

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION
& ENERGY COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Minutes

A meeting of the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held at the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, NY 11787 on Wednesday, **March 17, 2004** in the Rose Y. Caracappa Auditorium at 9:30 A. M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Lynne Nowick - Chair
Legislator Angie Carpenter - Vice Chair
Legislator Jon Cooper - Member
Legislator Brian Foley - Member
Legislator Jay Schneiderman - Member
Legislator Vivian Vioria-Fisher - Member

MEMBER ABSENT:

Legislator Peter O'Leary - Member

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mea Knapp - Counsel to the Legislature
Ilona Julius - Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Nicholas Dispenziere - Legislator Nowick Staff
Ed Hogan - Aide to Legislator Nowick
Eric Brown - Aide to Legislator Schneiderman
Carl Yellon - Aide to Legislator Crecca
George Gatta - Suffolk County Community College
Roger Podd - Intergovernmental Relations/County Executive's Office
Joe Schroeder - BRO
Joanne Doering - BRO
Charles K. Stein - VP Finance SCCC
Jon DeMaio - Adm. Div. Edu. For SCCC
Eugene Gerrard - Self
Edna Gerrard - Appointee
Michelle Isabelle-Stark - Cultural Affairs Program Director
Clare Bisceglia - Westhampton Beach PAC
Ernie Schimizzi - WVUH-TV
Greg Schimizzi - WVUH-TV
Fran Siems - Aide to Presiding Officer Caracappa
Kara Hahn - Aide to Legislator Vioria-Fisher
Marie Ammirati - Aide to Legislator O'Leary
All other interested parties.

Minutes taken by:

Eileen Schmidt - Secretary

(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:48 A.M.)

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

We will start with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Foley.

SALUTATION

Top of the Morning to you. Good morning everybody, welcome to the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee. Happy St. Patrick's Day. This morning I just want to start with Chuck Stein, O'Stein.

MR. STEIN:

Thank you. At the last committee meeting we were requested to provide information on the 2003 through 2008 Capital Program report and what's funded by New York State. And being handed out to you right now are copies of that information and it shows the various projects. I won't go through them, they're all listed there in front of you, and it shows the year in which the funding is taken place. I also wanted to point out that the latest word is that the two projects that were able to be put into the Capital Program last year. In subsequent years the Science and Educational Building at the Ammerman campus and the Learning Recourse Center at the Grant Campus and it was put in so that we could try and pursue additional state money. The word that we're getting is that because we are ready the State is trying to seek that money and we haven't received any commitment yet, but the ball is definitely rolling. So we wanted to again thank you for your efforts on that part and we'll keep you posted as to how that proceeds. And that's pretty much it, we just wanted to deliver on this information.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you.

MR. STEIN:

Okay. Thank you.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes, sure.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Thank you Madam Chair. Thanks Chuck for the overview of the report. I think Madam Chair what's important particularly with the submission of by the college to the County Executive for the new Capital Program. I believe, the college will be looking to advance by one year a couple of projects and it is my hope that that advancement will be reflected in the County Executives submission to this committee and to the County Legislature. Additionally, perhaps what we can do we've already sent a Sense to the Legislature resolution, but by the Chair of the Committee and by the whole Committee to the State Legislature on the community college budget. It might be helpful because I don't believe it was part of that original Sense Resolution. It could be helpful if we also wanted to chime in on the Capital Program for the college. Because as mentioned earlier last year when this particular institution was part of the Health and Education Committee which I had chaired that we had amended a Capital Program to include the two larger projects so the State could start to initiate the process of putting into their SUNY program. And I think it would be helpful if we would take and we could have it ready by next Tuesday, we could have a Sense Resolution supporting the college's request to have those additional projects. And we'll have them outlined before the end of the committee meeting to have those additional projects part of the overall SUNY construction fund program. Okay.

MR. STEIN:

One last thing, there are some resolutions being laid on the table at your next full legislative meeting and I just wanted to give you a heads up and brief you on it. The parking situation at the Grant campus is very difficult and we're asking for some transfer of some existing capital money to be made available to add 277 parking spots at the new Health Sports and Education facility at the Grant campus. It's not going to cost anymore.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

That was my question.

MR. STEIN:

It's not to cost anymore we're just shifting funds. So I wanted to give you a heads up on that that it's being laid on the table at your next legislative meeting and to be voted on at the following legislative meeting. Thank you.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Just one question.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Viloría-Fisher.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

And I have one other follow-up if I may.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you Madam Chair. Mr. Stein I'm looking at, you know, one of my pet projects here is the Learning Center in the eastern campus after having visited their library and being quite appalled by that. I just wanted to be certain that that's included in the State Program.

MR. STEIN:

Yes. And, in fact, that's one of the projects we are asking to be advanced one year in the Capital Program.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

What is going on with the enrollment on the eastern campus? Has it increased greatly; is it remaining --

MR. STEIN:

Fall of '03 the enrollment increased significantly. The spring session did not, but I think for the year it is up. It is up.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

It is up, okay. Thank you Chuck.

MR. STEIN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Foley.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Yes. A couple more, Chuck; a couple more questions. We won't let you off that easily. Just focusing on the Selden campus for a moment which still enjoys the largest number of students of the three campuses. In particular, with the growth in the school districts that are the main let say the main districts that have a feat students, if you will, to the community college that are in

Brookhaven Town. I know there's a real issue with the high utilization rate of the buildings. Where it's not reflected in the report today, but where is it reflected as far as the eventual construction of a new multi-purpose classroom building on campus?

MR. STEIN:

Well, one of the buildings that we're looking to get the state money for is on the Ammerman campus.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Is it reflected in what you handed out today?

MR. STEIN:

It would be in addition to this because this is what is funded and does have state funding.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

And that's for the next five years so the other project we're looking at beyond five years before we would get that?

MR. STEIN:

By getting that project for the Ammerman campus what would happen is we would then renovate the Kreyling Hall into classroom facilities, general classroom facilities. So you'd be gaining a lot of classroom space at the Ammerman campus.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

That we're looking at what year to place, you know, let say the planning phase then the construction phase and now we need SUNY to also agree to it?

MR. STEIN:

Let Jon DeMaio respond.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

That will be my last question, Madam Chair, for today.

MR. DEMAIO:

The correspondence we've gotten from the State thus far is, they explained to us, we understand that the 2003 to 2008 five-year plan seems insufficient. What projects didn't you get, what projects do you want. What projects do you have local sponsors support for and they include the Science building at Ammerman and the Learning Resource Center at Grant. So clearly they're looking at not even the next five year plan, but where this five year plan deficient. So it's possible if we keep pushing and things go our way that it could happen between 2003 and 2008.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Thank you Madam Chair.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm just going to make a plug while you're out here between you and Mr. Gatta's presentation that at the Ammerman campus the Long Island Shakespeare Festival right at the Shea Theater is doing wonderful things. They're being Shakespeare accessible to students throughout Suffolk right at the Shea Theater and next Saturday is the Long Island Shakespeare Festival fashion

show that's co-sponsored with Grateful Greyhounds. Greyhounds who will be dressed in Elizabethan costume. So that's at the Shea Theater on March 27th; so I think all Legislators are invited. Please check your calendars. I will be a model by the way.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. I just wanted to say when you said Jon DeMaio I have to just tell you that I was looking for his father. That scares me with the age, right? I just want to put on the record that Legislator O'Leary has requested an excused absence today.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Grailed from above.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Mr. Gatta.

MR. GATTA:

Good morning. I thought this morning meeting was an appropriate time to present the committee with an update on Workforce Development. I remember back to the first meeting of the year when we discussed a number of college issues including some discussion on the importance of Workforce training and the role that the college plays in that to our local economy. To give you an indication of the varied nature and you have much of that on your agenda today. The first six introductory resolutions are all centered on college activities, five of them directly in Workforce Development.

The first one is basically a GED Adult Basic Education and Literacy, which is conducted under the Workforce effort through our continuing education division. And this would increase funds by \$59,000 bringing the total to \$215,000 for that activity; that involves GED training for about 600 students. The second is a resolution on our Educational Opportunity Program and while not directly a Workforce Program it does help students who need, who financially and academically need that support to succeed in college. As part of the program though they do also receive vocational support and this is an increase of funding of an additional \$53,000 in state funds to support that program. Part of it goes to student stipends it averages about a \$100 a student to help them with books and some other school necessities.

1164 is a Workforce Development Training grant for a company Ivy Acres. We're doing management training, presentation skills and communication skills for about 50 employees at Ivy Acres.

1165 is training for Suffolk County National Bank 90% reimbursed by the state and about \$29,000 from the state and about \$3200 from the bank to train about 150 employees in everything from executive leadership, supervisory training, presentation skills, computer application training. We've continued to train for and receive assistance from the state to help Suffolk County National Bank bring its employees along professionally and upgrade their skills.

1166 is for a corporation right here in Hauppauge, Audiovox Corporation. It's a small grant, but it's an important one. About \$5,000 from the state from SUNY and a small cash contribution from the company, but it will help them train 53 employees in English as a second language. Very critical to that segment of the workforce particularly here in the Brentwood Hauppauge area.

And the last 1178 is Alliance of Long Island Agencies. I will talk in my presentation a little bit about a program that we've developed with Alliance, but this is really a grant. This is a Workforce Development Training grant, again, supported by SUNY and Alliance for computer skills and management skills for their workers. So that gives you an idea of the varied types of companies, not-for-profits, banks and other organizations that we're currently performing Workforce Development training services for. So with that as a backdrop --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Just one second, George.

MR. GATTA:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Just for my own knowledge, how are these different banks and agents -- there's a bank here and there's a corporation, how are they chosen, how are they chosen for the programs and for the grants? How does work?

MR. GATTA:

We work directly with companies making them aware. We're constantly marketing to make them aware of state programs. If they indicate an interest we then work with them to file an application with either SUNY or New York State Economic Development or New York State Department of Labor which ever grant funds are available. Make application for that specific training then receive the approval and then commence the training. In other instances the state does direct outreach to the business community; the businesses themselves apply and then they secure a third party trainer like the college or proprietary school to provide the training that they need. So that's the system that you use; that's the process that used to identify and secure funds for this type of training. In other instances, you know, we contract directly with a company and we provide the training where there are no grant funds involved.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

It's wonderful, it's a wonderful opportunity for them and I guess it's the smart bank who says let me apply for the grant. It's wonderful.

MR. GATTA:

Okay. Just and I know you've got a very full agenda this morning so what I'll do is I'll go briefly through my presentation on the various components of our Workforce Program. And then if you have questions I'd be glad to address them.

Overall, the college plays a very significant role in Workforce Training in this County and in this region. Going back to the discussion we had at that first meeting this is a skilled base economy in terms of how we compete in that global market place if it's no longer location, location, location it's innovation, innovation, innovation. And it's the continuous skill upgrades of our workforce that allows our companies to compete in that global market place. The college has comprehensive offerings more than 75 degree and non-degree programs. We also have extensive training, non-credit training and certificate programs and we work directly with the business community.

Our graduates are the people who stay and work in this economy to a large extent. When we

read in the media about the brain drain on Long Island much of it is not coming from our students. More than 80% of our students stay and work and make a life here in Suffolk County and on Long Island. So we are an economic engine and economic driver in this region.

Current services within the Workforce Program, first of all they're very cost effective and they provide life long learning and skills upgrades opportunities for our residents. Everything from continuing education in many, many areas, technology based, scientifically based, computer skills training you name it we pretty much provide it. We also provide customized corporate training as we talked about it a bit earlier grant funded training. A significant growth area in the college is adult literacy and ESL. It's done in two levels, it's done on the credit side, it's done as part of a pre-college program and it's also done directly with businesses. So ESL is something that is a very important part of our workforce-training mission. We also have multiple cooperative education and internship programs that are run through a division under both academic and workforce programs. But our cooperate training and our continuing ed. folks work very closely with the academic component of that program to make sure that students who are studying a particular discipline are placed in the appropriate type of work experience while they're going to school.

We have an on-line job connection; it's a free web based job connection where employers can list jobs and students and/or the general public can access that information; and we also provide entrepreneurial education that's grant based. What do we need to take this operation to the next level? First we need to focus on corporate training and service to individuals. One of the things that we haven't in the past as part of that effort is a skills assessment center or a skilled assessment tool; that's something that we will be adding in the next few months. It's something that can be used jointly between both corporate training and continuing education because they both deal directly with individuals and with companies not-for-profit organizations. A critical element in defining what the need is for the training within a particular workforce.

We also need to have tools that allow us reach and provide service to very small businesses. While individuals at the college can currently take on-line courses and in fact we are the fourth leading public institution in the SUNY system, out of 62 institutions in terms of on-line training. And by next year we will have our full business degree offered on-line. When it comes to dealing with small businesses we're not always dealing directly with individuals. We're dealing with a group of employees within a business and a business person needs to make a decision, can I train, can I fill a class with 10 or 12 students. Often times given the nature of the business community on Long Island they don't have 10 supervisors or they don't have 10 people that need the same type training and it's difficult for us to provide that training.

By providing services on-line through a third party provider and there are a number of high quality national partners out there that we are looking at. We can offer a small business the ability to train as few as one individual within their business. And to do it from the convenience of their workplace or their home hooking in through our network into that training and we can offer hundreds of different types of disciplines. So we believe that's a very important service that should be provided to the small business community and to individuals.

We have been working with Stony Brook University very aggressively and they have agreed to assist us and provide us with a satellite of their Small Business Development Center at our Grant campus at our Corporate Training Facility at Grant campus at no cost to the college. So we will have business counselors working there helping small businesses develop business plans, access funding and working to navigate the traditional economic development programs that are offered

by the County, by the state and by other entities utilities on the Island. So that's something that is not part of our core mission, but is an important service and if we can have it provided through a state grant or another entity at no cost I think that's very important for us at the Corporate Training Center. HEAT stands for Higher Education Advanced Technology that's another grant funded training program. The primary recipient is Stony Brook, but we are providing modules of training in certain disciplines that we are very adept at.

And finally overall we need within enhancements we need to make sure that our programs are as flexible as possible to the customer. We need to offer additional weekend and compressed schedule courses to accommodate folks that are between careers or looking to enhance skills while they're still working a 40 to 50 work week. We can do that and we are working with that not just within corporate training and continuing ed., but working on the -- with the academic side of the institution which is the largest component of the college to make sure that our programs are marketable, accessible and user friendly. One of the ways that we foster not just additional business for corporate training or continuing ed., but for the rest of the institution is we work with agencies, with businesses. We've begun discussions with major labor unions on how we can bring new students into the college atmosphere. A good example of that is the Alliance of Long Island Agencies and the Brookhaven National Lab programs where we bring folks in for a pre-college non-credit training to get them college ready a college prep course. And then from there they matriculate into a credit program and go one and earn a certificate or a degree or even go beyond that and earn a bachelorette degree. That program this year that directs service professional credit program has been awarded the 2004 Association for Continuing Education Exceptional Program Award and we're very proud of that.

We also partner with other industries, I'm looking at page 6 now where we partner with the Oil Heat Institute of Long Island to bring a heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration program to our school. Over the next ten years the Oil Heat Institute is committed to \$500,000 to support that program and that's what direct program cost and for scholarships. The next page gives you just an overview of a functional organizational chart of our Workforce efforts. I won't spend a lot of time on that because I've already talked about many of these components, but we have four divisions that work together in various ways to promote that mission. The one on the left is Corporate Training and if you look at there are a number of things listed there that we are adding Skill Assessment Center, On-line Training, Enhanced Training Partnerships and some others. Continuing Ed., which is a traditional continuing ed. program, but also does a significant amount of professional development certifications, Adult Literacy GED which I talked about earlier. A number of enrichment programs in science and technology that's a step program; liberty partnership, these are all grant funded step program in Liberty partnership. That's academic support services for students who are under achieving. Bridge Program on the bottom and also there's another one that's not there called the Edge Program these are all Welfare to Work Programs where we're working directly with State DOL and the County Workforce Investment Board to help folks transition from public assistance to meaningful employment.

The third as I mentioned earlier is Coop. Ed. and Career Services. There is a lot of cooperation between the placement of students at work sites and corporate training in providing assistance to businesses that may need training. I mentioned earlier Job Connection we won't go over that and Career Services. And lastly on the right side is the Sports and Exhibition Complex, which is heavily used by the business community for business trade shows. In May we have the annual HIA trade show conference at the facility. We're doing more and more things to bring the business community to that facility including almost a continuous programming and use of the lecture hall at that facility by outside groups. So the more that we can do to bring businesses to

the campus that can use that facility the more we build the image.

Pages 8, 9, and 10 really talk about how our workforce efforts interact with the vision for the college. If you look at page 9, all of these things help up build strong relationships that ultimately support the college. Support its mission as an open access institution support its ability to raise funds and support its efforts to be a positive force in the regional economy. Page 10, links basically the division of the college that's been established talking with all constituencies over the past six months by our new president Dr. Pippins. And the triangle on the right is how Workforce relates back to the overall vision of the college and achieving a college of excellence. I really talked about page 11 previously in going over the resolutions. At the bottom of the page they're a number of other companies that we recently assisted and there are far more we didn't have room to include them all.

So really in summing up going forward there's going to be an incredible demand and this is not just my opinion this is the opinion of experts nationwide. We're going to see more and more programs coming down from what's been announced as a new federal initiative to support workforce development at community colleges. We must position ourselves to take advantage of that funding be it federal, state or local. We have to work much more closely with our local County Workforce Investment Board. And we need to increase our outreach efforts in our marketing and our visibility to our residents to make sure that they're aware that we are a cost effective and quality training solution for their needs. We can do that and we are doing that reorganizing currently and we have a number of things that we're adding and we're focusing on. In summation our mission, what is our core mission and how does that relate to the college and to the local economy and to the benefit of all our citizens in the region. So with that I'd be glad to answer any questions you may have.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you Mr. Gatta and I do agree with you about getting the word out about the college because this is a fine institution and the more I serve on committees such as this the more I understand and the more I realize we have a jewel here. I think Legislator Carpenter had a question.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Well, first of all I'd like to thank you for this very thorough presentation. And listening to you bring it all together just sort of reinforced in my mind that it certainly was a wise decision on the part of the Presiding Officer to bring this committee back to its focus. And partnership with economic development that it be education and economic development because I just don't think you can separate the two. I do have a question though, I know that the director of Corporate Training has retired or is retiring. What are the plans in that area specifically?

MR. GATTA:

The prior director of the Corporate Training function within Workforce retired the end of February we're discussing that with the Board of Trustees at the current time making them fully aware of our plans in that area. But what the president has proposed is to refocus that division to refocus Corporate Training pretty much entirely on Corporate Training to make sure that all the things we're doing within their support that overall mission. That's why we're adding the Skills Assessment Center in the on-line training and increase partnerships. And as part of that process in realigning that division we also took a close look at the position itself and we've redrafted the position description and the responsibilities for the director of that division to make sure that the individual that we plan to bring in has that expertise. That it is in corporate training and it's

either from a corporate setting or if it's from high education it's completely aligned to that mission so the job description has been revised. The minimum qualifications have been increased and the education level has been increased. So what we're trying to do is focus strictly on, how can we serve the corporate customer? What are the tools that we need and put the resources in place to accomplish that mission?

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

A statement that you made in your presentation I kind of jotted down and I think it's something that we need to remember, that the community college is a positive force in the regional economy and sometimes we lose that focus. The fact that we're the fourth leading institution in the SUNY system in on-line training. You know, we have done so very much and sometimes that message doesn't get out there that's why I think it's so important that you're here this morning and you put it all to paper so that hopefully we can help get that message out too. I also know from what I've seen what I've read and in conversations that the president, the new president of the college is particularly committed to and versed in and had a lot of experience in that kind of environment with workforce development. And certainly it doesn't take away from the reputation we enjoy as a fine academic institution and I think it only enhances it because people kind of cycle back. You know it's the kind of institution that someone can come back to and you know I'm really very, very excited about it. I think the partnership part is very important too and speaking with and working with other organizations. I know that when, and this is going back a number of years ago, when we were approaching the year 2000 we had put together the Goals 2002 Task Force for the community college. And it was a legislative initiative and we had various people that came in and spoke with the group and it was very enlightening and it really served a very useful purpose. And along those lines especially with the fiscal times that we find ourselves in I really believe that we cannot tax or cut our way out of the recession. And the only way to do it is to really grow the economy and I've been working on and it is in the process of being filed and I'm going to share it with member of this committee and hopefully everyone will be interested in co-sponsoring it. But it is tied into what the state is doing with their New York at Work that I envision us having that same kind of public policy board or commission right here in Suffolk County where we work closely with the college the LIA, the HIA. All of these groups that are out there these stakeholders, the Labor Department, but creating a vehicle for these people to come together to find out what we're doing that might be duplicative. But what we're doing that we could do better how we can, you know, piggyback off one another and I'm looking forward to having the college participate in that.

MR. GATTA:

Well, we'd be very much interested in that.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Viloría-Fisher.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you Madam Chair. George, this was a very impressive presentation. Thank you very much.

MR. GATTA:

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

It's good to see how the college is really creating an education and economic development bridge and it's sorely needed. And this certainly addresses a number of issues that are very critical to us here in Suffolk County. As you were going through this before you mentioned welfare to work I had been noting in my notes as you spoke Nina as you know is on the Welfare to Work Commission and I'm forgetting her last name.

MR. GATTA:

Yes. Leonhardt.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Leonhardt.

MR. GATTA:

Yes.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

And she represents the college on that commission. And so we're very well aware of the good work that's being done at Suffolk Community College with regards to preparing people for the workforce and removing them from the welfare rolls. You mentioned bridge and edge, but there were some other programs here that were -- are also very instrumental in moving people from the welfare to work rolls. And they are utilized in that aren't they or are they?

MR. GATTA:

We are, we do participate as these opportunities become available either through State Labor or through working through the County Labor Department. So we're currently working one program right now; we're having a bit of problem with identifying language that the state will accept in terms of a match of funds for the program. Because a lot of these require a local match to receive the grant so we're about to, you know, write to the State Labor Commissioner to fine a resolution to what would seem to be a simple problem. We have the funds, but they're not happy with the definition; so it's small things like that that, you know, take time, but Nina as you said, Nina is very involved in all this initiatives. We do aggressively reach out to all those funding agencies. They are really a life blood for our local residents and we can do these things at a very cost effective way to save not only the state and the federal government taxpayers money, but in the process provide the service and do it very effective locally.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

And bring more money into our economy.

MR. GATTA:

That's correct and bring more money in not just more money in, but even more importantly more skilled people into the labor force.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

You attended our -- the public hearing --

MR. GATTA:

I did.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

That the Welfare to Work Commission held last Friday.

MR. GATTA:

Yes, I did.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

So you're very well aware of the changes that might be coming down from the federal government in the revisiting of the Personal Responsibility Act of 1996. Do you envision that that will have a strong negative impact on the programs or are we able to work around the expanded hours that would be required?

MR. GATTA:

Well, it would certainly seem to make it more difficult to serve the number of individuals that needs these type services. In my opinion it would be more difficult, yes. It would impact our programs.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Do you think that perhaps using some of the on-line configurations or the fast track type of models, weekend learning, accelerated hours, do you think that we might have to move towards using that type of model.

MR. GATTA:

We're going to look at all of those options to make sure that we serve the population should the law change and should it be much more restricted than it currently is. We also have a Dean of Instructional Technologies who came from the private sector came from Symbol Technologies and is very knowledgeable on how we can adapt all of these on-line training. And is, in fact, the architect of what we're doing at the college now; so we will stay on top of that and make sure that we're as responsive as we can be to deliver the services even if there are new constraints place on us.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

That's good to hear thank you. You mentioned a skilled assessment center; do you happen to know off hand what instruments are use for this -- what assessment tools are being used? The name of the assessment tools.

MR. GATTA:

Well, currently we're not using any. The one's that we planned to acquire are through the ACT it's called Work Keys, ACT Work Keys that the American College Testing Program.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Right. Okay.

MR. GATTA:

And there are different modules within that bank of -- and it would depend really on the type of employee and the type of skills you're looking for. Whether it's basic literacy or it could be everything from basic literacy to supervisory skills to decision making. It's really quite comprehensive.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I'm asking that because again, on the Welfare to Work Commission where we had a number of professionals who deal with people entering the work force. There has been quite a bit of controversy over which is the best skills assessment tool and so I was curious to see if you had made a decision.

MR. GATTA:

Yeah, that's the tool that they are recommending.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. GATTA:

That the state programs are recommending for us to use and then we can use it jointly both in the continuing education division and in the corporate training division. It works equally well in both settings.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Good. I have just a few more questions. Several years ago I visited Yacov Shamash.

MR. GATTA:

Yacov Shamash, yes.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

The dean of engineering at Stony Brook University with members of Suffolk Community College Engineering Physics Program and the Commissioner of our Department of Public Works because we have a tremendous need for civil engineers in Suffolk County. And our Department of Public Works has often had to contract out projects because we do not have enough civil engineers here. And we began those conversations they got caught up as other things do and I would like you perhaps to revisit the issue of having a tie in program between our engineering at Suffolk Community College. And Yacov Shamash was very interested in looking at this because he agrees that we need to develop the civil engineering component here in Suffolk County and if we can partner in addressing this need.

MR. GATTA:

Sure.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

And petitioning New York State to permit SUNY Stony Brook to provide that certification program it would certainly be a great economic engine for us here to have civil engineering home based civil engineering. It would keep some of our Stony Brook graduates here on Long Island because we certainly have a need here on Long Island for civil engineers.

MR. GATTA:

I couldn't agree with you more. The shortage of engineers across the spectrum is tremendous; anything we can do to bolster engineering training at public institutions is something that is a net positive. It will also attract students from outside the region from outside the metropolitan area to be part of these programs bringing in additional dollars. Just one other thing if I could just while I'm thinking of it. I mentioned that we're an economic engine for the County; we will be undertaking an economic impact study of the college within the next several months. So that,

you know, we can actually put on paper what our impact is and share that with the community when it's available I'd be glad to come back and share that with the committee.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Just a couple more questions. At the convention center I note when the scheduling first began there with various entities that were using the facility there was some scheduling issues with academic programs. Has that all been sorted out?

MR. GATTA:

Well, there's still -- there's so much demand for the facility and when you look at the academic demand and you look at the police academy or law enforcement academy because it's more than just a police at this point, sheriff and the town police departments. And the athletic forget the academic, but then the athletic use of it and the great demand for business trade shows, exhibitions and use of the lecture hall facility. It's a bit of a juggling act because you're trying number one, you're primary mission is academics, but part of the college's mission is to be of service to the community. And so without compromising the academic programs we work very diligently to accommodate as many other users as possible at that facility. There are plans there was a request for proposal that was issued about I'm going to guess and say nine months ago and we're currently reviewing the potential addition of a sports bubble as an addition to that facility. That would basically be a public private partnership where the public sector would build it, operate it, maintain it. The college would have use of it during core academic hours. And it would provide the college with incredible flexibility on programming not just that new facility which would be adjacent to it, but would also free up space within the existing sports and exhibition to provide many, many other community organizations, business opportunities, sporting events you name it.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

And that's separate from that I guess catering area I don't remember if that's what that called the catering aid area.

MR. GATTA:

It would be separate from that, yes, but it would be attached.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. It would be contiguous.

MR. GATTA:

Yes, contiguous to.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Just two more questions. The technology center has not ever brought in the kind of revenue that we've seen in the convention center. Do you see that as becoming a more positive force now that you're looking at more technology based training?

MR. GATTA:

Well, that's specifically why we're trying to add the resources and the tools that we need to be responsive to the needs of the business community. When we look at the business makeup on Long Island of the 90,000 or so businesses we have 80,000, 85,000 of them are very, very small businesses. So in order to reach into that market segment we have to have those tools available to us. We have to be responsive to those potential customers; we're also looking at how we can

reorganize and streamline that division. It is not a profit center; there are no profit centers in the college. If we can maintain and cover expenses considering the service that we're providing to the community both the general public and to the regional economy then I think we will be very successful. But the important thing is the service we are providing to the individuals and to the competitiveness of the businesses as they struggle within that global economy and as they struggle to continually innovate.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Last question.

MR. GATTA:

Yes.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Near and dear to our hearts, I know Legislator Foley has worked very hard on this over the years transportation. Are -- do you -- you have a very visionary and I think broad spectrum here in your workforce development plan. I think it looks really good. Do you see as a next stage in it looking for a way of including or articulating transportation needs in order to make a lot of this happen? We're getting people ready for the workforce, but then they have no way to get there.

MR. GATTA:

Well, we know that transportation is a thorny issue in Suffolk County. Every year the public transit budget Suffolk Transit is under fire to maintain the routes we have. We know we need to expand public transportation to the extent that we can. One of the reasons why we're looking at downtown campus or satellites center is to make our -- bring our service closer to the people. And those downtown centers certainly are better served with public transportation than our traditional campus you would have Long Island Rail Road and you would have Suffolk County bus routes. And we'd like to put them in communities where we think there is an unmet need both educationally and in terms of access. If we can make it easier for students to get to our facilities be it if they're living near a downtown center or they can actually use public transportation in a more convenient way then again we're providing a service that's needed within the community. That's why, you know, we're looking at right now and we will be reviewing proposals in the next several months or up to three downtown centers geographically dispersed throughout the County.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Bring them out into Mohammed, huh.

MR. GATTA:

Exactly.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much.

MR. GATTA:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Foley.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Thank you Madam Chair. It'll just take several moments. I just wanted to reinforce the point made by Legislator Vilorio-Fisher about the engineering program particularly if we can model one where it would essentially be an expansion of the current articulation agreement between the community college and SUNY Stony Brook where we can have an engineering program get an Associates at our campus and move on then to the four year college. And tandem with that, you know, we had developed a tuition assistance program as you know in a nursing program for those nurses who graduate from our nursing program who would then work for our County Health Department for several years we would cover the cost of their tuition. The same perhaps that could be one of the recruiting tools if you will if we can develop this engineering school between both SUNY Stony Brook as well as our college is not only, put together the program, but another way of attracting highly qualified students is by also offering a tuition assistance program that would in relation to \$130 million by that time \$135 million operating budget would be a very, very small part of that and the results of that would be phenomenal for our County. So I think that's part of the vision that we could bring to that particular area that that's of great need.

Final point I would raise Madam Chair is, George, you mentioned about these federal initiatives that is some that our community college should be poised to, not only accept, but also to develop locally. It's one of the few areas in the federal government where there's probably new monies coming forward. So, not so much finance it today, but if you could tell us in the future how, through our capital program, with the college, as well as the upcoming operating budget, that will be submitted to the County Executive in June how we could fashion both the capital needs, as well as the operating needs, of the college to in the best sense of the word successfully-maybe I should use the word exploit-but successfully access those federal dollars in the quickest time we can, as opposed to waiting two or three years to develop systems on campus to then access it. What can we do quickly and early in order to take full advantage of this rare federal opportunity where there's going to be some additional dollars coming to our region?

MR. GATTA:

I'll be glad to do that.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Thank you. And also listing of what initiatives the feds are looking at developing and supporting throughout community college system.

MR. GATTA:

And if I could just comment on your first --

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Yes.

MR. GATTA:

Your first comment which is really, how can we take advantage of opportunities that are out there for the college to partner with numerous entities. We can do it if we have, you know, the appropriate staff in place to get the job done, but the opportunities are just, you know, tremendous. If there were 48 hours in a day we could do a lot more, but we're very excited about the potential that's out there.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Great. Okay, thank you. Thank you Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you George, that was excellent presentation.

MR. GATTA:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

We have a few appointments on the agenda today and before we go to the agenda I would like to bring up a few of those that are here; maybe a short presentation. I see -- the first appointment would be Edna Gerrard. Edna, did you want to come up? Good morning, how are you today?

MRS. GERRARD:

Good morning. Good morning to you all.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

If you could just tell us just a little bit about yourself.

MRS. GERRARD:

I didn't know I was supposed to make a presentation. I don't have a problem with it, but --

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

You've never been shy.

MRS. GERRARD:

No. You know that Vivian. I gave my resume in to Mr. Caracappa and it's rather lengthy partly because of my age and the time I've been around.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

You could just highlight it and just tell us who you are.

MRS. GERRARD:

I'm a bit of a dinosaur, but one of the things I think might interest the committee is the fact that I am and I mentioned it to Mr. Foley already a graduate of the very first community college in the State of New York. First graduating class 1948 at that time it was called the New York State Institute of Applied Art and Sciences. It was located in Borough Hall in Brooklyn and I graduated with a marketing, Associates Degree in Marketing and we worked very closely, the college at that time was mostly a resource for returning veterans from World War II. So those of us of the feminine gender it was great source for us too because we -- the males outnumbered the females like about 40 to 1. So that was kind of nice, but it was a wonderful training center; it was not only a schooling for me, but it was a full education because I learned a lot. I learned a lot about the business community I learned a lot about the business world and what it had to offer. I found the education, the schooling that I got at the community college invaluable to me when I was dragged into business with my husband when he started his business in Suffolk County and that was 37 years ago. And a lot of what I had learned at the community college came back in full force and in turn I took graphic arts course at Farmingdale which was then, I don't know whether it was considered a community college, but it was a two year alternative college. And they had a wonderful, wonderful art department in commercial and I found that invaluable for the work that I was doing with my husband in our printing business. But overall I

think one of the biggest assets that I have to offer is the work that I've done in community fundraising activities and community boards. I'm a trustee on the LIPA Board and that's been an education in itself and also a member of the Women Services in the Town of Brookhaven. My husband and I started the services and it's very valuable I think to the women of Suffolk County, Brookhaven in particular.

I'm also on the New York -- the Governor Commission for Women's Services and we usually meet in Bohemia for that and that points out a lot of the problems that are facing women in just general life today. The reason why I was very, very interested in that was because I'm very interested in the Rockefeller drug laws and some of the things that they -- the way women in particular are impacted by archaic Rockefeller drug laws. I've worked very closely on that and aside from that I just work everyday.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Well, I must say for someone who wasn't prepared that's an excellent overview. I know Legislator Carpenter has a question.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Thank you. Certainly, your resume is very, very impressive. And what strikes me most is the reference to women's issues and I think that's very important because right now the board of trustees at the community college is down three trustees. There's no student trustee and two of the other trustees have left and there are no female trustees right now on the board.

MRS. GERRARD:

I noticed that too.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

And that's really bothersome to me; so I think that that unique perspective not just being female, but having genuinely worked, you know, on women's issues will be very, very valuable as the board moves forward in facing a myriad of issues in the coming years. Certainly the presentation that you heard this morning on the focus for workforce development your experience in the business community I am sure will be very valuable too. So I just saw this resume, quite frankly I'm very impressed and I hope that we can move forward with this this morning. Thank you for coming down.

MRS. GERRARD:

Thank you, Angie.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I also see you were being very shy about your awards from 1983 to 2003 how many awards you've received; we all have your resume. I know Legislator Viloría-Fisher has a question also.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Edna, although you are not my constituent I feel as though you are.

MRS. GERRARD:

Yes.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Because we do see one another at so many different events and I do want to say as a former

member of Decision, which is the women's organization that was founded by Edna and I was a member of that I know what you will be bringing to the board. Not just advocating for women, but advocating for women in the work place. Advocating for women as professional partners and I think that that's an invaluable asset to the board of Suffolk Community College. Based on what you just heard from George Gatta we're looking at workforce development and there must be a place for women at that table. And so I really encourage everyone to support your appointment.

MRS. GERRARD:

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

I see you as a powerful force --

MS. SCHMIDT:

Please talk into the microphone.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

I see you as a powerful force and I look forward to working with you, Edna.

MRS. GERRARD:

Thank you. I look forward to working with the Legislature.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you.

MRS. GERRARD:

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

I would just ask if we could while Ms. Gerrard is still here if we take this resolution out of order IR. 1183. I make a motion to take it out of order and approved Edna Gerrard.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

There's a motion by Legislator Carpenter and a second by --

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

May I second it, please? She's my constituent almost.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And a second by Legislator Viloría-Fisher. Did I do my job right?

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Now that having been said, **IR 1183-04 - Appointing Edna M. Gerrard to the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees. (Caracappa)** Do I have a motion?

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Motion.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Carpenter seconded by Legislator Viloría-Fisher. All in favor? Opposed? Congratulations. **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)**

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Madam Chair, let the record reflect that here today as well is long time former town council member and a great advocate for the firematic concerns of the town as well as in the County, Gene Gerrard. I just want you to acknowledge that he is here today as well.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Are you the longest sitting Councilman in Suffolk County?

MR. GERRARD:

I was.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

He was.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

You were.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

May I just also say one more thing that Councilman Gerrard was very instrumental in the Old Field Farm becoming a Suffolk County Park and really broke ground in helping to make that happen.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you, have a good day. Congratulations, you're half way through. For other appointees that are here today, I'm not sure if, but is Diana Schmidt here?

SPEAKER:

No.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Diana Schmidt is seeking to be appointed to the Motion Picture --

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

I'm Michelle Isabelle-Stark with the film office in the Department of Economic Development and I just want to make you aware that Diana Schmidt is on location in New York City and was not able to be here today. Beth Kushnick is also on location in New York City filming a Robert DiNero movie so she was not able to be here today. And John Ford is in California trying to drum up production business for us here in New York. So he is not here today. We do have here today Greg Schimizzi and also Clare Bisceglia.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Can I ask you a question I'm not sure you would have the answer? The three that you just mentioned Diana Schmidt, she lives at 379 Ferry Road in Sag Harbor, is that her address?

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And did you say the other one that isn't here is Beth --

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

Beth Kushnick.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. And does she reside at 29 Squires Path, Easthampton?

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And Mr. John Ford does he reside at Corey Place, Huntington Station?

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

That's the information I have, yes, on his resume we got.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. That's his residence?

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

That's as far as I know.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Thank you.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Maybe he's a summer resident because the letter attached says that he is married with two children and has been a resident of Westbury for 20 years.

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

Okay. So --

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

So I don't -- is there any stipulation that these members be residents of the Suffolk County. It seems like it would be more appropriate if nothing else.

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

They're required to be residents, so I'd have to look into what that address is that he gave.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Okay.

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

Okay.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

You might want to do that on the other two if there's any questions.

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Since they're not here maybe you could find out for us.

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

Well, the other two their resumes have those addresses listed. Mr. Ford sent in a letter, I believe, listing that on his resume of listing that address; maybe it's his office.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Mr. Ford's letter says that he is resident of Westbury, New York for 20 years.

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

Okay. So maybe then the address that he listed on the letter that he sent was an office that's the only thing I can think of. He's a secretary of the IA union, so that might be the Suffolk County office. I'll find out about that.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Thank you. Any questions? Okay, I believe Mr. Greg Schimizzi is here.

MR. SCHIMIZZI:

Good morning, Happy St. Patrick Day to everyone. It's O'Schimizzi for today.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

O'Schimizzi could you state your name for the record.

MR. SCHIMIZZI:

And the residence I live in Easthampton at 135 Waterhole Road, 11937. The 75 Industrial Road is where the studio's located. And I'm the chairman and co-founder of WVUH-TV and I'm happy to see Jay Schneiderman is up there and Angie. We go back a long way with certainly Jay and Angie and we're very proud that Jay's here. And if he does a 10th of the job on this body which I'm sure he'll do a lot more than what he did to us in Easthampton in bringing it into a quality place we're very proud of that. Basically, I come with about over 25 years experience and my brother and I started a film production and distribution company call Video Voice. And we have about a library of about 260 motion pictures that we distribute and that still an active company. And in the early 80's we got involved with -- we moved out to the East End and we got involved with local television. In those days, of course, local television was a very fragile thing and with the help of the town and certainly Jay's involvement it developed into not only one excellent public access station, but an educational channel that I would put that up with any in the nation as being an excellent example of community at work. And we got involved with public access from the standpoint (inaudible) our experience in being a commercial TV distributor to sort of assist this fledgling group in the providing equipment and expertise as being just residents of the

community in saying well, you shouldn't use this camera you should have a better camera to document this historic stuff. And they're celebrating their 20th year and we're proud to say that they're probably the greatest repository of East End history, living history on TV than most libraries can hold. I'm very proud about that.

And about 1993 we acquired the last UHF license channel in those days it was channel 23 which broadcast over the air; the old rabbit ears. And a year later we were put on the Cablevision system and earlier on it was channel 78. High Definition came along and the bandwidth had to be changed so we had to move to channel 50. And we're proud to say we're the -- one of the only -- well, only East End eastern Suffolk High Definition channel is on channel 50 as well as analog. And Cablevision now we're on channel 78 and our hope is to drive our channel further west and provide our excellent programming in our community stuff for as many people to see as possible. And that interesting comment that you made with economic development and education, yes, they do go hand in hand. And we see the thing that drives the economy is to be showcased and it gives us great pleasure to see a fledgling business, a family run business out on the East End that's having troubles especially during the off season and when they involve themselves with us as a commercial entity they can showcase and made it through a lot of rough times and drive more customers in.

So with that I'm coming at this from a strictly commercial aspect and using television as a great communicator. And just to bring you up to speed, about 10 days ago my brother and I had this notion of since we're being confined in the delivery of our signal further out to the world than we like and everybody has a -- we've been in operation for 10 years and we'd like to expand. We figured and since we're entrepreneurial in spirit primarily we figured there must be a way of distributing our signal beyond what we could do. We built the station from scratch; it was just a piece of paper and we're on 24 hours a day seven days a week providing programming that's stands up against the majors. So we decided to build our own method of serving the people that watch on the Internet, so right now it's in a test phase, it works beautifully. I'd like to give you the date as to when it's going to be active probably within a month or so it'll be available on every computer throughout the world. It's streaming right now and it doesn't look like it -- like the old time movies where it jumps around it flows beautifully and we're very proud of it. We had Microsoft and Gateway develop a {tar} specifications. We installed it ourselves last week; we ran the test and my friends around the nation that are actually enjoying programming of the East End, they're watching. We tested it out by putting the film festival, the horse show, polo, the sand castle contest and a couple of other things just to test it out to see if they indeed see the image. And just like Alexander Graham Bell when, you know, come here Watson type of a thing. When people reported to us from Chicago and Los Angeles and, in fact, in England, London a friend said I was watching Polo and it's pretty good when are you going to distribute it around. We're proud to see that we actually broke out of the box.

So just what I want to mention here is what I'm trying to bring into this thing is, I believe that just as Grumman and Cablevision and the excellent academic institutions that are around and the farming community, well, what we represent is a very innovative group and nothing stops anyone here on Long Island from sort of branching out. Now problems that are insurmountable and I certainly believe to bring that spirit to my role in this group and I'm very proud of it. And the other thing that I'm quite interested in is young film makers and young people that want to get on television and we get tons of resumes from around the world trying to sort of break in to our fields. And I am the father of two and nothing would give me greater pleasure than to have a Long Island child stay on Long Island to work in the industry of television and film. And I think they don't have to go to the West Coast or into Manhattan to work they can work right here in

this County and I feel very strongly about that. And I think that we'll live to see it quite active and I think just as engineers are important people that communicate to the world via television are extremely important because they shape everything. The environment and what we see going on in politics around the world is what we see on TV and what we learn about tragedies and what we learn about innovations is seen on television and it's something that enhances everyone. So I'm very proud of this and I pledge my support.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you Mr. Schimizzi. Thank you.

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes, Legislator Schneiderman.

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

I know we're running a little bit. First of all, Greg, I'd like to thank you for coming today. I'm sorry you're not on location somewhere as some of the other members are with Robert DiNero or whoever. I'm certainly familiar with Greg; he is one of my constituents and the work that he and his brother Ernie have done locally promoting public access television. We have a really a phenomenal community access channel, actually, two of them in and also we have {VDH} which Greg and his brother have covered such as the Hampton Film Festival and the Hampton Classic. These are charitable events and many other events and brought them for everyone to see those who couldn't make those events. So I really commend you on the work that you've done and I'll be happy to second this resolution and I think you'd be an excellent addition and asset to this commission.

MR. SCHIMIZZI:

Thank you. That's the longest I spoke without a commercial break.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Carpenter.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

We noticed, we noticed. I too would like to echo the sentiments of Legislator Schneiderman and particularly think that besides your experience and I mean that's a given, but your enthusiasm and your love of the industry is going to really be a valuable addition to the commission. And I look forward to hearing of all the wonderful things that you did and hopefully we'll be seeing some partnerships come from that with the community college.

MR. SCHIMIZZI:

Absolutely. Looking forward too. Thank you, thanks for your time.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

Can we take this out of order as well.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Yeah, lets take it out of order.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Sure. Motion to take this out of order from Legislator Schneiderman.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Carpenter.

IR 1218-04 - Approving the appointment of Greg Schimizzi as a member of the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission. (Co. Exec.) Now we are considering IR 1218.

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, I'll make the motion.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Motion by Legislator Schneiderman second by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Opposed? Motion carried. Congratulations. **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)**

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

Congratulations.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Would Clare Bisceglia, would you like to come up and say a few words?

MS. BISCEGLIA:

Good morning, I'm Clare Bisceglia. I'm the executive director at the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center. And although I'm relatively new to Suffolk County I am a fifth generation New Yorker on my mother's side. I was born in the Bronx; raised in Westchester and educated in Manhattan. I started my career in New York with advertising agencies as a producer with Foote, Cone and Belding and Compton Advertising and then a line producer with MPO Productions. From there I went down to Atlanta to be the head of advertising and production for the Coca-Cola Company where I spent 10 years as head of advertising and production. And literally produced tens of thousands of commercials during that period of time. When Coca-Cola bought Columbia Pictures they asked me to go out as part of the executive transition team and I went in as vice president of feature films and stayed with Columbia for a number of years up until they were purchased by Sony. At that time I moved to Nashville, Tennessee to go to work with the Gaylord Entertainment Company that owned the Grande Ole' Opry and the Ryman Auditorium. And I conceived and produced IMAX film on the history of country music. In keeping with the St. Patrick's Day theme that we have going we started that journey in Ireland in

the 1840's with the migration of the Irish music and the Irish sound coming into the southeast of the United States and bringing their music along with them.

From there I came up to Suffolk County and took over the position of executive director at the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center where we have -- where I've taken on a new hat in the film industry as a promoter and a distributor. We actually have an excellent series of films that are regularly shown at the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts the finest in world cinema. And we run first run current release foreign independent and art house films and that in a nutshell is my background.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. Just a quick question, do you live at 76 Main Street in Westhampton is that your residence?

MS. BISCEGLIA:

No, that actually is the address of the theater. My address is 103 Jessup Street in Quogue, New York.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you very much. Thank you for your interest.

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

Another one of my constituents.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Sorry.

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

I said another one of my constituents that's wonderful. Seems we have strong representation of the second legislative district on this commission.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Would you like to make the motion?

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

Sure, I'll make the motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Schneiderman to take this out of order second by Legislator Carpenter. I have in front of me, **IR 1221-04 - Approving the appointment of Clare Bisceglia as a member of the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission. (Co. Exec.)**

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Schneiderman.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Carpenter. Congratulations. Oh, I should say, all in favor? Opposed? Congratulations. **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)**

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

Congratulations.

MS. BISCEGLIA:

Thank you very much. I look forward to serving.

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

We have a lot of talent on the East End let me tell you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. We are now going to the agenda.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Excuse me Madam Chair. I just wanted to ask Counsel a question.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Sure.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

...regarding the motion picture/television file commission. How many people are on that commission?

MS. KNAPP:

I don't know.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Michelle, do you know? Can you just put it on the record I'm just curious.

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

The film commission is comprised of 15 people which includes the Commissioner of Economic Development.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

And how many vacancies are --

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

They're all vacant.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

So it's a new commission?

MS. ISABELLE-STARK:

It's a new commission.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS:

IR 1162-04 - Accepting and appropriating an amendment to the college budget for a grant award from the New York State Education Department for an Adult Basic Education and Literacy Services Program 100% reimbursed by federal funds at Suffolk County Community College. (Co. Exec.)

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Motion to approve.

LEGISLATOR COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Put this on the consent calendar.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion to approve by Legislator Foley seconded by Legislator Schneiderman. Motion to put on the consent calendar. Same motion, same second. **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary.**

IR 1163-04 - Accepting and appropriating an amendment to the college budget for a grant award from the State University of New York for an Educational Opportunity Program 100% reimbursed by State funds at Suffolk County Community College. (Co. Exec.)

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Motion to approve and put on the consent calendar.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Carpenter seconded by Legislator Viloría-Fisher. **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary.**

IR 1164-04 - Accepting and appropriating a grant award from the State University of New York for a Community College Workforce Development Training Grants Program for Ivy Acres, Inc. 90% reimbursed by State funds and 10% funded from Ivy Acres,

Inc. at Suffolk County Community College. (Co. Exec.) Same motion, same second.
(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)

IR 1165-04 - Accepting and appropriating a grant award from the State University of New York for a Community College Workforce Development Training Grants Program for Suffolk County National Bank 90% reimbursed by State funds and 10% funded from Suffolk County National Bank at Suffolk County Community College. (Co. Exec.) Same motion, same second. **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)**

IR 1166-04 - Accepting and appropriating a grant award from the State University of New York for a Community College Workforce Development Training Grants Program for Audiovox Corporation 87% reimbursed by State funds and 13% funded from Audiovox Corporation at Suffolk County Community College. (Co. Exec.) Same motion, same second. **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)**

IR 1178-04 - Accepting and appropriating a grant award from The State University of New York for a Community College Workforce Development Training Grants Program for Alliance of Long Island Agencies, Inc. 68% reimbursed by State funds and 32% funded from Alliance of Long Island Agencies at Suffolk County Community College. (Co. Exec.) Same motion, same second. **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)** And they're all on the consent calendar?

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

No, just the first two. These others are not 100%.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay.

IR 1187-04 - Directing the County Comptroller to conduct an audit of the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency (IDA). (Nowick) I would like to since I'm the sponsor of that I have been speaking to Counsel and working with the chair of the IDA and I would like to table it for a cycle.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I make the motion.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Viloría-Fisher. All in favor? **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)**

IR 1208-04 - Oversight of Francis S. Gabreski Airport to the Suffolk County Legislature. (Schneiderman)

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Explanation first from the sponsor.

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes, absolutely. On the omnibus bill I think November of last year for the first time the fees at Gabreski Airport were moved from the County Legislature which is to historically always set the fees for mostly every program within the County. From a budgeting perspective if you have other entities setting fees, how can you possibly project your revenues? I don't know why it was shifted in November of last year, but it was. This simply puts it back, the fee setting ability with the Legislature. Economic Development will recommend the fees for ratification by the Legislature. It's the way it should be; it conforms with the law and the charter and it just basically corrects what I believe was an error that was made last year.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

It was just through the Chair. Those fees were moved from the Legislature to the Economic Development agency or -- is that correct? Who became -- just to say on the record, who became the fee setter?

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

Economic Development and in which they've actually set the current fees and policies at the airport. This resolution will accept those fees currently that they have set until such time as they make a recommendation to change them and we approve it.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

It would be similar to the Parks Department I think where they propose fees, but we have to approve the fees, right? So it's having the same.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

My only concern and it's not really a concern, but the title seems to be a little misleading as far as oversight because it's basically all you're overseeing is the fee setting. Is that now correct?

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

And the policies too for instances there are waivers at the airport for airplanes that are based at the airport were for military craft and things like that. There are specific policies that go with the fees and the operations there. So this would have the Legislature adopt any policy shifts as well as fee changes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Schneiderman second by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? Motion carried. **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)**

IR 1217-04 - Approving the appointment of Diana Schmidt as a member of the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission. (Co. Exec.)

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Motion to table.

LEGISLATOR COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion to table by Legislator Carpenter seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)**

IR 1219-04 - Approving the appointment of Beth Kushnick as a member of the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission. (Co. Exec.)

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Carpenter seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)**

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Madam Chair, if I just may.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes. Legislator Foley.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Anticipating Legislator Schneiderman's remarks, sometimes it's possible that if the person is available for the general meeting if there's a time on this issue --

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

I don't see it as a timing issue.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

IR 1220-04 - Approving the appointment of John Ford as a member of the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission. (Co. Exec.)

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Motion to table.

LEGISLATOR COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion to table by Legislator Carpenter seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor?

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Well, you have to admit it's a great name to be on the motion picture/television file commission John Ford.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

All in favor? **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)**

SENSE RESOLUTIONS:

Sense 5-04 - Memorializing resolution requesting State of New York to restore TAP aid to community colleges. (Nowick) I'll make a motion.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Nowick seconded by Legislator Vioria-Fisher. **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)**

Sense 6-04 - Memorializing resolution requesting State of New York to restore FTE Aid to community colleges. (Nowick)

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Motion.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Carpenter seconded by Legislator Vioria-Fisher. All in favor? **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)**

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

And we're all co-sponsors on that as well.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes.

Sense 10-04 - Memorializing resolutions to oppose the closing of AT&T Teleconference Center in Huntington. (Lindsay)

LEGISLATOR COOPER:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Schneiderman.

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

No, no, Cooper.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I'm sorry. Motion by Legislator Cooper seconded by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)**

Sense 13-04 - Memorializing resolution requesting United States Congress to support Employees Free Choice Act. (Foley)

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Foley seconded by Legislator Viloría-Fisher. All in favor? **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)**

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

IR 1091-04 Was returned to committee – **To streamline and consolidate County government by eliminating separate County Department of Aviation. (Co. Exec.)**

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I have a motion to table by Legislator Carpenter.

LEGISLATOR SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Schneiderman. All in favor? Motion tabled. **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Absent: O'Leary)** That will conclude the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee. Motion to adjourn.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Carpenter seconded by Legislator Viloría-Fisher. Motion adjourned.

(Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A. M.)

{ } denotes spelled phonetically)

