

**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL, HOUSING
& CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

OF THE

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

A meeting of the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing & Consumer Protection 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 August 2, 2012.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Robert Calarco, Chairman
Leg. William Spencer, Vice Chair
Leg. Kate M. Browning (Absent)
Leg. Thomas Cilmi
Leg. Edward P. Romaine

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel
Barbara LoMoriello, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Joe Muncey, BRO
Benny Pernice, BRO
Samuel Chu, Commissioner/Labor Department
Ben Zwirn, County Executive's Office
Marie Berkoski, County Executive's Office
Chris DeLuca, Aide to Leg. Cilmi
Paul Perillie, Aide to Leg. Gregory
Lora Gellerstein, Aide to Leg. Spencer
Amy Keyes, Aide to Leg. Calarco
Charles Gardner, LI Chapter NECA
Kathleen Embleton, JJF CNA
Susan Odell-Pepe, Health Services
Maria Themistocleous-Frey, Executive Consultants of New York
Paul Caplan

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:29 P.M. *)

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Okay, good afternoon, everyone. We're going to start the committee here. If I could have everybody rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Cilmi.

SALUTATION

Okay. Welcome to our Government Operations, Personnel, Housing and Consumer Protection Committee. We are going to get started here. I do not have any cards. Is there anybody who like to address the committee today? Seeing none, we're going to move into our presentations.

Today we have Maria Frey with us from the Executive Consultants of New York. And, sorry, Maria, I'm not going to attempt to try to pronounce your name and do a very -- an injustice. So if you'd please come up and if the committee remembers Maria was with us earlier in the year and she runs a terrific program at the Town of Brookhaven helping people find employment and she wanted to give us an update on her efforts and hopefully this is something that the County can avail ourselves of.

Maria, if you would.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Thank you very much for having me back. The Job Search Boot Camp at the Town of Brookhaven was very successful. We ended the eight weeks at 33% hired. As of June 21st and after the JobHaven.org Job Fair, we are at -- we were at 41%. I anticipate to be right now about 44, 45% hired. And we continue to have great success. I really believe that proper preparation prevents poor performance. So I think that was -- the boot camp followed by the job fair I think was tremendous. We had a very good job fair. I'm not sure if anyone attended here but it -- we had over 500 people come in and over 60 companies present openings. So it was very successful. I co-chaired it so it was a very good event.

The Town of Brookhaven's actually interested in doing another boot camp and they are looking for the funds right now to be able to support that. We are assigning a contract with Islip Township to do a boot camp there, they have also signed up for a two week veterans boot camp, which is a tremendous program we partner up executives that were veterans that have come back and found success with veterans that are now returning and showing them that you can in fact find success again. We have partnered up G.I. Jobs, which is an amazing organization, which provides different publications such as the 100 friendliest organizations for veterans to work with, and we have been doing very well with that as well. So overall very, very successful.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Great, thank you very much.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Do you have anything else you want to add?

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Sorry, I forget to press the button. Let me see here. Basically I think that the most important thing that we've realized is that -- there were many different levels of individuals that were affected. I was very surprised to find that in my boot camp we had six C-level individuals and quite a few senior vice presidents as well. So we did have a class that was very mixed. We have moms that were returning to the work force after maybe fifteen years of not working and we had the C-level

candidates and it proves that this program really does cover the needs of everyone. It's not just the executives because we do place executives in my firm, but it is also just understanding what your qualities are, how to best deliver those when you're in an interview or even on paper or online, especially with social media today it's very important to project the right persona. But it was -- it very successful, I'm very happy.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Great. Does anybody have any questions for Maria? Yes, Legislator Romaine.

LEG. ROMAINE:

The name of your company is Executive --

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Consultants of New York.

LEG. ROMAINE:

-- Consultants of New York. And you contracted with the Town of Brookhaven.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Yes.

LEG. ROMAINE:

And that contract was to run an eight week boot camp. Tell me some of the things that happened at that boot camp. If I went there as an unemployed person, I assume you would assess skills because not everyone needs the same skill level of training because, as you said, some were executives and some were housewives that had been out of the job market for a number of years that were returning. Some were unemployed, some were part-time employed but looking for full-time work. Tell me what you would gain by going to this. What type of training would you offer?

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

I think one of the most important things that especially you had mentioned the moms that were just returning to work. The important thing is not to try and hide that factor. You know, you speak about it and you say, you know what, I have been very fortunate to be able to spend the time with my children. What it has taught me is X, Y and Z. You can't hide it. At the end of the day you have to give an explanation and I think it --

LEG. ROMAINE:

Well, hopefully it taught them patience.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

I'm sorry.

LEG. ROMAINE:

I said hopefully it taught them patience.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

I'm a mom too.

LEG. ROMAINE:

With a lot of young children you need patience.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Yes, I have a six year-old so I understand that completely.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Right.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

But I think that it's also understanding how to be able to give specific explanations or specific examples of how you found success. Even for senior executives I think the hardest thing -- first of all, I think the hardest question is *tell me about yourself*.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Well, do you do any skills training other than interview techniques, resume preparation, things of that nature. Beyond that do you do any type of specific skill training?

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Such as computers, etcetera, is that what you're looking?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Right.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

No, we do not do that.

LEG. ROMAINE:

You just do getting you ready to interview, resume preparation, presentation for yourself, maybe appearance in terms of dress and things of that nature. That's what you concentrate on.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Yes, and we also cover social media. For example, for the executives I was shocked to find how many individuals were actually not on LinkedIn, which is how most of them actually found their jobs through networking on LinkedIn.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Really? I can never get on LinkedIn and I, you know, I'm maybe on Facebook but --

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

That's because you're not connected to me.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay, there you go. Maybe I need to, you know, hopefully my constituents continue to employ me but just in case they don't I may have to look you up.

So you did this for eight weeks. It work out and about 41% of the people that attended your job search boot camp were able to find employment.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Yes, that is correct. Part-time, full-time and contract.

LEG. ROMAINE:

All right. And contract work. So, okay. Maybe the Department of Labor needs to speak -- Mr. Chu, Commissioner Chu is there. I'm sure he runs similar programs. Maybe we could hear from that because this was drawn by the Town of Brookhaven, you have a contract now with the Town of Islip, it sounds successful, I'm wondering what similar efforts we make in the County of Suffolk.

COMMISSIONER CHU:

I'm glad to report we just signed a contract with Ms. Frey to offer her services as an available -- make available her services to those who come through our One-Stop and they're interested in the skills that she provides. So we are now in a position to be able to fairly fund individuals who want to take advantage of Ms. Frey's program.

LEG. ROMAINE:

And this would be federally funded.

COMMISSIONER CHU:

Yes.

LEG. ROMAINE:

A hundred percent?

COMMISSIONER CHU:

One hundred percent.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Hopefully some of the County workers that were laid off will take advantage of that.

COMMISSIONER CHU:

Well, we signed a contract so we are confident they'll be well served if they did.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Legislator Spencer.

LEG. SPENCER:

Hello, thank you.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Hello.

LEG. SPENCER:

I just wondered in the process of your boot camp just helping us as Legislators; are there things that you see that would generate more jobs that we could do as a government? Where do you think are some of the biggest boundaries that you think are in the businesses offering jobs?

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

I think one of the biggest problems is that people only believe that they're going to find via Monster, Career Builder, Newsday and there's only 20% of the jobs that are actually posted in any medium. So the 80% of the jobs, those are the ones that people need to go to. The 20% if everyone's applying to them, well that's a tremendous -- that's a tremendous competition because there's always going to someone better than you who applied faster than you and so the same organization for the same job can very well get two to 3,000 resumes. If you are contacting the individuals that can understand what you're bringing to the table that's another factor. In many cases human resources are generalist. They don't really understand what you do. So maybe networking with the people at the higher level that understand what you bring to the table and how your skill set would benefit the organization is key. And that's what we teach. We teach networking, we ever don't condone Monster, Career Builder because you know something, people do send their resumes to 20, 30 places a week and get no results. And when you have no results it's disheartening. They become negative. Then they don't want to do this and then they have bigger problems and they're longer -- they're out of work for a longer period of time.

So really showing them that there is a different way. This is not how it was, you know, five or even, you know, ten years ago when you're looking for work. It's not about Monster, Career Builder, it's about developing a relationship. And I can give you a perfect example of that. For the people that are not working that can't find work I always say volunteer, do something. I volunteer for the Town of Brookhaven and became a board member to, I don't even know how many groups I'm a board member on right now, but they saw the value that I brought to the table. And in turn it gave me great opportunities to be able to serve my community. And we had this one individual, her name is Deloris, and she was a social worker, a very good social worker for a very long time. She was laid off and I said to her, Deloris, you need to get back into the game. At least volunteer so that you have something to talk about when you go on the interview and she did not listen and weeks seven of the boot camp she went on an interview to be a volunteer at a non-profit and they offered her the executive director's position. Talk about a testimonial.

You know, at the end of the day it's really stepping outside of your comfort zone and if you're not doing something give back to your community. I understand it's difficult. I understand gas is expensive. But at the same I'm not asking you to go and work 40 hours a week, go and do something, anything, even if it's one day a month. And once you give back that's when the opportunity comes to you too.

LEG. SPENCER:

I definitely echo that, I think that's very important. I'm in an employer of my small business. And I run into a lot of times where people are looking for jobs that -- and I saw this also recently there was a documentary *Unemployed on Long Island* that aired.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:

How do you take someone that's worked as a mid-level executive earning potentially a six figure salary and they would go to like UPS or even offer to be kind of a receptionist in my medical practice and a lot of times I'm reticent and a lot of employers are reticent to hire them because we're concerned that they may just be trying to use that particular position as just kind of a temporary. So how do you -- what do you -- advice to give people who are over qualified for but they're looking for any job?

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

First I think people need to understand that in many cases they're not signing a contract. So it can be a means to an end as long they understand that they have a plan in place to continue to look for employment. Continue to go to the job fairs and continue to network, that's the important thing. And, you know what, it's good for their mind to get back to work. It's very good for them to be able -- and to also have something to speak about when you go on an interview. And it's okay to say to an employer, you know what, unfortunately I was laid off as a means to an end I'm currently doing this, but I'm looking for to get back into my specific niche. And that's okay too. And in many cases I have to tell you that you'll go for an interview for an opportunity and they'll give you a higher position because of the fact that they see what you're bringing to the table. The whole thing is go to that interview. I don't care what the interview is, go to the interview. If nothing else it's good practice for you. And if you're not signing a contract, well that's okay, it's a means to an end. You have to support your family and there's no shame in working at Walmart, or McDonald's or anywhere else because it is, again, a means to an end. Once they understand that that's one of the biggest humps that we have to overcome in the boot camp. People are saying, *you know, I just can't take anything.* Well, you know what, it's better than your situation now. *When is your unemployment running out? Oh, it ran out, well, you need to do something.* And I think sometimes because of the fact -- it really is a boot camp, we push. We push a lot. We push. We

corner them. We put them -- we do a little shock and awe I have to tell at the end of the day they understand. They get it. And they know that's it's okay and I think acceptance is key.

LEG. SPENCER:

Thank you.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Thanks, Mr. Chair. Congratulations on your success. It sounds like you're giving wonderful advice. I always say the more bridges you build the more rivers you cross. And it sounds like you're kind of hammering that point home to people.

My question is really more I think for Commissioner Chu, so I don't know if, I mean, you can stay there you may have some input to this. With respect to the contract that you said that you negotiated with this company, what could you tell us little bit more about that?

COMMISSIONER CHU:

Well, as part of accepting our WIA of funds, which are Workforce Investment Act Funds, we sign contracts with dozens of providers, training providers, for services as far ranging as the services that Miss Themistocleous-Frey provide and as far ranging as CDLI's specific vocational trainings such as CDL trainings or surgical technology, computer skills everything from end-user skills to programming skills. So we have -- we put in an RFP process. We have an RFP process and Maria answered that RFP process and we have a committee within the Department that reviews those proposals and decides whether or not they are appropriate for the Department to provide funding for. And that's pretty much how the process operates.

LEG. CILMI:

When was the RFP issued?

COMMISSIONER CHU:

I believe in April.

LEG. CILMI:

April.

COMMISSIONER CHU:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

And did you receive any other responses from the -- from that process?

COMMISSIONER CHU:

Oh, we received, again, dozens of -- we received many responses. And there's also some room for duplication based on geography. So we, for instance, for the -- a good example of the CDL provider, we deal with a CDL provider that's in western Suffolk as well as one that's further out east so the -- an individual or displaced worker could come and sign up for the training that's more appropriate for where they live.

LEG. CILMI:

What other towns do you, if any, do you do business with?

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Well, now Islip and we have already spoken with Nassau County. I spoke with a director of economic development there. We got a phone call from the Port Washington Township. They wanted to do a program for their library. Also in Manhasset, I think they're kind of partnering up for that. And we're contemplating going back into the City because we know that could grow very, very quickly and we have a very hybrid approach to getting people back to work. We are corporate headhunters and we teach them the same synergistic skills that we use every single day; marketing, being very aggressive and I know that I'm confident that this is a great program and that it's going to grow very, very quickly.

LEG. CILMI:

Well, I mean, as you know we -- we just went through a very difficult process by which more than 200 of our employees were laid off. And so I hope that at least the 60% threshold that you said you reached in Brookhaven can occur, you know, with those employees here. That would be a wonderful thing so to the extent that we can make use of your services I think that would be very, very helpful. So, welcome, and congratulations again.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Thank you, that was 41%, not 60 just yet.

LEG. CILMI:

What did you say? I'm sorry.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Forty-one percent.

LEG. CILMI:

Forty-one. Okay. Well still, 41% is pretty good.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Yes, thank you.

LEG. CILMI:

All right. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Maria, thank you very much for coming. I just have one quick question, you know, we know we have this stubbornly high unemployment rate in Suffolk County still and there's been talks sometimes about matching skill sets to the workforce, sometimes there's just -- there's a disconnect between what people, the skills people have and the skills that the employers are looking for. Could you speak to that at all? Is there something, anything that you're noticing through what you've been providing -- your services that maybe there are jobs out there is just a matter of trying to connect people to them.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Absolutely and I'll give you a perfect example. I have a student of Penn State University that graduated with a law degree and basically what had happened was she decided she did not want to go into law at all. And so I said to her, okay, well what else would you like to do? She's like I don't think I can do anything else. People do not understand how transferable their skill sets actually are. She is a perfect candidate for most large retail organizations, for example, or consumer goods organizations where they only hire attorneys as human resources executives.

So the whole thing is having a good understanding of what your skill set is and how transferable it is. And I can honestly tell you that probably 20% of all the people that we work with go into different field based off of the fact that we teach them what their skill sets can do. You know, going on LinkedIn and taking a look and seeing what people that did what they are currently doing and what they're doing now versus their past is tremendous. And it really is very enlightening and it breathes fresh air into an otherwise stale process when it comes to looking for a job because it is very difficult. But it's a perfect example, just giving them -- helping them understand where their skill sets are transferable.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Great, thank you again. Any other questions? Maria, thank you very much and I look forward to having a productive relationship with you and getting some people back to work here in Suffolk County.

MS. THEMISTOCLEOUS-FREY:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Thank you. Okay. We're going into move into the agenda.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

On the tabled resolutions, **1340, Designating Individual Agents of the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals as Volunteers of the County of Suffolk for the Purposes of Indemnification. (Romaine)** I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. SPENCER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Seconded by Legislator Spencer.

LEG. CILMI:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

On the motion.

LEG. CILMI:

Just wanted to ask the County Executive's Office where we're at with the -- working on this problem.

MR. ZWIRN:

Through the Chair, we have had several meetings with the SPCA. I know I have attended at least one of them. The County Attorney's Office is in the process of drafting an agreement with the Suffolk County Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The sticking point continues to be the issue about firearms and the peace officer status that they have. It is a unique organization in the County in the sense that they have peace officer status yet the County doesn't employ them and doesn't control them unlike the police department, the sheriff's department, any of the armed people that we have under contract with the County. So we're trying to get our hands around that and, you know, we're looking at different options. Is it perhaps to go back to the option that the Legislature had several years ago was to try to give them a stipend to get insurance as long as it's available to them. I think their main concern was that it might not always be available to them. So we just -- the County Attorney's working hard on trying to do this. I know I've sat through the

meetings and it is a -- just concerned about the liability issue with respect because it's not -- if somebody has an accident in the County it's one thing, if they have an accident with a firearm the liability is going to be, could be extraordinary.

So there's been a draft agreement. I don't know if it's been circulated to the SPCA. I saw a copy of a draft that I think was going out. So I know they're working on it, it's not something that's gone by the wayside. The SPCA is, you know, is diligent in trying to put this thing to a head. But it's something that they're still trying to -- they're just trying to figure out the best way to protect the County and to make this work for everybody.

LEG. CILMI:

If one set agreement is public in terms of it's been proposed to the SPCA; if you would share that with members of the committee.

MR. ZWIRN:

Absolutely.

LEG. CILMI:

I would appreciate it.

MR. ZWIRN:

Oh, absolutely. Not a problem. And, you know, if I have an update at any time I'll -- I know that you've been very interested Legislator Cilmi, I'll call you and I'll call the Chairman directly so that you can -- so you're aware of, but I know there's a lot of things going on lately and I haven't got an update. The County Attorney will be here later today probably at the Health Committee so if you have any questions you might want to address them directly to him.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Okay. Thank you. Any other questions? Okay. So we I have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Opposed.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Motion's tabled. (VOTE: 3-1-0-1 Opposed: Legislator Romaine - Not Present: Legislator Browning) And I neglected to mention at the beginning of the meeting unfortunately Legislator Browning could not be with us today. She is -- been called out of town to be with her family. And we are -- our thoughts and prayers are with her at this time.

IR 1339, Designating Individual Agents of the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals as Volunteers of the County of Suffolk for the Purposes of Providing Reasonable Indemnification. (Spencer) Legislator Spencer.

LEG. SPENCER:

In light of the discussion, I'll make a motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Motion to table by Legislator Spencer, I'll second the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Motion's tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Browning)**

IR 1470, Imposing a Moratorium on Wage Increases for County Management Personnel (Excluding Employees at the Suffolk County Community College and the Board of Elections). (County Executive) Motion to table by Legislator Spencer, I'll second the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Resolution's tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Browning)**

IR 1472, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Local Law to Ensure Honesty in Gas Price Advertising. (Presiding Officer) I'll make a motion to table at the request of the sponsor.

LEG. CILMI:
Second.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:
Second by Legislator Cilmi. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Resolution's tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Browning)**

IR 1479, Authorizing a Voluntary Lag Payroll for Elected Officials in 2013. (Barraga) I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. SPENCER:
Second.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:
Second by Legislator Spencer. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. ROMAINE:
Opposed.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:
Motion's tabled. (VOTE: 3-1-0-1 Opposed: Legislator Romaine, Not Present: Legislator Browning)

IR 1480, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Local Law establishing registration requirement for Health Department expeditors. (Browning)

LEG. SPENCER:
Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:
Motion to table by Legislator Spencer.

LEG. CILMI:
Second.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:
Second by Cilmi. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Resolution's tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Browning)**

IR 1492, Implementing a Scale for Health Insurance Contributions by Exempt Employees. (Romaine) I will make a motion to table.

LEG. SPENCER:
Second.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Second by Legislator Spencer.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Are you aware of what this bill does?

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

I am aware of what the bill does.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay. What this bill does is it says that the exempt employees are being forced to contribute to their health plan, would pay no more than what would be agreed to by AME and others in terms of health care contributions. I guess we don't have to do this because roughly in 25 minutes the County Executive's going to make a announcement and he's going to have to do this. He's going to have to comply even though we are not adopting it the County Executive's going to comply with what the intent of this resolution is.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

I believe so. Well put Legislator Romaine. Okay. Well, I have a motion and second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Opposed.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Resolution's tabled. (VOTE: 3-1-0-1 Opposed: Legislator Romaine - Not Present: Legislator Browning)

IR 1522, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, a Local Law to Enhance Provisions for Enforcement of Certain Consumer Protection Laws (County Executive) I will make a motion to table.

LEG. CILMI:

Second.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Second by Legislator Cilmi. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. CILMI:

That's for public hearing. Right?

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Correct. **Tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Browning)**

IR 1580, Authorizing elected officials to make immediate contribution for health insurance. (Cilmi) I will make a motion to table.

LEG. SPENCER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Seconded by Legislator Spencer. Again, I reached out to the Comptroller's Office just last week and they're still not prepared to implement this at this point. And it looks like as through the announcement that may be coming down the -- from the County Executive's Office it will -- we'll be

seeing more things move forward. So I have motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Resolution's tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Browning)**

IR 1581, Amending the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan in connection with a new position title in the Board of Ethics: Executive Director of the Suffolk County Board of Ethics. (Presiding Officer)

Okay, we're going to skip over this as we check to see if we've moved on this resolution already.

IR 1602, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Local Law to update and strengthen the County's Responsible Bidder Statute. (Spencer)

LEG. SPENCER:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Motion by the sponsor to table, I'll second the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Resolution is tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Browning)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

IR 1678, Accepting and appropriating additional funds for a 100% State funded Summer Youth Employment Program. (County Executive) I'll make a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar.

LEG. SPENCER:

I'll second.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Second by Legislator Spencer.

LEG. CILMI:

On the motion, actually.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

On the motion, sure.

LEG. CILMI:

I have concern here because we -- we just went through a process of eliminating support for some childcare recipients. And what we did was we basically said *well, we're -- we've lost some grant funding from New York State, we've lost some funding from the Federal Government and therefore we're going to return our maximum to the maximum that the State allows us to do.* And -- or rather the State has their maximum, we were able to increase that maximum based on this additional funding and when we went back down to what the State required, I guess it would be the minimum, the State minimum, that, you know, basically lots of people got thrown off the rolls in terms of this subsidy and that was quite sudden.

So I don't want to, you know, I'm not debating whether or not we should have the subsidy, but my point is that in looking at this bill, which accepts this money, what happens when the money runs out and how do we deal with that?

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER CHU:

Well, this money is seasonal money and it's -- so I'm just going to describe what this funding is actually in terms of what we've done -- what we are going to do with it.

LEG. CILMI:

I just don't want to create a situation where people are expecting to have this program in place and then all of a sudden it's not and then everyone's like, *what*, you know, what do we do?

COMMISSIONER CHU:

Well, this is a seasonal program, again, and it provides -- it provides employment for low income youth for the season. So, for instance, we are -- expect to be able to employ 562 youth as per this funding for the summer if the same level of funding or no funding at all is provided next year and it comes through from formulas then there wouldn't be a program. But certainly --

LEG. CILMI:

And I don't want to be in a position to be criticized then for reducing funding for employment for low income youth when it's in fact, you know, whoever -- is it the State that's -- State, it's the State that's creating this.

COMMISSIONER CHU:

This is Federal funding that passes through the State and allocated to us per formula.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. I'm supportive of the program. I just want to make sure that we get that on the record.

COMMISSIONER CHU:

And, again, it's -- the scenarios a little different and I certainly respect the consideration. But this is a situation where the youth would not be in a situation where they couldn't get other employment. I mean, the day-care situation, which we're familiar with is a much more complicated situation. And certainly these -- a lot of the youths there's turnover, it's different -- there's some repeat youth that come and make use of the program year after year, but there's also new youth and certainly move on and we also have other programs that employ youth through the summer.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Legislator Spencer.

LEG. SPENCER:

Just a quick question and I apologize if the answer is obvious, but it's August 2nd; so are we are talking about for this summer?

COMMISSIONER CHU:

This summer. The dates are, and we actually had funding that we -- we are funding, we had this conversation before. It was -- we ran into a timeframe so we were able to use some of our -- we have balances that we holdover from year to year so we are actually able to use other funding that we have flexibility with until this funding was -- we accepted this funding. So we're through the end of July the program runs from July 2nd to August 17th, which is obviously in a couple of weeks so, but we had this conversation with Budget before the recess.

LEG. SPENCER:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

So if we don't accept this money we're going to be short in another fund?

COMMISSIONER CHU:

If we don't accept this money we have money to cover it but it would hurt for sure.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Legislator Romaine.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Obviously I'm going to vote to accept this money. My concern is that you initiated the {program} and took money from another account so you had the money to do it, but you didn't have the authorization to do it. What prevented you, let me say that again because you seemed a little quizzical, okay. You, the Department of Labor, I shouldn't say you, please forgive me, the Department of Labor decided to that this was something they wanted to do, which I think is great because I think youth employment during the summer is absolutely necessary. But instead of submitting this resolution to us in May, and by the way when did you get notified of this?

COMMISSIONER CHU:

That was the issue.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER CHU:

The State formula's came down extremely late, in fact, it came down past the point and that's why we got the call that it was going to be a timing issue.

LEG. ROMAINE:

When did they come down approximately? I don't want to hold to a specific date but approximately when did they come down?

COMMISSIONER CHU:

I don't have a specific date but it right in the week -- it was after our last committee meeting --

LEG. ROMAINE:

Meaning in June.

COMMISSIONER CHU:

-- before the recess.

LEG. ROMAINE:

So in essence the State forced you to do it this way. Your preference would be, had you been notified earlier to make sure that it was submitted, the funding was in place before you initiated the program.

COMMISSIONER CHU:

If I went back and showed you the e-mail chain we had inquiring on a daily basis what the formula amount was going to be so this was something where there was --

LEG. ROMAINE:

I'm sure you have. I understand I put you in a bad position, but thank you for clarifying that. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Okay, got a second on the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion's carried.
Approved and Placed on the Consent Calendar (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Browning)

IR 1698, Adopting a Local Law No. -2012, A Local Law to amend post-employment restrictions. (Schneiderman) I'll make a motion to table for public hearing.

LEG. CILMI:
Second.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:
Second by Legislator Cilmi. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Resolution's tabled.
Tabled for Public Hearing (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Browning)

I have no other resolutions on the agenda. Oh, going back to **1581**, Counsel has informed me that we have already acted on this so it should be **stricken** from the record and we'll move forward. If there's anything else, we'll adjourn. Thank you very much.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 PM*)

{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY