

**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 March 18, 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:**

Alicia Howard, Legislative Assistant  
Joe Muncey, Budget Review Office  
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office  
Ben Zwirn, County Executive's Office  
Yves R. Michel, Commissioner of Economic Development and Workforce Housing  
Ginny Suhr, Aide to Leg. Vilorio-Fisher  
Maxvel Rose, Aide to Leg. DuWayne Gregory  
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader  
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Leader  
Dot Kerrigan, Legislative Rep for AME  
All other interested parties

**VERBATIM MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

## THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 1:15 PM

### CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Ladies and gentlemen, can we have all the members of the Labor, Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee please to the horseshoe. And why don't we have Legislator Vioria-Fisher please lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

### SALUTATION

Okay. We do not have any cards before us today. We do not have any tabled resolutions before us today.

### INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTION

We have one introductory resolution. That's **IR 1276, adopting Local Law No. -2010, a Local Law to expand opportunities to create housing under the 72-h transfer program. (Schneiderman)** This has to be tabled for a public hearing. I'll make a motion to table, second by Legislator Gregory. All those in favor? Opposed? **Stands tabled. (VOTE: 5-0)**

That's it for our agenda, ladies and gentlemen. I'll entertain a motion to --

### D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Can I just say one thing?

### CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Absolutely, absolutely. Legislator Vioria-Fisher.

### D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. This isn't regarding any resolution that's on our agenda. But because this is the Labor, Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee, I thought I would put on the record that we did table the resolution 1263, which is to bond 400 -- over \$400,000 for an EIS on the Legacy Village. And there has been some comment that it would be holding up the development of jobs that are much needed.

And I just want to say that \$400,000 is a tremendous amount of money. The jobs that would be realized from that project based on past experience, the scope of this EIS is rather tremendous. And I don't think the shovel would be hitting the ground for at least five years if it were to get all of the, you know, all the hurdles. So I don't believe that in taking a hard look at this that we are any any hampering the ability of our good people in Suffolk County who need jobs from getting their jobs.

And I just wanted to put that on the record. I think it's important. And I also, as you know, have been a great proponent of affordable housing and continue to be a proponent of affordable housing. But, again, it doesn't preclude our wanting to take a hard look at the expenditure of \$400,000 during these very difficult times.

### CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:

Thank you. And as a matter of fact I concur. The mission, the primary focus of this Committee, as you know, is to support affordable housing opportunities and at the same time to look at initiatives to generate employment. Sustaining employment is certainly what we need in our County. And it occurs to me, and I'll probably speak about this on Tuesday, that there is a choice that the administration has, as we all well know, which is to undertake preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement with our more than capable and competent County resources. We have an outstanding Director of Planning. We have a relatively new Commissioner of Energy and Environment; although adept competent professionals who can certainly collaborate, we could

muster to save the taxpayers money, apply the talents of our County staff and go forward with the mission. So I appreciate your comments. I think that they're timely and well spoken.

And I guess on that note we'll adjourn.

**D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN KENNEDY:**

Thank you. Okay we stand adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:19 PM**