VETERANS & SENIORS COMMITTEE

of the

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Veterans & Seniors Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on March 14, 2011.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Leg. Steven H. Stern, Chairman
Leg. Vivian Viloria-Fisher, Vice Chair
Leg. Edward P. Romaine
Leg. Lou D'Amaro

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk
Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office
Laura Halloran, Budget Review Office
Ed Hennessy, Aide to County Executive
Holly Rhodes-Teague, Director of Office for the Aging
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader
Deborah Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern
Dot Kerrigan, AME Legislative Representative
Rick Brand, Newsday
Justin Littell, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro
Eric A. Kopp, County Executive's Office
Michael Cavanagh, Aide to Presiding Officer
Jack Caffey, Aide to Presiding Officer
Kara Hahn, Communications Director, Presiding Officer
John A. Maur, VFW, Suffolk County
Sidney L. Lynn, VFW, Suffolk County
Honorable Judge Madeleine Fitzgibbon
Honorable Judge John Toomey
And all other interested parties

VERBATIM MINUTES TAKEN BY:
Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

VERBATIM MINUTES TAKEN BY:
Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:40 AM

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Good morning everyone. Welcome to the Committee on Vets and Seniors. I ask everybody to please rise and join us in the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator D'Amaro.

SALUTATION

I ask everybody to please remain standing and join us in a moment of silence as we remember Dennis Cannataro, the brother of Lynne Nowick, who passed away; and Nassau County Police Officer Geoffrey Breitkopf, who was killed in the line of duty this past weekend, and for those victims around the world of the Tsunami and earthquakes. And of course, for all of our brave men and women fighting for our freedom overseas, keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Okay. Welcome everyone. I don't have any cards. So, Holly, come on up first.

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:
Good morning. I don't really have a lot to say. I was off for a week, so, just getting back.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Welcome back.

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:
Thank you. The applications for Senior of the Year are due by March 25th. If anybody has a senior that they'd like to nominate, call our office for the applications. I know that they went out to everybody, but in case you don't have them, we have more.

The other thing is our HEAP applications, we're almost at the same place we were when the program closed last year. I don't know how long the program's going to stay open so please tell your seniors. I know I tell you this every time, but it really is important for them to get their applications in because the program closes when the money -- it runs out. So, we have about almost 6,600 applications we've processed through our office. So that's important, is to tell everybody.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Holly, at this point, do any more notices go out? Is there any further effort at any level to, you know, advertise the program, let more people know? Or at this point it really is just waiting for people to come in and apply?

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:
For us it's waiting for people to come in. We've done outreach to different places, but at this point it's just letting -- you know, if you see seniors, if anybody calls, please tell them to get them in as soon as possible. You know, DSS is the parent agency; we're the subcontractor to them on the HEAP apps.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. Very good, Holly, thanks.

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay, Judge. It is with great pleasure that we welcome the Honorable Judge Madeleine Fitzgibbon

and the Honorable Judge John Toomey to our Committee today. Your Honors, welcome.

JUDGE FITZGIBBON:
Thank you. Okay, good morning everyone. Thank you for inviting us this morning to tell you a little bit about our new veterans treatment part. We call it a court, but it's actually a special part within the district court.

Just to give you a little bit of an overview of what we're trying to accomplish, the problem solving courts, were really the brainchild of the Honorable Judith Kaye. During her tenure as Chief Judge of the State of New York Courts System, she implemented many of these problem solving courts throughout the state, beginning with domestic violence courts, which technically are not treatment courts, but they do address a very serious issue; followed very quickly by drug treatment courts, mental health courts, community courts and now the veterans treatment court. What they all share is an understanding that many people who find themselves involved in the criminal justice system are there not necessarily because they are innately evil people or bad people; many times it's their health or drug addiction or some other circumstance that brings them into contact with the criminal justice system.

And as we found out with years of experience in the drug treatment courts, that intervention, by getting the individual involved with treatment in the community, is a way to reduce the recidivism of the individual and also it's an alternative to incarceration, which I'm sure all of us in Suffolk County understand how expensive that process is. And, of course, as expensive as incarceration is, it really doesn't provide any relief for the person who is caught up in the system; and they're more than likely than not to re-offend and find themselves back in the same set of circumstances again.

So some of the principals are the same. There are stakeholders that help the court in the process. They involve the treatment agencies for those who suffer the addictions, the mental health agencies throughout the County, which help provide the necessary housing and services, medical treatment for the individuals.

And, with the veterans court, now I'm going to leave all of those details to Judge Toomey to speak to you about, the unique relationship with the Veterans Administration and with the veterans associations here in Suffolk County, the interesting thing that I discovered is that these services exist but they're not automatically presented to a returning veteran. They have to seek them out. And obviously if they're not aware of them, they're not going to utilize many, many wonderful services which exist for their benefit.

One of the things -- a couple of the things that you probably are already aware of, but just so we have a point of reference, the veterans in our jails and prisons, and these are Bureau of Justice statistics that came out of a study done in 2002 and 2004, so we haven't seen a dramatic decrease, so I think it's safe to say that these numbers kind of are representative of what we're looking at, about 10% of the US adult population on any given day constitutes a veteran in jail. 9.3% of them is probably -- the number that's closest to what they were looking at. And the number -- state -- national, nationally in all the federal prisons is upwards of 100,000 inmates. These are -- they're kind of shocking numbers when you think about the demands that we're asking of our young men and women who go into the service and then come home and find themselves in trouble. Questions are why? Many of them have serious medical problems, substance abuse issues, homelessness, joblessness and they find themselves really at a loss to connect with the type of assistance that the community has to offer to reintegrate them back into a civilian life-style.

So the court just opened a couple of weeks ago to little bit of fanfare, but as with all new parts it takes a while for the caseloads to build up. As a reference point, our mental health court has been up and running. We're in our fifth year. And we average somewhere between 50 and 70 cases. How do these cases get referred to the special parts? They are initiated either at the time of arraignment in the court system where if it's noted in the probation Release on Recognizance Report, which we commonly call the ROR report, they'll note if the person has had any prior military

service. They ask if they've had an Honorable or otherwise discharge from the military, if they've ever received any services from the Veterans Hospital or Veterans Association. So that's our first indicator that there might be someone we could help with the court.

They're also referred from other parts in the building. Sometimes we don't even know that they're veterans because that's all self-reporting at the time of arrest. So if they withhold that information, we may not really get to know that until the case has been in the system for a while. So another judge would refer it to the part. Defense attorneys, who get to know their clients after the first initial introduction, they would refer to the part. The District Attorney's Office who plays a very key role in this part because they are the gatekeeper to the type of cases that we take into the court. They cannot be -- typically we say they are felonies, misdemeanors, non-violent. But that's all on a case by case basis. Because once the District Attorney's Office has an opportunity to review the facts of a particular case, they may even allow the violent crimes in. And violent crimes by definition in the penal law could be a burglary or robbery, something of that nature.

Once they come into the court, if they're found eligible, there's a preliminary investigation done. And I just might add that we haven't gotten any additional help to do this so we're stretching the resources that we've been using for our drug treatment court and mental health court. And that resource is a person who is a coordinator. And she has a social worker degree so she can do these evaluations, these psychosocial evaluations and find out what, if any, problem exists that would require the assistance of the court.

Once they come into the court, if they are eligible and they are willing, because it is a voluntary part, they enter into a contract with the court and they take a plea to whatever the charges are, whether it be initially a felony, could be a multiple number of misdemeanors. And thereafter the promise is if you complete the program, which would involve further releases of information so that treatment could be initiated, hooking the person up with medical treatment or psychiatric treatment, or help with the veterans groups, then they take their plea. And at the end of the treatment period, which would be no less than a year, but could be as high as 18 months in a program, a given program, then the district attorney would either allow them to withdraw their guilty plea to the felony or further reduce it to a misdemeanor. Or in a misdemeanor situation, reduce it further to a noncriminal charge of a violation. So that the benefit to the soldier would be -- the veteran would be that they would leave and not have an onerous conviction record that would further impair their ability to reintegrate into their communities.

And that's pretty much it in a nutshell from the operational part. We rely on, very much so, rely on the resources with Probation. And I can't tell you how much the court depends on the work that the Probation Department offers to us. In this particular instance with the veterans, we rely on very much the Veterans Administration and the Veterans Hospital here in Suffolk County. They have been very generous with us. And I'll let Judge Toomey explain how they're helping us.

And also the cooperation of the Police Department and the District Attorney's Office. These are all partners, stakeholders in the operation of these treatment courts. I can't give you statistics, success stories about mental health and now a veterans court, but I can tell you that with the drug treatment courts, the first comprehensive study that looked at our drug treatment court statewide, the longest -- the oldest one existing in Brooklyn, these courts have shown reversal in the recidivism rate. Where it used to be that 80% would be involved in criminal behavior within a year of their original criminal charge, it's reverse now and it's less than 20%.

So we don't look at this in perpetuity, but we do look at it at least one to three years out. And the thinking, especially with drug addiction and mental health issues, is if you can keep someone in a stable environment, provide them with the necessary support services, the longer that exists, the more likely it is that the person will not re-offend.

So we're very hopeful that we'll be able to provide very meaningful services now to our returning veterans. And I'll turn this over to Judge Toomey and let him tell you what he does.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Thank you, Judge Fitzgibbon.

JUDGE TOOMEY:
Thank you, Legislator Stern, for inviting us down here this morning to give you somewhat of an overview of the veterans court. The veterans court's very new to Suffolk County. But there's been one in Buffalo and one or two other counties in New York State. There's been several throughout the country. I think the VFW, from my understanding, was instrumental in getting this addressed and actually having the court not only in New York but also in Suffolk County. And I know, Legislator Stern, you've been very supportive of this whole effort and I thank you myself on that.

What we're seeing in the Veterans Court is people coming back, and it's mostly coming back from Afghanistan and Iraq coming into the court naturally, any veteran -- it could be Vietnam and, I guess, in a very rare instance it could be World War II or Korea, would come into the court under certain auspices. For most of the people coming back, returning veterans, are not getting in trouble. It's a very minority which we're trying to address and to give them the help that they need. But by no way do we want to indicate that there's a real problem with all the veterans coming back. Most of them come back and lead, you know, very law abiding lives.

But what they've noticed through their studies over many wars coming back that people that have been in combat come back with certain stresses that may manifest themselves when they get into civilian population through drugs, alcohol, or the effects of PTSD, Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, which has to be treated. And their lives are much better if it is treated. Now, we would never get involved with veterans that have these issues unless they come to the crossroads where they get themselves into the criminal justice system. And that's where they'll actually come to us. What we try to do is identify veterans that have one of those three items: Either alcohol problems or drug problems or suffering from the effects of PTSD and get them into the court.

Now, the veteran when he comes into the court must plead guilty to the charge. Once he pleads guilty, he would then be in a treatment program. If you've been to the VA -- and I mean, I remember seeing movies like the *Born on the Fourth of the July* or have heard other things. And I have to tell you from what I saw at the VA, although I'm a veteran myself, I never really afforded myself of anything at the VA. I was like absolutely shocked at the facility. It seemed to me to be as nice as any hospital in the County. I mean, it was just a beautiful place. And they do offer the veterans a great deal of services, not just medical and psychological; there's also job counseling. I think there's also a place if they need temporary shelter, etcetera, so there's great resources there.

So if a veteran does come into the veterans court, we set them up with a treatment program through the VA. The VA supervises almost everything; is a great help. We have a guy, Eric Bruno, who works for the VA and is actually the program facilitator for the veterans court. Before a veteran could come in, though, it has to be cleared by the District Attorney. At the present time we're trying to get the District Attorney maybe to allow more veterans in, especially driving while intoxicated charges. That's something that we're working on. Talking to Mr. Spota, it's his indication to allow them in. When that's going to happen, I don't know.

But it's not a free ride for the veteran. We took a veteran in about two -- I guess about two Fridays ago. And this veteran's indicted on two drug -- two gun charges. If he does not successfully complete his treatment, he's facing three and-a-half years in state prison. So as I explained to him and other veterans, when you come in, you are getting a benefit. But you also -- you have responsibilities that you have to maintain throughout the time you're in here. If you do not maintain those, you do not get the benefit and you do get the punishment. And this one gentleman is facing three and-a-half years in state prison. Hopefully he'll get through the program and maybe it'll get him on the track where he can lead a very successful life in the future.

It's a situation where not only -- maybe some of these people fortuitously, they may be lucky that

they did get arrested because they may now be getting some of the treatment that without that, they would not get and it'd probably lead them to problems with their job, their family and in society in general. It's -- the court in Suffolk County is definitely at its infancy level. I think next Friday it'll be the biggest calendar we have. We have about six or seven if I'm right coming in on that. Some are already in and some are coming in. I know a lot of the judges, almost every day a judge calls me on a case that he wants to send to me whether it's in Riverhead or it's in Central Islip. And as Judge Fitzgibbons said, the gatekeeper is the District Attorney. Sometimes the District Attorney or the superior District Attornies do not want that case in the drug court. It might be too sensitive or something that they don't want that exposure on.

But I would say, and I said this before, it's a great honor for me to preside over the court. I feel like if we get these people in there and we give them the services or we expose them to the services that are out there through the Veterans Administration, that you can really do a lot of good for a lot of people, for a lot of veterans. I think people don't realize, for a lot of these guys coming back, it's a lot harder to adjust to civilian life than it was to adjust to military life. And I think every veteran comes back, especially those who served in combat situations, there is an adjustment period. And sometimes it can be traumatic. And I think this is a way of really helping them and get them on track after the service that they performed for us.

And I'm really looking forward as this goes into the future. And if you have any questions I would be glad to answer them. But, Legislator Stern, I really appreciate you taking the time and setting this up and giving us the opportunity to talk to you people today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Thank you both for being here today. When you say -- the District Attorney has, it sound like, an awful lot of discretion when determining which cases will come to your court and which will stay in others. You had mentioned that cases such alcohol, drug, PTSD -- so in the District Attorney's discretion, some PTSD related cases come over and others can't? Do you have some -- is there any kind of a guideline and do you see that being expanded in the future? What kind of PTSD or related case comes over and which one doesn't come?

JUDGE TOOMEY:
Well, the DA, what they're doing, the more sensitive -- if you have a violent crime, the chances of that coming over, somebody accidentally shoots somebody or stabs somebody, that case is not coming to a treatment court. That person's not going to get any benefit of that. It's going to have to go through the normal channels. What they're trying to do for the most part will be nonviolent crimes coming in. But as I indicated earlier, we have a guy coming in with drug charges, nobody was hurt -- drug charges -- gun charges, excuse me, but nobody was hurt so that case would come in.

What I'd like to do or I'd like to see happen is the District Attorney allow driving while intoxicated cases come in. I think that would be, you know, a big help to a lot of people; not only to the people in the County but also to the veterans. I would say that the discretion that the DA is using, and I'm not saying he's arbitrary on it, they certainly have a different role here than judges do or the veterans have and they have to protect everybody. So the district attorney going to have to look and say, *listen, this person's just too dangerous to allow into it or his crime is too sensitive to do it*. And they won't let it in.

For the most part though, I would say almost everybody has been coming in. And if not, there's a, you know, we're trying to expand it to get them in. But I think at this point it's really in the infancy and that's going to have to be something that's going to be much better defined. It's very, very fluid at this point. And as Judge Fitzgibbons said, the best way of looking at it is on a case by case basis. Because we had one gun case that came in and one didn't. Now it may come in at a later point, but there may be something, I don't know exactly, what would be stopping that from coming in, but I'm sure the District Attorney had something in his mind that would keep it from coming in.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
And so it then goes to -- it's under the supervision of the VA as you had said.

JUDGE TOOMEY:
It would be under the supervision of the court. The VA would be giving the treatment. So he would be reporting to the --

CHAIRMAN STERN:
And Probation is still --

JUDGE TOOMEY:
And Probation would be involved. And they report back to me. And they tell whether he's doing well, whether he's not, whether he's going to his meetings, getting his treatment that he needs, staying in the housing that he needs, staying away from the people that he should not be associating with. And that's how it would go. Every week you'd get a report on that. I could have brought some of the reports in with me today, but it's very detailed on how these guys are doing. And some -- like there's one guy we have, then went with his brother. And he can't be with his brother. And, you know, if the VA doesn't want -- if the professionals say he shouldn't be with this person, it's not good for him, then, you know, I'm going to make sure that he stays away or there'll be consequences of it.

LEG. ROMAINE:
I think you explained it very well. I think what the court is attempting to do is give people who have served this country, who have some sense of responsibility to this country, who are falling by the wayside, an opportunity to redeem themselves. And I think that's important.

Most of our veterans, the overwhelming majority of our veterans have served honorably. And some people make mistakes in life. And all you're doing is asking them to take a deep breath, reconsider where their life is and giving them an opportunity to go forward. And I think a court such as yours is going to serve great purpose because the purpose of courts in the end is justice and peace and tranquility.

So good luck. Whatever this Legislature can do to support you or help with the counseling of veterans, we're certainly willing to do.

JUDGE TOOMEY:
Thank you.

JUDGE FITZGIBBON:
I'd just like to say one thing in closing to all of you because I've been invited to speak as we've opened up all these courts over the years. And with all of them, when I said the Probation Department is a key player for us, it really is. Because one of the hallmarks or one of the integral parts of the court is the supervision. And for some reason, I guess when people are really up against it, the court is like the last place where the authority of the judge still carries some weight with the individual. And what we rely on the Probation Department to do for us is our job drug testing.

We -- you know, in our drug treatment court we have -- our budget is a state budget, but of course the Probation Department is your budget. So we -- there's an interplay between the two of us. And it would be impossible for the judge to do all of the work that's necessary. All that coordination really takes place between the one or two resource coordinators that we're using as well as the individual that the Veterans Administration is lending to us in this regard, Eric. And that is all kind of worked out with Probation personnel because they do -- they are Peace Officers. They do have authority. They can go to these individuals' homes and they do report back to us.

And Public Safety is always the number one issue with all of these treatment courts. So it's not just giving a benefit to a group. We recognize that the service that we're getting from our men and women in the armed forces is incalculable. But when they are caught up in the system we -- all of us, including the court, has to be very mindful of public safety. So how do we ensure that when we take someone into a specialized program such as this? It's with the help of our Probation Officers who are making the home visits and doing all of that day to day work.

So I just wanted to leave that with you as the last thought, that's where the help comes from. And thank you all again for inviting us to let you know what we're doing.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Thank you so much for being here. As Legislator Romaine said, anything that this Legislature can do and certainly anything our Veterans Services Agency can do in helping provide the services that our veterans need, please always feel free to let us know. We stand ready to assist anyway we can.

JUDGE FITZGIBBON:
Thank you all very much.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Of course. Thanks so much for being here.

Sid?

MR. LYNN:
Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, good morning and thank you for inviting me here today. My name is Sidney Lynn. I'm the Commander of the Suffolk County Counsel of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Committee Chairman of the Veterans Assistance Program administered by the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency.

Last year the grant for this program was $30,000. You might recall on September 2nd, 2010, I came before this Committee requesting additional capital of $20,000 because we were about to run out of funds. I felt through prior experience this would be the amount needed to carry us through the balance of the year. We did not receive any additional funding. And it wasn't long after that we did indeed run out. All supplementary requests for assistance had to be denied.

I was notified on December 9th, 2010 that the Suffolk County 2011 Adopted Budget as amended by resolution 980-2010 was to include $21,000 for the above-mentioned program; $9,000 less than the prior year.

Please indulge me while I read some lines from Tom Brokaw's, "The Greatest Generation." *Chapter one, this generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. 1920 was an auspicious year for a young person to enter the world as an American citizen. By the time this young American who had such a promising start reached the age of ten, his early prospects were shattered. The fault lines were active everywhere. The stock market was struggling to recover from the crash of 1929. By 1933 when the baby born in 1920 was entering teenage years, the promise of that early childhood was shattered by crushing world economies. When our young American was reaching 18 in 1938, the flames of war were everywhere in the world. At the beginning of the new decade, 1940, just 20 years after our young American entered a world of such great promise and prosperity, it was clear to all but a few disillusioned isolationists that war would define this great generation coming of age.*

The majority of black Americans were still living in states of the former confederacy and they remain second-class citizens or worse. In practice and law, Negro men were drafted and placed in segregated military units. It had been a turbulent 20 years for our young American and the worst and the best were yet to come.

The young Americans of this time constituted a generation birthmarked for greatness. A generation of Americans that would take its place in American history. Indisputably there are common traits that cannot be denied. It is a generation that by and large made no demands of homage from those who followed and prospered economically, politically and culturally because of its sacrifices. It is a generation of towering achievement and modest demeanor. A legacy of their formative years when they were participants in and witness to sacrifices of the highest order. They know how many of the best of their generation didn't make it to their early 20's. Millions of men and women were involved in this tumultuous journey through adversary and achievement, despair and triumph. This generation did have a rendezvous with destiny and went well beyond the outsized expectations of President Roosevelt when he first issued the call to duty in 1936.

About February 1st, Fanchea Pascarella from the Suffolk County Office of the Aging contacted me regarding veterans and veterans' spouses that needed assistance. Within two weeks I had met with 17 of the greatest generation, proud men and women who lived the first chapter of Brokaw's book. Unfortunately they appear to be reliving the hardships of their youth; sacrificing and rationing uncertainty of their day-to-day life, worry that should not exist for those who did so much for our country.

As of today, we have about $3000 uncommitted left in the fund. Last week I asked the Office of the Aging to hold off sending me any more requests until I knew exactly what was being used. I implore you to find a way to infuse additional dollars into this grant that will assure that those of the greatest generation that are still with us live the remaining days of their lives with the knowledge that their children and grandchildren are and will remain grateful and maybe we can make some sacrifices for them. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Thank you. So as of right now there's about $3,000 that remains? That has been --

MR. LYNNE:
A little more than $3,000.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. And you guys had made a request during budget time for additional funds; correct?

MR. LYNN:
September 2nd I had requested an additional $20,000 in addition to last year's $30,000 to carry us through the year. We were just coming up on the heating season.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. And to BRO, if we look at the line item for the organization for 2011, what is the amount that you have?

MR. PERNICE:
Twenty-one thousand.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
So 21,000 has been allocated for 2011?

MR. PERNICE:
Correct.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. All right. So that's $21,000 in that line, that -- at this point is there any work that needs to be done, are there any -- is there any paperwork that needs to be provided? Do we know if we're up-to-date there?

MR. PERNICE:
No, we don't know that.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. Do you know if there's any paperwork that still needs to be submitted in order to make that allocation?

MR. LYNN:
No, we have the $21,000. What I need is another 30.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
That's in-house already. That's what I'm asking.

MR. LYNN:
Last year we had $30,000 for the year of 2010.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
No, that I understand.

MR. LYNN:
Okay. In September I ran out.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Yes. I just wanted to make sure --

MR. LYNNE:
They gave me $21,000 this year.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
The 21,000 is what's received.

MR. LYNN:
It's just about gone and we're in March. It would have been gone a week ago had I not asked the Office of the Aging to stop calling me because they have sent me tremendous amount of people; 17 in about one week. And these, as I've said, are all of the greatest generation. These are just older Americans, older Long Islanders, older people living in Suffolk County. And these are the people that built Suffolk County and they moved out to Suffolk County for the hope and the dreams of Suffolk County. I'm out of money.

And they're -- you have to sit with some of these people. They're proud people, they're wonderful people. I'm sure you understand. One woman I sat with last week is living in the home that she was born in 91 years ago. And she's going to die in that home. And she may die without heat. And if she lives till next September, she will have no heat. She's out of HEAP. She has no family that's going to give her any additional money so we need to find the money somewhere.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Yes. I just asking the question. I just wanted to make sure that the entire allocation had already been made, that there weren't any monies that were being held back; that that entire amount -- the $3,000 is what remains. That I understand. But there weren't any monies -- they were allocated. Okay. All right. Very good.

MR. LYNN:
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. No other business being before the Committee, Legislator D'Amaro makes a motion to

adjourn, second by Legislator Romaine. We are adjourned. Thank you.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12:18 PM

{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY