

**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 September 30, 2015.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Robert Calarco - Chairperson
Legislator William J. Lindsay III - Vice Chair
Legislator Jay Schneiderman - Deputy Presiding Officer
Legislator Thomas Cilmi
Legislator Kevin J. McCaffrey

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George M. Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson - Assistant Counsel to the Legislature
Jason Richberg - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Laura Halloran - Budget Review Office
Benny Pernice - Budget Review Office
Barbara Stoothoff - Director/Consumer Affairs
John J. Sarno - Suffolk County Department of Labor
Katie Horst - County Executive's Office
Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory
William Shilling - Aide to Legislator Calarco
Brian Sapp - Aide to Legislator Lindsay
Chris DeLuca - Aide to Legislator Cilmi
Greg Atherton - Aide to Legislator McCaffrey
Jason Hann - Aide to Legislator Schneiderman
Kathy Malloy - AME
Rick Brand - Newsday

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher - Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary

(*The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m.*)

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

If we could all please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Schneiderman.

SALUTATION

Okay. Welcome to the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing and Consumer Protection Committee. We are going to get started. I have heard from Vice Chair Legislator Lindsay. He is running a little late and if he is unable to get here he does have an excused absence. I do not have any cards at this time. Are there any speakers who would like to address the committee this morning? Seeing none. I have no correspondence, so we will go directly into the agenda.

Tabled Resolutions

Tabled Resolutions. ***IR 1643 - Adopting Local Law No. -2015, A Local Law to amend Resolution No. 560-2015, A Local Law to regulate "Board Up" businesses in Suffolk County (Browning).***

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Public hearing, right?

MR. NOLAN:

Closed.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I make a motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

I think the sponsor is asking to have this tabled for a cycle.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Yeah, okay. I'll withdraw my motion.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

I'll make a motion to table.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Second by Legislator Schneiderman. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? IR 1643 is tabled. ***(VOTE: 4-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Lindsay. *IR 1643 is reconsidered*)***

(Sidebar Conversation)

Counsel is telling me that there was a minor correction made and this does not need to be tabled.

MR. NOLAN:

Well, I haven't spoken to the sponsor, but basically it's correcting the Board Up Businesses Bill. There was an error in the bill that we passed, and this clarifies that the registrants have to have a surety bond in addition to other insurance requirements. This is something that the department wants as well. So I had not heard that they wanted to have it tabled.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay. Well, then, you know, I will make a motion to reconsider. Second by Legislator Schneiderman. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***IR 1643 is back before us.***

I'll make a motion to approve 1643. Second by Legislator Schneiderman. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? IR 1643 is approved. And if there is any work that needs to be done to it, then we can table it on the floor on Tuesday. ***(VOTE: 4-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Lindsay)***

Moving on, ***IR 1644 - Creating a School Employment Resource Tour ("SERT") Pilot Program for high school and college seniors(Anker)***

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Motion by Legislator Schneiderman. I'll second the motion. Any discussion?

LEG. CILMI:

Well, motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Legislator Cilmi?

LEG. CILMI:

I make a motion to table.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Legislator Cilmi makes a motion to table. Second by Legislator McCaffrey. Anybody on the motion? Is there a reason --

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Can I ask to pass over this until Bill gets here?

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay. We will pass over it for the moment until the rest of the committee gets here this morning.

LEG. CILMI:

What if they don't get here?

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Well, then we'll have to deal with it eventually. But we'll pass over it for the moment. Moving on to Introductory Resolutions.

Introductory Resolutions

IR 1679 - Appropriating funds for acquisition of Land for Workforce Housing (CP 8704)(Co. Exec.). My understanding is that the sponsor of this resolution has asked us to table it. Is that correct, Katie, the sponsor being the County Executive?

MS. HORST:

Yes. And also 1680.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

I will make a motion to table. Second by Legislator Schneiderman. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? IR 1679 is tabled. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Lindsay)**

IR 1680 - Appropriating funds for Infrastructure Improvements for Workforce Housing/Incentive Fund (CP 6411)(Co. Exec.). Same motion, same second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1680 is tabled. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Lindsay)**

IR 1700 - Appropriating funds in connection with the Countywide Licensing Program for the Department of Labor, Licensing and Consumer Affairs (CP 1819)(Co. Exec).

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'll make a motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Motion to approve by Legislator Schneiderman. I will second the motion. Legislator Schneiderman, on the motion.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Is anybody here?

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Is there anybody here from Consumer Affairs?

MS. STOOHOFF:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Come on up, folks. Legislator Schneiderman has a few questions for you about what we're doing here.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yeah. If you could explain. I mean, half a million is a lot of money for software and this is Countywide. I know we license Countywide. We don't necessary seem to enforce Countywide some of our County contractor laws. This seems to be focused primarily in Western Suffolk, because I think a lot of the towns and villages have their own licensing requirements on the East End. So if you could just tell me what this is doing, is this going to make it easier for the County to involve itself Countywide or no.

MS. STOOHOFF:

What this is, is a program -- I'm sorry. My name is Barbara Stoothoff, I'm the Director of Consumer Affairs. This money that we're requesting is actually Phase II of the program implementation. The first phase was used for TLC, Taxi Limousine Commission, solely. And based on our experience with that, we wanted to go on now and transfer all of CA into this Accela Program. What it will do is actually it diminishes the need for staff because we will be able to renew applications online. People who would like to renew can pay online. We have no ability right now to accept any type of payments online, credit or debit cards. We have many, many huge corporations who pay us fees for either the item pricing program, for scales in their stores and they've constantly asked, you know, do I have to mail a check, don't you have an account, and this is one of the major components. We'll also be able to interface with IFMS on this, the public portal will be easier for people to

navigate. I could go on and on and on.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Will it make it so people don't have to drive to Hauppauge for certain things?

MS. STOOTHOFF:

Yes, yes.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

It will.

MS. STOOTHOFF:

Absolutely. They can renew -- we have 17,000 licenses.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And they have to come in in person to renew currently?

MS. STOOTHOFF:

Yes, for the most part.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

They won't have to do that anymore?

MS. STOOTHOFF:

No. They will be able to renew online and pay online.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

That's a good thing.

MS. STOOTHOFF:

Yes, it is.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay. Any other questions? We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? IR 1700 is approved. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Lindsay)**

IR 1752 - Adopting Local Law No. -2015, A Local Law to improve the County's Affordable Housing Program(Hahn). This needs to be tabled for public hearing so I'll make the motion. Seconded by Legislator Schneiderman. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? IR 1752 is tabled. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Lindsay)**

(Legislator Lindsay entered the meeting)

And we are back to IR 1644.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

So I guess the question here, since we have competing -- we have competing versions -- I guess is there anybody from the Department who wanted to come up and speak to this resolution, because I think it's something that's been kind of sorted out ahead of time. John, do you have information for us on this?

MR. SARNO:

Good morning. John Sarno, Suffolk County Department of Labor. Basically we met yesterday with

the Rocky Point School District to try to start rolling this pilot program out. Basically what we're trying to do is reach out to the high school and college seniors before they graduate, show them what resources are available within the County, within Suffolk County. There are people in high school that are not going to be going to college for whatever reason or may be going locally to college that do need employment, and we were going to give them tours and show them all the resources that are available at the One-Stop Center.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Any cost?

MR. SARNO:

No, there would be no additional cost at this time. We can cover it under the WIOA grant, Federal grant, that we get.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. I'll make a motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

We have a motion already. We have the motion and a second. And did you withdraw your motion to table, Legislator Cilmi?

LEG. CILMI,

No, I didn't.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay.

LEG. CILMI:

But I do have a question.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Go ahead.

LEG. CILMI:

So, John, do we really need legislation to tell the Department of Labor to reach out to a school district or to tell a school district to reach out to the Department of Labor? I mean, this sounds so wasteful to me. It doesn't seem like it's really necessary. I mean, schools have the ability to call our Department of Labor and come on tours if they want to come on tours, right?

MR. SARNO:

Yes, they do. Anybody, any organization. We deal with a lot of non-profits and everything. They do have the ability to contact us directly and we just set up programs where they can come and visit the center and so on.

LEG. CILMI:

Do we -- do we reach out to schools when we have certain programs to avail ourselves of those programs?

MR. SARNO:

What do you mean by that?

LEG. CILMI:

To avail them, or to make them aware of the programs that we offer?

MR. SARNO:

We do publicize when we have different incentive programs, both to the businesses and schools, yes.

LEG. CILMI:

So I'm a little confused as to what this actually accomplishes.

MR. SARNO:

Well, basically from my understanding, okay, I'm not the sponsor of the program, but from my understanding is that this is a pilot. It's supposed to eventually evolve maybe into a full-blown program where we can do more to reach this population before they --

LEG. CILMI:

Yeah. I mean, I hate to put you on the spot, but what would that full-blown program entail exactly?

MR. SARNO:

We haven't developed that yet. We had our first meeting, like I said, yesterday with Rocky Point. And we had the Superintendent, the administrators and they weren't quite aware of all the services we had available to the students and everything and to the public in general.

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

MR. SARNO:

We're also hoping that this will evolve --

LEG. CILMI:

Are they aware now?

MR. SARNO:

Yes, and that's why we're in the process of talking to them to see exactly how we're going to roll this out if it does get passed.

LEG. CILMI:

What exactly would we be rolling out? I'm not exactly sure. I mean, if they're now aware of what you offer, which is great.

MR. SARNO:

Right. Well, they were going to go back, discuss it, see how they can implement. That was my understanding.

LEG. CILMI:

See how they could implement. I'm just -- I'm really -- this is why I asked for the motion to table, because I'm really unclear as to what this really -- I don't think it does anything.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Well, I think it's directing the department to work with Rocky Point to develop this program, and quite honestly --

LEG. CILMI:

What program?

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

And I'll be honest with you. I reached out to the Department of Labor, probably about a year-and-a-half ago and under a different Commissioner at the time, because I had a gentleman in my district who was looking for us to develop one of these types of programs, a little bit slightly different in that he wanted us to also make sure that we spoke to the school districts about the County jobs that were available, actually County employment, and the different types of things that we had because we have over 10,000 employees and there's a lot of different types of jobs, things that people don't even realize the County does. They wanted to make sure that students knew that that was something that was potentially an option for them. And I never heard back from him even though I had sent him a couple of letters. So clearly sometimes there's a need to get better communication between the department and that's what these come from. And quite honestly, you know, a couple of months ago we passed a resolution directing the Police Department to do a feasibility study on the way that they run their academy and putting people through the academy through an accelerated track if they were coming from another department and the Police Department --

LEG. CILMI:

That's a policy.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

No, no, no, no. You could do that through a letter, too. You don't need to direct the department to do a feasibility study. You could just send them a letter and ask them to do the feasibility study. They came here and told us what they thought was going to be the issues, and lo and behold we passed a resolution and the feasibility study was done and we heard exactly what they told us at the meeting. So, you know, sometimes we pass resolutions because that's the only way to get the department to do exactly what we want them to do and it's, you know, the way the process works.

LEG. CILMI:

We pass many --

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

And you've done them as often as Legislator Anker has.

LEG. CILMI:

I have. We pass many pieces of legislation directing departments to do feasibility studies. I just don't see the need to pass a piece of legislation to tell our department to reach out to school districts to organize tours.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

I don't see the need to tell our department to do a feasibility study when we could just ask them to do it.

LEG. CILMI:

That's why we have a Legislature.

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

It's the same logic, Legislator Cilimi.

LEG. CILMI:

That's why we have a Legislature. You have your opinion, I have my opinion.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

If I can speak. I sponsored that legislation, the feasibility study. That was to save millions of

dollars. And they did not want to do that study. That's the difference. The Department of Labor and Consumer Affairs is more than willing to do it. In fact, they've already done it. So that is what -- that's the stark difference here. They're already doing it. Why are we passing legislation that is kind of almost specific to Rocky Point. They've already reached out to them.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

I hope that they get this pilot program off the ground and it's successful and we can turn it into a full-blown program in Pat-Med and Longwood and other school districts can participate in as well.

LEG. CILMI:

What is the program? Can somebody explain to me what the program is?

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

I think John has, but, John, can you go over it again quickly?

MR. SARNO:

Basically it's just an outreach program to bring the students in and make them familiar with the services available to them with the County and the One-Stop Centers.

LEG. CILMI:

An outreach program. What does that mean, a phone call?

MR. SARNO:

Like I said, this is a pilot. Right now we've been contacted by -- through the legislative -- with Sarah Anker with Rocky Point, and that's the one we're starting with. I don't know how it will evolve.

LEG. CILMI:

All right. Well, I mean, if this Legislature wants to pass legislation to tell you to make a phone call that you're more than happy and willing to make and that you have made, then that's obviously this Legislature's prerogative, but it's not something that I am going to support. I support you reaching out. I think it's great that you reach out to the school districts and I think there's tremendous benefit in that, but I don't think we need to tell you to do something that you've already done and that you plan on continuing to do.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay. We have two motions. We have a motion to table by Legislator Cilmi that's been seconded by Legislator McCaffrey. Is that accurate?

MR. RICHBERG:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

And we have a motion to approve as well on the table?

MR. RICHBERG:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

So the tabling motion goes first. All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. LINDSAY:

(Indicating opposed)

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

(Indicating opposed)

CHAIRMAN CALARCO:

Abstentions? The tabling motion fails. **(VOTE: 2-3-0-0 - Opposed: Legislators Calarco, Lindsay and Schneiderman)**. We have a motion to approve. All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CILMI:

(Indicating opposed)

LEG. McCAFFREY:

(Indicating opposed)

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Abstentions? IR 1644 is approved. **(VOTE: 3-2-0-0 - Opposed: Legislators Cilmi and McCaffrey)**

Okay. I have no other items on the agenda before me. Is there anything else any members would like to address? Seeing none, we will make a motion to adjourn. We are adjourned. Thank you.

(*The meeting concluded at 10:25 a.m.*)