

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**and**

**ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**of the**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Economic Development 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, November 13, 2013.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Wayne Horsley - Chairman/Deputy Presiding Officer  
Legislator Lou D'Amaro - Vice-Chair  
Legislator Thomas Cilmi  
Legislator Kara Hahn  
Legislator Stern

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk  
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature  
Claire Mangelli - Aide to Chairman Horsley  
Justin Littell - Aide to Legislator D'Amaro  
Debbie Harris - Aide to Legislator Stern  
Paul Perillie - Aide to Legislator Gregory  
Laura Halloran - Budget Review Office  
Carolyn Fahey - Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator  
Tom Vaughn - County Executive's Office  
Rick Brand - Newsday  
All other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN AND TRANSCRIBED BY:**

Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer

*(\*The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. \*)*

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All righty. Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to the Economic Development and Energy Committee meeting of November 7. We all here? Looks good. Why don't we stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

*(\*Salutation\*)*

May we also stand for a moment of silence, particularly on the week of Veterans Day, to say thank you and our blessings for those men and women who protect us both home and abroad.

*(\*Moment of silence observed\*)*

All right. We have a reasonably short agenda, I see, today, so that's good, and we do not have a presentation. Are there any cards? Anybody? Do we have any cards? Nobody? We're good.

Let's move right into the resolutions. First of all is our tabled resolutions, first one being **1725, Amending the Adopted 2013 Operating Budget and appropriating excess revenues received from Hotel/Motel Tax in 2012 (Schneiderman)**. I'll make a motion to table. Second by Ms. Hahn. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. It has been **tabled**. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Nowick)**

***Introductory Resolutions:***

**1818, Appointing Jim Vignato to the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission (County Executive)**. Is this an appointment?

**MR. NOLAN:**

It's an appointment.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Is Mr. Vignato in the audience?

**MS. FAHEY:**

No. He was supposed to be here. He's not here yet.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

He's supposed to be here. Okay. All right. Why don't we skip over that and see if Mr. Vignato makes it.

**IR 1819, Appointing Jake Gorst to the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission (County Executive)**.

Is Mr. Gorst here? There you are. Why don't you join us? Welcome, Mr. Gorst. Thank you for being here and subjecting yourself to this. What don't you tell us a little about yourself and why you should be on the commission.

**MR. GORST:**

Well, first of all, thank you so much for having me here. It's a real honor. I'm a documentary filmmaker. I have been for quite some time. My first independently-produced film was called "Leisurama." It was about a housing development that's built out in Montauk in 1964, '65 around

the time of the World's Fair, and it made it to national public television, so it was on PBS for six years. And then we had another film called "Farm Boy" that also went into that kind of circulation. I have done a number of documentaries over the course of the past 11 years. The last one was called "Modern Tide Mid-Century Architecture on Long Island," and it's called attention to the mid-century modern architecture that was built all over Long Island that most people are not aware of and what still exists, what's been torn down, and this film has been seen on the Island and, actually, all over the country.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

This is mid-century, we're talking about 1950?

**MR. GORST:**

1950, 1960. The film actually covers the '30s up through the '70s, but it's concentrated in the '50s and '60s, so it's a lot of sort of forgotten architecture here, but it's been -- people have been finding this interesting. It's been screening at festivals all over the world, which has kind of been a nice surprise calling attention to Long Island, which is my favorite place to live.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Well, there you go. We appreciate that. Anything else you'd like to add?

**MR. GORST:**

Well, just that it's a real honor to be considered for this. You know, I feel that I can definitely bring quite a lot to the table, especially in way of locations and helping the filmmakers to find places and connecting them with other resources to help get their projects done.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Well, thank you, and it sounds like your work is very interesting. Let me just say, 1950s to 1960s, we dealt with split levels, that type of thing. Mr. D'Amaro and I both ran a zoning board, and we were dealing with split levels because they were always enabled to split the house in two and became two-family homes. But the whole -- that -- what a fascinating topic that is. Sorry I haven't seen it as yet.

**MR. GORST:**

Well, I brought a few copies if you would like one.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

There you go. Absolutely. We'll check it out. History is interesting to us. But thank you again for being here.

The commission itself, you have time for it? You feel -- certainly, you're qualified, and you're just the right type of person we would want for this. Does anyone have any questions of Mr. Gorst? Legislator D'Amaro.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Thank you. Mr. Gorst, nice to meet you.

**MR. GORST:**

Nice to meet you too.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

You have the resume that I wish I had. Looks like a very exciting career: Documentary film production, investigative research and writing for television, magazine and book publication, historian, curator, Emmy-award winning director, and professor -- or guest professor to boot, which

is wonderful that you're also passing on your skills to others, which is nice to see.

I want to ask you, the investigative research and writing for television, that's separate from the magazine and book publication that's on your resume?

**MR. GORST:**

Well, you know, I kind of look at it all as being connected. I have written for television programs, particularly news programs, but my documentary work, I write all of those scripts, those outlines. I've assisted other people in writing the outlines for their productions as well. But in the process of doing the research for these films and writing these scripts, oftentimes, I wind up putting together narratives and writing articles that support the film.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

What you're doing at the time.

**MR. GORST:**

Exactly. So that will be published in magazines or newspapers.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Have you ever interacted with the Film Commission prior to being here and being considered for this?

**MR. GORST:**

Some individual members just through the course of work.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Do you know what the mission of the Film Commission might be, what's the goal?

**MR. GORST:**

Well, I had always understood it to be sort of an ambassador position to the film industry to attract filmmakers to Long Island, to help filmmakers to connect with the resources that they need to pull their projects together and make things happen.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right. The county certainly benefits if we can promote that type of industry within our borders, and I think having someone who's within the industry itself and probably has the same understanding and artistic eye that people you'll be dealing with, trying to attract them and convince them that this is a good locale for them to consider, I think would be very helpful, and I very much appreciate you are willing to put in the time to do that. So I certainly will support you in that, and I think, hopefully, the committee will as well, so I appreciate you giving us to opportunity also.

**MR. GORST:**

My pleasure. Thank you.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Legislator. Are there any further questions? All right. Anything else you would like to add?

**MR. GORST:**

Well, as I have already said, it's a pleasure to be here, and I am very thankful for the opportunity to help.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

As we are grateful for your support. I'll make the motion to approve Mr. Gorst.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Second.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Second by Legislator D'Amaro. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **Approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Nowick).**

You've been approved, and you do not have to come to the meeting next Tuesday, which, coming from Montauk, I'm sure that's a good thing. But I wish you all the luck, and thank you very much for assisting Suffolk County.

**MR. GORST:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

**1876, Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Rysam Productions Inc. For use of property at Francis S. Gabreski Airport (County Executive).** Maybe, Carolyn, do you want to tell us a little bit about the Rysam Productions?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Rysam Productions is owned by a local writer. He's going to be using about 220 square feet of vacant office space we have over in our terminal just for a research shop and an office to get away from home to be able to write. Really, that's all it is. It's just a local writer who wanted an off-home site for storing his research material and wanted to write.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Any further questions of Carolyn?

**LEG. CILMI:**

I have a question.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Sure. Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So that's interesting, Carolyn. And he's paying us for this roughly \$2,000?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Twenty-four hundred a year, right.

**LEG. CILMI:**

That's a pretty good deal for him, I would think.

**MS. FAHEY:**

For us too. I mean, it's a small little office space. We've had nobody come to us looking for it.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Do we have other small office spaces like this that we would --

**MS. FAHEY:**

I believe this is the last -- well, do have other office spaces in the administrative building; yes, we do.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Of Gabreski?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Of Gabreski, right. The administrative building has some office space. This office space is over in the terminal that used to be occupied by a not-for-profit group that moved out about two or three years ago. It's just a very tiny little space.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Is there something about the airport specifically that allows us to do this, to just rent space to somebody that's totally unrelated to airport activities?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Non-aviation leases are limited to three years and need FAA approval because they're in an aviation building, so if there's no aviation use for it, and we haven't had any aviation interest in this particular office space, we can lease it on a three-year basis.

**LEG. CILMI:**

What if we had vacant space in other county buildings?

**MS. FAHEY:**

I'm not sure how the space committee handles that. I think the space committee will take requests for vacant space in other county buildings, but I'm not sure what their process is. If you are a not-for-profit, you can look into county buildings, but I'm not sure what their process is.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All right. Thank you very much, Legislator Cilmi. Any further questions concerning IR 1876? That being the case, any motions? You guys good? I'll make a motion to approve. Second by Legislator D'Amaro. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Nowick).**

**IR 1887, Appointing Anthony Giordano as a member of the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) (Horsley).**

I see Mr. Giordano is here. Why don't you come up and have a seat. Anthony, good to see you again, and we're glad that's you're here. Why don't you -- the IDA, why don't you tell us why you should be on the IDA and what your conceptions are, and why you would be an addition to the IDA itself.

**MR. GIORDANO:**

Thank you. Well, first of all, we've lived in Suffolk County for 25 years. I'm from Smithtown, originally from Dix Hills, raised three children here, ran my businesses here. And it was interesting because this morning I was reading through the IDA, more about it and what I want to do and what I feel I can do to help, and I also work for a firm called "Strategies For Wealth," which is my 38 year in the industry; I'm in the financial business. One of our issues is that on our website, if you go on, it says, "Building economic confidence." That's very important in our firm, and that's what we do, obviously on a much smaller scale than what the IDA board would do.

But I've worked with small business for 38 years in helping them build their companies, benefit-wise, tax-wise, investment-wise, and I've always believed the fact that, especially in speaking to my clients, that if they have successful businesses, they hire more people, and more people stay, and get more people get jobs. Personally, two of my sons, one being a police officer and one being in Seattle, both had a difficult time finding jobs here in Suffolk County and living here, and I felt that, to me, would be something that I would like to try to work harder, try to bring more industry here to Suffolk by bringing some of the ideas I have learned.

I ran my own sports business for about 16 years where I represented professional baseball players, and I negotiated their contracts. And part of being in that business was developing rapport with teams, inducing them to sign my players and really giving them quality contracts. So I have a lot of interaction with business people, especially large businesses, and I hope that maybe perhaps I can bring some of those ideas to the IDA board in trying to instill that as well. And I guess, not be corny, I was watching John F. Kennedy's documentary last night, so I guess instead of saying, "Ask not what you can do for your country," ask what you can do for your county, so I'm here to hopefully help my county.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

There you go. Not corny. I mean, I saw the documentary, by the way. I thought it was great. I enjoyed it thoroughly. But I just wanted to thank you for putting your name forward for the Industrial Development Agency board. And also, I understand there's the EDC that you would also -- EDC is a second board that is almost a sister board to the IDA, which we will also be recommending or not recommending you for through this meeting today. They meet at the same time, and you don't have to go out another day or anything. The Industrial Development Agency itself is -- it's not a board that a lot of people know a lot about. It is a very detailed, and oftentimes when people say, Well, you're giving money away to the IDA, that's not what this is about. This is promoting businesses. It is involving tax relief. It involves legal matters. The -- you know, and it is almost a set of law that is exclusive, and people don't necessarily know what IDAs do, but it is a very, very important tool in my mind to grow our economy. In fact, it might be one of the only ones that actually has teeth to it to compete with those states and countries, frankly, that try to woo our corporations away from Long Island. Do you have any ideas as far as, you know, who we should be looking to bring types of businesses, clusters of businesses to Long Island? Who fits the Long Island region?

**MR. GIORDANO:**

First of all, I do a lot of work with high-tech businesses. One of my very big clients is a company called "Audible.com," and I worked with Don Katz since he was a little, little itty bitty man, and now it's one of the largest companies in New Jersey and perhaps in America. They've become very, very -- I mean, if you walk into that company, first of you see a lot of young people working there very high tech, a company that has a lot of future to it, and I think we should, in my opinion, because of the companies we tend to work with in our firm, and they're not large, but they're potentially is high tech -- a lot of health industry firms. I have several clients that earn these laboratories where they're doing work on stem cell research and all different types of things that are in the future, which we read about every day with all different cures and things like that, pharmaceutical industry, things like that. We do a lot of work with them. I find that to be very, very big in our firm and types of companies that are really growing.

So I would say, because more of my specialty, the pharmaceutical companies, the health industry, the high-tech industry would be a value because not only does it have the potential for great growth, but it also potentially hires a lot of young people that want to be in that industry. A lot of the young people that come in our firm want to be in either the financial firm or perhaps in those high-tech firms, the dot com firms which are coming back, some of them.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

That's a good point, and particularly the seriousness of losing our young people, going away to college elsewhere and not coming back and, you know, so --

**MR. GIORDANO:**

My two sons, perfect example. One's living in Seattle, and he's in the film industry. I thought that was ironic, he was speaking about it. He could not find any type of job or anything in the New York area as well as the Long Island area, and he went out to Seattle, and within three months, he had found a job. He was a veteran, too, from Iraq, so it was like he had a little bit more to him, and he couldn't find anything, but he's very happy out there, and that's a phenomenal city. It's really doing a lot of technology and that type of growth.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Right. And I concur with you as far as the types of business which you just mentioned: the pharmaceuticals, the biotech, which you've mentioned, as well as the high tech in general. Not only are they the types of businesses that would fit Long Island, but they are also higher paying type positions. Being that this is a high-cost region, those businesses do fit our model here on the Island, so I certainly support your concept and the fact that you feel that the IDA should be reaching out to those types of corporations.

Again, thank you for being here. I'm going to turn this over to any of my fellow legislators. Anyone have any questions for Mr. Giordano? A guy that can call himself Jerry Maguire-like, no questions there?

**MR. GIORDANO:**

That's a completely different business.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Oh, I know. I know it is. When I talked to Anthony the first time, that's what we talked about. "That sounds like a great business. Tell us about that."

**MR. GIORDANO:**

I could tell you how successful -- I was going to tell you the story. When I first got in the business in 1995, I had a player on the Yankees by the name of Mike Jarzabak (ph), probably never heard of him, but he was in triple A and he was having a phenomenal year. So at the time, I called up Bob Watson -- I think it was Bob Watson at the GM -- because Mike was doing so well, and they didn't want to bring him up. But they had this other pitcher that they were talking about bringing up, and I'm like he's not even a starting pitcher, I wouldn't even waste your time. My guy's the guy, but they decided to bring up Mariano Rivera instead of my guy, so they listened. They agreed he wasn't a starting pitcher, but the rest is history, so that's my history with Mariano Rivera.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

That's a great story. Love it. Legislator D'Amaro has a quick question.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Thank you. So you got that one behind you. Hopefully that won't happen with the IDA.

**MR. GIORDANO:**

I don't think so.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

That's all history now. The IDA really targets and focuses on job creation. We want to encourage business here. We want to grow the local economy. As the presiding officer mentioned, we want

to encourage the right types of business, if possible, to open up shop here in Suffolk, but there has to be some standards. And I know we've discussed this previously that you were also on the other side of the coin. While we're targeting job creation and expanding our local economy, you're also giving incentives, and someone pays for those incentives, so I think it's very important as you consider applications and applicants to the IDA that you always stay mindful of the fact that there is a real cost to giving those types of incentives and benefits, and I think we have to keep our eye on the success of those companies in fulfilling their end of the bargain. And should you be approved, and I expect that you will be, I would just ask that as you go forward on that board that you always consider that. Always consider that the authority that you're given to grant incentives and benefits and relief from taxes and things like that comes at a cost, which I'm sure Suffolk residents are willing to pay as long as the firms that are receiving those advantages are living up to their end of the deal, and that's something that you have to keep a close eye on.

**MR. GIORDANO:**

I certainly respect that and absolutely will. For the last 38 years, as I said, I work in the financial field. I work with people on an individual basis with their money and their programs, and my firm is very conservative in that aspect in how we do deal with our clients, and I will carry that over to the residents of Suffolk County if I have the opportunity to serve.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

All right. Well, then, thank you, and thank you for making yourself available. We appreciate that you're willingness to serve.

**MR. GIORDANO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Any further questions? Thank you, Mr. Giordano. We appreciate you being here today and helping Suffolk County. I'll make a motion on 1887, to approve Anthony Giordano. Second by Legislator D'Amaro.

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? So moved. **Approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Nowick).**

And also the corresponding **1950, Appointing Anthony Giordano as a Director of the Suffolk County Economic Development Corporation (Horsley)**. I'll make the same motion. Second by Legislator D'Amaro. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **Approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Nowick).**

All right. We're going to go back now to the resolution that we passed over, which is **1818, Appointing Jim Vignato to the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission (County Executive)**. Is Mr. Vignato here today? Come on up. Welcome.

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Good afternoon.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Mr. Vignato, thank you for offering your services to the County of Suffolk, and why don't you tell us a little bit about yourself.

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Well, I'm a father of a four-year-old. I reside in Center Moriches, grew up in Bellport, spent a lot of my life here, went to L.A. for a while, did some Hollywood stuff. I reside, like I said, in Center Moriches now. I have a studio, a production studio in Speonk on Montauk Highway, which we teach

dance, acting and voice to children, and it also doubles as a sound stage for my other love, the film industry.

And so I most recently have gotten into staying on top of technology as far as it's changing through every three or four months. New devices come out to make it easier that anybody could broadcast. As you probably already know, you could probably broadcast from any one of your phones right now to anybody in the world if they are willing to listen. So I have made it my job to stay on top of all this technology and try to integrate it into my teaching of the children and try to keep them creatively inspired with different projects that I do.

So, you know, in addition to all that, I'm a performer, a singer, a producer. I own all of my own video production equipment. I throw it all into my minivan, and I go out and broadcast things live. And so most recently, I have been doing that more so on a voluntary basis offering my services to, this past Sunday, to the Bideawee Organization. I broadcast a show for them live in Westhampton.

And on the other end of things, I did some casting for Royal Pains last summer. I cast about 55 local people into the production. About 40 of them showed up and got paid \$100 for the day, so that was an accomplishment, I thought, helping people get employed within Suffolk County.

So I think -- the reason I believe that I'm here is that I do have a lot to bring to the table on the full spectrum of film and television industry. With contacts that I've made over the years and current contacts that I have now and productions that are ongoing, I think it would be a great opportunity for me and the county to work together.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

That's very interesting, and I agree with you that you employed those peoples for the day in the arts. I love it. Let me just -- a question has come up, and, really, you may have no idea about this, but the equity union involving screenwriters and the like, a lot of the times we find out on the east end that they have to pay more for an east end issue than if it's in Nassau County. Have you ever come up --

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Well, there's the Columbus Circle -- 30 miles from Columbus Circle.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Exactly. That's the issue. Tell me about it.

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Well, it's creating -- if you inspire a producer beyond the capacity of that 30-mile limit, if you inspire them with something that they want, which is what I intend to do, then, you know, those -- yeah, they save money, but yeah, you can save \$10,000 by doing this here, but look at that, so it's kind of that weights and measures thing where you try to --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Look at that, Suffolk County.

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Look at that building in Suffolk County, or take a look at these three options, you know.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

One of the issues, Mr. D'Amaro, apparently is is that if you are an equity actor, apparently if you go out to the east end or after this 30-mile limit, you have to pay them for staying overnight, their travel cost. There's all sorts of additional costs that they layer on if you're outside that 30-mile

radius, and the east end is outside, where you are, is outside the district. I got that right, right?

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Correct. I believe that's within the guidelines of that particular setup and the way that was setup. However, how do we get around that? Well, we come up with programs and design things that make sense for them to consider the option, at least.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Right. What's that doctor's show that they have? Southampton Doctors, whatever that is?

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Royal Pains.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Yeah, Royal Pains. That's it, yeah, right. I'm sorry.

Very good. Anyone else have any questions? Legislator D'Amaro.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I'm just curious. I'm looking at what you submitted. You're a big Styx fan; is that what it is?

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Yeah, I, believe it or not, I sang a karaoke song one year, just around this time, and won \$1,000 cash singing "Babe," and I went home with the cash, and I threw it on the table next to the table, and the whole family sat there and said, "What?" So I put a band together and I ended up touring. I go out, and I charge 8- to 12 thousand dollars to sing a whole set of Styx songs for 90 minutes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

The tribute show that you have listed here. That's very interesting. Was "Rockin' the Paradise Behind the Scenes," which you executive produced --

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Correct.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Is that of the band itself, or, you know, what is that about?

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Rockin' the Paradise Behind the Scenes is something I shot. Some of it's at -- is that --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

It's listed under East End Studios.

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Okay. So, yeah, Rockin' the Paradise was a Broadway concept that I took. I started the tribute band. Well, where do you go when you're done paying tribute. You write a show and you try to go to Broadway, so that's what I did. I took the concept, took the idea. I co-wrote the show with the base player, Dennis Deyoung's bass player, and we had a backer's audition in New York City for Nederlander Organization and for all -- a couple of other major players, and I spent a lot of money and really didn't get anywhere. They didn't like it.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

So here I am. I took that whole idea, and I was like, Do I really want to do this? Do I want to be the Styx guy? And, you know, a part of me does, because it's a great way to express myself on stage and the music says it all, the best of times.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

So they call them today "tribute bands," because back in my rock-and-roll days, we called them "copy bands," cover bands. There's a cover band, copy band, tribute band, but I think a copy band is a band that has a same sound but maybe does its own original music, as opposed to a tribute band, which just does the music of the band that you're emulating.

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Correct. And there's a fine line. I mean, a tribute band is a marketing technique. It's a set list, basically, and it took me four, five, six years to figure out that. It's great to try to tribute someone, but who are you. I'm 47 years old, and I'm trying to discover who I am as an artist. So it's a journey, and I'm always learning, and I'm always trying to teach children the same thing to be your own artist.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

That's wonderful. Well, I have to say, given what I'm looking at here, which you've submitted to us, certainly, again, like our last individual that we interviewed, you certainly have that, you know, eye, and you're within that industry, so I think you have the credibility that probably is needed to persuade companies to come here and consider Suffolk County. Again, I appreciate your willingness to serve. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All righty. Mr. D'Amaro, were you a cover band?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I was in a cover band. I actually did write some songs, but here I am, so I can really relate to where you're coming from.

**LEG. CILMI:**

We are learning some very interesting things today. We share that.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Mr. Cilmi, what cover did you do?

**LEG. CILMI:**

I don't want to get into it. We did some Styx songs. I think we did "Too Much Time on My Hands." My band played "Too Much Time On My Hands."

**MR. VIGNATO:**

That's the only dance song. When you're playing next to a Motown band that the entire set is all dance music, and you're playing Styx and they're trying to dance, it's just --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

No, it doesn't work. I was more of --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Nothing as good as The Four Tops.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Led Zeppelin, kind of, Aerosmith kind of thing.

**MR. VIGNATO:**

But just to keep you up on the latest thing now, the cover band thing is where you need to be. If you asked me would I do it again, I would probably say no. I would probably target my favorite songs that I love to sing and go sing them and not be stuck in that. So anyway.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

So this way you break out into your own persona.

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Correct. I find myself today wanting to be in a cover band rather than a tribute band because I get to play -- you know, I could do Boston, Zeppelin, whatever.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah, that's more what I did. It didn't get me anywhere, though.

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Let's jam.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Well, it sounds like we got three here.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Well, think about it. Jack Eddington played the guitar, Joe Caracappa played the drums. We could put something together. Jay Schneiderman plays the drums.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

There's a reason to teach your kids an instrument: They could wind up a Suffolk County legislator.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Let's craft some names now for this group. By the way, you'll, like us, probably spend the rest of your lives trying to find yourself. That's what artists do.

**MR. VIGNATO:**

You got to love it. If you don't love it, then you better go back and figure out --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Life is what happens when you're making plans. Is that John Lennon? That's before your time, I know, the hot '60s. All right. I think we're done. Thank you very much for being here this afternoon, and we appreciate your offering your time to Suffolk County. It's truly appreciated.

Mr. D'Amaro, would you like to make the motion?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Absolutely. I'll offer a motion to approve.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Cover band alliances; I love it. Second by Legislator Cilmi. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Nowick).**

I think that's all we have on the agenda; is that correct, Mr. Counsel? Meeting adjourned.

ED 11/13/13

Congratulations. You do not have to come down on Tuesday, by the way.

**MR. VIGNATO:**

Okay. Thanks.

*(\*The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. \*)*