

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

A meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Tuesday, February 24, 2009.

Members Present:

Legislator DuWayne Gregory - Chairman
Legislator Lou D'Amaro - Vice-Chair
Legislator John Kennedy
Legislator Brian Beedenbender
Legislator Daniel Losquadro

Also In Attendance:

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Maxvel Rose - Aide to Legislator Gregory
Barbara LoMoriello - Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Gail Vizzini - Director/Budget Review Office
Linda Bay - Aide to Minority Caucus
Ben Zwirn - Deputy County Executive
Allen Kovesdy - Deputy Director/County Executive's Budget Office
Debra Alloncius - AME
Dale Moyer - Cornell Cooperative Extension
Donna Moodic - Cornell Cooperative Extension
Ellen Nardoza - Suffolk County 4-H
Karen Souza - Suffolk County 4-H
Sharon Ott - Cornell Cooperative Extension
Nicole Fiorentino - Cornell Cooperative Extension
Bruce Herlich - Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lina Tenecora - Cornell Cooperative Extension
Maureen Fiorello - Cornell Cooperative Extension
Maureen Tangen - Suffolk County 4-H
Cody Kazel - Suffolk County 4-H
Diane Eppolito - LI Head Start
Leah Holbrook - SUNY Stony Brook
Mary Finin
Justine Fuge
Nancy Swett
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:10 A.M.*)

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. We're going to now start the Budget and Finance Committee. We're going to have the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Lou D'Amaro.

SALUTATION

We are now going to start our public portion. We have Dale Moyer.

MR. MOYER:

Good morning, Chairperson Gregory and fellow committee members. My name is Dale Moyer. I'm currently serving as co-interim Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. I'm here to ask support of Introductory Resolution 1061 to amend the 2009 Operating Budget to partially restore funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension.

This past November, Cornell Cooperative Extension budget was cut over \$940,000, completely eliminating our Family Consumer Science, 4-H and Farm Education Program funding. We ask for your support of this resolution which restores less than one-third of the \$940,000. The \$269,000 restores core funding for the Family Consumer Science Program and the 4-H Youth and Farm Education Program. This funding will enable us to obtaining \$1.7 million in grants, contracts, program fees, State and Federal funding for family and youth programs.

We realize the County and residents are facing difficult economic times, and we are developing innovative ways to maintain our programs. However, we need this core funding to maintain nearly \$2 million worth of valuable educational programs to residents of Suffolk County. Thank you for supporting CCE in the past and your consideration of supporting Resolution 1061. Thank you. And I think there is a packet. We would like if we could pass the packet around to each one of the members, please. It just shows -- gives a little case study of the cuts. And also, the top diagram shows that with the funding of 269,000, that that would help us maintain the \$1.7 million in outside grants, contracts, funding and so forth. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Donna Moodic.

MS. MOODIC:

Hi. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Donna Moodic. I'm a Registered Dietician. I work for the Diabetes Program of Suffolk County that's currently administered by Cornell Cooperative Extension. And I'm here to support the -- passing the amendment proposal 1061 also.

The Diabetes Program has grown and expanded to almost all the health -- over the last ten years almost without -- except for a brief interruption to almost all the health care centers in Suffolk County. Thousands of low income and uninsured patients yearly with diabetes and are at risk for diabetes have benefited from our program. Diabetes is a complex disease, as we all know, that can have potentially life-threatening effects which can affect all our major organ systems, can result in kidney failure when it's uncontrolled, people lose limbs, blindness, amputations.

Doctors in the health care center and doctors all over usually spend -- all over the United States spend about 15 minutes with a patient. We have the opportunity as Registered Dieticians, who most of us are also Certified Diabetes Educators and Registered Nurses in our program who have also through our contact with diabetes -- working with patients with diabetes have become Certified Diabetes Educators, to spend more time with these patients to teach them how to take care of this disease.

It's essentially a self-managed disease. And there is an increased need for education with these patients to avoid hospitalizations and frequent trips to the emergency room. Typically, the first

counseling session can take about 45 minutes to an hour, an hour and a half if we have the time to give the patients. Somebody with uncontrolled diabetes that's on insulin needs to learn how to inject insulin, how to make sense out of the different insulin pumps and needles and syringes and -- that are -- and medicines. They need to learn the side effects of insulin; for example, if a patient on insulin doesn't eat and they take insulin, they can experience low blood sugar which can result in coma and death. And they have to learn about how to treat hypoglycemia. They need to eat -- know how to eat correctly, how to learn carbohydrate counting, label reading, glucometer use, pattern management. They need to learn the affects of exercise on their diabetes, and they need to learn sick day guidelines to effectively take care of their disease.

Patients not on insulin that are oral meds -- some patients with diabetes are started on oral medication. They also need to learn glucose monitoring, heart-healthy guidelines, label reading, carbohydrate counting, weight management, exercise guidelines, sick day guidelines, glucometer teaching, pattern management. As you see, in a 15 minute doctor's visit this would not be able to happen. We need to be able to, as dieticians and the nurses in our program, spend the time with these patients.

Both the patients with Type I and Type II Diabetes need multiple sessions in order to successfully self-manage the disease between doctor visits, which can be few and far between. Without Cornell's Diabetes Program, many of these patients end up in overcrowded emergency rooms with unnecessary hospitalizations adding millions of dollars to the high cost of this disease. It's already a very expensive disease, as we all know.

Under the umbrella of the Diabetes Program, the Cornell Registered Dieticians also see other patients with medical nutrition -- with nutrition problems, such as recently, I had a patient come in who I was able to adjust his tube feeding order. He was an HIV patient that was -- came out of the hospital with a PEG placement, and his family misunderstood the doctor's orders and were not giving him any additional water. So he was at risk for dehydration, and I was able to recalculate the whole tube feeding order and send -- recommend him for a swallow study to -- because the patient was -- the family was eager to get him back eating regular food again. We see --

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Donna, your three minutes are up. Can you wrap up, please?

MS. MOODIC:

Okay. Sorry. So please support our program. Many -- I just wanted to end with a quote from Winston Churchill, "a true measure of a society is how it takes care of its least fortunate." Cornell Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Science Diabetes Program is a major player in the health of our uninsured low-income County residents. So please restore this funding, partial funding, for our program to continue. Sorry it took so long.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Nancy Swett.

MS. SWETT:

Good morning.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Good morning.

MS. SWETT:

My name is Nancy Swett. I live in Jamesport on the North Fork, and I'm also the publisher of northforkparents.com. I'm here in support of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. Cornell's Family and Consumer Programs are excellent and deserve to have their funding increased, but instead because of the economy, they've been eliminated in the last go-around.

I'm glad the County is considering a bill to help preserve this important program. I'd like to thank Ed Romaine and Vivian Fisher for sponsoring the bill that you are considering. I have personally taken some of Cornell's parenting programs, and I have found them to be excellent. I've also featured Cornell's parenting experts and topics on the website that I publish, and thousands of parents visit this site each month. And I think that's an important reason. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Ellen Nardozza.

MS. NARDOZZA:

Hello. My name is Helen Nardozza. I am a 4-H -- was a 4-H leader. I am now the Chairperson of the PAC Committee, which is the Program Advisory Committee for 4-H. I've been a 4-H person for 14 years. When my son was in kindergarten -- I swore I wouldn't do this. When my son was kindergarten he was not able to make friends very easily. He had a tough time doing it. We tried with other things. He wasn't an athlete, he didn't do athletics. He very much an egghead, he was the Nerd of the Month Club. And he loved it, he loved being around that. But it's hard to make friends when you're an egghead and you're a smart kid and everybody else is playing baseball and football and basketball and you aren't.

We tried Boy Scouts, he didn't care for it at the time. And there really wasn't anything else for a kindergartener to do. So I found 4-H. 4-H changed him and me. It gave him a home, a place where kids could get together in a family setting, in a small group, and do the activities that he liked to do with other people like who had like mindedness. We created a family group, an organization, where you could do what you needed to do. Whatever program you wanted to do is out there. The programs for the 4 H are Cornell University-backed. It's not just whatever you feel like doing. It has a curriculum that has a very strong educational background. So everything that he does and everything that he did and other the other kids that joined us, we did things that they can still use from now on. I mean up until and including making their own bows.

They played Dungeons and Dragons and made their own swords. So they learned how to do woodworking. They learned some background. They learned to do some things. And, you know, making swords may not be the thing you want your kid to learn to do, but learning to use tools and to work in a group and to be able to function and have fun doing the things that you like to do.

We have no funding for 4-H. The \$222,000 that was given to us from the Legislature was to pay for staffing. That was taken from us. We have no staff. There is no staff to run the 4-H. We are sharing the staff with the farm, which are wonderful people, but they are also doing two jobs. If you had a -- if your Legislator only -- did not have an Administrative Assistant or a staff for you and you had to share it with five other people, they may do well for you, but you're still looking for them. You're still finding -- where are we going to find the people to help us? "I need this now." Well, they're busy doing somebody else's job.

So we need to restore the funding for the 4-H so that we have a base, so that we have somebody to call when you want to start a program. We have four clubs right now that want to start a program, and we don't have the staff that know how to do that yet, because we have to retrain them. So we need you to think about what we do for the kids. It's not a duplication. Girl Scouts, 4-H, YMCA, they all do wonderful, wonderful programs, but it's not a duplication. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Karen Souza.

MS. SOUZA:

Good morning. I'm here as a 4-H parent with my three beautiful children and as a coleader of Commack 4-H Group. I'd just like to say, as Ellen said, that 4-H has provided opportunities for my children to go up to Albany on Capital Days and meet Legislators. They've done youth development, oral presentations on the County level, a lot of life skills; cooking, sewing. Even Adam has learned

to sew. So it really provides incredible experiences for my children. We'd like that to continue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Justine Fuge.

MS. FUGE:

Hi. I'm Justine Fuge. I'm 18 years old and I've been in 4-H for eight Years. To me 4-H has been my home away from home. It's taught me everything from making friends to walking an animal and responsibilities that a normal teenager wouldn't learn. It's taught me to become a leader and to help kids that are younger than I, to make a positive impact on the world around us.

Throughout the years, I have matured and grown into a very knowledgeable person. I have not only made friends, but I have learned lifelong responsibilities. I feel so lucky to have learned and grown through 4-H. I was granted knowledge most Long Island teenagers never even heard of. 4-H is an opportunity to discover yourself and the world around you. It is a chance to learn compassion and responsibility. 4-H has helped me to discover what I want of the future and what I want to pursue. I'm so thankful for 4-H, because I wouldn't be who I am today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Cody Kazel.

MR. KAZEL:

Good morning. My name is Cody. I'm a 4-H livestock member, I've been for ten years. Through the years, I've learned things such as responsibility, commitment, confidence and a strong work ethic. And to be honest, I don't think a lot of people my age have that. And through 4-H, I've had a lot of opportunities that teenagers my age usually don't get. I've attended the New York State Fair and been a part of the Agricultural Livestock Program. And I've attended Capital Days, which is an opportunity to speak with the Senators one-on-one and observe how our government works firsthand.

Being a part of things like this makes you realize what the future has to offer you. And instead of getting involved in things that you really don't want to be involved with, you actually look towards your future and what you can do with it. To me, this program is just, honestly, rare and beneficial, because without it, we'd be losing a lot, a big part of our lives. And people who haven't been able to experience it yet, it's kind of like taking something from them, because you just learn so much about it. It's, honestly, unbelievable. But that's about it. I just -- I just think that I've learned so much through it, it's just hard to believe what we would be able to lose. But thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Maureen Fiorello.

MS. FIORELLO:

Good morning. My name is Maureen Fiorello, and I'm here as an advocate and a volunteer for Cornell Cooperative Extension. And in Suffolk County, the Family and Consumer Science Program provides human development, parent education, nutrition education, diabetes prevention and control and consumer education. I'll be brief.

As you well know, the County dollars has been completely, and I repeat, completely eliminated from the budget. If County funding for Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H Youth Development, and I repeat, youth development is not restored, there will be the following consequences; the loss of over one million dollars in grants, contracts, program fees, State and Federal funding including nutrition education, coordination for the Long Island Diabetes Resource Coalition, prevention of childhood obesity, parent education and family strengthening programs -- they don't come with directions -- diabetes education programs in collaboration with the Suffolk County Department of Health and Cornell University fringe benefits. The elimination of the Parent Education Program would be

devastating to families throughout this entire county.

The Cornell Cooperative Education -- Parent Education Program is the only local resource qualified to bring research-based information to the families and professionals in this County. The research-based information provided through programs to professionals filters down from hundreds of professionals to thousands of families throughout this County, and it is essential. I've been working with families for close to 20 years, and I can assure you that this is the only agency available to provide these prevention and educational programs throughout the County. It would also mean the reduction and potential elimination of all community nutrition programs, the cessation of the Diabetes Education Programs and on and on.

You have all heard the expression, "It begins with an ounce of prevention." I am asking that you consider the domino effect and the cost and the consequences of the elimination of these essential programs. And I respectfully request that you restore the portion of funding requested to allow Cornell Cooperative Extension to continue provided -- to continue to provide these much needed program to families and professionals throughout the County. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Lina Tenecora.

MS. CASTRO:

My name is Diana Castro, I'm going to translate what Lina so eloquently said. First of all, she started saying good morning. Her name is Lina Tenecora, and she would like to -- well, she is here in support of IR 1061. She would like to thank the nutrition classes that she attended and participated in. They have changed -- let me paraphrase what she said.

(*THE FOLLOWING TESTIMONY WAS GIVEN THROUGH AN INTERPRETER*)

The have changed my eating habits. For example, I learned what the Food Pyramid means and what I need to include; more whole grains, vegetables, fruits, milk, lowfat milk products and meats and beans.

Now my family chooses drinks that are low in sugars. We do not drink sodas or juice drinks with high sugars in them. We try to drink water and naturally sweetened juice when we do choose juice. I read food labels and choose foods that are low in fat now. I also try to increase my family's physical activities to at least 30 minutes daily. I have also participated in the prenatal classes that Cornell Cooperative Extension offers. And the disciplina positiva, which is discipline guidelines for young children at St. Rosalie's Church in Hampton Bays." She says, "It has been a beautiful experience for me. I hope to continue -- I hope you continue these programs for all Latino mothers in our in community." And she says "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Diane Eppolito.

MS. EPPOLITO:

Good morning. I'm requesting your support of the amendment of the partial restoration of funds for Cornell Cooperative Extension's Family and Consumer Science and 4-H Youth Development Programs. My name is Diane Eppolito. I am the early Head Start and transition coordinator at Long Island Head Start.

As a Head Start Program, we work with the neediest families on Long Island. We have had and still have a very longstanding relationship with Cornell Cooperative Extension. Through their Consumer Science Program, they have provided nutrition education and training to hundreds of our families. Parents have learned how to eat and prepare healthy meals and snacks for their families, how to shop for healthy food on a limited budget. A major portion of our nutrition education comes from programs sponsored by Cornell Cooperative.

Parents from our Patchogue and Shirley centers have participated to Cornell's obesity prevention study as well as our have -- have also received training on obesity prevention and diabetes prevention. Our families have impact greatly from all of Cornell's Programs. But there is still a great need. Approximately our 20% of our children in our program ages three to five are overweight or obese. Many of our children have poor oral health from poor diets. And also, we have an increasing number of children coming into our program with food allergies, severe food allergies, requiring medication.

We are mandated as a Head Start Program not only to provide healthy foods and snacks for our children, but also to educate our families, both children and parents about good nutrition. Cornell Cooperative helps to train our staff at in-service training so that we can pass on this vital information to our families. Cornell Cooperative have come to our centers themselves and directly educated our families and helped them to understand the importance of good nutrition.

They've accommodated our Spanish-speaking families by both -- by providing training in both English and Spanish. Representatives from Cornell Cooperative also participate on our Health Advisory Committee. This committee helps our agency develop effective policies and procedures in the field of health and nutrition and provide appropriate recommendations on how to work with an educate our families on these subjects.

Over 50 of our family advocates have attended Cornell Cooperative's Family Development Training and Credentialing Program. This program has helped better them and prepared them to serve our needy families. Our family advocates work directly with our parents to help them set goals, tap into community resources and ultimately become self-sufficient. As an old saying goes, "Give a man a fish, he eats for a day. Teach a man how to fish, he eats for a lifetime." Cornell Cooperative has taught our families and staff how to fish, how to develop healthy lifestyles and habits that can be passed on to their children for a lifetime. Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Leah Holbrook.

MS. HOLBROOK:

Hello. Good morning. My name is Leah Holbrook, and I'm a Registered Dietician representing the Nutrition Division of the Department of Family Medicine at Stony Brook Medical Center. Our division is the recipient of several New York State Department of Health grants, including the one under which I am funded, known as the Long Island Center for Pediatric Obesity Prevention Best Practices. In addition, we run a WIC Program in two locations in Suffolk County.

I'm here today to request your support of the amendment for the partial restoration of funds for Cornell Cooperative Extension's Family and Consumer Science and 4-H Youth Development programs. Our organization has a long history of partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension, particularly in the areas of health promotion and disease prevention.

Most recently, we have been able to collaborate on a grant proposal in 2007, which resulted in an award of over one million dollars from the New York State Department of Health to fight pediatric obesity of which Cornell Cooperative Extension is a primary partner. Our agencies have shared the responsibilities of coordinating the Long Island Obesity Coalition for the past several years. The coalition is a group of representatives from various agencies sharing resources to address this major public health crisis in the most effective and efficient was possible.

Through our work with community leaders, we know that education resources on health issues is severely lacking, and Cornell Cooperative Extension has been a referral source for so many in Suffolk County. We frequently refer school personnel as well as other community groups to Cornell as the only resource available. Promoting the consumption of fruits and vegetables particularly among low-income residents is a goal of every agency involved in health education, including our own WIC agency.

Cornell Cooperative Extension has been involved in the promotion of local farmers and farmer's markets to Suffolk residents, including those receiving WIC, which has been invaluable in attempting to bring more fresh foods to those that would not otherwise have access. Cornell Cooperative Extension plays such a major role in the health of Suffolk County residents. I hope I can count on you for your support of the amendment to restore partial funding to Cornell Cooperative Extension. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Maureen Tangen.

MS. TANGEN:

Thank you very much for letting me speak. My name is Maureen Tangen. My daughter and son have been involved in the 4-H Program for the past 15 years. Both have gained experience and knowledge that can only be described as a positive impact on their lives. My daughter Kristin is now a sophomore at SUNY Cortland and an Elementary ED major. My son Eric is a sophomore in high school.

Kristin was involved with sports, band and other activities through the school. Likewise, my son is following in a similar path. Despite their involvement in school, that environment does not compare with 4-H, which has provided them with unique experiences, opportunities and successes in a more diversified setting than the school environment. Through 4-H, they have gained sense of responsibility, accomplishment and confidence, a chance to succeed and be a shining star. They've gained knowledge and enjoyed experiences that most children living on Long Island would never have had the opportunity to share.

Both of my children have participated in club activities, public presentations and demonstrations and community service programs. They've enjoyed many topics we have covered in 4-H over the years; Kristin, especially microwave cooking now that she is in college, and my son Eric, the sports nutrition because he's involved in wrestling. They have both participated in the livestock program and have taken the opportunity to have their animals and other projects entered in the New York State Fair. The ribbons and awards that they've won are only part of the reward for participating in the program.

Meeting other 4-Hers, making connections they take home with and continue with via e-mail, having given them contact with children from other areas of New York. This has broadened their perceptions of the world around them. My daughter has had the opportunity to be a member of the New York State Livestock Judging Team and travel to Kentucky to participate on a national level. My daughter also attended Career Exploration traveling to Cornell University where she explored teaching as a career, which confirmed her decision to be an Elementary Ed Teacher. Eric is unsure of what he would like to do, but is looking forward to the same -- same opportunity.

I've watched my children grow, learn and push themselves beyond what they thought they could accomplish because of the motivation provided by the 4-H Program. Most importantly, staff presence, the continued support, answering of endless questions, offerings of encouragement and direction is what makes this program so successful. My children's achievements, drives and desire to improve and succeed have been stimulated by the staff's encouragement and involvement and would not be there without the staff's presence.

Our family recognizes the fiscal restraints that are being placed on all government spending and the need to ensure that monies are wisely spent. The funds that support 4-H are an investment in the future's wellbeing of our community. I take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the 4-H Program in the past and hope your support for this program will continue into the future. I also have a statement from my daughter who could not be here.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Your time is up. You have three minutes. You can only make a statement for yourself. Okay. You can submit your statement to the Clerk there. Thank you. Bruce Herlich.

MR. HERLICH:

Good morning. My name is Bruce Herlich. I'm here to speak to you today regarding the partial restoration of funding to both Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H Programs run by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, initiative -- Introductory Resolution 1061.

I have a prepared statement, which I left for the Clerk. But I can't help but be impressed by the children and the adults who have spoken about the programs and the connections, the emotional connections. As you will see through my very brief statement, I'm a member of the Board of Directors of Cornell in Suffolk. We sit around and we talk about a lot of funding and bigger issues, I guess, in terms of personnel and how you do certain things and legalities and whatever. But it's very nice for me as somebody from a different part of the program to see the people and the impacts it has on the people, which I think is what's important for all also as representing people of the districts.

With the cuts by the County to Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H, we lost more funding than you may realize. With every dollar we lost, we lost the ability to leverage many dollars for the benefit of Suffolk County; their matching grants, fees and contracts. What we are asking for here today is a partial restoration of funding, about a third of the total County budget funding lost so that we can continue with core programming. This will allow us to pursue and secure matching grants and contracts. It will also allow us to continue to reach the people who need our services.

Because I am Chairman of Cornell Cooperative Extension's Agricultural Advisory Board, I have a seat on the CCE Board of Directors. Agriculture is one of the core services we provide along with Marine Sciences, 4-H, Suffolk County Farm and Family and Consumer Sciences. Individually, each service helps businesses, families, individuals, other non-profits and the Suffolk County Government through their programs. Looking at the organizational flow chart, it would be easy to see the vertical lines that connect the work of a marine educator with a hatchery or an agent of agriculture with a County Park. What is not clear is the interdependency of the program areas; shared resources, expertise and even shared stakeholders.

Removing the funding for 4-H and Family and Consumer Sciences directly affected our core resources, the central program administration and lastly all the people CCE attempts to serve. None of you need to be reminded, but we all need to remember that every dollar that moves through the economy multiplies itself through the trickle-down affect. We're asking you to give us back a dollar so that we can make it multiply. Those dollars we spent within Suffolk's economy. We're asking you to allocate taxpayer money to specific programs at our County's Cooperative Extension Service so that we can leverage those funds and serve the needs of the citizens of our County. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Nicole Fiorentino.

MS. FIORENTINO:

Good morning. My name is Nicole Fiorentino. I am 14 years old, and I have been with the 4-H for three years. By being in the program, it has helped my self-confidence. It has also taught me respect, responsibilities and knowledge that goes into all aspects of animals, agriculture and life in general. I worked along with other 4-Hers on the program to make the public aware of pet safety in the case of a disaster. I have also took a photography class and entered my photos at Baby Animal Day at the Suffolk County Farm.

In our 4-H Showmanship Program we learned about parasites in animals. And in turn, I created an informational poster that I have entered in -- at State Fair and County as well. The older 4-Hers have taken the time to teach my peers and I about judging animals, which I would like to participate

in again this summer. The 4-Hers of Suffolk County Farm would greatly appreciate the continued help of the County because we feel we can continue to contribute knowledge and services back to the County. Thank you.

APPLAUSE

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Sharon Ott.

MS. OTT:

Good morning. I'm here to speak about 4-H. I'm a retired special education teacher for Eastern Suffolk BOCES, so I have a little bit of a different bend on this. I also was on the Board of Directors for many years and Chairman of the 4-H Youth Development Committee. When I taught at the Premm Learning Center for 20 years, we had 4-H programs, which I chaired, but we were very much in need of a 4-H educator who came in. And she registered all of our children in the program. We -- each classroom teacher got to choose two programs that year that they would work on.

We had a program where the educator came in and brought an animal for all the children to enjoy, and believe me, they really loved that. We had an achievement program at the end of the year, which the 4-H educators came in and attended to give out awards to the children. I taught learning disabled children, our whole school was learning disabled children. These children don't get an opportunity on the outside to become a 4-H member and do all the things. They were very, very proud of themselves of what they got to do.

We also had a garden which I started. And because we had summer school, we were able to harvest the produce that we had in that garden. And through 4-H, we also cooked the things that we made and the children ate them. Now, we had grown lima beans one year. And how many children do you know who eat lima beans? But these lima beans, picked fresh, if you never had them, you will like them too, and they loved them.

I also want to mention something about the Family and Consumer Science's Program. As I was listening to the diabetes specialist, it to mind of the fact that I had a parent who had told me how wonderful the Diabetes Parent Education Programs were, as her child was diagnosed when he was nine years old and in my class. And she really kind of found her way with the Diabetes Education Program. I also became a master gardener after I retired. And I had a 4-H group -- we had a wonderful children's garden up at the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center. Please come and see it, it's beautiful in the summer. And I had a 4-H club that came every other week starting in May and ending in the end of September. And they grew -- it was up to them what they wanted to do. Part of having a garden is planning. And they grew vegetables and flowers and some herbs. And to see the look on their faces the first day that they got to harvest, it was pretty amazing.

So I would really like to see the funding restored, because at this point now, the 4-H leaders have no one to go to. When they call in -- actually, they get a recording and I know that the farm employees are working very hard to get back to them -- but they don't have the knowledge that the 4-H staff has in how to deal with these kinds of things. So, please, restore this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Okay. Marina Smalla.

MS. SMALLA:

Good morning. It's Marina Smalla, and I'm Suffolk County Probation Officer. I'm program director for the Day Reporting Center, which is an alternative to incarceration. It's right here, actually, in this County Complex. And I am absolutely devastated that we may be losing Cornell Cooperative as part of our multifaceted job that we have working with the adult offenders here in Suffolk County.

The Suffolk County Day Reporting Center primarily is made up of low income, underserved,

undereducated minority population. I can assure you that the young people I have in our program never went to 4-H. Our program is made up of Probation Officers and drug and alcohol counselors. And we are desperately trying to keep our population out of the criminal justice system for the rest of their lives.

Cornell Cooperative has come in, and they have provided for our population nutrition and parenting workshops. These workshops have helped our population start to look at what they are eating, the food that they're buying, how they're preparing their meals. We actually have them coming in, reading labels. The population is learning about parenting. And, as I'm sure some of your Cornell Cooperative educators will say, they will give them a run for their money, because they will argue about what good parenting is. But they are at least getting information that they would otherwise never have.

From what I'm hearing, Cornell Cooperative is like a gem in Suffolk County. It seems to radiate and provide services in so many different areas. I am definitely so grateful to the Legislators that are supporting this; Ed Romaine, Vivian Fisher in particular for sponsoring this bill. And I'm certainly hoping that you would consider restoring funding for this amendment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Mary Finnin.

MS. FINNIN:

Thank you and good morning. My name is Mary Finnin. I'm a retired public health nurse from Suffolk County. I would like to strongly support the restoring of funding for Resolution 1061. In 1999, the major training and technical support for family development staff through that funding, CCE, the staff of Suffolk County Department of Health, the nurses, social workers and neighbors aides were able to start a Project Hope Mothers Group in eight of our health centers. These mothers groups were an outgrowth of the original infant mortality study and were put in place to strengthen families and vulnerable populations in Suffolk County.

Through these groups, the Health Department staff were able to support over a thousand family in learning and improving parenting skills. None of this would have been possible without the invaluable support of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Family Development staff. Additionally, this staff also coordinates the County Health Department Diabetes Program. It's a valuable program for our health center patients.

When I first started with the Health Department, we had staff in the Health Department that were nurse educators and coordinators. And over the years, these staff positions have been eliminated. We could not continue the services for programs like diabetes and prenatal education for our mothers if it wasn't for the cooperative services that we get through this program. They bring in the research and the education, but they provide the services not to just our health centers, but to the public at large. And they also sponsor public education programs for everybody, so public and private sector people benefit from this program.

And coming from a family with many diabetics in the family, you know, this is where they first got their real education, not in their doctor office. They had private insurance, but it was never really explained to them. And it was through some of the program's services that was coordinated through Cornell that they first really learned to control their diabetes. This prevents, you know, other complications that are cardiac obesity, amputations, many other things. Any of the studies that you will see, it will show that diabetes is one of the number one problems we are dealing with public and private. Please restore the funding. It is really needed because we don't have the back-up services in our Health Department to really do the programs that are needed for our patients. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Those are all the cards that were submitted. Is there anyone else that would like to come before us and make a statement? Okay. That being said, we're going to close the public

portion at this time. I will ask members of the staff of the County Executive if they would like to make a statement to come forward at this time.

MR. ZWIRN:

If I might, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to start, then ask Mr. Kovesdy to make some comments as well. First of all, I mean, there were a lot of things that were said today. Let me just say to the people that here from -- representing or supporting Cornell is that, as we all know, during the recommended budget and during the adopted budget process the County Executive had fully funded a lot of the programs that were talked about here today. And the Legislature went through it very carefully and took some of the money out and put it toward other programs after a long and careful deliberation. It was over 16 -- it was 16 to 1 vote to adopt the budget that was adopted with these -- - these reductions.

There were some things that were said today that I would like to set the record straight; one was with respect to the money with the Probation Department. That money was never taken out of the budget by the Legislature. That money remains. It's over \$547,000 that is there. I have copies of the budget line for Cornell, and I'd be glad to distribute that to the folks that are here today so they can take a look. Somebody talked about the Diabetes Program being defunded. The resolution that Legislator Romaine proposes today doesn't address that.

And during the budget process, it was determined that the Legislature had overfunded the hospitals that the County contracts with. And when the County saw that -- and we've had discussions with some of the Legislators that have come in talked with the Budget Office and the County Executive that the Diabetes Program will continue through Cornell but being funded with the hospitals and with the extra money that the Legislature gave them this year. So that will be continued. It's a very important program that will be fully funded, and it will be done through the hospitals and through Cornell Coop. So those people there who spoke with that, let me address their concerns, because that will be taken care of.

You know, it's very easy to come in at this stage -- and this is just the first group of many that will come before the Legislature and the County Executive's Office over the next couple of months. It's easy to come in and say, "You know, I didn't take part in the process. I passed on the process." You know, a lot of people think that Legislator Romaine is your savior here today. The opportunity for him to speak on your behalf was during the budget process and he passed at that time and said nothing.

Now to come back before the Legislature, his colleagues, and ask them to now find money to pay for some of these program when there is no money, the world has changed dramatically since the time the County Executive sent his recommended budget over and to the time that the Legislature did their adopted budget. We face a budget shortfall in revenue in proportions that we have never seen, not just Suffolk County, but the entire nation. We are looking at a shortfall in sales tax revenue, which is our largest source of revenue, of \$117 million. That overshadows all budget lines where there may be a few dollars in excess that was budgeted during the budget process, including Social Security and power and energy.

Those numbers are dwarfed by the fact that we will have no revenues here. And there are going to be groups that have -- are well-intentioned and have done wonderful work to add to the quality of life of this County, and there is no money. I was saying this morning, you have a child who wants something very important to them and you're a parent, you have to say, "I can't afford it. I don't have the money. I don't have the money for food. I don't have the money for luxuries." And the County and I think the Legislature wrestled with this during their budget process saying, "Look, we know we're going to have to make cuts." And this is toughest time to be in government. When money is full and we can help people out and we can pay for projects, we do that. When times are hard -- and, you know, I was in government as an elected official back in the early '90s when things were bad. They were bad, but they were nowhere like they are today.

There is a critical shortfall. And I think the Legislature began to wrestle with that during their budget process. The County Executive has budget groups working with the Legislature trying to come up with plans on how we're going to address the shortfall, but it's just not there. There is no money there to pay for -- no matter how worthwhile these programs are. The Legislature examined what their core mission was, and they went through it very deliberatively and carefully. The County Executive didn't always agree. We had vetoes in. We did -- but that's how the process works.

Now, to come in at this late date and say, "Look, this is a good program. We want to fund it" -- we have found money for the Diabetes Program, which is -- which is critically important. The program that was talked about in Probation has not been defunded, so that -- that is not an issue. But there is simply no money at the well to pay for anything. And we're hoping that we won't have a problem with payroll this year. We're hoping that we won't have to have layoffs this year. But we're going to have to have everything on the table with respect to cutting the cost of government, not going out and finding additional money that doesn't exist to fund programs.

The Legislature took a first crack at all it. We're going to have to do this all year long, trying to find ways to save money, not spend it. It's easy to come in here with a bill and say, "Look, I have money, I'm going to save this program. I'm your savior. Come with me. Come down to the Legislature. I'm the good guy." The opportunity to be the good guy was to advocate on any particular group during the budget process. And now, if the world had changed and revenues were coming in, we could address it. That's not the case. It's going in the opposite direction and the train is off the track and going full speed ahead. So I ask you when you consider this bill or any other bill that starts adding revenue and taking money from lines that -- there is no surplus in any of these lines, because the revenues aren't there. Let me just ask Allen if he's like to add --

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Just a minute before you start.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Ben.

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

This is a little off point to all of you who are here today. And thank you for coming down and giving us your opinions, we appreciate that. But I just wanted to go back to something you said very quickly while you're still up here about the health center funding being used for other purposes. And you seemed to kind of gloss over the fact that we're aware of that and agreed to that. And I just want you to know that I haven't agreed to anything of the sort. Okay?

MR. ZWIRN:

I know there have discussions. I was not in the discussions. I thought they had gone further along, but you would know more about this than I do.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Just for the record. We did have discussions. And like you said, everything is on the table and we need to find ways to help people and allocate resources, and I have no problem with that. But just for the record, those discussions are just ongoing. I don't think anything has been agreed to yet.

MR. ZWIRN:

Okay.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I appreciate everybody who came down from Cornell. As a matter of fact, I had a visit in my office yesterday as well. And some of the things that they brought to my attention I am somewhat confused by, particularly with what Mr. Zwirn has just shared with us. And so, I guess I'm going to ask BRO to weigh in on this too. The impression that I was left with yesterday was that the Youth Alternative to Incarceration Program, which I understand, I guess, is some type of an educational enhancement or something that assists where we have youth that are now in the criminal justice system and are required to have some following through our Probation Department. I guess it's the Day Reporting Program. It appeared to me that that was defunded. But, Ben, what you're saying to us is that is not the case. Gail, you concur with that, that SOAR in fact is funded and that's the program that we're speaking about now?

MS. VIZZINI:

Well, there was no reduction in the SOAR funding, the juvenile day reporting. The extent to which the Diabetes Education Program, the Food and Consumer Science Program augments what goes on at day reporting, I don't know. I'd have to check with Cornell, but --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair, maybe --

MS. VIZZINI:

We did not cut the Day Reporting Program.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Through the Chair, could we ask then if Cornell can explain to us. Maybe we have a difference as far as what the understanding with this funding is at this point.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Well, I want to hold off on that. Let's let Allen make his presentation, and then maybe we'll entertain a motion to --

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'll make a motion to take it out of order, because I think we have many people here. But I think it's very important that we get some specificity as to what's in, what isn't in and what the effects of our reductions were. Allen, do you have something to add to this?

MR. KOVESDY:

I have the budget for the Juvenile Program. Good morning. I do have the budget for the Juvenile Program if you'd like to see it. It lists all the programs that's provided, the staff and so forth. I'd be more than happy to let you have it to peruse. I brought it with me.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Sure. I'd love to see that, Allen. But do the folks from Cornell know that as well?

MR. KOVESDY:

I'm not sure.

LEG. KENNEDY:

They do?

MR. KOVESDY:

All we just wanted to bring to the table is that the Diabetes Program has been funded through the Health Department and that there was no cuts to the Juvenile Day Reporting System whatsoever.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Now, I was also led to believe that that Diabetes Program through the Health Department is something that we as an entity must provide. And we collaborate somehow with Cornell in delivering this service. If we don't have it done by Cornell, then we have to incur additional expense to bring on staff, is that true?

MR. KOVESDY:

I spoke to the Health Department as these young people were speaking this morning. They told me specifically that the -- they went to the hospitals, the hospitals will provide the services through Cornell so there will be no reduction to the Diabetes Program whatsoever. It will be two funding sources; one, the County and the second, a piece that the hospitals will pay for.

MR. ZWIRN:

And if I might add, the legislation before you doesn't address the Diabetes Program. It addresses the Family and Consumer Sciences Program and the Youth and Development and Farm Education Program. So the Diabetes Program wasn't even addressed in this bill.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Those are under those departments.

MR. KOVESDY:

I can just restate and let them know the Diabetes Program has not been cut. It's the exact same amount of funding as they had last year, it's just coming from two funding sources; one, the amount of money that's in the Operating Budget and the hospitals, through the health centers, as the last point, are augmenting the difference.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Has there been a meeting with Cornell to state what you just stated to us? Are they aware of this fact, or?

MR. KOVESDY:

I think that's a better question to ask when the Health Committee comes here. I don't know that answer.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Okay. All right. We have a motion to take IR 1061 out of order, we have a second by Legislator Lou D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. 1061 is before us. **1061, Amending the 2009 Operating Budget to partially restore funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4H Youth Development and Farm Education Program, and Family and Consumer Sciences Program. (Romaine)** I need a motion.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I will, at this point, make a motion to approve for the purposes of furthering discussion. I do -- would like to hear from somebody from Cornell.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

We need a second, and I will second that.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, through the Chair, the sponsor is here, but also I would like to here from Cornell to see to me -- maybe I'm just not following it. But to me there seems to be a little bit of a disparity between what we're hearing from the administration and what we heard earlier from some of the folks who testified.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Okay.

MR. MOYER:

The name is Dale Moyer. I'm the Co-Interim Executive Director. With me is Nancy Olsen-Harbich who is with Family and Consumer Science. We will try to answer questions. I guess the first one is regarding the Diabetes Program. We have -- we were partially funded initially. We are presently in discussion with the Health Department on getting that funding through the hospitals. We have not -- we are trying to work on contracts for the hospitals, that has happened to this point. But we are trying to work on restoring, I think it's about \$140,000 through the Diabetes Program. So we are in discussion with the Health Department.

The one thing that I would like to add though is in our organization, we have four major program areas, okay, and one of them is the Family and Consumer Science. And we use that -- those core dollars that we get kind of to build a foundation for our organization so that we can get a diabetes grant from the County or we can go get contracts from the State in terms of nutrition and federal monies from nutrition. And without that base, and that's what we're trying to restore, a little bit of that money right now with this proposal, this resolution that Romaine and Fisher have put in, we are trying to get that base in so that we have a foundation to build all these other programs from.

The difficulty we have is, you know, we can try to manipulate and get things done without that foundations, but without that foundation, the programs will eventually corrode. We can't hang on. We can hang on for a few months or possibly the year, but it's very difficult to continue programs and have those different contracts, whether it's a County contract, a State or Federal contracts without that foundation, in this case, Family and Consumer Science Program. I don't know if, Nancy, you want to add something to this.

MS. OLSEN-HARBICH:

As we've gone around and spoken with each of the Legislators who have so graciously met with us, I've been bringing a diagram that shows that the department in which you all want to connect these contracts to has been defunded. And so while we are working very hard with the Health Department, no one wants our work with the diabetes population in Suffolk County to end. What the Legislature did in its budgeting process is defund the department down to zero. So to have an outside contract attached to something that is no longer there is very difficult.

The same would be true with the SOAR contract, the Day Reporting Program at the farm is connected to all of the other youth development programs that are going on there. So when you defund the department, you then want to connect contracts to it. We all know what these contracts do. When you contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension to provide services that the County should be providing, frankly, under its basic minimum for citizens, you get the benefit of using many of the dollars that are inherent in our system and not putting them on to the County system.

Cornell Cooperative Extension gets our entire fringe benefit package paid through Cornell University. All of those dieticians, all of those nurses, all of those workers in the Juvenile Day Reporting System are supported by our organization doing services that the County needs. You can't just have contracts without the organization supporting it. And we've brought out a lot of people today who feel very strongly about those services being in place. I've been with this organization for 23 years, and my department has been zeroed out. I will lose my position, I will lose all of the positions in this department because we can't figure out how to do this. You all have been funding Cornell Cooperative Extension for over 90 years. We're here way to frequently trying to fight for the basic funding that we receive. And you're hard pressed to find people in this County who don't have tremendous admiration and respect for the work that we do out there. I hope you will reconsider.

APPLAUSE

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Legislator Romaine.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Thank you very much. Now that the Executive has spoken and the public portion had ended, let me just address why 1061 is before you today. As Dale will tell you, when the budget was presented, I did meet with Dale and other executives at Cornell and discussed the possibility of putting in a budget amendment. And it was decided at that time by the Cornell staff that that would not be the right thing to do at that time.

And I want to make this clear, the County Executive did not cut anything from the Cornell budget. That cut was made by a working group of the Legislature, and that cut was \$940,661. They decided that given the economy that that would be too difficult. In the ensuing weeks, they realized that without some core basic support, they, Cornell, would lose about \$1.7 million in grants and that something had to be restored. Those things, we sat down and I worked with Cornell staff and we come up with a figure that was far less than the \$940,661 that were cut, and that was \$269,800.

I worked with Ms. Vizzini's Office, the Budget Review Office, to determine if there was any funding that could be appropriate. And we looked at fuel and we looked at gasoline, because when we did this budget, fuel and gasoline was much, much higher. And the number, obviously, is not -- in the current days not needed. Gasoline has come down almost 50% in price. And the Budget Review Office indicated even from the surplus that we expect in those lines I would only be using a small portion of that, I think 9% of the fuel money -- 4% of the fuel money and 9% of the gasoline money.

This -- as I know, Family Services serves over 8200 residents that have participated in throughout the County in there. And over 9000 residents that have participated in the Nutrition Program. Over 41,000 young adults have participated in the 4-H Program, which is essentially wiped out. We have an opportunity to leverage Federal and State money. We have the opportunity to do that. We weighed whether we were going to do something or nothing. And we decided to come in with partial funding, less than 30% of what was cut by this Legislature. And we think these programs are absolutely vital and worthwhile.

We're riding a very bad economic time. And I don't disagree with Mr. Zwirn that things are very rough for the County. But at the end of the day, what is left? What will we preserve? What will we cut? Those are the decisions that we have to make and we can disagree on. I think this partial restoration of funding for programs that will leverage -- when you're talking about \$269,000 leveraging \$1.7 million in Federal and State aid, when you're talking about working with the Health Department with Diabetes Program, when you're talking about restoring a 4-H Program, when you're talking about working on nutrition programs, when our health centers deal with obesity and diabetes and other programs and heart attacks and things of that nature that are outgrowth of a lack of nutrition education, then in the bottom line we have to make those decisions.

I did not submit any budget amendments when the budget was being considered. And I had talked to Cornell about that and they decided to postpone that. But now, after consideration and after what we realize will be lost, there is a resolution, which I'm happy to say Legislator Fisher has cosponsored with me to restore partially the funding. We've identified an offset. We now have a decision to make. I don't want to be anyone's hero, which Mr. Zwirn said, because I'm sure I'll be someone's villain tomorrow, because these are difficult and arduous times. But I believe that this is the type of funding that we should try to preserve, because if we don't this year, then what will we cut next year or the year after. And when the storm is over, what will be left?

I guess that's a decision we all have to make, and that's why this resolution is before you today. It's not to be anyone's hero or to waive any flags. No one is proud at this time. I would ask for your support. I talked to some of my colleagues. I know there's some reticence to support this. If you can't vote for approval, at least vote to discharge it without recommendation so all 18 of us next

Tuesday at the Legislature can make this decision collectively. At least allow the 18, allow our other colleagues some voice on this. Please discharge this without recommendation or discharge this with approval. Either way, allow all 18 of our colleagues to make the decision collectively. Thank you for your attention.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you, Legislator Romaine. Legislator Beedenbender.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, let me just start off by saying I thank everybody that came here today. I appreciate the passion and support that you have the program, whichever program you stood and spoke for. Back when the Legislature was -- when they're working group convened and then when we met as a whole to deal with the budget, I think there was universal agreement among us that we wanted to do things to take care of the most vulnerable and the most susceptible to this current economic downturn. So we focused on DSS caseworkers, food pantries, food stamp -- people that process food stamp applications, at-risk counseling programs, our nursing home. And at that time, we couldn't help them all, and for that -- you know, this is quite regrettable both from a governmental and a human perspective.

I don't have to tell you how bad the economy is. Everybody here knows, everybody here has felt it. Well, what I can tell you that you might not know is that because of the structure of our County Government, when the economy goes bad, it's worse for us as a Suffolk County Government than it is for most other governments, just by the structure of what we are. We're formed under New York State, and the payments we have to make, when the economy goes bad, it's really bad for Suffolk County.

We've made some tough decisions in the past, things that given great circumstances we would certainly go the other way with. And our revenues are drying up. And, you know, there are considerations that may have to be made coming forward. There's a group of Legislators that have been meeting jointly, bipartisanly with the County Executive to discuss those things. And some of those options are, you know, hundreds of layoffs, additional painful cuts of programs that -- that we found and scraped -- you know we found the pennies under the cushions of the couch to pay for. And we might have to do those things just to make sure we can pay our bills and make payroll.

I think this is a worthy program, it's a wonderful program, and I think the people that have come here today have shared that. It is not a vote I am happy about, it's not one that I would wish to take, but we don't have any money. We have \$140 million at the moment, could get worse, budget -- deficit, I'm sorry, deficit.

The one thing that I would disagree with what Mr. Zwirn said, he said this is the most difficult time to be in government. What I would add to that instead of disagree is this is the most important time to be in government. And it's an opportunity for us to work hard and say what our government should do. And unfortunately, in times as difficult as these, since we can't print money, oftentimes things that we would rather have for the people of this County have to get cut. So I understand the need, I understand the wonderful work that the people at Cornell and constituents receive from it. But at this point, we're looking at several hundred million dollars of a hole that at this moment we have no idea how to fix, it's not something that I believe I can support right now.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you, again, everybody for coming down today. And I agree with what Legislator Beedenbender just put on the record. This is a very difficult time for us. I was also a member of the working group that crafted our budget for this year, and we did consider the consequences. And we're not happy about these consequences. We tried to avoid as much pain as possible in working

through that process.

But I think the message I'd like for you to know when you leave here today is that you were not singled out, okay? These cuts were made to many, many other organizations. And the point I want to make today is that although you are here making this plea -- and that's what you should be doing, and I understand the need. And it's gut wrenching to listen to your testimony. I appreciate that as a parent myself. There are many other organizations that will follow right behind you. And we're not just debating today your \$268,000. It goes well beyond that.

It's very difficult times. The consequences have been considered. We're not pleased with those consequences. And we are doing everything we can to try to improve, especially our local economy, and bring on some better times. It's not going to happen overnight. And what I would suggest to you is that you begin to adjust, because it's not just today, it's not just this vote. In my opinion, I think we're looking at years of reduced funding from the Federal Government, from the State Government and certainly from the County Government, because we are very sensitive to the economy through our revenue collection of sales tax.

So I can identify with the need, and agree with the need. I truly do. But we simply don't have the resources at this point to restore all of the cuts that we've made while considering our budget and our requirements that we have to balance our budget every year. We cannot deficit spend like the Federal Government. We have to balance this budget and we have to consider our taxpayers, which each and everyone of you are also. So these are tough decisions. And we're doing the best that we can on those.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Thank you. Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I concur with what's been said by my colleagues. And it is -- it is a time that has been difficult, and as a matter of fact, it's a time that now seems to me as I think back something that's been probably a continuous struggle with budget matters for probably the better part of the last 20 months or so. As we concluded our '08 Budget with deliberations in the later part of the 2007, we commenced a working group in the beginning of 2008 to begin to address budget holes then.

And to the County Executive's credit and the working group's credit, there were difficult decisions that were made at that point that helped us perhaps to be not quite as dire as we are now, although we are dire. There is no two ways about it. I heard some of the news on Friday. We all know it, and it's a grave concern.

Nevertheless, I think some of what I've heard from Cornell I am still somewhat concerned about, in particular the ability to provide some kind of assistance with youth who are in our criminal justice system. And I'm not certain that I fully understand yet whether or not Cornell is going to be able to continue to operate there. There is a notion that we as a Legislature have disbanded a particular program in Cornell. Now that's the piece that I'm a little uncertain about. Every department, I know, we're calling on now to function in a leaner and more streamlined fashion.

So I don't know if whether or not our actions are compelling Cornell to have to take a look at those methods as well. We only have this opportunity now. Through -- Mr. Chair, I'm going to ask you one more time if I can ask Mr. Moyer to come to the podium to ask him just a couple of questions, a couple of additional brief questions. And then I may amend the motion to discharge without recommendation.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Okay. Come forward please, Mr. Moyer.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Dale, what will you be able to continue to do with the Day Reporting Program after today? Or let's assume that this resolution doesn't pass, are you going to continue to be able to work with these adolescents or is that going to stop?

MR. MOYER:

Well, I guess I would have to kind of regroup, but what I'm looking at right now or feel from my understanding of discussions we've had over the last month or so is that that would continue. Okay. I think there's a little confusion here in terms of somebody mentioned before the juvenile day or some kind of program. I think that individual was referring to some of our parenting education, okay? Not the youth program where we have the SOAR Program that's worked out.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So that's not in jeopardy.

MR. MOYER:

No, it's not in jeopardy, okay? But again, we need to enforce -- and I understand what everybody is saying, that we have to reinvent ourselves, and that's what -- and we're trying to do that constantly, and we've been doing that over the years when we face challenges; how do we meet those needs, how do we become innovative in terms of getting fees and things like that. So I completely understand that aspect.

But you have to realize that if we don't have those base programs, it does have the tendency to jeopardize those individual contracts, whether it's the Soar Program, the Diabetes and things like that. And that's what we have to look at and adjust and say, okay, how can we without the core funding address or continue to be able to manage those contracts; the SOAR Program, the Diabetes and many other ones that we have. And so that's something we have to address. Right now we are committed to that program. And I think we usually -- when we make a commitment or are involved in a contract, we will complete that commitment for this year. I'm not sure where we go forth next year, but at this point in time, I would say that we were going to move ahead. And we would -- we would continue to run that SOAR Program.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Let me -- just one more question, Mr. Chair, then and then I'll yield. So as I look at this resolution now, I see two program categories; one is Family and Consumer Sciences, the other one is the 4-H Youth Development and Farm Ed Program. Neither one of those categories are involved with what you do with the Day Reporting youth?

MR. MOYER:

In terms of the Youth Program, again, when we have these four programs in Extension; 4-H Youth, we have Family and Consumer Science, Agricultural and Marine. And we need to have a base program to operate these other contracts. And if we don't have that, what we call core funding, it makes it very difficult to have the SOAR Program and things like that. And so right now, we are -- we are moving along on fees, some grants and contracts, okay, to kind of fill in those gaps, and we're trying to do the best we can with that. But in the long term, I'm not sure where we're going to be able to go with the SOAR Program. We have to go back and analysis that and determine, okay, without this core funding, can we continue to proceed.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And your contract with the SOAR Program is with our County Probation Department; is that correct?

MR. MOYER:

That's correct, sir?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. And the diabetes education is with our Health Department.

MR. MOYER:
That's correct

LEG. KENNEDY:
Okay. And you're in dialog with both those departments right now.

MR. MOYER:
Yes. You know, with the Health Department, we're trying to obtain those funding through the hospital so we can complete that Diabetes Program fully funded, okay. And the SOAR Program, we are working on the contract for this year trying to get that resolved and moved on, yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:
One last question on the Diabetes Program. That is based primarily in our health centers, or do you deliver services in other forums as well?

MR. MOYER:
My understanding, it's primarily health centers; is that correct or does somebody want to add to that?

LEG. KENNEDY:
There's no health center in the 12th Legislative District, that's why I'm --

MS. OLSEN-HARBICH:
No. The dieticians, nurses and community outreach educators in our contract with the Health Department are serving at the County health centers to reach the most vulnerable families. But then additionally, in each quarter of the year, they are offering community education at community sites so that any citizen in Suffolk County who is diagnosed with diabetes and would like help with diabetes management has to access to those community educational series.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Senior citizen centers and things like that, do you routinely go to those?

MS. OLSEN-HARBICH:
Yes. Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:
You do? Okay. All right. Mr. Chair, I'm going to withdraw my motion to approve and instead I'm going to make a motion for discharge without recommendation.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:
Do we have a second? Motion to DWR, discharge without recommendation?

LEG. D'AMARO:
Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:
Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. I just want to make a statement. And my colleagues have referred to it before. But, you know, I was a part of the working group. And they're right, my colleagues are right that we made some tough decisions. And I think what we had prepared for was a tropical storm. And unfortunately, we're getting the tsunami of budgets because of the economy. We have highest unemployment rate in our history. We lost \$627,000 -- excuse me -- 627,000 was the rate of unemployment last -- last month. We were told 27 days into this year that we're facing between 77 million to \$117 million budget deficit because of shortfalls in sales tax.

We have the County Executive talking about not putting forward our police class in September. Yet, when we have the Police Department come before us, the Commissioners say that murder rate -- our murder rate went up 20% last year. I just met with the Commissioner and the Chief of Police last week. They did a program, a special program, a targeted program, in my district, and they had 48 arrests, gun arrests, gun-related arrests. In one particular hamlet in North Babylon in my district, they had 13 home invasions in three weeks. Crime is going up.

We have some tough, tough decisions to make because of the budget crisis. Foley Nursing Home is something that's important to me. We had a projected \$8 million deficit. And through some of the efforts of the management there, they were able to reduce that to 4 million. But because of the State Budget, we have an increase now of \$6.4 million. So we're worse off now than we were. And I'm concerned that some of the funding that's being referred to as far as State aid that that aid does no longer exist. Because I know on our -- from our perspective, we're getting cut back from State and Federal aid.

So I think, you know, we have to make the tough decisions. That's what you elect us do to. Cornell is an important program. Please don't think that we don't consider you as an important program. I personally know two members on your board. I'm sure I'll be getting nice phone calls afterwards. But, you know, we really have to make some decisions. In my mind what I'm faced with, putting funding in a program that may jeopardize putting more police on the street to protect us in our homes, that's an easy decision for me to make. That's the decision that we're looking at. So we have a motion to discharge. We're going to call the vote. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Opposed.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Opposed.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Opposed. Abstain? **Motion fails. (VOTE: 1-3-0-1 Opposed: Legislators Gregory, D'Amaro and Beedenbender - Not Present: Legislator Losquadro)**

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

1000, Adopting Local Law No. -2009, A Charter Law to enhance budgeting flexibility and responsiveness. (Schneiderman). I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro)**

IR 1003, Repealing home energy nuisance taxes on Suffolk County residents. (Alden) I make a motion to table.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).**

1004, Establishing a program to reduce unfair home energy nuisance taxes on Suffolk County residents. (Alden).

LEG. D'AMARO:

Motion to table.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Motion to table by Legislator D'Amaro, seconded by Legislator Beedenbender. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro)**

1808, Amending the 2008 Operating Budget and the 2008 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds for the installation of public bike racks associated with energy conservation at various County facilities (CP 1664). (Romaine)

LEG. D'AMARO:

Motion to table.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Motion to table by Legislator D'Amaro, seconded by Legislator Beedenbender. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

IR 1024, Adopting Local Law No. -2009, A Charter Law to impose further controls on County debt and debt service payments (Gregory). I make a motion to table.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Seconded by Legislator Beedenbender. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro)**

IR 1029, Authorizing the County Treasurer to borrow cash funds from other County funds for 2009 (Pres. Off. Lindsay). Could I have a motion?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Motion to approve by Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Seconded by Legislator Beedenbender. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).**

IR 1042, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control No. 800-2009) (Co. Exec. Levy). I make a motion to approve and to put on the Consent Calendar.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:
Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **APPROVED and placed on the CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).**

IR 1043, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control No. 797-2009) (Co. Exec. Levy). I make a motion to approve and to put on the Consent Calendar.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:
Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **APPROVED and placed on the CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro)**

IR 1044, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control No. 798-2009). (Co. Exec. Levy) Same motion, same second, same vote. APPROVED and placed on the CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).

IR 1045, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control No. 799-2009). (Co. Exec. Levy). Same motion, same second, same vote. APPROVED and placed on the CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).

IR 1046, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on correction or errors/County Treasurer by: County Legislature No. 312. (Co. Exec. Levy). Same motion, same second, same vote. APPROVED and placed on the CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro)

IR 1047, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on correction or errors/County Treasurer by: County Legislature No. 310. (Co. Exec. Levy). Same motion, same second, same vote. APPROVED and placed on the CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro)

IR 1048, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on correction or errors/County Treasurer by: County Legislature No. 311. (Co. Exec. Levy). Same motion, same second, same vote. APPROVED and placed on the CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).

IR 1049, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control No. 801-2009) (Co. Exec. Levy). Same motion, same second, same vote. APPROVED and placed on the CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).

IR 1052, Amending the 2009 Operating Budget and transferring funds to the Middle Country Coalition for Smart Growth. (Beedenbender)

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Motion to approve by Legislator Beedenbender, seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).**

1060, Amending the 2009 Operating Budget to provide funding for the Babylon Village Sponge Project. (Horsley) Do I have a motion?

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Motion to table by Legislator Beedenbender.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Second by Legislator D'Amaro. Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I was just going to ask about the offset, but based on the tabling, I'll speak with the sponsor directly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

We have a motion to table. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion is **TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).**

IR 1077, Amending the 2009 Operating Budget and transferring funds to Literacy Suffolk, Inc. (Kennedy).

LEG. KENNEDY:

I will make a motion to table, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Motion to table by Legislator Kennedy, seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).**

IR 1078, Amending the 2009 Operating Budget and transferring funds to Smithtown Veterans Youth Program, Inc. (Kennedy).

LEG. KENNEDY:

On this resolution, Mr. Chair, I'm going to make a motion to approve. This is just reprogramming omni funds from a previous entity.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Beedenbender. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).**

IR 1079, Amending the 2009 Operating Budget and transferring funds to Youth Development Association of Commack (Stern). I make a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:
Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).**

1099, Amending the 2009 Operating Budget and transferring funds to BiasHELP, Inc. (Gregory). I make a motion to table.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:
Second

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:
Seconded by Legislator Beedenbender. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).**

IR 1105, Amending the 2009 Operating Budget to strike \$500,000 in excess energy appropriations (Cooper). I'm going to make a motion to table.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:
Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).**

IR 1106, Amending the 2009 Operating Budget to strike \$500,000 in excess energy and parks appropriations (Cooper). I make a motion to table.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Second.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:
Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. **TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).**

We are adjourned.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:45 A.M.*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY

