

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, May 6, 2011.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Wayne Horsley - Chairman
Legislator Steve Stern - Vice-Chair
Legislator Thomas Cilmi
Legislator Ricardo Montano
Legislator Lynne Nowick
Presiding Officer William Lindsay - Ex Officio Member

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Joe Schroeder - Budget Review Office
Joe Muncey - Budget Review Office
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Eric Kopp - County Executive's Office
Carolyn Fahey - Economic Development
Paul Perillie - Aide to Majority Caucus
Bob Martinez - Aide to Legislator Montano
JP DiMartino - Aide to Chairman Horsley
Dot Kerrigan - AME
John Coraor - Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board
George Pezold - Huntington Choral Society
Corrieann Young
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Denise Weaver - Legislative Aide

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:03 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

May everyone please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Salutation)

May we all stand for a moment of silence to honor our men and women who protect our freedom overseas. All right.

(Moment of Silence)

All right. Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to the May 4th Economic Development and Higher Education and Energy Committee meeting; EEE. And we do not have a set presentation, except to talk to our nominee for the Suffolk County Poet Laureate position, which is -- recently fell vacant due to it's term. And maybe what we'll do is we'll have Mr. Stever come on up. Is he in?

Hi, Mr. Stever. Welcome. When I looked at your resume, by the way, his resume is included in the packet that you have in front of you and we have a list of all your writings, and they are impressive. But I think -- I said, "Well, yeah, he's the -- you know, he's the postman -- the postman poet. And I thought that was -- I thought that was great in combining two different -- very different issues. That makes sense.

Mr. Stever, welcome. And why don't you just tell a little bit about yourself and what you had planned to do as Poet Laureate of Suffolk County.

MR. STEVER:

Sure. Well, first of all, I worked for the government. I've worked for the Postal Service for 29 years and two months. And I teach as a professor at Suffolk County Community College since 1999. And -- which I would like to add is one of the best community colleges, I think, in the country. It's a wonderful place to work. And I was educated there also. I graduated there from the Honors Program with 4.0 and with highest distinction. And from there I went on to SUNY Empire, I got my B.A. and I completed my M.A. there in Liberal Studies. So I've been through the system here and I real enjoyed it, and it was very, very important for me, I think.

I actually worked for the Postal Service, it afforded me some great opportunities. I was able to -- my wife also worked for the Postal Service. And for 15 years. I went half-time to school to get my education. And during that time, my wife and I worked different shifts so we could take care of the children and not have to shuffle them off to a babysitter, so that was a good opportunity also. But, you know, it was 15 years, but it was a long hard struggle and it paid off.

As far as what I intend to do with poetry, one of my main objectives is to make poetry more accessible. I think people have this assumption that poetry either is like the Hallmark Cards; roses are red, violets are blue or it's too abstract to even comprehend.

So, I'm also an actor so I have a group that I call the Poetry Theater Ensemble. We've worked together over the years. And part of what I want to do is to go out into community and to try and bring people in to the idea that poetry is something that is accessible and, is not -- more simpleminded. And with that, also, Tammy Nuzzo-Morgan, who is the current one, Poet Laureate, she just asked me to be the Poet-in-Residence at the new Long Island Poetry Archive. So I may be working over there and doing things with her and doing workshops and doing readings. So those are some of the plans that I have for the future.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Well, that's a -- that sounds terrific. I have a daughter-in-law who's a poet and -- I won't even go

into it. But my son's an artist, and the two together, I don't know how they're going to survive, but they're -- it's a constant worry to me, but they are very educated; both of them.

MR. STEVER:

There's not a lot of money in poetry. You have to love it to do it.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

There you go. Are there any further questions of Mr. Stever? Yeah, it's voluminous and impressive. Anybody? Mr. Lindsay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Mr. Stever, some of the topics of your poems are intriguing. And I think we should really subscribe to them here because we could probably, you know, Cirrhosis of the Poet, While Examining Your Sausage, Lost in Vegas; a lot of these things -- Sword in the Scalpel, probably Budget Review could use that, you know. Very interesting, very interesting. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Doctor's Inferno. I thought that was across the street.

MR. STEVER:

Well, you know, the poem, for instance, Cirrhosis of the Poet, was -- was about a poem, Charles Bukowski, who wrote a lot about drinking and his art coming from drinking. And what I did more or less was to lambaste him in that poem, because I didn't think that inspiration comes out of a bottle or a can.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Want to wait till we get to the bill?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We're getting a cry for -- to hear one of your poems. And I said, boy, to put someone on the spot like that is not fair.

LEG. MONTANO:

See, he was ready, he's got it right in his pocket.

(*Laughter*)

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You're the man.

MR. STEVER:

A poet always has a poem in his pocket.

LEG. MONTANO:

Can you make one up about the finances of the County now?

MR. STEVER:

Not if I'm smart.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Please, feel free.

MR. STEVER:

This poem is called *The Shuttle Home*. *We glide across the nightside of earth as the cargo bay doors give birth to the crowning planet. Millions of stars dot the continental darkness attempting to eclipse the billions encircling them. As the sun wheels slowly around the curve of tomorrow, I watch morning line consume the planet. Fire crawling across a crystal blue ball. Through cloudscape, I see shimmering scales of water, brown and okra flatland and mountains. The sharp incision of coastline. I gaze up through the visor of my helmet and down onto the coast of California so near I wish to caress it. Then out across the vast bleakness of this solar neighborhood and whisper, home; it is all home.*

So that's one example.

*(*Applause*)*

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you. You're hired.

MR. STEVER:

Thank you. Thank you very much. I have another one.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay.

MR. STEVER:

It's called, *How I Became Suffolk County Poet Laureate*. *The former one asked me if I'd like the job. I said, how much is it? She said, nothing. I said, I'll take it.*

*(*Laughter*)*

I heard it was a good paying job.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Are there any further questions of Mr. Stever?

LEG. MONTANO:

No. Can we get a motion to move this bill up?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yeah, absolutely. Why don't you make that?

LEG. MONTANO:

Make a motion to take the bill out -- Bill Number 1377 out of order.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. Any question on the -- oh, that'll take it out of order.

LEG. MONTANO:

We just want to take it out of order first.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You'd like to make the motion?

LEG. MONTANO:

No, I made it. We second it.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay, yes. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. Now that we have it out of order I'll be glad to make the motion to approve the motion, seconded by Legislator Cilmi. Anything on the motion? All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0).**

Congratulations, Mr. Stever. You don't have to show up on Tuesday. You're welcome to, but -- congratulations, though. Thank you for your services.

MR. STEVER:

Okay, thank you very much. I appreciate it. I'm honored.

*(*Applause*)*

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you. And thank you for coming down today. We really appreciate it. And thank you for your service.

MR. STEVER:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And Mr. Stever, by the way, your comments on Suffolk Community College, we all share and we appreciate the fact that you're homegrown. Thank you.

MR. STEVER:

Thanks very much.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. We have two cards today, John Coraor from the Suffolk County Cultural Affairs Citizens Advisory Board. Mr. Coraor.

MR. CORAOR:

Thank you, Chairman Horsley, members of the committee. Resolution 1404 presents the Citizen Advisory Board or CAB's 2011 competitive grant recommendations. However, not seeing a opportunity for a formal presentation as we've had in past years, I'm taking this opportunity to brief the committee on a larger context surrounding the formulation of those recommendations.

Review of competitive grant applications was particularly difficult this year. A funding reduction of more than 30% from last year resulted in a 48% decline in the number of grants recommended by the CAB, which dropped from 66 in 2010 to just 34 this year.

I want you to know that the major causality of the reduced funding was elimination of the Community Regrant Program whose block grants to selected arts councils were used to award re-grants, each under \$5,000, to 43 smaller cultural organizations last year. Although 11 of these 43 organizations have been recommended for major grants of 5,000 or more this year. Unfortunately 32 organizations previously deemed worthy of County competitive re-grant support must do without such assistance this year.

And additional causality of reduced funding is the typical size of major grant awards in the 5,000 or more category. This year the CAB is recommending major grant awards to 34 organizations, 11 more than last year with the largest grant being \$12,000 instead of 19,000 as in 2010, and the median grant matching the minimum allowable grant of \$5,000, half that of last year's median

grant.

Given current economic conditions, undoubtedly complaints about declining funding are very familiar to all of you. However, this instance is different in one very important respect; ironically County allocations for cultural programs are not actually declining, but increasing. It's only the funding for the County's competitive Cultural Grant Program that is in decline.

In the 2011 budget, 80% of discretionary cultural program grants allocated from either the General Fund or Hotel/Motel Tax revenue were awarded directly by the Legislature and County Executive without benefit of competitive review. The remaining 20% of grant funds to be awarded based upon competitive review needed by recommendation of the CAB or the Film Commission represents a 58% reduction since 2007, and the smallest competitive grant allocation in almost 20 years.

Why should how these grants are awarded matter? Because a competitive merit-based peer-reviewed grant process such as that conducted by the CAB is considered to be the industry standard nationwide for dissemination of public funds in support of cultural programs. Beyond the many different grant review criteria designed to help ensure both efficiency and effectiveness in utilization of limited grant funds, competitive grants also have matching requirements that help to leverage additional dollars from other sources and ensure broad-based community support for funded programs.

Most importantly a Competitive Grant Program provides a publically announced opportunity for all interested and eligible organizations to apply, offering fair and equitable access to these public funds, and helping to ensure greater diversity in supported programs.

As Assemblyman Steve Englebright can readily confirm, that is why 33 years ago the Suffolk County Legislature created the CAB, a Legislatively appointed group of volunteers with relevant expertise to advise the Legislature and this committee on the dissemination of cultural programs support.

Looking forward, the appointed volunteer membership of the CAB strongly recommends restoration of a more balanced approach to the budget process by awarding the substantial majority of County grant support to museums, historical societies, arts organizations and other cultural programs through the County's competitive peer-reviewed grant process as was the County's practice from 1978 until 2009.

I thank you for this opportunity to brief you on behalf of the CAB on this topic of vital importance to Suffolk County's cultural community and the citizens they serve.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Mr. Coraor. Yes, Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

How are you, sir? I'm looking at the list here. There was a list last year, do you have last year's list in terms of which agencies were funded?

MR. CORAOR:

Yes, I do.

LEG. MONTANO:

Could I get a copy of that?

MR. CORAOR:

I would be happy to provide you with a copy.

LEG. MONTANO:

Could I get it now? This I believe is the list of proposed agencies to be funded this year. Am I correct, sir? I would like to last year's list.

MR. CORAOR:

Yeah, what you'll be receiving, as soon he gets back to you with it, is two lists; one is the major grants of 5,000 and up and the other is the regrant program recipients.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right.

MR. CORAOR:

As you know, the County doesn't allow contracts directly from the County to agencies under \$5,000. And so those are block grants to the arts councils, which are then regranted in smaller amounts.

LEG. MONTANO:

This item, I don't know if you could see it that I'm holding in front of me, I just want to be clear. This is last year's list that corresponds to what we are proposing today, am I correct? This one here with the black lettering that all the grants are over 10,000, I mean, 5,000, they start with Arena Players, Bridgehampton Historical Society, etcetera. Am I accurate? I want to make sure that I'm reading --

MR. CORAOR:

That is the major grant list of 5,000 and up last year. I wouldn't say it corresponds directly to what you're doing this year because there is no regrant program. And as a result, 11 of the organizations that last year got regrants of under 5,000 are getting \$5,000 or slightly more in the major grant program.

LEG. MONTANO:

Well, I notice here on last year's list, Teatro Experimental Yerbabruja Inc. got \$7,000. This year they're not listed on the schedule for funding. Can you explain to me why they were not refunded?

MR. CORAOR:

Yes, I can.

LEG. MONTANO:

What is the reason?

MR. CORAOR:

Because in the review -- the application that they submitted was deemed not to have merit for a grant of 5,000 and up. That's not to say that it wouldn't of received a recommendation for funding but that that funding -- that recommendation did not rise to the level of 5,000 and up.

LEG. MONTANO:

You mentioned earlier that taking into account, I think you use the word diversity with respect to this bill; I mean this list here. Quite frankly, I don't see much diversity here. Other than the Sol Y Sombra Spanish Dance Company, which I believe comes out of Smithtown who are recommended for 7,350. Is that your -- yeah, that's in your district. Other than that all I see are Huntington Arts Council, Islip Arts, you know, same old, same old.

MR. CORAOR:

Can I address that?

LEG. MONTANO:

Sure, go ahead.

MR. CORAOR:

This is not --

LEG. MONTANO:

And, by the way, I'm just looking at this for the first time, so.

MR. CORAOR:

This is not a reflection on the quality of what Teatro Yerbabruja Experimental does as an organization. This year, unlike previous years because of the reduced amount of funding, applicants for this year's grant program was asked to submit only one program grant rather than up to three as they previously had done. It's my understanding that Teatro because they had already received direct grants from the -- in the budget for certain of their core programs, elected not to apply for those programs in the competitive program. What they gave us was not the same caliber as the application that they gave us last year. That doesn't reflect on their overall body of work and the quality of what they do. As you know Margarita Espada is a member of the CAB. The CAB is very familiar with her work and she's very highly respected for the quality of that work. I think that the fact that they didn't receive a recommendation of -- a grant of 5,000 and up was a reflection on submitting only one application rather than -- one project application rather than several. And that that one was not a -- it was perhaps a hastily put together one and not reflective of their best quality programs.

LEG. MONTANO:

I don't know enough about the process to really comment but I am looking at the list. I see the agencies that are getting funded, and as I said, you know, these are agencies that have traditionally gotten funding, I don't see enough of a change in organizations. I don't see any cultural diversity in these programs, which doesn't say that the Islip Arts Council doesn't do things in my community; I think they do. But for purposes of today I'm not going to, you know, I'm going to ask to table this so I can look into it further unless there are any particular reasons why this would have to be done today. Is there any reason why it would have to be done today?

MR. CORAOR:

Well, we're sitting here in May, applications are for programs in the calendar year 2011. Many of these groups may have already presented the program they've requested funding for. Last year I understand the contracts were not executed until sometime in November and groups did not receive funding until late in the year. Given the current economic conditions I would urge you to press ahead and confirm the grant recommendations for now.

But if I may just address your concern --

LEG. MONTANO:

Sure, go ahead.

MR. CORAOR:

-- regarding diversity. I would urge you to look at the regrant list as well. And I would urge you to keep in mind that the uncertainty of the budgeting process in 2010 and 2011 has had a chilling effect particularly on smaller emerging arts organizations in the County who have -- and many of whom have elected not to apply because of the declining funding and the feeling that their chances of receiving funds are diminished.

LEG. MONTANO:

Well, I think that's the, the nail -- you know, hitting the nail on the head. The perception that they would not get funding so why bother applying.

MR. CORAOR:

I think.

LEG. MONTANO:

And, go ahead, I'm sorry.

MR. CORAOR:

I think that -- we have the same goal, Legislator Montano, and I think that I would welcome and I think all the CAB members would welcome the assistance of each and every Legislator in trying to point cultural organizations in their districts towards the Competitive Grant Program and encouraging them to apply, encouraging them to seek assistance from the Office of Cultural Affairs in applying. And we -- each year welcome new organizations. I can assure you that Margarita's application when it first came in, I believe, correct me if I'm wrong, other CAB members, I think last year was the first year. Wasn't it? Or was it the second year?

LEG. MONTANO:

I don't want to concentrate on Margarita's program --

MR. CORAOR:

No, I'm --

LEG. MONTANO:

-- because Margarita, I believe, is my appointee to the committee. My point is that we sought to expand diversity on the committee so that it would reflect diversity in the applications and in the selection process and I don't see it. I see what I saw before. I've been here eight years and I don't see a change.

So, you know, I've heard some -- some talk about what went on in the committee but I'm not really fully aware because I've been involved in other issues. But my point is that, and I won't belabor it, is that I don't see what I want to see in terms of the kinds of programs and diversity that we're going to be funding with the Hotel/Motel Tax, which, I believe I voted against anyway. But the bottom-line is that, you know, I don't see it and that's perturbing. And I'd like to know more about it. I don't know how my colleagues feel and I'll leave that up to them. But these are just issues that have come to my attention, but looking at the document here it's, you know, Patchogue Arts Council, you know, Stony Brook Foundation, Westhampton Beach Performing Arts, they've been getting money for years and years and years. And we're in tough economic times now so we're falling back on giving those historical organizations that have always gotten money and thereby you exclude new comers. And I don't want to see that. I want to see a blend. There's some programs that maybe have, you know, have been on this -- that have gotten this funding for so long, and I know that they're dependent on it, but at the same time we're closing the door on new emerging programs that provide a different form of cultural enlightenment and enrichment and I don't see that demonstrated here and that's something that I will not accept. Thank you.

MR. CORAOR:

I would be happy to work with you towards that goal.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yeah, we are on the same goal. But my point is that we're not at the same point in time, you know, we're on parallel tracks, but one train is ahead of the other and they need to catch up. You follow what I'm saying?

MR. CORAOR:

And the key to us is the applications because we can't give out money without an application.

LEG. MONTANO:

No, I understand that. And I haven't reviewed the application so I can't comment on the merits of the application until I know more.

MR. CORAOR:

And I have to say that a few years ago we would have over a 100 applications and much less in recent years.

LEG. MONTANO:

No, I understand, I really do. I've been through this a number of times with not only this type of funding but other fundings, but it's the same old problem. And that's really what I'm trying to address. And I believe that you do understand that and are, you know, are sympathetic to the point that I'm making.

MR. CORAOR:

I'll take those comments back to the CAB and I look forward to working with you.

LEG. MONTANO:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. Legislator Lindsay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

First of all, I would urge my colleagues to approve this resolution, I don't see any value to tabling it. Most of these programs are summer programs, the sooner we get the process started the better off we'll all be.

I appreciate you coming here today, Mr. Coraor, and I heard you last fall, I heard you now about the chilling effect, let me tell you something, there's a chilling effect across this County, we're dealing with closing health centers and nursing homes and everything else. So if your community feels that you're the only one that 's experiencing a chilling effect; you're wrong.

And your comments about the purity about your competitive bid process, I don't want to micromanage how you guys do your work and that's why I want to approve this, but I also want the benefit of the doubt by this Legislature as well. We directly fund certain arts programs in our communities that we know are successful and our citizens enjoy. Very well some of the them might be the same ones that you say you can't fund this year. But that's our choice and that's what we get paid for.

MR. CORAOR:

I'm not questioning the Legislature's right to --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Sounded like you did, sounded like you did.

MR. CORAOR:

No, I was questioning the ratio --

P.O. LINDSAY:

And we heard you last fall and we heard you the fall before. Okay? So it's not that we're not listening, we heard you. We just chose not to do what CAB suggests and put the bulk of the money in your hands to allocate.

MR. CORAOR:

For the record, the 32 organizations that were funded in 2002 through regrant program are not

funded by direct grants from the Legislature and the County Executive and there are many others as well.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, some of the them are. For example, I directly funded the Islip Arts Council for the concert at Heckshere.

MR. CORAOR:

Which is receiving a major grant.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And so did Legislator Cilmi.

MR. CORAOR:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And that's our prerogative. And we're going to continue to exercise that prerogative. Okay. So let's just leave it at that.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. Thank you very much and we appreciate, Mr. Coraor, you coming down and so informing us of -- thank you.

George Pezold. The Huntington Choral Society.

MR. PEZOLD:

My name is George Pezold. I am representing the Huntington Choral Society. I have copies of a prepared presentation I'd like to read it to you. I'm going to perhaps say something that is contrary to what I've just heard but I'll read my statement in any event.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Please.

MR. PEZOLD:

We recently received a memorandum from John Coraor, Chairman of the Suffolk County Cultural Affairs Citizens Advisory Board regarding his presentation of the CAB's 2011 grant recommendations at your meeting on May 4th.

According to Mr. Coraor, of the 1.304 -- \$1,304,914 in funding allocated for discretionary cultural program grants in 2011, 80% has been dispersed by the Legislature and the County Executive as non-competitive earmarked grants, leaving only 263,642 for disbursement this year based on competitive review.

Mr. Coraor points out that, and I'm quoting him, total allocations for discretionary cultural program grants of all types actually grew dramatically in 2010 and 2011 compared to previous years due to a quadrupling of the Hotel/Motel Tax rate. However, the dramatic growth in this revenue source has not benefited the Competitive Grant Program, which has experienced a 58% decline in funding from 2007 to 2011. The increased Hotel/Motel Tax revenue has instead been used to support grants earmarked by the Legislature and the County Executive for specific organizations without benefit of competitive review or publically announced opportunity for agencies to apply for such support.

I'm the Chairman of the Grants Committee for the Huntington Choral Society, which is coming up on its 50 anniversary. The Society's composed of some 100 singers and presents annual concerts of great choral works in the spring and fall of each year as well as free programs in Heckshere Park in

the summer. Our members also go carolling at the nursing homes and Huntington Hospital and things like that.

For many years our organization has applied for and received grants through the County to help support its programs in the community. We try to keep our ticket prices low to encourage seniors, students and other members of the community to attend our concerts. Ticket sales and membership dues simply don't provide enough income if we are to present major choral works with professional soloists and orchestra. We must rely on fundraisers, contributions and grants to make these works available to the community.

We have looked at the earmarked grants and we don't question that some of the grants have been made to legitimate and worthy organizations. However, that's not the issue.

We firmly believe that publicly announced merit-based, peer-reviewed Competitive Grant Program is the only way to guarantee to that all interested organizations are given fair and equitable access to these public funds and that there should be an objective and rational basis for awarding grant funds.

It's contrary to reason that the Hotel/Motel Tax was increased so that members of this Legislature could earmark more grants for their favorite organizations. This is an abuse of the Legislative prerogative and offense to the voters that elected them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. Thank you very much, Mr. Pezold and we appreciate your comments. Are you good, Bill?

P.O. LINDSAY:

I just can't let that stand on the record. It isn't an abuse to anybody, sir. The motel -- Hotel/Motel Tax was raised to preserve some of our museums primarily, including the Vanderbilt, including Walt Whitman. That has a direct funding in the bill. So the image that you are presenting is not true. We used to use General Fund money to fund a lot of organizations that we do not have anymore. And again, I repeat what I said before, today's purpose of you being here is to approve the recommendations. The budget was solved six months ago. If you want to keep whining about it, feel free to come, but we're not changing the 2011 budget. It's done.

MR. PEZOLD:

I hope that what you just said is not reflective of what all of the County Legislators believe. Our State Legislature has abused earmark grants. It has been notorious and it's been all over the newspapers and all over the press for years.

P.O. LINDSAY:

There's no abuse here, sir. There is no abuse here. I don't want to debate it with you.

MR. PEZOLD:

I'm not here to debate anyone. But I am presenting a position which I believe reflects the position of not only our organization but other cultural arts organizations in the community. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And, Mr. Pezold, we truly do appreciate you coming down and we appreciate your comments. But I do have Legislator Montano who want to ask a quick question.

LEG. MONTANO:

No, I think I just want to make a statement.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

A statement it is.

LEG. MONTANO:

I don't necessarily disagree with you. I voted against the Hotel/Motel Tax. And the primary reason, but as Legislator Lindsay said, it was passed to preserve; number one, the Vanderbilt Museum and number two, the Walt Whitman. The only problem that I had with the bill was that the way the bill was written, the Vanderbilt and the Walt Whitman Museum or Society, which I didn't even know existed, was not even mentioned in the bill. It was written in such a fashion up in Albany that the reason that they received the funding from the passage of this bill was because the definition that was used in the bill only applied to these two organizations.

So, you know, I frown upon that and I don't disagree with you in terms of, you know, where we should be earmarking or not earmarking some of these items. But my other concern primarily had to do with; there are a lot of organizations out there that provide cultural services and some of the them are good and some of them are better, but the reality is that the facing demographics of this community in Suffolk County has changed and I would like to see that all organizations and those organizations that represent different cultural aspects get an opportunity to showcase their -- and we're not doing that. That's my complaint.

But for today I think that we are going to pass this bill. But I think you should continue on this note.

MR. PEZOLD:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. Thank you very much. And again, just to add onto Mr. Lindsay's comment, there was a list -- for the Hotel/Motel Tax the impetus was on the historic preservation of housing, of houses that we have. We have numerous historic house on Long Island that are literally decaying in our list of ownership. And very concerned about it as well as our museums, which many of them were going to fold. So that some of the issues and so just wanted to let you know. It was a multipurpose piece of legislation. But we do appreciate your comment. Thank you.

MR. PEZOLD:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. Let's move on. We're going with -- okay.

Tabled Prime Resolution

1297 - Approving the change of project location for Downtown Revitalization Round V for the Lindenhurst Chamber of Commerce and amending the contract with the Village of Lindenhurst to reflect same. (Co. Exec.) I'm going to make a motion, this is my issue and I'm going to make a motion to table this for the next round, seconded by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **TABLED (VOTE: 6-0)**

Introductory Resolutions

1317 - To appoint Corrieann M. Young as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. (Stern) And I understand, Corrieann, because I met her before; is here. Would you like to come on up? Hello and welcome.

MS. YOUNG:

Hi, good afternoon everyone. My name is Corrieann Young. And for the past 16 years I have been the leader in the Half Hollow Hills School District; one of largest districts here on Long Island. And I've held a variety of positions within the District including President, Vice-President and Treasurer of

the overall District PTA Council. I've been President, Treasurer of the other various individual schools and I'm currently an Assistant Teacher in the District.

As President of the PTA Council, which is pretty big job, we have 10,000 students. I've had the ability to oversee districtwide fundraising events, community events and ensured proper governance over the 11 individual PTA's in the district. I did create a new application process to fairly distribute the significant annual scholarships that are raised by the PTA for students in need in accordance with the rules of the IRS.

I am a graduate of Long Island University and I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. Through my experience as Treasurer, I'm familiar with the IRS 501(c)(3) status rules regarding nonprofit entities and I have prepared numerous 990 tax returns for many of the Half Hollow Hills PTA organizations for more than a decade.

I co-produced a number of series of "Half Hollow Hills Idol" and "Half Hollow Hills Got Talent" events for the district, which provided a series of districtwide venues whereby extraordinary students could exhibit talents such as singing and dancing, instrumentals and acrobatics in front of large audiences. It was a giveback to the community because we felt like we want to give the community include everybody. Proceeds from these events were given to our scholarship fund.

I had been -- as Vice-President of Council, it was my job to oversee the scholarship fund and I was very pleased that the two years I was President we raised over \$80,000 to give to students and economic aid graduating from high school to pursue Higher Education.

I have been involved in the Town of Huntington also on some issues. I actually do some community theater in the Town of Huntington since 2006 and I'm very proud that recently I've been receiving some recognition. I was recently honored at the Town of Huntington's 9th Annual Women's Networking event where I was actually picked as one of the Women of the Year, which I was very proud of. And I have received just recently a Distinguish of Service Award from New York State PTA for my dedication and advocacy to children. I've gone numerous times up to Albany to lobby for our fair share of state aid. And I also have received the New York State PTA Lifetime Membership Award.

So I'm looking forward to using my leadership skills and my experience to work with the Legislature on the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. So thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Ms. Young. Maybe I'll pass this over to Legislator Stern who may have a comment or two.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Corrieann, thanks so much for being here. I'm sure my colleagues would agree that as we listen to you and we look at your resume, which all of us should have before us, that your leadership positions and experiences is very impressive. Exactly the kind of leadership that we can use in this organization.

And regardless of some of the dialog that we just heard back and forth, I'm sure all of my colleagues would agree that ultimately it provides a valuable service to all residents throughout Suffolk County. Thank you for your willingness to volunteer.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Mr. Stern.

MS. YOUNG:

Thank you for the honor.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Are there any other further comments from the Legislature? All right. Mr. Stern, why don't you make a motion.

LEG. STERN:

I'll proudly make the motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And I'll second the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. It's been approved.

APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0). Ms. Young, you won't have to come to the meeting on Tuesday. The fact that you came here today is -- that's enough.

MS. YOUNG:

Well, thank you very much. I look forward to serving the Suffolk County community.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

As do we look forward to your service and thank you for that.

MS. YOUNG:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. **1361 - Authorizing a Lease Agreement with AMPCO, Inc., for use of property at Francis S. Gabreski Airport. (Co. Exec.)** Carolyn, did you want to -- either one. Maybe just give us an explanation. I didn't mean to, sorry.

MS. FAHEY:

You said it was going to be a short meeting so I figured I would help you out.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Please. He said it's short by my standards.

*(*Laughter*)*

MS. FAHEY:

I'm with you, Legislator. What you have before you is lease with AMPCO Inc. AMPCO currently has two aircraft based at Gabreski Airport. They're leasing from another tenant. They want to lease five acres for the construction of a hangar with some office space. They will also construct some associated ramp taxi lane space and vehicle parking. It's a 30 year lease. The initial rate is 40,000 annually with a two-and-a-half percent increase every year thereafter. It is an aviation lease. It will house two airplane that are currently based at Gabreski.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That's terrific. Let me ask you, the overall picture now as far as the airport, are we breaking even here? Must be getting close.

MS. FAHEY:

What day is it -- it's getting close. It's getting very close, yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Getting close. Very good. Congratulations to all involved. I'll make the motion to approve 1361. Is there a second on the motion? Second by Legislator Cilmi. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0)**

1362 - Authorizing use of property at Francis S. Gabreski Airport by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Westhampton. (Co. Exec.) I don't think we could argue that one. Anyone? Legislator Cilmi wants to make the motion, second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0)**

1377 - Designated Poet Laureate for Suffolk County (Edward W. Stever). (Horsley)
Which we already did.

1378 - To appoint Maria Figalora as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. (Barraga) Is Maria here? Is this a reappointment?

MR. NOLAN:
No, it's appointment.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
It's an appointment. Anybody? Maria are you here? Make a motion to table by Legislator Montano, second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **TABLED (VOTE: 6-0)**

1379 - To reappoint Patricia Snyder as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. (Romaine) Is Patricia here? Is it same deal? Oh, it's a reappoint, okay. Someone want to make that motion?

LEG. MONTANO:
I'll make the motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
Motion by Legislator Montano to reappoint Patricia Snyder, second by Legislator Cilmi. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0)**

This is the bill that was discussed earlier. **1404 - Authorizing cultural arts 2011 funding agreements. (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion to approve. Do I have a second on that?

P.O. LINDSAY:
I'll second it.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
Second by Mr. Lindsay. It's on the floor, are there any further motions?

LEG. NOWICK:
I'd like to make a comment.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
Well, you could make a comment.

LEG. NOWICK:
I've got to say, this letter here, this last paragraph of this letter, how dare anybody say that about us. We worked so hard on those budgets. We worked -- I believe that we work so hard as 18 Legislators representing 18 different districts and a million and 1000 cultural groups and we try -- we cannot please everybody. But I know all of us take it very, very seriously. We certainly do not abuse our prerogative and if anybody realized what we did when we were together trying to get every group to get -- trying to get groups that maybe cover more or we have our reasons. But this is an insult. I'm sorry, I'm mean, I'm going to vote, of course, for legislation because we believe in what we did. So, sorry, I couldn't control it.

LEG. MONTANO:

And I agree with you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I appreciate your angst.

LEG. MONTANO:

On that part of the letter I agree with you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And there apparently is feelings of -- across the board. Go ahead. Legislator Montano. Let off some steam.

LEG. MONTANO:

On that part of the letter I agree with her. I don't think that we abuse the process. My issue had to do with something totally different and I think you understand that and we should have more. But you're right. To sit here and to take abuse is not something that I think is appropriate also. That statement, I think, goes over the top.

LEG. NOWICK:

I'll go one step further. You know and if you think it was abusing it; don't take the money.

LEG. MONTANO:

He didn't get money; I think. Did they get money? Did he get -- on what list is he?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. I think that the point has been made at this point in time. Is there anyone else who would like to get anything off their chest? And, Mr. Lindsay, did second the motion to approve. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved.

LEG. MONTANO:

Abstention.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And one abstain. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0-1-0 Abstention: Leg. Montano)**

1410 - Reappointing member to Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees.

(Theresa Sanders) (Gregory) This is a reappointment so I assume she's not here. I don't see Theresa. I'll make the motion to appoint Theresa Sanders.

LEG. MONTANO:

I'll second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Second by Legislator Montano. Any discussion on the matter? All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0)**

1411 - Reappointing member to the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees (Dafny J. Irizarry). (Montano)

LEG. MONTANO:

I'll make the motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Montano makes the motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Cilmi. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0)**

I'll make a motion to adjourn.

[THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:54 P.M.]

{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY