

LABOR, WORKFORCE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Labor, Workforce and Affordable Housing 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 November 29, 2006.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Kate M. Browning, Chairperson
Leg. Jack Eddington, Vice-Chairman
Leg. Vivian Vilorio-Fisher
Leg. Thomas F. Barraga
Leg. Lynne C. Nowick

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Ian Barry, Assistant Counsel
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk
Ben Zwirn, Assistant Deputy County Attorney
Marian Zucker, Director of Affordable Housing
Brenda Rosenberg, Labor Department
Alan Schneider, Personnel Officer of SC Department of Human Resources, Personnel and Civil Service
Paul Arfin, President of Intergenerational Strategies
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

(THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 2:09 PM)

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good afternoon. And we will start the Labor, Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee. We will start with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Eddington.

SALUTATION

We do have a presentation but we are going to take a couple of things out of order. We have an IR 2368, 2369 and 2401. We'd like to take them out of order. Do I have a motion?

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Here.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second? Who was that? Jack made the motion. And Legislator Nowick second. All in favor? Opposed? Okay. We will start with **2401-06, Approving the reappointment of Alan Schneider, as Personnel Officer of the Suffolk County Department of Human Resources, (Personnel and Civil Service.) (Co. Exec.)**

LEG. NOWICK:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

We're not even going to finish this one.

LEG. NOWICK:

That's right.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I think we all want to make that motion. Okay.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion from Legislator Nowick. Second? Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? Okay. Thank you and congratulations again.
(VOTE: 5-0)

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Thank you all.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yes, Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

I just want to say congratulations to you. And also thank you for the past few years that we've worked together. Your institutional knowledge has been for me, a wonderful, wonderful asset. And I want to thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And the same goes here. The short time that I've been here, Alan, you have been phenomenal. Thank you. And Tom wants to say something.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I've known you for 30 years. And I don't know if we've done you a favor today. But the best of luck. You do a great job.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Come and say something.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

I just want to respond to that and say thank you. You have done me a favor here today. And I have been doing this job for 24 years. I love it. And that is why I want to go around again. And I appreciate the support from all of you. Jack, thank you for seconding that. Some of you I've just gotten to know in the past couple of years. And I really enjoy the role that I play trying to help Legislators out whenever you have constituent problems as I've been doing for so long. A lot of you have already taken advantage of that. We had a couple of problems that we've been working on and hoping to solve. And again, I just appreciate the support of each of you. Thank you.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. You know my problem wasn't just a problem. It was a major headache. But you did it.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Yes. I know, thanks Kate.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Okay. **IR 2368, Amending the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan and the 2006 Operating Budget in connection with new titles in the Department of Information Technology, Public Works and Parks. (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion, and we'll have a second. Legislator Eddington. Any discussion? No? All in favor? Opposed? Okay. Thank you. **(VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 2369, Amending the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan in connection with a new position title in the Suffolk County Police Department, Evidence Control Clerk III. (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion. Do we have a second?

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Second.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second Legislator Eddington. No discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Okay. Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0).**

And is our presentation available or ready yet? Okay. Well, we will continue then with the agenda. We have Tabled Resolutions.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

Okay. Okay, Ben, don't go anywhere. **(2091), Adopting Local Law No -2006, A Local Law to encourage affordable housing and workforce housing initiatives in towns and villages. (Schneiderman)** I believe the public hearing was closed.

MR. ZWIRN:

Right. We've asked this to be tabled. We've had discussions with the sponsor and we've asked Legislator Schneiderman if he can give us an example of where this would come into play. It's where the Planning Commission would oppose a Workforce Housing Project. And to our knowledge

that has never, never happened. And never would happen. Pardon me? I'm sorry, Legislator Nowick. We just asked -- it looked like a problem looking for a solution. I mean, it just's a little crazy.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Legislator Nowick.

MR. ZWIRN:

There's never been an example that we can think of this where this would ever have played a role. So we've asked -- we've asked the sponsor if he could just give us example to see where this has happened. And we've been asking for year-and-a-half and we still haven't got anything.

LEG. NOWICK:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So we have a motion to table from Legislator Nowick, second Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? It's **tabled. (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 2093, (Adopting Local Law No -2006), A Local Law to strengthen the Suffolk County Living Wage Law. (Cooper and Browning) I -- the sponsor is not here. And I believe we're looking to continue to table it. I'll make a motion to table it.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? It's **tabled. (VOTE: 5-0)**

2117, (Adopting Local Law No -2006), A Local Law to ensure contractor compliance with Anti-Discrimination Requirements. (Viloria-Fisher)

MR. NOLAN:

You have to table it.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah, we have to table for a public hearing. Make a motion to table, second Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? It's **tabled. (VOTE: 5-0)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

IR 2307. We have a number of 72-h's here. Marian, if you would like to come up and -- okay. They're going to give me a hard time about my accent.

MS. ZUCKER:

Hello.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And just run through each one.

MS. ZUCKER:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. **2307, Authorizing the sale of County-owned real property pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Brookhaven for affordable housing purposes**

(SCTM No. 0200-854.00-02.00-006.000) (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion. Second?

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Any words?

MS. ZUCKER:

It's a vacant lot on Patchogue Avenue in Mastic. The town intends to transfer it to Habitat for Humanity.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. It carries. **(VOTE: 5-0)** Same seconds, yeah.

2309, Authorizing the sale of County-owned real property pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Brookhaven for affordable housing (purposes) (SCTM No. 0200-980.40-06.00-024.000) (Co. Exec.) Where's this one?

MS. ZUCKER:

Similarly this is a vacant lot on Pinewood Drive in Shirley. The town intends to transfer it to Habitat. Let me just say most -- and I'll go through them individually but most of the ones in Brookhaven are Habitat for Humanity. We've been working through all the title issues and that's why they're coming in a bunch. We've been looking at them for several months now.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Same motion, same second, same vote. **(VOTE: 5-0)**

2310, Authorizing the sale of County-owned real property pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Brookhaven for affordable housing purposes (SCTM No. 0200-973.80-03.00-032.000) (Co. Exec.)

MS. ZUCKER:

Vacant lot in North Bellport --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

MS. ZUCKER:

-- to Habitat for Humanity.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Same motion, same second, same vote. **(VOTE: 5-0)**

2311, Authorizing the sale of County-owned real property pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Brookhaven for affordable housing purposes (SCTM No. 0200-787.00-03.00-046.003) (Co. Exec.)

MS. ZUCKER:

This is a vacant lot on Montgomery Avenue in Mastic. It's going to Habitat for Humanity.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. That's the second one on Montgomery.

MS. ZUCKER:

On Montgomery?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah. I remember the last one.

MS. ZUCKER:

Yeah. I think we did the adjoining piece earlier.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Same motion, same second, same vote. **(VOTE: 5-0)**

2312, Authorizing the sale of County-owned real property pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Brookhaven for affordable housing purposes (SCTM No. 0100-058.00-04.00-059.000) (Co. Exec.) Where is this one?

MS. ZUCKER:

Oh, I'm looking at the wrong map. I'm sorry. 2312? It says Babylon. I think the agenda -- it's 2312 is to Babylon. I just think the agenda --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh. This one, yeah, this one says Brookhaven.

MS. ZUCKER:

The tax map number is correct but the agenda just says Brookhaven. The resolution says Babylon.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

It does? It's Babylon?

MS. ZUCKER:

It's to Babylon.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

MS. ZUCKER:

The tax map number's correct. Just the town name is wrong.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So it's same motion, same second, same vote. **(VOTE: 5-0)** Oh, Vivian.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

You can include me.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

We'll include her. Okay.

MS. ZUCKER:

Yeah. This is a vacant lot in Wyandanch on Irving Avenue. The Town of Babylon is going to put it into its Affordable Housing Program. They have a group of non-profit housing development fund corporations that they work with. They'll give this to one of them to construct a house; first time buyers.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Is that 2312?

MS. ZUCKER:

That was 2312.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

MS. ZUCKER:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

Didn't we already vote on that?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, We did. Yeah. **2314, Authorizing the sale of County-owned real property pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Brookhaven for affordable housing purposes (SCTM No. 0600-122.00-01.00-013.000) (Co. Exec.)**

MS. ZUCKER:

Again, it's just the agenda's wrong. The resolution is to the Town of Riverhead.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Riverhead.

MS. ZUCKER:

This is a vacant lot on Woodcrest Avenue in Riverhead.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. So, same motion, same second, same vote. **(VOTE: 5-0)**

2316, Authorizing the sale of County-owned real property pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Brookhaven for affordable housing purposes (SCTM No. 0500-164.00-03.00-030.000) (Co. Exec.) Is that Town of Brookhaven?

MS. ZUCKER:

This one is in Islip. We do business elsewhere, not only in Brookhaven. This actually is a house. The Town of Islip's CDA will renovate the house and give it to a first-time homebuyer.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

MS. ZUCKER:

Not give it; sell it to a first-time homebuyer.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good. So we did the same motion, same second, same vote. **(VOTE: 5-0)**
To approve the lease of -- oh, we're actually not doing 72-h again.

MS. ZUCKER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. **(2362) To approve the lease of vehicles in the Suffolk County Department of Labor, in compliance with local law No. 20-2003. (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second by Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0)**

2364, Accepting and appropriating 100% grant funds from the New York State Department of Labor to fund a Disability Program Navigator (DPN) (Co. Exec.)

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion to place on the consent calendar.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I'll second the motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Motion Legislator Viloría-Fisher. Second -- to place on the consent calendar. Second Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(VOTE: 5-0)** Moving right along. Okay.

2375, To approve the purchase of six (6) previously leased vehicles in the Suffolk County Department of Labor, in compliance with Local Law 20-2003. (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion. Second.

LEG. NOWICK:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Legislator Nowick. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0)**

2409, Amending the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan and the 2007 Adopted Budget. (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion. Second?

LEG. BARRAGA:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0)**

MEMORIALIZING RESOLUTIONS

So we have **(M.079) Memorializing resolution establishing community housing funds in the Peconic Bay region. (Browning)**

I'll make the motion. Do I have a second? Second Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0)** And Mr. Arfin is here to do a presentation on --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No. We actually had a problem so everything else --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

I just want to make sure that the Clerk has me with the majority particularly with the reappointment of Alan Schneider. Congratulations.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Again. I didn't even see that. I'm sorry. Did Brenda -- I know -- we have a card from Brenda. Well, was that -- yeah, we tabled it. I'm sorry. It was under some papers. I didn't see it. Oh, Okay. I'll talk to the sponsor.

MS. ROSENBERG:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Okay. Paul, thank you for coming and when you're ready.

MR. ARFIN:

I just reminded that -- of what Struther Martin said to Paul Newman playing Luke. He said Luke, what we've got here is failure to communicate, you know, because in terms of the AV, I would have brought my laptop along. But I think we're on target in a couple of minutes. But I'd like to identify myself and first thank Legislator Browning for inviting me to come to this meeting. And I'm not here asking for money for me or anybody else, so, but I do feel that some of the ideas and issues that I'll bring forth are relevant to this committee as it looks at particularly at affordable housing and labor in Suffolk County.

My agency Intergenerational Strategies receives no funding from the County. Aspires to no funding from the County. And I'm here to talk about affordable housing issues and alternatives affecting older adults. Before I do that, I want to briefly mention because I have been before this committee before -- you know what? I just may as well just wing it because I'm going to end up having to find a -- let's see -- I'm sorry.

Okay. We're technologically set now. Oh wait, it is going automatically. Okay.

(DISCUSSION OFF THE RECORD)

MR. ARFIN:

I first wanted to mention to you because I have talked about home sharing before, that I'm pleased to report that the Home Sharing Program operated by Family Service League now has 32 matches for the most part, matching older homeowners with younger working people needing affordable rental housing. So we are very pleased by that. And that's the good news.

The bad news is, of course, is that the 2007 County Budget has been adopted and Family Service League's request for some support to bring this project more to scale by -- with some County funding is not in the 2007 budget. And what I'm hoping you will consider as budget amendment times come along during 2007, that you will consider, you know, including some funding towards this program. It's a win/win both for the older adult who wants to remain at home and needs companionship or rental income and for the younger person who needs affordable rental housing. The average rent is running \$400 a month. So it gives the younger person opportunity to save some money and stay for a year or two or more. And it's a wonderful program. It's working.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Excuse me. I'm sorry. Can I ask you a question about that?

MR. ARFIN:

Sure.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

What do you mean \$400 a month? Who sets that?

MR. ARFIN:

They do.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

They meaning?

MR. ARFIN:

What -- meaning, what happens is Family Service League advertises, outreach, churches, etcetera, etcetera. Homeowners call and we and -- they are interviewed. A home inspection is done, criminal backgrounds checks are done. So we develop an inventory in effect --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

I see.

MR. ARFIN:

-- of homeowners. Meanwhile there's promotion to identify home seekers. Criminal background checks are done by them to make sure -- also to check that they have a history of stable employment. The parties are introduced to one another. They're given a sample agreement that they may consider to sign but that's up to them. We bring -- we introduce them to one another and then in the privacy of the home they decide if there's any rent money involved. If there's an exchange of services. Because in one case we have a 75 year-old living with an 85 year-old woman who needs help around the house. And the deal involves no rent. He's taking care of odd jobs and driving her to the doctor twice a month and a range of other things.

And so it's happening mainly in western Suffolk County. We have about 50 homes that are awaiting matches. But we can't keep up with it because in Suffolk County there's less than a full-time worker, you know, working for Family Service League. So what we asked for, what Family Service League asked for was the ability to have a full-time person on the job to bring this to a larger scale. So -- but I'm not here to belabor that, you know, that's the way it is. And a --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

But --

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah. I'm Sorry.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

-- you didn't answer my question, though. Because you said Family Service League sets the \$400?

MR. ARFIN:

Oh, no, no. I'm sorry.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

That was my question.

MR. ARFIN:

Those two parties make a decision.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

So where does your \$400 number come from?

MR. ARFIN:

That's an average.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. ARFIN:

Of the 32. I'm sorry.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. That was the short answer to my question.

MR. ARFIN:

That was yeah -- gotcha. Okay. Okay. There is a fee for the program. We charge \$50 to each party for our time in interviewing them. And if a match is consummated by them, they pay an additional \$150 each. So that the organization to help offset some of the costs of staffing and mileage and telephone etcetera is getting \$200 from each party. So \$400 per match and that if it was brought to scale, could be a good part of the budget, you know, but --

So we're hopeful that -- we're searching for other private dollars. We got it started with some foundation money and the Town of Islip Community Development Agency. And now we're out there and hopefully during 2007 some other funding is going to come forth, you know, to be able expand the program. Otherwise it's just going to kind of plug along.

I'm just showing you some brief demographic statistics about the older population and especially people living under the poverty line. So many older women living alone. This is Long Island's statistics. You could estimate that about half of that is in Suffolk, half in Nassau. And the over 75 population. I don't have to tell this body how these populations are only going to grow. The greatest population growth, over the age of 85. It's going to continue to grow. So the housing needs of these people are going to be tremendous. The pressures upon families are going to be tremendous to do what they want to do for their parents. Do the best for their parents that they can. Many adult children aren't able to house their parents in their homes for a variety of reasons. And there's many -- there's few housing choices for people; especially the working poor. You know, if you're not wealthy enough to pay \$3,000 a month for affordable, you know, for assisted living or a home health care worker, you know, your choices are few.

And I want to jump to what the options are. Some of the options that people don't know about, people aren't aware of, and so that all too often people end up institutionalizing mom or dad prematurely. So the impact of all this as many elders remain in their homes, even though they're unable to maintain them. Elders prematurely entered assisted living. They spend down their assets to qualify for Medicaid. They move off of Long Island taking their assets with them.

So affordable housing is needed. We all know the -- attract and keep younger people here in the community. My case is is that we also need housing for older people. And without this balance the economic burden on younger workers will be prohibitive. And many prominent economists indicate that for every year of older adult employment, in other words, say right now it's 62 or 63, if there was an effort to increase that by one year, we wouldn't have a social security problem; if we have one.

I mean heavy duty, we're talking Doctor {Alicia Monell} at Boston College and her colleagues and unfortunately the Commission on Creative Retirement recommended that some actions be taken in the Department of Labor to seriously address this. Nothing was done.

The housing options. So from -- on the surface, sell your home and -- sell your home because you have chosen to do so. You have the freedom. Yeah, I don't want to live here anymore. I want to downsize. Good-bye and good luck. Sell your home because it becomes medically necessary to do it. Remain in your home with health care assistance or remain in your home without health care assistance -- And I'm going to mainly emphasize staying at home, and you don't need health -- you don't need medical care. So if you're going to sell your home, you got choices. You want to live here or in Florida. You want a town house, cohousing, subsidized, you got all those wonderful choices, you have money.

Choices when selling your home becomes medically necessary, you could live in Jefferson Ferry or Peconic Landing; in a life care community. You could go to an assisted living facility and spend three, \$6,000 a month. A nursing home. Or move in with your children.

Aging in Place. Non-medical -- so, what is this HomeShare Long Island? You're using existing housing stock, more sensibly matching the older person with the younger person or an older person with another older person.

Be Safe at Home. Not many people know about it. It's a wonderful program that basically provides different kinds of services to older people to have increased the likelihood that they can stay in their house because they need a handyman, they need a plumber, they need an electrician. They need somebody to take care of things that they can't take care of anymore. And it's a very, very creative program that is pretty much self-funded and it exists for many years. And they're expanding it now on Long Island. They provide, what do you call it, the personal emergency response system. Those handymen who have been bonded. All of those care services. I know that some of the towns have these things here and there, but in relationship to the dimension of the problem and the challenge that we have, we're only scratching the surface. So that's part of my overall theme.

Natural occurring retirement communities. Are people familiar with those? The acronym is NORC. NORC. A NORC is, for instance, there's a part of your district where more than 20% of the older -- of the residents are over the age of 60. And they have incomes below a certain amount. That qualifies them as a NORC and eligible for some combination of Federal and State aid. There's a NORC in North Hempstead. State funding was just approved for one in Greenlawn. North Shore LIJ plans to establish NORC's. What a NORC does is -- all right, here's this community, let's bring the health and human services into the community so these people can age in place.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

You know, I thought NORC's referred to, for example, where I bought my first house, a Levitt development in Stony Brook.

MR. ARFIN:

Okay.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

The houses were built in the mid 60's.

MR. ARFIN:

Right.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Mid to -- so there are people who bought those houses and they've just stayed there over the years.

MR. ARFIN:

That --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

They would never have been able to afford to buy them now.

MR. ARFIN:

Right.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

But they've been there over --

MR. ARFIN:

That could be a NORC if it has the amount and the volume, yes.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Right.

MR. ARFIN:

That it started, like you said, for younger people. But now the people have aged; natural occurring retirement communities.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Right. I thought that was the definition.

MR. ARFIN:

That's what it is.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. ARFIN:

That's what it is. But I just add --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Now what -- how else do you arrive at it then? You said that could be one type.

MR. ARFIN:

That there's a -- it has to have a percent of low income people and they have to be --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

No, no. What I'm saying is I'm envisioning an area where people have stayed there.

MR. ARFIN:

Yes.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

How else would you create a NORC if not, you know, just by virtue of the fact that people have lived there for 50 years? And now although there in an affluent area, their income hasn't continued to grow, they've been retired. How else do you produce a NORC if not that way? Just naturally.

MR. ARFIN:

That's the natural part of it.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Right.

MR. ARFIN:

But then how do you bring the services into the community?

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. ARFIN:

That's become the funding part.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. So that is how it is defined.

MR. ARFIN:

Yes.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. That is the definition.

MR. ARFIN:

That's right.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. ARFIN:

Driving into Great Neck. You've got apartment buildings that were built for the soldiers, you know --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Right.

MR. ARFIN:

-- coming back from the war. And now they're mainly senior citizens.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

But when you say LIJ is creating a NORC, I mean it's already there. They're just going to provide the services.

MR. ARFIN:

They got funding.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

They're naming it a NORC.

MR. ARFIN:

Yes. That is the generic professional term if you will.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. ARFIN:

For bringing the services into this natural community and --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I was confused when you said that --

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

-- LIJ was creating one. They're just naming a phenomenon that already exists there.

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

They just putting --

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah. I think they call --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

-- and bringing the services.

MR. ARFIN:

-- it Project Independence, I think, in North --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. ARFIN:

-- Hempstead, you know, but that fundamentally it's a NORC.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. ARFIN:

Now here's what's motivating this whole system. The U.S. Supreme Court Olmstead Decision from about 10 years ago, basically said and I'll paraphrase, that individuals such as older adults who require care in the most integrated setting, appropriate to their needs -- I'm not going to read the whole thing. Basically it's kind of like, remember years ago in mental health care, they said we're closing down the institutions and we -- because these people don't need to be in institutions. They got to get community care. That's what happening now.

Because of the Olmstead Decision, U.S. Supreme Court is saying New York State and all the other states have to comply with the Olmstead Decision. So everybody's gearing up for Olmstead. And so what that means is, a hospital for instance, whose -- and a nursing home who are providing very expensive care, and this is what motivates North Shore LIJ. Is provide the service at the least restrictive environment. And increase the odds that people won't be entering in the system because the system isn't going to pay for these, you know, these institutional services as much as they were before, and so follow the money, in effect. I'm mean I'm just paraphrasing it.

But that's why, you know, in my opinion, you know, this is where it's moving. In New York State, just moving here, there's a long term system, New York State Health Care Reform Working Group, that -- where they're headed is a single point of entry into the long term care system, so that Mrs. Jones calls one place and finds out what her alternatives are in terms of information, up-to-date accurate information.

And the goal is to reduce the need for and delay entry into more costly institutional care by encouraging the use of integrated settings, better coordinating care, recognizing informal supports in the home, and promoting non-medical alternatives. So go back to Home Care Long Island. Go back to Be Safe in the Home. Go back to, you know, some of the other things that I didn't even touch on. So this is where the system is moving. And I guess my fundamental point is is we're not ready for this. We're just not ready for it. And whether government at the federal or state level are going to create the kinds of alternatives that people, families, you know, families are going to need, I'm doubtful. The pressures on families.

So what's happening is is New York State create new nursing home models incorporating state-of-the-art nursing homes. We're always going to need nursing homes, but make them more, let's stay, resident friendly. And also demonstration projects that develop to enhance community based services. So -- and here's the other piece of it. This is the concept. Money should follow the person. In other words, Mrs. Jones here's a voucher, you decide where to purchase your care in the community. You want to go to adult day care? You want home health care? You want HomeShare Long Island? You want Be Safe at Home?

So part of my message is we need to help create these -- and encourage these kinds of alternatives.

Not necessarily -- not only because this is where the money is going, but because this is the way people -- this is what people need. And they need it today.

So what's going to happen is that Medicaid and Medicare dollars are basically going to be blended so that -- that they're used for non-medical care as well as medical care, you know, according to the needs of the patient. And there have been demonstration projects along these lines over the years, and now this is all moving in this direction.

I'm going to conclude and answer any questions. This is the Brookings Institution and I'll just read the last statement. "The aging of the population will require a continuum of housing responses ranging from helping seniors age in place to the production of new single family home communities, service, enrich apartments and continuing care retirement communities." And, you know, and I know, you know, the folks around the horseshoe are, you know, have a long history of developing environmental programs. And many other programs that are before their time.

I want to see Suffolk County stand out as model of how our older adults, you know, need to be cared for. Right now it's like most Counties in the state. We're desperately wanting -- you -- we're basically saying-- family, if you got the bucks, great. If you don't have the bucks, fend for yourself. Fend for yourself. Alzheimer's disease, 10% of the growing population has Alzheimer's. Very, very serious problem.

So I think I'll stop there. And this is one of my passions obviously. I come before you in an educational sense. No other purpose in mind. And I -- as this moves along and as I get more information, I hope I'll be able to come and talk with you more because rather than just coming here in October asking for money. Thank you.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

I just have one question. Just one question. Because, you know, that I've been -- I have found this a very compelling model from the time you mentioned it to me. And yet I'm wondering, what is the number of households in Suffolk County where older people have opted? You know, soon after you spoke with me about this, I spoke with my ex mother-in-law who's 90 years old. And -- and I said, you know, what about this? And she was very suspicious about sharing --

MR. ARFIN:

Sure.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

-- her house with somebody.

MR. ARFIN:

Absolutely.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

And I wondered, you know, and I talked about it with her and, you know, told her how I could -- you know, she could afford to live her house by herself so it wasn't a problem financially, but we just didn't like her living alone.

MR. ARFIN:

Yes.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

And -- and I thought that that could be beneficial. How many people have you been able to get on this program?

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah. We've made 32 matches so far. But 32 older people, homeowners with 32 either, other

senior citizens or younger people. Okay. We're modeling the program on a program in Atlanta that has 700 matches currently that has been around for 20 years. I asked them, I brought them up here. I said, what's the success rate? How many people do you need to interview before you make a match? And this is the answer to your question. Five.

So in other words, it's for less than 20%. It's five to six. So in other words, for most people; no. I don't want a stranger in my house. But if we address 10 or 15% of the older people over 75, if we met their needs, we're making a giant step in the right direction. So you're absolutely right. That's -- the County Executive when I brought this to him a couple years ago, he spoke to his mother and she said no way in hell. Okay. And I understand that. And -- but apparently there are people that this does -- it may not have been their master plan, to have a stranger in their house. But more fundamentally they get to the point where they say, this is where I raised my kids. This is where I lived with my husband for 40 years. I want to die here. If this what I have to do, to have a roommate, that's what I'm going to do. Not for everybody.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I did want to add to that a little bit. Because I remember when I was little, we had a college near us and there was no dorms. And so my parents for extra money were able to take in a college student for housing. And I know in Ireland it's a very --

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- it was a very common practice and my grandmother took somebody in.

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So, you know, it's kind of like A reverse type thing that's going on.

MR. ARFIN:

That's right.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

But the NORC thing.

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I know, Lynn, you have a question. Too. Getting back to that, how do you decide? It's 20% of a community --

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah. I'm sorry I didn't bring the statistics with me.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Because, you know, I know that there's a --

MR. ARFIN:

It is a certain either number of people over the age of 60 or a percent of the population that must be over 60. And secondly there's got to be a percent of that population who is low income.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh. Okay.

MR. ARFIN:

And so it can be in an apartment house. And that was the original concept. That because they're are all over New York City. And they're in apartment buildings. But then what happened was is politically around the state, some communities that don't have apartment buildings and have natural occurring retirement communities, like Legislator Viloría-Fisher said, hey wait a second, how about us? And they created NNORC. Natural Neighborhood Occurring Retirement Communities. And Greenlawn just got a grant, what do you call it, {FEG's}. {FEG's} is getting a grant. They run the program in North Hempstead. And now they're going to set one up in Greenlawn. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

It's just I was wondering because I know that there's a certain area -- like say Mastic Beach --

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- the senior population seems to have grown so much.

MR. ARFIN:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- and then I'm wondering, is it -- would there not, you know, within that zip code, I mean, how do you decide it? And a --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

How old is a senior? Over 50?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Over 60.

MR. ARFIN:

I believe it's 60. I'm pretty certain it's 60. Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah.

MR. ARFIN:

I'd be happy to give you some more information about this. I just don't remember -- recall it off the top of my head. But I'm hoping that this Legislative body will take an interest in this and try to get Suffolk County some other resources that are increasingly going to become available to create more NORC's.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I think it's a good idea for seniors to be able to stay. I have an 87 year-old neighbor. And in fact just this past weekend at Church, I met with a gentlemen, he's a senior citizen and he was talking about another senior citizen that we know. She lives in a retirement community and he said she's not doing well. He says because everybody's sick.

MR. ARFIN:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And he said they seem to feed off of each other.

MR. ARFIN:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And it's like once -- they only talk about is their ailments.

MR. ARFIN:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So I -- really it sounds terrible to say that.

MR. ARFIN:

Right. No. That's why I believe in intergenerational communities.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah. So, you know, for them to live in a community where there's kids --

MR. ARFIN:

Exactly.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- and mixed generations, I think it's healthier.

MR. ARFIN:

But it's one side, you know, different strokes for different folks. Some folks don't want teenagers running around the swimming pool and, you know, and fine. One more point. There is another alternative for this population who wants to age in place. And it's self funded. It is fascinating. And it exists in Boston. And I know how it's set up. And I'm working with Tom Williams, with Cornell Cooperative Extension. We want to bring it to Suffolk County. Here's how --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

You and I talked about it this. I remember.

MR. ARFIN:

What it's -- I call it the Beacon Hill model.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Right.

MR. ARFIN:

A group of people sit together and they say, holy crow, I'm getting 75, 80 years old and, you know, I don't want to do this anymore. I can't do it anymore. So what they do is they create an association, a non-profit organization. They each decide to anti-in hypothetically 500 bucks each a year. And they get 100 of them. And they have \$50,000. And now they contract with the Family Service League or they hire a social worker to take care of the stuff that they don't want to take care of. And it helps them stay where they want to be longer.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Actually that was on -- I think that was on NPR, wasn't it? That I had asked you about it; Paul.

MR. ARFIN:

Yes. You're absolutely right. And there was a New York -- either New York Times or Wall Street Journal had a big article about it. I bought their handbook; *How they do it*.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

I thought it was called the Beacon Hill Project. Or the Beacon Hill --

MR. ARFIN:

It is. It is. You're absolutely right. I called it the Beacon Hill Model.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah. You're absolutely right. And so I'd love, you know, there are people -- Rick and Tom, Rick {Van Dyke}, who would like to help organization these things. Work with local groups to pull them together to create a self-funded situation. These kind of situations. We're talking with a group in Bellport Village about this right now.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh. Okay. Yes. Was that the meeting that I was at?

MR. ARFIN:

Yes. Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh. Okay. Legislator Nowick has a question.

MR. ARFIN:

Sure.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes. Thank you for your presentation; Paul. I'm sure you probably addressed this but when you are trying to match the senior citizen with maybe a younger person, how do you do a background check?

MR. ARFIN:

We hire a firm. We pay them \$75 to \$90 to do -- as if you are hiring an employee. A firm that does that is employed. Once we do an interview and we find out that the home is safe, you know, it's clean, you know that the person is not psychotic, you know, all right, I mean we do some face to face interviewing. And then we say, are you interested in moving forward? Will you pay \$50, you know, and \$150 if you have a match? Yeah, well the answers to all that are yes. Then we authorize a criminal background check to be done by this private company.

LEG. NOWICK:

Now the private company has the same access to a criminal background check --

MR. ARFIN:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

-- as would the Police Department.

MR. ARFIN:

Yes. Sex abuse. Child abuse. Driver's license, you know, criminal history if any. Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

And there's no contract I assume. Because if -- is there a contract once the match is made? And --

MR. ARFIN:

Oh. They -- what we give them is a draft contract. They can use it or they can write an agreement on the back of an envelope. It's up to them. Because of liability concerns the family agency doesn't want to be in the position, quite frankly, of being accused that you brought them together and there was problems, you know, there's serious problem, and so it's your fault. And, you know, we're going to sue you.

LEG. NOWICK:

So it's a non-binding contract? Is it --

MR. ARFIN:

It --

LEG. NOWICK:

What makes the contract binding?

MR. ARFIN:

Like any other there's a written agreement. You can use the bottom two shelves in my refrigerator and you can use the living room.

LEG. NOWICK:

But maybe what I meant to say is --

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah. Okay.

LEG. NOWICK:

-- is there some type of monetary amount of money put -- placed in --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Like a security?

LEG. NOWICK:

-- like a security deposit or something.

MR. ARFIN:

It's up to them.

LEG. NOWICK:

So it really --

MR. ARFIN:

In most cases the homeowner doesn't even ask for a security deposit or a month in advance. That's totally up to them. We give them a list of things to discuss. But they decide how much money. If how much, what are the terms? What's the, you know, if you're going to leave, how much notice, you know, is this a six month agreement? Is it a one year agreement? Everything you would have in a lease is, you know, we give them the framework and then they make those decisions.

LEG. NOWICK:

But there's not necessarily a money kind of a thing.

MR. ARFIN:

That's right.

LEG. NOWICK:

So there's not -- so actually, and I'm thinking what you said before, if the homeowner's psychotic,

how does the other person get out of it? The lease really -- it's just a form to follow but not necessarily a legal.

MR. ARFIN:

Well, it kind of.

LEG. NOWICK:

It's legal, but there's nothing to lose if you leave. There's no security deposit.

MR. ARFIN:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

So if the younger person leaves, the younger person leaves, there's really nothing, there's not a security deposit they lose or anything like that. They leave because they just don't get along.

MR. ARFIN:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

Which is probably what you're intention is anyway.

MR. ARFIN:

Or the homeowner passed away.

LEG. NOWICK:

Right.

MR. ARFIN:

Or the --

LEG. NOWICK:

Oh there, there you go. Yes.

MR. ARFIN:

Or the young person got a job out of town.

LEG. NOWICK:

Right.

MR. ARFIN:

Or the mother -- the older person decides to live with their children. There, you know, there's a hundred reasons but like any landlord/tenant agreement if you will, should something happen and the homeowner wants the home, you know, the renter out immediately, they legally can't do that. You know, you can put somebody out in the cold. You know, you have to, you know, follow the law just as if it was a landlord/tenant relationship. So that is a risk that a homeowner would take, you know, that you could be in despite all the wonderful, touchy feely attitudes you had towards this prospect, you say it doesn't work out that way.

But in Atlanta, our attorneys, Family Service League attorney said, how many times have you gone to court in this thing in 20 years? How about zero. Because of the scrutiny of the background checks, the reference checks, the visits, the intensity and that there's a third party involved who brought them together, they have not had these issues of theft, of physical or emotional abuse, that there have been some endings of agreements --

LEG. NOWICK:

Let me just --

MR. ARFIN:

-- but never on some kind of, you know, legal confrontation.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just another question and if -- because I'm curious, I think as you know I think it's a wonderful idea and I'm putting myself -- I'm trying to think of my on situation. My parents are getting on in years. And I'm trying to think of negatives and positives. In many cases, in Atlanta or wherever this has -- where was it there were 700 matches made?

MR. ARFIN:

In Atlanta and Chicago has many. And San Mateo County, California.

LEG. NOWICK:

All right. And those different areas, do you know of cases where the younger person agrees to care preferably for the --

MR. ARFIN:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

-- person? In other words, my own mom --

MR. ARFIN:

Non-hands on care.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah. Well --

MR. ARFIN:

Okay.

LEG. NOWICK:

-- I mean, in other words, my own mom has got {maculate} **Diana**--

MR. ARFIN:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

And do they help the older person at all? Or do they walk -- or is that agreement made at the time.

MR. ARFIN:

Yes. Those kinds of things. In other words, not the {toileting}, not the bathing.

LEG. NOWICK:

I understand. Okay.

MR. ARFIN:

But certainly potentially feeding. Potential -- you know, transportation.

LEG. NOWICK:

Transportation.

MR. ARFIN:

Reading to people if people have limited sight. Cooking, you know, all those non-hands-on things,

which often are the reasons why people don't end up staying in their homes.

LEG. NOWICK:

Right.

MR. ARFIN:

Not because they got cancer. It's because they just can't manage --

LEG. NOWICK:

Taking them to the grocery store.

MR. ARFIN:

-- some of the chores of daily living.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah. Okay.

MR. ARFIN:

Exactly, exactly.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. Thank you.

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Vivian.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

You know, Paul, as I'm listening to this and it is as I said, I always thought it was a good idea but in Suffolk County where we have such a high level NIMBYism and when we're looking at affordable projects, I'm using the term project, which nobody likes to use. But, you know, when a builder is looking at affordable projects, very often communities will vote positively for a senior affording housing project, but not for a mixed age affordable housing project.

MR. ARFIN:

Right.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

And so with the proliferation that we've seen of all of these senior communities --

MR. ARFIN:

Right.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

-- do you think that's why we're not getting the numbers interested in this? Because people are saying even if I had somebody still living with -- sharing my house with me, I still have to take care of the painting of the house, mowing the lawn, you know, all of that ancillary work that you have to do with a house and they opt instead to move into one of these senior communities, where they'll have the socialization, with -- I mean, do you think that may be why we're not getting the numbers? Because 32 is not an impressive number.

MR. ARFIN:

Oh. Oh. Yeah. I see what you mean. And this is less than --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Because of the options in other words --

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

-- I'm saying.

MR. ARFIN:

I think the main reason why we don't have many, many, more so far is because there's less than 20 hour a week person really hustling, going out to the -- because where does Atlanta's referrals come from? From churches, you know, we don't have the time to handle the calls coming in just through word of mouth, no less really market this thing. So that's really where the challenge is. Is to really increase the capacity to get the word out. I've talked with a lot of colleagues in health and human service agencies a year later, they said I never heard of that program. You know, or that's right within "the family" so it's a dilemma.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, could I suggest.

MR. ARFIN:

But certainly from the consumer perspective is there are -- there's a lot of people that really feel that an assisted living facility is doing the best for mom or dad. And it, you know, it's 24/7 and that sounds like a nice neat package and they're just not going to buy this other concept even if you presented it to them.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

By the way Paul, may I suggest the university. You know, what Kate said earlier when I campaign sometimes at the supermarkets, you know, there are older people who are waiting for a cab. And I -- one day I was just campaigning someplace and I was in my home district, and I saw college kids who had come to pick up groceries and older people. And I went to the college by the way, and I said, what about setting up a program where, you know, the young people you could set up a list of volunteers who would be willing to drive --

MR. ARFIN:

Yes.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

-- older people in the area to go food shopping.

MR. ARFIN:

Yeah.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

But by the same token maybe working with Resident's Life.

MR. ARFIN:

Absolutely. Absolutely. I wholeheartedly agree. But it takes time and organization. There are programs like that here and there around the country. And I, you know, this is part of my research to learn about these things. But it takes people who are going, you know, it -- all these projects take time and effort then administration to make sure that they don't go down the tubes and stuff.

So that's where I'm at. And is trying to create, yes telephone reassurance, a college student to call an older adult. You know, this becomes an event in this seniors life that, you know, on Thursday nights at eight o'clock they're going to get a call from a young person. It gives her a reason to look

forward to it and to speak with her relatives and say, oh, you know, he went out with a girlfriend last -- and it becomes live giving. It gives, you know, purpose and, you know --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Connection.

MR. ARFIN:

-- attention. Yeah. Yeah. So, you now, those are the kinds of things to me that are prevention in nature. That reduce the incidents of us placing mom or dad, you know, prematurely. So.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Paul.

MR. ARFIN:

Thank you very much.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you, Paul. It's always a pleasure and we are adjourned.

**(THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 3:05 PM)
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**