

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 October 8, 2009.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Lynne C. Nowick, Chairperson
Leg. Kate M. Browning, Vice Chair
Leg. Thomas F. Barraga
Leg. Jack Eddington
Leg. DuWayne Gregory

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel
Barbara LoMoriello, Deputy Clerk
Lance Reinheimer, Assistant Director of Budget Review Office
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office
Ed Hennessy, County Executive Aide
Patrick Skip Heaney, Commissioner of Economic Development and Workforce Housing
Jill Rosen-Nikoloff, Director of Affordable Housing
Joe Sanseverino, Community Development Director
Greg Moran, Aide to Leg. Nowick
Rob Calarco, Aide to Leg. Eddington
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Leader
Debra Alloncius, Legislative Rep for AME
Dennis Brown, County Attorney's Office
Jack Caffey, Aide to Presiding Officer
Mayor Paul Pontieri, Patchogue
Shawn McLaeren, Artspace
Doug Aloise, Take Back The Block
Leanore Halcrow, Q-nurse
Diana Weir, Long Island Housing Partnership
All other interested parties

VERBATIM MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

VERBATIM MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:12 PM

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Good afternoon. We're going to start the Labor, Workforce and Affordable Housing meeting starting with the salute to the flag led by Legislator Gregory.

SALUTATION

Good afternoon and welcome to the Labor, Workforce, and Affordable Housing Committee. We have a few cards here that -- for the public to address us. The first card is Shawn McLaeren.

PUBLIC PORTION

MR. MC LAEREN:

Good morning everyone.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Hello, Shawn.

MR. MC LAEREN:

I am Shawn McLaeren. I work for an organization named Artspace Projects. We are working with Mayor Pontieri and Suffolk County on a mixed-use facility that will be located in Patchogue on Terry Street. It is affordable housing that will contain 45 units of affordable housing. We've been working with Legislator Eddington. I believe we've probably met most of you at previous committee hearings. And also with Commissioner Heaney and Jill Rosen-Nikoloff Thomson and Joe Sanseverino to bring the resolutions to this point.

I'm happy to answer any questions that you might have but just wanted to also note that the project that we've put together is the result of a lot of dialogue with local leadership including Legislator Eddington and Mayor Pontieri. And we feel that it's something that has been situated in a manner that not only bolsters the investments that have been made by the community in Patchogue whether it be the theatre and some of the new infrastructure that's coming in, but also speaks to some of the future plans of the community. And I know specifically some of the goals that Patchogue has for Terry Street and continuing to make Patchogue a destination not only on Long Island but for folks that are coming out to Fire Island and other sorts of activities.

We have seen in our work across the country that our partnerships with communities like Patchogue and Suffolk County have a positive impact on the communities and also tend to provide a template of sorts for potentially replicable projects. We look at our relationship with Suffolk County and the agency as -- in those terms. We are going to be long-term partners and stakeholders in this and the success of this; and very much value not only the working relationship that we've had, but the success that we've had and the long-term goals that we might have as well.

So I'm happy to answer any questions. I know that Mayor Pontieri is available to address questions as well. And our architect Gary Cannella is also here today and can speak to any issues that you might want to raise.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

How many units were you talking about for workforce housing?

MR. MC LAEREN:

Forty-five.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Forty-five. What would be the approximate sale price and how many bedrooms?

MR. MC LAEREN:

These are all rental. And we have a studio, one bedroom, two bedroom and three bedroom units.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Thank you. Does anybody have any other questions? Okay. Thank you.

MR. MC LAEREN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Mayor. Mayor Paul Pontieri.

MAYOR PONTIERI :

"New, push when talking." I actually came in to see if you have any other questions, any other concerns that may be raised. It really is, and Shawn really kind of indicated it, it's a linchpin to what's going on in the village right now. In fact, there's a biannual art show going on at Briarcliff College at this point. Actually in the space, Legislator Gregory, where you had had your hearings, in that space there. And there's about 20 artists from Queens to Montauk. And last Saturday there were probably 250 people, 300 people that came through. So we're really trying to create an identity.

But more importantly, one of the provisions of this is for artists. And, you know, when we did the Copper Beach development, the local preference was 50% of them from the village, either work or live in the village, and 50% from other places. What we've done with this, we've made the local preference all of Suffolk County. So that it just isn't -- what we want to do is we want to get a blend of the whole County. And then once you go through that list, then we'll go to the outside. But I think that the fact that the County's funding this, the whole County should get the benefit of it. And we don't make a local preference just to Patchogue or just to the school district or just the Legislative district, but that it becomes a local preference for the entire County.

So if there's questions, I can -- like Shawn said, he is also -- and I think that that is our purpose more than anything else today.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Mayor, you may or may not know the answer to this question, but a project such as this, how many students do you think it would bring into the school districts? And do you think that would be a problem for the school districts in the tax roles?

MAYOR PONTIERI :

Well, a couple of things with that. Based upon the Rutgers study that was done, you're probably looking, because I think they're what -- there are three bedrooms, and -- and how many two bedrooms?

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

Nineteen.

MAYOR PONTIERI :

Nineteen two bedrooms. Statistically you're probably looking at, if you get three kids out of this whole mix, you'll get a lot. It's not going to be -- it's the three bedrooms that really drive kids.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

How many of those?

MAYOR PONTIERI :

There's three of those. And the two bedrooms, normally what happens and we're seeing it in Copper Beach, is that they'll have the first child, by age three or four they're ready for the second child, now they're ready for the third bedroom. So you don't get a large number at all.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Does anybody have any questions? Legislator Browning?

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah, just curious, is this a project you could do if you didn't have sewers?

MAYOR PONTIERI:

You got to have the sewers. Sewers are very, very important.

LEG. BROWNING:

And I know I did give you the card. I've spoken to some people in the Mastic Beach area, civic leaders, who I spoke about what you're doing in Patchogue. And they're interested in learning more about what you do in Patchogue. And maybe the -- we actually have a lot of musicians and artists in the Mastic and Mastic Beach area. And they're very interested in trying to copy what's going on in Patchogue in the Mastic Beach area. And I think it'll be great for the community.

MAYOR PONTIERI:

Just one other comment, just in terms of Legislator Eddington's participation, he's been very strong and a strong supporter as his wife, Assemblywoman Eddington, it's been very much appreciated.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Anybody else have any other questions?

MAYOR PONTIERI:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. Jill, I know you wanted to make a presentation. Do you want to wait till we come get to the bill or did you --

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

Yeah, I'll answer questions as they come up on the agenda.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. You'll come up a little later then.

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Doug Aloise.

MR. ALOISE:

Okay. Thank you and good afternoon. I'm Doug Aloise. I'm Community Development Director for the Town of Huntington. And I'm here to speak on resolution 1849. This program we quote, *Take Back the Blocks*, it was developed by Supervisor Petrone. And basically we're taking absentee landlord owned property and converting it to homeownership. It also includes a rental unit, which serves the rental needs in the community for people that aren't ready for homeownership as well it helps the homeowner, the new first-time home buyer with carrying costs and the mortgage.

Lastly, we feel it aids community revitalization and it's job creation in these difficult times with jobs. We envision it as about a \$3.7 million deal and it will create 14 units. Specifically we're going to

acquire three substandard homes, 4, 6 and 14 Columbia Street. And we're asking the County for \$389,000 for acquisition and \$100,000 for infrastructure improvements. The town is putting in 429,000 as well as two lots. We're lucky to have received a grant from New York State, Empire State Economic Development Corporation for 1.560 million. So it's really a partnership between the County, Town and the State. The Long Island Housing Partnership is our partner. And they helped write a grant to the state for down payment assistance, which is pending site control. We expect, if you agree with this resolution, to close on the parcels in November or December.

And some immediate things that are happening in the neighborhood, we've acquired One Tower Street. And we're -- that is going to be another *Take Back the Block* house. And we also have a business incubator, which the County is assisting us with on the commercial side of town, not too far from this program.

I just wanted to briefly thank Jill Rosen-Nikoloff and Commissioner Heaney for their help on this program as well as with our business incubator.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. Good timing. Anybody have any questions? Thank you.

MR. ALOISE:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Leanore Halcrow.

MS. HALCROW:

I'm a nurse with Suffolk County Health Department and my problem is my status as a Q-nurse. Does -- is everybody familiar with that? I think it has come before the Legislature before.

Last November I took a job as a full-time position. I had worked 16 years as a Q-nurse. And before I took this position I was told, I have e-mails or a letter from both Alan Schneider and Fran Brechter saying that my previous time as a Q-nurse and that time in the retirement system would count towards my retirement in getting health benefits in retirement. So, therefore, I had the equivalent of eight full-time years in the retirement system.

And then this past January a memo came out saying that you had to work ten full-time years as a Suffolk County Employee to be entitled to benefits in retirement. And I then in inquiring to Jeff Tempera was told that my time as a Q-nurse does not count as a Suffolk County employee. And that's where my problem is now. Because I would not have worked full-time if I was not going to be getting the benefits. And I just felt my paycheck for the past 16 years has been from Suffolk County and that I should be entitled to benefits on retirement.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Can you just tell us again what a Q-nurse is?

MS. HALCROW:

Okay. This position it goes back into the '80's. It's kind of a unique group of nurses. We weren't considered part-time. When I took the job, I was told that a part-time position would probably arise and that I would be able to get that. We worked for the County. There's a group, I think, now it's about 11 people probably, as a Q-nurse. It had been into the 20's, I believe, way in the beginning. With that position, we got health benefits, we were in the retirement system and there was life insurance. But otherwise we did not get, you know, vacation or sick time. But, you know, for the past 16 years I've worked at least 17 and-a-half hours most weeks sometimes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Not to interrupt you, but a Q-nurse then, where do you go to -- physically where do you go to be a

Q-nurse?

MS. HALCROW:

Okay. Actually I have been in the same department since I took this job. I work with the Immunization Program.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

The Suffolk County Immunization Program, the Department of Health?

MS. HALCROW:

Correct. Yes, that's where I work. And that's what I've done for the past 17 years now basically. And I, you know, I had certain clinics that I went to. It wasn't that they would call me that *okay, we need you tomorrow*, kind of thing. I had a schedule that I adhered to. There were certain immunization clinics that, you know, we run weekly and I would always be at them.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So everyday for 17 and-a-half hours a week you went to work.

MS. HALCROW:

Right. And sometimes it was more than that and sometimes it was less.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. And you got paid by the hour?

MS. HALCROW:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I'm sorry I didn't mean it interrupt.

MS. HALCROW:

Oh, no, no. I mean that's --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I'll let you finish.

MS. HALCROW:

-- that's it basically. That's basically it. I just believe I'm entitled to health benefits on retirement and that's why I went full-time.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Barraga, I believe, has a question.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Just for clarification for me, for 16 years as a Q-nurse you worked 17 hours per week.

MS. HALCROW:

Sometimes more.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Okay.

MS. HALCROW:

And sometimes less.

LEG. BARRAGA:

How much of that was credited toward your pension? How many years?

MS. HALCROW:

About eight years I had.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Eight years. You're not working now, though. Right?

MS. HALCROW:

Yes. I'm a full-time nurse now.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Oh, you're a full-time nurse.

MS. HALCROW:

Yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

But you're not in the pension system?

MS. HALCROW:

Oh, no. I'm still on the -- I have been in the pension system since I started.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah, that's not the problem.

MS. HALCROW:

I have always been in the pension system. In all my time there, which is now nine years, I have gotten as a Suffolk County worker.

LEG. BARRAGA:

So they don't want to give you credit for the eight years. Is that the idea?

MS. HALCROW:

In the retirement system, I will. I will get retirement. But as far as the County goes and my health benefits --

LEG. BARRAGA:

They don't want to give you credit for the eight years?

MS. HALCROW:

Correct, correct. They're saying I wasn't truly a Suffolk County employee.

LEG. BARRAGA:

How many others are in the same boat?

MS. HALCROW:

Right now it's, I think, 11 or 12. I'm not positive about the number. We had been up in to the 20's at one point.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay.

MS. HALCROW:

And most -- almost all of them have worked many hours, you know, many years like I have. They

haven't hired Q-nurses in many years now.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Does anybody have any comments from Budget?

MR. REINHEIMER:

The parameters for being eligible to have County paid health insurance changed effective April 1st. I believe it was through a memorandum. I don't think it was a local law that changed it to ten years of County service. I think the problem with the Q-nurses is they're caught in the middle. They weren't considered full-time County employees. They were employed by the County, they were paid on a, I guess, a per diem or hourly basis.

MS. HALCROW:

Right.

MR. REINHEIMER:

And when this new procedure was adopted or was instituted April 1st, this is a ramification that happened that's possibly or possibly not an unintended consequence. I mean, Jeff knows the details of the agreement and he knows how to apply it. So at this point it's a problem with being eligible for County insurance. And I guess what Alan Schneider is saying is that she would need ten years of service before she could get County paid health insurance as a full-time employee. And being that she's only worked two years, at this point in time she's not eligible for it.

LEG. BARRAGA:

If I understand this correctly, isn't she saying that she was told that the eight years would be applicable toward the ten?

MR. REINHEIMER:

But the parameters and the eligibility for County paid health insurance changed effective April 1st.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I know that, I know that. But if she had something in writing or if this group of nurses had something in writing indicated that the years as Q-nurses would apply toward their health benefits when they retire, wouldn't that be appropriate to create -- you know, the ten years?

MR. REINHEIMER:

I would think you'd have to look at the source information from Alan Schneider and compare that to the agreement that changed effective April 1st. Probably and I'm, you know, not knowing anymore than you do, he gave her the best answer he could give at that point in time. The rules and regulations for collecting County paid health insurance changed effective April 1st, 2009. That may have impacted his previous interpretation.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Is there anything in writing indicating that those eight years in your case would be applicable toward --

MS. HALCROW:

Excuse me? I'm sorry, I didn't hear the beginning.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Do you have anything in writing, any of the Q-nurses have anything in writing from the County indicating that the years that they worked as Q-nurses would be applicable toward the health insurance?

MS. HALCROW:

I have in writing from October of '08 from Fran Brechter and from Alan Schneider saying that, you know, as long as I retired as a full-time nurse and had ten years in the retirement system that I would be eligible for health benefits, yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

And you're eight years as a Q-nurse would be included in that?

MS. HALCROW:

At that time, yes. It has changed as he said. In April they changed that.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yeah, I know that. I know that.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Did you bring copies of that letter?

MS. HALCROW:

Yes, I do.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I'd like to see it.

MR. REINHEIMER:

We might be able to provide you with the information that we received from the County Executive's Office and make that available to the committee and look at that compared to the letter and maybe that'll give some indication as to where this is going. I'll try and get that information to the Committee as soon as possible.

LEG. GREGORY:

Madam Chair, if I may.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Go ahead.

LEG. GREGORY:

Also, I would just like to see what would be the financial impact of these 11 or 12 people to give them benefits, you know.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Well, County paid health insurance at this point in time is for a generic employee. That's a combination of family and individual, is about \$12,700 per year. If we had County paid health insurance for these people upon retirement, you would carry that at this point in time for the remainder of their retirement.

LEG. GREGORY:

And --

MR. REINHEIMER:

And their surviving spouse also.

LEG. GREGORY:

And from your, I guess, experience have we ever been in a situation like this where, you know, we change our policy as to who we provide benefits to? I thought at one point the County was five years. And now it's --

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's correct. And that's what changed April 1st.

LEG. GREGORY:

Okay.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Now how the Q- nurses fit into it, I'm not really sure because as stated they are a unique set of employees and they've been long-term, they've been with the County, they work on a regular basis. Are they considered full-time County employees like the rest of County employees, I think that's the question.

LEG. GREGORY:

But if they accrue retirement, I mean, they're, you know, they're accruing retirement credits like, you know, a quote unquote regular employee, I don't see why we wouldn't recognize them as far as benefits as well. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah, you know what, I'm somewhat familiar with the Q-nurses 'cause Mary comes in here all the time. And, you know, there was, you said, about 27, 23 Q-nurses at one time.

MS. HALCROW:

Yes.

LEG. BROWNING:

The last time I checked I think we were at 17. And --

MS. HALCROW:

I think it's less than that now actually.

LEG. BROWNING:

They are really only required to work 17 and-a-half hours. But because the number's dropping, how many Q-nurses, they wind up -- you're working -- I know some of them are working up to 30 hours a week. Correct?

MS. HALCROW:

Actually that was changed as of this past June. And I think it gets into legal issues as far as, you know, how many hours we're actually working. Last June a memo came out that no Q-nurse was allowed to work more than 17 and-a-half hours per week.

LEG. BROWNING:

But then that makes it difficult for you to do your job when there's a shortage of nurses -- a shortage of Q-nurses.

MS. HALCROW:

We, you know, at this time of year -- exactly. And with our department, with school requirements and now with the flu vaccines we are very busy.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Correct me if I'm wrong with reference to -- the budget people here? Yeah, I thought the administrative change had to do with the scenario that says, *look, you know, you have to have ten years working for the County and then you retire and you're entitled to free health benefits for the rest of your life.* I thought what changed is that if you have years at another level of government, those years would no longer be applicable, to add to the ten. I think there's a provision that said,

look, you know, if you had 15 years at the state and you came to the County within 90 days, you then became eligible, even if you left, for free health benefits for the rest your life. I thought that's what changed. Not for ten years.

MR. REINHEIMER:

I think you're correct. I think the problem is a unique situation and classification that the Q-nurses are in and how that's interpreted in light of this new policy that the County adopted. I think you're correct on that.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yeah, and that's what I would like to see whatever the Q-nurses have in writing indicating that those years as Q-nurses would be applicable.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yeah.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Okay.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah, maybe BRO could also look into, like I said, the number of hours that they're actually working, if there's a way that we could get some ideas as to how many hours Q-nurses have actually been working because while she's considered a 17 and-a-half hour employee, they've been working a lot more hours. And you said -- how many years have you working as a Q-nurse?

MS. HALCROW:

I've been working 16 years.

LEG. BROWNING:

So, out of the 16 only eight of those years are considered -- qualifies you to be eligible but you're not actually working 17, sometimes you're working a heck of a lot more. So --

MS. HALCROW:

Well, that was previously. That was before June.

LEG. BROWNING:

Right, right.

MS. HALCROW:

And you have to look into that 16 years, I also took vacation and stuff. So I -- to make up for that, to get me at the equivalent of exactly half time, I worked more than 17 and-a-half hours on weeks also.

LEG. BROWNING:

Is there a way we could kind of get a -- some information as to how many hours all these Q-nurses are working? And -- oh, God, there was one other thing I was going to ask -- and how many Q-nurses have actually left that position as a Q-nurse and gone into full-time positions, like what she did?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yeah, we probably have to get that information from the department.

As far as the retirement service, retirement service is based on your actual employment during the year. If you're working the equivalent of half-time, you get half a year of service credit for one full year. So over the 16 years, you know, she got, you know, half credit because it worked out that she was working half the year. That's a different situation than I think that we're looking at it for County

service.

But I'll get the information from the department, see if they can provide us with the number of Q-nurses, the average number of hours that they're working during 2009. And the third question you asked is how many of them became full-time employees.

LEG. BROWNING:

Right. Legislator Gregory wanted to know, you know, the financial impact, about how many of them are actually doing that.

MS. HALCROW:

Can I just add something? As far as in 2009, the nurses were not allowed to work more than 17 and-a-half hours. So I do believe as short as we are, that most of those nurses probably did put in 17 and-a-half hours. But I don't know that positively. I have one working in my department who would love to put in more hours because we need her. But she can't. They won't let her.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Thank you.

LEG. BROWNING:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

We're making copies of that letter so if you could just sit there for a few minutes until we get a chance to take a look at things, okay. And we'll just call the next public speaker while you're sitting there.

MS. HALCROW:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Diana Weir.

MS. WEIR:

Diana Weir with the Long Island Housing Partnership. Good afternoon, thank you for letting me speak. I will speak on behalf of all the funding that is before you today for the developments. Obviously we're involved in all of them in screening, and providing the homes and the proper verification for all those clients. And we thank you always for your support. This Legislature and County has been tremendously supportive of affordable housing and that's our mission to provide and promote it on both -- in both Counties.

So the development's Artspace and the Huntington development and any funding that is required for them, we ask you to support that and continue to support it. The need is tremendous. I will tell you that we updated our database, which had 25,000 names of families waiting for a housing opportunity, a workforce housing opportunity. These are working families on Long Island that need these opportunities today. And I will thank you in advance for our Cortland Square development, which will come before the Legislature any day now, I think.

So if I can't make it, I just want to thank you for that. Those are 40 units in downtown Bay Shore. And, again, that is revitalizing that community and it will continue to do that. So every single unit of affordable housing is valuable. It's for our working families. It's for our children. These families become part of the community and we ask you to continue to support that. Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Is there anybody else that would like to address the Committee? Okay. Mrs. Halcrow, here's what we're just going to do, we -- you have the originals back of the letter?

MS. HALCROW:

Yes, I do. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. We just got these so we have to look at them for a while. But I've just spoken to Counsel, and he is going to -- Mr. Nolan is going to take the time to research this, talk to Mr. Tempera, talk to Mr. Schneider and see where we can go with this and what we can do to best serve this, your needs here.

As soon as we find out something, your telephone number -- is it -- we're going to get the information. Greg is my Chief of Staff. He'll get the information and Greg will tell you what the next step will be after Mr. Nolan speaks to the correct powers that be. Although I think you're the power that is, so.

MS. HALCROW:

I thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. We're going to go to the agenda. And, Jill, you're going to come up, too. And when we get to what you want to speak about, you can just interrupt. Okay.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

Okay, tabled resolutions. **1364, Amending Chapter 631, Article I of the Suffolk County Code. (Co. Exec. Levy)**

LEG. GREGORY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion to table by Legislator Gregory, second by Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed?
1364 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0)

1568, Adopting Local Law No. -2009, A Local Law to strengthen the County's land transfer program for affordable housing. (Cooper) Was the -- public hearing was closed on that?

MR. NOLAN:

Yep.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Mr. Heaney, did we -- were there changes that were going to be made on that? It was tabled the last time.

COMMISSIONER HEANEY:

Yes, thank you. We have asked that there be a continuation of tabling. We are --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay, fine. I'll make a motion to table.

COMMISSIONER HEANEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Gregory. All in favor? Opposed? **1568 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Introductory Resolution 1783, 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. (Co. Exec. Levy)

LEG. BROWNING:

Make a motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Browning, second by Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? **1783 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0)**

1843, Providing for marriage equality in the Administration of Benefits to Suffolk County Employees. (Cooper)

LEG. GREGORY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion to table by Legislator Gregory, second by Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? **1843 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0)**

1849. Okay. Jill, you can come up now in case there's questions. I think this is where you come in.

1849, Authorizing funding, acquisition, conveyance, development, infrastructure improvements and oversight of real property under Suffolk County Affordable Housing Opportunities Program. (Co. Exec. Levy) I'll make a motion for purposes of discussion, second by Legislator Gregory. Jill, you want to give us numbers on that and how you feel?

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

Yes. This is an excellent example of neighborhood revitalization and it's a partnership between us and the town. There are also state funds involved. They've requested \$100,000 in infrastructure funds and \$389,000 in land acquisition funds. They're proposing 14 units, seven homeownership's, each with an accessory apartment, which gives us a per unit valuation of \$34,929, which we think is a good investment for this. And we would ask that you approve that.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

This is the *Take Back the Block*, is that what it was?

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

It is, yes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. There is a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? **1849 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0)**

1852, Authorizing funding, acquisition, conveyance, development, infrastructure improvements and oversight of real property under Suffolk County Affordable Housing Opportunities Program (Artspace Patchogue Lofts - Patchogue Village). (Co. Exec. Levy)

Motion by Legislator Eddington, second by Legislator Barraga. Well, Jill, do you want to comment on this?

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

Not if you're about to vote for it.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

We did have testimony on it. But did you want to add anything on it?

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

No. I did want to say though that these two developments are of significance because it's the first time we're actually using the infrastructure funds for affordable housing. And we've got much more in the pipeline. So --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? **1852 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0)**

Is there anybody else that would like to address the Committee? If not, I'll take a motion to adjourn. Legislator Barraga makes the motion, second by Legislator Gregory. All in favor? Opposed? This meeting is adjourned.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:47 PM

{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY