

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**HIGHER EDUCATION**

**and**

**ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**of the**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Wednesday **August 3, 2005**.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Lynne Nowick • Chairperson

Legislator Angie Carpenter • Vice•Chair

Legislator Brian Foley

Legislator Jon Cooper

Legislator Jay Schneiderman

Legislator Cameron Alden

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mea Knapp • Counsel to the Legislature

Joe Schroeder • Budget Review Office

Joe Muncey • Budget Review Office

Ilona Julius • Deputy Clerk of the Legislature

Ben Zwirn • County Executive's Office

Carolyn Fahey • Economic Development

Dr. Shirley Pippins • President SCCC

Charles Stein • Suffolk Community College

George Gatta • Suffolk Community College

Peter Quinn • LI Coalition for Democracy

All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Alison Mahoney • Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Donna Catalano • Court Stenographer

**(\*The meeting was called to order at 9:37 A.M.\*)**

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Good morning, everybody. Let's start our meeting with the Pledge to the Flag led by Legislator Cameron Alden

***Salutation***

Good morning and welcome back after a nice July. Back to work. We're going to start this morning's meeting with our speakers, because we do have a busy meeting today. So I'm going to start with Pete Ellison. Hi, Mr. Ellison.

**MR. ELLISON:**

Hi. How are you?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

You have three minutes to address the committee.

**MR. ELLISON:**

I have cards here from Suffolk County Community College signed by students for the Honorable Members of the Legislature. Good day. My name is Peter Ellison, and I am President of Student Government Association at Suffolk County Community College. I'm here today because of talk of tuition increases. And basically, when you look at the numbers students are still incurring, more percent wise than the state and the County is paying for its students tuition. Most people that I talk to, obviously, aren't happy about having to put up more money for their education, even though it is their education. But when you consider the other costs that students have to incur when going to a community campus such as Suffolk County Community College, it's already pricey enough so to speak.

Just the fact that everyone has to get to school every day, whether they have to own or maintain a vehicle or they have provide and pay for their own public transportation, they have to also, in order to do that, maintain a job, a work schedule of some kind. So that's also a time issue. They have to divide that between their studies. Over the past couple of years, the County was actually contributing more than 30% in 2002•2003, which was actually above what was state was contributing, but it has fallen and since. And as of the past year, it's down to 25.2%. And although that still is a significant amount of our tuition, the students all the meanwhile over the past six, years have been incurring most •• more costs than the state and the County has. So I'm here on behalf of the student body to ask you to continue support for the Suffolk County Community College and basically to increase funding. And that's all I have to say.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you very much for coming and addressing the committee.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

We can ask questions, right?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Sure.

**MR. ELLISON:**

Excuse my shakes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

While you are here, and you did take the time to come down, and I thank you for that, and I have to recognize that's a big effort, because a lot of people just don't show up for anything anymore. But on an overall basis, how do you like your experience at Suffolk Community College?

**MR. ELLISON:**

It's absolutely wonderful. I mean, the professors there, every single one I have had is just unbelievable, whether it's associate professors, even part timers who are only teaching one

class. I had a professor by the name of Professor Frost, who is just teaching one class, Political Thought, last semester, and he is just absolutely dedicated. I have absolutely no complaints. And everyone there is just very accommodating to say the least.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Which campus do you go to?

**MR. ELLISON:**

The Ammerman Campus.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

You're over at Ammerman. That's where I graduated from. Are there things that you hear as far as a sense that we're doing wrong or that are there things we're doing completely right? You said everything seems to be going in the right direction, but ••

**MR. ELLISON:**

It is, definitely.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

•• are there some sore point or some sticky points at the college too?

**MR. ELLISON:**

In talking to go students, the only real complaints that they had were minor complaints, like, about administration and different things. A lot of people complain about parking.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

We can change administration, but the parking is a problem.

**MR. ELLISON:**

Just minor complaints about paperwork issues. And overall, a lot of students seem to very much enjoy classes that they're taking. We have such a wide •• we have such a wide range offerings just in curriculum. We have so many different languages. On top of Spanish and French you have Italian, German, Chinese even, some are taking Latin. So a lot of students are very happy with the curriculum that's provided and just the sheer variety at Ammerman Campus.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Your sense is that if we don't roll back the tuition, we're going to hurt the number of kids that are going to be coming in there, because some kids can't afford that extra couple of dollars. But some kids wouldn't be able to go to school, if I'm hearing you correctly.

**MR. ELLISON:**

Yes. Even though on paper it's just a marginal increase in tuition, it just severely affects a lot of kids who have full-time jobs. I, myself, I could afford the few hundred dollar increase or whatever it may be, but I'm talking other students, especially students who have public transportation, it's just a time issue, because not only do they have to work on a bus schedule or even some students who live close enough but, you know, not close enough for walking, they take taxis, it's just a matter of time, because then they have to find more work hours to afford the higher tuition, which is less time for school. You know, there's a breaking point.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

You graduate when?

**MR. ELLISON:**

I graduate at the end of this year.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. So you are going to be there another year?

**MR. ELLISON:**

Yep.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

All right. If it's successful, and Legislator Carpenter is leading the charge to roll that back, you can tell them that you can take credit for it basically when you go back to school.

**MR. ELLISON:**

I don't know if I can take that much.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Carpenter.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Peter, thank you for coming down. You raised a very good point about the fact that it is technically a commuter college, and with the rising cost of gasoline, the cost of getting anywhere now is really people are stopping taking and taking toll of the cost. So that was a good point. I know I have been doing a little bit of homework, if you will, on this whole issue, and that was one thing that I didn't think about, so I appreciate you raising that issue.

Along the lines of what Legislator Alden was asking, you know, for your input as a student there, I would like to know what brought you to Suffolk Community College, what •• what, you know, compelled you to make the decision to go to Suffolk?

**MR. ELLISON:**

Actually, I was slated to go away, and I was going to go to Oswego, Upstate in part for rugby and tech aspects, but I couldn't due to financial situations at home. My mother was in a bad car accident, but that's aside from the point. I could go away and incur the loans myself, but I don't think I was ready. I wasn't that sure. So I just came to the conclusion that I have absolutely no idea what I wanted to do, and based on that, I decided to go to Suffolk County Community College. A couple of my friends were going there. And one of my friends who actually had been there for a full two years before transferring away said that it was the best experience she ever had, and it just pointed her in the right direction. She was able to figure out what she wanted to do, because she had time. And I just figured, well, if it will help me figure it out, then why not. So that's what brought me there.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Well, let me tell you from hearing you speak, you certainly, and I think you have come to that conclusion, made the right decision. I think, you know, you are probably going to be a better person for it when you look back on all of this. It was probably the best decision you ever made. And you have taken a leadership role. You said you're President of Student Government?

**MR. ELLISON:**

Yes.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Well, stay local and one day maybe you will be sitting behind this horseshoe and will be the best advocate for the Community College.

**MR. ELLISON:**

Hopefully. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Where do you live?

**MR. ELLISON:**

I live in Sayville, West Sayville.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Okay. Well, Legislator Lindsay won't be here forever.

**MR. ELLISON:**

There are a lot of signs around town, I don't know.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Well, we have term limits in the Legislature. I think in about eight years he will have to leave, so that will be just about the right time for you. Or County Executive, you never know. Thanks.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Peter, I just want to take an opportunity to thank you for coming. First of all, I think you could be a poster child for the school, the way you present yourself, the way you speak. I'm calculating two years at Suffolk Community College, having sent two daughters to college, you've probably saved your parents and your own financial •• your own financial aid ••

**MR. ELLISON:**

They thank me every day for that.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

You've probably saved, I thinking two years, you've probably saved \$60,000. So what you have done, you're already ahead of the game. And I just want to ask you one thing, because I'm finding now as Chair of this Committee and knowing this college more and more, I'm very excited about this college, I'm going to ask you go out there and you market this college for us and for yourselves, because this college deserves marketing. And I think you are someone who can do it. Tell your friends your experience just the way you are telling us, and that's a wonderful thing. Thank you.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

You offering him a job as an aide?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Okay, Ed, you're out.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's not nice.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you very much for your time. Peter Quinn.

**MR. QUINN:**

Good morning, Members of the Legislature. While I would ordinarily applaud the Legislature for having passed two renewable energy pieces of legislation in the early spring, I liken them to a fly swatter compared to what the oil and natural gas and utility industries are doing with a sledge hammer to promote oil and natural gas and more fossil fuels over the next 30 years by locked-in contracts. And that's why in early June I proposed •• and by the way, those locked-in contracts are in multiple, billions of dollars. And that's why in June I had proposed to you to consider putting on the ballot, since you have initiative and referendum, a proposition for \$250 million, \$50 million per year, divided equally among government, business and residential consumers to share in incentives for purchases of appliances, to put on solar or do geothermal fuel cells and the like, and have a game plan that is a meaningful challenge to what the opposition in the fossil fuel industry is doing. And the Federal government, by the way, did not provide, in my view, an adequate amount of money for renewables, but whatever there is there you ought to be seeking it.

So I would hope •• I'd be willing to work with any Legislator inputting that proposition together and in writing the resolution. You have a limited amount of time before you could put it on the ballot. We shouldn't lose an opportunity and if we wait another year it's a lost opportunity. So I challenge this Legislature to get together, I'd be happy, as I said, to work with anyone of you, preferably one on each side of the political aisle, and to put this together. You could have an effective date in late spring so that you had an opportunity for the public to become better aquatinted with it and set up a publication which provides for model numbers, etcetera, that enable the public to say, "Yes, I'm going to do renewables and try to get out from my utility payments." I thank you very much.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Thank you, Pete.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you.

**MR. QUINN:**

And I wrote a letter to the New York Times which •• for the op•ed section which didn't get published, but it outlines the reasons why it would be appropriate to do and I'll leave that with the Clerk. Thank you. And I hope she'll ••

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yes, Legislator Carpenter has a question.

**MR. QUINN:**

One other point. When I raised this point at the Energy Summit meeting last week, and Legislator Carpenter will attest or confirm that Richie Kessel actually applauded the idea and said that it ought to be expanded to Statewide initiative and referendum to do a renewable energy program. I pointed out that I did that eight years ago before the takeover and at that time Legislators and NYSERDA didn't seem to be sufficiently interested.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Pete, thanks for coming down. And I'm glad that you mentioned, because that was basically what I was going to say, the fact that at the Energy Summit last week when Pete raised this very question, the LIPA Chairman, you, know jumped on board and said it sounded like a good idea but felt perhaps it should be something that was a Statewide referendum, and I really concur. And I said that I would prepare a Sense Resolution and I've already asked Counsel to start working on that and I'm going to share the information that you've left here this morning.

There were a number of State Assembly people there, Legislator •• I mean Assemblywoman Fields and Assemblyman Fitzpatrick who both expressed a lot of interest in trying to move that in the Senate and I'm going to contact members •• in the Assembly, rather, and I'm going to contact members on the Senate side to see if we can get them to do it. Because, you know, we've had a number of referendum on the ballot in the County for farmland preservation and so forth, open space, but I think this, the time is ripe now for this kind of thing and I think it really needs to be Statewide. And hopefully we've got the time and hopefully we can move it in that direction. So thank you.

**MR. QUINN:**

Well, I would simply add that that means delay before the Legislators at the State level determine that it's going to happen. While I concur it should be Statewide, in the absence of their doing anything, and they're not likely to at least until March, that means it wouldn't be on the ballot for another year. And that delay in terms of what's coming down the line with KeySpan taking over LIPA, with the sale of generating plants, we're talking about multibillions of dollars. So in contrast, the 250 million seems appropriate at this time. Thank you.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you, Mr. Quinn. We're just going to interrupt the public portion for one minute to deal with the •• having a public hearing on 1722. To the Clerk, has that been advertised?

**MS. JULIUS:**

Yes, Madam Chair. It's duly filed and in proper order.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. We do not have any cards for that public hearing, so do I have a motion on that hearing? This is adopting a **Local Law a Charter Law to streamline County Government and to create Airport Advisory Council**. Do we have a motion?

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

I put in a card to speak on the resolution, I didn't put it under the public hearing.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

You can speak on the resolution in a little while, this is the public hearing.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Why don't you let him speak during the public hearing.

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

You're choice. Good morning. It's good to see you all again, and it's always good to see my friends from the Community College as well. On the Resolution 1722, to create an Airport Advisory Counsel, let me say from the very beginning, from day one, it has been the intent of this administration to return the responsibility for approving or rejecting leases at the Frances S. Gabreski Airport to the Legislature. IR 1360, a tabled resolution in this committee does just that, through an advisory committee. So does IR 1722 through an advisory committee. But 1722 attempts to accomplish many other things as well.

Reading from the legislation, it's function is to make recommendations to the Legislature regarding all aspects of Frances S. Gabreski Airport, all aspects. Let me give you a little background. On June 16th of this year, at the suggestion of neighbors of the airport, the County Executive called a meeting of community leaders, village mayors, civic leaders, business leaders

school board officials. They agreed, these community folks there, they agreed that the airport could be a positive economic force for the County and a good neighbor. These were not mutually exclusive purposes. After considerable discussion that night, it was decided that best way to balance the airport's economic potential and be a good neighbor was through a Gabreski Airport Community Advisory Committee so formed through Executive Order 48•2005.

The purpose is limited to specific functions, to specific functions; one, better communication between the airport's management and the residents of airport's neighboring communities; two, the airport's operations; three, the development in implementation of the Frances S. Gabreski Airport master plan and the Gabreski Airport planned development district master plan and the enhancement of safety and aesthetics at the airport. This advisory committee is already formed. It would be my pleasure to report on its deliberation to you at regular intervals. I will tell you its members if you would like me to.

In short, IR 1722 is duplicative. IR 1360 creates an advisory committee that returns approval or rejection of airport leases to where it belongs, to you. And Executive Order Number 48 gives engaged citizens the responsibility of making the airport financially viable and a good neighbor.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you. Are there any questions? Yes, Legislator Foley.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Jim, you mentioned earlier about the proposed Schneiderman bill regarding all aspect of airport operations. Could you go into some details? Obviously, that goes far beyond •• first, I want to hear from the speaker, that goes far beyond simply leases. If you

could just comment on that.

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

What I did, Legislator Foley, when I originally read the bill, I called our airport manager Anthony Ceglie, which you know, and I said, give me your interpretation of all aspects. So his first •• his first reaction was a little glib. He said, well, will we have to ask that committee if •• when we have to mow the lawn in the summertime or clear the runways in the winter? But then I asked him to pursue it. He said, well, will the committee make recommendation concerning the FAA regulations, applying for FAA grants, will it talk about the capital projects aviation, nonaviation uses? I don't know if you have noticed what's been happening at the airport. But we have in place for the very first time a professional airport manager. And he is working with a good crew. The airport is still in the red, it's been in the red for, you know, as long as most people can remember.

One of my charges when I first took that job was to do something about that. And working with Tony Ceglie and \\_Neal Toome\\_ and Carloyn Fahey, we are moving in that direction. But I agree with you, all is so broad that it becomes almost meaningless.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Thank you.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Motion to close the hearing.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I want to add something to that.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Schneiderman.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

First of all, the specifics of the bill when you get beyond intent to the actual •• what the bill does, it says the purpose and function of this Airport Advisory Council shall be to make preliminary investigations as to the feasibility, viability and desirability of proposed leases of buildings and lands or facilities at the airport, and it goes on to say, infrastructure changes, proposed changes in the implementation to the master plan or the ALP, Airport Layout Plan, noise reduction and various specifics. So although in the intent it speaks more generally, this committee isn't designed to get into management issues and those kinds of things.

Just at little very brief history here. I put in a bill last year to create an advisory committee at the airport. That bill was passed by the Legislature and then vetoed, it was not overridden. Currently, all leases go before the Airport Lease Screening Committee. The County Executive has put in a bill to abolish the Lease Screening Committee and turn it into an advisory committee. The problems I have with that is that three•quarters of the membership, six of the eight members, are not stakeholders at that airport, don't live anywhere near that airport and have no specific interest in that airport. The only two, there's one citizens at large and also the Legislator from the district. An advisory committee ought to be comprised of stakeholders. So my feeling was if we are to abolish the Lease Screening Committee and move that authority back to the Legislature, as some of my colleagues have requested, the idea was to create a true advisory committee that could give us their recommendation that would be composed of

representatives of local municipalities, civic organizations, business interests, airport users.

I want to underline the distinction between the committee that was just recently created by Executive Order by the County Executive, that is a separate branch of government, that committee only advises the County Executive. This is a committee to advise the Legislature. We have similar committees on many issues. And again, if we are going to move toward taking back the ability to approve leases at the airport, I think it would be important to have input from the community in •• within the community so that they didn't have to drive to Hauppauge or Riverhead every time there was an issue at the airport.

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

Well, just a couple of things.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Actually, point of order. This is a public hearing, and it's the opt for the public to give us input. And we're going to be debating the bill in a few minutes if this gets closed, so I think right now is not the proper time according to our rules and regulations to actually enter into a debate on the bill. This is just strictly to allow the public to come forward, give us their opinions on it, and then we take those into consideration when we do debate the bill, which could occur, you know, in a few minutes.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. I think that Legislator Schneiderman just wanted to put that on the record.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I'm not chastising or criticizing.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

We will be debating the bill momentarily and at that point also •• and I know you are going to stay up here for next •• you have a card in here for something else.

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

Yeah.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Motion to close.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

He hasn't finished.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Are you finished with your presentation? I thought you were, but ••

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

I was finished, Madam Legislator, with my prepared remarks. Just to react to Legislator Schneiderman. One key difference is that 1360's advisory committee acts as advice to the lease •• for leases, and that's it. The already in existence named members is, in fact, the community advisory board, doesn't report to the County Executive alone. It has on it the airport manager, the commander of the Air National Guard, the 106, and many, many residents from Westhampton, Quogue and the area around there. What Legislator Schneiderman's bill does is combine both these functions, lease screening and airport advisory so much so that, I think, it gets muddled and confused, that's just my reaction.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. Thank you. We have a motion to close. Do we have a second?

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Seconded by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Opposed? The public hearing for 1722 is **closed**. Okay. Mr. Morgo, you have another card, so if you want to come back up here, we're going to go back to public portion.

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

It's on a different issue.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

But we're into public portion, and you have a card here on IR 1714 you want to speak.

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

That is correct. As I'm sure you all know, the Downtown Citizens Advisory Panel consists of 20 members. Each Legislator names a representative as does the County Executive, and there is a representative of the Planning Department. I hope you all remember, I think you probably do, that five representatives of the panel came before you not too long ago, June 22nd. I believe that you were all impressed with their idealism and their sincerity and the sincerity in their goal to base their recommendations for downtown revitalization grants to base their recommendation on the merits of the application received.

And again, I say these are recommendations, because all their recommendations come to you. The panel's clear intent is to look for quality, not for, as one of them said, an entitlement, to have the applications judged objectively, not to have the funds spread equally without any regard to the quality or lack of quality, significance or insignificance of a proposed project or even to the likelihood of a project's completion. Applications are due this September 30th. Why not give the process created by engaged citizen volunteers a chance to work before going back to the old method where quality and merit are less important than everyone getting numerous slices of the pie regardless of a project's worth or its impact on Suffolk's downtown?

Just yesterday morning, one of the representatives, in fact, the representative of Legislator Tonna, County Legislative District 17, said to me, if 1714 is passed, what's the point of the panel and why not just get rid of the panel then if the Legislature controls totally what goes before the panel and what recommendations come out of it?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Are there any questions? Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Morgo.

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

You're welcome. All right. We have a presentation now and a discussion.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's it on the cards?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yes, it is, unless you want to say something else.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. I believe that we have representatives from the Community College. Would you like to come up now? Are you prepared now? You've been prepared for weeks.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

All my life I've been prepared for this moment. Good.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Good morning, Dr. Pippins. Good morning, Chuck.

**MR. STEIN:**

Hi.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Good morning. It's my honor to again address the Education Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature. I am here this morning again to request your continued strategic investment in Suffolk County. And you have supported the college in the past, and the results of your investment have been significant. Our faculty, our students and our programs are receiving state and national recognition. We're opening satellite centers, our College Success Program has produced tremendous results, and we've expanded our partnerships.

In addition, we're leveraging the funds that you have given us. We have secured state matches, our grants are increasing, our foundation is mounting a campaign to secure funding for our satellite centers, and hospitals are funding positions for our nursing programs. According to the BRO report, enrollment has grown at the College more than the SUNY average since 1997•98, and this is due to your support. With your support, we have been able to expand our offerings to embrace distance education, to open new academic programs, and to renovate our existing facilities.

We need your continued support to further our pursuit of excellence. With your support we can maintain our momentum, we can prepare for Middle States, we can support new programs and centers, we can demonstrate the value of corporate investments, and we can continue to leverage funds. The really good news is that we have independent economic impact data that validates your strategic investments. That data shows that New York State and Suffolk County taxpayers receive a 100% return on their investment in just 8.4 years and that Suffolk County Community College students receive their education plus a 100% return on their investment in just 8.2 years.

This study was conducted by a group called CC Benefits, and it captures the social and economic impact of colleges. It has been field tested in over 400 communities in the United States and Canada. It shows that the college •• and I'm sure that this is no surprise to you •• stimulates the local economy, leverages taxpayer dollars, generates a return on government investment, increases the earning of individuals and reduces social costs. Think of it as though you were buying a house fast forward, and in just 8.4 years, Suffolk County taxpayers receive a high quality affordable transfer education for their children and grandchildren, exactly what this young man was talking about this morning. We have a skilled workforce and a 100% return on their investment. There's no other investment like this.

I believe that the College's budget as submitted is fiscally proven. We've only requested mission

expenditures, we're investing strategically, and we've reflected cost reduction and cost avoidance strategies. The budget expands access for the citizens, continues our pursuit of excellent, leverages funds, supports new initiatives and enhances our partnerships that we've developed with external funding. In planning the budget for this year moving forward, our goal was three-fold; one, to minimize the tuition increase, to continue our pursuit of excellence and to continue to invest in the future of Suffolk County.

In April of '05, we had two scenarios; the first suggested that with no County increase, tuition would be \$200 a year, with a 4% increase from the County, we anticipated that tuition would increase \$150 a year. Since we submitted that report, there has been a major change, the BRO report is projecting a \$1.7 savings in health care. And in that context, our current proposal is that we look at a 4% County increase and a lower increase in tuition. As you make your decisions, I ask that you keep in mind, and this is an independent assessment from BRO, that our tuition has been lower than the SUNY average for the last nine years, that without an increase this year, the County's contribution will have declined from 30.4% to 24.2% since 1997-98, that in the last seven years, the County's contribution has been less than the statewide average, and that if there's no increase in this year's budget, that the college would have received only one 4% increase in the last four years, that without a 4% increase, the disparity between the funding proportion allocated to the County and to students will grow even larger. And the following chart was also included in BRO report, showing student contribution potentially increasing to 37.8% to 38.4%.

I look at this budget from a presidential perspective, and in my mind, my highest priority is assuring the fiscal integrity of the College for the community and over 26,000 students we serve annually. I believe if your fiscal house is in order, all other things fall in place. And in that light, I must express some concerns about the recommended budget. These concerns are in several different areas; one, the projected differences in the surplus, the elimination of what I believe to be mission essential positions, the magnitude of the projected health care savings, reduction in revenue from the health and sports facility, reduction of advertising, reduction of adjunct and overload and differing enrollment projections.

Let me begin with the revenue. The surplus projections range from 2.5 million to one million, significant if you are trying to run an operation. Enrollment projections range from 2.3 to 1.8, again, fiscal implications. I'm very concerned there's been elimination of four faculty positions. It's important to note that we don't bring forward every position that's requested by the campus. We've only requested the position we deem to be mission essential. We believe these positions are needed to address the needs of our students, it moves the College forward towards its goal of a 70•30 split between full•time and part•time faculty. And adjunct faculty are impossible sometimes to find in key areas. And programs like nursing that require a holistic approach cannot be staffed with part•time adjuncts, they require full•time personnel.

In addition, the Board of Trustees has adopted goal of 70•30, and I believe this Legislature has supported the goal. I would ask you also to keep in mind that moving forward in January of this year, in addition to those four positions, we would need two additional positions to support our agreement with Mather, Brookhaven and Eastern Long Island hospitals. They're providing funding for two faculty positions, one professional assistant and 40,000 in adjunct expenses.

It would be important to indicate to Mather and other corporate sponsors that the County is not declining its support for the College at the same time that we're going out and asking other people to increase their support. If this occurs, it would make it impossible for us to raise funds moving forward. I'm also concerned that there's a reduction of one research technician and one clerk typist. These recommendations were made after careful review. The idea was to increase the effectiveness and the efficiency of the persons to whom they report. One labor position was also eliminated. My view, two years into the job, is at that over time, the College and the County will need to significantly address the blue collar and white collar positions to increase our effectiveness and efficiency.

Another issue is the reductions in the projection of revenue from the health and sports facility

police portion. This is different from what we negotiated in our original agreement. Another major concern is the elimination of advertising dollars. At the same time that we are mounting significant numbers of new initiatives, it's important for the citizens of this County to learn about these options so they can take advantage of them, improve their skills, earn the salaries that will allow them to live here. Reductions in this have a significant impact.

Also, there's a proposed reduction of \$80,000 in adjunct and overload support. Our actual figures for 2004•2005 already exceed what's in the proposed recommended budget. Of significant concern is the differences in projected savings from the health care insurance. The projected savings at this point is \$1.7 million. This is a new agreement. These savings may be premature. And I respectfully have to ask this committee and the Legislature that some safety net is put in place in the event that this does not realize moving forward •• Middle States will be here in 2007. If we have problems, and they end up being somewhere in the neighborhood of a million plus, this will be a tremendous problem for us. I believe the budget that we proposed is fiscally prudent. It supports innovative programming, it invests in the future of the College and the County, it supports pursuit of excellence, it maintains the tremendous momentum we have at this point, and it lays and secures the foundation for future fund•raising initiatives.

I am concerned that the recommended budget jeopardizes our ability to continue our pursuit of excellence, it slows our momentum, it does not support the innovative programming that we've started, and it will raise concerns in the minds of corporate sponsors who are supporting the College today. Those •• you are very familiar with the college. And again, the budget that we've proposed helps us keep our academic stars in Suffolk, slows down that brain•drain that we're talking about by providing a quality affordable two year transfer education. Sixty four percent of the students who transfer from the College transfer to institutions on Long Island. And you know that 94% of our graduates live and work in this County and become part of the quality workforce.

We also help our residents acquire the skills for highly competitive well paying jobs, we support

quality job creation. This budget supports our movement into our ERP Program, upgrading our computer center hardware and making us more effective and efficient. You are aware of what we are doing in terms of access and supporting downtown revitalization in our satellite centers, first of all, with Good Samaritan and again moving Mather, Brookhaven and Eastern long Island hospitals. Those programs will be offered in downtown Sayville. You will see another center opening in Riverhead focusing on culinary arts, hospitality and tourism in a beautiful facility planned for Riverhead. These centers require resources and your support.

Keep in mind, again, I have been emphasizing this point, that in addition to the support that you provided with the leadership of Legislator Lindsay and Caracciolo, we have gotten support from Senator LaValle, Senator Trunzo, Assemblywoman Fields for our initiatives. Again, they will be looking to go see that the County continues the level of its support and that you're not reducing your support at the same time that their supporting our special initiatives.

We have also seen a tremendous increase in grants. Again, leveraging the investments that you are making in Suffolk County Community College. We've move forward, and you see these notices continually about our progress in terms of becoming a college of excellence, and you have a copy of that pyramid on your desk, a copy of the current version of the ten reasons to brag about Suffolk County Community College. And we are moving forward as a college of excellence.

This budget also addresses our program •• programatic priorities and it includes significant cost containment and avoidance strategies. We're focusing, as I mentioned, last year on student success, technology, Middle States Admission Review, cost containment strategies are significant. I would bring your attention to the work we are doing in energy. The current year savings and rebate will be over \$380,000, current year avoidance cost will be over \$200,000, and I believe you have at your seat a list of our other cost containment and other avoidance strategies that we've implemented.

In closing, I would reemphasize that this budget is fiscally prudent, that the budget as proposed by the College invests in the future of Suffolk County Community College and the County, it supports our pursuit of excellence, and it maintains our momentum. It also continues to leverage our funding, building on the corporate investment in nursing, leveraging County funds and maintaining your investment level. It lays a strong foundation. When we go out and try to raise additional funds, we can say to them that the County is doing its part. With your support, we can move forward and achieve our vision as a college of excellence. And I would ask you to keep in mind as we have said a hundred times that an investment in Suffolk County Community College is a strategic investment in the future of Suffolk County. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you, Dr. Pippins.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

I have copies of that document. I didn't want to pass it out, because I wanted you to listen to me.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Good thinking.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Can we ask questions?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I'm sure everyone has questions. Okay. If you want to ask a question now, Legislator Alden, you can go right ahead.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Is that what we're going to do at this point? Thanks for coming down. Chuck, maybe you can answer. A couple of questions I have are, you know, I guess, dollar-type questions. Why and how did they reduce the amount of money that the Police Department and the academy is paying to the Community College?

**MR. STEIN:**

We send over the support when we submit the budget in April on how we determine that number, and it's based on square footage of the building that's used by the Police Department. The then Commissioner of Police, Commissioner Gallagher, when that building first opened, we sat down and we put together a negotiated plan on the price and cost. And it was a very simple proposal, it was a square footage of the academy and the space that's being utilized taking the costs for heat, power, light, etcetera, all of those costs, the proportional costs for maintenance, the proportional costs for custodial, etcetera, based on square footage, and that determined the amount that it would cost. In its analysis, the Budget Office reduced that amount.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So they questioned the cost of running the building?

**MR. STEIN:**

I don't know that they questioned •• I don't know what the basis was. They just reduced the amount when they presented the recommended budget.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

We haven't reduced the ability to go out and bring in events also due to the fact that they •• you know that their use of the building would conflict with sometimes, I guess, when we could actually have somebody in there that we could make money charging them to use the building. So I'm a little puzzled on that. The second thing is for advertising, what's our total advertising budget, and what was the rationale for the reduction on that?

**MR. STEIN:**

Again, I don't know what the basis for the reduction was other than to bring it back •• I believe they brought it back to the adopted amount in the current year's budget. But as Dr. Pippins pointed out, there are a number of initiatives that the college is going into and that requires outreach to the community. And that was the basis for the advertising budget. I mean, I think one thing to point out about our advertising budget, it is extremely lean. When you examine the amount that the College spends on advertising compared to other colleges of its size, we are much lower. And I think that it's a credit to the people who do the advertising for the College that they have been able to maintain it at that level. But we are expanding into other programs, and that requires this additional amount. It's just slitting our own throats here not to go out because we're not going to be able to get the enrollment into these other initiatives if we don't have the advertising.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

I would also add ••

**LEG. ALDEN:**

We do it on a contract basis as far as the advertising?

**MR. STEIN:**

I'm sorry?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

We do it on a contract basis?

**MR. STEIN:**

In•house.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Oh, you do it in•house. Okay.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

I would add that the foundation is supporting our initiatives in this area. And this is another example •• you know, one of my charges coming here as new president was to bring in additional resource, and I have done this work in other place. The first thing people ask you is what is the County or the state or whatever agency you're representing, what are they doing, are they maintaining or increasing their investment at the same time they're doing it? And if we're not willing to invest, it would be increasingly difficult in various areas to get people to support us.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

All right. I'm done. Thanks.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Am I correct if I say that if the College does not get the 4% increase that would mean over the last four years the college only has gotten 1% a year, so to speak?

**MR. STEIN:**

Over a four year period, we have only had one 4% increase.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

That's 1% on year on average.

**MR. STEIN:**

You can look at it that way.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

The other question I have is more of a Budget Review •• Dr. Pippins said something that made me think. The safety net •• well, she was talking about health insurance, does Budget Review •• you're talking about \$1.7 million savings in the health insurance this year, is that what you are coming up with, is that the number?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Yes. That's based on the recent numbers from Price Waterhouse in terms of anticipated savings county•wide in 2005 and 2006. That would be the college's portion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

The 1.7 is the college's portion?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Correct.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

And I only ask this, is that •• is that a take•to•the•bank kind of definite figure, or should we listen here when we hear safety net, just in case? What is your opinion on that? Is that rock bottom solid figure that's going to happen, or is that a projected? Because I am a little concern about having a safety net not knowing a new program.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

The question is really a two part question. The first part is the safety net. The College does have a reserve fund, which is at this point \$4.3 million. So if there are any unanticipated concerns, there is the reserve fund. The reserve fund has neither been added to nor reduced in this particular Operating Budget; however, President Pippins certainly does make a very good point in that these are projections because we are entering into a new arrangement regarding our health insurance costs, but it is our best projection and it is conservative.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Dr. Pippins, can I ask you in reference to the reserve fund of 4.4 million, I believe that the desired reserve fund would be more like seven million, correct me if I'm wrong, but does accreditation from Middle States, do they consider your reserve fund in accreditation?

**DR. PIPPINS:**

I would answer yes and let Chuck elaborate on that.

**MR. STEIN:**

Yes. Again, there are national guidelines with respect to the amount of reserves you should maintain. They range anywhere from 5% to 15% of your budget based on the type of facility you are. If you are a larger facility could be low, closer to the 5% level. Five percent would be somewhere around the million figure for the College. And I just •• I think it's important to say that this Legislature, this committee and the full Legislature really should be somewhat cautious with respect to these projected savings in health insurance. Health insurance is a pay•as•you•go program; you are going to pay it now or you're going to pay it later. It covers the cost, it covers the experience. The only way you are going to have savings is either through reduction of benefits, and if that's not the case, then maybe they're looking at a reduction in reserves, which means at some future point, you are going to have to pick that up.

I caution you to take a serious look at the proposed savings with the health insurance and to set aside some form of a safety net, not only for the College, but for the County, when you do the County's budget. I think it's vitally important to at least go through one cycle, one year, to see where the program is going to go. I would •• also ask that while Budget Review talks about the College's reserve fund, given the fact that it's below what the national guidelines call for now, I would be hesitant to look at that as the safety net.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. So that does answer that question. So what I'm seeing here is that the Executive's budget might be hanging its hat on a number that is not necessarily been tried and contested.

**MR. STEIN:**

Well, I wouldn't say so much the Executive's budget. These numbers just are fresh, they're new in terms of where they came from. When we put the budget together back in April, the amount that we included for the health insurance was done after consultation with the Executive's Budget Office and with the Budget Review Office. And we came to an agreement in terms of the number

that we included back in April. Then we found out about the RFP that went out, and it wasn't until last week, late last week, that the numbers actually came through with respect to this potential savings. And I don't know that the numbers have been truly tested. I know that there was an analysis done by a firm, but I think time •• time certainly will tell. But I would be cautious.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you. I know that •• does anybody else have any questions? I know Legislator Foley has questions, Legislator Montano. Legislator Fisher, although she's not a member of the committee, would like to ask a question.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Neither am I.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Oh, you are not either, so Legislator Foley.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. President Pippins, as always, it was an instructive presentation that you made. This is a larger classroom from the one that you no doubt had taught years back using some of the same principles in the classroom here in the auditorium as well. I wanted to discuss a few points that could you amplify on about the College. I think what we're seeing here is that the mission of the College •• and this is part and parcel of the approach that we had taken when we're interviewing candidates for the presidency of the College, that we wanted to

expand the presence of the College and the life of the County and expand the mission, if you will, of the College, not just on the three campuses, but out into the community to truly meet the mission, as we see it, the charge of a community college, which certainly is to have an academic presence at the campuses, but also as community colleges are uniquely situated to go into the communities throughout the County to be part of the life of those communities.

So in essence, by expanding the mission of College, we need to have a budget that meets that new challenge, which is expanding the mission and the reach of the College's •• of the College's resources and programs. With that said, you mentioned earlier about the grant programs or the grant monies that have increased over these past several years. Have we received additional grant moneys from the Federal Government, from the state? In years past, we have always talked about the need to have on staff, not just at the Community College, but other departments as well, people who solely engage in grant writing. Are we at that point yet where we have grant writers on campus that all they simply do is do grant writing?

**DR. PIPPINS:**

We have one position currently filled, and we have completed the search for the Director of the Grants Office, which will significantly increase our ability to bring in money. We have done a great job given the limited investment that we have put in this area, and again, for a college this size, we should have a larger staffing in that area. We're growing that unit, and I think you will see the results of that work.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

You mentioned earlier about the economic impact, and you had submitted to us in the past, probably resubmission would be helpful, about the economic impact of the investment of college dollars, if you will, to the overall economy of the Island. And that's certainly •• if we can increase our investment to the College, that in turn will have an increase on the economic impact

•• in the County's economy I would imagine.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Professor Hamilton, who is a specialist in this area, supported us in this research, and he described by saying there is no other investment like the investment in higher education in Suffolk County Community College. We have documented data that you get a 100% return on your investment in 8.4 years, it doesn't get better than that. And you have a quality workforce that makes you more competitive when businesses are looking to relocate to this area, and you have an educated workforce and parents and grandparents can feel comfortable that their children can come to Suffolk County Community College, and like the gentleman you heard earlier, get those first two years at a reduced cost and transfer to any institution in this country when they leave here.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Just two other areas, through the Chair. It's one of the more mundane areas of the College, but it's very important, and that is particularly in the area of maintenance and plant operation. And we have spoken in the past about the need for more, particularly laborers at the different campuses in order to maintain the grounds, because certainly one of the important aspects for not only recruitment of students, but also to have grounds that everyone could be proud of is to have them well maintained. I notice that one of the proposed •• one of the positions that you had proposed, which has not been yet included is a laborer at the Ammerman Campus. Certainly, I think you'd agree that at least one is required, I'm sure you could use two to three to four additional laborers at that particular campus because of the needs of that campuses.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

One of the things that I noticed when I was interviewing, was the state of maintenance on the campuses, and that's been one of my priorities. We have addressed it in several ways; both in

terms of conversations with the people who work there, seeking to go increase the quantity of the workforce, but also we have had training programs in place, we've addressed management issues, and we're in the process of recruiting right now for another position that will help make us more effective in that area.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

There's request in for one new laborer, are there vacant positions in that particular line item?

**MR. STEIN:**

We tend to get turn over.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Because one is not going to do it.

**MR. STEIN:**

No, it's not.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

If we can't get one through.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

If some of us are willing to look at increasing the County's contribution, I certainly would hope that we could look at this particular area, more than just simply one laborer, because we know that that's ••

**DR. PIPPINS:**

We have beautiful grounds on all three campuses. We have to do better, I'll leave it like that.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Especially when we're making literally tens of millions of dollars of investment in the buildings and grounds, we need to have those maintained. My final point, and you know I was going to bring this up at some point, it's one that we all can take great pride in on the Legislative side, because it was a Legislative initiative, was to create the college scholarship program for students who enroll in computer science, mathematics, engineering.

It's the first of its kind in the state, and it really was in response to the fact that there were many deserving students at the college who otherwise would have received the National Science Foundation Scholarship, but for the fact that the National Science Foundation Grant did not take into consideration the cost in this area. So literally a person from a family from Mississippi, which could qualify, a family from New York couldn't, but otherwise that student did deserve to have that scholarship. So we have crafted a scholarship program where that kind of low tuition, low salary review wouldn't any longer be a hurdle, and that there be other considerations made.

We had appropriated \$60,000, there were 20 students who qualified and received that support, some of whom I saw at the graduation last year. And it was a bit •• it made a tremendous difference in their lives. And as the young man mentioned earlier, there were people who

otherwise would have had to work after school, take time away from their studies, who could then now as a recipient of that scholarship focus •• I wouldn't want them to focus all of their time •• but focus more of their time on their studies that they otherwise would have had to have done.

So I was a bit disappointed to see that that was not proposed by the College, nor was it proposed by the County Executive, but I know that you agree that it was more of an oversight, that we're going to hopefully put it back in the program of the budget, and then in future years when some of us will no longer be in the Legislature, that the College will make sure that it's part of your proposals when you submit your budgets to the County Exec earlier in the summer.

**MR. STEIN:**

Yes, it will be.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Fisher •• Viloría•Fisher.

**LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:**

Good morning, Dr. Pippins. It's good to see you. Thank you for that very clear presentation. I

do have a number of questions regarding some of the numbers that you mentioned and some of the differences that I've seen in both the budget presentation that was given to us by the County Executive's Office and the Budget Review Office's review of those budget proposals. The first one was when you said elimination of four faculty positions, it isn't actually an elimination of four faculty positions, it's a lack of inclusion of additional.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Elimination from our submission.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Okay.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

We requested them in our submission, and they were eliminated in the County Executive's recommended budget.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

I just wanted that to be clear, that there's no cutting of faculty positions in any of the budgets.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Right.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

It's a cutting of the request, because there were 17 positions that were requested, and there were ten positions included in the County Executive's budget.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Right.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

And with regards those positions, you made mention of the nursing program, and as I look at those positions, none offer those positions were nursing program positions.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

I gave the example of nursing as an area where you couldn't staff with adjuncts, so that some ••

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Okay. But none of those requested positions that were eliminated were nursing positions?

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Right. Well, in this case ••

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

The biology position is the only one I could see that's close.

**MR. STEIN:**

Right. The discussion about the nursing positions, subsequent to the submission of our budget and subsequent to the County Executive recommending the budget to the Legislature, an agreement was reached with three hospitals.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

With Mather and Brookhaven.

**MR. STEIN:**

Mather, Brookhaven and Eastern Long Island. As a result of that agreement, we have a program that's starting in January that will require three additional positions ••

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Right. I understand that. I just wanted it to be clear ••

**MR. STEIN:**

Two nursing and one professional.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

•• that those positions that were not in the County Executive's Office did not include nursing positions, that those faculty positions were not nursing positions.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Well, sometimes you find for example, I'm not sure, but something like criminal justice, for example, ends up being very difficult to staff with adjuncts. So I just wanted to make the point that sometimes you say that we could just hire adjuncts, it's not always. And your hard sciences like biology you find difficult ••

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

You would never find me saying you can always hire adjuncts, because I'm a very strong proponent of full•time faculty. You need that for programmatic •• having a programmatic vision of where your department should be, you need that for curriculum, you need the full•time faculty, so I would never be proponent to punting to adjuncts as a way of fulfilling positions. I just wanted to clarify that we're talking different areas of the budget.

Going to the nursing positions, when I looked and I spoke about •• I asked Gail Vizzini about this yesterday, because it wasn't clear to me when I looked at BRO's review, there's an item, I believe a \$136,000, that would be an offset because it would be the amount that would we

coming in through an agreement with those hospitals?

**MR. STEIN:**

The hospitals are providing the funding for the three positions, the two faculty positions, one professional assistant and the \$40,000 of adjunct or overload. And in addition, we would have the revenue from 30 nursing students that would be coming in in January. What we need to put into the budget, and I'm hoping that there will be a resolution to this effect, is not only that revenue coming in, but also the appropriation side to put the slots in for those positions.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Exactly. Yes. And Gail and I spoke about this yesterday, putting in for the position, but also putting in that resolution the revenue that would be coming ••

**MR. STEIN:**

Which would offset it.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

•• from the hospitals. So that's why I'm saying that we have to make a distinction for those positions separate and distinct from these other seven position that were not included.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Right.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

With regards the advertising, Dr. Pippins, when I looked at the advertising page and there were the actual expenditures from last year, I believe that that was the point at which the County Executive's recommended budget was talking about, supporting your advertising budget. It was the same as the actual expenditures for last year.

**MR. STEIN:**

I thought it was the adopted, but, Tom?

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

I was looking at the actuals. I will go back to that, but I'm pretty certain it was the actual expenditures. I may have written the number of the page. I will go back to that.

**MR. STEIN:**

I don't have a copy of that.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

When I looked at that page, the Police Academy on page eleven of our recommended budget •• on page eleven, Chuck, maybe you can clarify this for me, but I have here in the offset in the

County's share •• I'm just trying to find the page •• I mean the line, but with regard Police Academy, it looks to me like the recommended budget from the County Executive's Office is the same as the requested.

**MR. STEIN:**

It's a multi•purpose usage fee, that's the line.

**LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:**

Do you have this same document, Chuck, so you can tell me what page you are on? Because on the page I'm look at, it's about \$465,000 that was requested and recommended by the County Executive's Office.

**MR. STEIN:**

Hold on a second.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Page 12.

**LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:**

Page 12, it's the next page.

**MR. STEIN:**

Page 12, if you look down about a third of the way, it's line number eight•1442, two multi  
•purpose usage fee. Our request was \$736,326 and the recommended amount is 652,356.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Okay. See, the page before had said Police Academy or something like that, and that was 465,  
so that's what confused me about Dr. Pippins' statement. Okay. Thank you. I see the area  
where that occurs. Thank you. The advertising, that was the a \$73,000 difference, if I recall.

**MR. STEIN:**

Yes.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

And Budget Review can you •• oh, here it is. I'm looking at this and it says that 491 •• 270 was  
the adopted and the actual •• the estimated and the actual for 2003•2004 was 491,256. The  
estimated 2004•2005 ••

**MS. VIZZINI:**

The Recommended advertising was based on the adopted. The adopted '04•'05 was 491,270.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Right.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Which is ••

**MR. STEIN:**

Close.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

I think there's \$100 difference for a specific purpose.

**MR. STEIN:**

It's very close to what was recommended.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

To what was adopted last year.

**MR. STEIN:**

Yeah. And what we requested was based upon all of the additional programs that we're moving forward with and the advertising that would be required for it.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

I had spoken with one of the trustees regarding the outreach efforts, and I saw in your presentation, Dr. Pippins, that there was additional outreach for ESL, how is that •• on your power point screen.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

That's an example of one of the areas where we need market and bring information to the community, yes.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Okay. Because for the first time was there a little drop in ESL this year, this past year?

**DR. PIPPINS:**

It hasn't been increasing at the rate that it has historically, and it's not increasing at the rate that one would project given the increase in immigrant population in this area.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Which did surprise me when you told me that and we had spoken about it.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

We have included an Associate Dean who would handle our programming and relationships in that area. I think that some of the recent occurrences in the County have made people a little more leery about coming to the College, so we will address that and also our sensitivity in responding to ••

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Okay. I would like to hear more about that as the year goes on, because I think that's a very important outreach. It certainly has, I think, a powerful impact on our economic •• the robustness of the County economically if we can have people, you know, come into the County and feel that they can work it and in any capacity here and ESL is a very important aspect of that. And I was very surprised when you said that •• well, I wasn't really very surprised, because of the all the circumstances revolving around that. But I was disappointed, because I've seen •• as you know, I have been very aware and involved with the ESL Program and have been very impressed by its growth over the years, so it was disappointing to see that it hadn't been experiencing that kind of robust growth during the past year. So I do hope to see some great implementation of that program.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

We will be working very hard in that area. It is important, as you mentioned, I think the data shows that 85% of the recent growth in this area has been in the immigrant population, so to not service that population well is not to service the economic health of Suffolk County.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Okay. I think I had another question very quickly. The Police Academy question, I'd asked you about the positions •• I'll ask for the floor back if I have other questions. I think that's all. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Montano.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Thank you. Good morning, Dr. Pippins, Members of the College. I'm going to be very brief. I just want to go •• we had a conversation with respect to the budget, and I just want to go over the numbers so that I'm clear that I understand what we're dealing with. The \$150 increase in tuition from what I understand amounts to •• for every \$50 in tuition increase it results in revenue of 900,000 to the College, is that an accurate figure?

**MR. STEIN:**

Around that number.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

So that's about 2.7 million that the College is going to receive this year more than last year. Then, from what I'm understanding, the discrepancy between the College fund balance, the amount that it underspent, goes anywhere from one million to 2.2 million, is that accurate, the

County Executive being at 2.2 million?

**MR. STEIN:**

The County Executive said we would come in with 2.5 million. We had projected about a million back in April, and the Budget Review Office just did its analysis and said that it would be around 1.5 million.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay. And that money stays with the College, that does not come back to the County, that stays for next year's expenses, is that accurate?

**MR. STEIN:**

It rolls into next year as an opening balance, if you will.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

So if we took the 1.4 million, if we took the 2.7 million resulting from tuition increase, and we added in the health cost projected savings, I'm looking at a number of 5.8 million in additional revenue this year, is that •• over last year, is that accurate?

**MR. STEIN:**

I would have to add the numbers. The bottom line, though, is with increased expenses to the

College just in terms of salaries, steps and other things, you know, we had submitted a budget that asked for a \$9.6 million increase in expenditures over the current year. You know, 86% of our expenses are salaries and benefits.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay. And that's where I'm going basically. In terms of what you're looking to spend, what you need to spend next year to keep the College, you know, at the level that you want it to be at, the difference •• I just want to know clearly in layman's terms the difference between what you are asking for and what the County Executive is recommending, and the way I read it, we have seven positions that you requested that you haven't •• that has not been recommended in the County budget, is that •• that's just positions. In addition to that, there's a \$73,000 allocation requested for advertising, which was not included in the County Exec's budget, and you just indicated that's done in-house, it's not contracted out to an advertising agencies, is that accurate?

**MR. STEIN:**

Yeah, for the most part, it's done in-house.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

It's County employees that are involved in that advertising effort?

**MR. STEIN:**

It's County employees, it's the materials and the cards and the paper and the stuff you have to buy to put the mailings together to •• you know.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Its in-house. I get the idea. And then there's an \$80,000 more or less discrepancy between what you would be getting from the Police Academy, what you requested and what the County Executive put in, is that ••

**MR. STEIN:**

Yeah, approximately.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

What else are you looking for?

**MR. STEIN:**

The adjunct and overload lines, there was an \$80,000 difference. The total came to \$763,000, that was the basic difference. In the '05-'06 year, there was about a \$763,000 difference between our requested budget and what was recommended by the County Executive; is that correct, Gail?

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That 763,000 breaks up ••

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

She's going to answer.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Go ahead.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Well, the College got an additional \$9 million in appropriations compared to the '04•'05 adopted budget. So I think where you're going is how much did they get in revenue to offset those expenditures.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Yeah, but I'm trying to break it down more simplistic. I just want to know what it is that at this point that you're looking for that you can't pick up with the savings in the 1.7 million, the fund balance of the 1.2 and the increased tuition of 2.7, what do you need? You need ten •• you need seven positions, or you are asking for seven positions, you are asking to restore the advertising money, you are asking for the •• to restore the discrepancy between the Police Academy amount that you expected and what's projected, is there anything else that you need that you are asking for that you don't •• you can't spend within the 5.8 million that you are going to have this year?

**MR. STEIN:**

Beyond what we had requested in the budget, we have the Mather •• Mather Hospital, Brookhaven and Eastern Long Island requests to put those positions in •• to put those positions in the budget. And the revenue this comes with it, we have to make that adjustment, it's not going to cost the County any more, okay?

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That's what I'm saying. So that's a net zero adjustment?

**MR. STEIN:**

For the County, yes.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay.

**MR. STEIN:**

And the other caution that we pointed out here is a safety net with respect to that ••

**LEG. MONTANO:**

One point seven million.

**MR. STEIN:**

One point seven million, which is ••

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That's the biggie.

**MR. STEIN:**

•• up in the area.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Now, I understand your point on the 1.7, there have been many cases where we projected savings, and in the end, it's wound up to be more of an expenditure than an actual saving, and that is a concern. You know, I think we have to understand that if the College is funded with projected savings of 1.7 and that 1.7 million doesn't materialize, where does •• where does the Legislature step in and what does that do for the college? Because you would wind up next year with a deficit, if you spent everything, of 1.7 million. That's something that we definitely would not want.

**MR. STEIN:**

Well, it goes beyond that. It goes beyond that, because there has been discussion here, as Dr. Pippins pointed out in her presentation, that with the inclusion of that 1.7 million, we would probably look at a lower increase in the tuition.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

You mean this year or next year?

**MR. STEIN:**

For the year that starts September 1st.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

You mean to roll back the tuition?

**MR. STEIN:**

No. No. No. The year that's starting in four weeks, next year, this budget document, okay, what's included in this budget document right now is \$150 increase in annual tuition. Based upon this new number that just came about last Thursday of this \$1.7 million in savings, what Dr. Pippins said, if that's included, we would look at a lower increase in the few than 150. But if the •• if the 1.7 million does not materialize and we've also come through with a lower increase in tuition which means lower revenue, we're going to have problems next year, and that's why we're asking for safety net.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Right. But from what I understand, just correct me if I'm wrong, the tuition increase of the \$150 per student per year has already been effectively implement, is that accurate? In other words,

you sent out your notices.

**MR. STEIN:**

We sent out notices, but certainly like last year, there would be a refund if there's an adjustment in the tuition amount.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Let me say this then. If we, in fact, funded the 1.7 million, kept you at the same rate for health care costs and you rolled back the tuition to reflect that savings and then at the end of next year, the health care savings went down, you would have then ••

**MR. STEIN:**

You would have to replace that. If the savings went down, you mean, if the savings was smaller?

**LEG. MONTANO:**

No. If you had •• if we give you 1.7 additional ••

**MR. STEIN:**

Yes.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

•• to bring you at the level that you requested on health care, what you're saying •• what I think you're saying is that you are going to reduce the tuition to reflect the 1.7, and then at the end of the year, if we, in fact, see that savings, you have a surplus of 1.7.

**MR. STEIN:**

No.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

No?

**MR. STEIN:**

What I said was there would be a discussion as to a reduction in the increase of tuition. We still have other expenses to pay.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

There would be a discussion, but that don't mean that if we put in 1.7 you are going to roll back the tuition.

**MR. STEIN:**

I don't roll it back, the Board of Trustees makes the determination.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay. So back to my original point then, the seven positions, the 80,000, the 73,000 in advertising, and what was the other category, if any?

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Adjuncts.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That was approximately?

**MR. STEIN:**

Eighty thousand dollars in adjuncts and overload.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

And you said that comes out to \$763,000? All right. We'll work with the numbers. I just wanted to get the concept. And, you know, the truth is that we support the College.

**MR. STEIN:**

Part of that \$763,000 was the original amount that the County Executive recommended for health insurance, which was \$285,000 lower than what we had requested. When the County Executive first sent this budget over to you, he included a \$285,000 reduction in what we requested for health insurance.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

But BRO reduced that even more, is that accurate?

**MR. STEIN:**

Right. So the difference from what we requested to what's being discussed right now is \$2 million dollars, that's the difference.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Right. But my only point, Chuck, is that •• and I understand what you are saying, but with respect to the 1.7, I agree wholeheartedly that if the budget comes in with that projected savings and it doesn't materialize, then somehow we have to make the College whole. You know, we don't want to put out a budget that gives you projected savings and then in reality they don't materialize.

**MR. STEIN:**

I appreciate that.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

But if we give you •• you know, if we increase it by 1.7 and then you decrease the tuition increase by that amount, we're back to square one. So if the savings materialize at the end of the year, you are going to have a balance of 1.7, if you roll back the tuition and we put the money in. That's all I'm saying. So I want to be clear. So I think the concern that I have mostly is to make sure that those savings are real savings. Am I communicating this in a fashion that ••

**MR. STEIN:**

I think Gail ••

**DR. PIPPINS:**

We appreciate it.

**MR. STEIN:**

We appreciate you looking at this issue because it is an important issue.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

It's hard to do the numbers without having them in front of you. I hear you conceptually. It

would help me if at some point we were sitting down and looking at the numbers on paper.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Gail.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

I understand what you are saying, but it would be helpful to see the actual projections and numbers.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Just one clarification. The million•seven is in the budget. We expected to provide a cushion for any changes that the Legislature may be considering making to the budget.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Hit me with that again, please.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Okay. Sure. The Executive's budget as far as health insurance was prepared before Price Waterhouse came up with this good news. So we had the benefit of the Price Waterhouse numbers when we did our review. So now it's Budget Review who's saying it's very likely based on these Price Waterhouse numbers surplus of a million•seven in the College's budget.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Above what the County Executive put in?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Well, the County Executive put in too much money is basically ••

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That's what I'm saying.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Right. Because the information was not available to you when the budget was prepared.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

So is your difference the 1.7 million?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Yes. So you are not adding 1.7. I believe what the College's thrust is that if we do really have the million•seven, we will revisit the tuition issue.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

But they won't know that.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Well.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That's my point, you're not going to know that.

**MR. STEIN:**

That's my concern •• from a fiscal standpoint, that's my concern.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That's my concern also, because we won't know that until next year.

**MR. STEIN:**

Thank you.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

But in reality what I'm hearing is it's •• enough is in the health care budget.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Maybe.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

More so than what BRO is recommending, and that's the difference, it's 1.7. BRO is saying that the County Executive put in 1.7 more than they actually anticipate spending or they should be spending.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Based on what we know now, yes.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay.

**MR. STEIN:**

Which is a projection.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

It's all projections, I understand that. And you know, from my standpoint, and I think I said this privately, I'll say it publically, if, in fact, the College don't have •• if it has a shortfall as a result of poor projections, poor analysis, then, you know, I think the Legislature would be willing to come forward and say that we need to make the College whole, because we don't want to send you into the year with projected savings that don't materialize and then turn around and say you didn't do your job properly. That would be inappropriate. Thank you.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

I appreciate that support.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I think in one way we're losing a little bit of focus of what our job is here and what their job would be over there. I'm looking at •• I don't even know what page it is •• but it's a little bit of an embarrassment to me, because in '98 when I got here, we were a little bit more •• as far as our commitment, we were a little bit more up front in fulfilling our commitment to the College, and more importantly, not just to the College, but to the people of Suffolk County, the men, women, young adults that are going to go to our College when we said we would try to take

about a third of that burden.

And what we have done over the past last couples of years is we've pawned off our burden on the kids, not the kids, but the people that are going to the Community College. So I'm looking at a number here that greatly concerns me where our County contribution goes, even in this new proposed budget, from 25.5% down to 24.2%. We're going in the wrong direction, we have been going in the wrong direction for a number of years. We have made a promise to people, we have also stepped up, and we have used the Community College to point at one of our greatest successes in Suffolk County. And for us to keep going in that direction is wrong. I think we have to focus a little more on a broader picture here. Not picking part your budget, like, this line, that line and things like that, because that's why you people are professionals and you're supposed to do that, but what do we want to do? Do want to continue on this decline and end up, you know, like, we'll saddle the people that want to go to the college with, you know, our share plus their share, make it less affordable each year and maybe, you know, less successful each year, or do we want to step up to the plate and reverse that a little bit and put in 4%?

And I'm glad that Legislator Carpenter is leading the charge on that, because I'm going to join with her and try to reverse these numbers, which I find embarrassing. I think to, you know, have the students a proposal where picking up 38.4% and we're going the opposite way is totally against what we've decided is our policy and what we've decided to go out there and tell people. We want them to go to the College, we want them to stay in Suffolk County, then we're going to tell them, well, we're going to shirk our responsibility and we're going to walk away from you. I think we have to reverse that, we've got to stop that trend right now and get back to where we originally were positioned, and that was to live up to our approximate one-third contribution to the cost.

So I think that, you know, we're splitting hairs. Let the professionals do their job. If we see something, you know, like, that we have to step in in the future if our numbers don't work out correctly, you know, with the health care and things like that, then we're going to have to revisit

that at some point in time. But let's give enough money into this budget that we're not going to saddle the kids and the people that are going to use our Community College with more and more of a burden. Let's do our job.

***Applause***

**MR. STEIN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Alden, you have said that beautifully. And you are absolutely right, to be nickeling and diming over advertising and not to give you the tools that you need at that college to do what you have already done so we will and what we're already very, very proud of you for doing and what I'd like to see you do more of, because I want to brag about this college for many, years to come. Legislator Alden, you are right. Legislator Carpenter, you have something.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Thank you. Thank you for that for those comments, really for everyone's comments, because I think that in everything that was said this morning, the message that •• the underlying message that I think is coming across loud and clear is this committee in particular and the Legislature really supports the Community College. And I think that Legislator Alden's comments about the 4%, that 4%, if we are to increase the County's contribution 4%, it's \$1.4 million is what 4% is. And I would just ask my colleagues how many times do we routinely pass resolutions for a road project or an investment in the parks or other things that we vote on without even blinking an eye and millions and millions and millions of dollars? And here we have something that has been

codified, we're being asked to make an investment that as Dr. Pippins so well said comes back to our taxpayers in eight years, 100% return on their investment. You don't get much better than that.

And to those who would say that if for some reason later on the monies aren't there, the Legislature will be there to make, you know, the College whole, well, there are a number of us that won't be here after December. And I for one want to see that we give them the resources that they need now and not to hope that we can do it later on. If we increase the County's contribution 4%, to those who are concerned that we keep the increase to the rate of inflation, 4% added to the 4% that we've done over four years would be 8% over four years, which would translate to 2% a year, which in some instance is less than the rate of inflation. So I think we're looking at an equity issue, we're looking at trying to finally bring us to where we need to be in our investment in the Community College.

I for one, remember that there was a time, and I don't think that anyone that's sitting here now with me was here at that point with the exception of Legislator Foley, but there was a year that because there were seven out of eight years where the County did not increase the County's contribution that we had to increase the County's contribution 25.8%. I sponsored that resolution, and this body supported it, but it was difficult. And we don't want to put ourselves in that position again in the future. We've got to systematically invest in the College. And a \$1.4 million dollar investment •• yesterday in the Finance Committee, we learned that this County is in very good financial stead. Should we be running around recklessly throwing money away? No, and I'm not suggesting that. And even though it was suggested that our investment in the College last year was not necessary, I wholeheartedly disagree.

This College besides addressing their mission to education, they have addressed more than that. And they are truly our partners. They have addressed things that this body is very committed to and concerned about. The nursing shortage, the College took a leadership role, they formed partnerships with Good Samaritan Hospital, they created that downtown center in Sayville, they

added 30 nursing slots, there are going to be more nursing slots added. They added in an evening program at Western Campus for nurses, they're addressing a crucial issue in not only this County, but this island, and that's the nursing shortage.

This Legislature is committed to our downtowns and revitalizing the downtowns. Well, low and behold, the Community College has taking a leadership role. That Sayville Program is in downtown Sayville. The Riverhead Culinary Program is in downtown Riverhead. Again, addressing our needs as a County, as a partner.

Last week there was an energy summit. We had a speaker this morning talking about energy conservation. Low and behold, the College, leadership role in energy conservation. Yesterday in Public Works, we passed a resolution approving the purchase of hybrid vehicles, and the Commissioner was asked who's going to maintain these vehicles, do we have anybody that can maintain these vehicles? Well, guess what folks? The Commissioner said, that's a good point, we're going to have to hire someone. Well, guess who's training the people to maintain the hybrid vehicles? Bingo. Suffolk County Community College at our Automotive Technology Program at Ammerman Campus. They have this program in place.

I mean, no matter where you turn, the College is there. And, folks, if we can't be there for a million point four •• and I'm working on a resolution, and I have a number of cosponsors, and I think we're going to look at almost being unanimous, I'm hopeful that we will increase the County's contribution 4%, and we would suggest to the College Board of Trustees in light of the projected savings for health insurance and so forth, that we roll back that tuition increase to \$100 instead of 150. It would poise us to be less than Nassau County Community College, it would bring our tuition to under 3000 when Nassau County Community College would be well over 3000. We would be under three at 2990, they would be well over three. That will certainly be a good marketing point for us. But you know what? We have wonderful marketing strategies for this Community College. I could go on and on, and I'm sure everybody is saying please, why doesn't she stop? But I will.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

I'm not saying that, Angie.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

I want to tell you I am so very proud and our Chairperson said it so well, we want to go out and brag more about this Community College. Everyone that was here today, that young, Peter, I think his name was Peter, he's what it's all about. And you know what? The average age of the student at the Community College is 27. There are people sitting in those classrooms who are seniors, who are changing careers, who are depending on the College. And we as a body made a commitment to addressing the ratio between full•time and adjuncts. The College, and Dr. Pippins said it, they requested 17 positions, they should get those 17 positions. And you know what? Those 17 positions, as she said, were not all that they needed. And that might be a good lesson to learn, that you needed more than 17, that may be we need to ask for more, because it seems that the practice has been you ask for ten, you get five. So you know, maybe we need to keep that in mind for the future.

I am very proud of everything that you have all done. And I look forward to •• I am so confident that this Legislature will be there for you, that you will get that 4%, that you will be able to restore what you need to restore and that the College Board of Trustees, who I know are doing an incredible job will look at rolling back that tuition to that \$100 instead of 150. Thank you.

**MR. STEIN:**

Thank you.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Thank you.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I will just be really brief because I Chair the committee that's supposed to start at 11:30. I want to thank you, again, for an excellent presentation. Every time you come here, you lay things out •• you've make a strong case for the College. I just want to share with you, I have been reaching out to constituents and talking with people about the College knowing that I had to make a decision here about how to fund it, and I would ask people what they thought about the tuition and increasing the contribution toward the College, and universally people were saying, look, we don't mind supporting education, we don't mind if our taxes go up a dollar or two, it's a small contribution to keep it affordable and keep young people in Suffolk County and make higher education available to all those regardless of incomes.

So I just want to tell you that out there in the community, my sense is very strong that there's great support for Suffolk County Community College and the programs it offers, and the public seems very willing to put itself behind education as an important function for the future of Suffolk County.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Thank you.

**MR. STEIN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Just as a last word. Number one, we get bragging rights if this happens, that's number one. Number two, just a quick reason why this is so important. It's not just for young people who go there for their first and second years of college. My daughter needed to take a credit •• take a course last year during the summer. Had she stayed at her the university or the college she went to, that would have cost her thousands of dollars. She chose to come home and go to the Community College. It was 300 and something dollars. It doesn't get better than that. And she got the credit, it was credited by her college, that's pretty good. So we are supportive of you. Thank you very much for your presentation.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Thank you.

**MR. STEIN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. I think that we need to go through this agenda, because we have a Parks Meeting right after this. Okay. 1722, there was a public hearing, the public hearing has been closed, and it is

on the agenda, adopting a Local Law, a Charter Law to streamline County government and to create Airport Advisory Council.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion to table by Legislator Alden.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? 1722 is tabled.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Wait. Wait. I thought that was 1360 we were voting on.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

1360 is tabled.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

No, let's just go back. There's confusion on which bill we're voting on.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

1360.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Oh, okay, I thought ••

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I thought you called 1360.

**LEG. COOPER:**

No she called 1722.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

It's on the agenda down further.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

1722 is later on.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Sorry. I went to the first page instead of the second page. Folks, we will go back to that.

### **TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

**Tabled resolution 1360, a Local Law, a Charter Law to streamline County government by abolishing the Airport Lease Screening Committee (COUNTY EXEC)**

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Motion to table.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okey dokey.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second the motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

We have a motion to approve by Legislator Foley, the motion to table supercedes the motion.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

See if he gets a second.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I would second the motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

The motion to table is seconded by Legislator Schneiderman. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Opposed.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

1360 is opposed by Legislator Foley and Legislator Cooper. Motion to table is approved.

**TABLED (4•2•0•0).**

**1417, to evaluate the feasibility of establishing renewable energy park on County property (COOPER).**

**LEG. COOPER:**

I'll make a motion to table for one more session.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Second.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion to table by Legislator Cooper, seconded by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Opposed?  
That's **tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•0)**.

**1444, a Local Law adopting Labor Law Compliance for Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency (COUNTY EXEC).**

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion by Legislator Foley, seconded by ••

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

•• Legislator Cooper. I have a motion to table by Legislator Schneiderman, which supercedes motion to approve.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Seconded by Legislator Alden. All those in favor?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Madam Chair, on the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Let me just get this. Legislator Foley, on the motion.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Yes, motion to table. Through the Chair, Mr. Zwirn, is there •• on 1444 ••

**MR. ZWIRN:**

The County Executive is supportive of this resolution. We hope that the committee would adopt it and send it to the floor. I know there were some legal questions that were raised at the committee last time. The representative from the County Attorney's Office is here to answer any question with respect to those legal matters. They have reviewed it, they find no legal problems whatsoever.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Then I would like at this point to talk to the Legal Counsel for the Legislature.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Is there legal ••

**MS. KNAPP:**

I know that several Legislators have asked me about this, because I know that there's supportive of the goals expressed in this Local Law. And I suppose I can begin by saying as I do very often that with ten votes and the County Executive's signature, you enjoy a presumption of validity on any legislation that this body enacts. This one poses some special problems in that we have two written opinions; one from Bond Counsel from IDA, and one from IDA Counsel, both of which detail several cases including a New York State Court of Appeals case, and there are some United States Supreme Court cases out of Wisconsin that raised some significant legal issues here. So the concern is •• the legal concerns are significant in this particular instance.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Foley.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Yeah. Thank you for that overview. If we could hear from the County Attorney's Office, Madam chair.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yes, I was just about to ask the County Attorney's Office.

**MS. LOLIS:**

Good morning. Gail Lolis, Deputy County Attorney. We haven't seen the IDA Counsel's opinion. We did review the Bond Counsel's opinion, and we have reviewed the cases. And the argument primarily concerns preemption issues concerning this particular resolution. Our reading of the resolution, it only is exercising a power that the state has given to this Legislative Body as far as the appointment or the removal of members of the IDA. If you wish to place a condition precedent to automatic removal, we find that to be within your power, and we have not found any decisions that have restricted the Legislature's power to do that.

The arguments against it are distinguishable the way this is written. If this was written saying the IDA cannot enter into particular contracts, that could be a problem. This is saying they can vote and they can enter certain contracts, but you, in turn, can remove that member as being on the IDA in the future. You're just doing it immediately versus having a Special Meeting say within 15 minutes of a vote and removing that member. So the power is yours to do so.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

If I may follow up, Madam Chair. So the resolution as presented by the County Executive is narrowly constructed regarding the appointment powers of the Legislature. Let's not get into any other particular area of IDA. It's simply how we attach conditions, if you will, to those who are appointed to the IDA, correct?

**MS. LOLIS:**

Yes.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

In that very narrowly constructed approach, it's your legal opinion that we can •• that it's within purview of us to create those conditions.

**MS. LOLIS:**

Absolutely, if you so choose to do.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

It's part of the powers granted to us from the state.

**MS. LOLIS:**

Yes. Just as if you said if someone was convicted of murder, they would automatically be removed. You can choose what conditions you want as an automatic removal, the same as you can decide the manner in which somebody is appointed.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Okay. Thank you.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Madam Chair, if I may.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. So so far what I'm hearing is that the County Attorney and the Legislative Attorney have •• and Bond Counsel have •• everybody has a different opinion. That's something new, isn't it?

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Also too, they didn't ••

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Schneiderman.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

A question really for, I think, Legislative Counsel. The members of the IDA, and correct me if I'm wrong, serve at the pleasure of the Legislature, our appointments to the IDA, so therefore, if we wanted to remove somebody for failing to comply with Prevailing Wage Law, we could do that now, could we not.

**MS. KNAPP:**

They serve at the pleasure, they have no terms.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

They have no terms? So the law •• this particular bill doesn't give us any abilities that we don't already have; is that correct?

**MS. KNAPP:**

It, in fact, takes away your ability to the extent that you no longer have the power to remove

them, they would be automatically removed.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

It would take away that discretion.

**MS. KNAPP:**

It does take away the power of an elected official, and I guess that raises a new question as to whether or not there should have been a referendum.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Referendum, yeah.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yeah. You know what? There are still a lot of questions on this, everybody disagrees, and there are grey areas. I'm just going to go on. We have a motion to table by Legislator Schneiderman, I believe?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

There was a tabling motion.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Understood. I just wanted it on the record.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I think we did that already, correct? And seconded by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed?  
1444 is tabled.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

No. List me as ••

**LEG. COOPER:**

I'm also opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

**TABLED (4•2•0•0) (Opposed; Legis. Cooper and Foley). 1714, to renew, reauthorize, revise and revamp the Suffolk County Downtown Revitalization Program (MONTANO)**

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Motion to approve.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion to table supercedes the motion. Do I have a second to the motion to table? Well, we have a motion to table and a motion to approve. Okay. Is there a second to the motion to approve?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I will second the motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I will second the motion to table. Okay so we have ••

**LEG. ALDEN:**

On the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

On the motion.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Downtown Revitalization is a program that was actually developed here in the Legislature. I believe it's gone in a different direction than the original legislation contemplated or wished it to go in. And 1714, if it gets debated by the entire Legislative Body would allow input as to which way the Legislature truly wants this Legislative Program to go, rather than the way I see it going. And the way that we originally intended it to go was that every Legislator has either downtown or business districts in their Legislative Districts, and each Legislator would benefit from qualifying projects under the old system and under the 1714 system.

However, now we have a system where our downtown revitalization has been changed, the direction has been completely changed from what the Legislative intent was originally so that some of us •• not some of us, most of us will not have projects that are approved in a Downtown Revitalization under the present conditions. So with if we allow that to continue, you're going to have 17 unhappy Legislators and one happy one, because that's what's going to happen, one project is going to be chosen, and all the money from downtown revitalization is going to be put into that project.

If this gets tabled, I'm going to try to do a procedural motion that would just stop the Downtown Revitalization from going anything at this point until the Legislature really weighs in on it one way of the other, because it's completely abandoned the original direction that we dictated it to go in.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Can I just ask for a clarification from Legislative Counsel, if this 1714 is passed, where does that leave the individual districts? Can you tell me the district between this being passed and this not being passed?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I will tell you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Well, I've asked Counsel.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I'm sorry.

**MS. KNAPP:**

Basically what this does is set forth certain conditions for the expenditure of the Downtown Revitalization Program. And Budget Review will confirm that there are two Capital Programs, 6412 and 6418, 6412 being the traditional Downtown Revitalization Capital Program that Legislators used when they proposed particular projects. This resolution says that there will be no expenditure from 6414, that's the Legislative one, unless five criteria have been met, and that

is that the proposed project or program has to be at the request of a community group, a business organization, or the local governing body. The request then has to be made by the Legislator representing the district.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

That's what this one says?

**MS. KNAPP:**

That's this one. The third condition that this would impose would be that every individual program has to be presented to the committee by the Legislator representing the district; fourth is the committee reviews it; and fifth is that every request for funds be approved by the County of Suffolk, duly enacted Legislative Resolution signed by the County Executive. It also imposes conditions on what we would refer to as the new program, that is the Downtown Beautification and Renewal Program, 6418. That one allows a project to be proposed for funding by the County Executive or by the Commissioner of Economic Development. The panel naturally reviews that and recommends it, and the funding request as in the other program, comes before the Legislature duly enacted resolution.

It does have another condition that says that the funding for 6412, which is the County Executive's, shall not exceed the funding that's approved by Legislative request. And it also has another condition that says that the total number of projects proposed under 6412 shall not be more than three in any fiscal year. So, in effect, what this resolution does is it restricts the projects generated from above, so to speak, to a total of three. And the •• you can't spend more on the ones generated from above than the ones that have grown up from the community. And the sponsor is here, so if I have missed anything.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Cooper, you would like to say something?

**LEG. COOPER:**

I'm sorry. I'm a little confused now. The program •• the new program that I'm very supportive of is the one that gives larger grants, I think they were \$50,000 grants, to a relatively small number of downtowns, I believe there were five, where they were able to invest this much larger amount of funding in larger projects that could have a real impact, positive impact on the community. That's something that I remain supportive of, whether that funding goes to Wyandanch or Bay Shore or Riverhead or Huntington Station, I think that there's a real positive benefit to being able to give larger grants, \$50,000 grants, to a relatively few number of downtowns as opposed to divvying up the pot •• divvying up the pie in such small slices, 4000, 5000, \$6000, that by the time you are finished with that, it really doesn't have any impact on the community. And all they end up doing buying flower pots or planters or new trash receptacles. If this resolution is enacted, the one before us right now, would that have any impact on the new program where we are providing \$50,000 to five downtowns?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Part of that •• I can address that, because those grants that you are speaking of, they're not even in the Downtown Revitalization Program, so it would have no impact on it.

**LEG. COOPER:**

I just want ••

**LEG. MONTANO:**

The short answer is no.

**MS. KNAPP:**

What it does •• what this resolution does is limit those, what I call, from the top down projects to a total of three every year, and it ••

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

All right. You know what?

**MS. KNAPP:**

•• also says that we're not going to spend more on those than we do on the total of the 18.

**LEG. COOPER:**

All right. So the existing program that we know of for the 18 Districts will remain basically the same as it has been historically, but now we're capping expenditures for the new program so that it would not exceed the previous program.

**MS. KNAPP:**

(Shook head yes).

**LEG. COOPER:**

You're nodding your head.

**MS. KNAPP:**

Yes.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Okay.

**MS. KNAPP:**

Yes.

**LEG. COOPER:**

The stenographer is very good, but I don't know if she can note you're nodding your head.  
Okay. Thanks.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay, there's a motion to table, seconded by myself for one cycle, I believe. All in favor?  
Opposed?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. **Opposed by Legislator Alden.** Motion to table has been approved. **TABLED. (5•1•0•0).**

**1722, a Charter Law to streamline County Government and to create Airport Advisory Council.**

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Schneiderman, seconded by Legislator Carpenter.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Motion to table.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Madam Chair, when you're ready.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

You have my attention.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Oh, thank you. I know that Commissioner Morgo spoke earlier at the public hearing with respect to this, and while the County Executive is appreciative that the Legislature has seen his vision of getting the leases back to the Legislature for approval, which is where we believed they were from the beginning of this year, I think he had to refile IR 1360, which called for this originally, he has set up by Executive Order a Quality of Life Committee with numerous representatives from the local area near the airport. And I just renew the objections that we have to Legislator Schneiderman's bill because it is giving an awful lot of power to this group in his bill, which goes down to aesthetic improvements. And the question is will the manager of the airport have to call a committee meeting to decide where they're going to plant flowers at the airport? I mean, Legislator Schneiderman, when he read some of the things that they were involved with, I think, skipped aesthetic improvements. It is just an all encompassing bill that could create trouble in managing the airport. I think the County Executive has reached out to the community, they've already had a meeting. Again, I can read you the people who on this advisory committee on quality of life issues. And we would ask that •• that this bill not be approved in its present state. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you. We have a motion to approve by Legislator Schneiderman, seconded by Legislator Alden. All in favor?

**LEG. COOPER:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion to table by Legislator Cooper.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

You need a second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Seconded by Legislator Foley. All in favor?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Against. Opposed to tabling.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Opposed to table.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Oppose to table.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

The tabling motion fails. We have, again, a motion to approve by Legislator Schneiderman, seconded by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed? 1722 is approved.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yes?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

The tabling had failed on 1722?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yes.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Okay. Just list me on the approval motion as opposing the approval.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. **APPROVED (VOTE:4•2•0•0) (Opposed; Legis. Cooper and Foley)**

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Secondly, I apologize for missing 1714. Could I be listed with the majority on that particular one?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Sure.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

We tabled it.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

We tabled that. Okay. **1737, approving the lease of premises located at Main street and Roanoke Avenue, Riverhead, New York, by Suffolk County Community College (CARACCIOLO)**

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion by myself •• oh. Motion by myself, second by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I have a quick question. Why wasn't this in Ways and Means, it's a lease?

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Because it's the college.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I guess because this is the college.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Ways and Means traditionally has the wherewith all and the people there that can answer a whole bunch of questions, technical questions on the lease.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Alden, I don't know the answer to that. It wasn't within

my ••

**LEG. ALDEN:**

All right. As Chairwoman then •• I would request that somebody be at the General Session to answer, you know, like, at least basic terms of the lease and who the principles would be and things like that.

**MR. GATTA:**

I can answer them now if you like.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I will talk to you after the meeting, because they want to get going with it a little bit faster.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

I will second the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Carpenter has already seconded it. 1737 has been **approved (VOTE:6•0•0•0)**.

**1749, appropriating funds to implement Out • of • County Tuition  
Payment Policy for Suffolk County Community College (COUNTY EXEC)**

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Motion.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion by Legislator Carpenter, seconded Legislator Foley. All in favor? Opposed? 1749 is **approved (VOTE:6•0•0•0)**.

**S.43, Sense of the Legislature resolution in support of the LIPA offshore wind energy park (COOPER).**

**LEG. COOPER:**

Motion to table.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion to table by Legislator Cooper, second by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Opposed?  
**Tabled (VOTE:6•0•0•0)**

**This meeting has been adjourned.**

***(\*The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 A.M.\*)***

***Legislator Lynne Nowick, Chairperson***

***Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy Committee***

***\\_ \\_ • Denotes Spelled Phonetically***