESLIN: There are
12 trees along in that area to remain with some type
13 of landscaping along the perimeter portion, both
14 along the parking lot and that continues to the
15 South and, then, along the southerly perimeter of
16 the parking lot, the plan is to install
17 landscaping where it abuts the back of the
18 property will be separated off large undeveloped
19 residential property.

20 And, then, moving around to the West, where
21 we have a residential neighbor right, now, there
22 is no buffer at all where - -

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, are you going, as
24 part of your application, agree to covenant to
25 keep that a green ban around the property?

1 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: Yes.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, Counsel and
3 Building Department, make note of that.

4 See that is included in the final plan
5 submitted.

6 REAL ESTATE EXPERT BRESLIN: So, basically
7 from a real property point of view, the
8 establishment of the commercial line clearly
9 already exists.

10 And, by redeveloping the property's
11 potential for positive impact, right, now, it is
12 an unsightly site and giving back some of the area
13 to the South with a buffer which, now, it provides
14 some better separation between the residential and
15 commercial, particularly in what would be the
16 southwest corner of the property.

17 There is really no neighbor to the South.

18 It is undeveloped residential property and,
19 ten, um, we are also providing the separation on
20 the easterly side where it is, now, residential
21 property, but, it is be a buffer.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, there is no plan
23 to develop this in any way residential or any way
24 the buffer - -

25 REAL ESTATE EXPERT BRESLIN: On the subject

1 site, the applicant has nothing to do with the
2 property to the South of the developed site.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Um, just talking
4 about the buffer?

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5 REAL ESTATE EXPERT BRESLIN: No plan to
6 develop the buffer at all.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Good, thank you.

8 REAL ESTATE EXPERT BRESLIN: So, in
9 conclusion, by granting the relief necessary,
10 certainly will not have an adverse impact and
11 potentially would be an upgrade for the commercial
12 utilization of Merrick Road.

13 I do have a report that I prepared that I
14 would like to hand up which summarizes what I
15 testified to.

16 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I like the idea of the
17 greenery.

18 I use to cover that area when I was a
19 County Legislator.

20 There are a lot of strip malls down there
21 and beautifying the area is very, very important.

22 You do have an American Flag on the front
23 side on Merrick Avenue.

24 ATTORNY ALTMAN: We have a flag pole.

25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: That will help out.

1 I get my hair cut right up the street. I
2 know I need one, now, but, beautifying the area is
3 very, very important to the people there because
4 there are a lot of people that live in the area Page | 142
5 along that stretch.

6 You don't realize how many people are in
7 the area and how many good businesses there are.

8 It will bring people to the area.

9 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: It is an intensely
10 developed commercial area and you have the
11 supermarket directly across the street which
12 brings a lot of traffic in the vicinity of the
13 movie theater just diagonally off to the West.

14 So, as you point out, it is a tremendous
15 amount of commercial activity.

16 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: People want to keep it
17 like homey and make it like home.

18 So, thank you.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, you testified the
20 tanks were removed from the property?

21 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: Yes.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No environmental
23 issues?

24 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: That we are aware of.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You mentioned one

1 Residential property to the southwest, so, you are
2 adding a buffer, is that right?

3 REAL ESTATE EXPERT BRESLIN: If you look at
4 the site plan, the residential that abuts the
5 roughly twenty-five feet of that southern lot line
6 is where the trash enclosure is and we have green
7 space around it.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

9 TRAFFIC ENGINEER OLIVO: Good Afternoon,
10 Madam Supervisor, Members of the Board, Members of
11 the Public:

12 My name is Chuck Olivo. I am a Traffic
13 Engineer with Stonefield Engineering. 584
14 Broadway, New York, New York.

15 We have prepared a full traffic impact
16 study for the subject redevelopment.

17 As you heard from Project Counsel, as well
18 as, our Real Estate Expert, we did have a gas
19 station, here, historically which has been closed
20 for some time.

21 What is being proposed is a market with
22 gasoline fueling service.

23 This Bolla Market will be and will
24 represent a modern convenience destination.

25 I know the Board is very familiar with

1 Bolla Markets with other areas throughout this
2 region.

3 What we would expect as part of the
4 findings, the traffic studies of the large
5 majority of traffic coming to and from the
6 redeveloped site would already be on the roadway,
7 today.

8 Convenience store with gasoline and fueling
9 service is generally acceptable and somewhere
10 around ninety percent of its traffic from traffic
11 already on the roadways.

12 Now, Merrick Road carries about thirty-
13 seven thousand vehicle trips on a daily basis.

14 It is a well-traveled roadway and we would
15 expect that should the Board be inclined to
16 approve the project, that a large majority of the
17 traffic coming to and from this project will
18 already be traveling on the roadway system,
19 already on the roadway, today.

20 We do have Nassau County DPW approval for
21 the access management planning site.

22 As you have heard, we are proposing one
23 curb cut to provide ingress and one curb cut at
24 the easterly portion of the site, that would
25 provide for right turning egress.

1 This is relatively a wide roadway.

2 These are unsignalized driveways.

3 We would be improving from the access
4 management of the site, which was two full
5 movement driveways that previously provided access
6 to and from the subject site.

7 We have conducted recent traffic counts,
8 those traffic counts are included within the
9 traffic impact study, which I will submit at the
10 conclusion of my testimony.

11 Those counts were discussed recently to
12 understand the traffic volume as it moves through
13 the roadway system.

14 Conducted counts of the nearby adjacent
15 signalized intersection with Washington and we
16 also conducted a level of service analysis should
17 the subject site be redeveloped as conceived here.

18 The level of service would not be expected
19 to change as part of the proposed condition.

20 The access points would be expected to
21 operate safely and effectively with the proposed
22 condition.

23 We meet parking, twenty-three parking
24 stalls are being proposed.

25 Three of those would be land banked and

1 there are a number of fueling positions to provide
2 for the traffic demand and fueling demand expected
3 on the site.

4 You will see in more antiquated gas
5 stations, a limited number of fueling pumps and
6 fueling positions which could mean cuing could
7 mean congestion on the site, that is not the model
8 Mr. Singh adopts when he redevelops sites in this
9 manner.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Excuse me, I just
11 want to interrupt you; so, basically, your
12 testimony is in a nutshell, that this is not a
13 destination retail location that, basically, if
14 this were used for another retail use for, such
15 as, a restaurant or some kind of retail outlet,
16 that in that case, it would increase the trip
17 generation of the car traffic, but, in this case
18 because it is being used as a gas station and
19 convenience store, it is going to be used ninety
20 percent of the time by people who already been on
21 the street, so, it is a de minimis impact.

22 If it were some other retail use - -

23 TRAFFIC ENGINEER OLIVO: I am saying that,
24 well said.

25 In terms of the access management of the

1 site, you heard the changes.

2 I will state in conclusion that the traffic
3 associated with the project would not be expected
4 to significantly impact the roadway system. Page | 147

5 The access would be expected to operate
6 safely and effectively.

7 We are seeking a sign on the northwest
8 corner of the property and it would be twenty-one
9 feet high, approximately, ninety-five, 94.6 square
10 feet and this is for the purposes of visibility
11 for those travelers to traverse into - -

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is that consistent
13 with the other retail operations in the
14 neighborhood?

15 TRAFFIC ENGINEER OLIVO: Yes.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you.

17 TRAFFIC ENGINEER OLIVO: At this time, I
18 would like to submit ten copies of the traffic
19 impact studies.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

21 You can hand them to Mrs. Hanson.

22 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: Any questions of Mr.
23 Olivo?

24 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
25 the following ensued.)

1 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: I also note for the
2 record, in connection with other governmental
3 approvals, we have DEC approval for this; that was
4 issued on October 2nd, of last year.

5 A copy of that was previously provided to
6 the Town.

7 If there is any other questions of us, at
8 this time, otherwise, we will hold our response
9 for those that want to be heard.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

11 Robert Perelmuter?

12 ROBERT PERELMUTER: Good Afternoon, my name
13 is Robert Perelmuter. I am the owner of the
14 property directly West of the property that is
15 supposed to be developed by Bolla at 4020 Merrick
16 Road in Seaford.

17 I have been the owner of the property for
18 the last fifteen years.

19 I am excited about the prospect that they
20 are going to beautify the area, unfortunately, it
21 has been vacant, as they mentioned, for the past
22 two years, so, it has been an eyesore in the Town.

23 So, I am very excited about that.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: On the West side?

25 ROBERT PERELMUTER: If you pan out a little

1 bit, if you could, it is on the building right
2 over there on the left, there is an extended
3 driveway.

4 I am directly, that is my home, "Property ^{Page | 149}
5 X", I think they referred to it.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you.

7 ROBERT PERELMUTER: I have a few concerns,
8 um, the fencing that they are proposing to build
9 in your proposal, which I got the other day, it
10 looks like they are putting a fence all the way to
11 the curb previously where the existing gas station
12 did not have a fence there.

13 There has not been a fence there.

14 I have been the owner of the property for
15 fifteen years all that time, there has not been a
16 fence all the way to the southeast corner of my
17 building.

18 My concern is obstruction from vehicles
19 going in and out of the driveway, um, both tenants
20 and customers that do come in and out.

21 The extended fence all the way to the curb
22 will obstruct vehicles, as well as, perhaps
23 pedestrians walking.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: If they didn't make
25 the fence all the way, you said to the property

1 line?

2 ROBERT PERELMUTER: They are proposing all
3 the way to the curb as of now.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: If they pulled that ^{Page | 150}
5 back a few feet would that improve the site lines?

6 ROBERT PERELMUTER: Absolutely, it would
7 help.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is that something
9 that the applicant would be willing to do?

10 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: Absolutely, just so you
11 know, I did speak to the wife the other day.

12 ROBERT PERELMUTER: Yes, you did.

13 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: And, the discussion was
14 to essentially start the fence on the southeast
15 corner of their building and from there, so, we
16 have no issue.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, so, Counsel,
18 from the Town and the Building Department will
19 make note.

20 That, also, will be part of the amended
21 application.

22 ROBERT PERELMUTER: Excellent, thank you.

23 I appreciate that.

24 My two other concerns are, I was just aware
25 of - - I couldn't see the drawing on the small

1 paper I had.

2 It sounds like they are going to be putting
3 signage, as well.

4 It sounds like they described twenty-one Page | 151
5 feet high consistent with the Bolla signage, on
6 what sounded like it would be the corner directly
7 - - which would be on the northwest corner of
8 their property.

9 My concern is there is signage on the, um,
10 side, the East side of my building, is that
11 signage going to obstruct the existing signage on
12 the East side of my building?

13 That, again, has been there for the past
14 fifteen years and, now, their signage may obstruct
15 my tenants that may be driving westerly down the
16 road.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Altman, is there a
18 way you can resolve the signage issue?

19 ENGINEER TARTAGLIA: Good Afternoon, Chris
20 Tartaglia from High Point Engineering, Civil
21 Engineer on the project.

22 So, we are proposing the sign on the
23 northwest corner.

24 Um, I was not aware the sign abutted but I
25 can give you some details on our sign.

1 Maybe you can help me understand how we can
2 make it better.

3 So, our sign is twenty-one and a half feet
4 tall and we have got a seven foot clear space Page | 152
5 below that sign, which is actually what the Town
6 of Hempstead Code requires for clear space beneath
7 the sign.

8 Do you know how tall your sign is?

9 ROBERT PERELMUTER: I do not.

10 It is towards the upper right hand portion
11 of that side of the building, um - -

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let me make a
13 suggestion, why don't you guys meet after the
14 Hearing and see if you can resolve that issue
15 together without any intervention on the part of
16 the Town.

17 Maybe you can move it two feet one way or
18 three feet the other way.

19 ROBERT PERELMUTER: Exactly, as long as it
20 doesn't obstruct the existing sign with the
21 tenants.

22 ENGINEER TARTAGLIA: Makes sense.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Work it out.

24 ROBERT PERELMUTER: Fantastic.

25 And, then, my third and final point, um,

1 with, again, the southwest portion of their
2 property where they are proposing the garbage bin
3 or the waste bin, um, I like the fact that they
4 are putting that buffer zone on the East side.

5 I am a little concerned.

6 I don't see a buffer on the West side.

7 The garbage bin is the most concern to me
8 because of rats, vermin and other garbage maybe
9 there.

10 I understand it is going to be enclosed
11 garbage bins but I am not sure to what extent.

12 We have in the past spoken to Breslin
13 Realty, the owners of the property previously.

14 There was a parking lot, um, there was
15 constantly garbage, vandalism, you know, other
16 things coming across my side of the fence.

17 So, I want to make sure that the garbage
18 cans won't be a problem for us.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is there a way to
20 buffer the garbage area?

21 ENGINEER TARTAGLIA: Yes, right, now, if
22 you look at the color greenery, we have about ten
23 feet between the West edge, West wall of the trash
24 enclosure and the property line.

25 We will be planting densely with

1 Evergreens.

2 But I will also notice there is a structure
3 on his property that borders the lot line which,
4 um, I am not certain what that structure is.

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5 Is that a shed or a container?

6 ROBERT PERELMUTER: It is a container unit.

7 It is not a permanent structure.

8 It is movable.

9 It was used by the prior tenant.

10 ENGINEER TARTAGLIA: The reason I mention
11 that is because that is another seven or eight
12 foot wide structure that runs along that area that
13 he is concerned about, if that remains, then he
14 won't even see our trash enclosure.

15 If he removes it, then, of course, you have
16 ten foot wide landscaped area.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Maybe there is a way
18 within the trash enclosure, if it is not something
19 that would be - -

20 ENGINEER TARTAGLIA: We will definitely
21 consider that as well.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I would imagine you
23 wouldn't want rats running around your property
24 and take proper pest control to make sure that
25 your customers don't see unpleasant things running

1 about.

2 ENGINEER TARTAGLIA: Bolla has a stellar
3 record of cleanliness and I am sure will continue
4 that record, here on this property.

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5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

6 ROBERT PERELMUTER: Okay, thank you.

7 Those are my concerns.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you. Karen Cass?

9 KAREN CASS: Um, I am here on behalf of the
10 Chamber of Commerce, but, I have several letters
11 from people from the community.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Can you sit down.

13 KAREN CASS: I will, but I just want to let
14 you know I might need a few more minutes.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You can submit the
16 letters and we will be happy to take a look at
17 them.

18 KAREN CASS: I have.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Great, thank you.

20 KAREN CASS: My name is Karen Cass.

21 I am from the Seaford Chamber of Commerce.

22 I represent the local businesses.

23 I am a local activist, as well.

24 I am a member of the Seaford community for
25 over fifty years.

1 And, um, Breslin, love him, hate him,
2 whatever, he ahs been in our community for many
3 years and has not kept that gas station nice for
4 many years.

5 We are happy to see someone come in.

6 We love it to be a gas station.

7 We like it to stay in its normal footprint.

8 The "L" shape was not ever supposed to be
9 part of the gas station.

10 Um, Town of Hempstead had mandated when
11 Pathmark was expanded their was supposed to be
12 extra parking across the street, somehow Breslin
13 was able to get that back and purchased it.

14 And, now, it is part of the Breslin
15 property and no longer a part of, now, Stop &
16 Shop's extra parking.

17 So, now, it is part of their property and,
18 now, we are trying to make it part of a larger gas
19 station.

20 The Seaford community does not want that.

21 Um, they never reached out to the Civic
22 community.

23 Um, Bolla never reached out to the Chamber
24 of Commerce, um, and we are not happy that the
25 tanks were removed.

1 We understand he said there was nothing
2 wrong with them.

3 We like to see the reports.

4 We like to see the waivers that were done ^{Page | 157}
5 in 2017.

6 What are they?

7 We like to understand all of the variances
8 that were submitted.

9 We like to understand and have them written
10 out and given to us so that we can understand what
11 they are doing to the property.

12 And, um, we also would like to know, um,
13 why that this smart man, who has this property,
14 would buy property that is not on a corner or that
15 has a traffic light?

16 The gentleman just said, here, that there
17 would not be any traffic problems at all and it
18 would be fine.

19 However, we know clearly that there is
20 going to be traffic trucks that will be delivering
21 diesel.

22 We know that there will be traffic trucks
23 delivering stuff to the convenience store that
24 will be there.

25 There will be traffic coming in from

1 people that are going to go to the convenience
2 store.

3 So, yes, it will attract the traffic.

4 So, don't tell us that there won't be any ^{Page | 158}
5 traffic problems.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Well, ma'am, I think
7 that the issue is the point that they are trying
8 to make and quite frankly, it makes common sense
9 that with the use that they are proposing as
10 opposed to a different retail use that would be
11 permitted use, would generate less traffic which
12 is logical because, basically, there are very few
13 people that wake up in morning and say "I am going
14 shopping at Bolla today."

15 KAREN CASS: No.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: It is mostly people
17 that are driving by who either live in the
18 community or passing through.

19 KAREN CASS: I understand what you are
20 saying, but, there are still going to be more
21 trucks coming because they have to deliver diesel
22 - -

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Whatever the retail
24 operation would generate truck traffic.

25 KAREN CASS: The same difference, but

1 it would be the same difference.

2 It doesn't make any difference with that.

3 The point we said, we don't understand why
4 they didn't reach out to us first and they are Page | 159
5 pushing this on the community.

6 We don't want it to be - - stay the way it
7 is.

8 We understand it has to be developed but we
9 want, um, the garbage cannot be next to
10 residential.

11 It is all the way in the back where people
12 live.

13 They want it on the other side.

14 We want to know - - the DEC, we want that
15 report.

16 We want to know that those tanks were
17 removed properly and we want to know what is under
18 the ground.

19 There is a soil test, where is that
20 information?

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I think - -

22 KAREN CASS: He is saying it was done.

23 We need proof.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I think you are
25 entitled to that information.

1 May I suggest - - may I suggest if you
2 have a few minutes after the close of this
3 presentation, if Bolla representatives would meet
4 with you to discuss some of the issues that you ^{Page | 160}
5 have and I am sure, Counsel you would be willing.

6 KAREN CASS: Bolla should have met with us
7 prior to wasting your time.

8 He should have met the whole community. I
9 am one person.

10 There are like twenty-five people that need
11 to speak to Bolla, not just me.

12 He needs a community meeting.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Well, the point I am
14 trying to make is there an opportunity, now to
15 meet and you can always report back to the Chamber
16 of Commerce.

17 You are the President of the Chamber?

18 KAREN CASS: I am past President, First
19 Vice-President, now, yes.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, so, maybe they
21 can resolve some of the issues, here, since you
22 can report back to your members, um, because like
23 you said, it is much better to have something done
24 than have it sit for another two years.

25 And, we all know from experience, that this

1 operation is a very clear operation and a very
2 community-minded operation versus other operators
3 who aren't as good.

4 KAREN CASS: I agree with that but we don't ^{Page | 161}
5 want them buffering against residential property.

6 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
7 After, the following ensued.)

8 KAREN CASS: He is pushing that convenience
9 center all the way back.

10 There is not any other property with a
11 convenience center or commercial property
12 business on Merrick Road from Merrick Road all the
13 way to Massapequa that has that far a setback that
14 is a convenience center or a business.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: But let me tell you
16 from our experience - -

17 KAREN CASS: And, it is against a creek and
18 residential property and he owns they are not
19 telling you they are buffering up against
20 residential woods that look very pretty but he
21 doesn't take care of it and he owns it.

22 Breslin owns the back property.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, we just - - you
24 were here when we said to them that we would like
25 to see some beautification done there.

1 Um, so, that would be part of the
2 application.

3 And, also, one other thing with respect to
4 the setback, I actually think you should keep an ^{Page | 162}
5 open mind to that because, basically, in these
6 types of operations, we want to get the traffic
7 that is going in there off the street as quickly
8 as possible.

9 So, it doesn't create a safety issue and we
10 found that setting it back a little bit and
11 creating more space for vehicles is actually
12 safer.

13 KAREN CASS: I agree with you but we have
14 seven gas stations within a one mile radius, so,
15 we don't need twelve pumps or eight pumps.

16 We don't need that many.

17 He doesn't have to put those tanks in.

18 It doesn't have to be that large.

19 We have seven gas stations in a one mile
20 radius.

21 Like I said, I don't think this gentleman
22 is that stupid or that he is a smart man, a great
23 investor. He is Bolla.

24 I don't think he picked the right spot.

25 I just think he is not make the right

1 Investment.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Well, ma'am, you are
3 a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

4 You are an Officer in the Chamber of
5 Commerce.

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6 It is not government's function to tell
7 businesses where they should invest or where they
8 shouldn't invest.

9 They make those economic decisions just
10 like all the members of your Chamber of Commerce
11 make those economic decisions, that is not our
12 function.

13 Our function is to look at what is there.

14 What has happened as far as the historic -
15 -

16 KAREN CASS: Work has to be - - legally
17 work has to - - the gas station is on certain
18 properties, the variances have to work - -

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We agree that there
20 has to be input from the community, from the
21 Chamber of Commerce and they have to work these
22 issues out.

23 KAREN CASS: And, that is for all the
24 residents.

25 It is not just me.

1 I just hand the things - - I am one person.

2 There are residents that don't want this.

3 He says it is one person. There is a whole

4 block there.

5 And, Washington Avenue and Merrick Road has

6 the highest incidents.

7 It is a hot spot.

8 You can talk to Commissioner Ryder. It is

9 the hottest spot in Nassau County for accidents.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Right, that is why

11 the setback is important.

12 KAREN CASS: Well, I am just saying it is

13 not the best place.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: All right, we hear

15 you.

16 KAREN CASS: Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Basically, you will

18 work that out.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Altman, if you can

20 step to the mic, for a minute, I believe you

21 testified and correct me if I am wrong, that this

22 has historically been operated as a gas station,

23 is that correct?

24 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: Yes, it has.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Since the '70's it

1 has been operated as a gas station?

2 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: That is correct.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, I wanted to get
4 clarification on the tanks that were pulled, were ^{Page | 165}
5 they pulled by your client or were they pulled by
6 the prior owner?

7 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: Pulled by the prior
8 owner.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It was pulled by the
10 prior owner of the parcel, okay.

11 And, you have a copy of the DEC report
12 relating to the property?

13 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: We have a DEC permit.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: DEC permit.

15 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: A DEC permit. We already
16 submitted the permit.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Would you give a copy
18 to this lady.

19 KAREN CASS: This property was leased. I
20 don't believe Bolla owns the property.

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let me just - -

22 KAREN CASS: So, the property is leased.

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: It was my District at
24 one time and I love the people of Seaford.

25 I think if you get together with the

1 Seaford Council, that the people of the community
2 and meet with them and have a presentation of what
3 you want to put there and get the input from the
4 community, after you do your presentation to the ^{Page | 166}
5 community - - you may have already made your
6 adjustments.

7 And, first, give your objections, today,
8 before you leave, whatever your objections are and
9 meet with them.

10 Would you be willing to meet with the
11 community, the Seaford High School or auditorium
12 or one of their officers and hash it out so you
13 hear what the concerns are of the community
14 because it is an incredibly, great community.

15 I don't want to see any of them upset,
16 especially, the Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis,
17 the Wellness Council.

18 They have so many great organizations in
19 Seaford.

20 Let's keep them happy.

21 Let's make sure you fit in as a good
22 neighbor.

23 Is that agreeable?

24 ATTORNEY ALTMAN: Mr. Dunne, we don't want
25 to see anybody upset.

1 And, Mr. Singh is here.

2 Mr. Singh would like to say something.

3 He is his own best spokesperson as this
4 Board knows.

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Before Mr. Singh
6 testifies, I just want to say I am sure there was
7 an environmental study done on the property.

8 I am fairly certain that when the DEC came
9 and issued the permit that they did an inspection
10 of the property and that information is public
11 information.

12 You're entitled to it.

13 If there are any irregularities, you should
14 put it in writing to Councilwoman Erin King-
15 Sweeney.

16 But, I suspect that they have been through
17 all the processes required of the DEC which
18 includes a visual inspection to determine whether
19 or not any further action needs to be taken.

20 Go ahead, Mr. Singh.

21 APPLICANT SINGH: Harry Singh, Garden City,
22 New York.

23 Um, we, obviously, would be more than happy
24 to meet with the Chamber, um, we have done that
25 many times before.

1 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: And, the community?

2 APPLICANT SINGH: And, the community, so,
3 we have large conference rooms at our Garden City
4 Headquarters.

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5 We would have a conference there.

6 So, we have all the material available to
7 us with any questions that my come up.

8 And, we will reach out to the Civic
9 Association or the Chamber of Commerce in the Town
10 of Hempstead as part of the application.

11 There is no requirements that, as such,
12 that we need to meet with them in advance and
13 sometimes they do reach out to us.

14 The application, um, on Hempstead, West
15 Hempstead, we had civics reach out to us.

16 We met them in our office and resolved some
17 of their concerns.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mrs. Cass, would you be
19 willing to meet with Mr. Singh at his office to
20 try to discuss your concerns and see if there is
21 something that can be resolved?

22 KAREN CASS: Meet with the other leaders
23 and the community to meet with him, but he has to
24 be open to realize we are not against Bolla having
25 a gas station.

1 We are not against there being a gas
2 station, another eight gas station, but, we are
3 against the expansion of that space.

4 That space was never meant to be that.

5 I understand that it is business space,
6 but, it doesn't - - it was never meant to be what
7 - -

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mrs. Cass, I would
9 like to say one thing in respect to that, it has
10 been vacant for two years.

11 We have to evaluate the competing interests
12 and what might happen if we don't do the model - -

13 KAREN CASS: I am not - - if we can do it -
14 -

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let me finish,
16 nothing is one hundred percent and nothing is
17 perfect.

18 KAREN CASS: Yes.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We have to weigh that
20 over the danger of this remaining vacant - -

21 KAREN CASS: I agree.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: - - Another two to
23 ten years.

24 KAREN CASS: But the reason we are here,
25 today is to speak - -

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: See what you can work
2 out.

3 APPLICANT SINGH: For the record, all the
4 operations in the last ten years we have many Page | 170
5 sites within thirty years, all projects go through
6 very total studies called feasibility studies.

7 We don't take any property that we can't
8 handle.

9 It is an investment for us.

10 We are always out and listening to the
11 neighbor trying to accommodate any reasonable
12 request.

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Excellent.

14 APPLICANT SINGH: Any request is
15 reasonable.

16 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: In the meantime, we will
17 reserve decision.

18 KAREN CASS: We can get copies of the
19 waivers from 2017, all of that stuff that was
20 prior?

21 APPLICANT SINGH: Let me give you what you
22 are entitled to right, now.

23 And, we will remove the trash enclosure
24 from the corner, from the southwest to southeast,
25 so, it does not abut the residential.

1 KAREN CASS: That would be perfect.

2 APPLICANT SINGH: The second thing the
3 gentleman was concerned about the signage to his
4 building because there is a sign on his building. Page | 171

5 We will move that sign from that side on
6 the corner of the East side of the property.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Or whatever works.

8 APPLICANT SINGH: You know when we design
9 our facilities, we design our facilities and we
10 keep in mind the traffic circulation.

11 We don't want traffic jam concerns, the
12 number of traffic, the number of cars on the road.

13 The facility is designed by well-educated
14 professionals.

15 Um, at that moment, we think that we have
16 done everything that we could.

17 Again, the back of the property will remain
18 residential property.

19 We don't own that.

20 We are leasing the property, so, we don't
21 have control of the property in the back, but, the
22 property that we are leasing, Bolla will ensure
23 that the property will look the way that we are
24 proposing, today, ten years from today, which I
25 have done in all the properties in the Town

1 of Hempstead.

2 In reference to the records, I would be
3 more than happy to provide you records.

4 We have had a very thorough investigation Page | 172
5 from the DEC and we obtained approvals.

6 The property, at this time, is clean.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am sure you have
8 because I know you don't want to inherit anybody
9 else's problems.

10 APPLICANT SINGH: Too costly.

11 KAREN CASS: They did a soil test?

12 APPLICANT SINGH: We have all that
13 information.

14 KAREN CASS: And, that is what we need.

15 APPLICANT SINGH: If you really have more
16 concerns, we will try to address it after the
17 meeting, after the hearing.

18 So, you don't even sit down with us, as
19 long as your requests are reasonable, I am more
20 than happy to accommodate you.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Singh.
22 Your time has passed.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you.

24 SUPERIVSOR GILLEN: Christine Pyryt?

25 CHRISTINE PYRYT: Hello. My name

1 is Christine Pyryt, Seaford.

2 Um, okay, where do I start?

3 This location is fraught with problems, it
4 has for many years.

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5 Um, the inherent problems that exist on
6 this site is that it is that - - the police
7 department has designated this as a high accident
8 frequency location, um, being that this property
9 is located in the middle of the street and not on
10 the corner.

11 We can't change that, that is the way it
12 is.

13 I am not questioning Bolla's, you know,
14 efforts.

15 They are a great company on Long Island.

16 We all know that but you can't change
17 inherent problems with this property.

18 In 1970 when this was designated as a gas
19 station and put next to wetlands - - those tanks
20 were removed two years ago were contaminated, the
21 rim was contaminated, they put, you know, it was
22 monitored fifty years and we would not put a gas
23 station next to wetlands.

24 And, so, there has been tons of issues with
25 the problem, we don't even know what the full

1 fallout was for the wetlands.

2 In the opening line of the, um, article,
3 the Building Zone Ordinance, Article 33, "Gas
4 Station," gasoline service station, the first line
5 says - - subsection 330, the gasoline service
6 station has become a matter of great concern to
7 the people in government of the Town of Hempstead.

8 Nothing has changed.

9 I mean it is current vacant. We don't want
10 to grasp at something because we are being
11 presented with a gas station because of the fact
12 that it has been vacant.

13 Um, also, that same, um, Subsection 344 A-
14 1, vacancy of the premises by the owner/operator
15 of a period of six months renders it no longer
16 designated as a gas service station.

17 And, the, um, North part of the parcel,
18 which was operated as a gas station, that "L" in
19 the back was not.

20 And, I know getting gas, um, service
21 station designation is very hard in Nassau County.

22 So, I know they are trying to attach
23 themselves to that "L" shape, what was presently,
24 you know, historically the gas station.

25 So, you know, honestly, we have had the

1 whole battle with them and stepping away from it
2 because it was such, you know, a contentious site.

3 Um, just be aware of that and also mention,
4 um, the traffic having a business of this nature
5 in and out and in and out, that doesn't help
6 traffic.

7 It actually increases the volume of people
8 coming in and out - -

9 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
10 After, the following ensued.)

11 CHRISTINE PYRYT: - - Chance of an, um,
12 accident in a place that has already been
13 designated as, "high accident frequency," so, that
14 if someone goes to a destination getting their
15 nails done, they are there for an hour.

16 If they are getting their hair done, they
17 are there for an hour.

18 If they are getting gas and going to the
19 convenience store and they are in and out, in and
20 out, it will increase the likelihood of an
21 accident.

22 There is no light and there is no corner
23 and that is ideally what gas - - if you think of a
24 gas station on Long Island, a lot of them are on
25 corners.

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1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you. I am sorry,
2 your time is up.

3 You need to speak with Mr. Singh or Mr.
4 Tartaglia about your concerns and try to come to ^{Page | 176}

5 -

6 CHRISTINE PYRYT: They can't change the
7 problems, you know, so, that is that.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any other
11 slips - -

12 PEARL JACOBS: Pearl Jacobs, President of
13 the Nostrand Gardens Civic Association in
14 Uniondale.

15 Um, I do like to say Bolla is recognized
16 for the beautiful designed and maintained
17 stations.

18 Um, I would like to ask Mr. Singh a
19 question; how many Bolla stations are currently
20 located within the Town of Hempstead and where are
21 these stations located?

22 And, um, perhaps we can have a conversation
23 with, um, Mr. Singh regarding, um, bringing a
24 Bolla location to Uniondale.

25 As Uniondale is the gateway to the HUB.

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1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Singh, would you be
2 happy to speak with Ms. Jacobs?

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why don't they speak
4 afterwards? Page | 177

5 That sounds like - -

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That is what I mean.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Basically, what you
8 are saying, you would like a Bolla station?

9 PEARL JACOBS: I am not speaking on behalf
10 of the Chamber of Commerce but I am speaking on
11 behalf of the Nostrand Gardens Civic Association
12 and we do have some blighted, um, locations in
13 Uniondale and Bolla has a reputation of, you know,
14 beautiful buildings and they maintain them very
15 well.

16 We would be interested in that.

17 And, um, Uniondale is the, um, post
18 community and gateway to the Nassau County HUB.

19 And, we would like to discuss that option.

20 APPLICANT SINGH: Yes, we love the
21 opportunity.

22 Many times we get these comments.

23 PEARL JACOBS: Thank you, Mr. Singh.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay. I do not have
25 any other slips on these applications, is

1 there anyone else that would like to be heard?

2 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
3 the following ensued.)

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I move ^{Page | 178}
5 that the Hearing be closed and we reserve
6 decision.

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Second.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
15 Goosby?

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you all. Thank
20 you, everybody.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will you
22 now, call the Decision Calendar, please.

23 CLERK CABANA: Application of 671
24 NEWBRIDGE, LLC for a permit to include an existing
25 gasoline service station within the

1 "GSS" District and install (2) two additional
2 storage tanks, each with a capacity of 15,000
3 gallons and install (2) two, new pump islands and
4 a 14' x 53' canopy and install (three) pump
5 islands with a 24' x 82' canopy and convert
6 service bays into a retail store and operate a
7 self-service fuel station - east side of Newbridge
8 Road between North Jerusalem Road & Hysler Court -
9 East Meadow.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion on
11 this item.

12 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I make a Motion we close
13 the Hearing and adopt.

14 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Second.

15 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

16 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

20 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
24 Goosby?

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

1 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

3 Madam Clerk, please call the next item on
4 the Decision Calendar.

5 CLERK CABANA: Application of VS CENTRAL,
6 INC. for a permit to include an existing gasoline
7 service station within the "GSS" District & to
8 maintain existing improvements including three
9 pump islands, an 82' x 26.1' canopy over pump
10 islands, operate self-service & operate a
11 convenience store in conjunction with the existing
12 repair facility at 360 Central Avenue - near VALEY
13 STREAM

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a Motion on
15 this item.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, I move that the
17 application be approved.

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second the
19 Motion.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

22 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

3 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

4 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

5 Goosby?

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

9 That concludes the Decision Calendar.

10 Madam Clerk, will you, please, call the
11 Administrative Calendar.

12 CLERK CABANA: Yes, Supervisor.

13 There are Items 17 through 78 on the
14 calendar.

15 I also have two items of urgent or
16 emergency nature.

17 The first item is a Resolution authorizing
18 an extension of 90 days for contract number 18-
19 2017 for the professional service contract for the
20 registered architect or professional engineer
21 throughout the Town of Hempstead.

22 This will be Item Number 79 on the
23 Administrative Calendar.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, I, also
25 have a matter of an urgent nature - -

1 CLERK CABANA: The second item is a
2 Resolution authorizing the procurement of natural
3 gas from Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC.,
4 doing business as "Direct Energy Business," a
5 third party supplier certified by the New York
6 Subservice Commission.

7 This will be Item Number 80 on the
8 Administrative Calendar.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Do any of the Council
10 Members wish to sever any of the items on the
11 Administrative Calendar.

12 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
13 the following ensued.)

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, I would like to
15 move to remove Item Number 27 from the CALENDAR.

16 We have to get fresh pricing on this and go
17 out for the RFP again.

18 May I have a second?

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, call the
21 roll.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

23 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

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1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

2 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

6 Goosby?

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

8 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move the
11 Administrative Calendar in its entirety except one
12 item severed, Number 27.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, I have a
15 number of slips from people that would like to be
16 heard on the Administrative Calendar starting with
17 Johnathan Williams.

18 JONATHAN WILLIAMS: Good Afternoon. My
19 name is Jonathan Williams. I am President of the
20 J.W. Security, LLC., in Freeport, New York.

21 I am also a Member of the Freeport Chamber
22 of Commerce.

23 I grew up right, here, in Hempstead on
24 Terrace Avenue.

25 And, I now in Roosevelt and a Member of the

1 Roosevelt Chamber of Commerce.

2 I am a retired NYPD Officer and I started
3 with the 79th Precinct and 23rd Precinct and the
4 last assignment was the driver for the late Steven ^{Page | 184}
5 McDonald.

6 My company currently provides ongoing
7 security service to the, um, to the Town of
8 Hempstead.

9 I was called up on an emergency basis
10 because the prior company stated that they could
11 no longer fulfill the contract.

12 I signed a contract on December 20th of 2018
13 on, um, a temporary basis and the contract was put
14 back out to bid, in which I, um, was, um, I was
15 chosen out of, um, it was ten companies solicited
16 for this temporary emergency contract and three
17 responded and my bid of 5950 for pick up was the
18 lowest of all those that responded.

19 The contract was later put out to bid and
20 it was opened at public, um, it was opened to the
21 public on January the 9th and two companies
22 responded to that bid, um, Dantridge Associates,
23 which I can't even find under a simple GOOGLE
24 search and my company.

25 Um, a representative from my company

1 was at the opening of the bid.

2 It is my understanding that Dantridge &
3 Associates responded to the bid of twenty-two
4 dollars and twenty-two cents.

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5 It is almost one third my company.

6 I do understand that the Town has an
7 obligation to search for the lowest bidder, also
8 have an obligation to search for the lowest,
9 responsible bidder.

10 I was called upon and emergency basis
11 because the company that had this contract prior
12 to them had to give it up, obviously, because they
13 were proven not to be a responsible bidder because
14 they couldn't maintain it at the price that they
15 had priced on.

16 I was in contact with the Parks Department
17 and, um, the attorney and they stated to me that
18 all the paperwork was handed in regarding this
19 company Dantridge & Associates.

20 I was asked to get commercial liability
21 insurance, um, for the vehicles and also the
22 insurance which I have for my company.

23 And, it was the amounts the Town is
24 familiar with.

25 I just want to make sure that this

1 particular company has handed in everything that
2 is equal to what I was being asked to hand in, in
3 order to maintain what you give the competitive
4 contract - -

5 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
6 After, the following ensued.)

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: All right, sir - -

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Excuse me, Councilman,
9 excuse me, Councilman.

10 Commissioner Leno, are you, here, to
11 address this?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: I will be
13 speaking on behalf of the Commissioner.

14 Supervisor, Members of the Town Board:

15 Good Afternoon, um, I just want to say for
16 - Kyle Regan, Deputy Commissioner, Parks
17 Department.

18 Before I say anything, I did want to say
19 for public record, Jon, here and his company were
20 the utmost professionals, responsive.

21 They did all the pickups and drops just
22 like they were supposed to and any time I needed
23 to get in touch with him, he was there.

24 As far as the vendor in good standing goes,
25 they certainly were - -

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1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What about - - what
2 about the one that was the lowest bidder, what do
3 you know about them?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: Dantridge & Page | 187
5 Associates, they are based in southern New York.

6 I know - -

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Southern, New York,
8 like where, Southern, New York?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: I have the
10 exact name of the Town.

11 JONATHAN WILLIAMS: Rockland County.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: It is in
13 Rockland County. They are certified.

14 They are licensed and they are insured.

15 They provide insurance for me where they
16 have company insurance and they listed the Town as
17 an additional insurer.

18 They are licensed in the State of New York
19 as both private investigative firm and on-guard
20 service.

21 And, um, they are certified, bonded by the
22 State.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let me ask you a
24 question; how many employees does Dantridge have?

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: I don't have

1 that information.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Do they have any
3 references?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: Again, am I
5 asked to certify them?

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No, no, I am just
7 asking - -

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: That maybe a
9 question that Purchasing may better answer that.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Do we know that?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: That maybe a
12 question that Purchasing maybe can answer.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Are they a Minority-
14 owned business?

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: I couldn't
16 tell you.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: They are not located
18 in the Town of Hempstead and how much are they
19 charging for pick up?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: 22.50, I
21 believe, could be 22.25.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: 22 per pickup at the
23 Town.

24 How many pickups do we have a day?

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: We have three,

1 currently, but, it changes in our business.

2 We are utilizing them and the Town Clerk is
3 also utilizing them.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: How many pickup do we ^{Page | 189}
5 have on a daily basis when we are busy?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: Sixteen for the
7 Parks Department.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, sixteen for the
9 Parks Department, so, basically, there is a lot of
10 pickups on a daily basis and this company is a lot
11 less than the next lowest bidder, but, they are
12 not located in the Town of Hempstead?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: No.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: And, we don't know a
15 lot about them.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: The Parks
17 Department doesn't beyond the licensing and the
18 certifications that they provided, um - -

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You know they do a
20 good job in other places, have we gotten
21 references?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: I personally
23 don't have references from them.

24 Again, that maybe something that the Town
25 Purchasing Department may be able to provide.

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What is the
2 historical data with respect to what we pay per
3 pick up over the last five years?

4 What would you say the average is?

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5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: Prior to J &
6 W's interim contract with us the Parks Department,
7 I couldn't speak for the rest of the Town, was
8 using R. P. Investigations at a price point of
9 twenty-one dollars, I believe.

10 I maybe a dollar or so off, but, it is
11 right around twenty-one.

12 And, the Town Clerk was using them, as
13 well.

14 JONATHAN WILLIAMS: May I comment on that?

15 From my understand that is one of the
16 reasons they had to close their doors and they owe
17 their employees a substantial amount of money.

18 I don't want the Town to call me on an
19 emergency basis for these type of people who would
20 say anything to grab the contract and they can't
21 fulfill it.

22 I have a track record.

23 I am a local person, um, I employ local
24 people who live right here, pay taxes and they
25 shop locally.

1 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
2 heard. After, the following ensued.)

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Who is doing the work,
4 now? Page | 191

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: Excuse me?

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Who is doing the
7 work, now?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: J.W.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Excuse me, Councilman,
10 I just want to raise a point that Parks just said.

11 Purchasing should look into the company and
12 we just spoke with Purchasing and Purchasing said
13 Parks should have looked into the company.

14 So, it seems that no one looked into this
15 company.

16 I am also wondering, Commissioner Leno, was
17 this approved before our Compliance Officer?

18 COMMISSIONER LENO: Before you had a
19 Compliance Officer.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It is before the Board,
21 right, now, so has the Compliance Officer had a
22 chance to look at this?

23 COMMISSIONER LENO: Not to my knowledge.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, I think we should
25 table this Item.

1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I was
2 just going to say, we have a Compliance Officer
3 look, if the other firm is competent and is less
4 money to the Town, that is the breaks.

5 But, I think that, now, we have a
6 Compliance Officer.

7 It might be a good idea to put this off for
8 a couple of weeks and let's do our due diligence
9 and let's see if there are any issues and if there
10 are not any issues, then, we should take the price
11 that is best for the taxpayers.

12 But, I don't know if any of my colleagues -
13 -

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I just have a
15 question, if you said this before, I do apologize.

16 Where are you located, again?

17 JONATHAN WILLIAMS: My office?

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Yes.

19 JONATHAN WILLIAMS: Down in Freeport, that
20 is on the Miracle Mile.

21 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: If I have this
22 straight, right, now, you are currently doing our
23 pickups?

24 JONATHAN WILLIAMS: That is correct.

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay, it was put

1 out to bid, an RFP and someone's bid, what was the
2 number?

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: 22.50.

4 JONATHAN WILLIAMS: 22.50.

5 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: 22.50 to do an
6 armed pickup?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: Yes, they
8 employed an armed guard within their ranks.

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I agree with the
10 Supervisor.

11 I know that is rare. I agree.

12 (Whereupon, laughter was heard. After, the
13 following ensued.)

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: This should be
15 going - -

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It might happen at a
17 Town Board Meeting.

18 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: - - This should be
19 going to the Compliance Officer.

20 Let's get all of our ducks in a row.

21 There is nothing that is going to impede
22 the Parks operation over the next - -

23 JONATHAN WILLIAMS: No, as far as I
24 understand, the interim agreement it actually said
25 "interim agreement."

1 It could be extended in a year. The
2 Attorney who wrote it stated it could be extended
3 into a year, if they chose.

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am not talking Page | 194
5 bad about the other company.

6 I honestly - - this is the first time that
7 I have seen you, for full disclosure.

8 We didn't serve together.

9 We didn't work as partners together, but,
10 um, I think, I am not disparaging either company,
11 but, I think we need to have the opportunity for
12 the Compliance Officer to take a look at this.

13 And, I agree with the Supervisor that
14 should be done.

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am so happy
16 that we have a great person that is working for us
17 as a Compliance Officer, who definitely needs to
18 look into this.

19 And, when it comes to money, I want to make
20 sure we don't lose it.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER REGAN: Without a doubt
22 and I just want to say to the Supervisor and the
23 Members of the Board, it is the Parks job to make
24 sure the yare licensed, certified, bonded in the
25 State of New York.

1 Um, other than that, as far as our
2 operating budget is concerned, we structured it
3 contingent on the 22 dollar price point that we
4 had with R.P. Investigation.

5 They reneged on their contract in December.

6 The budget was adopted in October.

7 So - -

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: What we will do,
9 Deputy, is I am going to make a motion to adjourn
10 this until the next Meeting, in which, the, um, in
11 the next two weeks, we will have our Compliance
12 Officer look into, um, this matter.

13 And, then, report back to us.

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

17 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

21 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

25 Goosby?

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Supervisor, before ^{Page | 196}

5 we go onto the next speaker, I am sorry I missed
6 it, um, I would like to make an amendment to Item
7 37 on the Administrative Calendar and add,
8 "authorization for the Town Attorney to sign the
9 Lynbrook Library Contract."

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I will say, I second in
11 support of that amendment.

12 I actually request that the Town Attorney
13 sign since I was not the Supervisor in 2014.

14 I did not feel comfortable in signing that
15 contract.

16 So, I thank you for your Motion.

17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second the
18 Motion.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: The Motion, to be
20 clear, there is an Item Number 37, a Resolution to
21 have the Town Supervisor to sign a contract that
22 actually is already over.

23 It is a contract that ran from 2014 to
24 2018, relating to Library Services in Lynbrook
25 Public Library.

1 Um, for some reason, the contract was never
2 signed.

3 However, we are amending it so that the
4 Town Attorney can sign it instead of me, since I ^{Page | 197}
5 was not the Supervisor in 2014, that is the
6 Motion.

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Town Attorney or Council
8 person.

9 SENIOR COUNCIWOMAN GOOSBY: No, just the
10 Town Attorney.

11 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Second.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We have a Motion and
13 second for that amendment.

14 Madam Clerk, will you please call the roll.

15 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

16 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

17 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

20 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
24 Goosby?

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

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1 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

3 Rori Gordon?

4 RORI GORDON: Rori Gordon, Hauppauge, New York. Page | 198

6 Which Town Attorney is going to be on the
7 Ethics Board?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We actually had
9 adjourned the Ethics Legislation.

10 There is some discussion about that and
11 comments about the Ethics Board.

12 That hasn't been decided yet.

13 RORI GORDON: At the last Meeting, I held
14 up, sent up to you guys, um, a letter and, um, the
15 letter was from the Committee on Open Government.

16 It was an advisory opinion where the
17 Building Department was breaking State Law by
18 charging the residents twenty-five dollars for a
19 certified copy for a certified sheet.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Gordon, I am sorry
21 to interrupt you.

22 Please, stop her time, um, we have renewed
23 Item 27.

24 If you are speaking about the Resolution
25 relating to the Building Department, um,

1 because we had to go out and get new prices
2 because the prices are no longer valid.

3 We are talking on the Administrative
4 Calendar.

5 RORI GORDON: Right, right, sorry, wrong
6 spot, okay.

7 Um, I have a question on Number 62, how do
8 you obtain a bay house?

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We did talk about this
10 last Meeting.

11 It was adjourned because I think Councilman
12 Ambrosino wanted it to go to the Compliance
13 Officer.

14 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: This is a different
15 bay house.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Oh, this is a different
17 bay house.

18 Commissioner, if you could answer that.

19 Would you, please, speak into the mic,
20 Commissioner, please.

21 COMMISSIONER: The bay houses are generally
22 kept within the families and when the families no
23 longer wish to have that bay house, it goes on a
24 list except in a case where the family or relative
25 of the family becomes the caretaker, at which

1 time, after three years of paying all the rental
2 insurance, fixing up anything that is damaged,
3 they can, then, become owners of the bay house.

4 Other than that, we have a list of people ^{Page | 200}
5 who are interested in availability of bay houses,
6 if and when they come up and that is about
7 thirteen people on the list presently.

8 So, when all those conditions are met and
9 the bay house false apart, the terms of the
10 requirements, they would, then, become available
11 on the lottery system.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you,
13 Commissioner.

14 Does that answer your question, Ms. Gordon?

15 RORI GORDON: Yes, you go on the list by
16 going to the Department of Conservation and
17 Waterways?

18 COMMISSIONER: Yes.

19 RORI GORDON: Okay, thanks.

20 Number 63, expressing the intent of the
21 Town Board when making appointments for vacancies
22 of elected officials, can you go into that in more
23 specifics?

24 I read it but I rather hear it from you
25 guys.

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So, this is a
2 Resolution, um, that was put forward, as you may
3 know, I advocated when there is a vacancy on the
4 Town Board, that we should have a Referendum and ^{Page | 201}
5 let the people decide whether they want to incur
6 the cost to have a special election.

7 Um, personally, my opinion is that this is
8 the best way to fill a vacancy on the Town Board.

9 People should be elected, not selected.

10 When people are selected to fill a vacancy
11 on the Town Board, it gives that person an unfair
12 advantage in the upcoming general election because
13 they have available the incumbency and resources
14 available to them as a sitting elected official,
15 when, in fact, have not been elected.

16 However, in August of 2018, um, the Board
17 changed the rules and prevented me from ever being
18 able to put the special election legislation
19 forward unless the Board all decided I am allowed
20 to put it back on the calendar.

21 Since I am no longer able to put forward
22 legislation, which, again, is not mandating - - we
23 had to have special elections, um, it was
24 legislation asking for public comment on it about
25 possibly putting forward a Referendum to the

1 Voters on whether or not we should have special
2 elections to fill vacancies when they occur on the
3 Town Board.

4 Um, right, now, the only two people that Page | 202
5 were initially elected to the Town Board are
6 Senior Councilwoman Goosby and me and also the
7 Clerk is also elected.

8 Our Tax Receiver and other Council Members
9 were selected, not elected for this seat.

10 However, I can't put forward special
11 elections legislation or legislation calling for a
12 Referendum on that.

13 This is viewed as, by me, the next best
14 option and experts on Election Law opined in
15 Newsday, today, reading the book on Election Law,
16 it is - - Mr. Volpetere (as heard/ phonetic
17 spelling) cited in Newsday, today, this is
18 probably the best alternative to actually try to
19 get the people to have a real voice in who
20 represents them.

21 So, this legislation, I proposed to do is
22 say if we won't have a special election and the
23 Board is going to appoint people to come and fill
24 a vacancy, when it occurs before a General
25 Election, that person should agree that they

1 will not run for the seat.

2 So, there is no unfair inequitable
3 advantage, that person, the selectable person will
4 not have an advantage over a person who is just Page | 203
5 vying in the normal electoral cycle to get that
6 seat.

7 RORI GORDON: I thought that is what is
8 meant but, I just want to get clarification on it.

9 And, lastly, Number 27 was severed.

10 All the people that were here last meeting
11 - -

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am sorry?

13 RORI GORDON: Number 27 was severed and all
14 the people that were here, at the last meeting, I
15 presume were contacted?

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We had to actually
17 remove it from the calendar because the price
18 quotes that we got expired.

19 So, we had to get new valid pricing, so, it
20 has to go out to bid, again.

21 RORI GORDON: I know that no one is here
22 from the last meeting, that is just a coincidence?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I can't explain why
24 people show up or don't show up.

25 RORI GORDON: Okay, thank you.

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1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Felix Procacci?

2 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. 1165
3 Barnes Street, Franklin Square, New York.

4 Um, on the, um, Number 63, I hope that, ^{Page | 204}
um,
5 before you pick anyone, you know, even if it is
6 just an interim, I would like to see language
7 actually, so, it is more formal of that person
8 that you want to or intend on or the people that
9 you intend on possibly selecting to serve six
10 months, a year, whatever, that is, you know,
11 depending on when the event occurs, that there is
12 an opportunity that the people get to meet them
13 first before you select them as opposed to just,
14 hooray, this person got selected.

15 Because just like you are trying to create
16 that, get rid of that unfair advantage, a person
17 who is elected by this Board may still work to
18 help the person that they intend on running in
19 November.

20 So, I just ask that be done.

21 And, on Item Number 69, the various
22 offices, positions, occupations, as I said many
23 times, I did FOIL the documents.

24 Unfortunately, I don't understand why it is
25 taking a long time to give me this information

1 on account of you know the people who are taking
2 leaves of absences in particular, in addition to
3 the people who are retired or terminated because
4 we were at the Budget Hearing, everybody, the
5 Comptroller's Office, he new exactly how many
6 people retired.

7 He was able to get that information and,
8 here, today, you're going to vote on somebody and
9 you vote on people mostly every meeting.

10 This was somebody who took a leave of
11 absence and I am waiting weeks to get something
12 that should be a five-minute thing.

13 So, I am not sure why that information is
14 so hard to come by but - -

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: If you stop the clock
16 for a minute.

17 Mr. Ra, have you been involved with this
18 FOIL, is it HIPA-protected information?

19 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: His FOILs are being
20 processed.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay.

22 FELIX PROCACCI; I did my research as far
23 as HIP and everything else and I even wrote that
24 into my FOIL.

25 There is nothing to be found.

1 I called several agencies when I went to
2 the HIPA website, it pushed me to other agencies.

3 And, I called them and there was nothing.

4 There is nothing to be found.

5 So, Mr. Ra quoted something that it is HIPA
6 compliant and I said - - I said in my FOIL, if you
7 are going to reject my FOIL, give me cited law.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Has your FOIL been
9 rejected?

10 FELIX PROCACCI: No, it hasn't been
11 rejected, but, if you decided not to give it to
12 me, I would even say to go further, if you are
13 going to continue, in my opinion, violating the
14 law, why don't you cite to me, give me what Mr. Ra
15 said, it is HIPA compliance, okay.

16 I am a reasonable guy, I think.

17 Give me the law that says you couldn't do
18 this.

19 And, then, that is the end of the
20 discussion.

21 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
22 After, the following ensued.)

23 FELIX PROCACCI: But, that hasn't happened
24 and I don't understand why I can't even get an
25 explanation as to why it is apparent you are

1 violating the law.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr.
3 Procacci.

4 And, um, so, the Clerk's Office is in the Page | 207
5 process of responding to your FOIL request and if
6 that becomes an issue, we can discuss it further.

7 FELIX PROCACCI: It should take a matter of
8 minutes in account you are voting on those, today.

9 So, why can't, by the time I get home, you
10 can't have seven or eight pieces of paper in my
11 inbox or the explanation that Mr. Ra says or the
12 HIPA law, the provision that says I can't get it
13 one or the other?

14 But, it shouldn't take weeks to get this
15 information, that is an electronic form.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr.
17 Procacci.

18 Susan Ryan?

19 SUSAN RYAN: Susan Ryan. Good Afternoon.
20 Um, I just wanted to speak on in Newsday about the
21 article, um, about, um, Item 63 and in regard, I
22 was here several months ago and there was a
23 request that a Public Hearing, just on talking on
24 Special Elections in the Town of Hempstead and
25 that was tabled or turned down.

1 So, there wasn't an opportunity, first of
2 all, for the public to even discuss whether
3 special elections are, you know, appropriate,
4 legal, whatever guidelines.

5 There was no information and no opportunity
6 for the members to take a look at that.

7 So, I am very much in favor of, um, you
8 know, having this and the article in Newsday that
9 I pulled out, today, just in terms of taking a
10 look at a resolution where, um, somebody who is
11 taking - - finishing up, that was pointed to
12 finish the term of an elected official, to take
13 that, you know, position for the period to finish
14 off the term and then agreeing not to run, again.

15 Because the amount of, um, political
16 appointees on the Town Board is, you know, taking
17 to a new level, here, in the Town of Hempstead.

18 You know, it is a one hundred and twelve
19 years of one party and you know, it is really got
20 - - there needs to be fresh blood and you recycle
21 a lot of the same, um, Republicans, um, you know,
22 appointees or candidates.

23 There is no fresh blood and you know a
24 Democratic society, we need to take a look at.

25 It is very, very important.

1 Um, I also looked at gridlock, here, in the
2 Town of Hempstead and the normal voting on a lot
3 of many, many, many, I don't even know the number.

4 I think I might FOIL that, the amount of ^{Page | 209}
5 votes that are turned down on the Party line,
6 where it is six to one and six to zero in terms of
7 issues that Laura Gillen, um, puts forth on this
8 Board is just disgraceful and that shows there is
9 no partisan - - it is a very partisan type of
10 election process, here.

11 So, I really think in the Town of Hempstead
12 we need to take a look at this.

13 Also, in terms of these movements, when you
14 look at the agenda items, you got to make this a
15 little user friendly.

16 I have been here five hours and my muscles
17 are screaming at me.

18 I was not going to leave until I was able
19 to talk but when you have important items that are
20 at the end of the agenda, you make it very hard to
21 make people talk about important things like
22 freedom of voting, you know, hearings on key
23 issues that open up the dialogue with the voters.

24 And, you know, um, the Town of Hempstead,
25 it is really not working well for the people

1 that - -

2 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
3 After, the following ensued.)

4 SUSAN RYAN: - - want to be heard.

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5 Um, and I think that is pretty much what I
6 wanted to talk about.

7 I really advocate the people, take a look
8 at this, you know, resolution that Laura is
9 bringing forth, you know, it is hurting the
10 taxpayers and all of you are here to help the
11 taxpayers.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We don't have one
14 Party rule, here, in the Town.

15 It is called "majority rule," so, the
16 majority gets to determine what happens.

17 SUSAN RYAN: Exactly.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Unlike the State
19 Government, which, now, is completely one Party
20 rule, that has brought us recreational marijuana,
21 third-trimester abortions and chased Amazon out of
22 the State of New York.

23 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
24 heard. After, the following ensued.)

25 SUSAN RYAN: The issue is we are looking

1 and we don't like one Party in Albany and one
2 Party, here.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We don't have one
4 Party, here.

5 I think that is insensitive to Senior
6 Councilwoman Goosby who has been here for years.

7 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
8 heard. After, the following ensued.)

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is ow she earned
10 her title as "Senior Councilwoman."

11 And, I think it is offensive to Supervisor
12 Gillen.

13 SUSAN RYAN: Look at the numbers, look at
14 the numbers.

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: May I say
16 something?

17 SUSAN RYAN: Yes, of course.

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: This is my 19th
19 year. I have been able to do many good things for
20 my area.

21 SUSAN RYAN: Absolutely, as all of you
22 have, I am sure, as all of you have.

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I was the one,
24 the only one voting for in my District for or
25 against Councilmanic Districts.

1 We have Councilmanic Districts so each
2 District can be seen and take care of.

3 I went to Court for that in 1988 and we
4 won, that is why we have it so everyone respects Page | 212
5 the other person's right as a Council person.

6 And, they really have to respect me because
7 I wouldn't take it any other way.

8 SUSAN RYAN: But, it doesn't look like that
9 all the time.

10 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Yes, they do.
11 It is something I fought for.

12 SUSAN RYAN: It doesn't.

13 It looks like it is across the board and it
14 is one sided and that is not good.

15 And, Bruce, I agree with you, it is not
16 good when there is a one-Party system.

17 And, it needs to be a give and take.

18 I totally respect what you said. I really
19 do.

20 I am not seeing it, here.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Ryan.

22 I am sorry that you had to wait so long.

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am too.

24 We have to listen to these people.

25 They are the ones that are making this

1 long.

2 Do we want to stay here this long? We have
3 to listen to the people.

4 SUSAN RYAN: There are reasonable
5 accommodations.

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6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I will talk to my
7 colleagues on the Town Board.

8 SUSAN RYAN: Okay, it is a reasonable
9 accommodation.

10 I will be responsible for saying that next
11 time, so, I am not exhausted after five hours.

12 Okay, that is my response.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You know what, the
14 Supervisor can call this in whatever order she
15 wants.

16 SUSAN RYAN: Okay.

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I don't think we need
18 Board action.

19 Do what you want.

20 SUSAN RYAN: I will be responsible next
21 time, okay.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

23 Gabby Hoffman?

24 GABBY HOFFMAN: Gabby Hoffman, West
25 Hempstead.

1 I am here to speak about the proposal by
2 the Supervisor regarding the appointments.

3 Well, I completely respect and understand
4 where you are coming from after what happened with ^{Page | 214}
5 your proposal for the special elections.

6 I really do understand that, especially,
7 someone who will be running for public office for
8 the first time this year and running against an
9 incumbent.

10 I really understand what you are talking
11 about, what benefits they may get when they run.

12 I do think the problem with just making a
13 blanket statement that anyone who runs the first
14 time, um, you know, sorry, anyone who is an
15 appointed can't run again.

16 It limits qualified candidates, so for a
17 certain period you lose whoever is really
18 qualified for that job as appointee.

19 I think it would be better to try and find
20 a way to make rules about how someone is
21 appointed.

22 Someone mentioned about the Ethic Board,
23 these are also qualifications someone needs to be
24 appointed rather than just saying, "a well known
25 can do it."

1 Um, another possible, um, amendment would
2 be this would only apply to someone who is
3 appointed since it is a four-year term, let's say
4 a year and a half beforehand, so, it is not
5 everyone, it is oh, you are clearly doing it, so,
6 you can get the special privilege of being an
7 incumbent.

8 If someone is appointed a year into the
9 term, that is three years of actually doing the
10 job and I wouldn't think that is a situation where
11 someone is trying to be subversive in the way they
12 are doing it, so, setting a time limit, the term
13 is almost up, things are ready to go and, now, you
14 are appointing someone new, that would make more
15 sense.

16 Um, that is just my thought on the matter.

17 I understand where you are coming from, I
18 really do.

19 I think by doing it in a way that stops the
20 appointments, it really does limit the quality of
21 the candidates then you only look at people and
22 say I will do it for a year and I am done, no
23 problem, as opposed to getting people who will
24 say, yeah, I am ready to do this and I am ready to
25 go.

1 And, I will do this as long as I can at
2 this job and they keep getting reelected.

3 Thank you.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you for your
5 feedback.

6 Just to be clear, the best way seats should
7 be filled is by the people that live in the
8 Districts and they should vote and select the
9 person.

10 But, I also point to what happened at the
11 AG this year in New York State, Barbara Underwood
12 served until there was a proper election for AG.

13 She was more than qualified.

14 She has been in that office forever.

15 I think you can get qualified people who
16 would step up just to fulfill the place until
17 there was a fair election.

18 GABBY HOFFMAN: Is she allowed to run,
19 again?

20 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: She could.

21 GABBY HOFFMAN: Really, I understand, I
22 think I agree. I am not sure really, um, about
23 the special elections, um, I think this is not the
24 best solutions to the problem that you have that
25 they wouldn't be put up for vote.

1 Thank you.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hadie Harris?

3 HADIE HARRIS: Hadie Harris, Nostrand

4 Gardens, Uniondale.

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5 Number, um - -

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Number 26, is on your

7 sheet.

8 HADIE HARRIS: I know number 18, can you

9 tell me the addresses for Uniondale?

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner Rottkamp?

11 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Good Afternoon,

12 Uniondale is 940 Front Street and 811 Nassau Road.

13 HADIE HARRIS: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: I am sorry, 135

15 Clinton Avenue.

16 HADIE HARRIS: Okay, and also Number 20,

17 the contract is construction of a bathroom, has

18 that construction company worked in Uniondale

19 before?

20 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: They have

21 already been working, this is their final payment.

22 HADIE HARRIS: That is not what I asked.

23 Have they worked in Uniondale before?

24 That is not what I asked, have they worked

25 in Uniondale before?

1 And, ow many jobs have then done in
2 Uniondale for the Town?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner Leno, do
4 you know the answer to that question? Page | 218

5 COMMISSIONER LENO: No, but, I can get that
6 answer.

7 HADIE HARRIS: Okay.

8 Number 26, the sign for the center, um, is
9 this sign for the Coliseum?

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, I believe so.

11 HADIE HARRIS: And, is this an additional
12 sign?

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I can answer that, if
14 you don't mind; yeah, it is a gigantic television
15 screen.

16 It tells you what is going on at the
17 Coliseum and sometimes when there is an event
18 inside and you can't get into it, you sit in the
19 parking lot and see exactly what is going on
20 inside.

21 It is an incredible thing.

22 And, what I like about it, they add the
23 name, "Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum," on the
24 TV thing, so, it brings back home the name of the
25 Coliseum.

1 It is a gigantic television screen,
2 humongous.

3 You will see it.

4 HADIE HARRIS: Okay, so, will this also be ^{Page | 219}
5 seen by the other two signs that they have in the
6 parking lot area?

7 It is connected with that?

8 Will you see it off the street or do you
9 have to have an accident looking at it while you
10 are driving?

11 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: You know what, you can
12 see it from the street.

13 HADIE HARRIS: Yeah.

14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: It won't be a
15 distraction.

16 It is so far back.

17 If you look at the Coliseum on the
18 Turnpike, it is really far back in the Coliseum,
19 itself.

20 HADIE HARRIS: That sign is for tailgaters
21 because - - but, you can see everything that is
22 inside the Coliseum without buying tickets or
23 whatever, you can sit outside in the parking lot?

24 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: You know what, we have
25 someone, here, from the um, the HUB and Mr.

1 Bovine, would you be able to answer the question,
2 do you mine.

3 RICHARD BOVINE: Good Afternoon,
4 Supervisor, Members of the Board:

5 Richard Bovine.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Please, talk into the
7 mic.

8 RICHARD BIVONE: Richard Bivone. 308 East
9 Meadow Avenue, East Meadow.

10 In reference to your question about the
11 signs, pylon signs, those signs are New York State
12 DOT compliant, as they are today.

13 They will not have the same messaging, the
14 large reader.

15 HADIE HARRIS: How much is this going to
16 cost?

17 RICHARD BIVONE: I am not privy to that
18 answer, quite honestly.

19 HADIE HARRIS: Is this sign going to be on
20 twenty-four hours?

21 RICHARD BIVONE: No, I think it is going to
22 be used for different events.

23 At this point, it is entertainment for the
24 Coliseum.

25 HADIE HARRIS: Okay, thank you.

1 RICHARD BIVONE: Thank you.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you, Mr.
3 Bivone.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Valerie Lampe?

5 VALERIE LAMPE: Valerie Lampe, Baldwin.
6 Um, Numbers 43, 44, 45, please, with
7 respect to, um, these Resolutions, increasing
8 monies to outside Vet Clinics, um, if I am doing
9 the numbers correctly, it looks like this is, um,
10 a total of nine hundred and thirty-six thousand
11 dollars that we are sending out to outside Vet
12 Clinics and it is not including all of them.

13 Um, but from what I gathered, the budget
14 for this four hundred and sixty thousand which
15 leads us to being four hundred and seventy
16 thousand dollars over budget already.

17 And, it is February, so, I am just
18 wondering - - I am confused because from what we
19 were told, these cages are empty.

20 There is a record amount of adoptions, um,
21 and I know personally, firsthand experience that I
22 had to fight for a cat who was found dying in the
23 middle of the street to be taken in.

24 The original Animal Control Officer did not
25 want to take the cat.

1 So, then, sorry, um, you know, we had to
2 fight for that animal to be seen to get medical
3 attention.

4 I also know of another case, Case Number Page | 222
5 7827 that was found with a sonogram, a blockage in
6 the animals stomach and was recommended by Central
7 Vet.

8 One of our contracted Vets had to do
9 exploratory surgery, the animal to date and it has
10 been months, has not had that recommended surgery.

11 So, I am seeing a disconnect with the
12 amount of money that we are spending in these
13 places and the level of medical attention, which I
14 know the Supervisor loves to rave about second to
15 none.

16 Medically, we openly disagree.

17 I also think that million dollars a year
18 and not including all of these other contracted
19 Vets that - - why don't we hire a couple of
20 emergency Vets to have on staff at the Shelter,
21 so, we are not sending out almost a half million
22 dollars over budget in February?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, would you
24 like to address that?

25 COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

1 Supervisor, Town Board Members, Senior
2 Councilwoman:

3 First, on 43, that is the older contract,
4 somehow, the Veterinary - - reported Vet neglected Page | 223
5 to put in a two thousand dollar bill, so, we
6 needed to increase it two thousand, so, that is
7 that one.

8 The other two Resolutions, we are asking
9 for an increase for off-sites, to be quite honest,
10 when you do these things, you do them as past
11 practices.

12 So, the trend for last year, when the
13 Animal Shelter was full, actually much full, as
14 Ms. Lampe said, we did "X" amount of business.

15 We used that last quarter or last four
16 months to come up with figures and those figures
17 would entail an increase.

18 Last year the actual use from Port-A-Vet
19 was two hundred and fifty-eight thousand dollars.

20 This year, Port-A-Vet was two hundred and
21 sixty-two and Central Vet was two hundred and
22 fifty-eight.

23 We are, now, asking for three hundred and
24 eighty-three thousand from Central and four
25 hundred and twelve - - excuse me, three hundred

1 and eighty-three from Port and four hundred and
2 twelve from, um, um, Central.

3 The reason we do that, you want to bring
4 down historical lows and everything is very fine. Page | 224

5 What if things change?

6 What if there are boarding cases?

7 As far as Ms. Lampe asking why don't we
8 hire another Vet or two, these are hospitals.

9 These are locations where they have
10 machinery that we just aren't able to handle and
11 things of that nature, CAT-Scans, taking care of
12 an animal that has cancer, things of that nature.

13 We just don't have that ability to have
14 someone there to have a Vet there eighty-four
15 hours a week more.

16 We have to hire two fulltime Vets, at
17 least, one hundred thousand per Vet, plus
18 benefits.

19 It is going to be almost three hundred
20 thousand dollars.

21 VALERIE LAMPE: Sounds like a bargain.

22 COMMISSIONER: It doesn't sound like a
23 bargain.

24 A lot of them are incapable, don't have the
25 ability.

1 Sometimes you need a Doctor in life and
2 sometimes you need a hospital.

3 VALERIE LAMPE: Well, okay, that said, you
4 know, my experience with a couple of these animals^{Page | 225}
5 and also many people I have spoken to, the animals
6 are often not getting the medical attention that
7 they require.

8 I know another Vet professional that went
9 to, specifically, foster special needs animals and
10 two animals that she looked at were in dire need.

11 They were pain.

12 They were suffering. One had an infection,
13 the face was blown out over, here. (Indicating.)

14 And, you know, the other animal, again,
15 Case Number 7827 that animal has still not had the
16 medical attention that it needs and it has been
17 months.

18 I don't get it.

19 Intake is down according to you guys and -
20 -

21 (Whereupon, three-minute bell rang. After,
22 the following ensued.)

23 VALERIE LAMPE: - - And the cages are empty
24 or there is a lot of empty cages but other medical
25 bills are, now going to be skyrocketing

1 just on the contracted Vets alone.

2 This is almost double.

3 COMMISSIONER: Again, this is not for use
4 at all.

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5 Actual use is down.

6 There is money at a later date in the event
7 that we do have problems where we need additional
8 money we won't have to come back and ask the
9 Board.

10 Right, now, we are at levels where we would
11 not come near the four hundred and twelve or three
12 hundred and eighty-three thousand but this is a
13 business where just like in a regular hospital we
14 don't know when something is going to go wrong.

15 As far as the other animals were mentioned,
16 we are only discussing funding.

17 VALERIE LAMPE: But, if the trajectory is
18 going down, why is the monies allocated to these
19 place going up almost double?

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, isn't
21 this allocating sums if we have animals in need
22 you don't have to wait for another Town Board
23 Meeting to get monies for care that they need?

24 COMMISSIONER: Right, this money is
25 incumbered.

1 We didn't go out and take the money, yet.

2 This is just the ability for the Town of
3 Hempstead to reach out and get the money, so, the
4 animals can have services without having to wait a
5 few weeks or only when there is a problem.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

7 VALERIE LAMPE: I recognize that but the
8 reality is that there are animals who are being
9 neglected medical attention and by increasing the
10 budget, I don't understand how that solves the
11 root of the problem.

12 The root of the problem is that animals are
13 not being appropriately cared for.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Lampe,
15 that is your opinion.

16 VALERIE LAMPE: It was yours, Supervisor,
17 when you ran.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mary Ellen Kreye?

19 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Good Afternoon. Mary
20 Ellen Kreye. 436 Locust Avenue, Uniondale.

21 Um, I want to, um, commend you on the, um
22 ADA compliant bathrooms for the Bernard Brown
23 Park.

24 Bernard Brown was a very important part of
25 our community and includes many young people and

1 we appreciate the fact that the disabled people
2 will have a better situation there.

3 And, also, the, um, Nigerian go curds and
4 the Guinee yangs, I know those have been in place ^{Page | 228}
5 for a number of years and we appreciate the
6 previous administration, which two previous - -
7 the second previous administration put them in
8 place.

9 And, certainly they do a good job.

10 On the signs for the Coliseum, Nassau
11 Veterans Memorial Coliseum, they are actually on
12 the building?

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner.

14 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Are they wall signs?

15 COMMISSIONER: The LED board, that is on
16 the actual elevator shaft of the Coliseum has
17 lettering that is electronic that will say the
18 "Nassau Veterans Coliseum."

19 MARY ELLEN KREYE: No, right, they are
20 actually on the buildings, so, this says, four LED
21 screens, they will all be on the elevator?

22 COMMISSIONER: No, there is one that is on
23 the South side of the building which is the larger
24 reader board and there are three separate ticket
25 signs that will be on the East side on the

1 site plan that we submitted that are above the
2 doorways that says "tickets."

3 It is an actual location sign so people
4 know where to purchase tickets from.

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5 MARY ELLEN KREYE: No, those are not the
6 kind that were described on the South side?

7 COMMISSIONER: Yes, the other three signs
8 which say, "tickets" are much smaller and they are
9 above an entranceway to the East side of the
10 Coliseum.

11 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Where the Marriott is?

12 COMMISSIONER: Between the Marriott and the
13 Coliseum, yes, that is correct.

14 MARY ELLEN KREYE: Okay, thank you very
15 much, I think that is it.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Meta Mereday?

17 META MEREDAY: Meta Mereday, Baldwin,
18 resident.

19 Um, I don't know if this is on the
20 Calendar, I believe that Councilman Blakeman
21 mentioned something about a Barry Rolanksi that is
22 going to be considered.

23 I don't know if that is on, here.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, that is Number 68
25 or 69, that is the personnel resolution.

1 META MEREDAY: Just curious as to how the
2 process, um, you know, cutting this new dynamic,
3 how consultants are hired or vetted?

4 What is the overall review process if we Page | 230
5 are getting away from the old model of patronage
6 cronyism and nepotism?

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So, let me ask you a
8 question before you, um - - Barry Rolanksi (as
9 heard) has worked thirty-plus years in the Town of
10 Hempstead on the South Shore as a Counselor to
11 numerous, um, children, young adults, Veterans.

12 Um, has as tremendous amount of experience,
13 um, to my knowledge, has saved many lives in the
14 Town.

15 I recommended him.

16 Mr. Rolanksi, to my knowledge, is not a
17 Member of the Republican Party.

18 I don't know if he is a Democrat,
19 Republican or Independent.

20 Um, he has never been a candidate for
21 office.

22 Basically, hen he retired from the Tempo
23 Group, which is a very well known group, he became
24 available and we were in the process of looking
25 for someone who had a lot of experience and

1 someone who would be a zealous advocate for the
2 positions that the Town takes with respect to
3 alcohol, drug abuse and supersede prevention.

4 In addition, someone who would act as a
5 referral agent for us, as Members of the Town
6 Board and for people who call the Town, who may
7 need some guidance as to what type of treatment
8 they should get, so, he knows all the networks
9 that are located here in Nassau County and beyond.

10 And, if someone calls my office or one of
11 my colleagues' office, for instance, and says I
12 have a child in crisis or I have a child that I
13 suspect has an issue, he would be the one that
14 interfaces with them.

15 He doesn't treat them, that is not part of
16 this job description.

17 He would, then, refer them to what he
18 believes is the right agency or he would give them
19 a choice of agencies and, then, he would do the
20 follow-up to make sure that they were, um,
21 properly treated by those agencies and that they
22 are responsive to their needs.

23 META MEREDAY: So, is this a contract that
24 was - - that was kind of vetted out as some type
25 of RFP or RFQ?

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1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Mereday, it was not
2 and I will tell you that, um, from my prospective,
3 this is a job that should have been posted.

4 I have no doubt Councilman Blakeman told me ^{Page | 232}
5 Mr. Rolanksi is a hero in his community.

6 He maybe the most qualified, wonderful
7 person.

8 I am not making any disparaging comments on
9 his qualifications, on who he is and he may well
10 be the very best person for this job.

11 However, I think we are trying to make a
12 change, here, for the better in the Town of
13 Hempstead and this should have been a job that
14 should have been posted.

15 So, I do not agree with the process that
16 was followed in terms of putting up this person
17 for this office.

18 So, I will be voting against this, just so
19 you know, because I think this is someone who is
20 in our Office of Veteran Affairs, Veteran Affairs
21 and Public Service, and I am not - - I am not even
22 sure if he is a Veteran.

23 So, I think that might be offensive to our
24 Veteran community.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN; You don't have to be

1 a Veteran to be able to counsel Veterans on the
2 available treatments that are here in this
3 community and to make sure that they get to the
4 right agency.

5 So, I don't know if being a Veteran is a
6 requirement, but, I will tell you that his son is
7 a distinguished Army Veteran who is, now, posted,
8 now with the Pentagon.

9 So, he has a personal interest in all the
10 issues that concern Veterans and has been an
11 outspoken person on issues related to drugs and
12 alcohol abuse from post-traumatic syndrome and
13 preventing suicide of our Veterans.

14 I have to say this, I am a little surprised
15 that we would put process over what I consider
16 excellence.

17 For about six months, we know this position
18 is being created.

19 We created the position in our last budget
20 in October and no recommendation was made except
21 by me and I made the recommendation because I know
22 the guy is outstanding.

23 And, um, all I can say is it would be a
24 shame if we delayed this because the potential is
25 that there are lives out there to save on a daily

1 basis and we should get cracking with it.

2 It shouldn't have taken this long and Mr.
3 Rolanski went through a very rigorous vetting
4 process from our Human Resources Department and
5 comes with impeccable credentials and highest
6 references.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And, I would add that
8 just, Councilman, I may not have any disagreement
9 with you about his dedication to Veterans and his
10 qualifications.

11 Um, I disagree with the process.

12 I think we should delay this.

13 I think the job should be posted.

14 I think we should have an open and
15 transparent competitive process that would allow
16 us to employ the protocols that we have been using
17 where we have a broader review panel that can
18 screen these people.

19 And, he may very well be the person that we
20 select but, then, Ms. Mereday can feel confident
21 that there has been an open opportunity for people
22 to compete for this position.

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: All I can say is we
24 have had six months for other Council Members and
25 the Town Board to make recommendations.

1 I made this recommendation back in November
2 and I am feeling very confident that my colleagues
3 will agree that this is the most qualified person
4 in this community to serve this position.

5 META MEREDAY: More than likely, again, the
6 way the numbers shake out around, here, it is
7 going to pass.

8 So, I am not even going to get into that
9 situation.

10 But, I agree with the Supervisor with
11 regard to the process, itself.

12 I mean, as far as the Veteran community,
13 there is so much that needs to be done, um, for
14 our Veterans, so, as far as talking about a delay
15 and what we need in support services, the mental
16 health of our citizens is exacerbated because of
17 the basic needs because of the lack of housing or
18 facing foreclosure.

19 And, again, if we are talking about
20 resources and being an expert and well vetted and
21 well connected, I don't get paid for things that I
22 do, so, I don't see anybody coming to me and
23 saying this could be a consulting opportunity for
24 you, things that you have done over that course in
25 time.

1 And, I know there are probably other people
2 who have experience, um, who could come to the
3 table and are apart of the review process that the
4 Supervisor is speaking to. Page | 236

5 But, again, it just seems to me and with no
6 disrespect, he could be very well qualified, I
7 just, again, feel that there is someone else that
8 brought in experience, notwithstanding without
9 giving an opportunity for someone else to be
10 involved.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: And, I understand
12 your point, but, I don't want anybody to think for
13 one second that this has anything to do with
14 patronage.

15 It has nothing to do with patronage.

16 It is about saving lives.

17 META MEREDAY: Okay.

18 Item 13, um, I know it was part of the
19 Hearing process, again, when we talk about, um,
20 Veteran appropriations and variances, we seem to
21 have a lot of these Bollas and we have
22 organizations that are coming to the table.

23 This is part of the Decision Calendar,
24 okay, all right.

25 Item 21 just speaks to what I was saying

1 before.

2 I am curious what exactly are curds and
3 Guinee and hens do?

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, could you ^{Page | 237}
5 like to speak to that.

6 META MEREDAY: I know Mary Ellen was
7 talking about them.

8 Are they the ones that eat up the grass on
9 the Parkway?

10 Could they fill up those potholes?

11 That would be a good thing.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: If you can speak up.

13 META MEREDAY: At this point, I will take
14 whoever can fill these potholes.

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: There is a
16 shortage - -

17 META MEREDAY: Everybody is worried about
18 that three million incentive that didn't go to
19 Amazon.

20 We could use that for the roadways; just
21 saying.

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner.

23 COMMISSIONER: In Merrick, we turned our
24 landfill into a Park about twenty years ago, now,
25 we have, um, we have animals, we have Guineas,

1 Hens and we have these goats and it is great.

2 It is a great attraction. People are there
3 all the time with their kids and that is what this
4 is. Page | 238

5 We have a Vet to take care of them.

6 META MEREDAY: Okay.

7 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Tell them what
8 they do.

9 COMMISSIONER: They eat the grass. They
10 help us there, um, the Guinea, fowl eat the ticks,
11 that helps us there but overall, it is a great
12 attraction for the kids.

13 META MEREDAY: They get it for free?

14 COMMISSIONER: Yes, absolutely.

15 META MEREDAY: Oh, that is one thing we are
16 not charging people for, all right, thank you,
17 that answers that question.

18 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
19 After, the following ensued.)

20 META MEREDAY: Just quickly, with regard to
21 the, um, Item 66, um, I am for seminars and
22 education, thing of that nature, but wouldn't it
23 be nice if we could have things like that in the
24 Town of Hempstead so people could come here and
25 they can spend money here?

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: These are State, Town,
2 County-wide.

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: It is under
4 the State of New York. Page | 239

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Nationwide seminars.

6 META MEREDAY: There should be an
7 opportunity for people from outside of the State
8 to come here.

9 Do we not have some expertise for
10 professional, development workshops or seminars?

11 We can host that.

12 Other municipalities are paying for their
13 people to come here to spend money here.

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: It is
15 nationwide.

16 It is all over the Nation and outside the
17 Country.

18 META MEREDAY: So, you don't want people to
19 come to the Town of Hempstead to spend money?

20 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Classrooms and
21 everything and their people are trained. Some
22 have classes - -

23 META MEREDAY: We have colleges,
24 universities and hotels that could accommodate
25 that.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 2/26/19

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Mereday.

2 Lucille Defina?

3 LUCILLE DEFINA: Hi, good afternoon,

4 Lucille Defina.

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5 Um, I wanted to talk about also Items 40,
6 um, 44 and 45 because when you say things have
7 gotten better, this is exactly the same thing that
8 has been on for the last couple of years and I
9 just want to remind you when you first were
10 elected and came, here, there was a big increase
11 within the first month or two for these two Vets.

12 And, if you can recall, I had said that is
13 something that I wish you would look into
14 immediately because when things were on the
15 upswing and truly getting better, um, after
16 lawsuit and after the first audit, what the Town
17 of Hempstead did, what Kate Murray had done was
18 send out an RFP for Vets in the area to bid for
19 contract services at the Town of Hempstead Animal
20 Shelter.

21 And, we had like six or seven, maybe even
22 eight very reputable good local Vets, like Island
23 Trees, Hilton Head, Meadowbrook, there were
24 special prices for all of these services.

25 And, this saved tax dollars.

1 This saved people a lot of money because
2 these were very good rates and once in awhile we
3 adopted animals and fosters were able to get the
4 Town of Hempstead Animal Shelter rates from these ^{Page | 241}
5 Vets.

6 When you took the animal, you adopted from
7 Hempstead.

8 So, it was a win-win for everybody.

9 And, it worked out very well.

10 But, then, of course, as the Shelter
11 started reverting back to the way it is, now, with
12 Dr. Siegel taking control of the wheel, he did not
13 like that Hilton Head, Meadowbrook Animal
14 Hospital, Island Trees, East Village Green were
15 sometimes were very dissatisfied with his
16 diagnosis.

17 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
18 heard. After, the following ensued.)

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Can you stop being
20 disruptive. We can't hear Ms. Defina.

21 (Whereupon, "I am not disruptive," was
22 heard calling out from the audience. After, the
23 following ensued.)

24 LUCILLE DEFINA: They were not pleased with
25 the condition of some of the animals that were

1 adopted or needing medical care at the - - staying
2 at the Animal Shelter and that caused them to be
3 blacklisted and their contracts were no longer
4 renewed.

5 And, one by one they all were gone and they
6 are gone to this day and only two Vets that keep
7 coming to the Animal Shelter and getting contracts
8 with the Animal Shelter are these two Vets.

9 And, I had said to you back when you first
10 were elected - -

11 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
12 After, the following ensued.)

13 LUCILLE DEFINA: - - That these Vets are
14 very expensive.

15 These two Vets, their prices are through
16 the roof.

17 They are Emergency Vet Care and you
18 shouldn't be taking animals to these Vets unless
19 it is late at night, emergency Vet care, that is
20 what they are, emergency Vet care.

21 So, you really need to look into this
22 instead of just letting the budget - - keep
23 giving them more and more money because I think
24 there is a conflict of interest here.

25 I don't think Dr. Siegel picking - -

1 It is very important because all I am trying to
2 say is I don't think your in-house Vet, employee
3 Vet should be in control of picking and choosing
4 your contracted Vets.

5 I think you could do a lot better if you
6 give this out fairly and give local Vets a chance
7 to bid on this contract.

8 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
9 heard. After, the following ensued.)

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Defina.

11 We will look into that.

12 Okay, Madam Clerk, will you, please, call
13 the roll.

14 I have no Administrative Calendar slips.

15 (Whereupon, "I had put in three slips," was
16 heard calling out from the audience. After, the
17 following ensued.)

18 DIANE MADDEN: I want to - - Diane Madden,
19 Hempstead.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Madden, a number of
21 time we say we don't have slips for you.

22 You come to the Board Meetings a lot. If
23 you like to speak on Public Comment,
24 Administrative Calendar, Public Hearings, it would
25 be easier and we can avoid this if you fill out

1 separate slips because what happens, Dominick puts
2 then into different categories on each Public
3 Hearing on the Administrative Calendar, on the
4 miscellaneous, which is the Public Hearing
5 Calendar, so, maybe your slip was put in here.

6 I didn't realize you wanted to speak on
7 many things, this way we don't have this problem
8 going forward if you fill out separate slips on
9 anything that you want to speak on.

10 DIANE MADDEN: No problem. Normally you do
11 say and other Supervisors have said, "does anyone
12 else want to speak," so, thankfully when that was
13 said previously, I was able to stand up.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I say that all the time
15 but Dorothy Goosby, our Senior Councilwoman is
16 very hungry and she wants to take a lunch break
17 and I want to accommodate her.

18 DIANE MADDEN: So, several items; my
19 question is and my concern is that I am looking at
20 these FOILS and I am seeing a lot of animals not
21 getting medical treatments they should be and
22 actually are denied medical treatment and shortly
23 swept off to rescue organizations.

24 Now, when an animal was brought recently
25 that was denied exploratory surgery, the dog

1 ended up at Wantagh Animal Hospital, who by the
2 way is absolutely outstanding.

3 Anyone of their Vets are topnotch.

4 In any case, I asked the receptionist if Page | 245
5 they see a lot of Hempstead animals and no, they
6 hardly see any Hempstead animals, it just
7 reiterates what Lucille just testified to.

8 And, by the way, Mr. Ra, you had confirmed
9 that Mr. Pastore and Dr. Siegel chose these Vets,
10 so, it makes perfect sense to me, a million
11 dollars is going out to these handpicked Bets when
12 we have right next door, we have topnotch Vets
13 with Wantagh Animal Hospital.

14 So, is it correct that the money is being
15 put aside with these particular Vets or can any of
16 this money be used for Vets, for example, at
17 Wantagh Animal Hospital?

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Just so we are clear, I
19 don't know that I ever said that about Mr.
20 Pastore.

21 DIANE MADDEN: So, we are clear, you
22 absolutely did.

23 I will take out the video. We asked you,
24 on the record, who picks these Vets and you said,
25 "Pastore and Siegel."

1 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: They are departmental
2 recommendations.

3 I think - - I know General Services does
4 that.

5 It is a departmental recommendation.

6 I don't know if any one in particular does.

7 DIANE MADDEN: Well, again, I am going to
8 reiterate someone needs to look into this because
9 there are outstanding Vets that are much more
10 reasonable.

11 These animals deserve the best care and
12 they are not getting the best care.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Commissioner, in terms
14 of selecting these outside Vets we used, was there
15 an open and competitive process?

16 And, are we bound by a contract?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER: I am sorry,
18 Supervisor, I am Commissioner for three years and
19 we are renewing these two contracts.

20 So, these are two Vets that we have.

21 As far as Wantagh Animal Hospital, we have
22 a contract with them and there is, I believe
23 twenty-five or fifty thousand dollars incumbered
24 for them this year.

25 They are getting some.

1 When I fill out the claim forms, I see
2 them.

3 So, I don't know how much they are getting,
4 but, again, they are closed at a certain time. Page | 247

5 The others are - - two are twenty-four
6 hour service, which is what we need.

7 One at one part of the Town and one on the
8 other, so, we can get the animal to the closest
9 place.

10 They have expanded hours, but, they are not
11 twenty-four hours, not that I believe.

12 DIANE MADDEN: I do urge you to send
13 animals there because they are topnotch.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER: I happen to agree
15 with you.

16 Madam Supervisor, last year an RFP was done
17 for Veterinarian Service at the Shelter and no
18 vendor that responded was denied.

19 They were all awarded, um, the ability to
20 provide services at the Shelter.

21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: There was an open and
22 competitive process?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER: Yes, there was an RFP
24 that went out.

25 DIANE MADDEN: When I spoke to Commissioner

1 Marino, I had asked that he might reach out to
2 some of the ones that their relationships where
3 they were turned off, basically, to reach out to
4 them, not just to put an RFP out but, find out how ^{Page | 248}
5 you can reestablish these relationships with
6 topnotch Vets that are reasonably priced, like
7 Lucille said for further discounts to Doctors.

8 So, sometimes it requires when you are
9 talking about requires a little bit more of an
10 extra attempt to reach out to them, not post an
11 RFP that they might miss, that they can
12 reestablish those relationships and give those
13 animals proper medical care.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

15 Actually, Mr. Sammon, before we call the
16 Administrative Calendar, I just wanted to ask you
17 a question, um, actually, Commissioner Toscano, it
18 might apply to you, as well.

19 Commissioner Toscano, with respect to the
20 new hire for a secretary in your office, was that
21 posted?

22 Was it an open and fair transparent,
23 competitive process?

24 HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR SAMMON: That
25 position is exempt, Supervisor.

1 There is no announcement or exam for that
2 title.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is Samantha Feyre the
4 daughter of the Republican Mayor, Ed Feyre? Page | 249

5 HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR SAMMON: I don't
6 know that, personally.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Do you know, personally,
8 Commissioner?

9 COMMISSIONER: Yes, I believe she is.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: For the record, he
12 has not run as a Republican.

13 He is part of the Coalition by a Village
14 Party that is made up of Republicans, Democrats
15 and Independents.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: But he is, in fact, a
17 registered Republican, Ed Feyre.

18 COMMISSIONER: I don't know that. I know
19 he is Mayor of Valley Stream.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I had someone check his
21 registration, he is a registered Republican.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is that what we are
23 doing, now checking registrations, seeing what
24 Party people are in?

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I did check that,

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 2/26/19

1 Samantha Feyre is the daughter of the Mayor.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Let's vote on the
3 Administrative Calendar.

4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Second.

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5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move - -

6 (Whereupon, "turn the mic on," was heard
7 calling out from the audience. After, the
8 following ensued.)

9 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move the
10 Administrative Calendar with the exception of
11 Items 27 and 67, those are supposed to be removed.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I want to make
14 sure.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please,
17 call the roll.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

19 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye, except the Item
20 63, I vote no.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye except Item 63 I
23 vote no.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye, with the

1 exception of 63, which I vote no and with regards
2 to Number 69, Mr. Rolanski, I abstain.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I vote aye with the Page | 251
5 exception of 63, which I vote no.

6 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
7 Goosby?

8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I vote yes on
9 all except 27 and 67.

10 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I vote aye on all items
12 except with respect to 69 the personnel calendar,
13 I believe that the secretarial job should be
14 posted.

15 I also believe that the position that Mr.
16 Rolanski is filling is a job that should have been
17 posted.

18 We should let all people compete to get
19 jobs in the Town of Hempstead other than the
20 Executive Staff, so, I vote no with respect to Mr.
21 Rolanski.

22 It is fair. This is no comment on their
23 qualifications. They maybe the most qualified
24 people.

25 They maybe lovely people but, I think there

1 should be an open and fair transparent process and
2 especially where an elected official is concerned.

3 I vote no with respect to Ms. Feyre and
4 Mr. Rolanski.

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5 Also, with respect to Mr. Salanda in the
6 Parks Department, he maybe one of our finest
7 workers, I don't know, I just don't have any
8 information about it.

9 I know we already have twelve Parks, one
10 Supervisor, I am not really sure if we have a need
11 for a park supervisor.

12 None of that information was provided to
13 me, so, I vote no on that one, as well.

14 With respect to Item 63, I resoundingly
15 vote yes.

16 I think this resolution gave the Town Board
17 an opportunity to make a change, a change in how
18 this Town has historically operated, a change in
19 the status quo, a change in the ways of the past
20 that have hurt this Town, but, now, we know where
21 they stand and it is not with the residents.

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I have a
23 question for you, can you tell me who, on your
24 staff, was hired with an open process and with
25 postings?

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I said with the
2 exception of Executive Staff, I would never try to
3 tell you with your personal staff.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Why wouldn't you Page | 253
5 leave it open, did you check their registrations?

6 Did you consult with any Democratic Party
7 Officials on recommendations that they made?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: My staff, I put out
9 postings on the website. I took in applications.

10 I made all the decisions who worked on my
11 staff.

12 (Whereupon, "not true, not true," was heard
13 yelling out from the audience. After, the
14 following ensued.)

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You are warned once,
16 now. If you call out from the audience, you will
17 be asked to leave.

18 We will recess for lunch and so, we will be
19 taking a thirty minute recess for lunch. Thank
20 you.

21 First, we have to adjourn the meeting.

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Excuse me, before
23 we make a Motion to, I guess, adjourn the meeting,
24 I would like to make a Motion before we take a
25 break that moving forward in our Town Board

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 2/26/19

1 Meetings, that we follow the rules in order as we
2 vote and have the Supervisor vote first as she is
3 supposed to as per the rules.

4 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was ^{Page | 254}
5 heard. After, the following ensued.)

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second the
7 Motion.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

9 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

13 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

15 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
17 Goosby?

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: No.

21 May, we have a Motion to adjourn.

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: So moved.

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOS BY: Move we
24 adjourn.

25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: So moved.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 2/26/19

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CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

(Whereupon, the official meeting of the
Hempstead Town Board was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony in the matter of the Hempstead Town Board Meeting held on February 26, 2019, consisting of pages 1 through 256 inclusive is an accurate transcription of my cryptic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



MDW

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

NORTH SHORE COURT REPORTERS

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