

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Economic Development 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 November 12, 2015.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. William Lindsay III, Chairperson  
Leg. Steven H. Stern, Vice Chair  
Leg. Kara Hahn  
Leg. Kevin J. McCaffrey (excused absence)  
Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman (excused absence)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel  
Jason Richberg, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Lora Gellerstein, Chief of Staff  
Laura Halloran, Budget Review Office  
Brian Sapp, Aide to Leg. Lindsay  
Deborah Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern  
Christina DeLisi, Aide to Leg. Schneiderman, DPO  
Katie Horst, County Executive's Office  
Lou Bekofsky, Chief Deputy Economic Development  
Ann Marie Schneider  
Greg Atherton, Aide to Leg. McCaffrey  
Robert Braun, County Attorney's Office  
Michael Pitcher, PO's Office  
Ann Marie Scheidt, Economic Development/Stony Brook University  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

**MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:**

Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:11 AM**

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Good morning. Welcome to the Economic Development Committee meeting. If we could all please rise as Legislator Stern leads us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SALUTATION**

Thank you. Good morning, before we begin, I'd just like to note for the record that Legislator Schneiderman and Legislator McCaffrey both have excused absences this morning.

Mr. Clerk, do we have any public comment cards?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

No cards, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Thank you. With that we'll get into agenda. We'll start with 1715 to appoint Edward A. Brennan --

**MR. RICHBERG:**

We do have a card.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Oh, okay. Hold on. Good morning ma'am.

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

Ah, now you can hear me. My name is Ann Marie Scheidt. I'm the Director of Economic Development at Stony Brook University and I'm here to provide background information on the START-UP New York program. I'll probably take five or ten minutes. I'll be glad to answer questions.

START-UP New York is familiar to anyone who has not been dead for the last two years through the national advertising campaign. It is a program that is intended to promote company growth and job creation in New York State. It is a tax-incentive geographically based program. The tax exemptions last for ten years. They are for corporate taxes, sales taxes and what makes this program unique ten years of exemption from personal income taxes in New York State for new employees or new company -- employees of new companies.

And the program's geographic base is that under the statute, all 64 campuses of the State University of New York are eligible to become approved START-UP New York sites. There's a complicated formula for private campuses to be involved on Long Island. Long Island University has a START-UP New York site. Campuses have to submit plans and they have to be approved by Empire State Development. Stony Brook was one of the first eight plans to be approved. The statute for START-UP New York allows amendments so once the campus has received approval for its plan, it is not fixed. The campus may make amendments by adding space on the campus or off campus. Despite the name, it's not just for startup companies. It is -- START-UP refers to -- the full name of the program is State Tax Free Areas to Revitalize and Transform Upstate New York. Thanks to the efforts of our Long Island State Legislators, we were able to get the Downstate region included in this program as well. It applies to startup companies. It applies to companies that are already here and rapidly growing, adding lots of employees. And it applies to companies that may move in to -- to the State.

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Incubator space is the only kind of space that we have at Stony Brook. We are building a third building in our R&D park. It will be done two-and-a-half years from now, perhaps. So the only amounts of space that we have to provide are small spaces from 140 square feet. Some companies that have moved into our incubator in the Center of Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology require only that amount of space. The largest spaces that we have are probably a thousand square feet and they are in companies in the Energy Center, one of the companies in CEWIT and a couple of other companies in the Long Island High Technology Incubator, which is the only one of our programs that has substantial wet lab space.

Our experience at Stony Brook has been -- of the -- 20,000 inquiries about START-UP New York were received statewide through an online system. We at Stony Brook have received more than 300. We have talked to everybody who has applied, every company that is interested. We often find that the companies are for -- for us are in the wrong industry sectors because unlike the Upstate region, START-UP New York on Long Island is restricted to a half dozen technology areas. Fortunately, they're the technology areas that we have all identified as great prospects for our future economy, biotechnology, information technology, materials, cleantech, innovative manufacturing processes, which for us opens up the food processing industry, which was -- is one of our major manufacturing employers. So it's a fairly wide swath, but it's also a set of technology sectors that suit Long Island's capabilities and assets very well.

We have now 19 companies approved; 18 of them who've moved into their space on our campus. The 20 -- the 19th will be moving in in a couple of weeks. We have one company pending at Empire State Development. If there is interest, I will describe the approval process.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Ms. Scheidt, if you could --

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

Sure.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

-- tell us what type of industries those 19 companies come from.

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

Sure. There are -- there are 11 in the Long Island High Tech Incubator. Most, although not all, are biotech companies. There are five in the Center of Excellence and Wireless. They're all in some area of information technology. They are software development companies. There's a telecommunications company. And the Energy Center has three, the largest one is developing a -- a product for home energy management.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

I know it's a short time that they've been there, but during their time how is the intersection with students and the -- the college professors?

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

I'm glad that you asked that question. It is excellent because that's one of the things that we look for when we talk to companies. We are -- this is a ten-year program. These companies are going to live with us for ten years. We, therefore, want marriage relationships with them, not one-night stands.

So as we talk to the companies that are interested, some of them already have relationships with faculty; some of them are aware of the resources that we have and want to establish relationships. So at this point there is no company that does not have some R&D relationship or it's hiring student

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interns. And we are -- we are -- now that Yacov Shamash is able to focus all of his effort on being vice-president for Economic Development, we will be recalibrating our economic development efforts on a kind of account executive model so that we will be sure that all of the programs that we have to offer are known to and made available to the companies.

### **CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Legislator Hahn has a couple questions for you as well.

### **MS. SCHEIDT:**

Sure.

### **LEG. HAHN:**

Hi there. Nice to see you.

### **MS. SCHEIDT:**

It's good to see you.

### **LEG. HAHN:**

Of the 300 who applied, how many were in the approvable technology fields?

### **MS. SCHEIDT:**

For -- there's a distinction between approvable and approvable on Long Island.

### **LEG. HAHN:**

Right. So approvable on Long Island.

### **MS. SCHEIDT:**

Approvable on Long Island? Less than half.

### **LEG. HAHN:**

And yet we only have 19 who have been approved.

### **MS. SCHEIDT:**

That is because as we talk to them about their technology areas, we are proud of the resources and the assets that we have, but we can't serve everybody. And there -- it just became clear, as we talked to a number of the companies, that -- that their needs were not -- would not be well served by what we have to offer. And what we do there, we refer them to -- there's a process -- don't tell anybody from ESD -- there's a process at the State level to offer them places around the State. We try to refer them to other sites on Long Island.

So there are software companies that have gone to LIU. We have been referring companies to Suffolk Community. Its plan has not yet been approved. I understand that it is going in soon and the approval timetable is about 60 days so we would anticipate that some of those companies that are in the pipeline that we were not able to serve are going to go to Suffolk.

### **LEG. HAHN:**

Have you had an off-campus plan approved yet?

### **MS. SCHEIDT:**

No. We would have to -- we would -- there is a prescribed process for amending the approved plan that we have for adding space that is off-campus. And we're prepared to do that.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Right. And there's a lot of interest. I know folks have been trying to reach out to you on this.

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

U-hum.

**LEG. HAHN:**

We have, you know, some strong interested downtown areas that would like to participate. And I'm just kind of wondering what the holdup is on the off-campus plan.

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

Well, we need to know where. The spaces have to be very precisely designated: Latitude, longitude, leaps and bounds. So until there is an ability to define with great specificity what sites we would be adding to the plan, we can't propose that amendment. But we're certainly prepared to work with the County to move that forward.

**LEG. HAHN:**

And have you met with the County --

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

Yes --

**LEG. HAHN:**

-- representatives on -- on an offsite plan?

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

I've met with Joann and Luke.

**LEG. HAHN:**

And have you met with, like, representatives from Port Jefferson Village and --

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

Met with the mayor.

**LEG. HAHN:**

And so, okay, 'cause we'd really like to see our downtowns benefit --

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

U-hum.

**LEG. HAHN:**

-- from -- from what's happening. And I feel like there's been, you know, dragging of the feet on the offsite plans. But I'm hope -- hopefully I'm wrong on that and that you're moving forward with that with all due haste.

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

It is the -- it is the specificity of the sites that is -- the slowdown at this point.

**LEG. HAHN:**

And is your -- is your full plan available online? Available for everyone to see?

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

Sure.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay, great.

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

Those are on the ESD website. I can provide folks here with the URL.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Excellent. That would be wonderful, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Legislator Stern.

**LEG. STERN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning.

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

Good morning.

**LEG. STERN:**

Going back to the specificity of the sites, and the fact that perhaps they've not been identified, but -- so I understand that. What kind of sites would be identifiable as potential sites? I understand and I see what Legislator Hahn is getting to, that the development of and integration of our downtowns and transit-oriented sites, etcetera, but what would make a good site? Is it -- are these -- are we talking about structures that need to be identified that are already in existence, those that are going to be new but need some type of infrastructure? And here's what I'm getting to, is that what's before us today are appropriations for Capital Projects. So I'm wondering how the appropriations of today, from your perspective, play a role, if any, in identifying these sites going forward. Is it chicken and egg, do we need this money in order to identify sites? Or have we identified sites that are now specifically in need of money? How do you see it?

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

We have -- we can -- we can add to our plan existing buildings that are ready to move in. We can identify existing buildings that need renovation. And we will have to provide some kind of renovation timetable. And we can identify vacant land. So all three of those possibilities are -- are out there.

I should also note for your interest in the vibrancy of downtowns, which has a lot to do not only with facilities where -- that would accommodate companies employing people, but also the other parts of life, the restaurants, the housing and so forth, that a site may be designated for START-UP New York but that does not require that START-UP New York be the only use in that site. So that seems to me particularly applicable to downtown areas where there may be a street full of buildings that could be designated, but it is not necessary that all of the future economic activity within that area be eligible for START-UP New York.

**LEG. STERN:**

And procedurally do you investigate, do an analysis and determine what would be an appropriate site and bring that information to START-UP New York? Or does START-UP New York come to you and say *we have a potential site, do you like it?*

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

That hasn't really happened. There are -- there is a provision in the statute that allows what are called strategic State assets to be designated for START-UP New York -- great -- that hasn't come to us. We have had conversations with the County and with Mayor Garant about space that they're

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interested in. We have heard from the leader of the START-UP New York program that there are other places on Long Island that may also be of interest. And we've had some initial conversations about that.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Hi, Lou Bekofsky, Deputy Commissioner, Economic Development. Let me just add that anyone could offer space to be included in the campus plan. So if there's space that you're interested in or any Legislator is interested in or any stakeholder is interested in, we can certainly work from the County with an approved college or university to ask them to amend an offsite campus plan to include that space. It doesn't come from START-UP New York necessarily. It could come from the local level through the college and through the process.

**LEG. STERN:**

Mr. Chairman, if I may, while Lou is up.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Okay.

**LEG. STERN:**

So the appropriations that are before us today, what is the vision for these funds?

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Sure. These are design funds to support capital funds that are in the 2016 Capital Budget. The idea would be to design a facility or multiple facilities. Right now the sites where those facilities could go are limited based on what's in an approved plan or in the process of being approved.

For example, Suffolk County Community College's plan, which was submitted last week, is currently with SUNY for review has three sites: One in Wyandanch, one in Brentwood, one in Selden. Again, we offered those sites and we can offer additional sites, if needed. But the idea of these funds is design funds for a facility or multiple facilities.

**LEG. STERN:**

So right now the only sites that are being offered up are those sites that are on the campuses of the community colleges.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Correct.

**LEG. STERN:**

But no -- no potential downtown sites for redevelopment have been offered up yet.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Except for Wyandanch, but correct. Suffolk Community -- let me be clear: Suffolk County Community College's campus plan that they submitted --

**LEG. STERN:**

Yeah.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

-- includes a site on campus at the Brentwood campus; Includes County-owned land adjacent to the Ammerman campus in Selden; and includes potential space in Wyandanch Village.

**LEG. STERN:**

That is part of the Wyandanch Rising project.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Correct.

**LEG. STERN:**

Okay. All right, thank you.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Yup.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Lou, I just have one question for you as well. Have you looked at the offsite campus that the college has, Suffolk Community College has, in Sayville in downtown?

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

We can absolutely look at that. We haven't to date, but we can absolutely look at that.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Just because by location it's right across from a train station. It's right in the middle of downtown.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

At the end of the day that's the goal.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Absolutely.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

-- we would like to have START-UP in downtowns.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

And we're already there so it's -- I think it's that much further along so I think it'd really be a good spot.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Sure.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Thank you. Any other questions? Thank you.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Are you reaching --

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Oh, sorry. Go ahead, Legislator Hahn.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Are you reaching out to property owners informing them about these opportunities?

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Not currently.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Because, you know, I don't know how well marketed or publicized this opportunity is, and, you know, I think it would be a good thing to reach out to those folks.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Sure.

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

Legislator Hahn, there are constraints on what we -- on what we can add and the way we can add it. We must, in order to add off-campus space, establish an affiliation agreement with the property owner. And that agreement must be with a not-for-profit entity. So we can't go directly to a for-profit landowner and add space to the plan. It would have to be through a -- and I can certainly provide you with that information. SUNY and ESD have developed a number of agreement templates that we must be guided by in making these additions to our plan.

**LEG. HAHN:**

And clearly when I say reach out to a property owner, I don't mean reaching out saying *you can do this*, but say this is an opportunity you should investigate. Clearly there's a way to do it, if someone in Wyandanch Rising -- you know, if Wyandanch, private property there is part of the plan for Suffolk Community College, there's a way to involve properties in downtowns that are not -- do they have to be owned by a not-for-profit?

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

There has to be control. And that control has to pass to the institution. I would be glad to provide those templates for -- for your study, if you wish.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Thank you.

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

One of the things that perhaps I should add is that the ESD directors of the START-UP New York program have made it very clear that they have absolutely no desire to take current tax paying property off the tax rolls.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Thank you very much. I appreciate you coming in this morning. Any other speakers? Any other comment cards?

**TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

Okay. So moving onto the agenda, we'll start with **1715 - To appoint Edward A. Brennan as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. (Lindsay)** I don't see Edward here so I'm going to make a motion to table this.

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion's tabled.

**TABLED (VOTE: 3-0-0-2. LEGISLATORS SCHNEIDERMAN and McCAFFREY NOT PRESENT)**

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

Onto the Introductory Resolutions. **1763 - To reappoint Paul Allan as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. (Browning)** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. STERN:**  
Second.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**  
Second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries.  
**APPROVED (VOTE: 3-0-0-2. LEGISLATORS SCHNEIDERMAN and McCAFFREY NOT PRESENT)**

**IR 1787 - Appropriating funds in connection with Start-Up/NY/Suffolk County (CP 6427). (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. STERN:**  
Second.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**  
Second by Legislator Stern.

**LEG. STERN:**  
On the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**  
On the motion, Legislator Stern.

**LEG. STERN:**  
We have two before us. Maybe we could just speak to the similarities or the differences between the two.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**  
Sure. Lou, if you wouldn't mind coming back up again.

**MR. BEKOFISKY:**  
Sure.

**LEG. STERN:**  
Lou, there are two resolutions --

**MR. BEKOFISKY:**  
Yes.

**LEG. STERN:**  
-- before us today. So I'm just hoping that you can speak to the similarities or the differences between the two, how they work together.

**MR. BEKOFISKY:**  
Sure, the first resolution is for START-UP New York for what we just spoke about. The second is for Jumpstart, which is an ongoing program to offer funding for infrastructure related to regionally significant projects. This is the third round, I believe, of the program. And it's gone to projects or support of the -- the development of projects in Wyandanch, Ronkonkoma and Huntington. And it's open to any really regionally significant project across the County.

**LEG. STERN:**

Are there any other regionally significant projects that are being considered at this time?

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Absolutely. I think Heartland, East Farmingdale, Meadows at Yaphank, Riverside, upper Port Jefferson will certainly be eligible; Patchogue, Holbrook. I think in this year's budget we actually split some of the funding into planning and construction. So I think there's also an opportunity for places such as Islip Town, which is working on a new Master Plan to, you know, try to get some Jumpstart funding for -- to facilitate the planning needed for eventual construction.

**LEG. STERN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Lou, could you speak to what happens with the funds, are they, you know, the misinformation that's out there is that we're just giving money away. So if you can kind of just walk us through the process and use any one of those development projects as an example.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Sure. Jumpstart is -- we are -- with the County's perspective we're the last funding in. So what happens is after we appropriate, we actually don't bond until the project is completed and we reimburse the local municipality that's sponsoring the project at that time. So we actually come back for you when there's a specific project and it's ready to go.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

All right. Thanks, Lou.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Yep.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Do we have a -- we have a motion and a second. Legislator Hahn.

**LEG. HAHN:**

So can you just explain where this money is going.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Which resolution are we talking about?

**LEG. HAHN:**

1787.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Sorry, START-UP New York, the \$500,000 would go towards the design of a facility or multiple facilities.

**LEG. HAHN:**

But we don't know where.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

We don't have the sites at this time. The only sites eligible are the ones that are in approved campus plans.

**LEG. HAHN:**

And this is to design a facility, a facility, we don't know what --

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Could be multiple facilities but --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Could be multiple facilities.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

To house interested participating companies.

**LEG. HAHN:**

So to provide the startup space.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Correct. Because the space that exists today does not meet the demand of the companies interested in participating. At the end of the day --

**LEG. HAHN:**

This would be owned by a not-for-profit. So I'm really confused because when we had a meeting with you in Port Jefferson, I don't even remember the not-for-profit piece coming up. So like --

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Let me jump in. The not-for-profit piece is a little confusing, but what we've heard from SUNY is that the not-for-profit could be basically us, the County, is really whoever who has controlling interest. In the templates they provide, which are MOUs, between the controlling interest of the property or the space and the interested college are customizable to the situation from what we're being told from SUNY.

**LEG. HAHN:**

So then why would it be inappropriate to reach out -- okay, so, that's fine. There was always going to be some kind of agreement between the school whether it was Stony Brook University or Suffolk Community College and the property owner to be part of this START-UP New York program, but why wouldn't you want to reach out to property owners to inform them of this opportunity?

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

I'm not saying we shouldn't reach out to them. I think what was said earlier, the intent of the program was to not take any taxes away from the local jurisdiction. So the idea was to use underutilized municipal land at the beginning of this program for the location of these startup companies. So I think that is what we've been dealing with, but this program's been fluid.

**LEG. HAHN:**

And so, of course, when I say reach out to property owners, in my mind I had those with vacancies. We have an understanding there's, you know, there's monthly -- weekly reports on number of vacant square footage of office space around the County. You can -- you do know and can reach out to folks who have had ongoing vacant properties, vacant square footage office space whether it is required to be renovated or not. You know, you can reach out to these entities and inform them of the potential opportunity here.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Well, listen, I think -- we meet regularly with the START-UP New York -- with the START-UP New York board and the other participating members, actually today there's a meeting. It's something

we can bring up to Leslie Whatley to see how it could work.

**LEG. HAHN:**

But because there is -- so in my mind, there is vacant office space available. And now we're going to be planning, you know, new office space when we haven't fully vetted what exists and who could be interested.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Let me jump in, though, because I think you're confusing it somewhat in that there has to be an attachment to a campus, to the college campus in some way or another, whether it's physically on the main campus or one of the extension campuses. It's not just -- START-UP New York isn't just throwing people in -- in random office buildings. It's putting them together in congregated areas that are attached to the campus so that you have this circular relationship with the college in that they're not only just bringing their company, but they're also feeding into the college or the university to help add to the students' experiences while they're a student and as well as the faculty.

So I don't know -- I'm not sure where you're going with vacant office space. I think it has to be attached to the campus in some way or form. And if we don't have that --

**LEG. HAHN:**

That wasn't -- that wasn't clear. So I don't understand how -- how is Wyandanch attached to a campus?

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

So when you say attached to the campus, what that means is included in a campuses -- college campus plan.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yes.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Now you can offsite space. It doesn't -- originally the intent was to have it on college campuses. That basically doesn't -- doesn't work because there isn't space available today to do that. So the idea is you can include space that's off campus, but they do have to be attached and they have to forward the academic mission of the college or university. So there has to be a linkage between whatever the company's doing and whatever the research that's happening at the college or university.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Right. To my point, it could be anywhere. As long as it's affiliated, connected to the research, it can be housed in whatever it needs to be housed in. It does not have to be a new building that we built for this purpose. It could be existing space that, you know, we decide is going to -- is in a proper location and transit oriented downtown development that fits the need as close, you know, is willing -- and fits the need of what is needed by the company to start up.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

As long as you can satisfy the -- that the space or the land is municipally-owned or -- owned by a not-for-profit, you're not hurting the tax base.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Using the Sayville building that I had spoke about --

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Sure.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

-- it's already -- the college already owns it, it's already in a downtown, but you would still have to do -- make renovations to the building --

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Correct.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

-- to make it accommodating for this -- for these business enterprises. Right now it's set up with just classrooms, which isn't conducive to office space. So there would have to be renovations, which you would do planning and construction costs to do that.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Yeah, and this funding could be for -- I don't see why it couldn't be for renovations of existing space as long as they're eligible.

**MS. SCHEIDT:**

I think the purpose of the program in bringing in off-campus space is to try to provide critical mass pockets. And the transit-oriented development approach has been adopted by the County as one of those efforts to build critical mass areas around transit sites where there's a desire to -- there's a motivation to concentrate. Because of the access to transit, we've seen that in the Ronkonkoma hub, for example, the combination of work opportunities, living opportunities and recreational and other parts of the life opportunities.

There is great sensitivity, we have seen on the part of the START-UP New York folks at the State level that this not become identified with the -- the endgame of the Empire Zones Program, where it was originally intended to create areas of critical mass; and then it became untethered from those kinds of locations and empire zones were created in a patchwork manner. There is a sensitivity to START-UP New York being seen as the return of the empire zones. And I think that's why there is a focus on contiguity or critical mass or areas where campuses are in a position to serve particular needs in the community.

**LEG. STERN:**

We have a motion.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

We have motions, right, Jason?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

We have a motion and a second, yes.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries. **APPROVED (VOTE: 3-0-0-2. LEGISLATORS SCHNEIDERMAN and McCaffrey NOT PRESENT)**

**IR 1788 - Amending the 2015 Capital Program and appropriating funds in connection with Jumpstart Suffolk (CP 6424). (Co. Exec.)** I'll make the motion. Do I have a second?

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

11/12/2015 Economic Development Committee

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Legislator Stern seconds. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries.

**APPROVED (VOTE: 3-0-0-2. LEGISLATORS SCHNEIDERMAN and McCAFFREY NOT PRESENT)**

**IR 1801 - Adopting Local Law No. -2015, A Local Law to reauthorize the Hotel and Motel Tax through 2017. (Pres. Off.)** This has to be tabled for public hearing. I'll make a motion to table.

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON LINDSAY:**

Second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **TABLED for PUBLIC HEARING (VOTE: 3-0-0-2. LEGISLATORS SCHNEIDERMAN and McCAFFREY NOT PRESENT)**

Not seeing any other business before the Committee, I will make a motion to adjourn.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:42 AM  
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**