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Public Hearing

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Suffolk County Wide Senior Citizen's

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Task Force

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June 28, 2007

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14 HELD AT:

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West Islip Community Center

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West Islip, New York

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SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE

[HEARING WAS CALLED TO  
ORDER AT 9:40 A.M.]

CHAIRMAN STERN: Good morning and welcome,  
this morning. Thank you so much. This is the  
last 4, 5 public hearings of the Suffolk County  
Wide Senior Task Force. I'm going to ask everyone  
to please rise and join us in the Pledge of  
Allegiance this morning, lead by Bob Kern.

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

CHAIRMAN STERN: Everybody, please remain  
standing and join us in a moment of silence,  
keeping all of our very brave men and women  
stationed overseas in our thoughts and prayers.

[MOMENT OF SILENCE]

Thank you. Thank you everyone for being with us  
today. Before we begin and before we start to get  
to our hearing today, I'm going to ask each of the  
members of the County Wide Senior Task Force to  
introduce themselves.

MS. GILLIARD: I'm Director of Senior  
Citizens, North Amityville, representing Town of  
Babylon.

MR. MALETTA: Nick Maletta, and I'm  
representing the Town of Brookhaven.

2 MS. BARONE: Maryanne Barone,  
3 Bohemia, representing Presiding Officer Lindsay,  
4 long term care for the North Fork.

5 MS. GIACOIA: Good morning. I'm Pam  
6 Giacioa. I'm the Director for Senior Services for  
7 the Town of Southampton.

8 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: My name is Holly  
9 Rhodes-Teague. I work for the Suffolk County  
10 Office for the Aging.

11 MR. KERN: Bob Kern, representing  
12 S.A.D.D.

13 MS. HARTY: Sue Harty, I'm Director  
14 of the Town of Huntington, Senior Division.

15 MR. FRITZ: Good morning. I'm Gene  
16 Fritz and I'm from the Office of the Aging, and a  
17 media consultant to the White House.

18 MS. BENNETT: Good morning. I'm Karin  
19 Bennett. Senior Citizens Manager on Shelter  
20 Island.

21 MS. GALLOGY: I'm Carol Gallogy. It's  
22 great to be here. I'm a liaison between the  
23 Suffolk County Advisory Board and Suffolk Board of  
24 Aging and this task force.

25 MS. LORENZ: I'm Elizabeth Lorenz, I'm

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2 Commissioner, Department of Human Services for the  
3 Town of Islip.

4 CHAIRMAN STERN: I would also like to  
5 recognize that here with us in the audience today,  
6 is Donna Bonacci, Director for the Town of  
7 Brookhaven, Senior Citizens. My name is Steven  
8 Stern, Suffolk County Legislator representing the  
9 16 District which encompasses parts of Huntington  
10 and Babylon. It is also my privilege to serve as  
11 the Chairman, legislator, for veterans and  
12 seniors. A couple of months ago I introduced  
13 legislation establishing some kind of Senior  
14 Citizen's Task Force. I always start out by  
15 telling a story and it's really something that  
16 deal with every week. I'm a coach in my son's  
17 Little League. He's eight years old. There isn't  
18 a game that goes by where someone doesn't come up  
19 to me, a parent that doesn't come up to me and  
20 say, "You're Coach Stern, can you bat my son a  
21 little further up in order. Can you put him on  
22 the pitcher's mount this game. His grandparents  
23 are here and this is the only game that his  
24 grandparents are going to get to see." The reason  
25 is some of that we are going to talk about today.

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2 Because of where they live and why they moved out  
3 of state to Florida, across the Country to Arizona  
4 because the life style, retire under a palm tree  
5 and play golf everyday. More often than not the  
6 reason they moved is that they are in search of a  
7 lower cost of living or a higher quality of life,  
8 or they can no longer afford to live here. That's  
9 wrong, not just because of the obvious but these  
10 seniors play a vital role in building the  
11 communities that we enjoy so much. It's very much  
12 a family issue. That's wrong. The grandchildren  
13 don't have the opportunity to have a strong  
14 relationship with their grandparents. The  
15 relationships that we enjoyed in earlier  
16 generations. When we get to discussing why it is  
17 and we'll talk about lower cost of living, and so  
18 many specifics, of course taxes, utility bills,  
19 that put so many things for the people who do live  
20 here, out of reach. They sell the home that they  
21 lived in for 50 years in search of housing that's  
22 a little more appropriate. They are actually  
23 priced out of so-called senior housing, because  
24 education and the price of everything is going up,  
25 it might wind up costing even more in terms of

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2 cost and maintenance in the homes they are looking  
3 to sell. Access to adequate senior housing is a  
4 critical issue. Maintaining dignity and being in  
5 control of their lives and being able to get  
6 around in their community, being able get to  
7 services, medical services, just quality of life  
8 issues. Of course public transportation for  
9 senior citizens is seen as a vital issue, access  
10 to long term care. All of my years in working  
11 with elderly and disabled all over Long Island,  
12 and Nation, I have yet to meet one person who  
13 tells me they'd rather get the long term care they  
14 need in some type of institutional setting rather  
15 than at home. We all want to remain at home.  
16 Certainly when we need care and assistance, so  
17 many of our family members are not able to put in  
18 the time that you all put in for elderly parents.  
19 So, access to long term care is certainly  
20 preferred within the homes they built, in the  
21 communities that they loved, rather than an  
22 institutional setting. These and so many other  
23 issues for seniors and their families as the aging  
24 community throughout Suffolk County. So, in  
25 gathering some of the representatives, not just

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2 dedicated professionals assisting seniors and  
3 their families from here on the west end all the  
4 way out to Shelter Island, we wanted to bring in a  
5 group of professionals to shed not only to light  
6 on some many of the challenges that seniors face,  
7 now and generations to come, but to come up with  
8 meaningful solutions. A big part for us here is,  
9 not just public hearings. Of course they are very  
10 important, but to take the information, take some  
11 of the great ideas that we've learned from the  
12 elected officials throughout Suffolk County but  
13 Nationwide as well. Most important from the  
14 seniors themselves, and their great ideas, and  
15 work hard through the summer to come up meaningful  
16 solutions and a plan that we are going to  
17 implement come the fall when we're going to  
18 introduce all of the ideas that we came up with.  
19 Legislation where we're going to State and Federal  
20 funds, additional funds, and some of the great  
21 ideas we come up with here today. Whether it's  
22 listening to the seniors themselves, the  
23 professionals, really the underlying idea here  
24 today, and going forward, is to ask one simple  
25 question; Is it good to grow old in Suffolk

2 County? With all the hard work at all levels,  
3 work by dedicated professionals, we have not just  
4 answer that question, and address it, not only  
5 issues for today but for generations to come, so  
6 the answer is certainly yes.

7 It is with great pleasure  
8 today to introduce our first speaker, a wonderful  
9 partner, at our last public hearing at the Town of  
10 Islip. He's an outstanding public official,  
11 certainly dedicated to the Seniors of the Town of  
12 Islip, Town Supervisor, the Honorable Phil Nolan.

13 SUPERVISOR NOLAN: I'm going to turn my back  
14 to all of them, or all of you. [SUPERVISOR NOLAN  
15 FACING THE AUDIENCE]

16 MR. FRITZ: We'll excuse you.

17 SUPERVISOR NOLAN: I appreciate that. I  
18 want to speak to you this morning, first to  
19 welcome the panel to the Town of Islip and  
20 appreciate Legislator Stern's kind words  
21 and bringing this forum to the Town of Islip, to  
22 the South Shore. Legislator Stern is extremely  
23 serious minded, a thoughtful and focused  
24 individual. I'm sure this panel is really going  
25 to be able to bring forth doable concrete

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2 suggestions and really look forward to working  
3 with him on his suggestions as we move forward.  
4 May parents -- Well, my dad passed away in January  
5 at age 83 and three quarters, and done amazing  
6 things to for our family. I did not take care of  
7 them because my mom is still living in the house I  
8 grew up in. I first handedly have experienced  
9 issues that people experience in their late years,  
10 health, financial, transportation and so on. I  
11 can assure you the issues of seniors are very much  
12 in the front of my mind because my mother would  
13 not let it get out of the front of my mind. I  
14 think some you know my mother. She's an  
15 incredibly wonderful woman, very intelligent, and  
16 does not miss a trick. And she lets me know  
17 what's going on in other senior clubs. I just  
18 wanted to take a moment, this town is represented  
19 on the panel by Betty Lorenz and some people will  
20 participate in the program and will not just allow  
21 this day to come and go without following through  
22 and doing something positive. Lastly, I apologize  
23 for the hot weather. We have a wonderful room  
24 here but it's awfully hot. I do apologize for  
25 that. Legislator Stern, I'll get off here

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because you have a lot of business to do. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN: Thank you Mr. Nolan. It's also my great pleasure to introduce Director of Suffolk County Handicapped Services, Bruce Blower is with us today.

MR. BLOWER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Supervisor and ladies and gentlemen of the panel and seniors in the audience. I've had the privilege of becoming a senior and also live in Suffolk County, not in the Town of Islip but the Town of Huntington. I did address the first forum that you had but I'd some prepared remarks for the last forum. This is based on some of the things that have come up in our office everyday and I have copies for you. I'll be brief. As an advocate for Suffolk Counties 315,000 people with disabilities, I'm pleased to address these brief comments to Suffolk County Legislator Steven Stern and this senior citizen listening forum. Our comments, our focus from the Office of the Handicapped Services, 26 plus years working with people disabilities who are aging at the same rate as most Suffolk County residents. They are also

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using the lens of Suffolk residents, they are living longer and passively acquiring disabilities with aging. This generation, diabetes with mature onset, and coronary artery disease, to name a few. These disabling conditions cause multiple layers of changing needs for our Suffolk County residents already dealing with advancing realities of aging. The Office of Handicapped Services respectfully suggest 5 areas of concern that would benefit more concentrated cohesive and collaborative efforts including but not limited to, access to home issues, assessment tools for care plan development, case management care coordination, changing demographics and transportation. Access to home funds have been made available through the New York State Division of Housing and Community to assist seniors and people with disabilities to remain independently in their homes. The State Division provides financial assistance to property owners, through local municipalities and not for profits, to make dwelling units accessible for people with disabilities. Providing assistance with the cost of adapting homes to meet the needs of those with disabilities, for examples ramps,

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2 accessible bathrooms, wider hallways and doorways,  
3 will enable individuals to safely and comfortably  
4 continue to live in their residence to avoid  
5 expensive institutional care. Suffolk County, New  
6 York State D.H.C.R. funds were initially available  
7 through Community Development Corporation of Long  
8 Island, and more recently through the United Way  
9 of Long Island. However the last three seniors  
10 with disabilities we referred to this program,  
11 each called us back two weeks later to complain  
12 that no one called them back from the agency let  
13 them to get the application. If Suffolk County  
14 residents cannot even get information on this  
15 program the likelihood of them remaining  
16 independently in their own home diminishes, so  
17 does our County socially and economically. Our  
18 second concern is about the assessment tool for  
19 care planned development. And that's really  
20 focused on the New York contracts for what is  
21 known as the point of entry plan where the Suffolk  
22 County Office for the Aging are the lead agents.  
23 The Suffolk County Office for the Handicapped  
24 services and advocates across Long Island and New  
25 York State have grave concerns about assessments

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development and without adequate input from people with disabilities. An example is the consolidation of resources of aging and people with disabilities for information under P.O.E. A 29 year old graduate from Touro Law School who recently passed the bar exam that's a quadriplegic may have similar long term care needs that frail elderly seniors have. However, he certainly will not think of calling an aging and disability resource center when a job opportunity requires him to move from Melville to Riverhead to be closer to work. Another concern is the case management or care coordination. We feel that they must have specific uniform training with a case manager and they should be held responsible for the evolution and implementation of the consumer or client care plan. I urge the County to advocate with the State to consider a uniform and consolidated funding stream for all case management care coordination. We now have a specialized case management, not by the function but by the funding stream. A 42 woman with cerebral palsy and breast cancer becoming seriously depressed. This is much more than just

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C.P. but who will bridge the gap between the oncologist, Office of Mental Retardation and disabilities and office of Mental Health when she seeks therapy. Who looks at the whole individual. This is the same problem that occurs with many of our seniors. An 82 year old woman recovering from a hip replacement has frequently called handicapped services and they will take care of you. I wouldn't discuss the failure of the hospital discharge plan here, but who is looking after the needs of the clients at home, climbing stairs, preparing meals and bathing and toileting, etc, when she first gets home and can't do them by herself. In an ideal system, County Services would be coordinated by one case manager to fit all the needs of the individual, not just have our residents broken into separate components based upon specific needs within each individual office. Another item is the changing demographics and redefining services. The baby boomer generation has changed every institution in America, from education to health care, from employment to housing. They will certainly redefine senior services as they have disability

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services. The New York State Office for Aging Project 2015 documented these trends, and partnered with every State level agency to look at and prepare for the anticipated changes. Suffolk County needs to continue that level of collaboration. Transportation, particularly public transportation options, continues to be a major stumbling block in Suffolk County. Transit disabled, Chapter 61 of the Laws of 1990 of the New York State to capture the number of seniors no longer driving and unable to tranverse their town or County. There was no funding under this law so we still struggle with home transportation. S.C.A.T. Paratransit, if they're eligible and ten different town based senior transport systems, all doing different things. Seniors at different stages are no longer able to drive. Suffolk County, might want to borrow a page from the interagency transportation coordinating access and mobility established by the U.S. Department of Transportation. This potential partnership between Town and County might facilitate the most appropriate cost effective transportation services within existing resources. Currently Suffolk

2 County, paratransit currently known as S.K.A.T.  
3 coordinates with Huntington Town known as Hart to  
4 provide more effective service by collaboration  
5 through transportation systems. Further  
6 transportation systems coordinate between the rest  
7 of the towns and County might actually reduce the  
8 duplication and find more of the existing funds  
9 available for additional services to the County  
10 residents in need of transportation. Thank you  
11 for the opportunity to participate in this  
12 listening forums for seniors who include people  
13 with disabilities by the way. Nobody aspires to  
14 become disabled in life but everyone aspires to be  
15 a senior citizen. Thanks for listening. I wish  
16 you well. I'd be happy to answer questions.

17 CHAIRMAN STERN: Thank you, Bruce. I have  
18 a couple of questions. First of all, I'm sure  
19 you're familiar with really first program of it's  
20 kind, currently being developed in Huntington, in  
21 bringing together some professionals to talk about  
22 the services that seniors want and need within the  
23 community within a relatively clustered area. one  
24 of the services is going to be access to public  
25 transportation. My first question is, whether or

2 not you or your office been contacted by any  
3 representatives of the Town to try and bring you  
4 into that process. Is that something that you can  
5 reach out to them and continue that dialog.

6 MR. BLOWER: The short answer is, no.  
7 We have not been contacted. We will certainly  
8 reach out.

9 MS. HARTY: As the Director for  
10 Huntington, we just launched a program called  
11 Hands on Huntington. The program director is Tina  
12 Block and I can make certain Tina gets in touch  
13 with you.

14 CHAIRMAN STERN: One other question. A  
15 program you spoke of before, two or three seniors  
16 who tried to make a call, and no response back.  
17 My question was anybody ultimately contacted on  
18 their behalf, was there a contact made?

19 MR. BLOWER: We did follow up on that  
20 and I don't have the latest. We did call the  
21 agency and they told us they would call the  
22 people. Now, whether that actually transpired, I  
23 don't know. These just come up within the last  
24 two weeks. That's why I raised the alarm. We  
25 watched a trend when something like that happens,

2 we get involved.

3 CHAIRMAN STERN: Thank you so much. Thank  
4 you. It's also a great pleasure to introduce Mr.  
5 George Roach, who is with us today. If you don't  
6 already know George, he has been a tremendous  
7 advocate for the elderly. He is a Director for  
8 Senior Division for Legal Aid and it's really  
9 a great pleasure to have him with us today and to  
10 introduce George Roach.

11 MR. ROACH: Good morning Mr.  
12 Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the  
13 task force. I'm George Roach, from the Legal Aid  
14 Society Senior Citizen Division. This is my 28th  
15 year with that division. Thank you. We have  
16 attended these hearings to highlight some of the  
17 problems that we see as the legal services  
18 provider under contract with the Suffolk  
19 County Office for the Aging. A lot of times  
20 seniors call in same set of facts. The most  
21 egregious things maybe these issues that this task  
22 force can consider and address and solve a lot  
23 problems for the senior citizens. First off,  
24 before we begin, I'd like to report to the  
25 Chairman the very successful completion of a

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situation where we were able to get a woman  
a reverse mortgage to save her house from  
foreclosure. The woman was a very, very,  
difficult client to deal with. God never shuts a  
door without opening a window and we saved the  
house from foreclosure. I'm sure Ellen Eichelbaum  
is here this morning, talking about the importance  
of reverse mortgages and the financial burdens of  
senior citizens. As far as problems we see, one  
of the problems we see, seniors live on fixed  
incomes, Social Security and pension. A lot of  
those forms are directly deposited in the  
bank and they write their checks out and pay their  
bills. People living on a fixed income are most  
vulnerable, I think. What happens is, for one  
reason for another, they run into financial  
problems, they get sued, and there's a judgement,  
where they legitimately owe them money or if it's  
by mistake, but what happens is the attorney gets  
a judgement, files a restraining notice  
on their bank account. What happens is  
that under the  
law, these forms of income, Social Security and  
pension, are exempt from attachment. I know it.

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The bank knows it. The judgement-creditor knows it. As a matter of fact the judgement-creditor is required to send the person a notice that this income is exempt. Well, if it's exempt, why does the bank restrain it in the first place. It's a direct deposit, and they know it. They say to me it's because they can't ignore the legal process. We have to restrain these accounts. Then you have to go through that whole rigor-maro. I got it down to where I can do it by letter, most of the time. Sometimes you need an Order to Show Cause. That's very difficult for senior citizens. There's only one bank that I know of that does not restrain exempt funds. It happens to be the New York Community Bank. Somehow, if this committee could get to work and formulating, probably amending the banking law in some fashion to allow banks to release direct deposit exempt funds. They've written out their rent checks, mortgage checks, medical insurance checks. Those checks are going to bounce and charged \$125 per bounced check because the account has been restrained. It's a nightmare. The second check gets deposited and that gets

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restrained. So they're really in a deep hole.  
So, somehow address that issue amend banking law  
to allow the release of these exempt funds. It  
will solve a tremendous problem with the senior  
citizens, especially the ones in financial  
trouble. They are the most vulnerable and they  
depend on that income. The second issue all of us  
still drive. You'll know when you reach the age  
of 75, just by reaching that age, you're now at  
risk regardless of your driving record and your  
insurance premium goes up. You don't have a  
choice. You never got a ticket or never got in an  
accident. It's one of those age things. If you  
look at the prospective, you start driving at 16  
and everybody is in a risk pool. I think one of  
the things that the committee can address is  
looking at somehow taking that senior citizens  
driving record into account so their premium  
doesn't go up at age 75. They're a good  
risk, no tickets, that sort of thing. You talk  
about an age discrimination suit. Just by virtue  
of your age you're being surcharged by the  
insurance industry whether you like it or not.  
You have no ability to prove that your premium

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2 should not be increased because you have a good  
3 driver record. These two issues come up time and  
4 time again. You have the letters that I've  
5 written highlighting details of the proposals in  
6 the hand out this morning. At this point I would  
7 ask if there are any questions from the committee.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm with the Teachers  
9 Federal Credit Union. We do not restrain  
10 accounts. We are not a bank. People  
11 think of us a bank but we don't come under the  
12 banking law. We do not restrain bank accounts.

13 MR. ROACH: Okay, that's the place  
14 to put your money, by the way. That's a  
15 commercial.

16 MS. HARTY: I have a question. Nice  
17 to see you.

18 MR. ROACH: Nice to be seen.

19 MS. HARTY: You mention the New York  
20 Community Bank is one of the exceptions with the  
21 letter restraining and judgements. Is there any  
22 insurance company that you know of that stands out  
23 that does not have that charge, or is that a  
24 standard across the whole industry of the  
25 insurance companies, everybody is automatically

2 charged at age 75?

3 MR. ROACH: That's pretty much  
4 across the board, when you reach 75, regardless  
5 of driving record and past history. That's a real  
6 discrimination.

7 MS. HARTY: I was hoping there were  
8 some exceptions.

9 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: Tell everybody about your  
10 office.

11 MR. ROACH: For those of you that  
12 don't know how the program is run. We are the  
13 Legal Aid Society, Senior Citizen Division. We  
14 are funded through the Suffolk County Office of  
15 the Aging. We provide legal services for senior  
16 citizens of Suffolk County, provide them with  
17 representation regardless of means. There is no  
18 financial means test. Sometimes people  
19 hear Legal Aid and they think you have to be poor  
20 enough to qualify for it. Not so for senior  
21 citizens. The only requirements is that you have  
22 to be at least 60 years of age and live in Suffolk  
23 County. That's it. Pick up the phone and give  
24 our office a call and get advice. It's free.  
25 We're located in beautiful downtown Bay Shore,

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2 accessible by public transportation, Amityville to  
3 Montauk. You have access to free legal advice and  
4 counsel. You can take the number from Legal Aid  
5 for the Office of the Aging and try to handle the  
6 problem and give the right advice.

7 MR. KERN: What I wanted to say,  
8 I write a column in Suffolk Life and got the  
9 address. Take the number down, keep it, in case  
10 you need it.

11 MR. ROACH: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN STERN: Related question. Bob  
13 writing this article. What should we do at a  
14 County level or Town level to get that word out  
15 that if seniors run into that problem they should  
16 still have use of their money.

17 MR. ROACH: The bank isn't going to  
18 unfreeze the money on the senior's say so.  
19 An attorney has to step up. If they try to hire  
20 a private attorney to step up, it's a little  
21 difficult. We do it all the time, so, get a hold  
22 of our office. Give us a call. We'll start with  
23 a letter, usually paperwork to give us  
24 to send out a letter. If that doesn't work of if  
25 sometimes the money is commingled with their

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birthday money, that's a real problem because the account has to be separated out and a lot of times we have to do it by Order to Show Cause. We actually have to start legal proceedings and the problem is when we did these Orders to Show Cause, we were able to use judgment-creditors index numbers. There's a court cost in these index numbers, and they are not cheap anymore. Now what happened, you can't a use the judgment-creditors index number anymore. You, senior citizen, have to purchase your own index number. Okay. Legal Aid you didn't lay out the cost of litigation, which would have further put in front of the 8 ball. One of the things the committee should be looking into at a County level contacting the administrative judge in District Court, Madeline Fitzgibbons, and maybe the Chairman can sit down with Judge Fitzgibbons and say, this is a real problem, and I'm certainly happy to give you any input you want. Say that what you're doing is to streamline process for seniors to go in and get accounts released. Don't make them purchase another index number. She's the one who gives the marching orders. It's a State issue as far as the

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banking law with Assemblymen and State Senators  
but at a local level with the Administrative  
Judge.

CHAIRMAN STERN: Important issue and great  
suggestion. So, we'll work together on that.

MR. FRITZ: A lot of people raised  
their hands on how to contact you. Can you give  
us your phone number?

MR. ROACH: Phone number 854-0401  
and take it down and keep handy and give us a call  
if you have a problem. Actually, give us a call  
before you have a problem.

MS. BARONE: Do you also assist  
senior citizens with living wills and wills they  
need to do?

MR. ROACH: We would be happy to  
supply documents but we do not draw up wills.  
Health care proxy, we do not pro up wills. Touro  
Law School in Central Islip, they have  
beautiful facility with an elder law clinic people  
can go to it and get a simple will done free of  
charge. You want to take advantage of what's  
out there. One of my colleagues, Laurette Mulry  
is

2 a graduate and law review member.

