

**VETERANS & SENIORS COMMITTEE**

**of the**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT**

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 May 3, 2011.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Steven H. Stern, Chairman  
Leg. Sarah S. Anker, Vice-Chair  
Leg. Lou D'Amaro  
Leg. Vivian Vilorio-Fisher  
Leg. Edward P. Romaine

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature  
Deborah Harris, Aide to Legislator Stern  
Kristopher Oliva, Aide to Legislator Anker  
Holly Rhodes-Teague, Director/Office of the Aging  
Dot Kerrigan, AME Legislative Representative

**VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT TAKEN BY:**

Lucia Braaten, Court Stenographer

(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 3:36 P.M.\*)

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Okay. Welcome, everybody, to the Committee on Veterans and Seniors. Can I ask everybody to please rise to join us in the Pledge of Allegiance by Legislator Viloría-Fisher.

(\**Salutation*\*)

Everybody, please remain standing and join us in a moment of silence as we keep all our brave men and women fighting overseas in our thoughts and in our prayers.

(\**Moment of Silence*\*)

Thank you. We have no Legislative items on the agenda today, but we do have our Director of Office for the Aging. Holly, welcome.

**DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:**

Hello.

**LEG. STERN:**

What's going on?

**DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:**

First, I just wanted to remind everyone, the luncheon is May 19th. We have about 700 people coming. I know Legislator Viloría-Fisher loves to dance at it, so we'd be happy to see you all again.

The other thing, I just wanted to let everybody know that our office has started an initiative to do a survey of seniors in the County. We're required by law every four years under our funding from the State to do this initiative to do a survey. We did a targeted mailing, 14,000 pieces went out, and out of that, we received 25% back, thirty-five hundred, which is huge for any type of survey. As part of the survey, we also requested them to send it back to us and indicate if they needed information from us on services we provide, or a phone callback. And out of that, we received an astounding twenty-five hundred. So our office is going to spend quite a bit of time calling people back over the next few months. And we did make calls to everybody to say that somebody will get back to them quickly, but not as quickly as we thought they would, because we were going to be happy if we got 500 back.

So I just wanted to tell you, the need is out there and we are -- you know, we've got to find out what the needs really are when we talk to them all. So I just wanted to let you know that's out there.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Legislator Viloría-Fisher.

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

Thanks, Holly, because, you know, I have a Public Health Nursing Task Force that I've met with over the years, and Anne Kellett often mentions to us the great need for public health nursing on the East End in particular. So I hope when you review the information that you've gotten in that survey and the needs, that you might reach out to us in this committee and let us know the areas of greatest need.

I'm particularly concerned because the County Executive is currently preparing an RFP to sell our CHAA license, and that means that we would not be operating a CHAA out of -- you know, as a county, as a county government. And one of our largest constituencies is the frail elderly,

particularly on the East End who, because of geography, need to have those home visits, and many private agencies won't pick up some of these people.

**DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:**

We are hoping to have the information from the survey all together probably by July. So, hopefully, we'll have that, and when we have it, I'll share it.

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

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Anybody else?

**DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:**

Anybody have questions?

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Holly, thank you for being with us. Director Ronayne was not with us here today, so we wish him well. And we welcome our new Vice Chairperson. Legislator Anker, welcome. Anybody else? All right. We are adjourned. Thank you.

**(\*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:40 P.M. \*)**