

**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 December 13, 2012.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Robert Calarco, Chairman
Leg. William Spencer, Vice Chair
Leg. Kate M. Browning
Leg. Thomas Cilmi
Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay, ex-officio member

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Leg. Wayne R. Horsley, Deputy Presiding Officer
Leg. DuWayne Gregory, Fifteenth Legislative District
George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel
William Shilling, Legislative Aide
Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office
Craig Freas, Budget Review Office
Samuel Chu, Commissioner/Labor Department
Tom Vaughn, County Executive Assistant III
Chris DeLuca, Aide to Leg. Cilmi
Paul Perillie, Aide to Leg. Gregory
Lora Gellerstein, Aide to Leg. Spencer
Amy Keyes, Aide to Leg. Calarco
Alan Schneider, Personnel Officer/Department of Human Resources, Personnel & Civil Service
Gwen O'Shea, Health and Welfare Council
Michael Pitcher, Aide to Presiding Officer
Thomas Melito, County Executive/Performance Management
Barry Paul, Deputy Commissioner/Department of Health Services
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

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THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:34 PM

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

We're going to get started with our Government Operations, Personnel, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee. Thank you, everyone, for being here. If we could all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Spencer.

SALUTATION

Okay. Thank you, everyone, for being here today. I'm going right into the agenda here. I don't have any cards. Is there anybody in the audience who would like to address the Committee today? Seeing none, we're going to move on.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTION

I do see that we have Alan Schneider here. And he has -- is coming before us for a reappointment. So what I would like to do, if the Committee will indulge me, I'm going to make a motion to take **IR 2224, approving the reappointment of Alan Schneider as Personnel Officer of the Suffolk County Department of Human Resources, Personnel, and Civil Service (County Executive)** out of order.

LEG. SPENCER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Seconded by Legislator Spencer. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 2224 is taken out of order.** Mr. Schneider, if you'd like to come on forward in case anybody has questions for you, we have before us **IR 2224, Approving the reappointment of Alan Schneider as Personnel Officer of the Suffolk County Department of Human Resources, Personnel, and Civil Service. (County Executive)** I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. SPENCER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Seconded by Legislator Spencer. Alan, thank you for joining us here today. I just had a -- somebody just whispered in my ear to ask you how long have you been doing this?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I'm in my 29th year.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

In this particular position?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

In this position, yes.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Talk about institutional knowledge. Does anybody have any questions for Mr. Schneider?

LEG. SPENCER:

I do.

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CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Legislator Spencer.

LEG. SPENCER:

How are you, Mr. Schneider?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I am fine. How are you?

LEG. SPENCER:

I can remember you really -- when I first came on board, I can remember coming to your office and sitting down, you really spent a lot of time orienting me to the County. I do appreciate that. You do a very fine job in what you do.

The question I had is with regards to -- it's important when we look at employment in Civil Service Law, and you have a wealth of knowledge on that particular topic, because it's a -- just -- there's a lot of, I guess, rules and regulations and things that you have to comply with. I think that -- I view your function as essential, but I always wonder, what would happen if you ever got a cold? Is there anyone else in the County who has this knowledge? (Laughter) You know, -- I know at one point there was some talk about you having a Deputy, but can you tell us the -- does your staff -- does anyone know what you know?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Well, there are a lot of people who know what I know, Legislator Spencer. I am extremely fortunate that I have a staff of many employees who -- I don't have much turnover in my Department. I actually went from the last Retirement Incentive until just this week without losing any employees. I tend to keep my staff intact. And my senior staff that reports to me has anywhere from, I would say, 24 to 37 years of experience in the County in their current jobs.

So where as -- it is the County Executive's prerogative, if something did happen to me and caused a vacancy in my position, it would be the County Exec's role to come up with a replacement for me.

During the interim period of time, my office would run very well in my absence. There are people there with a wealth of knowledge in each of the specific areas in Civil Service Law. And I would like to think I would be missed, but that office would carry on extremely well.

LEG. SPENCER:

Believe it or not -- first of all, you would be sorely missed. Your representation even before I became an elected official, you know, I heard, you know, about you. And it's one of the first stops along the way, so -- but I do think that it adds to the value that you bring. You know, I think a lot of times there may be the impression, that well, *I'm the only one that has this particular set of skills; that that makes me more valuable.* I think you are made more valuable by the fact that your office has those skills and that it gives the County security and it also allows us to be able to enjoy your services.

I think that preceding me, there was at one point, I understand historically, that you made a request for a Deputy. With your reappointment pending and moving forward, is that still something that you are looking for? Is there a need for a Deputy? Is there a need -- 29 years, so maybe you'll serve 60, I'm not sure how far you'll go, but at some point is there an idea that there should be a Deputy in your office?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Actually, Legislator Spencer, there's never been a Deputy in the Department of Civil Service and Human Resources. And to the contrary, I have never requested a Deputy.

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LEG. SPENCER:

No, you haven't.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

There's never been an intent to put a deputy in until the prior County Executive, who referred a couple of times to "what happens if you get hit by a truck?", which, he did have a certain way about him. (Laughter)

LEG. SPENCER:

I just said "if you got a cold." I was a little gentler. But, okay.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

You did. That was a very, very nice way of putting it. But I have never felt the need to have a Deputy because -- I would just like to say in front of the members of the Legislature that are hearing this, it's nice to you see here, Presiding Officer Lindsay, that my job in doing the job of administering Civil Service Law for the County and being the County Personnel Director, so for Civil Service Law administration, I report to the State Civil Service Commission as an Officer of the State. And for all the Personnel and Human Resource functions, I report to the County Exec. So I have dual responsibilities as far as my supervision and where it comes from.

But there are now about between ten and 11,000 County employees. And that is only a small part of my job. Because there are an additional 35,000 employees that are in the schools, towns, villages, libraries, fire districts, that all come under my oversight for their employment. So that there are 241 jurisdictions that are out there that I have the responsibility to make sure that all the employees in those jurisdictions are working in conformance with Civil Service Law and that they are working and are employed legally. And that is a huge job and a huge responsibility. So I have to deal with all school superintendents, town supervisors, mayors, library directors, fire commissioners and every union that represents all the employees that work in all of those jurisdictions.

And actually the time that I put in in the County role is less than the time that I have to put in with the outside jurisdictions so -- and that's why I am so fortunate to have the outstanding staff that I do have, because each of the analysts -- the personnel analysts that I have, have liaison assignments to all of those jurisdictions as they have to each County Department so that they all have one stop shopping. They can contact the one liaison in my Department and they can get whatever needs they have done, whatever problems they have resolved. And the major things, they come to me on. And that's where I get involved.

So from a standpoint of having a Deputy, I don't really have the time that it would take to train a Deputy because there is so much involved here. And I started out and got my training in as the Town Personnel Director where I spent, before I came to this job, a little less than ten years. And that was kind of a microcosm County. So when I first came to the County in 1983, I had a pretty good knowledge of Civil Service Law and the Public Personnel Administration and was able to come in. And I inherited a staff that knew County government and the workings of County government, which I subsequently learned.

So for me to get a Deputy in, it's -- a deputy is kind of starting at the top and would require full-time training with me. And I don't really have the time to do that. But if -- this is really the call of the County Executive. And if the County Executive said to me that he would like to put a Deputy into my Department, and that was his plan for the future, because I'm certainly not going to be around forever, and he would like to get a Deputy in and wanted me to train him, and that's what he wanted me to do, obviously that's what I would do.

But I have long answered your question, Legislator Spencer, but I have not been the person to request a Deputy.

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LEG. SPENCER:

I appreciate your answer. I appreciate, again, your service to the County. I'm very supportive of you and your reappointment. Thank you for everything that you do. And, you know, not necessarily -- we use that word Deputy as someone coming in starting at the top, but I would just anticipate that, you know, hopefully we'll have you as long as possible. But your office, although it would run by itself, I didn't know if there was any sort of structure within the office where there would be someone that would be kind of stepping up. Because it wouldn't run itself, you know, forever. So it's always something that we think about in terms of securing our future, to make sure that we continue to have the fine services that we get from you now.

To the Chair, thank you for your indulgence and I'll yield. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Thank you.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

And I would just like to respond to that. There is a hierarchy in the Department in which analysts come in at a trainee level and then proceed to be analyst and work up their way into supervisory positions and then into administrative supervisors and then into directors of my various divisions, who are the people who report directly to me. And I have kind of two right arms, or a right arm and a left arm there. And that is my Director of Classification, my Director of Examinations who literally could walk into my office and sit down at my desk and do my job for me until my position could be filled by the person of the County Exec's choice.

LEG. SPENCER:

Thank you. Thanks so much, Mr. Schneider.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Very good. Thank you. Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Alan, welcome. And I think, you know, we very rarely have an opportunity to see you here. And that's probably a testament to how well you do your job. So congratulations for that.

I do have two questions. You were talking in answer to Dr. Spencer's question with respect to the percentage of the work that you do for the County versus the percentage of the work that your Department does for other jurisdictions within the County. And I seem to recall having this conversation with you privately once before, and I remember asking the question, is there any mechanism for reimbursement from those other jurisdictions that -- in the County, what's your budget in Civil Service, roughly?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I truly -- off the top of my head I can't even answer that --

LEG. CILMI:

Okay.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

-- for you because our budget changes all the time.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay.

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DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Depending on the years. When we do public safety exams --

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

-- when we do the police exam, it jumps. But our revenues jump accordingly, so.

LEG. CILMI:

Uh-huh. Well, whatever it is, if, for example, 60% is Department's work, 50%, whatever the number is, is devoted to doing work for other jurisdictions, it seems to me to that those other jurisdictions should have a role in paying for those services. So, I don't recall what your answer was to that question; maybe you could speak about it now and get it on the record.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Well, we do all the Civil Service exams for anybody who's seeking employment anywhere in any job in Suffolk County. So, for instance, we give the clerk typist exam. And we're going to be giving that exam in the Spring of 2013. We expect to get this year probably 5,000 to 6,000 candidates because of the economic conditions. If you go back five, six years, we were averaging maybe 2,000 candidates. But the last time we gave it, it jumped considerably. We expect it to jump even more this time around. But that exam's results, when they come out, are doing to be used by every district that's out there; everybody hires a clerk typist.

We do desk audits at every jurisdiction, which is time that our analysts who are assigned to those jurisdictions spend in those jurisdictions. They handle problems; personnel problems that come up in the jurisdictions. They get called out there. I encourage the analysts to spend time in the jurisdictions, to learn as much as they can about the jurisdictions, to know the people in the jurisdiction. They're more effective that way.

So all of that time is being paid by the County. The jurisdictions pay nothing for this. So the question that you raise is a good one: Should the jurisdictions be charged back for some of that time? If the jurisdictions say "we're not going to pay, forget it, we won't bother with that service, we'll just hire who we want, we won't bother with Civil Service", therein lies the problem. Do you understand what I'm saying? I mean they --

LEG. CILMI:

Could they do that?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Well, really, no, they can't. But they could say that "we don't want your Civil Service liaison spending time here because we don't want to pay for it." And it might be difficult coming up with a dollar figure because in any given year, depending on -- for instance, this year as soon as we finished with the County layoffs, we began doing layoffs of school districts. And I believe we had 22 school districts that were involved in layoff situations. And we had to get those done between June and September. As soon as we finished that, we were notified that the Town of Islip and the Town of Brookhaven were going into layoff situations. And we have to get those completed before December 31st.

So that involves a tremendous amount of time. Huntington, nothing; Babylon, nothing. So, how do you determine a fair amount to charge those districts? So I'm just saying a lot of problems. Could it be done? Possibly, yes. Should it be done? Possibly, probably, yes, because in recent years we're really asking people to pay as you go and pay for the things that they use. It's something to think about, Legislator.

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LEG. CILMI:

To our Budget Review Office, do you know roughly how much our Civil Service budget is? Is it something you can pull up relatively quickly?

MR. PERNICE:

Yeah. Like the Personnel Director said, it's cyclical so when there's a police exam, you know, it's going to vary quite a bit.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Yeah. What's the proposed, Benny, for 2013?

MR. PERNICE:

I can give you the --

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Benny's our liaison to our office.

MR. PERNICE:

The Adopted 2013 Budget is a little less than six million. And, of course, that includes the transfer of Risk Management so that's, you know, a bit less than usual.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. Okay. So, I mean if we were to somehow be able to recuperate some of the costs associated with you doing work for other jurisdictions, we're probably talking about \$3 million or so minus any costs to actually do that recuperation. So, it's interesting. It's an interesting question.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Yep.

LEG. CILMI:

Anyway, let me move on from that and ask you a broader question. And it's not specific to any function that you currently do, but it seems to me that lots of what happens in the world, what we do in government, what happens in the private sector, has evolved quite substantially over the last couple of decades insofar as got experience with the County longer than the last couple of decades. I'm wondering in the past five or ten years, how have you seen the role of your Department evolve? And how do you see if evolving over the next several years? Do you see a -- have you seen any change? Do you foresee any changes whether it -- regulatory, technological?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Well, let me start with technological. We've been able to save a tremendous amount of money through technological resources. The use of the internet has become paramount in our role. We are the only County in the State of New York, and it goes back to Legislator Spencer's question to me about the -- if something were to happen to me and the people that work for me, we are the only County in the State that is allowed to write our own Civil Service exams as opposed to using State written exams.

Now, there are some huge advantages to this. We're allowed to do this because of the people that we have on our staff. We have individuals in our Exams Division, who many years ago went through specialized training up in Albany with the State and their Examinations Bureau, and they brought back this knowledge. And over the years they have demonstrated the ability to write exams to the satisfaction of the State Civil Service Commission and they have been able to train other people on their staff to be able to do so.

When we write an exam and we are now -- and for the last 15 years or so we are charging fees to

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take Civil Service exams, when we use a State exam, we have to give the State half of those fees because it is the State's exam that they have written and that they score. So half of what we take in in fees goes to the State. But when we write our own exam, we keep all the fees and that money goes directly into the County Treasury. So more and more over the years we have been able to write more and more exams on our own. But we've been able to do that because of the internet. Because our exams people who have this capability have been able to do the research that it takes to write an exam by being able to do it on the internet; as opposed to going to a library and going and sitting in the library and researching books, which is so time consuming and trying to do that so --

LEG. CILMI:

But before you go into it, I just -- it begs the question do we -- do we write the police exam or does the State do that?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

We're not -- okay. The police exam used to be written by the State. The 1987 Consent Decree prohibited the County from using the State exam because the Justice Department believes that the exam the State uses is discriminatory in that it is a one hundred percent cognitive examination. And they felt that it was not job related to the position of Police Officer in Suffolk County. As a result we were remanded to a -- to an exam testing firm that we use. We pay them a set fee that, I believe, is about \$400,000 that they do a validation study every four years to make sure that the exam is valid, which is very time consuming for them; they prepare the exam; they do all the printing of the exam booklets; they do the study guides and they do the scoring of the exam; and they do any testifying in front of the Justice Department that is necessary to handle anything that comes up by way of any lawsuits emanating out of the exam. So we get our money's worth for that 400,000. However, the return on that is we keep all the fees for the exam. So, back in 2000 and -- I forgot the year, 6 or 7, when we had 42,000 candidates, it brought in \$4.2 million in revenue into the County.

Now, subsequent to that, of course, we are doing a lot of waivers of fees. And that has diminished, the revenue on those fees. But to go back to your question, the technology, we used to require people to come in, and because of the fees, they had to come in and fill out their applications in our office. We are now able to use the internet to allow people to sign up for exams and pay for the exam fee using a credit card on the internet. So it has dramatically reduced the work time of our staff. There is -- we used to get easily 200 people a day in as we approached close to filing for our exams. And we have exams on 35 out of 52 weeks every year. So that has been significantly reduced.

And when we do a police exam that means the last time we did the police exam, which was the first time we had the internet filing, it was quite remarkable because the last day of filing we would easily get between 1,000, 2,000 people in our office. We would have to keep our office open 'til midnight, we had people coming in there. We had lines going out. This time around we had maybe 150, 200 people come in and at 5 o'clock we had nobody there. So the technology has significantly reduced the workload in our office. And I can go on and on about that in a lot of different ways.

Even in our recordkeeping, we've been able to use the computer that we don't have to keep written record. It's really improved the workflow in our office greatly. And we take advantage of that. We've got a wonderful relationship with the Department of Information Technology, which as some of you know used to be under my direction in the County. So many of the people over there were people that I hired; still work there. And we just have really good relationships. So whenever we come up with an idea, a new program, a new system that we want to put in, we just go to them and they do it for us. And it just improves everything. It saves money. We can't really quantify it, but it works.

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And the other area, Legislator Cilmi, that -- where we've changed, and I really believe we had to change, Civil Service Law -- and I'm the Administrator of Civil Service Law, I have to say that Civil Service Law is probably the biggest obstruction to operating good government. And I say that because of the rule of three. And if private industry was restricted to hiring one of three people that walked in the door, they really wouldn't be able to operate. But that is what Civil Service Law mandates. It was written 80, 90 years ago. It's never been changed. We tried to get it changed about 15 years ago. And the only reason we wanted it changed was to get a little more flexibility. We wanted to go to a rule of ten to try to get the best possible people into government. Because if you get three people, eventually, as you go through a list, and you get three people who nobody really wants to hire, that list gets blocked. And somebody winds up having to pick the best of the poorest as opposed to what we really should have and that's picking the best of the best. And it's kind of unfortunate, but I just use that as an example that when the law was written, there wasn't a County that had more than 100 people, or a title that probably had more than ten people in it. So it worked at the time. But it's never been changed.

Now we have counties with 11,000, 12,000 people. And we have titles where we have hundreds of people in them. And we have a rule of three. And that makes life difficult for a lot of different jurisdictions. But with that, we try as best we can, especially with the economic times, to be as flexible as we can with administering the law. And the law does have flexibility in it and always keeping in mind that the bottom line is what the law says is.

LEG. CILMI:

Right. Alan, I have one more, I think, a simple question. And I appreciate your time. It's always a fascinating conversation. And I appreciate the Chairman's deference here. Who sets the fees for the Civil Service exams?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

You do.

LEG. CILMI:

We do?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

You do. Leg.

LEG. CILMI:

And when is the next -- so you said we're expecting 5,000 people for an upcoming --

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Clerk typist.

LEG. CILMI:

-- clerk typist position. What's the fee for that?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I believe the fee is now 35.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

It was recently raised, Legislator.

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LEG. CILMI:

Okay. And the next police exam takes place when?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Next police exam is in two years.

LEG. CILMI:

Two years from now. What's the cost of the police exam?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

One hundred.

LEG. CILMI:

One hundred dollars. And how many people did we have take the last police exam?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I believe the number was just over 30,000.

LEG. CILMI:

30,000 at a 100. So, I mean if we -- if we increase that price slightly so as not to discourage too many people but obviously we have 30,000 people taking a test that will likely hire less than three -- good for three years, right? Or so?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

The list is good for four years.

LEG. CILMI:

Four years.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Yeah.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. So we'll likely hire less than 400 people off of that list of 30,000 or so. Seems to me that we probably have some room to increase that amount; maybe that's something that we can talk about.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I would probably speak out against that. Because if you have 30,000 people taking an exam and they're paying \$100 for the privilege of taking the exam, they're really not getting anything in return. It's not like going to a pool.

LEG. CILMI:

That's true.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

It's not like going to play golf. It's not like going to a park for a picnic. They're paying a fee to take an exam and they get no guarantee at all. And if you have 32,000 people and you got 400 winners, that's 31,600 people who --

LEG. CILMI:

The odds aren't so good.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

-- basically gave County \$100 to take a shot. I don't know if it's a good idea to increase the fee.

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LEG. CILMI:

I appreciate that opinion. That's why I ask. Thanks very much, Alan, for your service.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Thank you. Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

I think mine will be short and sweet. Just out of curiosity, I know with the layoffs that we had, I'm just curious of the number of layoffs that were made at the beginning of the year, how many are still on the preferred list?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Actually, we've done pretty well with getting people employed, Legislator Browning. I know that the clerk typist list -- and I wish I knew that question was going to come up, I could have brought all that information with me.

LEG. BROWNING:

And I saw you last night, I could have asked you.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

You did. Yes, and I would be only too happy to send that information to you by e-mail.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah, that's not a problem. And maybe just CC the Committee.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

If you can just send it to the Committee. I think we'd all like to see it.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I would be glad to do that.

LEG. BROWNING:

How many actually returned back to Suffolk County government jobs or anywhere else?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Yeah. Maybe one or two of my staff people maybe listening in on this meeting, they could be working --

LEG. BROWNING:

I can't imagine why --

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

They could be working on it as we speak here today.

LEG. BROWNING:

That would be great.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

But I know for a fact we had, I believe, 48 or 49 clerk typists on the preferred list. There's no one left on the preferred list. They've all been employed elsewhere.

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LEG. BROWNING:

Where I'm going is the TVB, when the TVB's up and running, obviously we'd like to see as many as possible --

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

We're going to -- we're going to use the -- I believe the account clerk typist list for that -- for the clerical positions staff, yeah.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Great. Thank you. And I don't know if I missed this, you may have mentioned it earlier, and either for you or Benny, how much revenue does your Department bring in?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

My Department brings in a -- an amount of revenue that changes --

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

What are we budgeted for next year?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Benny, you're going to have to answer that question for me.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

We got a 6 million cost budget next year. What's our projected revenue?

MR. PERNICE:

The revenue from exam fees is approximately -- were estimating at 500,000; as opposed to like the police year, in 2011 it was 2.4 million. So that's the big difference.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Okay. Sure. Thank you very much. If we don't have any other questions -- I think we have a motion on the table. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. **IR 2224 is approved. (VOTE: 4-0-0-0)** Congratulations, Mr. Schneider. Do we need to have Alan come back in on Tuesday? And maybe the Deputy Presiding Officer -- do you think he should come back next Tuesday? I guess be on call, Alan. Perhaps we might need you to cross the street on Tuesday.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I'll be only too happy to; if somebody could let me know approximately what time.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

We'll do our best. We'll try to keep you --

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I -- just as a sidenote, I recall one time when my -- when my confirmation hearing was coming before the Legislature. And the Presiding Officer at the time, I won't mention who, I asked him approximately what time. And he said, "well, why don't you be here at 11 and it should be done right around that time." And I was there at 11 in the morning and it was taken at 11 PM at night, so.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Well, here's what I had suggested. And I hear that there is one Legislator that will probably want you here. So perhaps if you do try to come in around 11 in the morning after our public portion, and then we'll beseech the Presiding Officer and the Deputy Presiding Officer to take the issue out of

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order and we'll get you in and out.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Okay, that'd be fine.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Okay. Great. Thank you.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I will be here.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

I see Commissioner Chu raising his hand.

COMMISSIONER CHU:

I have comments for the record.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Sure.

COMMISSIONER CHU:

Thank you for the opportunity. I'll just be -- I'll be real brief on the matter. Oh, this is a permanent button. Yeah, they fixed it, 2012, great.

You know, as coming in as a new department head with a new administration early in the year, what has certainly been, I think, in some ways a good year, but certainly we can characterize it as a challenging year, I just wanted the opportunity to express my appreciation as well as my gratitude to Mr. Schneider. I have to say having come in as a Department head earlier in the year, he is extremely helpful. And when we came in knowing there was a big budget crunch, a lot was asked of a lot of Department heads. And, again, being new department heads, knowing -- having an understanding of your personnel, their status and the possibilities, he was a tremendous help as was his Department. His demeanor reflects throughout the whole Department. And we were able to get through those difficult decisions.

Parlaying into that we were also asked to assist when we had what was one of the most difficult times in the County's history dealing with the layoffs, and I just want to personally express my appreciation for the way that Mr. Schneider handled each and every employee in this County. He values them, not just as a number, not just as a salary, but as a human being. And we worked very closely on that. And I just wanted the opportunity to express that. And I am very glad that they'll -- the Committee has expressed their support for Mr. Schneider. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Great. Thank you, Commissioner Chu. Okay. I have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion is approved. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-0)** We'll see you at 11 o'clock on Tuesday. Thank you.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you all.

PUBLIC PORTION

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Okay, we're going to move on. I did have a card come across the dais here. Gwen O'Shea from the Health and Welfare Council, Long Island. Miss O'Shea, did you want to address the Committee?

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MS. O'SHEA:

Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to just comment briefly on resolution 2012, related to collaboration and planning. And I -- Gwen O'Shea, President and CO of the Health and Welfare Council of Long Island.

Obviously given the current phase that we are in related to rescue and recovery, because of Super Storm Sandy, I think we all can recognize the importance of planning. And as it pertains to Health and Human Services, our planning is more important now than ever, because as we look at long-term recovery, when we talk about individuals, we know that their long-term recovery is very much dependent on the comprehensive delivery of services that comes from Health and Human Service providers.

So, while we know thousands of folks have been impacted by the storm, what we also know is that Suffolk County residents were struggling more so than ever prior to Super Storm Sandy hitting our shores. And so with this culmination of folks that were struggling prior and then of course now the increase of individuals that will be in need of supports for the long term, which we know will be anywhere from three to five years, and some folks even predict a five to ten year timeframe in terms of looking at full recovery, again, the planning piece is really critical.

So while we support this legislation, one of the areas that I would point to is section 3 (c) that allows or has the allowance of soliciting input from industry representatives at the request of the government representative that will be participating. However, we would strongly urge that that becomes a requirement. Because what we know about the delivery of comprehensive health and human services in this new time, and there will be a new normal in terms of how we really get back to a level of self-sufficiency and viability for the County, that there needs to be an incorporation of not just the folks that represent the County Departments, but also the administration and those folks within the sector.

And we bring that up obviously because it's comprehension that is necessary when we talk about a full plan delivery, but because we from the sector perspective are working with a group called CGR, which is a private research group that is going to be doing some needs assessment and community assessment so that we can really get a handle on what is the current need of individuals in Suffolk County; and how utilizing what we know to be limited dollars, how can we utilize them most effectively so that we really do deliver the services and resources that are necessary for individuals to recover.

So I know that this is probably tabled for today, but when it does come up again, I think it might be condensed, to look at specific areas, we strongly encourage the inclusion of a planning process for Health and Human Services and we strongly encourage the inclusion of both the Legislative -- or all three areas -- excuse me -- the Legislative body, the Administration and the Health and Human Service sector.

So I appreciate the opportunity to just comment on that today. And I commend Legislator Gregory for presenting this.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Sure, Legislator Gregory.

LEG. GREGORY:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you, Gwen, for coming here today and voicing your support and opinions of the bill. You know, you and I, I think we very much agree that, you know, government plays an important role in people's lives. But in the provision of services our contract agencies also play an important role for government. And so I agree with you one hundred percent that there should be the -- we can strengthen the language to mandate requirement that contract agencies be

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absolutely a part of the process. Because you do things that we can't do ourselves, and in some instances don't want to do and -- or can do better. So it's important to have all stakeholders at the table in making those decisions as we plan and then -- and obviously planning is very critical now, particularly as we go through, you know, budget crisis after budget crisis that, you know, we kind of focus on the near term --

MS. O'SHEA:

Right.

LEG. GREGORY:

And we should -- you know, we kind of lose the forest through the trees. And we should always keep an eye on the future. And so I welcome your support. And we're going to get through this and absolutely we're going to put out something that's going to be beneficial to not only contract agencies and the County but, you know, our constituents.

MS. O'SHEA:

Great. And we believe that through that collaborative effort, we really can create better support for the residents of Suffolk County in terms of ensuring that they had access to the programs that they need to be able to be self-sufficient and self-reliable again.

LEG. GREGORY:

Great. Thank you.

MS. O'SHEA:

I just want to add one separate plug, if you don't mind. We do a lot of work -- we run the VOAID, which is Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster. And we've been running that since 2001 and obviously have been very active over the past few weeks. But we work very closely with the volunteers on the ground that have come in to do recovery, cleanups and muck outs of households in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. And so we're having a volunteer recognition holiday celebration for all the folks that have left their homes and given their time to come into our communities and help us recover. And so we wanted to extend an invitation to everyone that's a member of this Suffolk County Legislature to come and join us in thanking those folks. It will be next Tuesday at six o'clock at the Nutty Irishman in Farmingdale. So there's no cost. It is not a fundraiser. It's just simply a way to thank the individuals that have left their homes and families to come help us recover with our homes and families. So, please feel free to join us if you can.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Good. Thank you very much.

MS. O'SHEA:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Okay, I have no other cards. Is there anybody else in the audience that would like to address us? Address the Committee? Okay, we're going to move onto the agenda. And I do see that we have Mr. Melito here with us. I think you're just here in case we have any questions, Tom? Correct?

MR. MELITO:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Okay, great. Thank you.

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TABLED RESOLUTIONS

Okay, going to go to Tabled Resolutions. **IR 1803, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Local Law to eliminate item pricing fee. (Cilmi)** Legislator Cilmi?

LEG. CILMI:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Motion to table by Legislator Cilmi. I'll second that motion. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1803 is tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-0)**

IR 1927, Adopting Local Law No.-2012, A Local Law to establish collaborative long-term visioning plans among County Departments ("The Suffolk County Visioning Act"). (Gregory) Table? I'll make a motion to table at the request of the sponsor.

LEG. SPENCER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Second by Legislator Spencer. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1927 is tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-0)**

IR 2026, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Charter Law to establish a Traffic and Parking Violations Agency. (Calarco) I am going to make a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Second by Legislator Browning. Is there any questions on the matter?

LEG. CILMI:

I do.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Sure, Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Thank you. I imagine you sort of reconciled the differences between 2026 and 2061?

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Correct. We worked with the Administration and I was able to come up with a bill that, I think, everybody's -- we're all looking to get out of the resolution and still get this up and running. We do want to try to get something passed before the year's out so that we can continue to move forward in the process and have the agency up and running before April 1st.

LEG. CILMI:

Is there anything in here that wasn't contemplated in the original discussion or --

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

I don't believe so. Mr. Melito, if you want to come up and comment on it at all, maybe, George, you can mention what --

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MR. NOLAN:

I would just say that the local law very much tracks what the State law says. Everything in there is consistent with what -- it's basically taking from the State law and organized within our Charter and Administrative Code. So, there's no surprises in it.

LEG. CILMI:

That's fine. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Yeah, good. Anybody else? Okay. I have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 2026 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0. PO LINDSAY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

IR 2061, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Local Law to establish the Suffolk County Traffic and Parking Violations Agency. (County Executive) I'm going to make a motion to table this resolution, second by Legislator Browning. Sure, on the motion.

LEG. CILMI:

Should we not just table subject to call?

MR. VAUGHN:

Public hearing still --

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Yeah, Mr. Vaughn, you think the County Executive's going to be withdrawing this or -- I mean, it doesn't matter to me. Their Public Hearing is actually recessed at the moment.

MR. VAUGHN:

It's still open. I anticipate us withdrawing this the minute you guys adopt your version of it, Legislator Calarco.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Okay.

MR. VAUGHN:

So as soon as yours is adopted, we'll pull ours and we'll get --

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Which should be Tuesday, so. Yeah, okay. So I have a --

MR. VAUGHN:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

-- motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 2061 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0. PO LINDSAY INCLUDED IN VOTE)** Thank you, Mr. Vaughn.

IR 2064, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Local Law to require gasoline stations to be prepared to run emergency generators for fuel pumps. (Stern). I have a motion to table for Public Hearing by Legislator Browning, seconded by Legislator Spencer. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 2064 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0. PO LINDSAY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

IR 2067, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Charter Law to clarify Legislature's role in collective bargaining. (Calarco) I'm going to make a motion to table. The Public Hearing's still

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open. Second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 2067 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0. PO LINDSAY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

IR 2093, Aiding permanently displaced victims of Hurricane Sandy in the Mastic-Shirley area. (Browning) Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

I'll make a motion to table. I believe Jill is here. And I'm going to be meeting with her Monday. We're kind of actually doing this without the bill, so.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Great.

LEG. BROWNING:

I'll be happy to do it.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Expediency's the best. I have a motion to table by Legislator Browning. I'll second the motion. IR 2093 -- all those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 2093 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0. PO LINDSAY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Moving to introductory resolutions, **IR 2184, Authorizing the sale of County-owned real property pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Southampton for affordable housing purpose (SCTM No. 0900-144.00-01.00-004.000). (County Executive).** I'll make a motion to approve, second by Legislator Browning. I see -- sure, Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Yeah, on the motion. If -- George, can you tell us what the size of this property is? And if there's any county cost that's been incurred?

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

I see Miss Rosen Nikoloff-Thompson in the audience. Perhaps you can come up and give us all the answers you're looking for.

DIRECTOR ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

Good afternoon. This is a 4,000 square foot vacant parcel located at 14 Silverbrook Drive in Flanders. And the County investment is \$3,411.15.

LEG. CILMI:

And we're deeding it over to the Town of Southampton for affordable housing purposes. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Great. Thank you. I have a motion and a second, I believe. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 2184 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0. PO LINDSAY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

IR 2187, Amending the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan in connection with a new position title in the Department of Health Services: Special Education Services Provider. (County Executive) Do I have any motions? I guess I'll make a motion to approve for purposes of discussion. Is there a second?

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LEG. SPENCER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Second by Legislator Spencer.

To Counsel, can you tell us what this is? Or maybe someone from the county Exec's Office can tell us what exactly we're doing here and why we need to create a new title?

MR. NOLAN:

It looks like from the resolution like there was a desk audit fund, I think. So we're creating a new title and then amending the Budget to add that position and deleting another position that's called a Senior Education Consultant.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Does that sound about right?

MR. PAUL:

Barry Paul, Department of Health Services. Deputy Commissioner. No, this is actually a BRO recommendation that the Health Department supports to create a new position that's required via New York State Education Law to allow flow through funds from the Federal government, from the Individuals Disability Act, and, again, the New York State Education Law, it's Section 44-10. It requires that we have a position with a Special Education License from New York State. And that person is a Special Education Itinerant teacher in our 44-10 Program. And it allows the school districts to issue aid money from that Federal program to a New York State approved agency that has a local education law for Special Education. But the new rule is effective in 2011, they must be an employee of the County and they must have a Special Education license. So this title is created to allow for that to happen.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Okay. Legislator Spencer, you had some questions?

LEG. SPENCER:

I did. Thank you so much. This was one of the items that we were definitely going through looking in the Department of Health and Special Education where, you know, there's a lot of County monies that we use in this Department, but we get a lot of pass through funds from the State. And, you know, I know that we were actually looking at just maximizing just -- I think it's roughly \$170 million. And the Department of Special Education total, we get about 85 from outside sources. Those numbers are very rough.

So, my understanding -- because I have a task force looking at this and I hope to be able to get the Administration's point of view in terms of what you're doing. But this was a concern, that we needed to have these types of positions in order to be able to take advantage of the funding that's out there. So this will help us get -- to qualify or to meet the criteria to get those outside funds.

MR. PAUL:

That's exactly right. This would secure a number that varies, but it's about \$1.5 million annual aid that the County gets due to this Special Education Itinerary Teaching Program that we run. So it's absolutely critical to -- for the future to secure these funds, to have a title that complies with State law.

LEG. SPENCER:

I applaud you for doing that. And I hope that the Task Force, that as we're looking to work -- and I had, I guess, the meeting with the Administration that we're working on this together, is there a

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need -- is this kind of only the start? Is there opportunity that if this is duplicated, that there's more funds available? Is this just the beginning point? Or by putting this position in place, we'll be maximizing all of the money that's available to us with this one position?

MR. PAUL:

Yeah, the way this works, this would allow us to maximize where we currently are, to maintain where we are. We already maximized the availability. It's based on a formula for the number of children in the program.

LEG. SPENCER:

Okay.

MR. PAUL:

And we have providers in the program. But what changed uniquely was that we needed a Special Education teacher licensed as an employee criteria for a position. So once you have that, you can maintain that program, which the County has done over the years. So this allows us to maintain. The -- it's based on the number of students that are in the program.

LEG. SPENCER:

Thank you. That's all that I have. Thank you very much. And I support this and appreciate what you're doing.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Great. Do we have any other questions? Okay, thank you, Mr. Paul.

Do I have a motion and second? I do. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 2187 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0. PO LINDSAY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

I have no other items on the agenda. So I will make a motion to adjourn. All those in favor? We are adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:37 PM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**