3 CHAIRMAN STERN: Thank you.

4 MR. ROACH: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN STERN: Thank you so much.

6 That's a nice segway to our next speaker, Laurette  
7 Mulry. She is an attorney with the Senior  
8 Citizens Division with the Legal Aid Society.  
9 Laurette has been with us along the way  
10 and always has great information to share.  
11 Welcome again.

12 MS. MULRY: My name is Laurette  
13 Mulry. I'm an attorney with the Legal Aid Society  
14 of Suffolk County. I have the unenviable task of  
15 following George Roach but that's okay. I have  
16 the enviable job of working with him and many of  
17 you that know him, know that's a wonderful place  
18 to be. I want to thank you for the opportunity to  
19 present again today issues that we see at Legal  
20 Aid. When last I spoke, I did bring to you some  
21 good news out of Governor Elliot Spitzer's office.  
22 They announced their formation of a task  
23 force on predatory lending. That task force  
24 goes by the name H.A.L.T. which stands for Halt  
25 Abusive Lending Transactions, and now shared by

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the New York State Banking Superintendent Richard Nylan who has the responsibility of analysing the problems on predatory lending for senior citizens, specifically, and other types of groups who are frequently targeted by predatory lenders. That was good news because we have many clients call the office faced with possible predatory lending and have been victims of that. And, so, a task force has been set up. It's great because not only are they responsible for looking into the problem but they're also charged with doing something about it, which includes proposing legislative and regulatory reform and also pursuing enforcement in cooperation with Federal, State and Local re-enforcement agencies. Again, this is great news for county seniors, that there is a task force overseeing some of these problems. Much like that task force, our office had recommended to the New York Attorney General's office, the formation of a task force to look into automobile dealerships deceptive sales tactics. We have calls from citizens where they have been victims of the worst sales tactics and deceptive practices in the purchase of an

2 automobile. We feel a task force should be put  
3 into place and I included in my package to you, a  
4 letter to the Attorney General's Office  
5 recommending this impaneling of a task  
6 force in coordination with New York State  
7 Department of Insurance. Our prior speaker may be  
8 a good person for the chairman for that task  
9 force. I also included in that package  
10 to you a press release that came out of New York  
11 City Department of Consumer Affairs. Apparently  
12 there was an investigation going on in New York  
13 City that at least 8 different auto dealerships  
14 were involved and may be even revoking licenses of  
15 the dealership because of the deceptive  
16 practices, which include adding on additional  
17 stuff with warranties and other unnecessary items  
18 or inflating the purchase price, so it basically  
19 negates a down payment. These are some of the  
20 practices that New York City is saying violated  
21 consumer protection laws. This task force was  
22 formed, put together, to address these issues as  
23 well. One thing that I do want to point out, that  
24 this press release they do list several of the  
25 dealerships being investigated and they do have

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branches out here in Suffolk County. In fact  
the subject, to our offices, was complaints and  
bad practices. So, I do feel that  
practice would have an impact out here  
in Suffolk County and a task force  
might support automobile deceptive  
sales practices. I just read an  
article  
the other day by a Harvard Professor why we have  
Federal Product Safety Commission, yet we have no  
Financial Product Safety Commission. Also, more  
sophisticated financial forms when purchasing  
an automobile. I do feel that an Automobile task  
force against deceptive practices would be a good  
start, that's showing follow up on issues  
presented. I'd like to follow up on an issue that  
I had before and that is mobile homeowners and  
renters. I know a common thread at these  
meetings has been the lack of affordable housing  
in Suffolk County. That echoes many times. I'm  
sure you guys can feel that. Mobile home  
ownership has been a viable alternative and an  
affordable alternative to many  
of our senior population. Unfortunately,

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2 they do not have the same rights that the tenants  
3 may have under the landlord tenant law. With  
4 that, they are subject to a compromised position  
5 should that mobile home operator, should he  
6 decide to sell that facility. Because of that we  
7 had made suggestions to a task force including the  
8 right of first refusal. We have suggested,  
9 perhaps, a home rule message, is something that  
10 the Suffolk County Legislator could do to initiate  
11 change on the State level. I've included in my  
12 packet an article that came out of the Washington  
13 Post and it talks about right of first refusal  
14 with regard to public housing. That has a part of  
15 the D.C. Legislature that gives them the right of  
16 first refusal. That might be helpful in  
17 formulating something on this level. I want to  
18 thank you for the opportunity to speak today and  
19 past meetings. I look forward to positive change  
20 coming out of your diligent efforts. Thank you  
21 for helping us and our Senior Citizens. Thank  
22 you.

23 CHAIRMAN STERN: Thank you. Thank you so  
24 much. It's warm here. There are fans here and  
25 in the back. The one fan over here is a little

2 better.

3 MS. BARONE: I sit on the Board of  
4 Trustees, M.T.O.A. and at our last meeting  
5 Gallessy addressed the group, and a gentlemen by  
6 the name of Vito Lopez another legislator does  
7 not commend the concept and has been blocking it.  
8 They've been invited down to Riverhead in August  
9 and like to know --

10 CHAIRMAN STERN: Hold on. If you can  
11 repeat the question before you answer.

12 MS. MULRY: I understand that  
13 he had spearheaded efforts and the right of first  
14 refusal and unfortunately it's been blocked up in  
15 Albany. She's asking me if I would attend a  
16 meeting at the mobile home association meeting in  
17 August and perhaps initiate some change. I would  
18 be very happy to partake in that.

19 MS. BARONE: I'll call you.

20 MS. MULRY: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN STERN: Can everybody hear?  
22 I want to ask the speakers to speak closer  
23 to the microphone please, loud and clear. Is  
24 that okay?

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That panel can hear, we

2 can't.

3 CHAIRMAN STERN: Make sure that we can  
4 hear. I'll ask for the speaker repeat the  
5 question slowly and clearly. Next speaker Ellen  
6 Eichelbaum not just local, but national expert on  
7 senior and geriatric care and a tremendous friend  
8 to this task force. It's really a great pleasure  
9 to welcome Ellen.

10 MS. EICHELBAUM: Thank you. Good morning.  
11 Can you hear me? I hope so because I speak for a  
12 living. My name is Ellen Eichelbaum.  
13 I have had the privilege of speaking to  
14 companies for the  
15 last 22 years on how to build trust and ethics  
16 with senior clients. Most of my work is traveling  
17 around the country training salespeople  
18 and how to build trust and not rip off our  
19 senior citizens. Here I have a great opportunity  
20 and I have with the Town of Huntington for the  
21 last fifteen years I've have the pleasure to be  
22 able to talk to senior groups about their wishes  
23 and wants. Do they want to grow old on Long  
24 Island? What they'd like see? Issues? And what  
25 was is the most important thing in their lives

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2 and I can say that I never heard a senior say that  
3 I want the biggest car and the biggest house.  
4 They say I want my family to get along. I want  
5 good family relationships. I want to live this  
6 part of my life in harmony. Sound familiar? So  
7 this is what I have proposed -- First of all, are  
8 you interested in a few specifics? It's a very  
9 extensive package that I put together, so I'd  
10 appreciate it. Some specifics I find extremely  
11 interesting. People between the age of 25 and 34  
12 years old, 99.7 percent of them have at least one  
13 parent alive. People between 35 and 54, 84.1  
14 percent have at least 1 parent alive. People  
15 between 55 and 69, 35.4 percent have at least  
16 parent alive. Those that are 70 and above, 3.5  
17 percent have at least one parent alive. Also,  
18 between age 25 and 34, 51 percent have at least 1  
19 grandparent alive. Those people between 35 and  
20 64, 20.6 percent have at least one grandparent  
21 alive. What that tells you is that there are a  
22 lot of multiple families living today. Many are  
23 taking care of their baby boomer children and  
24 their elderly parents. Very few people want to  
25 move way from Long Island if they don't have to.

2 People who grew up here, I know people who paid  
3 \$10,000 for their house, and it's now worth  
4 \$700,000. It's something no one could have  
5 imagined. If you knew you would have bought 10  
6 of them, right? Okay. Let me explain what I've  
7 been doing for the last 15 years in the lovely  
8 Town of Huntington. I've been talking to seniors  
9 and I noticed a program about 10 years ago,  
10 called: Why my kids want my money and why I don't  
11 want to give it to them. It really revolved  
12 around how to talk to your kids about sensitive  
13 issues. As we get older, we need to let our  
14 families know how we feel, what we want, and not  
15 what they want for us. Express ourselves and I  
16 believe our families will have a much closer,  
17 harmonious relationship. Nobody wants to move  
18 away from their family. Very few people do. From  
19 their kids maybe, but they got the grandkids to  
20 come back for them. I have the privilege to  
21 speak to all the nutritionists a few months ago  
22 about certain programs. I now have the privilege  
23 resource on the National Council of the  
24 Aging, which just happened last week, on reverse  
25 mortgages, keeping seniors in their own home.

2 The N.C.O.A. wants you to know that reverse  
3 mortgage is a wonderful option and I want people  
4 to understand that there are a lot of  
5 misconceptions about it. I want to get the  
6 information out into the community on that. I  
7 just finished and still working on a P.B.S.  
8 series. It started off as a 13 part series on  
9 depression and won all kinds of  
10 awards and now becoming another 13 part series  
11 on depression. As you get older, a lot of  
12 depression can be avoided by social  
13 interaction, by knowing what's going on in the  
14 community and by better family relationships. So,  
15 what I have done is I put together a proposal for  
16 each separate Town for the County of Suffolk to  
17 put in place. We're going to start doing it in  
18 the Town of Huntington in September, right Sue?  
19 Hello?

20 MS. HARTY: I'm reading your program.

21 MS. EICHELBAUM: We have been so fortunate  
22 that the seniors in the Town of Huntington,  
23 laughing and loving and living, hugging and  
24 getting great relationships going. Why should you  
25 leave the Town of Huntington. We wrote a

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2 program, Living in Huntington and Loving it. I'd  
3 like see this program in every single Town in  
4 Suffolk County. Living in Islip and  
5 loving it, and living in Brookhaven and loving it.  
6 This is the first of the 6 part series that it's  
7 going to be: Do not let the doctor intimate  
8 you. Right? Let's talk to the doctor without  
9 having our kids tell us what they think we have.  
10 Let's not have to take our kids to the doctor all  
11 of the time. We're going to do role playing.  
12 We're going talk to you like you should talk to  
13 your doctor and feel good about the way he or she  
14 has treated you. Personally, I think doctors need  
15 a great lesson on sensitivity and aging. Don't  
16 you? The second part of the series, is  
17 understanding the options for staying in your  
18 homes. What are the options that you have for  
19 staying in your homes. Can you use the reverse  
20 mortgage? What does it mean when your 70 years  
21 old and your house is worth \$600,000 or \$500,000  
22 and you don't owe a mortgage. Can it help you eat  
23 out, go on the cruise, maybe health care? That's  
24 one of the part of the series. The third part  
25 that George alluded to is, how expensive is it to

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drive in Suffolk County? With the price of gas,  
insurance and to up keep your car. It may not be  
worth it to keep driving. One of the parts are  
going to be on that. The fourth part, how to  
identify friends or neighbors in need of help.  
There are so many people suffering by themselves.  
You people that come out and make themselves  
known, that's great. What about the next door  
neighbor who is depressed. What about your  
neighbor who in need of priority help. We need  
to find a way to get services for them. Fifth  
part, what is available in your town and how get  
the information when you need it? What do you do  
in an emergency? Where do you go? Who do you  
call? It's going to be what I hope each Town will  
have the resources at their fingertips to have  
the resources for each type of situation they run  
into. Also, what is fun and free in Huntington?  
What's fun and free in Islip? What's fun and free  
in Brookhaven? I'd like to see every senior stay  
here. I'm a senior myself very soon and 60 is  
very close. I'd like to see all of us stay here  
on Long Island. Unfortunately I can't do anything  
about the taxes. If I could, I'd lower mine

2 first. Transportation -- And I do wish I could  
3 drive everyone of you somewhere by myself but I  
4 can't, Prius gets 52 miles a gallon. What I can  
5 do work with the wonderful heads of the County of  
6 Suffolk to help you feel better about where you  
7 live, and let you know about the options and  
8 outreach services Suffolk County has for you. So,  
9 I ask for funding, to create a committee to train  
10 people in each Town, and deliver more programs for  
11 seniors to get them out of their homes and into  
12 the senior centers and start to enjoy this part of  
13 your life. This is the part of your life that you  
14 lived to deserve. Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRMAN STERN: Thank you so much.

16 MS. HARTY: Good morning, Ellen.

17 I want to make a comment. I know the staff and  
18 myself at the Huntington, we hear an outreach is  
19 really what we need to do to get the information  
20 out there so people know about things that are  
21 going on and a program of this nature is really to  
22 help cause and effect. I thank you for all of the  
23 volunteering you've done in getting the word out  
24 and bringin all of this wonderful information.  
25 That you so much. Ellen, the idea of outreach is

2 critical to the senior committee.

3 MS. EICHELBAUM: Thank you, Sue. It's  
4 been a privilege.

5 CHAIRMAN STERN: So, you've been  
6 throughout some of the communities locally.  
7 You've been around the country, literally, twenty  
8 times and back. You've had opportunity to speak  
9 to professionals and seniors themselves and gives  
10 you a neat prospective, so I'm wondering if you  
11 can share with all of us maybe some of the best  
12 programs that you've seen, some of the best  
13 practices, what you've heard are some of the  
14 things that we do best here locally as well.

15 MS. EICHELBAUM: Yes, I have really like  
16 N.C.O.A. I get to work with people in private  
17 practice, public. I worked four years with State  
18 Farm and two years I worked with G.E. I'm really  
19 fortunate to be a speaker and trainer for these  
20 companies. What all of these professionals would  
21 like to see is to put a smile on everyone's face.  
22 That's the truth. I think that the most  
23 important thing, if I had to put it in one  
24 sentence is to get our mental health in  
25 good shape. Everything is an outpouring of your

2 mental health status, how you feel about yourself.  
3 How you're doing. How you feel about yourself and  
4 family. All that stems from how you feel about  
5 who you are. There are so many programs here in  
6 Suffolk County for you that you don't take  
7 advantage of that you should. You should because  
8 when you become part of a social network, you  
9 don't have to rely on your kids. You don't have  
10 to rely on other people. You become independent.  
11 I have had people say to me that I'd rather die in  
12 my house and I'm going to die on the LazyBoy  
13 chair because this is where I live and this is  
14 what I love. It brings programs to you,  
15 let's you get to meet your neighbors and stems  
16 from a mental health prospective.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What is your name?

18 MS. EICHELBAUM: Ellen Eichelbaum.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What?

20 MS. EICHELBAUM: Ellen Eichelbaum.

21 MR. FRITZ: As long as the Chairman  
22 brought up traveling all over, you and I, last  
23 December 2005, attended the White House Conference  
24 of Aging.

25 MS. EICHELBAUM: That's right.

2 MR. FRITZ: Would you like to make a  
3 comment on the flavor of that group to enact any  
4 legislation?

5 MS. EICHELBAUM: I promise I won't get  
6 into politics. I can't tell you who to vote for  
7 or who I should have voted for. I was very  
8 disheartened at the White House Conference on  
9 Aging, which was -- December 2005 is was? Oy. I  
10 actually served on the panel of experts  
11 on what the issues that seniors are facing in the  
12 coming 5 or 10 years. I can't say that there is a  
13 deaf ear on what seniors want and I can't  
14 really say that there's genuine top priority.  
15 If I were to put everything into prospective, I  
16 would say, nicely, there's a lot more that can be  
17 done for our seniors that's already been done. So  
18 if we cannot do it Nationally, let's try and do it  
19 locally.

20 CHAIRMAN STERN: Thank you.

21 MR. EICHELBAUM: Thank you. It's been  
22 my pleasure. Thank you, Chairman Stern.

23 CHAIRMAN STERN: Our next speaker is  
24 a representative from S.A.D. (Seniors Against  
25 Discrimination.) We welcome Mary Kern and we have

2 Eileen Murphy on deck.

3 MRS. KERN: Can everyone hear me?

4 I'm Mary Kern. I'm 74 years old and

5 a resident of Greenwood Village in South

6 Manorville. I'm the spouse of Robert

7 Kern, which is 52 years in October, 52 years went

8 so fast. I'm an associate of S.A.D. since its

9 inception in 2003. I was working on the

10 H.M.O. since 2000. S.A.D. takes on many issues,

11 State, Federal and local. On our website, we have

12 website, we have links to other organizations that

13 are local, to help seniors. We have telephone

14 numbers of our local representatives that you can

15 call. When you have a problem, when you don't

16 like an issue, call. People don't like to write

17 and a lot don't have computers. Okay? We have

18 Medicare on there and other agencies and we can

19 help you. We try and put in the latest updates,

20 which right now changes, July 1, 2007. We mailed

21 out three newsletters to our members. We also

22 do the upper half column of Suffolk County Life

23 and we're trying very hard to do that. Many

24 seniors have trouble keeping up with the everyday

25 life, the high cost of living, property taxes,

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2 health insurance, medical, medicine, food  
3 utilities, transportation in Suffolk County.  
4 Many seniors cannot keep up with the fast pace  
5 of changes that are happening. They are much  
6 faster than when we were younger. Now, almost  
7 every year we have to make changes. A lot of  
8 those seniors do not have the access to know what  
9 those changes are and some don't understand on how  
10 to go about doing it. In my complex I go around  
11 and pick up the phone and call Medicare. Seniors  
12 must help themselves, must help each other  
13 and if you help a neighbor, the neighbor  
14 in turn helps another neighbor. A smile goes a  
15 long way. When I'm depressed, and I get depressed  
16 quite a bit, when I'm depressed I work in my  
17 garden. I criss-crossed from the Bronx to  
18 Queens, and skipped over Nassau County and landed  
19 in Suffolk, Town of Babylon, Smithtown and  
20 Brookhaven. My next move is into a pine box, in  
21 Suffolk County. My husband wants to get out  
22 in the worst way. That's not going to happen.  
23 There are many, many issues and there are many  
24 support groups and I think the issue is to make  
25 sure that many seniors, the information gets out

2 to them on the website. On our website, we do  
3 have links to other agencies that can help you.  
4 The towns provide wonderful services and I'm very  
5 proud of ours in Brookhaven. Wonderful things  
6 are happening in the Town of Brookhaven.  
7 Huntington had a lot of issues with  
8 transportation, and moved along further  
9 than we are in Suffolk County. I just want to  
10 say that, what's it like living in Suffolk  
11 County, growing old? Highs and lows. That's  
12 life, highs and lows. So it's up to  
13 you seniors to help our seniors. I just want to  
14 thank everyone of you today and the task force  
15 behind it and my husband for putting up with me  
16 for 52 years and me putting up with him. I do  
17 hope that you hear the information. I have  
18 learned so much and hope to learn more. Seniors  
19 are not too old to learn and to start getting  
20 together and to help each other. Thank you.

21 MS. RHODES-TEAGUES: Eileen Murphy is next.

22 MS. MURPHY: Good morning. Thanks for  
23 the opportunity. Eileen Murphy. I'm from the  
24 Senior Center in West Islip. All of what is up on  
25 the stage is part of the senior project here in

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2 this center and we're very proud of it. I have a  
3 proposal on a program that I would like  
4 implemented. I don't know how many of you are  
5 terrorized by this war on terror, but  
6 the idea of losing my identity is upsetting to me.  
7 If it's upsetting to me, and I'm a very calm  
8 person, I know it's got to be upsetting to a lot  
9 of people. I'd like to see all the Towns get  
10 together and implement, each Town, each  
11 senior center, a program where you can bring  
12 your valued documents, marriage license,  
13 driver's license, birth certificates, and  
14 having copies to put on a disc, give you back your  
15 papers and give you back your discs. It's just a  
16 convenience to have all in one place that we don't  
17 have access to, our Medicare cards, all necessary  
18 information about contacts. I'm computer  
19 illiterate. Everyone else has got grandchildren  
20 that are computer literate. I assure you they'll  
21 appreciate having everything in one place, on one  
22 little disc. Thank you.

23 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: Thank you. Terry  
24 Martino.

25 MS. MARTINO: Very good to

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2 be a member of this center. I bring people back  
3 and forth. The problem is transportation. We  
4 need better transportation for everyone, so when  
5 have to go, we don't have to rely on someone  
6 else to take us. So, that's my main thing.  
7 Another thing, tomorrow is my birthday and today I  
8 learned my insurance is going to go up. I didn't  
9 like that very much and that's it.

10 MS. GALLOGY: I just wanted to tell you  
11 that we have heard about transportation, and  
12 everyone of our staff, and it's something that we  
13 are looking at. There are no immediate answers  
14 on the transportation issues, but I will tell you  
15 that we're all committed to trying to make  
16 improvements.

17 CHAIRMAN STERN: I'd just also like to add  
18 that Suffolk County government is going through a  
19 significant analysis, right now, throughout  
20 Suffolk County, so we're holding our public  
21 hearings at a great time. Now is the right time  
22 to have these conversations because we're going to  
23 be coordinating our efforts as they're undergoing  
24 their study as well to try and come up with some  
25 meaningful solutions. Ongoing efforts are right

2 now.

3 MS. MARTINO: Thank you.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm the Senior Clerk here  
5 since it's inception and I would like to see a cap  
6 put on property taxes. Several years ago we  
7 received a tax STAR prom. Yes, the tax bill  
8 wasn't bad at all that year. It was wonderful.  
9 That joy didn't last very long because very  
10 shortly, we got the next tax bill and taxes went  
11 up, \$400, at least, for the last three years or  
12 so. Yes, we did get a rebate in the fall but  
13 can't get too frivaleess with that rebate because  
14 very shortly we will be getting another tax bill  
15 and that will be greater than the one we got  
16 before. Started it the top with the STAR program.  
17 Why not now start at the bottom and work upward  
18 and do something about it rather than talking  
19 about it all the time and get rid of the bandaid.  
20 I also want to talk about prices and what you pay  
21 in the supermarket. A half gallon of milk for me  
22 cost \$1.98. My daughter lives in Sun City, she  
23 gets a whole gallon for that. Eggs, most of the  
24 times it's \$2.00. My daughter gets a dozen eggs  
25 for a \$1.00. A loin of pork, if you get them on

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2 sale it might be \$1.98 per pound. Most of the  
3 time they are at last \$2.98 per pound. My  
4 daughter can get pork chops for \$1.00 a pound. I  
5 know the cost of delivery can't be that much more.  
6 It's time to do something about these problems.  
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN STERN: By show of  
9 hands, how many of you, last year, got an 8  
10 percent raise? So obviously the cost of living  
11 property tax raise far exceeds what we all get.  
12 Let me say a couple of things. First of all, we  
13 know that at the County level. We're very, very  
14 proud that we cut the County portion of the tax  
15 bill. We all now that the county portion of the  
16 tax bill is maybe 10 to 15 percent. At least at  
17 our level of government, we're trying. Many of  
18 you know that there has been pending  
19 legislation, in State Legislature, to put some  
20 type of cap on the property tax for senior  
21 citizens. We co-sponsored legislation that  
22 passed, Suffolk County Legislation, in support of  
23 that legislation, which means, if they ultimately  
24 do what they should be doing, at the State  
25 level, then we can ultimately implement it on the

2 County level. Write your representative and let  
3 them know that you support that legislation so we  
4 can implement that for you.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a question. How  
6 come I have a home in North Carolina and my taxes  
7 are \$1,000 and I have a bigger house. Why are the  
8 taxes here so much more money in New York? We  
9 have schools there too.

10 CHAIRMAN STERN: It's the school portion  
11 is about 70 percent of your tax bill.

12 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: Next speaker.

13 We have a lot to cover here. Moral? [PHONETIC]

14 MR. MORAL: You hit the nail on the  
15 head. There are two bills in Albany, giving us  
16 tax relief, Bill 245A and Bill 7084 giving tax  
17 relief to seniors above 70 years of age. Who do I  
18 get in touch with? Chuck Schummer, no answer.  
19 Hillary Cliton, she wants to be President. She  
20 doesn't want to be bothered. Steve Isreal  
21 responded and said, we'll do everything we can.  
22 That's only one out of three. That tells you a  
23 story. Steve, you said six percent raise? I'm  
24 1.4 cost of living adjustment. What are they  
25 doing for us seniors? They're dumping us. Thank

2 you.

3 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: Thank you. Next speaker  
4 Roberta Monat.

5 MS. MONAT: I'm just in Massachuettes  
6 last weekend and gas up there was 2.97,  
7 and come back home and it's 3.25. Getting out to  
8 the Cape, an hour past Boston. I share your  
9 frustration about these kinds of costs. I'm  
10 Roberta Monat, I'm a licensed geriatric social  
11 worker. I've been working with the aging for  
12 26 years. I'm the Chairperson on the National  
13 Association of Social Workers Committee for the  
14 Aging and Crimes against Elder Task Force and  
15 Family violence. One of the crucial issues is the  
16 lack of mental health services especially for the  
17 homebound. This issue has not been adequately  
18 addressed for many, many years. According to the  
19 New York State Office for the Aging over the age  
20 of 75 increased by 28 percent and over 85  
21 increased 40.7 percent. By 2015 it will increase  
22 by 37.74 percent. Of 225,000 seniors in Suffolk  
23 County, 112,000 will have some type of disability  
24 and some 29,500 have difficulty actual getting  
25 out. According to A.A.R.P. bulletin of March

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2003, by 2025, the number of aging Americans with emotional problems is expected to climb to 15 million. Millions of older people are expected to grow older. Twenty percent of elderly people with disabilities, with depression and anxiety being the most common problem. One third in later life will experience depressive episodes. The shame of it is tha they are underprivledged of services which only persit despite the fact that older people, as older people need treatment and appears to be a significant factor in the high suicide among elderly men. Two, it often results in premature placement of elderly persons in nursing homes. Three, the elder health has poor outcomes when their mental health isn't being treated. Four, the fact that they have a disability leads to higher health costs. Less than 1 and 1/2 percent of all community based mental health goes to the elderly. Only 4 percent of the mental health centers takes people over the age of 65. I've done counseling for the elderly for many years. When I first started counseling for the elderly, there was a geriatric pyschitrist, social worker and a nurse. They

2 went to the home of the person with depression and  
3 provided medication and information and follow up.  
4 It was fantastic program and helped the people  
5 live in their own homes. These teams were phased  
6 out. We do not have social workers that do any  
7 home counseling, wellness counseling and  
8 mental hygiene. Screening with a part time  
9 certified associate, back twenty years and  
10 it never expanded, only few people. It's time  
11 that we revisited this issue. I know that funding  
12 is a primary issue but something needs to be done  
13 with doing teams and social workers to make home  
14 visits. In Pennsylvania for example, geriatric  
15 associates reach out to older people  
16 providing services in the home. Geriatric programs  
17 provide mental health to people ages 60 and over.  
18 We should be able to do that here in Suffolk  
19 County. We need a short term task force to  
20 develop that type of program. Thank you.

21 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: I want to say, I think  
22 the majority of the people on the task force feel  
23 that the geriatric screening team are, is a  
24 service that's sorely missed in Suffolk. We're  
25 all working with the office of Department of

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SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE

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2 Health to see if we can get some of the services  
3 in place. We have been meeting two years and now  
4 working toward it.

5 MS. VERITY: Eileen Verity from Catholic  
6 Charities. Can everybody hear me?  
7 My name is Eileen Verity. I'm an administrator  
8 for seniors at Catholic Charities. I'm here to  
9 talk to you about the nursing program in Suffolk  
10 County. Before I do that, I'd like to ask each of  
11 you to take a moment to imagine that you are not  
12 the independent, active person that came here  
13 today. Imagine yourself as a frail and disabled  
14 senior, 85 years old, widowed and living alone.  
15 Imagine yourself with two children who live out of  
16 state, who call, but not close enough to provide  
17 essential needs. They are unable to leave home  
18 because severe arthritis make every step painful.  
19 Meal preparation is painful because of the  
20 arthritis that racked your body. You're pleased  
21 to have Meals on Wheels, receiving dinner 5 days a  
22 week. Now it's morning and you're making your way  
23 out to your front hallway, and for no reason you  
24 trip and fall, and as you hit the floor you hit  
25 your head, and the pain goes through your

2 body. You fall to the floor, fear, realize my  
3 daughter's not calling until tomorrow night.  
4 My son is on vacation and nobody else is going to  
5 miss me. So, now I'm stuck here on the floor.  
6 Suddenly the door bell rings. There is  
7 a knock at the door, and I remember, there's the  
8 Meals on Wheels driver here with my meal and you  
9 call out and say, I'm on the floor, please help,  
10 I can't get up, looks like you're going to have  
11 call 911. A few moments later, the driver says, I  
12 called 911 and they're on the way. I'll wait here  
13 until they come, and the driver waits. When the  
14 EMTs come and say, can I call your daughter for  
15 you, you say, I can't remember the number right  
16 now. No problem because the Meals on Wheels  
17 driver will call the office. They have the number  
18 because they have an emergency contact for  
19 you. When the Meals on Wheels driver shows up,  
20 you show them pictures of grandson pictures,  
21 there can you see them in that. Difficult to  
22 imagine. That's the story, one of the  
23 stories of our Meals on Wheels clients. It's also  
24 the story of one of the Meals on Wheels drivers.  
25 It's a program for the frailest home bound seniors

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in Suffolk County. Stay in their homes and assist them. They don't drop and run. Our drivers know that they may be the only face the client sees a day, a week, or a month. They may be the only kind word shared with a senior during the course of a day, a week, or in a month. They are the watchful eye for the seniors getting a meal. Meals on Wheels is all about severing your neighbors. It's about helping those who can no longer help themselves. The program funding Federal and State programs, and there's a wait list because funding is not sufficient. Legeslator Stern, asked Ellen Eichelbaum to name one of the better programs and how they're doing. Suffolk County Office for the Aging, Holly Rhodes-Teague and her team make it possible for Meals on Wheels despite the lack of funding from the government. Almost 30,000 meals in 2006 were served. Transportations for seniors Catholic Charities all available funding senior in immediate across county Catholic Charities and proud to meet everyday some of you may know Catholic Charities is 50 years of servicing this area. Communities celebrate

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2 their homes that they built and celebrate  
3 giving back to Long Island, and proud to  
4 here. So often the need of senior lost  
5 and conversations made with seniors have been  
6 forgotten. So everytime which Cathiloc Charities  
7 can fill that side. It's a priviledge. Catholic  
8 Charities past 50 years and look forward to 50.  
9 We all know that as the population grows, baby  
10 boomers and aging boomers, funding for seniors  
11 must grow with it. We all know that the senior  
12 population is the fastest growing population on  
13 Long Island. Catholic Charaties is continuing  
14 services and needs that funding for programs. We  
15 all agree, no child left behind, well, no  
16 senior left behind and it's time to give back.  
17 They have given to Long Island and there are cries  
18 out for help and we respond and say, we're  
19 here. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN STERN: First of all, you  
21 mentioned 30,000 meals in 2006, what  
22 geographic area does that apply to?

23 MS. VERITY: Town of Babylon. Total  
24 Long Island 210,000 meals to seniors  
25 It only grows, by 10 meals a day, the Town as the

2 population grows.

3 CHAIRMAN STERN: Is there a waiting list?  
4 What number is waiting?

5 MS. VERITY: There are 160 right now,  
6 seniors waiting trying to receive meals, and it's  
7 160 long on the waiting list.

8 CHAIRMAN STERN: Do you know how many  
9 volunteers locally?

10 MS. VERITY: We work with A.R.C.  
11 We have probably about 30 volunteers. I can't  
12 speak for the rest of the County but we have 30  
13 volunteers.

14 CHAIRMAN STERN: Thank you. I just want  
15 read to you and into the record, there is a  
16 volunteer registry, a volunteer website  
17 [www.volunteersli.net](http://www.volunteersli.net), phone number 877-546-3848,  
18 and it's a place for Long Island to  
19 find volunteers and professional volunteers.  
20 It's a tremendous resource to bring these to  
21 me. If you want to volunteer time and want to  
22 volunteer their expertise, there's a place to do  
23 that. It's a great organization.

24 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: Eileen, you're right. We  
25 tried to get Federal funding, and not kept up.

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2 Legislator Steve Levy and Stern increased the  
3 amount of money into the program.  
4 Meals on Wheels is a big program and  
5 it's growing and we're doing the best  
6 we can.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: A person comes to your  
8 house?

9 MS. GIACOIA: I'm from the Town of  
10 Southampton. We provide 60,000 meals a year, home  
11 delivered. There are social workers and  
12 they have to go through the Town's hiring process.  
13 They have to get an I.D. badge that goes into your  
14 house, Town of Southampton I.D. and a picture on  
15 it. A Meals on Wheels accessor, Office for the  
16 Aging requires certain criteria and is somewhat  
17 safe. Just make sure they use that proper I.D.  
18 badge. We keep a very tight grip and the same  
19 with the drivers.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: All over Suffolk?

21 MS. GIACOIA: All over Suffolk. We all  
22 have to be very carefull of sending anybody into  
23 frail elder's house. I can say that in Suffolk  
24 County, we're very careful, Town by Town with  
25 that.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What about funding?

3 MS. GIACOIA: The question just  
4 mentioned, Federal Governemnt?

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Special funds from the  
6 State?

7 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: I'm not familiar with  
8 what you're speaking of.

9 MS. GIACOIA: The County gives a  
10 tremendous amount of funding for the programs.  
11 It may not be enough to service everybody. They  
12 do get to the 60,000 meals out in Southampton.  
13 That's a big number. We do have a the monies  
14 there to make sure that whoever we're sending out  
15 to the home is safe.

16 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: County wide we have  
17 625,000 meals a year. Next speaker. Linda  
18 Wayne-Weber.

19 MS. WEBER: Good morning. Mr.  
20 Stern covered the health and accuse irk [AOEURBGS]  
21 get to [WHOEFPL] mean Linda Wayne-Weber. I reside  
22 in Islip. I'm 67 years old. I'm one of the  
23 350,000 people with disabilities in Suffolk County  
24 and one of the 112,000 seniors with disabilities  
25 and despite disabilites I also volunteer off and

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and on with a organizations for woman, local  
chapter. So, I'm still active, all though I'm  
no longer earning, gainfully employed. When I was  
gainfully employed my husband is still working.  
My primary concern is the exessive use rate LIPA  
charges any one uses move than 250  
kilowats hours per month. Anything used other 250  
kilowat hours is not only paid for, of course, but  
it's paid for at a different rate. The higher  
rate in the summertime particular burdensome for  
seniors who have health and diabilities and  
there are seniors not classified as disabled, as I  
am, but with a heart condition, diabetis and  
complications, recovering from toe  
amputation. There are seniors have hereto  
conversation need to use electric might have a big  
house and use a lot will have electric in the  
summer and particulary burdensome to them. I'm  
paying for more than two hundred a month for  
electric. My out of pocket health expenses from  
my tax 2,884.93, plus medical mileage and going  
back and forth for wound care and diabetic needs.  
Anybody with special medical needs requiring  
electricity for oxygen, stair climbers,

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2 airconditioning, etc should not be charged at a  
3 higher rate during the summer when the use higher  
4 anyway. So, the electric rates are higher anyway.  
5 LIPA says, well, we do charge different rates for  
6 anything over 250 kilowats. A  
7 little less but hardly anybody doesn't go over  
8 the excessive. I don't live in a mansion. My  
9 doors all property caulked. My windows are all  
10 properly caulked yet I just more than what LIPA  
11 considers to be the afternoon use that I should  
12 be using. Never get bill rate for the first 50  
13 kilowatt hours and then there is a rate for going  
14 over the 250. Now, how can I solve this problem?  
15 One thing I can do is rip up all of the floors in  
16 my house and put in electric heating and tear out  
17 my oil burner because, facilities that don't use  
18 fuel oil or don't have oil burners, they pay the  
19 lowest rate. They're considered good customers.  
20 I'm considered a wasteful customer. Where do I go  
21 to for help? We go to elected officials and  
22 municipalities and they're getting special credits  
23 from LIPA, sold on the idea that oil or oil  
24 burners, they're paying the lowest rate. When  
25 all the seniors do we are dutising more than

2 average electricity charged for a higher  
3 rate. Well I don't know I know this. I know my  
4 origin guys in the [TPEPL] [TPHEBGS] moment  
5 depression is really anger which has been  
6 internalized. So I say, don't get depressed,  
7 get angry. Thank you very much.

8 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: Thank you.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: May I say something. The  
10 question people have that they don't know why they  
11 get high electricity bill because people have to  
12 check meters, check it personally.

13 CHAIRMAN STERN: The comment from the  
14 audience to once a in a while to check the meter  
15 and match up with what comes in your bill. One  
16 comment this is the issue really as of you put so  
17 well not an issue getting some type of special  
18 treatment. It is a matter fundamental fairness.  
19 You have literally no other choice to  
20 utilize that type of electricity. It's a  
21 significant issue and something I and my colleagues  
22 [PHAOEPBLGS] [TPHAUS] [AOUPBS] [SOEPBTS] either  
23 Bern [STAERPBS] [TKPWOR]ing up pet [SAEUGS]  
24 absolutely talking to LIPA that's certainly  
25 something that's going to be part of the process.

2 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: Next speaker. Edward  
3 O'Conner.

4 MR. O'CONNOR: I live here in Babylon  
5 and my business is here in Babylon. I am a  
6 provider of reverse mortgages and happy  
7 to here. I'm not here to sell anybody anything.  
8 My goal is to raise public awareness of reverse  
9 mortgages. There's wrong information and  
10 misconception on how reverse mortgages works, how  
11 it could benefit you and good or bad, one of the  
12 key things raising the awareness and education  
13 is extremely critical. You have to learn about  
14 it. The purpose of my coming here today is that  
15 you and a family may benefit in learning about to  
16 learn more. It's not for everybody. You really  
17 need to understand. Reverse mortgages have  
18 increase tenfold over the past 5 or 10 years.  
19 Contract [KAL] to the prose I had occasion. One  
20 of the things bothers me one [AOEUBL] [PHRAS] take  
21 played a front cover almost a year ago, Suffolk  
22 County Tax sale, \$40,000. It was valued at  
23 \$250,000 or \$260,000. After years, she lost her  
24 house. I don't know where she's living now she  
25 didn't say anything to her son or anybody. If

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somewhere along the line in counsel get that was  
her only problem with a reverse mortgage. I'm  
sure come con [STAEUBGS] only income have suit  
only a few hundred dollars a month. Made aware  
for her still living in her own home. Wouldn't  
have financial difficulty and lost her home  
because of property tax should not income tack.  
Why nobody knew and got involved and she  
didn't know very usefull for some people. One.  
[PROEF] [SPAOEBGS] [KAOERS] American [KPHRUPB]  
[AOERLD] talk to other people. Very private  
people plus and minuses just a little be  
benefitial to someone. I'm really just trying to  
raise the awareness. They think that the bank can  
take the house, that's not true. That's what  
turns people off. Look a little more into  
and get the facts and find out if options. A lot  
of different agencies know about it didn't come  
up. I have done presentation work in their  
office come up to me I didn't know that we're just  
trying to raise awareness and educational process  
and look into if there is a benefit. Thank you  
very much.

CHAIRMAN STERN: This is send [HRAOE]

2 reverse mortgage in prom [HRAR] tee for  
3 information reverse mortgage County level someone  
4 referred out prove [HRAOE] counsel leer [KWUPB] of  
5 the good things before you can go through and  
6 [EBGZ] could you tell [TPRAOET] go see in[PEPBLT]  
7 counsel leer assuming [PHORPBLT] [PRAOERBGD]  
8 a[TPHAOEPBLTS] whether every it is there is a  
9 system in place whether the con [SAOULGS] accurate  
10 Information whether applies to them inpent  
11 [STK-PBD] way.

12 HOLLY: Next speaker. C. balance  
13 cast from S.A.D.

14 MR. BALCH: That's me. Good morning  
15 I don't I need this mike. I'm here one  
16 purpose I want to know what was happening H. M. E.  
17 O. Suffolk County [STKPWHRAOEPBS] up to par rest  
18 of the [STPHE] [SKWHR\*EGS]. Nassau County last  
19 year [PAOUT] tier king need to get for us. We  
20 have [SAOUFPL] business I have and Isreal going  
21 to get it. Ice rile fist time something going to  
22 work on. What happened to things Isreal said  
23 [TKPW-PBLG] to [PROEP] [WHRAFRS] I'm  
24 [TKPWRAEUPBLGS] in the County. count tee outside  
25 outside [WORBGs].

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Witness I'm a[PHRAOUBG] my company picked up  
the other part. I was part [TPHRAEUT] remember  
all the HMO your out no medical plan. Awore  
January, February, March, April, May, June, July,  
August fist got a note missued you up fully  
[KOEFRS] [HRAOERBGS] [HRAOE] [ORBGT] and I'd a  
hereto operation 57,000 whether or not he was  
going to pay for it. Not my I didn't have a the  
money, I don't under [TPHRAOUS] come fuel fund  
[HRAOE] now and Suffolk County still buy  
themselves. Beef me trouble there is a lot of  
things my [PHRO\*S] [POERPBLT] to all of the  
senior citizens. Suffolk County get off  
[TKPWAOUS] and tell them. I was talking to one  
guy back there he said to go to the office call  
everyone every day. I think go to the office  
gasline 3.25 got a new car go to doctor, drugstore  
and SHEP] [H-G] appeared [OEUT]. That is all.  
[TKWEUS] a [WAOERBG] dancing that's all we do  
don't go out at night enough crazies out there.  
I want to express myself, T. M. O. who steps  
Up Suffolk County not amount can anymore. I'm  
avet rant my more I had H. M. [OT]. They took  
away from me. Sorry people haven't got it now.

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2 All my friends in Nassau Count glad don't have to  
3 pay. That's all I want to say.

4 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: Wanted to Suffolk has  
5 been aware of the issue tried to get federal work  
6 on the and eventually [PHREUPBLG] [STRAEUGS]  
7 [SPA0EPB] sub might a brief.

8 CHAIRMAN STERN: What site going on  
9 right now, true, have legislation changed  
10 legislation june that law [STRAUT] how  
11 [TURPBGS] [UT] [\*] out count level joining what we  
12 can joining lieu site on your behalf.

13 MR. BACH: They don't like us.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Don't talk loud enough.

15 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: Next speaker. Vito  
16 Cattone, from S.A.D.

17 MR. CATTONE: Thank you. Our  
18 change [KPHRAPBS]. What you said was absolutely  
19 correct. I will speak slowly, so you understand.

20 MR. CATTONE: I don't know.  
21 I came to to this meeting, I thought I was pretty  
22 happy when I came to here. The problems  
23 that I hear and what I was going to discuss,  
24 are minsqual. People living alone, and falling  
25 down, can't making to the door, and does seem to

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be help wait to someone have these little  
[THEUPBS] [WAOER] and next maybe should had been  
some [PHOEF] excellent Suffolk County should give  
to anyone pork [HRAOE] STKEUS] [ARBLTS].  
How do we get this done? We don't get  
it done by talking about it. We get it done  
by going to our Legislators involved in don't go  
one at a time. We have to go in a group. We have  
Mr. Stern, how many Suffolk County seniors do we  
have understand 65,000?

MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: 244,799 seniors.

MR. CATTONE: Almost a quarter a  
million seniors. How many do we have today? Less  
than 200. There are people that may be  
disabled and they're not going to come from  
Montauk. You have these meetins around Suffolk  
County. I have a State Senator and Assemblyman  
and I get a questionare from them and  
love to see what the questions cover things going  
to help us or me? None. And some of these part  
of the committee for the aging. I bring up to  
them more pressing situation. Obviously, these  
not six 5 don't I'm going to go against going to  
talk about freezing taxes for seniors for those

2 over 70. I belong to S.A.D. We have a website  
3 S.A.D. seniors. Objection greet for  
4 [STAOEPBGS] we have a come piers we can access.  
5 Simile last [KWRAOEUR] Federal plan D. for prior  
6 [STAOERBGS] all the information you  
7 need on this website. A lot of seniors say  
8 website [TH-FP] [TKPWOF] nice in my house weapon  
9 side. See other seniors not computer literal rail  
10 don't have come [SAOEGS] all have a library.  
11 Go to the library. There are 10 computers lying  
12 around and I'd gone to [TKPWRAEURBGS] of the cock  
13 [PHRAEURBG] 10 comuters there and I asked them  
14 knew plan coming out for Medicare can senior go to  
15 you and get copies from the various drug copies  
16 that are having these plans today. They [STKAEUD]  
17 have to get copies of the [KAOEPBS] don't have the  
18 resources for it. I said have you gone to your  
19 assemblyman. Many talking to them about it  
20 don't look like going to get it I have a [PHRAOER]  
21 going to [TPRAOEPBT] my [AOEPL] [HRAOE] and rye  
22 and State Senetor John Flannigan. All I have to  
23 go provide \$6,000 a year just for resources  
24 maybe hire someone part time to help  
25 [STAOERPBS]. How many people have actually spoken

2 to their legislator about freeze tax other seven  
3 240.

4 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: We have to wrap up.

5 MR. CATTONE: Tense to be [HAOUPBGS]  
6 time very briefly [PARPBLT] things we have a  
7 look like Mr. Stern [HROUPL] actual spoken to  
8 there are legisters. I [KPAERBGT] to Seymour you  
9 people seem to be interested from what happening  
10 to seniors. My mother law, she turned of 40 gone  
11 for a check up and doctor said you need more  
12 exercise, start walking, didn't drink, didn't  
13 smoke, wasn't over weight, didn't [TKRAOEURBG]  
14 start walking she's now 97 and we haven't seen her  
15 since. Sometimes doctor tell you do something  
16 don't go too far. The point taxes, freezing  
17 school taxes for those over 70, the S.A.D.  
18 organization but for that three years ago, and  
19 also told it will pass it has couple of our people  
20 in Albany. One of the problems up there is that  
21 the Teacher's Union is against it.

22 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: You have to wrap up.

23 MR. CATTONE: The best that I can  
24 suggest is to get to the library, get to the  
25 website. We have representative that

2 comes out tell you what doing. Get involved.

3 Thank you very much.

4 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: Thank you. Next speaker,  
5 Chris Nolan.

6 MS. GIACOIA: You can also go to your  
7 local senior center. Most centers have computers  
8 and staff can help you get to that website.

9 MR. NOLAN: Brentwood Seniors  
10 Number one, you've heard a lot about programs  
11 today and I think they're great and hope they  
12 work. But I don't think they realize whether you  
13 guys are coming from. Going back to the [KWEU] we  
14 had 10 years ago.

15 Second World War [TPHAEUPS] shortage it loam now  
16 we get through all that live the good life all  
17 come to Long Island. Everyone coming here pay  
18 taxes, take care of your homes saw [KPHRE]  
19 [TKOEFRL] shopping, send [TAOERS] [PHALS] politics  
20 Reeds beaching and not only saw ion [STRAOES] here  
21 and our [PRAOEUF] the [HRAEUB]. [PHRAEURBG] lodge  
22 [AOEULD] one of the most [KPHARBGS] others in the  
23 County. Now they-us a lot. Long Island would  
24 not be here if it weren't for the seniors moving  
25 out here years ago. Still be [PEURBGS]eding

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SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE

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2 [POETS] other here. Farm land wanted a better  
3 life we built Long Island and goating shafted.  
4 I'll make it short. I don't consider myself a  
5 second class citizen. I pay taxes, raise kids,  
6 work, [KAEUDZ] [UFRP] take care of my family,  
7 my opinion not good enough [STAOEPBTS]  
8 citizens, Long Island. Thank you.

9 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: Thank you very much.

10 Next speaker, Ira Bernstein.

11 MR. BERNSTEIN: I just wanted, I'll be  
12 brief. I've spoken this [POS] part the rate  
13 [HRAEUFPP] charging many of our citizens.  
14 [STKEUS] exams line [TKA] delin web better  
15 [STARBLGD] about [HREUPBLG] [STAOEUPB] getting  
16 that issues out and to the public my [KWAUES] this  
17 mean [SPAERBGS] men [KHRUPB]ed this a lot of  
18 [TAEPLS] with don't like our taxes and don't  
19 Like electric rates and still love Long Island  
20 and want to stay here and some of the speakers  
21 Ask you or participate in getting programs done.  
22 I think Holly gave the number of seniors  
23 in Suffolk County, close to 225,000 [PHORB]ize  
24 that voice and fete started and get enough sick  
25 [STAERS] I think [PHOEF] mount [TAEUPBLGS]. Go

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SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE

back started writing this pet [STKERBG] [H-]  
today want tolerate tack [AEUBGS] without  
remitation you know [TPOUPBLD] [WHAFPLS] of the  
[AERPLS] greatest re[SAOERS] it's you our  
seniors. We have treatment deuce knowledge and  
portion around we recollect may recollect a did  
there ever [REPBT] but reneed you to [RAOEFPL]  
out your spoke to your [TPHAEURBGS] H [SPAORBG]  
to other [SPAOEPL] and get them to [TEUS] pate not  
only sign petitions but going and getting action  
check there record and if you don't like taxes  
find out record [EURPB] tracing taxes teachers  
Or other groups presenting go to PT A. meetings,  
go to the school board meetings. This is  
unfortunately really [SHR-FRPBS] on the each  
taken action going to setback let others [PHEPLS]  
task force do it alone not going do home go back  
and speak and talk to your Town Supervisors. I  
hope every Town [SPHAOURBGS] vice and takes  
action. [KHRAEUPBLG] [TPHROT] east status  
[TKPWOEU] east to keep need come case trying to  
get things on tell rice open Suffolk County things  
are going and people we have a in the down [-FP]  
Brookhaven [HRAEUPBGS] [EPBT] seen program

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SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE

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2 [SAOEPBS] [STAEUS] rate come [PHAPBLT] you  
3 can sit down and [-RB] [TOUT] to use the come  
4 [PWHRAOUT] [THA\*UF] alope [TAOEUPB] the to sign  
5 petitions and pass the [PHAOES] on of the task  
6 force.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I want to know task force  
8 why are the words one of the leads take upon  
9 themselves set up lobbying groups don't have  
10 lobbying. Make a list of people can ride and well  
11 to go on a number of issues. Another listening to  
12 call to contact people and put them on the list.

13 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: Not in a position to take  
14 questions. We have to keep the ball rolling.  
15 Elaine Karp, please.

16 MS. KARP: Friends, neighbors,  
17 Mr. Stern and panel. I just will make this  
18 very short and sweet. What I'm concerned about  
19 a 50 billion dollar cut that they extended through  
20 Medicare. Can anybody enlighten us about this?

21 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: 50 million in cuts  
22 in Medicare? There's cutting on a Federal level.  
23 I don't know about that.

24 MS. KARP: 450 million cuts in  
25 Medicare.

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SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE

CHAIRMAN STERN: The only thing I would say any cuts, Federal program all of us [SREUD] [TKPWOFD] [HROULS] [PHORS] went in Federal issues. The Federal government going to do what the Federal Government is going to do. Go and speak up to your Federal representative. Let them know that these Federal cuts to our Medicare program are absolutely unacceptable.

MS. KARP: Sent three letters, Clinton, Schumer and Levy. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN: Thank you.

MS. HUNT: Ilt this [ROS] [HRUPBT] I'm coming other to represent Supervisor Town of Brookhaven Senior Citizens tighted [PWROBG] [AOEPBT] many of the senior are sick or unable to travel. sense of am tee I'm agoing to feel powerless surcharges on LIPA, surcharges on Keyspan and then when the taxes come around, what do you do? Who can you complain to? You have to pay it. I have gone been HAOERS] can't even meet the by the food or drugs. What happens if they don't take the drugs the way they're supposed to so that they can spread it out longer. People have to speak

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2 up. That's when I heard about this task force I  
3 called immediately and wanted more information and  
4 tell the seniors in my area. I just want to tell  
5 you a story on why got involved vice  
6 tee. A few years back [PHAOPBLG] sere and  
7 manager and assistant manager speaking to a  
8 woman crying. I noticed. When they left, I  
9 went over to her and asked what's the problem?  
10 Why are you crying? She told me I can't come to  
11 the store anymore. I said, why? She took a can  
12 of soup and I put it in my bag. I said, why?  
13 And she said that she can't manage anymore.  
14 going to [WHREP] letter. What I find very  
15 hard to accept don't seem to realize we as seniors  
16 are powerful and we better start showing how  
17 powerful. Don't accept everything given to  
18 you. Went I got [TKPWUPBLG] [EPBT] with my LIPA  
19 with over \$375, I called up. When I had to pay a  
20 creed [EPBLD] of the seen [STOEPBT] [AE]  
21 dousefully challenge especially I'm not getting of  
22 this [STPOPBT] H. I'd 1 [HRUPB]ed  
23 taken of the budget. Don't be acceptable to pay  
24 everything they tell you. You have to fighting.  
25 I have fighting nationalities, all three

2 of them, all three of them. Don't sit back and  
3 say woah is me. At 2006 canned [STKAEUPBDZ] speak  
4 [SPAOERBG] and said [WHR-FLS] the bill to  
5 freeze the taxes up in Albany. Up in Albany, they  
6 think all seniors are rich. That's infair and  
7 byist. Where is that bill now?  
8 didn't leave ways and means come sent for [HRA]  
9 [SROEUL]  
10 reexperience [TOERD] they have to have a calm.  
11 Arent [HRAOE] whether is that bill still hanging  
12 in there, because you see the monies they have to  
13 lose is keeping us [TPROS] enrate have to have  
14 more [PHRORPBS] rate going when the seniors go, so  
15 goes Long Island. With vote, we support our  
16 community and by shopping in your community and  
17 they better start realizing that we are a force.  
18 You have to speak up. On that note, I'll leave.

19 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: Louise Massaro.

20 MS. MASSARO: I guess morning --  
21 I guess afternoon. My name is Louise Massaro,  
22 Chairperson of the Town of Brookhaven Senior  
23 Advisory Committee and I have to tell you which  
24 work very very hard for seniors, try our best to  
25 do what was we can for all of us and we are in the

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SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE

process of having our first senior center and my group seniors commission worked so hard to get this. This is in the process of being built. This is our the number one priority. We felt all the other Townships a senior center and now we are going to have one also. I know everybody talked about transportation. We all know that longevity goes hand in hand with transportation. The last week I told him I get information, they have have something called, all of us watching these [TPWAUS] he is go buy outline so I called the [TKEPLT] of aging and speak with someone and wanted to get more informatin employee going loo sire [KAOUS] very very didn't from Suffolk County. I found out also a waiting list just like we had Jitney Brookhaven you have to wait and call in advance. Sometimes where you are well, fine and during The night you get six. You can't wait until morning. You call your doctor's office, you have no transportation to get there. You call a taxi. You call a taxi and let's say it takes you to, let's say, Patchogue, that's \$25 one

2 way. You got to the doctor's office, you have to  
3 pay your copay. You have to fill prescription.  
4 Now you have to take a taxi to go home.  
5 They are saying do call up for your  
6 bus in advance. They had something else. They  
7 had emergency buses hether I eye thought be woo.  
8 [AOPBG] [ROUTS] and transportation told me  
9 they have buses that are on emergency just for  
10 something like that person no way to get to a  
11 doctor's office. That sounds good don't know  
12 feasible to do this. I just thought may be  
13 look into this. They do have buses that go to  
14 certain hospitals times and [AOERS] in sere screws  
15 for wall in clan. I'm thinking sound a  
16 [PHREUL] to the god Mr. Stern look into and let me  
17 know and I'll be in contact, Sir. Thank you very  
18 much.

19 CHAIRMAN STERN: Thank you. One of the  
20 things like to talk about earlier is senior  
21 citizens and access to transportation  
22 to add quality public transportation one of  
23 the themselves how can we better cordinate  
24 among the 10 towns here plane [KORBGS] [-RBL]  
25 one someone [TAEURBG] employee Town and medical

2 leave and special list lives so towns away all  
3 of our services and resources advance or minibuses  
4 because of volunteers live in other towns. How  
5 best coordinate all public transportation, much  
6 more regionally coordinated way.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Everyone got them now  
8 been up all night worried about what was wrong.  
9 There seniors. They have to find a doctor or  
10 someone call and ambulance.  
11 piece [TPHRAS] why I'm athing [AOEPL] see and play  
12 be to a month in order to get an ambulance.  
13 Please look into it.

14 MS. RHODES-TEAGUE: PEPL].

15 THE WITNESS: Good afternoon sorry  
16 about the heat. My name is Emily Chapel  
17 and I'm Director of Senior Citizens Services. I  
18 do see familiar faces here today. I'm delighted  
19 and honored that Legislator Stern and this task  
20 force designated this West Islip  
21 Senior Citizens Center as one of their Host sites  
22 to conduct the final public hearing to hear your  
23 concerns, and there are many. Having been  
24 Director for a little over one year, we  
25 fully recognize Islip Town Seniors Take full

2 price in effecting change with regard to senior  
3 issues, not only for yourselves but for future  
4 generations, that three months of public hearings  
5 that this task force has conducted, there's a  
6 great amount of work to be done with regards to  
7 all the issues that seniors face as a  
8 professional [WAORBG] mean [STRAEUPL] [HRAOEFR]  
9 [SEUFS] the seen citizens staff work very diligent  
10 in getting this together for today. We are  
11 working needs being met. I have observed first  
12 hand, issues of transportation, medicare,  
13 health, mental health, all need  
14 [AOERBG] [TAOEPBLGS] and as also observed very  
15 very live at this time resources. It's my hope  
16 legislator Stern and the Senior Citizen Task  
17 Force will not softly into the night but that you  
18 will effect some kind of change and basically  
19 provide you with the things that you deserve  
20 at the very least and remit huff [STKEUPBLG] nit  
21 tee. While I'm up to here, I'd like to take a  
22 moment to acknowledge the beautiful mural.  
23 This is the result of a very collaborated  
24 group of seniors, nine artist  
25 groups [TPOUPBLT] [TKER] aisle lien [PHAOUFP]

2 [RAOE] This is one small example of one great  
3 thing that can be accomplished by yourselves also  
4 the leadership of Legislator Stern as well as the  
5 task force. I'm an  
6 [HRAOEUGS] [PWARPL]  
7 [AOEUGS] ban [PWORPL] [AP] ration rear [PAPBS]  
8 [HRAOERS] aisle near [SAL] [ORPLT] [HRAOE] around  
9 [TKPWAER] [PWARPL] [TKPWARPBLGS]. Thank you very  
10 much for being here.

11 MS. RHODES-TEAGUES: Thank you. Elizabeth  
12 Geary.

13 MS. GEARY: Thank you. To [WUL] the  
14 upon he will member opportunity to speak  
15 today come to represent some of the folks that  
16 couldn't be here today because they are too frail  
17 or they have Alzheimers or demintia or they are  
18 family care givers TK-RBGT] tier day  
19 [HAOEF] [STKUPLT] [STAOEFRS] [SAOERBL] model did I  
20 [\*] day previous [TPEUS] I can [HRAOE] federal  
21 [SAOERPPTS] [THAOEUS] with [STKEFPLT] [KPHRAEU]  
22 [TKUR] [TKEU] time hours suppose or son or  
23 daughters whose primary care gaving go about  
24 day-to-day activities other [SKAOERBGS] people  
25 Long Island [SAOEUF]ing this populationn

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SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE

[TPHRAOER] [HRAOE] 25 years. We currently  
2 [PRALS] one in Ronkonkoma and one in mortgage  
3 [SKWRAOEFRS] see [SEFRS] [APBLG] 125 people daily  
4 and other 1 hundred people [APBL] [KWRUL] [HRAOE]  
5 the first paint [ROPBLG] [\*] [PRAPBLG] in [APBLG]  
6 plan 50 [KWRAOERPBLGD] [AOERL] on set ham  
7 [HAOEPLS] give [UFP] [HREUS] job no longer  
8 maintain company in the work force. Mrs. Receiver  
9 [SA] woman who is nine years physicallly tee  
10 [KOPBLG] [TAOEUF] [PHRAOEUF] [SHRART] as a [TARBG]  
11 [APBLGD] keep us on your toes. TPHREUGS] well  
12 balance years around recollection [WHRAEUGS] prom  
13 and helping people to continue to [POPBGS] it  
14 higherest level for as as long as possible [WHR-S]  
15 [PROEF] a connection to the community to a  
16 association group like yourselves and to [STEUFT]  
17 [KPHEUPB] daily basis June [KPHREUPB] prom  
18 dates, land [KAPLD] [STK-S] [-BL] transporation  
19 Help people get in as frequently as they can. In  
20 addition people severe [HROUPB] [\*R] Town of the  
21 Islip and Town Brookhaven and all the [HAOERS]  
22 other and take to maintain programs to [TAOES]  
23 which also have a [TPARBGS] [TPOUS] on the  
24 family care [STKPWAEUFR] these people cannot

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SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE

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remain at home unless somebody in there home and willing to take care of and support them in their home. They safe us lightly bill [KWRUPLS] [-FP] dollars a years. Semi and 1 to 1 sport and number and referral services. Extend \$10.00 day of care so that if a familiar care giver and needs to get to work 9:00 whether open a 8:00 and last bus leaves at 2:45. The purpose of my comments to ask us all to in[TKRAOES] [\*] crease educated funding cost effective place significant buck family care giver who was to pay 1 or 245 days a week, really make things send because care givers use our programs so they can safely continue to care for their loved one alone. So they can continue work and bull sister there actively. Large benefit association plod he will adult day program, able to keep people home longer liest level makes [HRUPL] man [SEPBL] and financial sense. We need to have more public support in order to [ERBGZ] respond access to these promise. I like to tell you a little bit more many of the folks that we receiver [-BL] to be home 34 to 60 years went north [HRAOE] [H-] to go to nursing home. N.J. State office of the

2 [OPBLG] [AEG] [TAOEUPB] to support the programs  
3 asked today look at ways to try and forge a  
4 greater [KOL] [WHRAL] bar Asian to a[SAOEUS] in  
5 getting programs and [STPAOEUPB] employee [EBGZ]  
6 [SPAPBD]ed action test to dedicated funddoing and  
7 making them affordable to everyone need them.  
8 Thank you.

9 MS. GIACOIA: Thank you to all of the  
10 great efforts in surface had had [SAOEPBS]  
11 special needs. Wanda Rivera.

12 MS. RIVERA: I'm one of the care  
13 givers. I people father [TKOEUR] gauge day law  
14 enforcement officer [TKPWFR] enus a reloaf  
15 going to be able to give me be able to work  
16 while these day [HAOEFR] ask the count for  
17 funding, financial, State someone [PHRAOEUBG] us  
18 working full time me and my husband and  
19 childredn and father in law. Funding very support  
20 Someone like a situation like ours pled occasion  
21 and livering [EBGZ] [SPEBGS] ask the task force  
22 help out in securing funding for these type of  
23 situation. Thank you.

24 PAM: Thank you, Wanda.  
25 Larry Knight.

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SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE

MR. KNIGHT: [KHRAOL] bus [#4R-] mime children to go to school private schools and public schools transportation seniors to the hop problem. In a last three years North Shore Union Hospital ask [TPRAOEUPBD] or [REL] [STAOEUGS] buy public transportation tofully [STABGS] from home, railroad station, and didn't [PAEUBG] plan hands [EPBS] bad [SKWRAOEURBGS] trying to taxi will not go to that company, tier tier Southside Hospital the only taxi going checker and other 1 hundred each trip. Which means four hundred school buses PWRAOEUFRR] buses used for medical transportation, Islip and amount [PWETS] cost [SROEFRS] a[TEUPBD] accident and not covered [STH-RPBS] I have someone.

PAM: Want to submit these comments? We only have three more speakers. Give them your attention. Vicki from come [PHARBGS] still here [SREUBG]. Thank you very much.

[THA\*UF] very much time to [SPAERBG] about Our [STKPWHRAOEPBS] specifically [WHRAOEPBLG] late story [STAOEPB] [WHROEPL] I feel more kernel senior issues. How wish come possible way of

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SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE

[PHRAOEUF] as a [TPHOURS] travel seniors count  
[HRAOE] first come too issues quay I feel bad went  
afirst came here. don't look to see older people  
disre[SRAOERBGT] most other [KOURPBT] [WHRAOE]  
respect older people. [SUS] full and four full  
counsel [WHRAOE] need to respect our [KOURPBLT]  
one of these days we have to grow up don't know  
become of us we become disable or whether every.  
I Gused to be a [TPHAOURS] able to able to [PARD]  
and working here as I go on my life aloor people  
compliant. I look to help not easily along  
[AOEULD] above [PHRORBGS] like to take care people  
[STAD] how treat old people history. Woman plan  
come [PWHRAEUS] treat had piece-dirt. -[KAEU] I  
have whether I have Huntington Township. First of  
all, since [STKEUS] [ARBLT] information WEPBTD]  
down live come max read tried to allay tax [OPL].  
I can't allow come [STAEUPGS] considered as  
amount went [AOEUF] [TKPWERBGS] [RAOEUGS]  
[TPHAOURS] [AOEUF] [PHORB]ing more [PHRAUPB].  
I plead tax examination around other relief  
not going to get it tax ato say [SERS] part of  
[H-P] N use to pay [THRAOEP] loop and [STKR-RS]  
[SHAORPBS] refuse to pay it. I came here heat

2 nurse and safe around [HREP] six people.  
3 Years ago, now have [SERBLGD] things people live  
4 in come [PHRABGS] ride H [SREU] come [PHAOERBGS]  
5 around coming people going very nose see and very  
6 damage [RAOES] and taxes very lie. [HAOEUF]  
7 [HAOEURB] legislation [SHRAEUS] [STAOERP] around  
8 other people taxes [SPAOES] [HRAOE] [KOFPL] max  
9 read. Second thing State Insurance Fund [SHRAUD]  
10 pay instead of bring through medicare [TPOT] fair  
11 people get medium care home, mid car should not  
12 get [TPHAOURS] or works also we pay lot of  
13 property tax, yes and much more school taxes  
14 helping many years. I don't know [KHAOEUL]  
15 Wednesday to private school how get ensmall amount  
16 increase to the same amount pay for taxes [HREP]  
17 chain to go to college.

18 PAM: Kay Mandel.

19 WITNESS: Me [AOEUFPLT] aim from  
20 constitute drive here every week by my young  
21 kids 94 and 93. It's a land full I was 2  
22 seniors going toward is 400. I have been  
23 interviewed Medicare and doing survey on the  
24 services to [PHRAEURBG] better for the future  
25 bEcause I'm from con cushion I have to use

2 every resource with taking care of the two  
3 seniors because of the long distance. The  
4 extensive calls, telephone numbers to call [TPOPB]  
5 [UPL] and one uses another program and two  
6 offices don't know about each other's programs.  
7 I need today you recollect talking [PROEFRPD] and  
8 [TAOEUG] to [PHRAEURBG] individual services and  
9 programs. I'm here too just give you an idea  
10 of what I think we should do nationally not just  
11 regionally. Long Island be the prototype for the  
12 nation. That is all I think of you here. My  
13 idea very similar he will [PHOUFPL] people [KWRUS]  
14 [\*] use commute [AOERB] die used yell badge  
15 [AOERB] body some time life. I think we can.  
16 We have the [APBLG] passenger he is with contact  
17 and there publishing company [AOEUPBGS] [OPBLG]  
18 [APBLG] passenger he is for senior citizens not  
19 just Long Island, and not just Suffolk County.  
20 It should be national and [REPBLG] flail [AOEFRB]  
21 fleece the yellow pages. My nine 94 year old  
22 mother doesn't know how to use the computer.  
23 Federal [PRAEUPLS] and [PHROTS] will have  
24 pictures and big print, we have the [HRAPBLG] he  
25 is for the government, orange pages very

2 important Long Island to be the prototype for  
3 this. Where is the PRAOES] all the local  
4 numbers and [HRAOEUB] [RAOES] all the senior  
5 centers. How about bill-role'

6 CHAIRMAN STERN: Can we love tv 2345.

7 THE WITNESS: I'm not familiar with all  
8 the Long Island C.V.S.' Long Island [WALD]  
9 [SAOEPBGS] [HOEFPL] dope [POE] show you how to fix  
10 things and give you have [STKEUS] counsel. I'm  
11 avery big on privatizing gets it done. Government  
12 doesn't always get it done. Steven making  
13 a real hard try to get done. Cable TV STAOEBGS]  
14 [RAOEPBLG] [HRAOE] and [AOERB] state [PWEUPBLG]  
15 ieds. LIPA -- how many people know that their  
16 many plane programs to help seniors there  
17 LIPA I mow [KREUD]ize. How many know about the  
18 The programs 1 appearances here senior citizens  
19 arm [STKPWHRAOEPBS] ask me send information and  
20 [HOUTS] [H-G] heap [HRAUS]ing [PRAOEPLT] didn't  
21 Know about the programs. I think yelllow  
22 pages is [SKALT] buses in [TPHRA] works per  
23 [TP-BGS] [HRAOE] your' to look into at least model  
24 across the [STPHAUDZ] and use the programs  
25 workes . Well, that's it. Thank you.

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SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE

Pam Pam: The last person Joseph  
Worsokwi. Sun Lee Richard.

WITNESS: AOERBGS] agreement

[PHRAOPB] [PWREUPBGS] to the attention of the task  
Force that a sufficient web whether I [SHRAOUS]  
come pollute local legislation have a  
re[STKAOUGS]-[SEFRS] it this [TPOEUPBT] in time.  
The access to the sufficient would can be played  
through your member that face tee going to be  
shut down after December 1. People can't December  
[T-G] to buy food or pled keen no cast dial up get  
to sad are government all of the darking it no  
cost from their home. Because the system is old  
that should be yanked December 31, 2007.

[STPHROUT] [HRAOE] observed. I don't know  
[HROUPL] people afford able vacation eye surgery  
as [HREL] [TPHROT] be giving [KABGS] visit that  
kind of money. I'm on [STKEUS] I can [KPHRAOES]  
13 or 14 [TPER] months the ask the lex business  
necessary of reduction in receiver and see can put  
a halt to it. To send a couple of bucks  
imprevious [KABL] bill piece [HAOE] accident all  
other.

CHAIRMAN STERN: Free for everyone coming

1

SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE

93

2 Today and thank you rou for other [SPHAOERBGS]  
3 [WHRA\*S] public hearing. Let me say thank you to  
4 All the members of the task force and came to all  
5 of the meetings, speakers and members of the  
6 panel come [PHAOEPBLT] [PRAOEFPL]al and seniors  
7 themselves and [TPOPL] [TPHAEUT] best going  
8 forward and [AOEBGS] [KPHRAL] [AOEFRS] and  
9 [TPAPLS] need thousandth Suffolk County. Thank  
10 you. Thank you so much. Thank you all all of  
11 [UFR] [SHAOES] [AOEFRG] in the fall

12

CERTIFICATION

13 COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)

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SS:

15 STATE OF NEW YORK)

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I, Charmaine DeRosa, Certified Court

19

Reporter, in the State of New York, do herby

20

certify:

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22

THAT, the foregoing is a true and

23

accurate transcript of my stenographic notes

24

taken in the Matter of the Senior Task Force,

25

on June, 28th, 2007, at the West Islip

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SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE

Community Center, West Islip, New York.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto  
set my hand on this 28th day of June, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charmaine DeRosa, CSR