

**LABOR, WORKFORCE & 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 June 16, 2008.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Kate M. Browning, Chairperson  
Leg. Ricardo Montano, Vice-Chairman  
Leg. Daniel Losquadro  
Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman  
Leg. Brian Beedenbender

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Barbara LoMoriello, Clerk  
Joe Muncey, Budget Review Office  
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office  
Ben Zwirn, Deputy County Executive  
Brenda Rosenberg, Director, Department of Labor  
Jill Rosen-Nikoloff, Director, Affordable Housing  
Joe Sansavarino, Community Development Director  
Bob Martinez, Aide to Leg. Montano  
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Leader  
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader  
Catherine Stark, Aide to Leg. Schneiderman  
Debra Alloncius, AME Legislative Director  
Lois Hartman - Federation of Organizations  
All other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Donna Catalano, Court Stenographer

(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:41 A.M.\*)

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Good morning. Please rise for the Pledge led by Legislator Losquadro.

**SALUTATION**

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Good morning. Welcome to Labor, Workforce and Affordable Housing. We have no presentations. We have two cards. First card is Debbie Alloncious, AME.

**MS. ALLONCIOUS:**

Good morning, Members of the Committee on Labor and Workforce and Affordable Housing. Chairman Kate Browning, I stand here before you on behalf of Cheryl Felice and the Association of Municipal Employees. My name is Debbie Alloncious, I'm the Legislative Director. I'm reading a letter that is being sent to Legislator Horsley this morning regarding Introductory Resolution 1492.

"Dear Legislator Horsley, I commend you for IR 1492-2008 in that I wholeheartedly support your idea regarding a flex time pilot project. AME has always believed that flex time is a win-win situation for management and employees alike. With the price of oil and gasoline spiraling out of control and trending upward on a daily basis, we as a nation must look at any and all cost-saving measures. And the reduction in our carbon footprint would be marvelous for our precious environment."

"Flex time is an incentive for worker productivity and was enjoyed by many members of AME in previous years. It could very well be that services may be better delivered and the result on extended hours could be the magic bullet the Welfare to Work Commission is looking for. It is my hope that the pilot project is very successful so that it may be offered to AME members in the future as they would certainly welcome saving money while having more time to spend with their families. I look forward to the positive results. Sincerely, Cheryl Felice, President." I only one copy. I will give to -- thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Next we have Lois Hartman, Federation of Organizations.

**MS. HARTMAN:**

Good morning. I'm speaking for Resolution 1507. My name is Lois Hartman, I'm the Comptroller at Federation of Organizations for the New York State Mentally Disabled. And I would just like to give the reason for our need for the hardship allowance. When the Living Wage Law was passed, we went from 7.25 to 10.25 an hour. And unfortunately, our contract dollars did not increase to cover these expenses. So had it not been for the hardship allowance, we would to -- we would have had to close down a really very good program.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Quick question.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Question, Legislator Montano.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Yeah. I'm sorry, Lois. Would you just give me a brief description of what the Federation of Organizations does?

**MS. HARTMAN:**

We're a Social Service not-for-profit agency that has respite housing, supported housing, community residence. We also have a division for foster grandparents and respite programs.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay. Where are you located?

**MR. HARTMAN:**

In West Babylon.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That's your main office?

**MS. HARTMAN:**

Yes, that's the administrative office.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I have a question for you. Recently I had some calls about a home in my district. It was owned by Federation of Organizations. I would like to speak to you more about it. And I wondered when you have -- when you talk about mentally disabled, are you talking about developmentally disabled, are you talking about drug and alcohol?

**MS. HARTMAN:**

No. Just -- no. There's no drug and alcohol. It's OMH, not OMRDD.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And you have -- you buy private homes in various communities and you house --

**MS. HARTMAN:**

Supported housing, yes. And some community residences.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And are they 24/7 monitored?

**MS. HARTMAN:**

Community residence are, not the supported housing.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Thank you.

**MS. HARTMAN:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So we will go to the agenda. So we will go to the agenda. Tabled Resolutions.

**1435, authorizing planning steps for implementation of Suffolk County Workforce Housing Program (ROMAINE).**

I'll make a motion to table, do I have a second? Second. All in favor? Opposed?

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

Who seconded that?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Legislator Beedenbender. So, I guess, no opposed. Okay. So I guess motion carries. Tabled.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Mark me as opposed to tabling.

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

Excuse me?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'll be opposed to tabling 1435.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Do you have any questions?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. **TABLED (VOTE: 4-1-0-0; Opposed Legis. Schneiderman).**

**1449. 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 (COUNTY EXEC).**

I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Seconded by Legislator Losquadro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries.

**APPROVED VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

**1492. Establishing an Energy Efficient Work Schedule Pilot Program (Operation Sunshine) (HORSLEY).**

I'll make a motion to approve. Do we have a second?

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Seconded by Legislator Montano. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries.

**APPROVED VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

**1503. Adopting a Local Law to reduce paperwork requirements for volunteer not-for-profit organizations (LOSQUADRO).**

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Motion to approve, and if anybody has any --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

It has to be tabled for a public hearing.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

My apologies.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Table for a public hearing?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Legislator Losquadro has tabled for public hearing, I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Okay.

**TABLED** for public hearing **VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

**1057. Transferring and appropriating living wage contingency funds to the Federation of Organizations for the NYS Mentally Disabled, Inc., Respite Fee Subsidy (COUNTY EXEC).**

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Motion to approve, Legislator Montano, second, Legislator Beedenbender. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Question.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Question, go ahead.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

What are living wage contingency funds?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Were you here -- you missed it, Jay.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I missed it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Lois, would you like to come back again and explain it?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

No, that's okay. I'll read the record. Thank you. That's fine.

**MR. NOLAN:**

When we passed the Living Wage Law a few years back, we established a fund to help groups comply with the law. So when they raised the salaries, if they had difficulty with their budget, it caused a hardship to the organization to comply with Living Wage --

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Got it.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

We're giving them money.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So we had a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries.

**APPROVED VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

With that, I'll make a motion to adjourn, second, Legislator Montano. We're adjourned.

(\*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:49 A.M.\*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY