

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 June 17, 2010.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. John M. Kennedy, Jr., Chairman
Leg. Kate M. Browning, Vice Chair
Leg. Thomas Cilmi
Leg. DuWayne Gregory
Leg. Vivian Vilorio-Fisher

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature
Joe Muncey, Budget Review Office
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office
Alan Schneider, Director of Civil Service
Ben Zwirn, County Executive's Office
Ed Hennessy, Aide to County Executive
Gail Lolis, County Attorney's Office
Yves R. Michel, Commissioner of Economic Development and Workforce Housing
Jill Rosen-Nikoloff, Director of Affordable Housing
Jason Richberg, Aide to Leg. DuWayne Gregory
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Leader
Dot Kerrigan, Legislative Rep for AME
John Guadagno, Local 25
Mario Mattera, Local 200
Chris Kempner, Town of Riverhead
Thomas Ferris, Local 7 Carpenters
Ray Dickhoff
Mary Reid
All other interested parties

VERBATIM MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:51 PM)

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Can I have all members of Labor, Workforce Housing around the horseshoe please. Okay. We'll have the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Viloría-Fisher.

SALUTATION

First, good afternoon and welcome. We have a number of speakers. We do have a department head here, and with the indulgence of the audience and the members of the Committee, I am going to ask if before we do public portion we can move to the agenda and take introductory resolution 1668, yes, it's introductory resolution 1668. So with the indulgence with the rest of the Committee if we can -- yes, let's make a motion to take IR 1668 out of order.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Second. All those in favor? Opposed?

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Do we have a quorum yet?

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

We have three.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Yes, we have quorum. All right. We now have introductory resolution **1668, amending the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan in connection with a new position title in the Police Department: Police Officer (Spanish Speaking) (Co. Exec. Levy)** in front of us. I have asked our Director of Civil Service, Alan Schneider, to speak to us on this resolution.

Alan, if you could please tell us what's involved here. There was quite a bit of question at our last General Meeting when we had this originally before us by Certificate of Necessity.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you. I have to keep my finger on this.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Keep your finger down.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you very much, Legislator Kennedy. I appreciate you taking this out of order because I do have --

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Certainly, I know you have constraints on your time schedule and other commitments.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I do.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

So I appreciate you being here.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I listened to the broadcast of what took place at the Legislative meeting. And I'm here today hopefully to clear up any misconceptions and answer any questions of any Committee members.

First of all, we have used the parenthetic Spanish speaking for over 20 years in Suffolk County. We use it for clerk typist exams, clerk typist Spanish speaking. We use them for various positions in the Health Department. We use it for -- in Social Services for the social workers, the Social Services examiner titles.

And what we are attempting to do here is create a new title of police officer Spanish speaking. And I really don't think this is a big deal. I think I can explain and answer any questions that come up.

First of all, when the resolution was put through, it appears that we're creating one position of police officer Spanish speaking. That is not the case. We are creating the title. But because of the resolution that requires a position to be deleted when a position is created, there was -- on the resolution the deletion of one police officer to create the title of police officer Spanish speaking. Down the road eventually when the County is able to hire police officer Spanish speaking -- from the police officer Spanish speaking eligible list, if this resolution is approved, the decision will be made each time there is a police class how many officers in that class will come from the police officer Spanish speaking list.

Now, we're giving the exam the second Saturday of June in 2011, a year from now. We're under the consent decree of the Justice Department for the last -- close to 20 years. And one of the requirements in the consent decree is that when we hold a police exam, one year before the police exam, we have to put an exam announcement on the board one year in advance; and the police department must begin a recruitment program at that time. That is the reason why it went to the Legislature last week with a CN because we were a year away.

Why did we wait that long? The reason we waited that long is we had been discussing this with the Justice Department over the last two or three months. We have been waiting for approval from them, which we need. We still have not gotten that. But the time ran down to what I thought was the last Legislative meeting until August and I had suggested to Ed Dumas, who I would talk to in the County Exec's Office that we're going to have to get this to the Legislature immediately. That's why it was put in with a CN.

Now, when it comes to the exam, the way this works, we give them one exam. The exam is for police officer. You can sign up. There'll be two announcements; one for police officer, one for police officer Spanish speaking. If you speak fluently in the Spanish language, you do not have to be a Hispanic person, the requirement is that you speak Spanish fluently, you're able to read Spanish; if you have that ability, you can sign up for the police officer Spanish speaking test, you can sign up for the police officer examination.

When you take the test, you are going to be taking one test. Your score is going to be whatever your -- the number of correct answers are going to be on that examination. So that if you get a 95 on the exam, you are going to be -- and you have the ability to speak Spanish and you signed up for the police officer Spanish speaking, your score of 95 is going to be on the police officer list and you're going to have a score of 95 on the police officer Spanish speaking.

If you are on the police officer Spanish speaking, you will still have to appear for and pass a Spanish speaking oral proficiency examination, which will determine can you speak proficiently in the Spanish language well enough to converse? And are you able to read a document in the Spanish language? We do that test in the Civil Service Department. We have a professor of foreign languages who has been doing this for us for a number of years. This is somebody who teaches; teaches both Hispanic people to speak English and teaches English speaking people to speak in the Spanish language. He comes in periodically on an when-needed basis and does that exam.

So that if you're one of the people that takes the exam, is on both lists now with a 95, you've come in and you take the oral examine, you fail the examine, you're off the Spanish speaking police officer list. If you pass the exam, you still have a score of 95. You don't get any additional points. It's a pass/fail examine.

When the Department down the road is ready to hire a police class, and the Legislature decides they're going to have a class of a 100 people, and everyone agrees that the class will be a 100 people, a determination would be made how many of those officers will come from the Spanish speaking list and how many will come from the police officer list. So what we could have is a class made up of 90 officers from the regular list, ten officers from the Spanish speaking list, with the intent of eventually once the officers get through the academy being assigned to the areas where it should have the greatest amounts of Spanish speaking population.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Thank you, Alan, I appreciate that.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I want to say something.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Absolutely. And I see the rationale. Just a couple of quick questions and then I'll yield. The consent decree when we spoke you had mentioned, I guess, has been in place since 1988. Have we ever --

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

That is correct.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Okay. Have we ever done this before with any of our previous police exam -- the administration of prior police exams? Have we ever had this distinction, if you will, or creation of this separate type of capacity, this title?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

No. If we had, we wouldn't be here in front of the Leg, because if we had, the title would be in the payroll system. And we only come to the Leg when we are going to create a new title.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Okay.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

So that --

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

So we are really looking at something brand new for us now. This comes about --

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Innovative.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Okay. Innovative, if you will, yes. I like that term. What precipitates this innovation? Is this something that came out of the dialogue with Justice? Have we become enlightened now so that we'll move in this direction? Why did we take that act?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I believe that we've taken this act because of the very large influx of Spanish speaking people into

Suffolk County. I mean, that's a common story and a common theme that you read about, that the -- there is great increases in the Spanish speaking population. I don't know if it was discussed in prior administrations. I don't know if anyone felt there was a need for it, but obviously the belief is that there is a need for it today.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Okay. I'll yield in just a moment. But the one thing that I've heard in discussions already about this is a -- the whole basis of the Civil Service system as you know well, having dedicated your whole career to it, is a level playing field, objectivity and a sense of fairness for all that want to come forward and to take our tests or to become part of our County government.

There is a question as to how an individual may or may not move through the queue for the score by creating this new title. What is the -- what is the range of possibilities there for an individual with someone who not only scores on the regular conventional exam, but then on the Spanish speaking as well when we go to do the lottery and pull for applicants?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

You know, it's hard to predict before an exam is given what the makeup of the list is going to be. I mean it's impossible. You don't know what scores people are going to get. But I would assume that if we have, just based on our current list, we had nearly 30,000 people take this exam. We have approximately 24, 25,000 people on the list. The highest score on the list was a 97.5.

Now, there are on our current list and in contention for the current class approximately 112 people who have scores higher than 97.5, who got those scores by virtue of military service and veterans' credits. So there are scores as high as a 107.5, which are 97.5 plus people who came out of the military with some kind of disability, but not a disability that would prevent them from becoming a police officer. There are people with a score of 105, which are the people that scored 95 and got ten points, people at a 102.5, people at 100 which are 95 with 5 points.

On that list there was a total of 112 people out of 24,000 that attained these top scores. So these people, if they pass all the qualifying tests that they've gone through to get into the academy would be included -- anyone who finishes would be included in this class.

The next group at 97.5 had 850 people in it. We did a lottery to make sure that everybody would be exactly as you said, treated equally, have an equal shot of getting in, not because of who they may know or where they come from, they were picked by lottery. We picked 450 names out of that lottery to add to the 112; they were in the scores above them. And from that group will come this class that is undergoing the final stages of the pre-testing right now. Carrying this out to four years from now, or two years from now, we give the exam in 2011. It won't be established until probably the end of 2011 and would be eligible for use in 2012.

The number of people who are going to be on the Spanish speaking list will be maybe 10 percent of the people who are on the police officer exam. So that those scores that I mentioned to you of the military, the veterans who are above the top score attainable on the test should be, I would think, the only way you can predict it, maybe 10, 11, 12 people. At a score of 97.5, instead of 850 people, maybe there'll be 85 or a range anywhere from 70 to a 100 approximately. But when you take into account that more than likely the class will consist of maybe ten percent of Hispanic -- sorry for using that term, but Spanish speaking potential officers, they will be coming from the same score, 97.5. 97.5 will make up the class.

Now it is possible at the end of a score bank, if we get through all the 97.5's, that we may get through the 97.5's on the Spanish speaking list, we still have some people on the police officer list at a score of 97.5. And the next class comes up, that we may be going into a score of 95 before -- on the Spanish speaking exam before we go into the score of 95 on the regular police officer list. But you can't predict that, Legislator Kennedy, that's down there. I'm saying two to three to four years in the future.

This title is basically just getting us where we're trying to get to to deal with the realities of the population makeup in Suffolk County and dealing with the issues that do come up.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Certainly, Alan. Thank you so much. Let me yield to Legislator Viloría-Fisher, please.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Alan, you've answered most of the questions that I had. I was wondering once there's a police officer who is already hired in the department, is there any way of that person taking a proficiency exam and moving into that title?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

No.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. So they have to be --

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

There would be no reason for it. There would be no reason for it because when you think about that, if there is a police officer already on the force, he's got permanent -- he or she has permanent Civil Service status as a police officer, if they have the ability to be fluent in the Spanish language, they can be assigned --

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. They can be assigned without having had the title.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

-- to any command where they may be needed to take advantage of that.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Otherwise they're going on the list to get appointed to the title that they already have permanent status in.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Mr. Chair, he answered all my other questions. Thank you. Thanks, Alan, that was very clear, the explanation.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

He answered my questions.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Okay. Anybody else? Legislator Gregory? Legislator Cilmi? We got it all? Okay. I will entertain a motion, then, on IR 1668.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. CILMI:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Motion to approve by Legislator Viloría-Fisher. I'll second the motion. On the motion.

LEG. CILMI:

Just another question, Alan. Clearly we have a large Hispanic population in Suffolk County. Are there any other populations of folks who speak languages other than English or Spanish that at some point in the not too distant future we'll need to be concerned with?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Well, I can't predict the future, again. At this time I don't think there is. Obviously there are going to be hand fulls, pockets of population areas where you're going to have that situation; nowhere near the extent of the Hispanic population of the County at this point. Again, I don't think eight years ago we would have even thought about police officer Spanish speaking, but we are thinking about it now. But to answer your question more directly, I think my answer to that would be no.

LEG. CILMI:

If eight years from now we experienced an influx of Indian, you know, Asian, Chinese, Korean, whatever, at that point would we be entertaining similar measures for those populations?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I would probably have to say I can answer that question better in eight years, Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

I don't think I could --

LEG. CILMI:

I'll hold you to that.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Okay. If I'm around.

LEG. CILMI:

If you and I are both here.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Alan, one last question before call the vote. We are seating a class of 70 as you had spoken about. We funded 200 officers. The Executive has decided to go ahead and move forward on a class of 70. In a similar fashion, who decides about whatever future class gets seated, how many of that total would fit in the subset Spanish speaking? How does that come about? Is that in concert with Justice? Or is that folks of our local give and take here?

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Well, that's a good question, Legislator Kennedy. I don't know what will be in the final report on this by the Justice Department, if they will mandate a ten percent figure. The reason I use 10 percent is I did do a little bit of a survey to find out what other counties in the State were using Spanish speaking police officers. I got a list here and I'll be glad to, you know, share that with you. But it appears that the number of police officers on their force compared to police officers who have been appointed from a Spanish speaking police officer list runs about ten percent.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Okay.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

So that's why I use that ten percent to try to answer the question before.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Okay.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

But down the road, could it be a little more than that, could it be less than that? Yeah, and I think that would be a decision of whoever the Police Commissioner is at the time of any class in the future.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Okay. All right. Well, thank you, you've been very informative as always. So we have a motion to approve and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Resolution is approved. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**
Thank you very much, Alan.

DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you. And again thanks for taking this out of order for me. I appreciate that.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

You're very welcome. And, again, my apologies to everybody in the audience. I know that you've been very patient. Let's turn directly to the public portion then.

PUBLIC PORTION

First up I have John Guadagno from Local 25 on IR 1665, Summerwood Square.

MR. GUADAGNO:

Thank you, Mr. Kennedy, members of the Legislature. It's on, right? Good? Okay.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today. I'm also going to speak in favor of 1666, the Cortland Project.

First, 1665 which is the Summer Wind Square in Riverhead, I am extremely excited on both these projects. It's great to see the County and builders working together investing in our kids' future, especially both projects will have affordable housing units, which is exciting, especially for my children.

I love the idea, especially in Riverhead, where I have a secondary office there. And it fits in with the community very, very well. It's almost going to be, you're going to have the aquarium, one as a bookend, you're going to have this Summer Wind Square, which is absolutely gorgeous with 52 units in it, with some commercial property underneath, restaurant and some other things which will be nice for the tenants to walk around Riverhead as they fix up the area. And it's coming a long way with the water right behind them.

The Cortland project, also 1666, is a gorgeous project. It'll also attract young people to stay on Long Island, which is important to us. As you know, I'm John Guadagno, a business rep for Local 25 with over 2500 members living in Nassau/Suffolk County. We applaud these type of projects. It'll give us immediate work and will also give us some tax base back to the County and keep our children home. So, again, I strongly recommend you guys approve both these issues. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Thank you, John. Next up we have Mario Mattera, Local 200 on 1665 and 1666.

MR. MATTERA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman Kennedy and Council, committee members. Thank you for letting me speak today on two important projects, resolution 1665 and 1666.

My name is Mario Mattera. I'm the business agent with Plumbers Local 200. I represent approximately 1200 members and families. And eighty percent of my members live in Suffolk County. And so do I and very proud of it.

First, I'm going to speak on Summer Wind Square, you know, just what John just said, it's a great project. The first thing I'd like to say is the rapport that we have with the builders. We have NF Management, Ray and Marty. I just to got to say open dialogue, which is great to see; in other words, you get a chance to bid on these projects. Many meetings, many meetings to give them a heads up, what we're about. In other words, every single hour goes into the system that our members have, put it this way, our guys go to work. It's going into the Workman's Comp. It's going into insurances. It's going into the system. Not half cash and half pay. And you know what? We have to be competitive, which we are. And I'd just like to say I'm excited about the project -- that can't be three minutes already?

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

It's left over from the other person.

MR. MATTERA:

Oh, my goodness. I was going to say, I know I talk a lot but --

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

We set it special for you.

MR. MATTERA:

Oh, thanks, Vivian. You know, downtown Riverhead needs this project. You know, I remember going with my parents years ago. And the project that they built, and I don't know if anybody saw the plans on it and the building, where it's going, is absolutely beautiful. And we're just hoping that it's going to set a trend, a dominos effect for the rest of Riverhead. And if management has proven the point that they can get this down and do a great job.

Second, is 1666, Daytree, another company that's open dialogue, that gave us a chance to bid on this project over in Bay Shore, Cortland Square. And I was very proud that one of my contractors, I had three of them, I had three or four of them bid and Daytree's were open, I let them bid. And one of my contractors that's sitting in the audience, that doesn't want to speak today but he's back there -- Tony, come on, stand up and give a little bow. But Tony from All Systems Plumbing got the job. They won the project. And it was big. You know, it took a lot, but the Daytrees were very understanding about a lot of things. And all I want to say is please pass 1665 and 1666. It's much needed. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Thank you, Mario. Okay, next up we have Chris Kempner from Kempner@Riverhead.com. And then after him we have Ray Dickhoff. Oh, I'm sorry, her. Hello, how are you, Chris?

MS. KEMPNER:

Thank you. My name is Chris Kempner. I'm with the Town of Riverhead Community Development Agency. And Riverhead Town enthusiastically supports Summer Wind as a model for public/private partnership. This project will provide quality affordable next generation apartments. And it's located in a prime area along side the Peconic River with direct access to Grangebhel Park, which is now under renovation with \$1.5 million from DOT. And this is all in the heart of downtown Riverhead.

In fact, this particular project and discussions about this project have generated quite a bit of

interest and additional investment in downtown Riverhead. The entire Peconic River, Peconic Avenue section will be completely renovated. Two other buildings that are located there directly next to the {Vale Levitt} are under renovation. And the investment was directly related to the consideration of this project by the County.

Summer Wind will provide much needed affordable life style options for our young people and local professionals. Area employers who work at the Suffolk County Center, the Peconic Bay Medical Center, Teachers and school administrators, Town employees, fire and police department employees will all be eligible for these apartments.

To date the County has been an instrumental partner in Riverhead's emerging downtown revitalization including the expanded and newly renovated Supreme Court buildings on Griffing Avenue and other projects on our waterfront to improve public access.

We also, as mentioned earlier, have a Hyatt Place hotel that's going up at the other end of Main Street. That's a \$24 million project. An investment by the County in this Summer Wind project sends a very strong message to banks and other private investment entities that Riverhead is on its way back.

Without doubt these 52 next generation housing units will be the tipping point and revitalization of downtown Riverhead. On behalf of the Supervisor, the Town Board and the community, we enthusiastically support this project and appreciate the interest and continued support of Suffolk County to join our revitalization efforts. Thank you for your favorable review.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Thank you very much. Next up -- now we have Thomas Ferris from Carpenters and then Ray Dickhoff.

MR. FERRIS:

Good afternoon. My name is Tom Ferris. I represent Local 7 Carpenters, but more important I'm a resident of the Township of Riverhead. I live in Jamesport. My two kids -- well, I have three children, but two are graduating right now. They both finished college and they're going to be looking for housing and staying on Long Island. As I say, my wife lives in Manorville. And I live in Riverhead. We'd like to keep them here on Long Island.

They have good jobs. One's a child psychologist; the other's a physical therapist. We have to supply housing for them so they can stay here and not lose this talent and leave the town. I have a third son. He's a sophomore in college. Again, these are all kids going to come up, and I'm not unique, that are going to be looking for housing and be able to stay here on Long Island.

We should keep the talent here. These jobs will help the whole economy and help downtown Riverhead. Like everybody else said, we have one end of the town with the aquarium and the new hotel going there. The other end of town now, if we have a strong -- coming down this way from Perkins getting renovated to this now going, we should be able to pinch in the middle and really clean up downtown. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Thank you, Tom. Next we have Ray Dickhoff followed by Mary Reid.

MR. DICKHOFF:

Good afternoon. My name is Ray Dickhoff. My partner Martin {Selesky} and I would like to thank this Committee for allowing us to speak here today on Summer Wind Square. Summer Wind Square is a very special project, as it shows how private business and government can work together. This project would not be possible without the enormous support from both the Suffolk County Executive and the Suffolk County Legislature.

Summer Wind Square being built by Eastern Property Invest Consultants working together with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Workforce housing and the Long Island Housing Partnership, we hope to be a positive start to the economic recovery and revitalization of downtown Riverhead.

This site is currently three separate properties. Dormant and decaying buildings will be razed in order to erect an urban style living space with a view of the Peconic River front and Grangebelle Park. This space will consist of 8,000 -- roughly 8,000 square feet of first floor retail space and three floors of rental apartments for a total of 52 living units.

The living units will be a mix of studio apartments, one bedroom apartments and two bedroom apartments. The living units will bring much needed foot traffic to downtown business area. Our goal is to help revitalize Main Street by offering affording living space thereby ensuring survival of existing businesses while encouraging new business ventures to open. We will be working with the Long Island Housing Partnership to populate the units and we are relying on their expertise in marketing and qualifying the tenants that will be best served by the Suffolk County Workforce Housing Program.

Thank you again for letting me speak here today.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Thank you, sir. Next we have Miss Reid and then followed up our last speaker is Frank Nitto.

MS. REID:

I have to hold it? I can't multi-task.

I'm here this afternoon to speak on behalf of resolution 1666. Many years ago, almost ten, I think, the aquarium site was supposed to be this location on {Mechanicsville}. And then they decided that that would not happen. A group of us got together, along with the Long Island Housing Partnership and talked about putting affordable houses there.

We've been working on this project for almost 7 years. It's been a long time, a long time coming. We've worked with the local residents, we've worked with the Town. Quite a few residents from Bay Shore have been included on this and still on this Committee.

I hope and I pray that you will support this. It is needed in downtown Bay Shore. It's adjacent to Main Street. It's a block from the Long Island Railroad. If you know anything about Southwind Village, which is a wonderful new development is there, it will then connect Sunnybrook so there's a lot of work going on in Bay Shore. And this is needed. This is the final piece, I think, that will bring us together.

So I've had a chance to help choose the builder. And there will be 40 wonderful affordable units there. It's near Touro College. You can walk to the water. So it's just really a wonderful place to be. And, again, I ask your support, Tom, as my Legislator, I hope you will vote yes and thank you very much for this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Thank you, ma'am. Hold for one quick question, ma'am.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Mary, come back, please?

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Just one quick question. First of all thank you for your persistence, Mary.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Actually, Mr. Chair it's not a question. It's a comment because I was at this horseshoe when we did receive -- I looked at those plans. There was somebody who came to my office with the plans for the aquarium in Bay Shore. I have to say, Tom, that your predecessor Angie Carpenter worked really hard working on -- wasn't she your predecessor? Cameron, that's right.

MS. REID:

Cameron Alden.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

But Angie had worked on this beforehand.

MS. REID:

Yes, she did.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Angie had worked on this. And I've been seeing you for ten years working on, you know, making your community a better place. And I congratulate you. You've been really in there and have had great vision. So thank you for hanging in.

MS. REID:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Thank you, ma'am. Last up we have Frank Nitto. Is Frank still here or did he have to go?

AUDIENCE:

He had to go.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

All right, folks. So that's it on the public portion.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

And first up we have **IR 1641, accepting and appropriating additional funds for a 100% State funded grant for a Displaced Homemaker Program. (Co. Exec.)** I'll entertain a motion.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Motion to approve by Legislator Viloría-Fisher, seconded by Legislator Browning. And we're going to amend the motion to make it an approval and to place on the consent calendar. All in favor?

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

And just on the motion this is a great program if anyone has ever visited the Displaced Homemakers -- I mean if any of my colleagues haven't, please go visit it. It's a great, great help for women who are displaced homemakers.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Thank you. All those opposed? Okay, the resolution stands approved. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

Next **IR 1642, accepting and appropriating additional funds for a 100% Town of Brookhaven funded grant for a Summer Youth Employment Program. (Co. Exec.)** Same motion, same second, same vote. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1647, authorizing the disbursement of funds from the Suffolk County Living Wage

Contingency Fund for Kids Place Early Childhood Day School, the Community Programs Center of Long Island, Inc. - Port Jefferson, the Community Programs Center of Long Island, Inc. - Ronkonkoma, Lazy Cow, Inc. Db a Kiddie Care Early Learning Center, Colonial Youth and Family Services, and Brightwaters Child Care & Development Center Inc. Db a Kiddie Academy of Brightwaters Day Care Providers under contract with the Department of Social Services. (Co. Exec.) I'll entertain a motion.

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Motion to approve by Legislator Browning.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Second by Legislator Viloría-Fisher. On the motion, Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

If I could just ask Counsel to explain exactly what this does.

MR. NOLAN:

This is a part of the County's Living Wage Law. It's hardship funding for entities, daycare providers, childcare providers to help them make those payments to the people who work for them to pay Living Wage. And that has been -- we've been doing this for many years now. And we do this periodically during the year to fund these organizations.

LEG. CILMI:

And the Living Wage is something that we have instituted?

MR. NOLAN:

Correct. With persons -- with entities we contract with, we require them to pay a Living Wage.

LEG. CILMI:

And when they can't, we help them do it?

MR. NOLAN:

They make an application to the County. If it's a hardship for them to do that, then we will provide some funding to assist them.

LEG. CILMI:

Is that just for not-for-profits or is -- it's just for not-for-profits?

MR. NOLAN:

I believe it's just for not-for-profits, yeah.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

There's fairly rigorous guidelines that they have to meet, I believe; isn't that correct, Counsel? They're evaluated as for their pay schedule and the revenue streams. And so, in fact, we have a whole unit co-located over in the Labor Department right next to me where there's fairly extensive vetting that's gone on when participants make application for these funds.

And the premise is that we solicit them in the first instance by a tour of Department of Social Services to provide critical day-care for folks that are basically County clients. And in doing so, we recognize that they need a certain level of assistance so that the children are cared for in a safe

fashion, I believe. I think that's the premise of the program.

LEG. CILMI:

So it's just day-care?

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, the law isn't just for day-care. But because of the very strict guidelines or requirements by the State regarding the ratio of teacher, you know, teacher to child or care -- with infant I think it's only one to two, so it becomes cost prohibitive for a center to be viable if they have to provide living wage. They couldn't charge enough to reach those levels of wage -- those wage levels.

And so what the County does, because day cars do have these strict requirements, we help them out. We help to make them whole, otherwise they wouldn't be able to survive. And they are providing a service to the County. Many of these people are people who are going from welfare to work. And the County is providing these contracts with child care providers; or they're people who are working poor who've reached financial, you know, thresholds, they're below financial thresholds. And it's very strict requirements that -- Brenda Rosenberg at Labor looks very closely at them.

LEG. CILMI:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Okay. All those in favor? Opposed? Resolution stands approved. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

1665, authorizing funding, acquisition, conveyance, development, infrastructure improvements and oversight of real property under Suffolk County Affordable Housing Opportunities Program (Summerwood Square Riverhead). (Co. Exec.)

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Motion to approve by Legislator Browning, second by Legislator Viloría-Fisher.

LEG. BROWNING:

Can I make a comment?

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

I'm sorry. Which way are we going? Who's going first?

LEG. CILMI:

Ladies first.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Okay.

LEG. BROWNING:

Well, I have to say, you know, I'm looking at these projects here. And we talk about smart growth development. And this is the epitome of what it is. And revitalizing downtowns, I mean we have a *poor plans project* in my district in Yaphank. And I have downtown Mastic that needs revitalized. And that's my dream for downtown Mastic. This is smart growth development. This is the right way to go about it. And, Mary, I give you a lot of credit for what you have done for your community. I want to see this in Mastic, not building on open space where it's not needed. It's about revitalizing.

And there's so many more towns like Mastic that need this. And we all need to work together to create this everywhere else. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Thank you, Legislator Browning. Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Through the Chair to Mary Reid. Mary, I will agree to support this resolution and the other resolution if we can agree as a body, and as a community, to work to reduce the length of time that it takes to get these projects done. Because that it takes Mary seven years to come back here to try and get this thing done, and the length of time that it takes that I see for other projects to get down is just utterly ridiculous.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

That's right.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

It certainly is. And it's refreshing to be able to see a project brought forward where we have members of the community actually embracing it as opposed to some of the other things we see.

So we have a motion to approve and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Resolution stands approved. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1666, authorizing funding, acquisition, conveyance, development and oversight of real property under Suffolk County Affordable Housing Opportunities Program (Cortland Square Bay Shore). (Co. Exec.)

Motion by Legislator Cilmi, seconded by Legislator Vioria-Fisher. All in favor? Opposed? Resolution stands approved. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Since we're a happy family, I just want to congratulate one more. You know, I sat on the Affordable Housing Commission with Tom Daytree. He's really committed to this. And I'm so happy to see that you have a beautiful project here before us. And as Legislator Browning said, you know, there's lots of room for all of us to congratulate one another because this is the way we want to go. And thank you to the Daytrees. You're really quality people. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Thank you, Legislator Vioria-Fisher.

We've already addressed 1668.

So seeing no other business before the Committee, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn. Motion by Legislator Gregory. I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? We stand adjourned. Thanks folks.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:38 PM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**