

**HEALTH COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

A regular meeting of the Health 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 Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 2:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator William Spencer - Chairman
Legislator Bridget Fleming - Vice-Chair
Legislator Robert Calarco
Legislator Monica Martinez
Legislator Robert Trotta
Legislator Leslie Kennedy

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Legislator Tom Cilmi - Excused Absence

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan - Counsel/Suffolk County Legislature
Sarah Simpson - Counsel/Suffolk County Legislature
Jason Richberg - Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
Elizabeth Alexander - Aide to Legislator Spencer
Liz Sutton - Aide to Legislator Fleming
Ali Nazir - Aide to Legislator Kennedy
Maria Barbara - Aide to Legislator Cilmi
Alyssa Turano - Aide to Legislator Hahn
Michael Pitcher - Aide to the Presiding Officer
Craig Freas - Budget Review Office.
Walter Dawydiak - Director of Environmental Quality/Suffolk County Health Department
Ron Paulsen - Supervisor of the Groundwater Investigations Unit/Suffolk County Health Department
Peggy Berdot
Maria Berdot
All Other Interested Parties

TAKEN BY:

Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 2:40 p.m. *)

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Good afternoon, and thank you, everyone, for being here. We are now going to begin the Health Committee. If you would please stand and join me in the salute to the flag being led by Legislator Trotta.

(*Salutation*)

Please remain standing for a moment so that -- for a moment of silence for the men and women who are serving this country both at home and abroad.

(*Moment of Silence*)

Thank you. So welcome to the Health Committee. And are there any speakers who wish to be heard? We have a presentation today, but is there anyone in the audience that wished to be heard? The Public Portion is open at this time. If you desire, you can come up and speak at the podium for three minutes. Going once, going twice. Seeing none, Public Portion is now closed.

I don't have any correspondence to the committee. And we do have a presentation today. So before our presentation, are there any appointments or anything that we need to take out of order?

MR. NOLAN:

Is Michael Martinsen here?

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Is Michael Martinsen here? Okay. In any case, today I'm very proud to have with us just -- a very brave mother and daughter came who are here to kind of offer their personal story to this committee, and it's just with -- regarding their family's experience with K2 marijuana. So I'm going to ask if Peggy Berdot will come forward at this time, and with her daughter Maria, Maria and Peggy. And you're going to have a seat at the table right here in the front.

Good afternoon, Peggy and Maria. Thank you for being here. We did have a chance to speak a little bit before the start of the committee. And I just wanted to kind of share with my colleagues on the Legislature. Peggy and Maria live in Huntington, and they had a very personal experience with K2 marijuana addiction, and it really created a lot of turmoil in their lives. And they're both here today to share their story. And so, Peggy, I don't know if you would like to go first or if Maria, if you would like to go first, but please go ahead and share your story.

MS. PEGGY BERDOT:

So my name is Peggy and I'm an RN, so I come from a health perspective also, and Maria's mom. Maria had suffered a traumatic experience about a year-and-a-half ago, and which led to bullying in school. She wound up going to an alternative program called the Help Program at Whitman High School, where she met an 18-year old boy when she was 14. I did not like this 18-year-old boy. We tried to keep her away from him as much as possible, but she pursued a relationship with him, and she smoked marijuana with him and she was caught by us. We tested her, we felt she had smoked it. And when she went back to this boy, she explained to him that she can't smoke marijuana anymore because she would get in trouble for it. So he introduced her to a drug called K2, which, even as an RN, I had no knowledge of this drug at the time.

So we're here to create an awareness, and we also are trying to get some laws changed, also, on this drug, because the laws that we do have now are not really protecting our children and adults.

A lot of adults do this drug because they're on probation. This drug does not come up in your normal drug test. So that's one of the things that we would like to see happen, is that the K2 drug test go into your normal drug test that you would buy at CVS. There was a compound called JW with a bunch of numbers after it, and if it comes up positive for that, then it means that that person had been smoking K2. The rehabs are using this drug.

So I had knew that -- I knew that Maria was doing something, because she completely changed her appearance, she changed her personality, she changed in every way. Family was not important to her anymore. She would sneak out to be with this certain crowd. This crowd consisted of older men, 28 years old, 22 years old, giving 14-year-old girls this drug. What it caused was her to be extremely violent in our home. She was completely psychotic at times. It also caused -- at one point, we had several ER visits because of this drug, because of violent behaviors, and we just didn't know what to do with her. We were testing her and the tests kept coming out negative, because this K2 drug is not in your drug tests. So I thought at one point, actually, maybe is she schizophrenic, because that's literally how she was appearing to be.

At one point, she told us about the K2, and when she was withdrawing, which is another very big part of this drug, the withdrawals of this drug are even more horrible than when you're on the drug. I had brought her to Huntington Hospital. Her heart rate went down to 29. Her eyeballs rolled back in her head. She said that she thought that she was going to die. So then we had rushed her over to Cohen's Hospital at that point to their ICU to be worked up cardiology-wise, and at that point, she had something called dystonia, where you have uncontrollable muscle movements. Her tongue was sticking out of her mouth. It was a very horrible thing to see your own child go through. But at least at that point she had come to us and told us what drug she was using and then we were able to begin help for her. It's been a long road. Maria is 104 days sober off of any drug today.

(*Applause*)

And we are extremely proud of her. She had to be in several different psychiatric inpatient hospitalizations, but I think we got it under control now.

So Maria spoke at the Drug Task Force in Northport a couple of weeks ago to bring awareness to parents and administrators, and she did an awesome job, so she asked if she could speak here today also. But just a couple of things that I wanted to go over of some research that I had done.

In Suffolk County, it's illegal to sell K2 at this point, but it's not illegal to have possession of it. If you're selling, you can get a \$1,000 fine and one year in prison. New York City bans the manufacturing of K2, it bans possession. If you have nine or more bags and there's two grams to a bag, then you -- they look at you as intending to sell it. And then you can get a \$5,000 fine and they can -- if you have -- if you have a repeat offense of this, they can shut down your facility. They sell this right in 110 Convenience Store, right across from the Walt Whitman Mall. They sell it in gas stations. It's very easy for people to get, and it's not expensive, it's \$20 for the bag.

So what we would like to do also is try to get Suffolk County at least on board of what New York City is doing right now as far as the laws of this drug, and maybe even go further, because having nine bags on you, that's a lot of K2, it really -- you know, it's -- you know, the law should be even stricter than that to try and protect our people.

So I'm going to let Maria take over. She'll tell you her story.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Pull the mic close to you, Maria.

MS. MARIA BERDOT:

Hi. I'm Maria. So, basically, my mom went over all the facts of K2. But when I first began using it, it was introduced to me as it was the same exact thing as smoking regular marijuana. I was told that it's the same high, it's just increased and it lasts longer, which is not true at all. You can smoke it and you cannot feel high at all, or you can smoke it and you can hallucinate for days at a time, think that you're somewhere else, basically, a bad LSD trip. And there have been times where I have smoked it and I had thought that I was in the middle of the woods at one second, and then a minute later, I'm in the middle of an ambulance, basically, seizing, throwing up, not knowing what's going on, not telling people who my name is, like not really understanding what was going on around me. And that could last for two hours, or it could last for two days, depending on where I hit the K2.

Basically, there are things called hot spots, because this is manmade. So they basically take like pieces of parsley or all different types of leaves and they spray it with all these chemicals, and it's not really done by machine, it's just sprayed in random places a lot, random places a little bit. And if you hit that hot spot, you can hit it one time, and you could probably overdose from that, if not hallucinate for God knows how long.

And the reason why I -- the reason why I basically started this was not that I was on probation, but I was being drug tested. And a lot of kids are fearing that if they fail their drug tests, they'll get taken away from their friends or not be able to smoke marijuana, which I've had doctors tell me that they have -- they would rather me be smoking the real stuff than K2, because the real stuff, it will hurt you and it's going to make you not a great person, but it's not going to kill you at that time, obviously, and K2 you could die from. It's the same exact thing as a heroin overdose, because I've done heroin, too, and K2 is just as bad. The withdrawals are even worse, in my perspective. The -- everything about it is just horrible.

And they sell it, basically, at any gas station. It's really big in Harlem. I've gone to Harlem before and it's \$5 for two grams of it, which is basically a death wish if you smoke all of that at once. And the kids that are smoking it are looking like they are constantly on meth or they look insane. Like if you look at videos of kids on this, they look like they're having a nervous breakdown and they're schizophrenic. They look -- they are not mentally there. Your head -- you go to a completely different place, it's a different world. You don't remember who you are. You don't care about anyone who cares about you. If someone tries to get too close to you, because -- you instantly back away, because the only people you want to be around are the people who are supplying you with it.

I was around people who I thought that I cared about, and even -- even though they didn't, I still thought that I was having a good time with them, and if I didn't have K2 in my system, I wasn't having a good time. There have been times where I was told that I couldn't have it for a few hours and I'd be crying, because all I wanted was K2. I woke up, K2. I went to sleep, I wanted K2. I would always want it, I'd be singing about it. It's not only a mental addiction, it's a physical addiction to the point where you're throwing up, your stomach hurts, you feel like you're going to pass out, you feel like you have the flu, even not having it for a day. If you don't smoke it for one day, you feel like you're going to die instantly. And even mentally, you literally dream about it, it's like having a drug dream. You dream about what it looks like, what it tastes like, what it feels like, what it even smells like, if it even has a smell. No one -- I really don't even know how to describe the smell, just a taste, it's nasty.

There was one time I was sitting at my kitchen table, sitting there, and I looked up and I said that my chicken was floating off of my plate. And, at this time, my mom was clueless to what I was doing, because it wasn't coming up in my drug test. And when I was doing that, I thought that I

was being funny, and I didn't really care about the reaction. My older brother was there, and he's a drug addict himself, still actively using, and even he was worried about me, and he sits there telling me how great LSD is. And everybody around me was constantly just wondering, "What's happening to Maria, is Maria okay," because I wasn't there, I was not the same person.

And then people that I go back to that I did hang out, and maybe I smoked weed with them a few times, and then I talk to them now, and they're in the middle of recovery, too, so I'm trying to help them to realize that they can do it, too, and what will happen is they'll look at me and they don't recognize who I am, because when I was using that, I wasn't wearing nice clothes, I wasn't doing my hair, I wasn't showering every day, I wasn't doing my makeup, wasn't going to school, doing my homework. I basically woke up, brushed my teeth, put on a pair of sweatpants and a shirt, walked out the door, went and got a bunch of K2, sat down in a crack house, basically, and smoked it, and my appearance didn't matter to me. And it matters to me a lot now, because -- even more before, because I realize that I really do care about myself and I like the way I look. And when that was happening, I did not care, and it not -- it brings your self esteem down, it makes you not like yourself. So when you don't like yourself, you don't care what happens to yourself.

And this stuff is just horrible. And even my own uncle used it when he was in probably like his twenties, and my uncle obviously didn't care about himself when he was using that. It's not even just kids, it's adults, too, it's people in college. It's -- little kids are smoking this stuff, because they're being told by teenagers that it's just a fun drug to do and it's not going to hurt you, because there are no known overdoses, because nobody knows it's in your system because nobody knows how to test you for it. The withdrawals are not -- they're just different every time. Everybody is different when it comes to this. There's no protocol when you go into the hospital.

Ninety percent of the people who work at hospitals don't even know what K2 is, or spice, or K-bizzle, or whatever people call it. There's so many names for it, and there are there are so many bags. There's bags called Green Giant, and Psycho, and Jeffrey, and it goes -- the list just goes on and on. And the people selling it, they'll carry like five bags a day, and only certain people will they sell it to. But if you tell them that, "Hey, I know so and so and they told me to come here," they'll sell it to you under the counter, away from the camera, when their boss isn't looking, and they'll just tell you, "Hey, we need an extra ten bucks if you want this." And then they'll -- then once you get it, you need to go back. And then you find out that that person isn't selling it, they'll refer you to another person, and especially in Harlem, I mean, and that's the cheapest place to get it. It's \$5 for two grams. I mean, two grams of marijuana or any other drug is at least 30 bucks, 40, 50 bucks, whatever. And \$5 for that, people think that this is the best thing that they've ever heard of, because they can get a so-called amazing high for \$5. I mean, isn't that great? That's what everyone's saying.

And their parents aren't going to find out about it, the friends they don't want to know won't find out about it, school won't find out about it, because there's no drug test. Hey, so why not, just do it. But then they don't realize that in a month from now, they're coming out in a body bag and nobody knows why. And families are grieving, because they don't know what they did. They think that their kid was sick or ill and they did nothing about it. Families are feeling like they didn't help their kid because their kid just died of an overdose without them even knowing what they were doing. And it's not even just hurting the people using it, it's hurting the people around it, because I was in a rehab one time and they say that the same symptoms that an addict is feeling are the same exact symptoms that the family is feeling. You compare the two and they're almost identical, mentally and physically. And this stuff is just not good for you, it's really hurting everybody around you.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Maria, as I told you privately, and I'll tell you publicly, I am just so impressed with how brave you are. I am so impressed with how you were able to overcome these challenges, and that you've

reached this major landmark to be 100 days sober. And to do that at such a young age, and, you know, first of all, you are a success story, and a lot of people don't have this type of outcome.

And I really commend your mother, Peggy, you know, that this is just an example of family sticking together at no matter what cost. And I know that things got very, very difficult between the two of you and even physical. But, you know, when it comes to family, when it comes to these types of struggles, anything that we need to do, and sometimes, you know, we just go through a lot of different things that fail, but the fact that you're sitting before this committee today is because they want to get the message out.

And we know that we're dealing with an opioid epidemic here on Long Island, but this is another gateway. This is something -- 36% of high school seniors have smoked marijuana, 36%. That's greater than one in three are doing something, you know, completely illegal, not to mention alcohol or other things. But when we see that, and there's always something new, and we have a law. And I think Legislator Browning, you know, I think that there's a law currently that it is illegal to sell K2, which is why it's done behind the counter. But, you know, we can't stop you from possessing it like they do in New York City, but we are going to look at the manufacturing, because these new drugs, they're constantly being manufactured in different ways. And this is a threat. This is a significant public health threat, and we hear you.

And so let me ask you this: So you're in 10th grade. How are -- how are things going now? Are you happier? Do you -- what challenges are you facing right now?

MS. MARIA BERDOT:

I'm not really -- I'm not really facing any challenges right now, except, well, I'm not really -- I'm not in school right now, I'm home schooled for the rest of the year, because I'm going to be moving, basically just to get out of the environment that I'm in, because I have a lot of people all over Long Island that I was involved with, and everywhere I go, I run into someone. And it's not that I'm running away from it, I'm trying to deal with it before I do go.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Well, you have to realize, there are very few people, adults, people that are three times your age who could sit there and tell a story as well as you told it. You have a gift there, and you can help a lot of people with your story and with your testimony. You're someone that's extremely bright, you know, adaptive, strong, able to persevere, and, you know, you are going to do great things. And I tell you that just as someone that is a father and a doctor, and someone that knows -- you know, had the privilege of knowing and hearing your story. So I'm behind you, we are behind you, we support you.

Are there any questions from any of my colleagues? Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Hello. Thank you both for speaking about this. Congratulations on your sobriety. I don't know if everybody knows how difficult it is to get to 100 days, but I understand. You did it. You're dedicated, you're smart.

Your combined speech should be something that's presented in every school district, high school and middle school. You are an example of what it is and how you can turn the corner. So, if you're interested, I have about 100 places that would love to hear you speak.

I wish you the best of luck, and I know you can do it. You have a supportive family, and you -- I don't know if you have to go away from Long Island. There will always be people similar to the people that you've met everywhere you go. It's just a matter of learning how to deal with the

people and places and things that are the triggers in there, but I think you can do it. A hundred days, good luck, keep going.

MS. PEGGY BERDOT:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Anyone else? One last question from me, and that is, with what you went through and this happening, and this program that you're involved in, is this common? How many -- you know, how many people would you say who are in 10th grade in your classmates or friends are being exposed to these types of things; would you say 10%, maybe a third? And in the alternative school, how many people would you say are being exposed to this?

MS. MARIA BERDOT:

I don't know how many people who have really abused it, but I do know a lot of people have at least smoked it once. Probably half of my grade has smoked it at least once.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Half?

MS. MARIA BERDOT:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Half?

MS. MARIA BERDOT:

A lot of them.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Half of your grade. Wow.

MS. MARIA BERDOT:

I mean, in Whitman itself, but, I mean, I go up to anybody in my school and I ask them, "Hey, have you ever smoked K2?" They're like, "Yeah." Half of them say, "Yeah, I don't do that, it's really not that great. I tried it once, didn't like it." And then the other are like, "Yeah, it's great. I just got off probation because of it," like because a lot of them have PINS petitions and all that.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

And even after what you've gone through today, is it still that easy to get in Suffolk County, or is it harder to get now? Is it -- like right now, is it -- you know, is it still a big issue, or has it gotten a little harder?

MS. MARIA BERDOT:

I mean, personally myself, I haven't really gone out and tried to get it.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Good for you, that's great.

MS. MARIA BERDOT:

But the last time I used it was in September. So I would say it's probably still there, because I was talking to people who were still using it and they were still using it every single day with bags and bags of it. So I'm going to assume that there is still a lot of ways to get it. And a lot of kids are

dealing it now. They're going out to Harlem, buying it, and then selling it for more here.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

So it's being -- it's being brought into here.

MS. MARIA BERDOT:

A lot of it.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

So Harlem is really -- so the possession is really -- like if you could, from what you know, I'm not saying what we can or can't do, but what is your message to us as your lawmakers, as your government, as your representative? If you could tell us one thing that we could do, what would you like to see us do?

MS. MARIA BERDOT:

I just want everyone basically to know that it's going to kill them if they keep using it, because I don't think that -- they might be using it to feel better, not to kill themselves.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Does it make a difference if we ban it, or make it illegal to possess, or make it illegal to manufacture? Do you think that will help?

MS. MARIA BERDOT:

I mean, if it is possible to make it illegal to possess, I think it would be a lot better for kids and people. I think it would make it a lot harder for them to get it, so they wouldn't be using it at least as often. At the same time, marijuana is banned and people are using that everywhere, so I can't really tell.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

All right. Oh, my gosh. Maria, thank you once again, really. Let's give her a big hand. Thank you.

*(*Applause*)*

Thank you very much. We'll stay in touch. We're definitely looking forward to, you know, working with you and following this process. And, you know, if we're able to introduce legislation, we want you to be here and we want you to be a part of it, because if something -- if we're able to do more, that's one thing you can take pride in, is that you made a difference, okay? Thank you.

MS. MARIA BERDOT:

Thank you.

MS. PEGGY BERDOT:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

All right. That's all the presentations that I have. We're going to move on to the agenda. And I'm going to start with tabled resolutions.

Before I start, and I know this has been the case throughout the day, but Legislator Cilmi, we wanted to wish him a speedy recovery. He has a medically excused absence, and we are -- you know, he has our hopes and prayers. And so please let the record reflect that Tom Cilmi has an excused absence, and also throughout the committees that he was on today, okay?

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

So ***I.R. 1000 - Adopting a Local Law to increase awareness of dry cleaning chemical use (Hahn)***. This has to be tabled for public hearing. Motion to table, seconded by Legislator Calarco. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion is tabled. ***(Tabled for Public Hearing: 6-0-0-1/Absent: Legislator Cilmi)***

I.R. 1020 - A Local Law to ban the sale of formaldehyde for use in holding tanks (Spencer). This is my motion -- I mean, my resolution. It has to be tabled, the public hearing is still open. Motion to table, seconded by Legislator Martinez. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion is tabled. ***(Tabled for Public Hearing: 6-0-0-1/Absent: Legislator Cilmi)***.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Moving on to Introductory Resolutions. ***I.R. 1046 - To appoint member to the Food Policy Council of Suffolk County- Michael Martinsen (Hahn)***. Is Michael Martinsen here at this point? This is a new appointment, and it's our tradition with new appointments that they do have to appear. So I will make a motion to table.

D.P.O. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Second by Legislator Calarco. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion is tabled. ***(Tabled: 6-0-0-1/Absent: Legislator Cilmi)***.

We'll try to reach out to see if he can be with us at the next committee. It's a short cycle.

All right. ***I.R. 1055 - Amending the 2016 Adopted Operating Budget to accept and appropriate 100% additional State Aid from the New York State Office of Mental Health to concern for Independent Living and Options For Community Living Inc., for the purpose of developing Mobile Residential Support Teams (Co. Exec.)***.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Motion by Legislator Fleming, and seconded by Legislator Martinez to place on the Consent Calendar. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion is carried. ***(Approved and Placed on Consent Calendar: 6-0-0-1/Absent: Legislator Cilmi)***

I.R. 1056 - Amending the 2016 Adopted Operating Budget to accept and appropriate 100% additional State Aid from the New York State Office of Mental Health to the Association for Mental Health and Wellness, Family Residences and Essential Enterprises and Pederson Krag Center Inc. (Co. Exec.). Same motion, same second, same vote. ***(Approved and Placed on Consent Calendar: 6-0-0-1/Absent: Legislator Cilmi)***

I.R. 1058 - Amending the 2016 Adopted Operating Budget to accept and appropriate 100% additional State Aid from the New York State Office of Mental Health to Family Service League for the purpose of developing Care Coordination and Intensive Case Management Services (Co. Exec.). Same motion, same second, same vote, on the Consent Calendar. ***(Approved and Placed on Consent Calendar: 6-0-0-1/Absent: Legislator Cilmi)***

I.R. 1062 - Amending the 2016 Adopted Operating Budget to accept and appropriate 100% additional State Aid from the New York State Office of Mental Health to Federation of Organizations for the purpose of enhancing the Children and Youth Single Point of Access Program (Co. Exec.). Same motion, same second, same vote, and placed on the Consent Calendar. (Approved and Placed on Consent Calendar: 6-0-0-1/Absent: Legislator Cilmi)

I.R. 1063. Wow, these are long resolutions that have to be read.
Amending the 2016 Adopted Operating Budget to accept and appropriate 100% additional State Aid from the New York State Office of Mental Health to the Association for Mental Health and Wellness for the purpose of continuing a pilot program in Suffolk County to assist veterans (Co. Exec.). Same motion, same second, same vote. (Approved and Placed on Consent Calendar: 6-0-0-1/Absent: Legislator Cilmi)

I.R. 1080 - Amending the 2016 Adopted Operating Budget to re-allocate State Aid and County Funds from the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services to Federation of Organizations for the purpose of providing Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS) and Mental Health Clinic Treatment Services (Co. Exec.). Is this 100% funded, to BRO, and can this be placed on the Consent Calendar?

MR. FREAS:

It can be placed on the Consent Calendar. I would defer to Counsel, of course, but there's no budgetary impact. There's a change in the amounts due to a rebasing for the State revenues, but no fiscal impact.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Can this go on the Consent Calendar?

MS. SIMPSON:

I don't see why not.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Excellent. May I have a motion? Motion by Legislator Kennedy, second by Legislator Trotta. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion is carried. ***(Approved and Placed on Consent Calendar: 6-0-0-1/Absent: Legislator Cilmi)***

I.R. 1081 - Amending the 2016 Adopted Operating Budget to re-allocate 100% State Aid from the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services to Family Service League for the purpose of operating a Health Home Program (Co. Exec.). Same motion, same second, same vote. (Approved and Placed on the Consent Calendar: 6-0-0-1/Absent: Legislator Cilmi)

I.R. 1114 - Appropriating funds for the purchase of equipment for groundwater monitoring and well drilling (CP 8226) and approving the purchase of a replacement vehicle in accordance with Section (B)(6) of the Suffolk County Code and in accordance with the County Vehicle Standard Law (Co. Exec.).

LEG. FLEMING:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Motion by Legislator Fleming, seconded by Legislator Calarco. On the motion. Can I have an explanation of this? Is there anyone here that can just -- for the record, just give us a brief explanation of what we're doing.

DIRECTOR DAWYDIAK:

Thank you, Dr. Spencer. My name is Walter Dawydiak. I'm the Director of Environmental Quality in the Health Department.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Walter.

DIRECTOR DAWYDIAK:

I'm joined by Ron Paulsen, who is the Supervisor of the Groundwater Investigations Unit, who also oversees the well drilling program.

In a nutshell, this is one of our annual capital appropriations to support the well drilling program, which, number one, is critical for source water protection and groundwater investigations, drinking water and surface water, and number two, is heavily subsidized by both pesticide grants and State Aid reimbursement.

In this particular year, we're replacing a 14-year-old sampling van, which is critical for well drilling support, also large diameter augers and various equipment, for a total of \$195,000. We're happy to answer any specific questions about these items.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Good afternoon, gentlemen. I will always support your unit. I just have a question. Why are we bonding out and not using 477 funds? Isn't that the purpose of 477 funds, the bricks and mortar for our groundwater protection? And since this is used for well drilling, for monitoring wells, shouldn't the money come out of the Quarter Cent?

DIRECTOR DAWYDIAK:

Legislator Kennedy, use of 477 funds is a policy decision, which I defer to the County Executive. It's my understanding that the presumption for future 477 funds is typically to support individual restoration projects, rather than operating expenses. This is a long-term ongoing operating program, so that as prior bonds are retired, new ones are issued. So it's essentially at a steady state of operation. Then again, there's substantial reimbursement for this program, and the model has been modest annual bonds to support the capital needs for this program.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. So why wasn't it in -- why wasn't it in the 2016 budget recommendations?

DIRECTOR DAWYDIAK:

I'm sorry. It's my understanding that this was part of the approved Capital Budget, which occurs on year's cycle.

LEG. KENNEDY:

This was? Okay. All right.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

This was appropriated.

LEG. KENNEDY:

All right.

MR. FREAS:

Right. This is part of the program. We have periodically recommended that parts of this program be funded under 477, not all the time. It depends basically on the individual resources. And as Director Dawydiak mentioned, the current focus in 477 is on individual water projects.

Mr. Paulsen's unit is funded -- is the operations of the unit, which really are very much water quality and are supported almost entirely by 477 funds at this point.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Legislator Fleming.

LEG. FLEMING:

I was just wondering what the shelf life of this equipment is. I assume it's got a longer than a ten-year life, and would be more appropriately funded through Capital Program; is that correct?

MR. PAULSEN:

Yes, Legislator Fleming, that's correct. These vehicles typically we keep from ten to -- drill rigs can go 20 years, so we do get a lot of use out of them. But they do -- the way they're made up, they have inverters and things in them that they run, even though the mileage may not be excessively high. These vehicles run all day sometimes to run the pumps and other equipment, so they -- and they're off road a lot, so they -- you know, they do tend to take, you know, quite a bit of use.

LEG. FLEMING:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SPENCER:

Any other questions? So we have a motion and a second on -- to approve on I.R. 1114. We'll take the vote. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Thank you, gentlemen, appreciate it. The motion is carried. **(Approved: 6-0-0-1/Absent: Legislator Cilmi).**

I.R. 1151 - Adopting Local Law No - 2016 -- the number is not there -- A Charter Law to elicit public input and require legislative approval of fee changes (Cilmi). This has to be tabled for a public hearing. I'll make a motion to table, second by Legislator Kennedy. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstention? The motion is tabled. ***(Tabled for Public Hearing: 6-0-0-1/Absent: Legislator Cilmi).***

I.R. 1156 - Adopting a Local Law to expand public notification of sewage contamination in Suffolk County (Krupski). This also has to be tabled for public hearing. Motion by Legislator Kennedy, seconded by Legislator Martinez. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***(Tabled for Public Hearing: 6-0-0-1/Absent: Legislator Cilmi)***

That is all I have on the agenda. Is there any other business? No? If not, we stand adjourned. Thank you.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. *)