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SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
EQUESTRIAN TASK FORCE  
SUFFOLK COUNTY

SOUTHAVEN LODGE  
Shirley, New York

November 18, 2009  
3:00 p.m.

BEFORE:

ROBERT CALARCO, Chief of Staff to Chair

REPORTED BY:

THERESA PAPE, Court Reporter/Notary Public

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2 A P P E A R A N C E S:

3

4 JOHN PAVACIC, Suffolk County Parks  
Suffolk County Officials Association

5

6 JESSICA KALMBACHER, Suffolk County  
Planning Department

6

7 PAMELA GREENE, Suffolk County  
Environment and Energy

7

8 GIGI ASHER, Suffolk County  
Supervisor's Association

9

10 STEPHEN LATON, Suffolk County SPCA

10

11 VITO (ROCKY) DI VELLO, Long Island Farm Bureau

11

12 ELLEN STITT, Legislative Aide to  
Jack Eddington

12

13 EILEEN WAGNER, Patchogue/Medford High School  
Equi-Coach

13

14

15 DENISE SPEIZIO, Nassau/Suffolk Horsemen's  
Association, Ridge Civic Association

15

16

17 G U E S T S P E A K E R:

18

19 RITA GAMBINO

19

20 A L S O P R E S E N T:

21

21 TERI BARTY

22

22 ROBIN KLOPFER

23

23 TRISH OCCHIOGROSSO

24

25

2 (WHEREUPON, this proceeding  
3 convened at 3:30 p.m. Off-the-record  
4 discussions ensued, after which the  
5 following transpired:)

6 (Time noted: 3:47 p.m.)

7 MR. CALARCO: So, like I said,  
8 Legislator Eddington's not going to be  
9 able to make it today. My name's Rob  
10 Calarco, I'm the Chief of Staff, and  
11 I'll just be helping facilitate today's  
12 meeting.

13 I guess where we -- and I'll  
14 apologize if I re- -- go over anything  
15 that we've done in the meetings before,  
16 and I -- there's been a couple since  
17 I've been here. But I guess to get  
18 started we have a guest speaker who is  
19 coming in, Rita Gambino, and she's going  
20 to give us some background on the  
21 stables here at Southaven, the  
22 operations here, and some other --

23 MS. GAMBINO: And statistics.

24 MR. CALARCO: -- statistics.

25 Okay. So I guess what we'll do

1 Equestrian Task Force 11/18/09 4  
2 is -- if you want to maybe pull over  
3 here and we'll -- we'll turn the meeting  
4 over to you.

5 MS. GAMBINO: I'm going to go just  
6 over some statistic first, cause then I  
7 can go into Southaven at full sound --  
8 make it a little more sound.

9 The equine industry, it  
10 contributes a lot to Long Island --  
11 New York State and Long Island, the  
12 quality of life here. There are  
13 currently 197,000 horses, mules,  
14 donkeys, and burrows in the State of  
15 New York.

16 (Discussion held off the record.)

17 MS. GAMBINO: To make it short  
18 here, we have 197,000 horses, mules,  
19 donkeys, and burrows raised in New York  
20 State.

21 New York State is divided into nine  
22 districts. The Long Island New York  
23 City District is one of them. It has  
24 over 60 counties. So when I give you  
25 this -- these figures, it'll make a

1 Equestrian Task Force 11/18/09 5  
2 little bit more sense if you have little  
3 background to that when it comes out to  
4 the numbers.

5 There are 15,300 in the Long Island  
6 New York City District that are horses,  
7 which 6,200 are in Suffolk County.  
8 Like I said, there are nine districts  
9 and over 60 counties in the State of  
10 New York. They are raised on 33,000  
11 different locations or places.

12 Now, the Agriculture Department  
13 defines a place as any operating land on  
14 which equines are kept. So there are  
15 1,800 in the Long Island New York City  
16 District, out of that 33,000.

17 Three hundred locations in the  
18 New York City District are commercial.  
19 This is really important because it made  
20 a lot of sense to me -- are commercial.

21 MS. WAGNOR: How many is that,  
22 please?

23 MS. GAMBINO: Out of that 18- --  
24 out of that 1,800 places, there are  
25 300 locations in the Long Island

2 New York City District that are  
3 commercial, but there are 1,350 that are  
4 non-commercial locations.

5 There are two breeders, two equine  
6 crop growers, and two other in the  
7 mix -- you could just say "other."

8 Now, people were asked to fill out  
9 these -- the surveys. I don't know, I  
10 was one of them and I'm a breeder, and I  
11 know there's more than two breeders on  
12 Long Island. So that means that a lot  
13 of people did not even fill these out,  
14 so the numbers are way greater than  
15 what, you know -- but we all know that.

16 With associated assets totalling  
17 10.4 billion, the Long Island New York  
18 City District equine represents 4,4- --  
19 no -- \$446,690, and Suffolk represents  
20 126,600 -- 100- -- 126- -- 6-6-6-0  
21 (sic). And Suffolk ranks fourth out of  
22 the counties in the value of that  
23 60 counties. Nassau is second. That's  
24 out of the 60 counties. But the Long  
25 Island New York City District, out of

2 the nine districts, rank second overall.  
3 So, basically, we supply -- the money  
4 that we have in there, it's -- it's fit  
5 for Long Island.

6 Now, there are over -- they say  
7 that there are more than 987,000 acres  
8 of land devoted to the equine purpose in  
9 New York State. Our district  
10 represents -- the Long Island New York  
11 City District represents only 50,000 of  
12 those acres. So here we are making all  
13 this money on just 50,000 acres, which  
14 means there's a lot of horses here and  
15 we put a lot of money back into Long  
16 Island.

17 MS. SPEIZIO: And, again, that  
18 50,000 is based on this voluntary  
19 survey.

20 MS. GAMBINO: Right.

21 MS. SPEIZIO: Okay.

22 MS. GAMBINO: Right. So, you know,  
23 that's like -- when you fill out the  
24 survey, they ask you how many acres are  
25 you on, what do you do, how much money

1 Equestrian Task Force 11/18/09 8

2 do you make, you know, blah, blah, blah.

3 So just by looking at that two breeder  
4 thing -- but I knew it even before I saw  
5 that that half the people don't fill it  
6 out, so it's -- it's bigger than what it  
7 is.

8 MR. CALARCO: Could you just  
9 pro- -- what was the dollar figure that  
10 generates?

11 MS. GAMBINO: Okay.

12 MR. CALARCO: That thing.

13 MS. GAMBINO: It's a total of  
14 10.4 billion, and the Long Island  
15 New York City District represents  
16 446,690- -- 446,690,000, and Suffolk  
17 represents --

18 MR. CALARCO: 446 million?

19 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah, 446,690,000.

20 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

21 MS. GAMBINO: And Suffolk  
22 represents over 126. It's 1-2-6-6-6-0.

23 MR. CALARCO: Suffolk's worth  
24 126 million?

25 MS. GAMBINO: Right. And they rank

1 Equestrian Task Force 11/18/09 9  
2 fourth, and Nassau ranks second out of  
3 the 60-something counties. But out of  
4 the district -- out of the nine  
5 districts, they rank second overall.  
6 MR. PAVACIC: Rita, would it be  
7 possible to get a copy --  
8 MS. GAMBINO: Sure.  
9 MR. PAVACIC: -- at some point?  
10 MS. STITT: If you want to leave me  
11 your e-mail address, when they e-mail us  
12 the minutes, we can e-mail them to you  
13 and you'll get the whole entire thing  
14 that she's writing up. It'll be easier,  
15 probably; right?  
16 MS. SPEIZIO: Or do you have a copy  
17 you can give one person, because I can't  
18 PDF it --  
19 MS. GAMBINO: Right. Yeah.  
20 MS. SPEIZIO: -- PDF scan and then  
21 e-mail everybody a full copy of it.  
22 MS. GAMBINO: Uh-huh.  
23 MS. STITT: Yeah, that would be  
24 good.  
25 MS. GAMBINO: Okay.

2 And then New York equine owners and  
3 operators spent a total of 2.6 billion  
4 during the 2005 -- for the operating  
5 capital expenses. An increase of nearly  
6 three times above the 2000 total of  
7 704 million. About 1.10 billion or  
8 53 percent of the total was for  
9 operating expenses. Operating expenses  
10 average 5,594 per equine. But on  
11 Long Island, it's bigger than that  
12 because we -- it's more expensive, we  
13 put more money in.

14 Okay. The highest concentration  
15 of lesson horses was in the southern  
16 district. And the second district was  
17 our district with 7 percent and  
18 11 percent of the total horse population  
19 respectively. We also have 24 percent  
20 of the show horses living on Long  
21 Island. And that's out of -- out of all  
22 the show horses in the State of  
23 New York, we have 24 percent of the show  
24 horses on Long Island.

25 The highest concentration of -- no,

2 wait a minute.

3 In the most -- in most of the  
4 regions, the state -- the number of  
5 operations are five years or less.  
6 That's like -- they're saying that --  
7 they're talking about operations that  
8 are five years and less. It ranges from  
9 19 to 25 percent of the total, with the  
10 exception of the northern district and  
11 Long Island -- the New York City  
12 District, which have 29 percent and  
13 31 percent respectively. So we --

14 New York had 33,000 places  
15 with equines in 2005 compared with  
16 30,000 places in 2000. And, again, a  
17 place is defined as a -- any operating  
18 piece of land that you have an equine  
19 on.

20 Okay. Then the operate- -- a  
21 place -- well, I said this before, but  
22 operators were asked what was their  
23 biggest -- it was 60 -- almost  
24 60 percent, 19,000 places of the  
25 operators describe your equine operation

2 as non-commercial, non-farm. But we  
3 already -- we already went over that.  
4 We're at non-commercial, non-farm. We  
5 have 1,350 that are non-commercial and  
6 300 that are commercial.

7 MR. CALARCO: Do we know how they  
8 qualify; what's commercial, what's not  
9 commercial?

10 MS. GAMBINO: Someplace in here I  
11 probably have that. I'll eventually get  
12 to that.

13 It probably would be -- I would  
14 say, just off the top, it would be a  
15 place that -- a commercial place would  
16 be a place that's open to the public,  
17 something of -- like a big facility,  
18 opposed to a backyard barn --

19 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

20 MS. GAMBINO: -- that -- that  
21 operates on a smaller scale similar.  
22 But I'm sure in here -- look, I have a  
23 whole packet of stuff here (indicating).

24 MR. CALARCO: Well, I guess, if you  
25 board horses, does that make --

2 MS. WAGNOR: Right.

3 MR. CALARCO: -- you commercial?

4 MS. WAGNOR: That's what I was  
5 going to ask.

6 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah.

7 MR. CALARCO: If you do riding  
8 classes, would that --

9 MS. GAMBINO: It makes you  
10 commercial. Yeah, because everybody  
11 does riding classes and everybody boards  
12 on Long Island.

13 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

14 MR. DI VELLO: The breeding, that  
15 would be commercial, too?

16 MS. GAMBINO: Commercial.

17 MR. DI VELLO: Okay.

18 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah.

19 Okay. Then they went into the cost  
20 of living on Long Island. I'm just  
21 going to go over that really quick.  
22 People are really -- a lot of people do  
23 know all this, but a lot of people don't  
24 know.

25 I really feel that if they -- if

2 the county could do something with --  
3 like they said -- the task force said,  
4 something with group purchasing of hay.  
5 For instance, hay, you could -- you  
6 could -- if you buy hay on Long Island,  
7 you could pay anywhere from 6.50 up to  
8 14, even \$19 for a really good alfalfa.

9 If -- I go upstate -- I go upstate  
10 and I buy my hay. And I get my hay for  
11 \$3 a bale. To ship it down costs me  
12 anywhere from 1.42 to \$2 a bale. So  
13 that's making it anywhere from -- well,  
14 it basically would come out to where  
15 it's -- I pay \$4 and change for hay.

16 Now, if everybody could do that --  
17 if they could bring one large trailer in  
18 here, and, say, we all had to buy hay --  
19 and you had to buy 100 bales, you only  
20 bought 20 bales, he bought 300 bales --  
21 if they could bring more trucks like  
22 that in where we can buy it and -- as a  
23 group and do something like that, we  
24 could save a lot of money, and it would  
25 be a lot easier especially in this

2 economy. Because that figure that they  
3 gave, that 500- -- for the 5,595 --  
4 \$5,594 for equine, that's where the rest  
5 of the state has lower taxes. Here on  
6 Long Island, we can't possibly do that.  
7 With the -- with the price of taxes,  
8 just living on Long Island, that's  
9 included into everything that you do.

10 The same with shavings. If we  
11 could have -- do group shavings, we  
12 could save a lot of money.

13 I can get shavings by the truckload  
14 and bring it down for 4.30- -- 4 dollars  
15 and 35 cents a bag. On Long Island,  
16 it's anywhere from 5.50, if you can get  
17 it for 5.50, up to \$8 a bag.

18 And then I got some manure removal  
19 as a cost. It's a really big problem on  
20 Long Island not only because you have to  
21 get rid of it, but where are you going  
22 to put it. There are a couple places on  
23 Long Island that we can bring our manure  
24 to. And if you have to get rid of it,  
25 if you have to cart it out, it could

2 cost you anywhere from -- for a big  
3 container, 20-, 30-yard container,  
4 anywhere from 350 to \$400 for the bigger  
5 places to get rid of the manure.

6 But there's so much stuff that you  
7 can do -- there's -- like there's -- I  
8 forget what state it was, but there's a  
9 state that has a county in it where they  
10 use the manure. So I'm just going to  
11 read this quick to you.

12 Another issue the task force could  
13 help with is the horse manure. Horse  
14 people need help getting rid of horse  
15 manure.

16 Both conventional and organic  
17 agricultural uses -- utilizes manure as  
18 part of the regular farm fertilization  
19 program. Certified organic farmers,  
20 however, must have a farm plan  
21 curtailing the methods used to build  
22 soil fertility, including application of  
23 manure, composite manure.

24 Organic farming is this -- is the  
25 way of the future and the safe -- way

2 of the future, and safe-using natural  
3 horse manure and saving --

4 Anyway, I can't even see with these  
5 glasses on.

6 Basically, organic farming -- they  
7 use the organic farm -- they have to  
8 turn it -- what they do at these places  
9 is they turn the manure, they keep it  
10 for so long. If it's going to be on  
11 a -- a crop-like -- like -- like sod,  
12 they only have to turn it for so many  
13 days and then they can use it. If it's  
14 going to be on a crop that's going to  
15 be -- the actual item they eat, is going  
16 to be touching the ground, it has to go  
17 for 120 days and then it can be used.

18 This county that I was talking  
19 about that did this, you could only use  
20 that manure. You had to buy it from  
21 them, it went back into the funds --  
22 into the county, and they used all that  
23 manure.

24 Another thing that they have now  
25 is --

2 MR. CALARCO: And the county  
3 facilitated that program --

4 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah.

5 MR. CALARCO: -- itself?

6 MS. GAMBINO: I'll have to find it  
7 online and get back to you where it was.

8 MS. SPEIZIO: Can I just add to the  
9 manure -- Rocky and I went to the Long  
10 Island Farm Bureau meeting --

11 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah.

12 MS. SPEIZIO: -- well, Rocky sits  
13 on the board. But we went to their -- I  
14 went to the meeting with him on Monday,  
15 and we spoke to Joe Gergela who's the  
16 executive director. And he's done a lot  
17 of planning for New York State as far as  
18 equine farms and how they facilitate  
19 their uses. And he had suggested that  
20 if we wanted, he and then Allen from --  
21 Allen Connell from Soil and Water --

22 MR. DI VELLO: Uh-huh, from  
23 Cornell.

24 MS. SPEIZIO: -- from Cornell, who  
25 I spoke to today and agreed, would

2 attend one of our meetings.

3 Also, he had suggested a Becky --

4 MR. DI VELLO: Ag and Markets?

5 MS. SPEIZIO: -- from --

6 Right, an Ag and Markets  
7 representative. And then Becky was from  
8 Cornell --

9 MR. DI VELLO: She's from  
10 Cornell --

11 MS. SPEIZIO: -- right?

12 MR. DI VELLO: -- yeah.

13 MS. SPEIZIO: And they would be  
14 more than willing to come to one of our  
15 meetings and help us come up with a plan  
16 and advise us how manure can and cannot  
17 be used. Because here we have a lot of  
18 regulations as far as manure being used  
19 on feed crops, as Rita was suggesting.

20 MS. GAMBINO: Right.

21 MR. DI VELLO: And these are the  
22 guys that write the laws, so --

23 MS. SPEIZIO: Yes.

24 MR. DI VELLO: -- they would know  
25 better than anybody.

2 MR. CALARCO: So I think perhaps it  
3 might be a good idea to reach out and  
4 have them come --

5 MS. SPEIZIO: Right.

6 MR. CALARCO: -- to the next  
7 meeting, if possible.

8 MS. SPEIZIO: The next meeting or a  
9 special meeting, they said however you  
10 wanted to do it. But I --

11 MR. DI VELLO: We think a special  
12 meeting.

13 MS. SPEIZIO: I did get some e-mail  
14 addresses that I could forward to you  
15 and --

16 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

17 MS. SPEIZIO: -- some phone  
18 numbers --

19 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

20 MS. SPEIZIO: -- if that's  
21 something you would entertain.

22 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

23 MS. SPEIZIO: Okay.

24 MR. CALARCO: I think that that's  
25 something we'd like to do; right?

2 MR. DI VELLO: Uh-huh.

3 MR. CALARCO: Okay. Then we'll set  
4 that up.

5 MS. GAMBINO: It really is a really  
6 big problem, horses make a lot of --  
7 they go to the bathroom every 45 minutes  
8 just about.

9 (Laughter.)

10 MR. DI VELLO: You know, that's one  
11 of our -- my businesses, I was saying  
12 before. We have no problem in the  
13 Eastern Suffolk --

14 MS. GAMBINO: Uh-huh.

15 MR. DI VELLO: -- as long as it's  
16 clean, uncontaminated manure --

17 MS. GAMBINO: Right.

18 MR. DI VELLO: -- which means it's  
19 pure manure and no debris of any type in  
20 it.

21 MS. GAMBINO: Right.

22 MR. DI VELLO: The landscapers and  
23 the farm- -- vineyards and the farmers  
24 are glad to have it.

25 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah, that's how we

2 do it --

3 MR. DI VELLO: But when it's  
4 contaminated, it becomes a major  
5 problem.

6 MS. GAMBINO: Diane lives on our  
7 farm, she can tell you I'm very -- I  
8 guard my manure very carefully. Nothing  
9 goes in there because then people will  
10 not take it, you know?

11 MR. DI VELLO: All it takes is  
12 somebody to throw a bag -- oh, a con- --  
13 a container, and throw their garbage  
14 in --

15 MR. CALARCO: But --

16 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah.

17 MR. DI VELLO: -- it causes  
18 problems.

19 MR. CALARCO: -- do -- do you --

20 MS. GAMBINO: I'm like the warden  
21 out there with it. Well, you've got to  
22 be if you want them to take it away like  
23 that, you know?

24 And with this, just like she was  
25 saying, they have to -- there's all

2 kinds of rules. It has to be turned so  
3 many days at so many degrees for one  
4 crop, so many days --

5 MR. DI VELLO: Right.

6 MS. GAMBINO: -- for another crop.

7 But also -- besides that, they were  
8 also using manure to generate heat.  
9 Manure can virtually provide energy  
10 efficiency to the entire family.

11 I'd also like to see it if it could  
12 be -- could be incorporated into housing  
13 developments where windmills and other  
14 energy sources -- it being used like  
15 that all the time out west. Down in  
16 Kentucky where I am, they use such  
17 things. Just like you have those  
18 windmills now that you can sell your  
19 electric back to Lilco. You know, it  
20 works.

21 We have one on -- not on my  
22 husband's property, but he bought a  
23 piece of property, and a lady had one on  
24 there. She sold him the whole piece of  
25 property but not that little area. She

2 kept it because she gets \$3,000 a month  
3 back from LIPA for giving back that  
4 Lilco -- you know, that electric to  
5 them.

6 MR. DI VELLO: The reason they  
7 rotate the manure is because manure,  
8 like hay when it's wet, builds up  
9 heat.

10 MS. GAMBINO: Right.

11 MR. DI VELLO: And -- and heat  
12 actually is good because it kills the  
13 weed seeds --

14 MS. GAMBINO: Right.

15 MR. DI VELLO: -- and you don't  
16 want to spread weed seeds on sod or even  
17 in your garden. But when you have  
18 manure sitting for ideally more than two  
19 years, it's a great product. It breaks  
20 down, it has earthworms in it, it  
21 retains moisture, and builds the soil.  
22 It's great. But the idea is to let it  
23 sit for a while.

24 MS. GAMBINO: Right.

25 MR. DI VELLO: And they have to

1 Equestrian Task Force 11/18/09 25  
2 also aerate it, because they didn't want  
3 it to mold and they want it to break  
4 down quicker. And that's why they do  
5 that.  
6 MS. GAMBINO: That's why they turn  
7 it so much.  
8 MR. DI VELLO: Uh-huh.  
9 MS. GAMBINO: Then I went to why we  
10 need a facility on Long Island.  
11 In some articles that -- that I've  
12 had -- I get a lot of e-mails sent to me  
13 from New Jersey from the Long Island  
14 Horse Park, and they speak about --  
15 they -- that little --  
16 The New Jersey Horse Park was  
17 started with Green Acres' money. That  
18 whole piece of property was brought with  
19 Green Acres' money. That's like our  
20 non- -- my -- they buy an undeveloped --  
21 undeveloped land. And they purchased  
22 the property, they built three arenas,  
23 and then they built three barns, and  
24 then they built an indoor. And then  
25 just a few years ago, they put \$10

2 million into a driving/eventing course.  
3 And all the money that they got to do  
4 that after the initial purchase of land  
5 was made from shows.

6 You know, we went to a -- quarter  
7 horse shows, say, there in April,  
8 they lease out 300 stalls to quarter  
9 horses for \$100, and they get \$50 of it.  
10 That's \$15,000. They lease out  
11 60 camper spots and get \$100 for it, and  
12 I think that's another \$3,000. You  
13 could only buy their shavings when  
14 you're there, and that comes to about  
15 \$5,000. And then they're getting \$1,000  
16 a day. So the whole thing comes out  
17 like \$25,000 they get for one weekend at  
18 a horse park.

19 But when we have to go -- when I go  
20 to New Jersey and I take my horses  
21 there, that's called "leakage." It's  
22 leakage of all that money I just told  
23 you about. All that money that's here  
24 (indicating), all that money is now  
25 leaking out -- just like we know there's

2 more money here than what's on this  
3 piece of paper (indicating), there's  
4 also a lot of money that leaks out and  
5 goes to New Jersey, it goes up to  
6 Connecticut, it goes to Pennsylvania,  
7 and we really need something here. We  
8 don't have anything here.

9 When I went to -- we show all over  
10 the country, and I was in Texas at a  
11 world show, and a woman came up and said  
12 to me, "What must the Hampton classes  
13 coliseum look like?"

14 So my trainer just breathes and  
15 goes, "Oh, you're going to start her up  
16 again."

17 I go, "We don't have a coliseum."

18 She goes, "You do the Hampton  
19 classes but no coliseum; what if it  
20 rains?"

21 I said, "They ride in the rain."

22 She goes, "What about the vendors?"

23 I said, "They get flooded out."

24 "What about the barns?"

25 I says, "There's no barns, it's on

2 a farm in a tent. They get flooded  
3 out."

4 So now you're asking all these  
5 people -- this is on a large scale.  
6 You're asking all these people to pay  
7 their trainer, pay to hold the horses in  
8 there, pay for the new clothes to go  
9 there. In some years, a lot of people,  
10 for no -- they don't all show because it  
11 rains, and the vendors don't all sell  
12 anything because it rains.

13 So this is our biggest show. I  
14 mean, people all over the United States  
15 know about this show. And this is what  
16 we have because we don't have a  
17 facility. If we had a facility, it  
18 would be a lot better. And you would  
19 make a lot of money if you had a  
20 facility.

21 And the people are going to say,  
22 "If you had a facility, people won't  
23 come because of the traffic."

24 We have sat in Texas and Oklahoma  
25 for three hours, an hour away, trying to

2 get to where we had to go. There's  
3 traffic all over the place. They come  
4 here for the golf, they come here for  
5 the Tennis Open, they come here for  
6 everything, so they would come for that.

7 But I just wanted to talk a little  
8 bit about leakage and where all that  
9 money's going. You also get all our  
10 gambling money, Jersey and Connecticut,  
11 besides all our horse money. So there's  
12 a lot of leakage going on.

13 And, I guess, I'll just go into  
14 Southaven a little bit.

15 Originally, it was in 2003 that  
16 they were throwing -- the people that  
17 were at -- in Southaven, they were  
18 throwing them out because they weren't  
19 running it right. It was rundown, they  
20 weren't getting any money, and there was  
21 a lot of other things going on. So they  
22 put an RFP out, the County Parks  
23 Department -- and they tried really  
24 hard, the Parks Department. I mean,  
25 they were great. They were great to us

2 and they tried really hard. I think the  
3 biggest problem with the County Parks  
4 Department and the county is, one part  
5 of the county does not know what the  
6 other part of the county is doing, and  
7 one part of the county does not know  
8 what the other part of the county needs.

9 For instance, they bought a piece  
10 of land -- the county gave the farm  
11 owner 6 acres, 1.4 million. The Town of  
12 Brookhaven gave him 0.6. So that's  
13 \$2 million he got. He then moved to --  
14 to Florida, bought his own house down  
15 there. The farm still sits there; it's  
16 not used, it's not run. It's used as an  
17 access way for people to get into  
18 another part of a trail.

19 That's 6 acres of land. You could  
20 have made the man build the building up,  
21 you could have put -- before he got to  
22 move to Long Island, it should have been  
23 right in the thing -- he got a tax  
24 break, too. I mean, I would do it, too,  
25 if somebody would buy my land. But this

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2 is what goes on. We really need that to  
3 stay a facility. You need these  
4 facilities on Long Island, you don't  
5 need to have --  
6 MR. PAVACIC: Where was this, Rita?  
7 This wasn't --  
8 MS. GAMBINO: This was --  
9 MR, PAVACIC: -- at Southaven.  
10 MS. GAMBINO: No, it was up on the  
11 north shore.  
12 MR. CALARCO: Rita, now, did you  
13 actually operate those -- those --  
14 MS. GAMBINO: The Southaven --  
15 MR. CALARCO: -- the Southaven --  
16 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah.  
17 MR. CALARCO: -- stables?  
18 MS. GAMBINO: Okay, I'll get back  
19 to that.  
20 I operated Southaven for one year.  
21 The current RFP, which is after three,  
22 for ten years (sic). I didn't want to  
23 go for that for ten years. I wasn't too  
24 sure about, you know, whether I wanted  
25 to stay here even for ten years. So

2 when they -- they put the ten-year out,  
3 and a lot of people applied for it, and  
4 they couldn't find anybody to do the  
5 right job to come, enough -- enough  
6 money, or that had enough experience.  
7 So then they put it out for one year.

8 So for one year I figured I'd  
9 entertain it, I'd see what was going on.  
10 I should have never have done it, and  
11 probably the county never should have  
12 offered it to anybody, but I don't think  
13 they knew how bad Southaven was at that  
14 point.

15 Now, I'll go into how bad it was.

16 So we -- we won the -- the RFP.  
17 When we walked in there, the old owners  
18 were still there. Now, I know them  
19 personally, and they were very hostile  
20 at that point. And we just ignored --  
21 since I know him, so I just ignored him.  
22 We knew he was upset, you know, he had  
23 to move, but it also was his own fault,  
24 he wasn't doing the right thing. So he  
25 was there for about a month while we

2 were there, so it was kind of hard to do  
3 business. And then when we --

4 Maybe you could help me with this a  
5 little bit, things that I miss you could  
6 tell me.

7 The first thing we did when we went  
8 in there is we took down the straight  
9 stalls. I don't like straight stalls  
10 for horses, a straight stalls is a tiny  
11 little stall that hack horses stay in.  
12 I think if you're going to be in  
13 business, do it the right way. Took out  
14 the straight stalls and we turned them  
15 into big stalls.

16 The second thing we did was dig out  
17 the stalls. The stalls had about --  
18 two foot deep in the middle, you think?

19 Instead of -- when the -- when  
20 stalls are run down, you keep digging at  
21 them, digging at them -- okay, these are  
22 things the county people don't know.

23 When you keep digging out a stall,  
24 eventually you get a hole in the stall.  
25 So you have to fill it back in. So

2 instead of filling it in with dirt, they  
3 used to take the manure and dump it in  
4 the woods, and they would go and get the  
5 manure -- because we're told that from  
6 their previous employees that worked for  
7 us -- and they would put the manure back  
8 in the stall, like the old manure. So  
9 we had to dig it all out -- because all  
10 my horses were getting sick from it. So  
11 we had to dig it all out and put sand  
12 in.

13 Then that building is a big  
14 building. It's got a great big roof on  
15 it, it's the old indoor -- from across  
16 the street from my house in Bayport, who  
17 was the -- I forgot the name of it.  
18 There's an equestrian center. They  
19 moved that indoor and rebuilt it over  
20 there. The stalls were from Parr  
21 Meadows, rebuilt and brought over there.  
22 So everything there was old. Nothing  
23 there was new, everything there was old  
24 before they even put it there.

25 So now you have this big building

2 with a bad roof and a -- and a skylight  
3 for pieces that -- you got -- that  
4 plastic that waves, whatever it is,  
5 that's what the skylights are. Now you  
6 know what happens half the time; that's  
7 going to blow off, it's going to crack.  
8 So the whole indoor leaks all the time.  
9 So that had to be fixed, and the roof  
10 was blowing off, that had to be fixed.  
11 Plus, it had no leaders and gutters. So  
12 every time it rained or in the winter  
13 when it snowed and -- and it rained, you  
14 know, it would flood and saturate the  
15 outside area, and all that water came  
16 into the stalls, so it would flood the  
17 stalls.

18 So what I had to do was I had to  
19 bring in RCA. Probably \$30,000 worth of  
20 RCA and sand I brought in, and I had to  
21 fill the outside up, I had to fill the  
22 inside up. We had to keep doing it, it  
23 would wash away, we had to keep doing  
24 it, it would wash away. Now, I'm there  
25 for a year, I'm not going to go and put

2 leaders and gutters on a great big  
3 building until I see what I'm doing. So  
4 I'm only going to be there for a year.  
5 I'm already spending all this money.

6 Plus, that facility was built in  
7 the lowest part of that park. If you  
8 stand there and look, you're looking  
9 uphill. When all that rain comes off  
10 the -- off the -- what's -- the big  
11 arena in the back, it just floods the  
12 parking lot, floods -- I don't know who  
13 let them build it there. It didn't make  
14 any sense to me, and I'm a woman and it  
15 made no sense to me.

16 So now you -- you got -- yeah,  
17 you're going to laugh at me.

18 Now you got this building in the  
19 wrong place with no leaders and gutters,  
20 and it's been a long time.

21 And now we're going to go into the  
22 inside of the building. We had to  
23 replace all the bathroom fixtures. In  
24 the ceiling, all the animals came in --  
25 raccoons, cats -- and they would go to

2 bathroom on the ceiling tiles. So we  
3 were all in that building with all feces  
4 above us, all the time, and it stunk.  
5 That had to be cleaned out. You  
6 couldn't really clean it out, you just  
7 did the best you could.

8 MR. CALARCO: So, let me ask you,  
9 Rita, with -- with the condition of  
10 the -- of the buildings you had to  
11 operate and you had a -- a large  
12 investment to have to make in order to  
13 get --

14 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah, I --

15 MR. CALARCO: -- the property  
16 itself back to where --

17 MS. GAMBINO: Bottom line, I lost  
18 \$64,000 that I can account for.

19 MR. CALARCO: Do you feel that had  
20 you had the opportunity to operate the  
21 facility for a longer period of time,  
22 you could have recouped that investment?

23 MS. GAMBINO: Yes and no. The  
24 problem was that the building really  
25 isn't a secure building, it needed a lot

2 of work. The roof on that building,  
3 people think that the roof is \$25,000.  
4 To repair that roof and take it off is  
5 close to \$200,000.

6 MR. CALARCO: Uh-huh.

7 MS. GAMBINO: And to -- it was  
8 hooked up to Suffolk County Water, in  
9 the meantime, the last couple of months  
10 we were there. Once a municipal  
11 building is hooked up to Suffolk County  
12 Water -- any county water, you have to  
13 put a fire -- a fire system in. People  
14 think that's \$10,000. It's really  
15 expensive, it's like \$80,000 for that.

16 So that's a big -- now, you're  
17 asking me to stay there for 10 years,  
18 and in 10 years a new -- a new RFP comes  
19 up -- but if you're good, they'll give  
20 it to you again because that's the way  
21 it is. If you behave yourself, you --  
22 you do everything you're supposed to,  
23 you're going to get a renewal on it.  
24 But that you're there 10 years, you  
25 can't sell that building, you can't sell

2 that business. So I had to rationalize,  
3 could I buy a piece of property and do  
4 the same thing; downtown or someplace  
5 else?

6 MR. CALARCO: Uh-huh.

7 MS. GAMBINO: See where this is  
8 going? We have leakage again, because  
9 I'm leaving now. So you have -- I'm not  
10 but, you know, I'm saying. So you have  
11 that leakage going. Or do I stay there  
12 and hope that in 10 years I'm going to  
13 be able to renew it, or what if I just  
14 want to retire? I'm 61 years old, I  
15 want to retire, what am I going to do?  
16 I'm going to -- you know, I have nothing  
17 to sell. So that was always in the back  
18 of my mind.

19 I would always say to them, "You  
20 need a new plan." You need to be able  
21 to have them -- able to sell the actual  
22 business, but they have to approve of  
23 it. To get anybody to say, "Okay, I'm  
24 going to put all that money into this  
25 facility." And am I going to be --

2 The last time they did an RFP, they  
3 did it for 20 years. Like a 20-year  
4 kind of thing, so it was a little bit  
5 better.

6 MR. CALARCO: Do you get a longer  
7 period to recoup your investment?

8 MS. GAMBINO: A longer period to  
9 recoup your investment. But the  
10 building really is -- I mean, I was told  
11 by friends of mine that went in,  
12 engineers and architects, when they came  
13 out, they sat in the office -- right --  
14 and they said "Get out, and get out  
15 now."

16 You know, so it needs a lot of  
17 work.

18 MR. CALARCO: John, could I ask  
19 you, and -- and I know that there's --  
20 there's been quite a bit of back and  
21 forth regarding the -- the structure  
22 there, and I'm sure that this  
23 committee's probably covered it once  
24 already, but the -- the actual -- to do  
25 any -- if we were to want to replace

2 that building --

3 Well, first of all, is the S- --

4 SPC- -- -CA going into the building?

5 MR. LATON: We're --

6 MR. CALARCO: Is that going to

7 occur?

8 MR. LATON: We just got the first

9 draft of the agreement.

10 MS. GAMBINO: Now, do they realize

11 they have to put a fire system in there?

12 I mean, if it burns down with all those

13 animals and dogs in there, that's going

14 to be hell to be paid. People will be

15 yelling at everybody. Probably the

16 county mostly.

17 MR. LATON: Suffolk County DPW

18 gave us a 2006 estimate that it was

19 going to cost somewhere in the area of

20 one and a half million dollars to

21 renovate the place.

22 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah, I had a --

23 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

24 MS. GAMBINO: I got a -- to rebuild

25 the whole place, we got an estimate of

2 1.8. But that was state-of-the-art, you  
3 know --

4 MR. LATON: Yeah.

5 MS. GAMBINO: -- with 80 stalls, a  
6 huge arena, all the amenities that go  
7 with it. The whole thing, everything  
8 done. That's not -- the water in some  
9 places were six inches down the -- the  
10 pipes froze all the time. In some  
11 places it was only down six inches and  
12 other places a foot. So we had to  
13 take -- we had to hook up a hose to the  
14 bathroom to water all the horses.

15 (Overlapping conversations.)

16 MR. CALARCO: But I think it's safe  
17 to say that this facility here in  
18 Southaven is not a -- a realistic  
19 approach as far as a new public arena --

20 MR. PAVACIC: No.

21 MR. CALARCO: -- of some sort --

22 MS. GAMBINO: I think that if  
23 you --

24 MR. CALARCO: -- correct? Okay.

25 MS. GAMBINO: -- if you had the

2 money to rebuild it, if you had somebody  
3 to go in there -- the county at that  
4 point had .5 million to give that was  
5 earmarked -- Suffolk County Parks  
6 Department had -- but they spent some of  
7 it on the last RFP. So it's only  
8 400-and-something-thousand they had  
9 earmarked. So to rebuild it was 1.8,  
10 and they had that, it would push it to  
11 1.3. That's a doable -- if you gave  
12 somebody a --

13 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

14 MS. GAMBINO: -- 20-year -- if you  
15 had that money, that's a doable --

16 MR. CALARCO: So --

17 MS. GAMBINO: -- that's a doable  
18 figure because you could make that money  
19 back.

20 Let me just explain something else  
21 that I did.

22 So now I'm in there, and every  
23 month you would -- every week -- every  
24 day you'd fill out a little chart that  
25 said your board, your taxes, your lesson

2 money, your trail money, and once a  
3 month you'd hand that in. I couldn't  
4 hand it in for the first three months  
5 because there were fights going on,  
6 craziness. The Parks Department was  
7 there, we had to have a 24-hour watch  
8 because the people that were in there  
9 threatened to do things. It was really  
10 hectic.

11 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

12 MS. GAMBINO: Plus, all that  
13 cleaning --

14 MR. CALARCO: Okay. Well, let's --  
15 let's shift a little bit here, Rita,  
16 because I -- I think the talk about the  
17 poor condition of the building's not  
18 going to get us anywhere in the future.

19 MS. GAMBINO: Well, that --

20 MR. CALARCO: So let's --

21 MS. GAMBINO: -- I just want to  
22 tell you how -- well, we did, but,  
23 besides that.

24 Let me just tell you this two  
25 second little thing.

2 The first time I handed in my thing  
3 for the month, we had 37,000 in trails  
4 and 80-something-thousand in lessons,  
5 and --

6 MR. CALARCO: Uh-huh.

7 MS. GAMBINO: -- and they called me  
8 up and they said to me, "Why do you have  
9 so much in lessons?"

10 I kind of like got scared because I  
11 thought maybe they thought I was doing  
12 something strange, I thought I was  
13 supposed to have twice that figure.

14 They said, "That is an insane" --  
15 "you have more than anybody's ever had.  
16 And your trail is" --

17 He goes, "How did you do that?"

18 I said, "I have really good horses.  
19 My horses are" -- "they are versatile.  
20 They can do a trail ride in the  
21 afternoon, and three lessons at night.  
22 They make" -- one horse can make \$1,800  
23 a month doing that. We still have him,  
24 he's 27 years old, and he still works.  
25 You know, he does two lessons a day, two

2 little -- 45 --

3 You people who do lessons, you  
4 know. Two lessons a day, \$45 and one  
5 trail ride, times that three times a  
6 week, he's giving you \$1,800.

7 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

8 MS. GAMBINO: Then we did shows,  
9 then we did auctions, and all that money  
10 went because of all the repairs.

11 MR. CALARCO: Okay. So -- so I  
12 guess that leads me to my next question,  
13 which is, do you feel that if there was  
14 a facility -- or if the county would  
15 offer, say, just a piece of farmland,  
16 that we would say, here's a piece of  
17 property, would this -- you as a  
18 business come in and -- and build this  
19 into an equestrian facility, do you  
20 think that's something that a private  
21 enterprise would be --

22 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah, there are  
23 people --

24 MR. CALARCO: -- interested in  
25 doing?

2 MS. GAMBINO: -- on Long Island  
3 right now that would do it. They would  
4 do it. Yeah, there are a few people  
5 that I know of that -- that will do it.

6 There's a man right now that has a  
7 big plot of land that wants to do it  
8 himself. I don't know whether he'll do  
9 it or not, but there are a few people on  
10 Long Island that will do it. We need a  
11 facility.

12 And we still want to show show  
13 horses on Long Island, and there's a lot  
14 of shows. USEF -- I do the USEF; I do  
15 the Winner Circle Schooling Shows; we do  
16 the NBA shape barrel racing; we do  
17 Islip; we do all those shows.

18 MR. CALARCO: Okay. So I -- I  
19 guess my next question then would be  
20 to -- to either John or Jessica.

21 Do you think there's anything  
22 within the county's inventory presently?  
23 I believe -- don't -- isn't there a --

24 MS. GAMBINO: The county farm.

25 MR. CALARCO: -- the old farm, I

2 believe -- is there --

3 MR. PAVACIC: Let me --

4 MR. CALARCO: -- a property --

5 MR. PAVACIC: Let me just jump in.

6 First of all, I think what you're

7 looking at is -- it may very likely be

8 non-parkland --

9 MR. CALARCO: Uh-huh.

10 MR. PAVACIC: -- because of the

11 restrictions that --

12 MR. CALARCO: Yeah.

13 MR. PAVACIC: -- normally apply

14 to -- to parkland. You look at anything

15 that's been purchased in the last 10 or

16 15 years, and you look at the

17 restrictions --

18 MR. CALARCO: After the --

19 MR. PAVACIC: -- that have been

20 imposed by the fund that purchased

21 those, they have to be usually treated

22 as -- this quarter percent funding, for

23 example, that's treated as nature

24 preserves. So if you don't have an --

25 an open cleared area --

2 MR. CALARCO: Uh-huh.

3 MR. PAVACIC: -- or buildings there  
4 now --

5 MS. GAMBINO: You can't --

6 MR. PAVACIC: -- literally, you  
7 won't be able to --

8 (Overlapping conversations.)

9 MR. PAVACIC: For a place like  
10 Southaven, you're damned about a couple  
11 of things here. You know, the Central  
12 Pine Barrens Core Preservation Area --

13 MR. CALARCO: Yup.

14 MR. PAVACIC: -- so if you're  
15 looking to do anything along the lines  
16 of what Rita talked about --

17 MS. GAMBINO: It's hard --

18 MR. PAVACIC: -- they have in  
19 Jersey --

20 THE REPORTER: I can't --

21 MR. PAVACIC: -- that -- that kind  
22 of complex --

23 THE REPORTER: You guys are talking  
24 on top of each other. I can't get you  
25 all at the same time.

2 MR. PAVACIC: Okay.

3 THE REPORTER: So somebody is going  
4 to be missed. Try to keep it one at a  
5 time.

6 MR. PAVACIC: I'll go back.

7 What I was talking about was that  
8 you may need to look at non-parkland for  
9 this particular purpose, because of the  
10 restrictions that we have on parkland  
11 stemming from the acquisition program  
12 that -- that border that property. So  
13 you might need to look at something that  
14 is under a general municipal category or  
15 some other -- some other format, or  
16 something that's currently privately  
17 owned that you would purchase for this  
18 intended -- intended purpose.

19 Southaven is -- as I was saying  
20 before, is loaded with restrictions.  
21 You're in the Central Pine Barrens Core,  
22 you're also in a State DEC -- Carmans  
23 River Scenic or Recreational River  
24 Corridor. So you have those two  
25 regulatory programs. So if you're doing

2 anything in terms of major expansion,  
3 clearing, that's a heavy lift to get  
4 through here. It would be a lot easier  
5 to go somewhere else outside the Pine  
6 Barrens, outside the Scenic and  
7 Recreational River Corridor.

8 We do have a location next to  
9 Connetquot State Park in Bohemia known  
10 as the Bohemia Equestrian Center. That  
11 is only about 30 or 40 acres, though,  
12 and I don't know how that was purchased.  
13 It's -- there are open areas there,  
14 equestrians do use it, Islip Horsemen's  
15 Association is one of the entities that  
16 uses that. We have no buildings there,  
17 though, no paved roads. We have -- we  
18 have corrals there and parking areas for  
19 trailers and vehicles, but that's it.  
20 So, again, there's no infrastructure  
21 there, you'd have to entertain a  
22 proposal to construct something along  
23 those lines.

24 And what you might be looking at  
25 is, typically, for a Parks Department,

2 we enter into what are known as license  
3 agreement. So there's no ownership  
4 rights given to the concessionaire who  
5 operates that. They -- usually for a  
6 total of 20 years; a 10-year initial  
7 term, and then two five-year option  
8 periods.

9 There have been some cases, though,  
10 where a lease is entertained, and for  
11 longer terms. And that might be  
12 something here, if somebody's going to  
13 be doing a significant capital  
14 improvement, the only way to entice  
15 somebody to do that might be to give  
16 them a lease and a longer -- a longer  
17 term, such as two 15-year periods for a  
18 total of 30 years.

19 But other than county parkland, I  
20 think you need to look another facility  
21 or -- or locations that the county has  
22 in its inventory.

23 In regard to farmland, I'm not sure  
24 that -- again, because you strip the  
25 development rights over the farmland,

2 does that include something along the  
3 lines of a -- of a -- a structure -- you  
4 know, a big arena. I think you could --  
5 somebody could make an argument that  
6 this is related -- agriculturally  
7 related, but I think that's something  
8 you have to talk to the lawyers about.

9 MR. CALARCO: But I -- I know  
10 that we've had the dispute over  
11 greenhouses --

12 MR. PAVACIC: Greenhouses.

13 MR. CALARCO: -- in the past --

14 MR. PAVACIC: Yeah.

15 MR. CALARCO: -- in the county --

16 MR. PAVACIC: Right.

17 MR. CALARCO: -- so maybe --

18 Jessica, could you give us a feel  
19 where planning comes from with this type  
20 of a -- and whether or not farmland  
21 could accommodate a facility?

22 MS. KALMBACHER: I don't think that  
23 existing PDR would be able to easily  
24 have a facility placed on it, given the  
25 fact that -- when the county purchases

2 the development rights to a property,  
3 the landowner still holds the fee title.

4 MR. CALARCO: Uh-huh.

5 MS. KALMBACHER: So they still own  
6 the land. So, as the county, we  
7 couldn't come in and say, Okay, well,  
8 we're going to take our interest in the  
9 property and then establish some sort of  
10 future arrangement or licensing  
11 agreement or something like that with  
12 another individual to operate the  
13 facility as Rita described.

14 The other thing that we have to  
15 consider are, like John said, the  
16 funding sources and the restrictions  
17 placed on the property when we actually  
18 acquire the development rights as a  
19 county. I think that the -- if we were  
20 to look at farmland or county-owned land  
21 to put such a facility on, just like  
22 John said, I think the best thing to do  
23 would be to take something that's not in  
24 the county program itself. Publically  
25 held, it's private at this point, and

2 then discuss it with the landowner so  
3 that all parties now going into it --  
4 how the land would be used in the  
5 future.

6 But to really get a good idea of  
7 whether or not the facilities would be  
8 permitted on county PDR, it would  
9 take -- it would require the review of  
10 the Law Department and the contracts and  
11 to see if it would even be possible.

12 Typically, riding arenas are  
13 excluded from PDR acquisitions. Indoor  
14 arenas just for the purposes of  
15 exercising the horses are permitted. So  
16 it does vary, but I don't see it being  
17 very easy to allow such a facility on  
18 county PDR.

19 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

20 Okay. So I guess then perhaps what  
21 we're -- we're looking at then, and --  
22 and if anybody else wants to speak up,  
23 they should feel free, but -- that if we  
24 wanted to explore and the committee  
25 wanted to make some sort of

1 Equestrian Task Force 11/18/09 56  
2 recommendation that the county explore  
3 establishing a publically operated or --  
4 or a leased licensed type of operation,  
5 we should try to set up a -- do some  
6 exploration into existing farmland out  
7 there that is in private hands now that  
8 might be suitable to that need.

9 MS. GAMBINO: What about Suffolk  
10 County Farm, you can't build an indoor  
11 on Suffolk County Farm?

12 MR. CALARCO: No. Suffolk County  
13 Farm's pretty well operated, and I don't  
14 think they have the land there at the  
15 moment.

16 MS. GAMBINO: Because they do do  
17 USEF shows there, and like just this  
18 weekend there was a show there but  
19 nobody could really show because it  
20 rained.

21 MR. CALARCO: Uh-huh.

22 MS. GAMBINO: You know, that's the  
23 problem. And even people who own  
24 private land can't get an indoor put on  
25 it because most of them are on the Pine

2 Barrens. It's really hard. That's why  
3 you don't have any -- even private  
4 people are building these big indoors  
5 because they're not allowed to (sic).

6 MR. DI VELLO: Just an  
7 informational.

8 I was up at the equine affair in  
9 Massachusetts, Springfield this year,  
10 and what a fantastic --

11 MS. GAMBINO: Uh-huh.

12 MR. DI VELLO: -- venue they have  
13 there.

14 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah. We show there.

15 MR. DI VELLO: Everything's indoor,  
16 and it's the whole trade industry,  
17 everything that has to do with horses  
18 from barns to trailers to breeds to  
19 everything, and you walk from one  
20 building to the next. I mean, I --  
21 that's just -- I don't know if that's a  
22 state thing or --

23 MS. GAMBINO: Well, the Big E --

24 MR. DI VELLO: It's on the Big E  
25 Fairgrounds.

2 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah, we show quarter  
3 horse and Appaloosa there.

4 MR. DI VELLO: It's just fantastic.

5 MS. GAMBINO: So you -- you pull  
6 in --

7 MR. DI VELLO: Yeah.

8 MS. GAMBINO: -- you park your --  
9 your -- your trailer, you put your  
10 horses in your stall, you take your  
11 camper, you put it on the camp spot or  
12 you get a hotel. Then you get up in the  
13 morning, you feed your horses, you  
14 exercise them, you show them. You go  
15 and eat, you sit with your friends, you  
16 barbecue, you show them again. You go  
17 shopping, you meet the vendors there,  
18 and all that generates a whole lot of --

19 MR. DI VELLO: To find out the  
20 amount of money that that generates --

21 MS. GAMBINO: Well, quarter  
22 horses --

23 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: Something --  
24 something else --

25 MR. CALARCO: Could you just

1 Equestrian Task Force 11/18/09 59  
2 identify yourself, please.  
3 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: I'm Trish  
4 Occhiogrosso. I'm with the --  
5 THE REPORTER: Spell the last name.  
6 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO:  
7 O-C-C-H-I-O-G-R-O-S-S-O.  
8 I also was up there, but I sell  
9 Poulin grain horse feed. And Poulin is  
10 actually one of those sponsors for the  
11 equine affairs. So you have a lot of  
12 sponsorships that donate to all these  
13 things.  
14 MS. GAMBINO: Right. Big sponsors.  
15 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: You're not just  
16 on your own. All your vendors --  
17 MR. DI VELLO: Yup.  
18 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: So there's a lot  
19 of income into that.  
20 MR. DI VELLO: Yup. It brings a  
21 lot of money into the area.  
22 MS. GAMBINO: There's a quarter  
23 horse conference in Ohio that goes on  
24 for three weeks, and that's like  
25 85,000 horses. It makes the equine fair

2 look like a little tiny little thing.  
3 And it's in a poverty-stricken area, as  
4 such is most of the big -- when I travel  
5 all over the country, most of these big  
6 facilities are in poverty-stricken  
7 areas. It's just big and that puts  
8 money back into the areas so that they  
9 can have some money. And a lot of them  
10 are on land that has NASCAR also. Like  
11 when we go to Syracuse -- well, that's  
12 like a state facility, Syracuse, right.

13 MR. DI VELLO: Yeah.

14 MS. GAMBINO: They have NASCAR on  
15 one part and they have two indoors on  
16 another part. So you'll have an  
17 Appaloosa show going on, a Reining show  
18 going on, and a little Pinto show going  
19 on, and they'll be doing NASCAR and  
20 monster truck. And it can just --  
21 generates a whole ton of money.

22 They wanted to build that out in  
23 Calverton, but of course that was  
24 knocked down. That would have worked.

25 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: That's why that

1 Equestrian Task Force 11/18/09 61  
2 equine affair in Massachusetts is every  
3 week --  
4 MR. DI VELLO: Yes.  
5 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: -- all year.  
6 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah, dog shows are  
7 big -- dog shows are bigger than horse  
8 shows.  
9 MR. DI VELLO: Oh, yeah.  
10 MS. GAMBINO: They come on bigger  
11 buses, they come with \$300,000 homes to  
12 it and we go there with little horse  
13 trailers to live in. So, you know,  
14 they're big. You could do boat shows  
15 there also, but dog shows are big.  
16 Clinics, you could do clinics. Clinics  
17 bring in a lot of people.  
18 MR. CALARCO: Okay. Well, I guess,  
19 for the task force to move forward in  
20 terms of -- of making some sort of  
21 proposal to the county with -- with  
22 something along the lines of a public  
23 operated facility, I guess our first  
24 task with that would be actually  
25 defining what that size and scope of

2 that facility should be.

3 Perhaps, Rita, and I don't see  
4 Janet here -- maybe you can still work  
5 with -- with Rocky or -- or Denise  
6 and -- and develop some -- some more  
7 specific parameters as far as acreage  
8 that we would need, size of the barn,  
9 how many stables that you feel as -- as  
10 people involved in the business,  
11 would -- you would need in order to  
12 become an operational facility.

13 MS. GAMBINO: Also, these big  
14 facilities, like Delaware, Virginia,  
15 New Jersey -- especially New Jersey,  
16 they have a whole -- if you called them  
17 and asked them, they'd just send you  
18 everything you need to know. They would  
19 help you, like a guideline.

20 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

21 MS. GAMBINO: How they did it, how  
22 much they have, how much you need, and  
23 how much they make.

24 MS. SPEIZIO: That's something that  
25 Joe was saying -- a -- a plan is what he

2 could help us with.

3 MR. CALARCO: Okay. Okay. So do  
4 we want to make that the -- the focus of  
5 our next meeting is to actually -- just  
6 have the next meeting be specifically  
7 about trying to develop that plan?  
8 Maybe we could have Joe come in and give  
9 us a -- a presentation.

10 MS. SPEIZIO: I think that would be  
11 a -- a good idea. He's done a lot of  
12 this in the past and I think we would be  
13 recreating the wheel.

14 MR. CALARCO: Okay. So let's --  
15 let's shoot for that then. Our next  
16 meeting will be specific to creating --  
17 looking at what it is that we would need  
18 to have to create a public facility --  
19 okay -- and we'll -- we'll get in touch  
20 with Joe and the farm bureau and see if  
21 they can't come and give us a  
22 presentation.

23 MS. SPEIZIO: Okay. I'll talk to  
24 you with --

25 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

2 MS. SPEIZIO: -- their information.

3 MS. WAGNOR: I have a question.

4 MR. CALARCO: Sure.

5 Eileen, right?

6 MS. WAGNOR: Yeah.

7 That's fine if we're going that  
8 way, but I know that we were -- we were  
9 actually talking about the rescues. So  
10 like where would the rescue go from  
11 here? Like that's totally separate  
12 and --

13 MS. SPEIZIO: We have a lot of  
14 areas going on --

15 MS. WAGNOR: Yeah.

16 MS. SPEIZIO: -- covering through  
17 the -- the task force.

18 One of the areas we had brought up  
19 last time was the 4-H camp, we had a lot  
20 of questions about it. And Robin came  
21 today, she was involved in the 4-H. So  
22 she came today --

23 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

24 MS. SPEIZIO: -- to answer any  
25 questions and give us a little bit of

2 background on how that worked -- used to  
3 work and what happened as far as how we  
4 head the equine -- part of the heads are  
5 down in Riverhead.

6 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

7 MS. KLOPFER: I was working --

8 THE REPORTER: Can I get your name?

9 MS. KLOPFER: Robin Klopfer,  
10 K-L-O-P-F-E-R. And I was an assistant  
11 instructor at the Dorothy P. Flint 4-H  
12 Camp in Riverhead for about eight years.  
13 And it's a Nassau County-owned  
14 facility.

15 Year-round horseback riding  
16 programs were attended mostly by  
17 Suffolk residents in the summer. We had  
18 both Suffolk and Nassau children.  
19 Hundreds -- over -- well over  
20 200 children during the summer. And we  
21 had about five Suffolk clubs that helped  
22 keep the horses trained and groomed,  
23 et cetera, all year long so that it was  
24 a wonderful and safe program for the  
25 summer for children to use.

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There were some problems with both Suffolk and Nassau County funding. Nassau County lost a tremendous amount of their funding. And the Board of Directors for CCE, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County, decided to evaluate the program, especially the year-round program, the horseback riding program, to determine whether it was bringing in enough revenue, whether it was cost effective. And we attended a meeting to try and, you know, encourage a little bit more sponsorships, et cetera, to try and raise a little bit more money to keep the children using the program and the facility on a year-round basis.

My opinion was that we -- we were being deceived by the Nassau County Board in what was really going on. And there was some personal issues, I think, that determined that both the program and the director -- or the instructor -- we were all asked to leave. You know,

2 the horseback riding program was, you  
3 know, terminated and we were given about  
4 30 days to find homes -- in the middle  
5 of winter -- for 20 horses and farm  
6 animals. And there were 40 to 50  
7 children in all these clubs that grew to  
8 love and care for these animals, and it  
9 was just shut down.

10 Teri and I were one of at least a  
11 dozen families who adopted a lot of  
12 these horses to give them safe homes.  
13 And we are -- it's been difficult for us  
14 to keep all these children together, but  
15 Denise Attabio (phonetic), the  
16 instructor that -- that ran the program  
17 for like -- how many years? 12 years,  
18 at least. She -- we've all tried to  
19 keep together -- keep the children with  
20 their lessons, and have found somewhere  
21 else for some of the children to be able  
22 to take these lessons. It's been very  
23 difficult.

24 So we're -- you know, with the  
25 Southaven facility, we were thinking --

2 or any other facility, somewhere where  
3 the girls -- or the girls and boys could  
4 come together where there was an indoor  
5 and outdoor ring, and bring them all  
6 together and do shows, do clinics,  
7 et cetera.

8 The Suffolk County CCE gave some --  
9 some support to the clubs, but their  
10 priority was to try and restore their  
11 funding for Suffolk 4-H. Not  
12 necessarily the horseback riding  
13 program, but for 4-H in general. And  
14 I'm not sure where, you know, that has  
15 gone yet.

16 And going back to the CCE of Nassau  
17 County, even though they eliminated the  
18 horseback riding program on a year-round  
19 basis, they chose to still offer it as a  
20 summer program. So this past summer  
21 they had someone else not come in --  
22 they did look at somebody else coming in  
23 with leasing and renting horses to bring  
24 to the camp. That didn't work out. So  
25 what they had done is, any of the

2 children who, during their camp season  
3 session, wanted to do horseback riding  
4 program, they had to transport them to  
5 another facility for that lesson. And I  
6 don't know how long, but we used to --  
7 we would give them -- there were two  
8 2-hour programs, four days a week. So  
9 I'm not sure -- I haven't heard from any  
10 of the children who had gone to this --  
11 this other facility for their lesson,  
12 how it was.

13 But we -- you know, our -- our goal  
14 was the safety and, you know, the  
15 enjoyment that the children had during  
16 their summer session. And that's what  
17 the -- the goal was in the whole idea of  
18 having a year-round program. And we had  
19 children and parents come back and say  
20 this is the only reason why I'm doing  
21 this again.

22 MR. DI VELLO: I'd like to say  
23 that -- that the quality and the  
24 dedication of that 4-H program is -- was  
25 second to none. I was the biggest fan

2 to that 4-H program, they did a great  
3 job. And it was mostly volunteer.

4 MS. KLOPFER: Oh, yes.

5 MR. DI VELLO: It's just a damn  
6 shame what happened.

7 Put me on record as saying "damn  
8 shame," that's fine.

9 MS. KLOPFER: Thank you.

10 MR. CALARCO: And can I ask  
11 again -- did I miss it -- you lost your  
12 facility to operate at?

13 MS. KLOPFER: The 4-H -- the camp  
14 is still there.

15 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

16 MS. KLOPFER: The camp is still  
17 operating under CCE of Nassau County.

18 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

19 MS. KLOPFER: We were told that the  
20 year-round equine program was  
21 eliminated.

22 MR. CALARCO: The funding for it?

23 MS. KLOPFER: The program was  
24 eliminated because of the loss in  
25 funding.

2 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

3 MS. KLOPFER: And we had tried  
4 years before to see if Nassau and  
5 Suffolk CCE could come together in a  
6 partnership to, you know, help with the  
7 funding, help with paying. I mean, I --  
8 I started out -- most of my hours were  
9 volunteer.

10 MR. CALARCO: Uh-huh.

11 MS. KLOPFER: There was one  
12 full-time -- the instructor was  
13 full-time. But the -- the cost -- you  
14 know, we were very, very careful with  
15 the cost. Every -- we did horse shows  
16 twice a year and brought in thousands of  
17 dollars. And even between  
18 Nassau/Suffolk Horsemen, with the East  
19 End Livestock, and Rocky, and everybody  
20 else, constantly donated money and time  
21 and sponsorships --

22 MR. DI VELLO: They had fantastic  
23 programs. They had large animal rescue  
24 programs --

25 MS. KLOPFER: Oh, that was

2 phenomenal.

3 MR. DI VELLO: -- which I -- I just  
4 walked in by mistake, and I ended up  
5 staying the whole week taking a large  
6 animal rescue course. It was great. It  
7 was fantastic.

8 MS. KLOPFER: What was the --  
9 TLAER, T-L-A-E-R, Technical Large  
10 Animal --

11 MR. DI VELLO: They were up at the  
12 equine affair, too.

13 MR. CALARCO: Yeah.

14 MR. DI VELLO: Yeah, I forget the  
15 name of it.

16 MS. GAMBINO: There's a new  
17 facility going up in Blairstown,  
18 New Jersey that has equine rescue, it  
19 has a 4-H program, it has -- four  
20 things. It's a rescue, the 4-H,  
21 therapeutic riding, and it has lessons  
22 and trails all in one thing. There's  
23 four different people -- they're leasing  
24 it as a whole, but yet each -- like  
25 one's doing the lessons and the trail,

2 one's doing the rescue, and it's all  
3 going to be under one building.

4 I know when we go away, the 4-H, I  
5 think there's 400 people that come to  
6 those shows. They're huge. They come  
7 with their sheep, their goats. And  
8 we'll be doing the quarter horse show,  
9 and they'll be in the covered arena  
10 doing their 4-H thing. So you could  
11 work -- with those people, you could  
12 work at a big show --

13 MR. DI VELLO: The way to do it is  
14 to be having more than one group --  
15 being -- partaking in it.

16 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah. Exactly.  
17 That's how it's run.

18 And it's great when the owner of  
19 quarter horses get to see the little  
20 sheep perform with their little outfits  
21 on, too. And they shave them right  
22 there in front of you.

23 MS. KLOPFER: The 4-H is phenomenal  
24 Upstate.

25 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah.

2 MS. KLOPFER: What happens when it  
3 comes down to Long Island with Nassau  
4 and Suffolk County, I do not understand.  
5 We wrote letters to the president of  
6 the -- the woman who runs CCE statewide  
7 and tried to talk about what can we do  
8 to keep --

9 MS. GAMBINO: You need to get --

10 MS. KLOPFER: -- the horse program.

11 MS. GAMBINO: -- more kids  
12 involved.

13 MS. KLOPFER: Pardon?

14 MS. GAMBINO: You need to get more  
15 kids involved.

16 Like we're doing the -- with more  
17 things. Like more goats -- did you have  
18 goats and sheep and all that --

19 MR. DI VELLO: I don't think that  
20 was the problem.

21 MS. KLOPFER: We were a  
22 horseback --

23 MR. DI VELLO: That was not the  
24 problem, but --

25 MR. CALARCO: Where did this 4-H

2 operate from?

3 MS. KLOPFER: The Dorothy P. Flint  
4 Camp in Riverhead, right off --

5 MR. CALARCO: Riverhead.

6 MS. KLOPFER: -- Sound Avenue.

7 MR. CALARCO: Okay. And it -- but  
8 it was Nassau County's program?

9 MR. DI VELLO: But it was in  
10 Suffolk.

11 MS. KLOPFER: Yes.

12 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

13 MS. KLOPFER: So the -- the -- the  
14 lesson fees for the year-round program,  
15 we had to establish Suffolk County clubs  
16 because we were Suffolk County  
17 residents.

18 MR. CALARCO: Uh-huh.

19 MS. KLOPFER: But all those fees  
20 went to CCE of Nassau County.

21 MR. CALARCO: Do you know if it was  
22 revenue positive for them?

23 Did Nassau actually generate  
24 revenue from that?

25 MR. DI VELLO: Yeah.

2 MS. KLOPFER: There's some argument  
3 there from some of the board.

4 MR. CALARCO: Okay. So they felt  
5 that it was --

6 MS. KLOPFER: They felt that it --

7 MR. CALARCO: -- they were losing  
8 money.

9 MS. KLOPFER: Yeah.

10 MR. CALARCO: Okay. It was all  
11 Suffolk residents who actually  
12 participated in the program?

13 MS. KLOPFER: For the year-round  
14 program, yes. We had a handful, one or  
15 two, I think, that were maybe Nassau.  
16 But because of the location -- we  
17 also -- I just remembered that there  
18 were other user groups that came  
19 year-round. Whether it was for a trail  
20 ride, whether it was Boy Scouts or Girl  
21 Scouts or any other kind of clubs that  
22 sometimes came from Nassau County and  
23 even Queens to do a weekend stay over,  
24 they would do the horseback riding  
25 program, they would do the farm program.

2 So most of the time year-round it was  
3 Suffolk, but there were other Nassau  
4 residents that used the program.

5 During the summer, residential camp  
6 overnights, most of those campers were  
7 Nassau County. And that was an argument  
8 that the board used to say, Well, we are  
9 trying to service Nassau County  
10 residents, so we need to establish that  
11 we are doing that for Nassau in order to  
12 help, you know, bring some of that  
13 funding back.

14 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

15 MS. GAMBINO: Is there another 4-H  
16 at Suffolk County Farm? Do they do that  
17 there or --

18 MS. KLOPFER: I -- I believe they  
19 have the lamas and the goats there --

20 MS. GAMBINO: It's not the same  
21 that you did, they don't --

22 MS. KLOPFER: Yeah.

23 MS. GAMBINO: It's not as big. You  
24 did overnight and all that stuff;  
25 camping --

2 MS. KLOPFER: At the camp. Right.

3 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah.

4 MS. KLOPFER: Yeah. But the -- the  
5 Suffolk clubs --

6 MS. GAMBINO: Because I know they  
7 don't do horse shows for them, but I  
8 know they do all the --

9 MS. KLOPFER: No, we have the horse  
10 shows right there at the facility.

11 MS. SPEIZIO: But, presently, is  
12 there a 4-H equine program?

13 MS. GAMBINO: Someplace on Long  
14 Island?

15 MS. SPEIZIO: Or anywhere.

16 MS. KLOPFER: What we did, we -- we  
17 kept the clubs intact, but it's  
18 difficult to try and -- and find a  
19 meeting place.

20 MS. GAMBINO: There is one at  
21 Suffolk County Farm on 4-H.

22 MS. SPEIZIO: But when you say --

23 MS. KLOPFER: But --

24 MS. SPEIZIO: -- you guys kept it  
25 intact, are you actually functioning as

2 a 4-H club where you're -- you are a  
3 4-H, or are you guys doing that  
4 personally on your own time with the  
5 girls -- or the kids?

6 MS. KLOPFER: How would you view  
7 that? Is it --

8 I have not been in touch with  
9 anybody really from 4-H Suffolk County.  
10 I don't -- didn't feel we were really  
11 getting a lot of support because I felt  
12 their priority was to try and restore  
13 the funding. So what Denise has done  
14 with the facility that she's at now is  
15 she's been able to give the 4-H members  
16 their horseback riding lessons. We have  
17 not been able to, you know, get  
18 everybody together or to do regular  
19 meetings. There's -- there's a lot more  
20 involved in being a 4-H club. We  
21 were -- our focus was just keeping the  
22 horseback riding together and -- and the  
23 clubs together.

24 Did that answer your question?

25 MS. SPEIZIO: No.

2 MR. CALARCO: So you're not  
3 operating as an official 4-H club at  
4 this point in time?

5 MS. KLOPFER: No, I -- I think we  
6 are.

7 MS. SPEIZIO: You are, but  
8 you're not --

9 MS. KLOPFER: We are but we're  
10 not --

11 MS. SPEIZIO: -- operating under a  
12 funded source from the county?

13 MS. KLOPFER: Do we get fund- -- so  
14 do we get any funding from CCE of  
15 Suffolk --

16 MS. SPEIZIO: Right.

17 MS. KLOPFER: -- County to --

18 MS. SPEIZIO: That's what I meant.

19 Because if they terminated the  
20 program, then they're not funding you.  
21 Whatever you guys --

22 MS. KLOPFER: But the --

23 MS. SPEIZIO: -- are doing,  
24 they're -- is on your own.

25 MS. KLOPFER: They terminated the

1 Equestrian Task Force 11/18/09 81  
2 horseback riding program. They didn't  
3 eliminate the 4-H clubs.  
4 Does that make sense?  
5 MR. CALARCO: Are the clubs private  
6 entities? And perhaps I'm -- I'm  
7 confused here.  
8 The club itself, the 4-H club, is  
9 that a private entity; like a -- its own  
10 enterprise like a Boy Scout group?  
11 MS. KLOPFER: Similar. I would  
12 compare it to that, yeah.  
13 MR. CALARCO: Okay.  
14 MS. KLOPFER: We have guidelines we  
15 need to follow, but -- you know, I was  
16 also a Girl Scout leader, so yes, that's  
17 very similar.  
18 MR. CALARCO: Okay. So it's an  
19 overarching kind of tree that --  
20 MS. KLOPFER: Exactly.  
21 MR. CALARCO: -- you come under, an  
22 umbrella --  
23 MS. KLOPFER: Yes.  
24 MR. CALARCO: -- that you come  
25 under that's a 4-H --

2 MS. KLOPFER: Right.

3 MR. CALARCO: -- club?

4 MS. KLOPFER: There's certain  
5 people that I can, or if I -- I need to,  
6 call at CCE Suffolk level if I have any  
7 questions. And that's where we get  
8 any -- any paperwork to reregister or if  
9 we do anything -- any meetings, we  
10 report to them.

11 MR. CALARCO: So you're an official  
12 4-H club still --

13 MS. KLOPFER: Yes.

14 MR. CALARCO: -- you just don't  
15 have a place to -- to operate from, and  
16 you're not receiving any assistance from  
17 anybody to operate?

18 MS. KLOPFER: As far as horseback  
19 riding, yes.

20 MR. CALARCO: As far as horseback  
21 riding.

22 MS. KLOPFER: Right.

23 MR. CALARCO: I see. Okay.

24 MS. GAMBINO: So they just made you  
25 get rid of the horses, is what they did.

2 They took that away; right? They --

3 MR. DI VELLO: And the -- and the  
4 place.

5 MS. GAMBINO: You're still there,  
6 but --

7 MS. KLOPFER: We were -- you know,  
8 I -- I -- to use a harsh word, I felt  
9 like we were evicted.

10 MS. GAMBINO: Right. Yeah.

11 MS. KLOPFER: We found out in the  
12 middle of December that they wanted to  
13 reduce -- that they wanted to find -- us  
14 to find homes for all the farm animals  
15 and to reduce the herd of horses from 20  
16 to 10. A month later, the board came  
17 back and said, We've decided that this  
18 is not really bringing in enough  
19 revenue, it's costing us more money to  
20 keep these horses year-round, you  
21 have --

22 Oh, no, it was February 6. We had  
23 until March 6 to find homes for the rest  
24 of the animals, and that the program --  
25 our season year-round program was

2 eliminated. So I -- you know, that --  
3 if you're -- you've given four weeks in  
4 the middle of winter to find homes, and  
5 just to say Suffolk clubs are not  
6 relevant, we don't -- there's some  
7 bitterness. I'm --

8 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

9 MS. KLOPFER: But the children -- I  
10 mean, there was -- I think Denise saw  
11 the article that we did in the news  
12 review. I think that was the end of  
13 February --

14 MS. SPEIZIO: That was last year,  
15 yes.

16 MS. KLOPFER: Right. And it  
17 talked about -- and it interviewed --  
18 they interviewed myself and a few of the  
19 other children that were part of the  
20 program, and how they felt, they were --  
21 they were really hurt by how it was  
22 handled. There was no -- you know,  
23 we had talked, we even did a  
24 TV interview --

25 MS. SPEIZIO: Uh-huh.

2 MS. KLOPFER: -- 55, and talked  
3 about, you know, why can't we -- you  
4 know, we did offer to do more horse  
5 shows, to get more sponsorships, and  
6 so -- like with Rocky and so many of the  
7 other businesses in the area constantly  
8 bringing in money, you know, we could  
9 have done a little bit more.

10 MS. SPEIZIO: Well, I think it's  
11 even -- I mean, my understanding, that  
12 we -- Nassau/Suffolk and East End had  
13 made some kind of donation to send kids  
14 to the camp. And those donations were  
15 made for last year, and the program was  
16 cut, the kids weren't sent, and --

17 MS. KLOPFER: Exactly.

18 MR. DI VELLO: What happened?

19 MS. SPEIZIO: -- the groups weren't  
20 reimbursed for the donations that we  
21 made.

22 MS. KLOPFER: Uh-huh.

23 MR. DI VELLO: Thank you.

24 MS. KLOPFER: Right.

25 MS. SPEIZIO: So --

2 MS. KLOPPER: And even with NSHA,  
3 they had -- for how many years, I think,  
4 donated how many -- how much money,  
5 thousands of dollars for children who  
6 couldn't afford the -- the horseback  
7 riding program. And when NSHA found out  
8 that, I say "we," all the volunteers and  
9 the instructors weren't -- were asked to  
10 leave, weren't going to be there  
11 anymore -- "Well, whose going to be  
12 teaching these programs? Who are these  
13 horse? Where are they coming from? Do  
14 we trust them? I'm sorry, we cannot  
15 support this right now."

16 And even when Denise had organized  
17 a clinic at another local farm, donating  
18 close to -- what was it -- I think  
19 \$1,500, and the following week, that's  
20 when they decided to eliminate the  
21 program.

22 Where did that money go? That  
23 money never came back. It was earmarked  
24 specifically for the horseback riding  
25 program.

2 MR. CALARCO: Now, the farm in  
3 Riverhead, who actually owned that  
4 property?

5 MS. KLOPFER: What farm?

6 MR. CALARCO: Where you used to --  
7 to operate from?

8 MS. KLOPFER: At the camp?

9 MR. CALARCO: Yeah, the camp.  
10 Whose is -- is that --

11 MS. KLOPFER: Nassau County.

12 MR. DI VELLO: It was left in the  
13 estate -- Dorothy Flint Estate to --

14 MR. CALARCO: To Nassau County.

15 MR. DI VELLO: -- Nassau County  
16 for -- to be used as a 4-H for X amount  
17 of years.

18 MR. CALARCO: So they run all their  
19 other 4-H programs out of there?

20 MS. KLOPFER: No --

21 MR. CALARCO: It's a -- it's a  
22 vacated lot now? I mean, what's going  
23 on with that property at this point, do  
24 we know?

25 MS. KLOPFER: They have -- I mean,

2 ROTC goes there for weekends. They  
3 have -- oh, what's some of the other  
4 user groups that still come in? Not  
5 many, because there's nothing there. I  
6 mean, we could have the farm animals  
7 there -- they used to do tours for the  
8 farm, so it's pretty vacant right now.

9 There were other groups that  
10 came in, even a Boy Scout group or  
11 colleges -- there was a college that had  
12 come in and they would go up to this one  
13 house and spend a week up there. I  
14 don't even think they're there anymore.  
15 It's -- it's really -- it's a shame that  
16 it's been let go.

17 MR. CALARCO: So it's been like  
18 a -- basically, a deserted camp is -- is  
19 what it is now? I mean --

20 MS. KLOPFER: You'll see --

21 MS. GAMBINO: (Inaudible)

22 MS. KLOPFER: Well, yeah, there's  
23 canoes in the indoor ring right now,  
24 but -- I don't know exactly who's using  
25 it on weekends, but it's certainly a lot

2 different then -- then we were there,  
3 and there was a lot more activity. So I  
4 don't know what groups they have coming  
5 in.

6 MR. CALARCO: Do you think that  
7 Nassau would have allowed you to  
8 continue to operate there had you  
9 decided that you would -- going to make  
10 yourselves completely self-sufficient,  
11 and maybe enter in some sort of like a  
12 license agreement like Suffolk County  
13 does with our parks?

14 MS. KLOPFER: I really don't know.  
15 It really got very, very difficult to  
16 talk to the Nassau board.

17 MR. CALARCO: Okay. Do you think  
18 that if -- if we had something similar  
19 to -- to utilize in Nass- -- in Suffolk  
20 County, you would be able to do a  
21 program that would be self-sufficient?

22 MS. KLOPFER: Yes. There is enough  
23 of us that really believe in what we had  
24 done and want to continue somehow.  
25 There's a lot of support out there.

2 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

3 Anybody else have any questions?

4 MS. SPEIZIO: No, I just -- just to  
5 bring up as a point of -- I mean, as a  
6 source of revenue, Suffolk County  
7 College also has equine classes, and  
8 they utilize private barns for their  
9 classes. And if the county had a  
10 facility or 4-H had a facility that was  
11 county run, a source of revenue for them  
12 could be the college students that are  
13 utilizing private facilities for their  
14 classes. And that would be a nice  
15 revenue that would go right back into a  
16 county-run facility.

17 BOCES, also. I mean, BOCES program  
18 is gone because it wasn't enough to run  
19 at BOCES, but if 4-H was running, it's  
20 something that could be done there  
21 and -- you know, added there you could  
22 do it, even if it was on a small scale.

23 MR. CALARCO: Okay. Do you know  
24 where they operate that, where the  
25 school uses --

2 MS. SPEIZIO: I don't, but I could  
3 talk to -- I'm going to see the dean on  
4 Friday.

5 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

6 MS. SPEIZIO: I couldn't see her  
7 before today.

8 MS. WAGNOR: They used to have a  
9 riding team, too, and they don't have --

10 MS. SPEIZIO: They don't have --

11 MS. WAGNOR: -- that anymore.

12 MS. SPEIZIO: -- the riding team  
13 anymore, but they do --

14 MS. WAGNOR: I know, because they  
15 don't have the facility.

16 MS. SPEIZIO: Right. But if they  
17 had the facility --

18 MS. WAGNOR: They used to have --

19 MS. SPEIZIO: -- they would be  
20 interested.

21 MS. WAGNOR: Yes.

22 MS. SPEIZIO: I am going to -- I'm  
23 going to talk to her Friday. I couldn't  
24 get to her before today; priority  
25 registration week.

1 Equestrian Task Force 11/18/09 92  
2 MS. GAMBINO: Many of these  
3 colleges have riding -- you know, they  
4 have teams; St. Joe's, Suffolk.  
5 (Overlapping conversations.)  
6 MS. BARTY: May I say something?  
7 THE REPORTER: Yes. I just need  
8 your name.  
9 MS. BARTY: Teri Barty, B-A-R-T-Y.  
10 I'm trying to be quiet.  
11 My daughter's high school also had  
12 an equine team --  
13 MS. SPEIZIO: Is that Center  
14 Moriches, by any chance?  
15 MS. BARTY: No, Mercy High School.  
16 But --  
17 MS. SPEIZIO: Okay.  
18 MS. BARTY: -- they're cancelled  
19 also, because we used to go up to the --  
20 the 4-H club. So there's even high  
21 schools that do that.  
22 MS. SPEIZIO: But you have -- they  
23 received an e-mail from one of the --  
24 MS. WAGNOR: (Indicating.)  
25 MR. CALARCO: Eileen --

2 (Overlapping conversations.)

3 MS. WAGNOR: I've been trying to  
4 get the high schools rolling, because my  
5 kids have been riding now for six years  
6 under the high school team, and we are  
7 starting to actually be able to go. We  
8 have some that went to St. Joe's, and  
9 they ride for St. Joe's now.

10 THE REPORTER: Speak up, please.

11 MS. WAGNOR: I'm sorry.

12 They graduated from the high  
13 school, went from our riding team to  
14 St. Joe's riding team. I have a couple  
15 that would love to go to Suffolk and  
16 ride there, but there's no team there  
17 right now. They are looking now to stay  
18 on Long Island because they have the  
19 teams here. So I have a few now that  
20 and going to be graduating and going to  
21 St. Joe's, and they are definitely  
22 talking about getting on their team.

23 The college teams are very happy  
24 about this because most of the time when  
25 they get these students come in, they're

2 very green and they don't have any  
3 experience whatsoever. So now they're  
4 finally finding a high school that has  
5 given them the experience -- my kids are  
6 jumping before they're getting to the  
7 colleges.

8 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah, that's  
9 excellent, too. Because we had Dowling  
10 by us for three years, in 17 girls, only  
11 two could ride, and it was like we had  
12 to be out there with them. It wasn't up  
13 to us to even be --

14 MS. WAGNOR: Right.

15 MS. GAMBINO: -- there, but we had  
16 every kid in our barn helping them.

17 MS. WAGNOR: Right.

18 MS. GAMBINO: So if they were in a  
19 high school, like you said, and then  
20 went on to St. Joe's or Dowling, it's  
21 just so much easier for them, they'd be  
22 so much --

23 MS. WAGNOR: Walt Whitman  
24 started -- they had a team on record,  
25 but the past two years their budgets

2 haven't passed, so the union won't let  
3 them run it.

4 I'm getting around that because I'm  
5 a Boy Scout troop. So I'm a -- I'm a  
6 team that's affiliated through the  
7 school as a club, but they can't as a  
8 union tell me I can't run it because I'm  
9 a volunteer Boy Scout leader. So I'm  
10 getting around kind of the red tape as  
11 far as being told I'm not allowed to do  
12 it.

13 I've been volunteering right along,  
14 so they really wouldn't say anything.

15 MS. SPEIZIO: Okay. So if you can  
16 do that through Boy Scouts, then other  
17 schools would be able to --

18 MS. WAGNOR: Absolutely.

19 MS. SPEIZIO: -- utilize the 4-H  
20 clubs at the --

21 MS. WAGNOR: Both. They could use  
22 either/or.

23 MS. SPEIZIO: And it's the Suffolk  
24 County --

25 MS. WAGNOR: Yep.

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MS. GAMBINO: And New York State now has a New York State High School Rodeo. It's from 6th to 8th, and then from 9th to 12th. And Long Island just joined it and just sent our first kids out.

MS. WAGNOR: Did you?

MS. GAMBINO: Yeah.

MS. WAGNOR: Oh, good.

MS. GAMBINO: So now, next year, we're planning three shows here, and then all the kids will go off to the rodeo, and there's scholarships involved in that. Nice scholarships, so it's pretty decent.

MS. WAGNOR: Well, what we did last year -- this is our first time we had a show -- we actually sponsored a high school show. So we're trying to get more high schools involved to come to our shows so, hopefully, like all the schools do, if you're playing Connetquot, you go to Connetquot and play Connetquot, and then they come and

2 play you. So we're trying to do that so  
3 we can get a little circuit going so  
4 that each school would host their own  
5 show, because they're expensive.

6 So we raised \$800 last year on our  
7 own. We ran our own show. We had  
8 trophies, ribbons, you know, judges, we  
9 did the whole thing. We're doing it  
10 again this year in June. But it's very  
11 hard for us to get the schools.

12 I'm sorry to hear that Mercy's not  
13 in because we were trying to get a hold  
14 of Mercy to get them involved. The  
15 Catholic school -- right, that's --

16 MS. BARTY: Yeah.

17 MS. WAGNOR: They're harder because  
18 they end before June, or like they end  
19 that first week in June --

20 MS. BARTY: Yeah.

21 MS. WAGNOR: -- so they're not  
22 around. So we're having tremendous  
23 difficulty because we can't do it  
24 earlier than that. But --

25 MR. DI VELLO: What school are you

2 in, Eileen?

3 MS. WAGNOR: Patchogue-Medford.

4 Yeah.

5 MS. SPEIZIO: Now, have you  
6 contacted any equestrian groups to --

7 MS. WAGNOR: I have talked to some  
8 of the coaches at -- I've been actually  
9 starting to talk to some of the barns.  
10 That's where I'm starting to go, because  
11 I'm having no luck with the high schools  
12 and having -- the high schools don't  
13 want to touch it with the insurance, but  
14 the Boy Scouts are my insurance so I  
15 don't have to deal with that.

16 MS. GAMBINO: You have to go to  
17 ones that have insurance. That's a big  
18 problem on Long Island. Lots of barns  
19 that give lessons just don't have  
20 insurance. See, you'd have to give  
21 them -- like we -- we give somebody, you  
22 know, (inaudible) if the schools cover  
23 it.

24 MS. WAGNOR: Well, we have our  
25 own --

2 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah.

3 MS. WAGNOR: -- so we don't have  
4 to --

5 MR. CALARCO: Eileen, do you think  
6 you'd be able to put together a list for  
7 the next meeting of -- of the different  
8 high school teams that are out there?

9 MS. WAGNOR: There's very few right  
10 now. I could tell you there's about  
11 four. Except for the -- the private  
12 schools are -- St. Anthony's -- you  
13 know, like there's a few of those, but  
14 I'm really trying. I've been -- I've  
15 been mailing out flyers, and one year I  
16 mailed to every high school in Suffolk  
17 County. And I got responses of, Well,  
18 this is not an Athletic Department  
19 thing, so they didn't know what to do  
20 with it. You know, so now I have to  
21 kind of contact through the barns with  
22 the people who are in contact with, you  
23 know, the horse people. So it's a very  
24 difficult area.

25 MR. CALARCO: But you would think

2 that something along the lines of the  
3 schools having a centralized location  
4 to -- to --

5 MS. WAGNOR: Well --

6 MR. CALARCO: -- work from?

7 MS. WAGNOR: -- that would be  
8 great.

9 MR. CALARCO: Just like the 4-H, if  
10 we had a place that the 4-H could  
11 operate at and -- and --

12 MS. WAGNOR: Well, we could  
13 actually --

14 MR. CALARCO: -- the schools could  
15 all pay in to play -- to utilize --

16 MS. WAGNOR: Right. We could --  
17 then what we could do is like, let's say  
18 a high school doesn't have a facility,  
19 then they could utilize it, and if they  
20 didn't have a facility, then they could  
21 have their show there.

22 So it depends. You know, like  
23 right now we have our show at our own  
24 barn where -- where we take our lesson.  
25 But, you know, there would be high

2 schools that wouldn't have that. It's  
3 like a high school that doesn't have a  
4 swimming pool, they use the --

5 MS. GAMBINO: Even the colleges  
6 don't have --

7 MS. WAGNOR: -- YMCA.

8 MS. GAMBINO: -- a facility.

9 MS. WAGNOR: No.

10 MS. GAMBINO: They go to private  
11 barns.

12 MS. WAGNOR: Yeah.

13 MS. DI VELLO: Right.

14 MS. WAGNOR: That's true, too.

15 MS. GAMBINO: Yeah. And usually a  
16 barn is -- like we donated -- we gave it  
17 to them for free, but I can only do that  
18 for three years. It was -- it was a lot  
19 of work. Like I say, if they came out  
20 of a high school like you had, it would  
21 be a lot different.

22 MR. CALARCO: So let's -- maybe  
23 part of the planning on -- on -- you  
24 know, when we're talking about what we  
25 would need for a private fac- -- a

2 public facility, maybe you could try to  
3 solicit or find out how much interest  
4 there is in the high schools as far as  
5 maybe if they had places to go there  
6 would be more -- more teams. Okay?

7 MS. WAGNOR: Yeah. I'll -- I'll  
8 ask.

9 MS. GAMBINO: Have you ever spoken  
10 in front of, like, Islip meetings on  
11 that at all?

12 MS. WAGNOR: No, I haven't.

13 MS. GAMBINO: You should go to  
14 Islip meetings because it's the Islip  
15 area and --

16 MS. WAGNOR: Like the Islip Town  
17 meetings?

18 MS. GAMBINO: Well, no, it's the  
19 Islip Horseman's Association.

20 MS. WAGNOR: Oh, okay.

21 MS. GAMBINO: They meet the last --  
22 the last -- the fourth Tuesday of the  
23 month. And they do barrel racing shows,  
24 English shows, and western pleasure  
25 shows. That's the only club that does

2 all three.

3 MS. WAGNOR: That's nice. Because  
4 we have both teams.

5 MS. GAMBINO: Uh-huh.

6 MS. WAGNOR: We have a western and  
7 an English team.

8 MS. GAMBINO: That's good, too.  
9 Yeah.

10 MR. CALARCO: Okay. I just want to  
11 make note that Pam Greene from the  
12 Division of Real Estate is here, and  
13 Gigi Asher from the Town of  
14 Huntington -- going to have them in the  
15 meeting.

16 And I guess I would also like to, I  
17 think -- we -- we have a focus now for  
18 the next meeting. We're going to come  
19 back, we'll -- we'll set something up,  
20 we'll -- we'll -- we'll set something up  
21 with Joe to -- to get the Long Island  
22 Farm Bureau here to talk to us about  
23 planning --

24 MS. SPEIZIO: Planning.

25 MR. CALARCO: -- a facility?

2 MS. SPEIZIO: Right.

3 MR. CALARCO: How we would go about  
4 that kind of a process?

5 MS. SPEIZIO: Yeah. He did a state  
6 plan as far as how farms of -- acreage  
7 needed and specific requirements. So I  
8 think he would be a great resource on  
9 what we would need and how to go about  
10 that plan in stages, not --

11 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

12 MS. WAGNOR: Just one question to  
13 kind of get off this for a second.

14 Since we have a feed company here,  
15 and we were talking about people needing  
16 to do it as a group --

17 MR. CALARCO: Uh-huh.

18 MS. WAGNOR: -- I would like to  
19 know from the feed company, rather than  
20 trying to get the group together to get  
21 better prices from Upstate, is it  
22 possible that they would have -- somehow  
23 work with the people local to give them  
24 better prices if they could do it in  
25 larger sums or larger bulk? I don't --

2 like I, personally, could rather see the  
3 money stay here, rather than going  
4 Upstate.

5 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: Right.

6 MS. WAGNOR: But I understand  
7 because of the volume that can be  
8 processed. So it's like an economic  
9 thing, you know --

10 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: Right.

11 MS. WAGNOR: -- the need to how  
12 much they're spending.

13 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: Well, not to  
14 sell a bag of feed, but the grain I sell  
15 is much less expensive than most grains  
16 out there. Of course, when you cross  
17 that Hudson River with shipping, it's a  
18 high tariff. You know --

19 MS. WAGNOR: Right.

20 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: -- you could  
21 almost ship from Vermont to Kentucky  
22 cheaper than you can --

23 MS. WAGNOR: For the same price.

24 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: -- believe it or  
25 not, to here. So -- but there is --

2 like my particular company, they give to  
3 501, they donate back to, they -- you  
4 know, in -- the more you buy, the less  
5 you pay. You know, even at our cheap  
6 price as a feed store on the Island, we  
7 do that.

8 MS. WAGNOR: And do you buy from  
9 local hay companies -- like hay farms  
10 and stuff, or do you actually ship it in  
11 also?

12 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: From Upstate,  
13 yes.

14 MS. WAGNOR: See, that's not --

15 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: It's hard to do  
16 on the Island because it's just not --

17 MS. GAMBINO: You could do --

18 MS. WAGNOR: Is there not enough  
19 here?

20 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: Right.

21 MS. GAMBINO: You could do it  
22 yourself if you got a group of people  
23 together. A 53-foot trailer holds  
24 600 bales of hay.

25 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: Right.

2 MS. GAMBINO: So you'd have to --  
3 take a trip Upstate, find a good hay  
4 guy --

5 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: You'd have to  
6 leave the Island to get the hay.

7 MS. GAMBINO: You'd have to --

8 MS. WAGNOR: There's not enough hay  
9 here, there's -- is it sold --  
10 everything that's here is sold?

11 MS. GAMBINO: There's no hay grown  
12 here.

13 MS. OCCHIOGROSSO: No.

14 MS. WAGNOR: There's no hay grown  
15 here.

16 MS. GAMBINO: Hay's the biggest  
17 crop in the State of New York. There's  
18 no hay grown --

19 MS. WAGNOR: But it's all Upstate.

20 MR. DI VELLO: There is some hay --  
21 there are some hay growers --

22 (Overlapping conversations.)

23 MR. CALARCO: Okay. Okay.

24 Let's --

25 (Overlapping conversations)

2 continue.)

3 THE REPORTER: We're off the  
4 record, folks.

5 (Discussion held off the record.)

6 MR. DI VELLO: Like Rita said,  
7 there are some hay growers on  
8 Long Island, but not enough to supply  
9 everyone. Yeah.

10 MS. WAGNOR: Okay.

11 MR. DI VELLO: And it's very hard  
12 to grow good alfalfa on Long Island.  
13 It -- the climate's too damp and it  
14 molds too quick.

15 MS. WAGNOR: Okay.

16 MR. DI VELLO: Yeah.

17 MS. GAMBINO: The best hay that you  
18 could buy comes from Upstate New York,  
19 the big lakes area in Oregon. You can't  
20 ask for better hay than that. And it's  
21 so cheap up there, just get it shipped  
22 in. It's the shipping that really kills  
23 us.

24 MS. WAGNOR: Right.

25 MS. GAMBINO: It's \$1.42 to \$2.00 a

2 bale usually to get it down from like  
3 the Syracuse area.

4 MS. WAGNOR: Okay. I was just -- I  
5 was just curious.

6 MR. CALARCO: Okay. So let's do  
7 this.

8 Next meeting, we'll have something  
9 with Joe from the Farm Bureau, and --  
10 and we'll come back together and we'll  
11 actually focus the next meeting  
12 specifically on what we need in terms of  
13 a public facility, how much space we  
14 would need, what kind of acreage, what  
15 kind of stalls, and -- and Joe could  
16 give us a background on how that could  
17 be planned out.

18 MS. SPEIZIO: Uh-huh.

19 MR. CALARCO: Okay?

20 And then what we could plan for  
21 maybe in the -- the January meeting, we  
22 can focus on actual concepts in terms of  
23 the manure and -- and actual problems  
24 the actual farmer faces, or small horse  
25 owner, as opposed to the -- the idea of

2 what we need in order to facilitate  
3 programs, let's focus on what our actual  
4 small operators would need in order to  
5 stay in business. In terms of what  
6 their cost are and -- and --

7 Can we do that? You know, maybe  
8 we'll focus for that for January?

9 MS. SPEIZIO: Yeah. Part of what  
10 Joe is going to talk to us about was --  
11 Allan from Soil and Water will help us  
12 with that also.

13 MR. CALARCO: Okay. And maybe  
14 Rocky, with the Farm Bureau and the  
15 East End Livestock, you guys could come  
16 back and let us know what kind of  
17 impacts there are, you know, for -- for  
18 the businesses and the people who  
19 operate under your programs?

20 MR. DI VELLO: Okay. You mean what  
21 kind of hardships as --

22 MR. CALARCO: What are your -- what  
23 is -- yeah, your members face as  
24 hardships to -- to stay operational in  
25 Suffolk County. Okay. And we'll do

2 that for the January meeting.

3 Okay? That's kind of got us set  
4 for some goals for the next couple of  
5 meetings.

6 All right. Does anybody else have  
7 anything that they wanted to add today?

8 MR. PAVACIC: Just as a suggestion.

9 We might also -- a facility I  
10 forgot about, but that's Old Field Farm,  
11 the former North Shore Horse Show  
12 grounds --

13 MR. CALARCO: Uh-huh.

14 MR. PAVACIC: -- which is a county  
15 park up in Setauket. And we have an  
16 excellent licensee there, we have a  
17 contact there, who's been slowly but  
18 surely attempting to renovate the  
19 facility, and there are horse shows that  
20 occur there throughout the year. So we  
21 might want to get those folks to -- to  
22 come down here also.

23 And I was wondering if perhaps,  
24 since the Hampton Classic was mentioned,  
25 I don't know much about that, but

2 perhaps getting someone who is a  
3 representative or the main organizer of  
4 that also to make a presentation. And  
5 just to see what kind of information can  
6 be derived from that that could be  
7 useful for the task force.

8 MR. CALARCO: I think that's a  
9 great idea.

10 Is everybody okay with that?

11 MR. DI VELLO: Yeah.

12 MR. CALARCO: So what we'll do is  
13 we'll also reach out to Old Field --

14 I think it's Dr. Lynch operating --

15 MR. PAVACIC: Yes.

16 MR. CALARCO: -- the facility?

17 MR. PAVACIC: Yes.

18 MR. CALARCO: I'll reach out to her  
19 and see if she can come down and also  
20 give a small presentation at the next  
21 meeting.

22 And does anybody know who operates  
23 the Hampton's Classic?

24 Rocky, do you know?

25 MR. DI VELLO: I can -- I can find

2 out.

3 MR. CALARCO: And then even if you  
4 want to just get the contact information  
5 to me, and we'll set up.

6 MR. DI VELLO: I have another fella  
7 who is also on the board -- he's  
8 actually the greenhouse representative,  
9 dash -- he became the equine guy, too;  
10 Dave McLarin, if I could invite him  
11 maybe to the next meeting.

12 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

13 MR. DI VELLO: And he is -- he has  
14 a relationship with the people on the  
15 Hampton Classic Board because he has  
16 brought some of his stock down there --  
17 livestock.

18 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

19 MR. DI VELLO: Okay?

20 MR. CALARCO: Anybody else have  
21 anything they want to add to today's  
22 meeting? Discuss?

23 (WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

24 MR. CALARCO: Okay. Then I guess  
25 we'll -- the next meeting.

2 I would assume we all want to try  
3 to hold the next meeting towards the  
4 very beginning of December with the  
5 holidays coming along; correct?

6 MR. DI VELLO: Yeah.

7 MS. SPEIZIO: I guess we'll see  
8 when the guests could --

9 MR. PAVACIC: You mean December or  
10 the beginning of January?

11 MR. CALARCO: We can do this off  
12 the record.

13 (Discussion held off the record.)

14 MR. CALARCO: Back on the record.  
15 We're going to shoot for the next  
16 meeting for Wednesday, December 2nd, and  
17 I'm going to try to book it for, let's  
18 say, 12 o'clock noon.

19 MR. PAVACIC: In two hours -- two  
20 hours, total?

21 MR. CALARCO: Yes.

22 MR. PAVACIC: So I'll see if  
23 it's --

24 MR. CALARCO: Will that work for  
25 you?

2 MR. PAVACIC: Yeah, that works for  
3 me.

4 MS. WAGNOR: I won't be able to be  
5 here because I teach, so --

6 MR. CALARCO: Okay. Okay. And I  
7 will send out an e-mail to everyone  
8 confirming once we know that the Farm  
9 Bureau can actually make it that day.

10 Okay, great. Thanks everyone.

11 (WHEREUPON, this meeting of the  
12 Suffolk County Legislature Equestrian  
13 Task Force adjourned at 5:11 p.m.)

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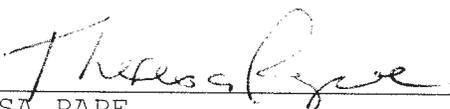
C E R T I F I C A T E

I, THERESA PAPE, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New York, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing is a true and accurate transcription of the stenographic notes taken herein.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage; and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of November 2009.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
THERESA PAPE