

LABOR, HOUSING & CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Labor, 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 8, 2011.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Jon Cooper, Chairman
Leg. Kate M. Browning, Vice Chair
Leg. Thomas Cilmi
Leg. Jack Eddington
Leg. DuWayne Gregory

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk
Yves R. Michel, Commissioner/Economic Development and Workforce Housing
Jill Rosen-Nikoloff, Director/Affordable Housing
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader
Joe Muncey, Budget Review Office
Richard Blowes, Southampton Housing Authority
Vincent Taldone, Southampton Housing Authority
Diana Weir, Long Island Housing Partnership
Eric A. Kopp, County Executive's Office
Brendan Chamberlain, County Executive Assistant
Ed Hennessy, County Executive Aide
Michael Pitcher, Aide to Presiding Officer
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:18 PM

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Welcome everyone to the September 8th meeting of the Labor, Housing and Consumer Protection Committee. This is not Health. Believe it or not, this is Labor, Housing and Consumer Protection. Health is up next.

Legislator Browning, if you could please lead in the Pledge.

SALUTATION

If everyone could please stand for a moment before we get to the agenda, I'd just like to have a moment of silence for all those lost in the tragedy of 9/11 and the aftermath.

MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED

Thank you very much. Please be seated.

PUBLIC PORTION

Before we get to the agenda, we have three folks that would like to address the Committee. First up is Richard Blowes. Am I pronouncing it correctly?

COMMISSIONER MICHEL:

May I be recognized?

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Yes, please.

COMMISSIONER MICHEL:

Good afternoon. The three individuals that did submit a card, they would prefer due to timing that once the resolution is up for discussion, I'll address; and if there are any further questions, they'll come up with your permission.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Very good. That would be great. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MICHEL:

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

All right. That being said, no one else has filled out a speaker's card so we can move right to the agenda.

First up tabled resolution **IR 1222-2011 Adopting Local Law No. -2011, A Local Law to sunset living wage subsidies. (Cilmi)** Is there a motion?

LEG. CILMI:

Motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

I'll second the tabling motion. All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CILMI:

Opposed.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

To tabling. **IR 1222 is tabled with one objection noted. (VOTE: 4-1-0-0. LEG. CILMI OPPOSED)**

Next **IR 1255-2011 Resolution No. -2011, Designating individual agents of the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals as volunteers of the County of Suffolk for the purposes of indemnification. (Cooper)** I'll make a motion to table that resolution. Do we have a second?

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Second.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Second. All those in favor? Opposed? **IR 1255 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

Next **IR 1478-2011 Adopting Local Law No. 2011, A Local Law to require occupational licensees to utilize the Social Security Number Verification Service (SSNVS) and the E-Verify System. (Co. Exec.)** That resolution has to be tabled for a public hearing on November 9th so I will make that motion.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Second.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

And we have a second. All those in favor? Opposed? **IR 1478 is tabled until November 9th. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1720-2011 Adopting Local Law No. -2011, A Local Law to increase the number of residents eligible for first time homebuyer auctions in Suffolk County. (Browning)

LEG. BROWNING:

I'm making a motion to table.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

I'll second that motion. For those in favor? Opposed? **IR 1720 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

IR 1747-2011, Authorizing a two-year extension for affordable housing construction of fifteen parcels of land in the Town of Southampton. (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

But on the motion, Yves, would you like to come up, please?

COMMISSIONER MICHEL:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would just like to quickly submit a quick background information why the parcels require the extension. The fifteen parcels were transferred to the Town in 2002. In mid-2007 we identified those parcels and we did reach out to the Town to say that they quickly have to be developed and plans have to get submitted so we can move these moving forward.

The Town reacted to their credit very quickly. They assessed the parcels and transferred them to the applicable not-for-profits who are here with us today. One was to Habitat for Humanity; two was to the Long Island Housing Partnership; and the balance went to the Southampton Housing Authority and the Southampton Housing and Community Development.

Now, the extensions are needed for us to continue to build on these parcels to put people in homes. And since the seven-year time period did expire, we require legislative approval.

So I seek your approval on this introductory resolution. And if you have any further questions, the individuals that I mentioned earlier are here to answer them. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Yves, I'm just curious, how often are such extensions requested? And have they always been granted in the past or have there ever been issues?

COMMISSIONER MICHEL:

Well, the extensions have not been requested a lot in the past. And the ones that have been, they have been granted. And this one particularly there were some issues moving forward, which were rectified. And now we're moving forward nicely full-steam ahead.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Okay. Thank you. And I think no questions.

COMMISSIONER MICHEL:

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

You're welcome. So we have a motion to approve and a second. All those in favor? Opposed?
IR 1747 approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)

And last up, **IR 1769-2011 Establishing a voluntary "Puppy and Dog Protection Rating Program" for pet stores in Suffolk County. (Cooper)** I'll make a motion to table that for one cycle.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Motion to table and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? **IR 1769 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

There being no -- I'm sorry. Legislator Gregory.

LEG. GREGORY:

Mr. Chair, if I may, I wanted to see if there was somebody here from Civil Service or maybe someone from the Administration. And I ask that through the Chair because we had someone who -- Tri-Community Health Center, my district, was closed with some of the storm. And there were some personnel that were told that they had to go to, I believe, the nursing home. And they were -- because of where they lived, it was difficult for them to get there. So there was some just, you know, questions about how -- when there's a state of emergency declared and their place of work and how that affects their -- you know, their status, you know, being present at work and all that stuff and I wanted to touch base with someone.

MR. KOPP:

Someone's got to do it.

It's not actually Civil Service that we need. It's the Office of Labor Relations that would need to deal with this.

LEG. GREGORY:

Oh, okay.

MR. KOPP:

And I certainly will ask them to respond to you directly. I do have some recollection from, you know, years gone by that you can reassign people in an emergency like that to other duty stations, but I'd rather have Labor Relations go into the specifics of what you and can't do.

LEG. GREGORY:

Okay. Great. Thank you. That was all.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Thank you, Eric.

Once again, there being no further business before this Committee, make a motion to adjourn.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Thank you very much. Have a nice day.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:27 PM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**