

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

A meeting of the Human Services 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, 2014.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Monica Martinez, Chairwoman
Leg. Kate M. Browning, Vice Chair
Leg. Lou D'Amaro
Leg. Kevin J. McCaffrey
Leg. Robert Trotta

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Leg. Thomas Cilmi, 10th Legislative District
George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Lora Gellerstein, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Jason Richberg, Aide to Leg. Gregory
Tom Vaughn, County Executive's Office
John O'Neill, Commissioner/Department of Social Services
Lisa Pinkard, Aide to Leg. Martinez
Justin Littell, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro
Jennifer Pevera, appointee/Youth Board Coordinating Services
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:02 PM

CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:

Okay, good afternoon and welcome. Can you please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance as we commence our Human Services Committee. And the Pledge will be led by our Legislator D'Amaro.

SALUTATION

Thank you. Please be seated. Do we have any cards from the audience today?

MS. GELLERSTEIN:

No.

CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:

Anyone in the audience who would like to address the Committee? I also see that we have Commissioner O'Neill here today. Is there anything that you would like to update the Committee on?

COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:

Good afternoon Chairman Martinez and Human Service Committee. I actually have a -- just something to leave you with. It's a memo and a report. Last time I was here I promised I'd provide some commentary based on the Welfare To Work Childcare Committee Recommendations. So I'll just leave it here for your reading pleasure at a later time. I also have a copy for the Clerk as well as for the Legislature.

CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:

Thank you. Are there any questions from -- yes, Commissioner O'Neill.

LEG. BROWNING:

Commissioner, not a comment, just a big thank you. I believe it was Billy Ramos and John Nieves, both very helpful, instrumental in taking care of -- I had a single mom in my district going to college. There was a little hitch somewhere in her services. And it was very heartbreaking because she's calling my office crying. And I can tell you your staff, John Nieves and Billy Ramos both were so helpful. And she's been taken care of. And I can't say enough thank you's.

COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:

Thank you for the positive comments and the feedback on both those DSS staff. I'm happy to hear your constituent's problem was resolved quickly. Thank you so much for the comments.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:

Thank you. Any other Legislator? Okay, there are no presentations. There are no Tabled Resolutions. So we'll move onto the Introductory Resolutions, which is **1785, To appoint member of Suffolk County Youth Board Coordinating Council Representing Legislative District No. 10 Jennifer Pevera (Co. Exec)** who is present. Hello and welcome.

MS. PEVERA:

Do you want me to come up?

CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:

No, you don't -- unless you want to say a couple of words. (Laughter) Any questions for her? All right. Well, what we're discussing here is the role that our appointees play on the Youth Board. And we're looking forward to your collaboration with the rest of the appointees to making sure that

9/30/14 Human Services Committee

our youth in Suffolk County are looked at and we are getting services that they may need whether at the education level or sometimes teen moms, anything that we may come across with. So we look forward to your participation on the Board.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Who currently heads this Coordinating Council right now? Does anybody know?

CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:

Mr. Vaughn, by any chance do we know if this is also led by -- under Roderick Pearson?

LEG. CILMI:

This is the group that each Legislator has -- excuse me -- has an appointment to. And I believe they advise -- they advise the Youth Board. I think there are two separate entities. There's the Coordinating Council and there's the Youth Board. Maybe Tom could expand on that.

MR. VAUGHN:

I believe it is. Mister -- I'm sorry -- Reverend Pearson is providing leadership today. Organization.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay, yeah. It's created under the Charter Suffolk County Youth Board Coordinating Council, which has 18 members and several -- a lot of other members actually. And the Chair of the Board shall not be a member of the County government. I just want to see if -- review and annually approve the local comprehensive youth development plan. So has that been done? This -- by the way, this has nothing to do with you.

MS. PEVERA:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:

Yes. (Laughter)

LEG. D'AMARO:

So just one moment because -- "receive a periodic monitoring progress and evaluation report pertaining to the implementation of local youth services." I guess at some future committee, we can go into all of that and see how the Youth Board Coordinating Council is doing. They can hold public hearings. They're also the Advisory Committee to the Youth Bureau. But there is a requirement of a report as well. And provide -- "and perform such other duties as are delegated by the County Executive or County Legislature."

So -- Miss Pevera, is it?

MS. PEVERA:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So you may want to take a look at that. We can make that available to you. So when you join this board, this is the authority that this board has and you may want to use that as a starting point as to what direction you may want to go and take a look at that. So thank you for your willingness to serve. I appreciate it.

CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:

See what happens, Legislator Cilmi. See what happens? (Laughter)

LEG. CILMI:

I had her all prepared with this long presentation.

CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:

She is more than welcome to give it, but I will --

LEG. CILMI:

I'm sure she'd be just as willing not to.

CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:

I will like to motion to approve.

LEG. TROTTA:

Second.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Miss Pevera, maybe you just want to let us know why you want to serve on the Youth Committee Coordinating Council.

LEG. BROWNING:

And tell us about yourself.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Even better. I mean as it relates to the Youth Council.

MS. PEVERA:

I have a background in youth programs doing -- most of it recreation. I've worked for the Town of Babylon for 12 summers in their aquatic department developing programs, trying to see how I can get better. One big thing was our intramural swim team program. Compared to other swim teams, it's really inexpensive and a lot of kids got a lot out of it. I just like doing that.

As for being a part of this board, it was really because I wanted to find a way to contribute to my area. I love East Islip and I kind of want to grow a family there. And I want to make sure it's just as good when I have kids.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Well, that's great. Because, you know, the law does provide that each Legislator appoints a person to the Council. So you are representing your area and that's a great way to do that. And also, you know, so you have some prior experience working with kids or with youth programs in the Town of Babylon as well.

MS. PEVERA:

(Nodding head yes)

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Very good. Okay, I have no further questions.

CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:

Anything else? Okay. So motion to approve. Can I get a --

LEG. TROTTA:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:

It was second -- second by Legislator Trotta. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries.

9/30/14 Human Services Committee

(VOTE: 5-0-0-0) Welcome.

That is the end of our agenda and the meeting is adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:10 PM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**