

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING and AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Of the

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Verbatim Transcript

A special meeting of the Environment, Planning and Agriculture 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 December 15, 2009.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman, Chairman
Leg. Lou D'Amaro, Vice Chair
Leg. Brian Beedenbender
Leg. Jon Cooper
Leg. Daniel P. Losquadro

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Barbara LoMoriello, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Adrienne Esposito

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT TAKEN BY:

Lucia Braaten, Court Stenographer

[MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:33 P.M.]

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. I'd like to call this meeting of the Environment, Agriculture -- Planning and Agriculture Committee to order for the sole purpose of interviewing Adrienne Esposito for a reappointment on the Suffolk County Planning Commission. We have a quorum? Yes, we do.

Adrienne, thank you for coming today. I know that, you know, I had told you erroneously that you did not need to appear before the Committee. It turns out, typically, reappointments don't need to appear, but statutorily, for the Planning Commission, there is a requirement under Suffolk County Charter that you must come before the Committee. And so here we have convened the Committee. Is there anyone who wishes to ask Adrienne any questions? Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I'll second.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Second.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a motion by Legislator Losquadro to approve, second by Legislator Beedenbender. Any discussion?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Just on the motion.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Just a quick question. I know you wouldn't or probably could not prejudice any potential vote, but in regard to the general idea of the Legacy Village project, I know you've been a very strong proponent of true smart growth. Could you just tell us your feelings on where you think growth should be centered? Should it be -- should new areas be created that are self-contained, or do you think growth is better moved towards existing economic centers and revitalization of downtowns?

MS. ESPOSITO:

Well, I think we all know it would be inappropriate for me --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

You have to hold the button down. The light will light up.

MS. ESPOSITO:

Okay. It would be inappropriate for me to comment on any existing or pending proposal, which I will not be doing --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

That's why I asked in general.

MS. ESPOSITO:

-- today. But to the issue of growth in Suffolk County, you know, the Planning Commission has been at the forefront of developing different working committees to put forth model codes in some examples, and also to look more at smart growth development and downtown revitalization issues. And it's the collective wisdom that, you know, we want to grow in areas that have existing infrastructure that can be upgraded or expanded, but, yet, does exist, and that includes road infrastructure, sewer infrastructure in specific.

So downtown revitalization is very, I think, critical to Suffolk County, as I think the Planning Commission believes, and beyond that, I don't think there's -- you know, that's a whole philosophical conversation.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'm sorry, Legislator D'Amaro. And can I just say for the record, even though we had a motion and a second, we've already discharged this without recommendation.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

That's true.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

So we just -- that will -- we'll withdraw the motion and second. It's really just for the purposes of interviewing Ms. Esposito.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Just very briefly.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

This is for a reappointment. And I just wanted to take a moment and thank you for your service to the County thus far. You're a tremendous asset with your experience and expertise in the environmental fields, and I appreciate that, I think most of us, I can speak for all of us here as well.

MS. ESPOSITO:

Thank you, appreciate it.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

And we had some testimony, I believe, from Mr. Isles at the Committee in terms of your attendance record, because there also are requirements in terms of participation, and you did, you did meet those requirements. Let me just reconfirm with Counsel.

MS. ESPOSITO:

I hear I achieved an 89%.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Eighty-nine, not so bad.

MS. ESPOSITO:

I was going for 90. I'm a little disappointed in myself, but --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Didn't quite get the A-minus.

MS. ESPOSITO:

Yeah, that's not good enough.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Is there any further questions? If there are none, hearing none, we are so -- we are adjourned. Thank you.

[THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 12:37 P.M.]