

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

Verbatim Transcript

A regular meeting of the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Wayne Horsley, Chairman
Legislator Steven Stern, Vice Chairman
Legislator Tom Cilmi
Legislator Ricardo Montano
Legislator Lynne Nowick

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Presiding Officer William Lindsay
George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson, Office of Counsel to the Legislature
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk, Suffolk County Legislature
Brian Galgano, Aide to Legislator Horsley
Bob Martinez, Aide to Legislator Montano
Greg Moran, Aide to Legislator Nowick
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Caucus
Deborah Harris, Aide to Legislator Stern
Ben Zwirn, County Executive's Office
Allen Kovesdy, County Executive's Office
Carolyn Fahey, Department of Economic Development
Moke McGowan, Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau
Mike Johnston, Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau
Tony Cotignola, Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau
Carol Ghiorsi Hart, Vanderbilt Museum
Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College
Drew Fawcett, Suffolk County Community College
Paul Cooper, Suffolk County Community College
John Lombardo, Suffolk County Community College
Michael Finamore, Gemini Pharmaceuticals
Kevin Harvey
Dot Kerrigan, AME
Other Interested Parties

Verbatim Transcript Taken By:

Lucia Braaten, Court Stenographer

[THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:04 P.M.]

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Welcome, everybody, to the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee meeting of May 5th, 2010. May we please all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance?

(*Salutation*)

And, please, may we all stand for a moment of silence for those men and women who protect our freedoms, both home and abroad.

(*Moment of Silence*)

All right. Good afternoon, everybody, and, again, welcome. We have several cards, and the first card that -- for the public portion would be from Moke McGowan, who would like to discuss 1366.

MR. MCGOWAN:

Good afternoon. And, again, I'm Moke McGowan, President of the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau, and I am here today in opposition of I.R. 1366.

I addressed this before the Legislature as a whole last week, and in appearing before the Legislature, I distributed a copy of the latest survey of New York State's Convention and Visitors Bureaus as it relates to their and our budget allocations. In short, the survey provided the look at how the LICVB compares to eleven other bureaus in the State in terms of budget allocations on administrative expenses and on programs. I'd like to again reiterate that in carrying out its mission, the Bureau is directly in line with standard business practices and acceptable budgetary allocations of bureaus throughout the State. On average, bureaus in New York State allocate about 54%, a little over 54% of their budget to administrative expenses. The Bureau -- the LICVB, however, allocates 50%. And on average, bureaus in the State allocate 45% of their budgets to marketing and sales programs, whereas we allocate 50%.

Now, while I address the critical importance of sales in generating corporate group business, that is meetings and conventions, I think it is essential to also acknowledge the importance of knowledgeable, experienced and professional staff in effectively marketing Long Island and Suffolk County as a leisure travel destination. Last year, our Public Relations Department, for instance, provided direct assistance to 56 travel journalists and generated 61 stories about Suffolk County and its tourism assets in such off-Island media as the Chicago Tribune, Philadelphia Magazine, Baltimore Sun, the Washington Post, U.S.A. Today and others. All tolled, stories about Jackson Pollack, fishing off Montauk, our vineyards, our beaches, and pet-friendly destinations reached over 26.7 million readers.

And in September of last year, the Bureau's marketing staff launched our Face Book page and immediately began developing a base of fan support through engaging dialogue of specific niche products and activities from cultural and heritage to nature-based and recreational. And through this effective use of social media, we drive direct traffic to our primary website, which, as we have provided information on, has demonstrated significant influence travel decisions. Last year we celebrated a milestone of sorts when our Face Book page topped 100,000 fans, just to give you a perspective. We launched that in September of last year. In October of last year, "I Love New York" launched their face book page. To date, they enjoy 18,000 fans.

As I said before, our most important asset is our human resources, and any reduction in this valuable resource will greatly diminish the Bureau's ability to provide a quality return on the County's investment in tourism. And, again, for these reasons, we greatly oppose I.R. 1366.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Moke, and we appreciate your comments. All right. I'd like to call upon Mike

Johnston, also concerning Resolution 1366.

MR. JOHNSTON:

Good afternoon. I also have prepared a statement. I am Mike Johnston, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau and President of the Long Island Hospitality Team, which is a lodging consulting company on Long Island. I'm here today to oppose I.R. 1366 as legislation that would cripple the Bureau's ability to have an impact on generating the incremental view of business our tourism industry so desperately needs. I would ask you to remember that the LICVB is not for-profit professional service association and not a charity or charitable service provider. The Bureau's mission and focus is to generate direct tourism business. This is not a function that can be carried out effectively by volunteers or nonprofessionals.

As a member of the Bureau's Executive Committee, I review the Bureau's monthly productivity reports in sales, advertising, public relations and internet activity, and I can tell you that we have one of the most professional organizations and staff in the industry, and I've had the opportunity to work in approximately 11 different cities and states with other tourism boards, and Moke and his team are second to none. I can tell -- also tell you that many, if not most of the staff are compensated well below their colleagues in the corporate lodging side of our business. Advertising alone won't generate the level of visitations we need to rebuild and grow our tourism. We need the expertise of the Bureau's marketing and sales professionals to carry out a multitude of programs. Make no mistake, this legislation would do the very opposite of what is needed and claims and I urge you to vote against it.

Finally, regarding a different resolution, if I may, I would also urge you to again reiterate our Board's complete opposition to I.R. 1190. Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. The last card that I have is Tony Cotignola, also concerning 1366.

MR. COTIGNOLA:

Hi. My name is Tony Cotignola. I'm the Director of Sales and Marketing at the Southampton Inn. I'm here to support the LICVB. I work with them on a daily basis. Just some examples of what they've done for us at the property is the international market, it was a market that I had never gotten into. Two years ago I started working with Isabelle. We have now increased international over 300% year-to-date. Also, in the film industry, the same Isabelle, actually one of the sales managers, gave us a lead for duplicity productions. They are now staying at the hotel this week or this month, ten nights with 65 rooms. I just wanted to, you know, just to say that they are an extension of our sales team, and without them, we wouldn't have the coverage that we have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Sixty-five rooms sounds good. Moke, could I ask you to step up here just for a second? Legislator Montano has a quick question.

MR. MCGOWAN:

Of course.

LEG. MONTANO:

Good afternoon. I think we have a meeting scheduled, is that correct, in my office.

MR. MCGOWAN:

We're working to get that --

LEG. MONTANO:

That's not the question, but, I mean, now that you're here.

MR. MCGOWAN:

Yeah, we're working to get that scheduled.

LEG. MONTANO:

No. Do we have one scheduled or not?

MR. MCGOWAN:

Not as yet.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. 1366, the only thing I'm reading in there is that -- and you may have been asked this before, the administrative cost shall not exceed 20%?

MR. MCGOWAN:

That is the way the legislation reads, putting a cap on the administrator expense.

LEG. MONTANO:

What are the administrative costs now existing?

MR. MCGOWAN:

Our administrative costs, of course, is personnel.

LEG. MONTANO:

No, but I mean percentage.

MR. MCGOWAN:

Pardon me?

LEG. MONTANO:

The percentage of the administrative cost to your overall budget.

MR. MCGOWAN:

Currently, 42% of our overall budget is personnel costs, 8% is rent, overhead and other office expenses. So that would be 50% to overall administrative expenses.

LEG. MONTANO:

Now, there generally is a rule of thumb with respect to not-for-profits. I think there's -- I think it's in the Pennies for Charities publication by the Attorney General that sets a recommended standard of administrative costs to budget. Why is it that your program is at the 50% mark as opposed to a lot of the other agencies? Could you just briefly -- and I don't want to -- you know, we can do this another time in depth, but just briefly, why is --

MR. MCGOWAN:

I think the primary difference is that with an organization such as ours, we are a revenue-generating organization, and that does take a level of expertise and professionalism to be able to carry through. It also is in line with what the marketplace demands, that is as far as the level of personnel professionalism. As opposed to being a service provider, as opposed to being a charity, we are certainly nonprofit, but we are a 501(c)(6), which is a professional business association.

MR. MONTANO:

Okay. I didn't realize that. All right, 501(c)(6).

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay?

MR. MONTANO:

Yeah, thank you.

MR. MCGOWAN:

Thank you, Legislator. I'll look forward to our get-together.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Excuse me one second, Moke, one more. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. It's not a question for Moke, but for our Counsel, a bit along the -- it's a related question and on this bill.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay, relate away.

LEG. STERN:

The LICVB is currently not included within the type of organizations that needs to comply with this 20% administrative overhead threshold and I wanted to ask Counsel why that is.

MR. NOLAN:

Well, the law we have on the books basically says for the covered contract agencies that have administrative expenses higher than 20%, they cannot receive funding from the County unless it's done so by a stand-alone legislative resolution with a two-thirds vote. However, the LICVB just is not covered by the definition of that law, it applies to contract agencies that render human services directly to Suffolk County residents. So that's why LICVB is not covered by that law presently.

LEG. STERN:

Okay. Thank you.

LEG. MONTANO:

Can I follow-up with that? George, does their designation as a 501(c)(6), as opposed to a (c)(3), take them out of that coverage also?

MR. NOLAN:

No, I don't think that would take them out, no.

MR. MONTANO:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay? Thank you again -- very much again, Moke, for that. All righty. If I may, I understand that Carolyn Fahey has several corporate members of -- that are here from Gemini Pharmaceuticals. And I thought I'd like to take Introductory Resolution 1500 out of order, if I may. I'll make that motion. Can I have a second on that motion?

MR. MONTANO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Second by Legislator Montano. It is now -- we will now hear 1500, Introductory Resolution, Local Law amending the Suffolk County Empire Zone boundaries to include Gemini Pharmaceuticals, Incorporated. And, Carolyn, why don't you introduce us to the Gemini group.

MS. FAHEY:

Good afternoon. I.R. 1500 amends our Empire Zone boundaries to include Gemini Pharmaceuticals, located in two buildings, 87 Modular Avenue and 65 Mall Court in Commack. Gemini is a manufacturer of vitamins, nutraceuticals, and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals. They currently employ 118 people and will grow to over 168 within the next three years. They will increase their annual payroll by a million-point-seven after the three years based upon this designation. The project includes five million dollars worth of investment in equipment and renovations to their existing facilities.

As have the other pharmaceutical companies that have come before you in the past looking for Empire Zone designation, Gemini also has been targeted by some very aggressive attraction programs from other states, including Florida and Pennsylvania. One of the -- if this designation is received, they will sever a contract with a company in New Jersey and bring that process in-house into Commack, helping to create those additional 50 jobs.

With me today is Mike Finamore, who I believe is the CEO of the company for any specific questions.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Carolyn, can I just ask a quick one on -- to you? We have seen now a number of pharmaceuticals and we know that there are a number of other pharmaceuticals throughout Suffolk County. Are we in any way coming upon a position for marketing purposes that we're creating a cluster here in Suffolk County? I mean, I haven't seen anything talked about it as such, but, I mean, are we getting to that point, in your professional opinion?

MS. FAHEY:

We don't market specifically to the pharmaceutical industry. They're an industry that can remain here because they're a low energy user, compared to the traditional manufacturing businesses, so it's a little bit easier for us to retain them. We're not out there doing specific marketing. We have targeted them a few years ago with some retention letters. But this program's very unique in that it offers a lot of incentive for those type of companies to remain here.

As you know, the Empire Zone Program is going to expire at the end of June, so I think those that haven't taken advantage of it, who are aware of it, who haven't taken advantage of it are now realizing it's time to.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Is it time that we start taking a look at the marketing possibilities for pharmaceuticals, you know --

MS. FAHEY:

Well, like said, we have in the past.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

-- "Home of pharmaceuticals, come to Long Island."

MS. FAHEY:

We can look at that sure.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

What do you think, Gemini, you got some friends?

MS. FAHEY:

We have a marketing budget that's --

LEG. BROWNING:

Friendly competitors.

MS. FAHEY:

Friends and competitors, right.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes. Carolyn -- do you have a question of Carolyn or the representatives?

LEG. MONTANO:

Carolyn.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Carolyn, well, Legislator Montano has a quick question.

LEG. MONTANO:

Good afternoon, Carolyn. How are you.

MS. FAHEY:

Hi.

LEG. MONTANO:

Carolyn, we've been here before on this legislation, and it seems to me that most of -- maybe my memory is fading, but most of the ones that we have been doing have been amending the boundaries of the Empire Zone to include different companies. Do you have a -- what's the proportion between those businesses that we are putting in the Empire Zones? And I'm trying to look up the Local Law 2003, and also the 2009, which defines the Empire Zones, right? There are certain designated areas; am I correct?

MS. FAHEY:

There's two types of Empire Zone, one is what we consider the zone proper. Every Empire Zone is designated with twelve hundred and eighty acres that the local jurisdiction can break up into a maximum of seven noncontiguous areas.

MR. MONTANO:

Okay.

MS. FAHEY:

And that's downtown Riverhead, Calverton, Westhampton, the Gabreski Airport, Wyandanch has 25 acres. Canon was, I think, our seventh zone, and we have three in downtown Riverhead in different areas for specific attractions. So we have -- seven is the maximum, and we do have seven proper empire zones. What you have in front of you now is the regionally significant project designation.

MR. MONTANO:

Right. No, I understand that.

MS. FAHEY:

Right, which is separate and distinction from that.

LEG. MONTANO:

So the seven zones, I actually only counted six when you were saying it, but I'm not --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Wyandanch.

MR. MONTANO:

No, she mentioned Wyandanch.

MS. FAHEY:

Do you want the seven?

LEG. MONTANO:

No.

MS. FAHEY:

I'll lose them if I don't --

MR. MONTANO:

No, no, don't. I know that. I'll get that later from the definition. My question is, though, how many of these businesses that we are approving for -- under this -- and I know that these are under the regional program, but what I'm trying to do is get a proportion between those that are included in an Empire Zone that's already designated and those that are regional. Do you understand my question?

MS. FAHEY:

If your question is how many are in -- how many certified businesses are in our --

LEG. MONTANO:

How many other businesses are going into those designated zones? And I assume that those designated zones are designated to do economic development there.

MS. FAHEY:

Correct.

LEG. MONTANO:

And then the other category is the regional designation, which tells me that it's significant to Suffolk County as a whole. So what I'm asking is do you have a sense -- do you have a sense of how many of these projects are actually going into the designated zones versus the regional; is it a 50-50 split, is it a mandated split, is it an 80/20 split, is it 100/0? That's what I'm asking you.

MS. FAHEY:

There's no mandated split.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay.

MS. FAHEY:

If a company can move into a zone proper, they need to move into a zone proper. In order for a company to come to you for regionally significant project designation, they have to argue with New York State why they didn't move into one of those zone proper.

MR. MONTANO:

All right.

MS. FAHEY:

As for the split, I don't know. My gut's going to tell me 70/30 --

MR. MONTANO:

Which way?

MS. FAHEY:

75/25.

MR. MONTANO:

Seventy/thirty regional?

MS. FAHEY:

No.

MR. MONTANO:

Thirty local?

MS. FAHEY:

No. Seventy percent of our certified businesses are most likely, I would say, in the zone proper.

LEG. MONTANO:

Within the zones?

MS. FAHEY:

That's just a guess. I can get you that number.

MR. MONTANO:

Okay. Would you get it for me?

MS. FAHEY:

Yeah, because, keep mind, Calverton has about eleven hundred acres. There are a lot of businesses in the Calverton Empire Zone, all of downtown Riverhead. It doesn't mean that they're all certified businesses, but downtown Riverhead has some. So I can get you that number.

MR. MONTANO:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All righty. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Mr. Chairman, I know that Carolyn is speaking as part of public portion, right? But --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

No, it's not -- this is part of -- we're discussing the actual bill itself.

LEG. STERN:

Oh, is that right?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

So then I'll --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We took it out of order.

LEG. STERN:

Okay. Very good. Then I'll have questions and maybe questions --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

From the --

LEG. STERN:

I guess, maybe they could talk about the company and the makeup of the ownership and --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

True.

LEG. STERN:

-- the types of jobs that are coming, and the compensation for those jobs. I'd like to find all of that good stuff.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Be comfortable. You know, our house is your house. Welcome.

MR. FINAMORE:

Thank you.

LEG. STERN:

I was hoping maybe you can introduce yourselves and tell us a little bit about your company, and the size of your company, and the ownership makeup of the company, and what type of jobs we're talking about adding, and the time period, and the compensation, you know, for those types of positions.

MR. FINAMORE:

Certainly. Thank you. My name is Michael --

MS. ORTIZ:

No, it was on. That one stays on.

MR. FINAMORE:

Okay, thanks. Sorry, everyone. My name is Michael Finamore. I'm a principal at Gemini Pharmaceuticals. As mentioned earlier, we're a pharmaceutical manufacturer, located not too far from here over in the Commack Industrial Complex. We manufacture vitamins, nutraceuticals, OTC drugs, kind of everything you would see at a Walgreens or a store of that nature, all private label. It's a family-owned business. We've been in business for 28 years. My dad started the company 28 years ago. My brothers and I work there now. We're among the 118 workers that are there currently.

As you are probably well aware and as the case was made, it's increasingly difficult for companies such as us to compete, especially in manufacturing on Long Island, never mind there are a whole bunch of issues which, of course, you folks are probably more aware than I am. Nonetheless, we are committed to stay on Long Island. We have family here, we have roots here, we all grew up in Smithtown. This is a place we want to continue to stay, but in order to remain competitive, we need some assistance.

We're here today because, although we're in a growth position for my company, a lot of the processes we work with are outsourced, different manufacturing techniques that we need to stay competitive. And although we are growing in that nature, it's becoming increasingly aware to us that we could see the light at the end of the tunnel getting smaller. We need to either expand or we're not going to be around. And, unfortunately, it's becoming very, very expensive to transport stuff from Long Island, manufactured, then brought back to Long Island, so we're wishing to bring that all in-house, so to speak, and do it all right here, not too far away. So, along those lines, we purchased the building almost across the street from where our current building is, and we're trying to reconfigure our processes there. As we mentioned earlier, one of those processes involves taking a manufacturing -- I guess part of manufacturing and bringing it to Long Island, which is a very labor intensive process. I could get more technical if you folks would like, but I'm sure it would bore you to tears, but either way.

So there is something that we need to do immediately, and there are some things we're going to do over the next two to three years, which we're very confident will bring jobs to our area in particular. There's -- we are using the other building for warehousing, so this building where we are currently would be solely for manufacturing, and, as you could imagine, it's a pretty labor intensive process. And even for those processes that aren't so labor intensive, you do need a pretty highly educated workforce to operate this equipment, it's not just simple things. So we're very comfortable with -- you know, with our plan going forward and we hope you guys can offer us some support to keep us here.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

So the ownership of the company right now is a family-owned business?

MR. FINAMORE:

Yes, sir.

LEG. STERN:

And these jobs that are expected to come within, you know, two to three years, could you just briefly talk about the nature of those jobs?

MR. FINAMORE:

Sure. Well, I'm sure on some level there'll be some low level manufacturing jobs where your just working on an assembly line manufac. with some -- you know, some equipments. But, also, with these technologies we're speaking about, they are more sophisticated, which is why we weren't getting into them initially, where we had outsource partners who are more adept at doing that, or had a better, I guess, qualified workforce to do that. And, at the time, because of the, I guess, costs we were able to outsource it. Now we just can't do that anymore. I don't -- some of these jobs will involve a high degree of education. Certainly, they'll all involve some experience in some sort of engineering, whether it be a two-year degree, or, at -- you know, at least something out of high school where they do have an aptitude with working some processes. And, also, and more importantly, it's a lot of R and D work, where we're going to do a lot more stuff with chemistry, a lot more pharmacists. We do have our own laboratory, but that needs to expand, and not only for production purposes to, you know, can of verify and validate these existing processes, but also just to keep up with the general work we're doing.

A third issue, another corollary issue is, as you may be aware and probably saw on the news the last couple of days, the issue with Tylenol and all the issues over the last few years have been popping up. The FDA is really making us do more and more tests every day, so we see, again, an additional need for more qualified people in the pharmacy. So we see a pretty good scope of people being brought in, but, again, we're going to hopefully trend toward the higher educated and, I guess at that point, higher wage, that's the plan.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Thank you very much. You know that's -- it sounds great that, one, that you're a manufacturer on Long Island, aces, I don't have to think about this twice, but, secondly, that you find that it is less expensive to bring home a more complicated process to Long Island because of our workforce and the like. I wanted to also just extend to you that, you know, we have a wonderful Community College. Some of the members are here today. You know, that seems like there'd certainly be synergies between the two, as well as other colleges throughout Suffolk County. You know, we're here for you, and that's -- maybe we can make it less expensive for you.

MR. FINAMORE:

Thank you, and that's -- I appreciate that. Thank you. That's why we're here today, we

understand -- you know, we want to stay here. That's -- it's in our DNA, you know.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And the fact you live in Smithtown, Lynne loves that.

*(*Laughter*)*

MR. FINAMORE:

There we go. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That's great, thank you.

LEG. NOWICK:

Where in Smithtown?

MR. FINAMORE:

Well, I live in Nassau County now -- pretty bad -- but I grew up off of Landing Avenue. My brother lives in Saint James, my other brother lives in Nesconset. There we are, not too bad.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And he slips in "pretty bad".

MR. FINAMORE:

Not, not so bad. I apologize, not so bad. I love Smithtown.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Are there any further questions? Are we good? Is there anything else you'd like to add? Yes, Carolyn.

MS. FAHEY:

I would just -- as I started to explain before, this program expires, it sunsets on June 30th of this year. In order to get this company certified, the County -- after this Legislature passes it, the County Executive has to hold his Public Hearing. The certified resolutions have to be filed with New York State, and then the Zone Administration Board has to certify the company.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Got to do that by June.

MS. FAHEY:

In order to get all of that done so that they're certified by the end of June, we're asking that on Tuesday you consider this resolution through a CN, you'll hold your Public Hearing on Tuesday, and then it will be closed, and then at the end of your session on Tuesday, we're asking that you approve it through CN.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Sounds good to me. Mr. Presiding Officer, do you have any problems with that?

P.O. LINDSAY:

No.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

No? We're just jolly folks. We're looking to -- looking to help.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes to Smithtown.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes to Smithtown, Legislator Nowick says. Okay. Thank you very much for coming down today, and we want to wish you the best of luck. And anything we can do, we're the wind under your wings. Okay.

All right. I'm going to really quickly, because I've had a request from one of our Legislators that I do the agenda first, and the reason being that she's got to step out to -- for a doctor's appointment. So, if -- 1500 is already out of order, so we're going -- oh, I'm sorry, yes. And thank you very much.

Okay. I'll make a motion to table for Public Hearing on the ***1500 (A Local Law amending the Suffolk County Empire Zone Boundaries to include Gemini Pharmaceuticals, Inc.) (Co. Exec.)***.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. ***(VOTE: Tabled for Public Hearing 6-0-0-0)*** Thank you, Counsel.

TABLED PRIME

Okay. Tabled Prime.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I was going to take 1491 out of order, but there's only two.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I'll go real quick. ***1147 - Dedicating the revenue generated by the County's lease with Eastern Long Island Solar Project (Romaine)***. I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. ***(VOTE: Tabled 6-0-0-0)***

1190 - A Local Law to strengthen tourism promotion in Suffolk County (Schneiderman). I have a note here from the sponsor indicating that he is looking to table this go-round.

LEG. NOWICK:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to table by Legislator Nowick, I'll second the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. ***(VOTE: Tabled 6-0-0-0)***.

1303 - To appoint Lyn Boland as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts (Viloria-Fisher). I understand Lynn is here; is that correct? No, yes? I'm waiting for action.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to table by Legislator Lindsay, I'll second the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. *(VOTE: Tabled 6-0-0-0)*

1366 - A Local Law to maximize promotion of tourism in Suffolk County (Schneiderman). I also have a note from the sponsor asking to table this as well. Legislator Nowick says that she'd like to table this, I'll second the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. *(VOTE: Tabled 6-0-0-0)*

Now, that leaves *1491, right, Appointing member to the Local Home Energy Efficiency Task Force (Kevin Harvey) (Viloria-Fisher). Do I have a motion on this?*

P.O. LINDSAY:

I'll make a motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to approve by Legislator Lindsay, seconded by Legislator Stern. All those in favor?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Wait, wait, wait. Mr. Harvey's in the back. He's been waiting to be interviewed.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Oh, I am so sorry.

P.O. LINDSAY:

At least say hello to him.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Let me say hello to Kevin Harvey. Kevin, would you like to come on up? I'm sorry, my apologies. Kevin, welcome. My apologies. I didn't realize you were going to be speaking on this.

MR. HARVEY:

No, that's fine. I was hiding in the back for a reason. I was hoping you wouldn't see me, but that's fine. I'm only teasing.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Mr. Lindsay has eyes that are all knowing. Please, your comments.

MR. HARVEY:

Yes. I consider this -- if I could just speak, I consider this to be a very privileged appointment. I do have some background in the construction field for over 39 years with Local 25 IBEW. I also have a couple of items -- excuse me. I also have a couple of items on a list of things that we have been involved with with Local 25 that may help to support my appointment to this position. We've been active in a lot of energy projects on Long Island, specifically a lot of the renewable energies, a ton of photovoltaic projects, more commercial than residential, but they include Sayville Library, Suffolk County's Fourth Police Precinct, the Advanced Energy, Research and Technology Center in Stony Brook. We're involved with a bunch of signatory contractors with Johnson and Honeywell Controls, doing energy management retrofits at a number of the school districts and the fire departments. We also are involved with a number of ESCO, Energy Service Companies, that are looking to make the systems more affordable and more user friendly. And we've -- our programs and the local union have also generated about 400 qualified photovoltaic people who are skilled set in the ability to do photovoltaic work. And we are also actively pursuing conversations with BP Solar and an ESCO regarding their projects on Long Island.

So I think, you know, a lot of those project were in my neighborhood, were in my jurisdiction. I was able to cover them and work with some of the people in the field, so I feel I could contribute

something to this particular program.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I could well see that. Are there any questions of Kevin? Okay. Thank you very much. Are you getting -- you know, I have meetings with Action Long Island and others regularly about this topic, you know, how do we get the solar energy field moving as far as new corporations coming in, and manufacturers of solar panels, and all this talk. Are we getting there? What's your opinion, Kevin. I know it's off topic here, but --

MR. HARVEY:

I do think that it's moving in the right direction. The incentives are in place. It seems it's been a slow process, but as more and more of these incentives awards come in and the tax rebates and -- you know, it becomes more of a position of benefit. I think more of these companies are going to lean towards it. As a matter of fact, with the Canon opening, I believe that is a gold LEED certified building, of which I think the entire rooftop is photovoltaic in nature, very system driven to be environmentally friendly. So more projects like that that get on the drawing board, that get a lot of publicity only helps the cause. So I think it's moving in the right direction. It's been a slow process, we're not going to get there overnight, but I think we're taking the right steps.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Kevin, we appreciate it. And are there any further questions from the Legislators? If not, I'll make a motion to -- do we have a motion?

MR. NOLAN:

Yeah, we have a motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Do we have a motion?

MR. NOLAN:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. There's a motion to approve. All those in -- and seconded, right?

MR. NOLAN:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. Congratulations, and thank you very much for your time and effort for Suffolk County.

MR. HARVEY:

Okay. Thank you. Have a good day.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. What we'll do now is we'll move to our presentation with -- speaking of green initiatives, Suffolk Community College wants to advise us on what they're doing green, and where we're going, and how important the movement is to the College.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Mr. President.

DR. MCKAY:

Good afternoon, Dr. Horsley, and to the Legislature. It is a pleasure to be here with you today. I brought with me some of my colleagues, Paul Cooper, College Engineer, Drew Fawcett and John

Lombardo.

Over the last 50 years at Suffolk County Community College -- we've been before you over the last 50 years and we're here with you again today. One special point of notice, that we'll be graduating -- 100,000 thousand graduate at this session coming up on the 23rd. I look forward to seeing each of you there as well.

It's a significant time in the history of college and we felt that we needed to bring you up to date on the Green and sustainable programs that are happening at the college, some of our plans going forward, and we wanted to show you a few of those interesting areas that we're going into, as well as those that are planned for the future.

At the College, we have what we call Regional Sustainability Initiative Consortium. It is a College-wide committee that investigate current efforts in classroom, in the labs, plant maintenance, in fleet management, energy resources management. They have developed specific goals and objectives to position the College as a Green leader in the community. We partner with business and industry, and our plan is to partner with high schools, colleges and universities as well.

Green technologies are labor intensive and they create more jobs per dollar of investment. Clean energy investments create three times more employment opportunities for college graduates. It uses primarily local resources, so more energy dollars can be kept right here in the County. A report conducted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2008 said that the New York, Long Island, Northern New Jersey area for Green jobs, in 2006 there were only 25,000. It is projected that by 2038, there will be 197,000 jobs available in this sector, and it ranked first of the top 100 current and potential Green jobs by the Metro area nationally.

SCCC is now looking into this area in regards to new programs and services. Under ARRA-funded, the New York State Department of Labor grant, we have \$160,000 we just received to train 150 workers; LEED Green Associate programs, Solar/Photovoltaic programs, Installation programs, Energy Rater programs.

We just submitted on 4/29 a 1.8 million dollar grant to U.S. Department of Labor. That would enable us to expand that program by 250 additional trainees right here in Suffolk County. We are partnering with United Way currently for a one million dollar weatherization grant that is currently at the College and in place. The Green Technology Workforce Initiative of Brentwood community, that's a \$200,000 grant from Congressman Israel that we have in place at the College.

MR. LOMBARDO:

I just wanted to add to this particular slide that the 1.8 million dollar grant, Federal Department of Labor, Educational and Training grant, is geared toward training in the priorities of weatherization, solar energy, both photovoltaic and heat sourced, and energy assessment. The partnership with United Way allows us to take their Youth Build students and give them what's called the stackable credentials. So they'll get initial training in the areas of weatherization, but then in order for them to move up the ladder in terms of this job category, they will also be trained additionally in some mathematics knowledge and use of infrared devices for measuring heat and heat transfer, so we can quantify the weatherization projects and wind up with an analysis that said we've achieved an R-31 and the students will know how to prove it.

So the Federal Department of Labor grants are very specific in terms of their training outcomes, and we are currently involved with many different sources on Long Island to determine what those job needs are and in what priority. Thank you.

DR. MCKAY:

More than 25 existing courses at the College has "Green" content embedded throughout the instructional design. We also have AN Environmental Science Degree Program currently at the College.

MR. COOPER:

Many of our buildings are 30 to 50 years old and have antiquated equipment. This slide shows a 45-year-old boiler, which, obviously, is much less efficient than a modern boiler.

DR. MCKAY:

At the College we also include the students in the Green approach at the College as well. We believe in promoting environmental conservation and protection among student population and in the community. Promoting conservation and efficiency also encourages students to make adjustments throughout the community as well.

As an institution of higher education, we are uniquely positioned to inform and to motivate over 33,000 students representing varied demographic populations attend the College and they represent your local districts.

Students and faculty have increasing interest and participation in these environmental activities. They are all talking about paperless programs, online communications, reducing publications, digital enhancement at the College as well, looking at paper and ink-jet cartridge and recycling as well.

The students every year have an environmental week where Earth Day and Earth Week celebrations are taking place at the College, and they have tree-planting sessions where faculty, staff and students are involved in that day as well. Here we have students and faculty and staff who just participated in the most recent environmental campus on the campus, and as you can see from the picture in the backdrop, those are all faculty, students and staff.

With increased competition for funding from governmental sources, many planned environmental projects may be eliminated or delayed. Grant sources explored and identified for alternate funding, we have done that with great success.

Now we're going to move into conservation. At the College, we are moving to where all our new buildings will be LEED designed buildings on each of the campuses. We recently saw the Workforce Technology Building at Grant; that's a LEED certified building. Out at the East Campus, the Montaukett Learning Resource Center, I was recently at the ground-breaking session, that's also a LEED certified building. The new design, Science and Technology Building at Ammerman under design right now, that would also be a LEED-designed building.

The capital funding from County and State also will help us towards the LEED designed buildings. We can optimize energy performance. We're going to look at solar-photovoltaic panels for electric generation. All will be on those buildings as well.

Computerized building automated system for heating and ventilation. The New York Power Authority grant, which I'll talk about in a few minutes, also allows us to be able to automate all of our systems on the -- even the 40 and 50-year-old buildings. Daylight harvesting, reducing need for indoor light generation, adjusts to outdoor lighting panels, that would be on a new being that we're going to propose. Later on in the presentation I'll speak on that as well. The new LEED-designed SCCC buildings on each campus will include light sensors in libraries and classrooms, photovoltaics on the Smithtown Science Building, and we're even getting Greener.

2007, the Smart Growth Award from Vision Long Island for downtown education centers in Riverhead and Sayville, and we also looked at establishing, in accordance with Suffolk County Smart Growth Policy, to make sure that what we do is in alignment with a Smart Growth Policy. We're reusing existing developed properties, in-fill development within previously developed areas. We are preserving open space. We are looking for convenient public transportation. We're revitalizing any distressed areas, and we're going to work with the downtown locations. We're looking for pedestrian-friendly locations as well.

Now, let's talk a little bit about our campus improvements from alternative sources. We recently had a New York Power Authority grant in 2004 for 4 million dollars. The annualized savings on that grant was \$317,000. The cost that we avoided was over one million dollars. The energy management system that we had from that grant enabled us to use variable speed drives, efficiency motor upgrades, occupancy lighting. Just a few weeks ago we had a press conference with New York Power Authority where we received a five point five million dollar award. That would also now give us another annualized savings of \$311,000 per year, cost avoided, another one million, and removes 1,355 tons of greenhouse gas annually. Vending machine controls, demand control ventilation, pool cover and time-of-day savings will also be benefits from this grant as well.

Currently, we've designed and built a Regional manufacturing renewable energy center proposal that we're seeking Federal funding for, and also funding from a local agency as well. We are moving along well on development and project design, and that proposal should be ready to go to those two agencies shortly. We've been told that from those two agencies, we'll get at least 6.5 million dollars from each agency that may potentially be a 13 million dollar Green building at the College. Once the building is constructed, you will have electric generation, geothermal and heat pump technology. And, John, you have a few more?

MR. LOMBARDO:

Yeah. The facility will actually be a total learning center for Green energy. We'll include a smart house that will be on a railroad car, so that under certain environmental conditions, the house will be wheeled outside of the building, so like a big quonset hut with large doors, the house comes outside. We'll be looking at solar energy training and the diagnostics and the trouble shooting for solar. We're going to be looking into the smart meter technology as that is adopted by LIPA, and this will integrate solar, both PV, and water and wind and geothermal. And we do at this point have sources for a small wind turbine that could be designed residentially, and looking at geothermal units that will integrate with the current workforce development center where we have our heating and ventilating labs.

It's our expectations that this facility will include rainwater recovery, solar water heating, smart control systems, and wind turbine technology. The assessment site of this, the building as a learning center will enable us to study energy usage, energy management, and ultimately the assessment of all of these multi-modalities.

DR. MCKAY:

Recently we received a grant of 675,000 for the Stimulus funding that enabled to retrofit 20 to 30-year-old water-using fixtures college-wide. That would enable us to save 77 million gallons of water over the next ten years. Energy efficiency measures at sewage treatment plants at the college would also be able to be upgraded. Through NYSERDA, we were able to get \$186,000 in Stimulus funding to retrofit and recommission and repair current and existing HVAC control systems in 22 buildings throughout the College. It provided staff also at the College with new training, being able to manage the new systems. NYSERDA, also we got a \$244,000 grant through Stimulus funding to install five high energy efficiency condensing boilers throughout the campus as well. Equipment donations through regional partnerships and businesses and organizations has occurred this past year.

That pretty much presents where we are today. Once we have that new building, hopefully, we'll get funding for that building, that presents the next level of where we're headed in this area, and we'll take any questions that you have at this point.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All righty. Thank you very much. And that was very enlightening. Are there any questions from the Legislature? Okay, good. Rick, would you like any questions?

MR. MONTANO:

No, good to go.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay.

LEG. MONTANO:

Very good.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

The house that -- the training house, was that a learning center? Did you call that -- what was the name of that?

MR. LOMBARDO:

It's called the Smart House.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Smart House, okay. And that's going to be on railroad track, is that -- how is this thing going to work?

MR. LOMBARDO:

The Smart House is designed to be on a flat bed that has railroad tracks and wheels beneath it. That enables you to avoid having to have two separate facilities. It's integrated within the training center, and then it's external to the training center for certain weatherization projects and assessments.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And where would this be headquartered? I mean, is that the --

MR. LOMBARDO:

It would be headquartered at the Grant Campus --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Oh, nice, near the workforce.

MR. LOMBARDO:

-- at the Renewable Energy Building, right next to the Workforce Center.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And that's where the geothermal's going to go.

MR. LOMBARDO:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. I'm trying to -- just trying to -- trying to figure out how you're going to have this thing on wheels and stuff like that.

MR. LOMBARDO:

The design --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Then have geothermal, and I'm saying, "Well, how does that work?"

MR. LOMBARDO:

The design is to have it right next to the building. The geothermal units would be adjacent to the

Workforce Development Training Center --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
Right.

MR. LOMBARDO:
-- to interface with the smart metering system.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
The LIPA smart --

MR. LOMBARDO:
The Building Management System we have right now.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
Got it, okay, which I'm familiar with. They're doing their tests on the 110 now and a couple of other locations and -- which should be interesting, because those -- I'm sure you're involved with a lot of the training of their employees, and stuff like that, or will be in the future. That's interesting.

Did you guys hear anything about -- there was a major grant proposal that came from Long Island that involved a number of some towns and the like? And I was wondering, was the College involved with it? It seemed like there was like 250 million dollars coming from the Federal Government, and ten NYSEDA scooped in and took it for the State? Are you guys familiar with that? I was just curious since you guys are Green guys.

MR. LOMBARDO:
We were -- thanks. We've been called a lot of things lately, Green -- actually --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
Green is good.

MR. LOMBARDO:
Green is good. We were on the early stages of doing some research on that project. I think it was Green homes, Green jobs, and it was --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
Right, that's it.

MR. LOMBARDO:
-- to be shared by all of the municipalities, and it just stopped.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
And it just stopped.

MR. LOMBARDO:
Stopped.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
Was that a State -- what was that? Apparently, we had the better applications here on Long Island, and all these -- I heard so many things with recommendations, and then the State didn't have any recommendations and they got it. We're just wondering what caused that.

MR. LOMBARDO:
Can't answer that.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I was interested in that, I was anyway.

DR. MCKAY:

Just on the record now, also, we've submitted major Federal requests through the State University of New York where all 64 campuses submitted these type of projects --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay.

DR. MCKAY:

To seek funding as well, and that was submitted to Washington, so we don't know where that is as well in the process. But we're always looking for alternate ways of seeking funding for these type of projects.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And I appreciate that. And, obviously, it pays off, because it looks like you guys are really coming up with a program, and it is a program that is not funded necessarily from the County, and that's -- you know, frankly, in these hard times, that's good stuff.

Again, any questions from any of our Legislators? All right. And thank you very much for the update. We do appreciate it. And I understand, Doctor, we'll be getting into the budget issues fairly soon or --

DR. MCKAY:

Absolutely, absolutely.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yeah.

DR. MCKAY:

I look forward to that discussion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Me, too. I think we're doing it through the committee, is what I'm understanding, so --

DR. MCKAY:

Yes, yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We would have to chat beforehand and see where --

DR. MCKAY:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Get all the guidelines --

DR. MCKAY:

Okay, will do.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

-- for both of us.

DR. MCKAY:

Will do.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay, thanks.

DR. MCKAY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. Meeting adjourned.

[THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:55 P.M.]