

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**FIRST DAY**

*January 4, 2016*

**THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING WAS HELD AT THE  
WILLIAM H. ROGERS LEGISLATURE BUILDING  
IN THE ROSE Y. CARACAPPA LEGISLATIVE AUDITORIUM  
725 VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, SMITHTOWN, NEW YORK**

***Taken By***

***Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer***

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*(\*The following was taken and transcribed by  
Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer\*)*

*(\*The meeting was called to order at 11:13 a.m. \*)*

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Good morning, Mr. Clerk.

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Good morning, Mr. Presiding Officer.

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. Mr. Clerk, can you do the roll call?

*(Roll Call by Mr. Richberg, Acting Clerk of the Legislature)*

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Here.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Here.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Here.

**LEG. MURATORE:**

Present.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Present.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Here.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Present.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Here.

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

Here.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Here.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Here.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Here.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

Here.

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**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

Here.

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Here.

**LEG. STERN:**

Here.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Here.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Here.

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Eighteen.

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. Next, we have the -- we will have the presentation of Colors from the Colonel Francis S. Gabreski Squadron, Bellport. If you'll please all rise.

***(\*Presentation of Colors\*)***

Next, we will have the salute to the flag, led by Legislator Rob Calarco.

***(\*Salutation\*)***

**LEG. CALARCO:**

And it's a pleasure today to introduce our vocalist, who will be singing the National Anthem. Tori Lawrence is a senior at the Patchogue-Medford High School. And along with being a member of the Music Department, she is an avid participator in the school's first Robotics Team, and a member of the All County Jazz. Tori has also sang the National Anthem in Waterloo, Canada for the Robotics Regional, and she aspires to study Chemical Engineering when she goes to college. Tori.

***(\*Tori Lawrence performed the National Anthem\*)***

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Next, we have Reverend Pastor Steve Mangum, who will give the invocation today. He is no stranger to the Legislature, and Legislator Rob Calarco is going to read his bio.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Okay. This morning we have Reverend Steven Mangum with us from the House of Judah in West Sayville. And prior to establishing the House of Judah, Reverend Mangum served for seven years under the late Archbishop Wilburt S. McKinley of The Elim International Fellowship, Brooklyn, New York. He currently serves under the leadership of Bishop T.D. Jakes of the Potters House in Dallas Texas.

Recently, Reverend Mangum and the House of Judah relocated from Jamaica, New York to West Sayville, where they are the owners of a historical church dated to 1878 and a Pastor's Parsonage.

He is committed to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all he comes in contact with and desires to win souls to the Lord. Reverend Mangum has a special burden for families and he is dedicated to empowering them to rise up and be all that God has destined for their lives.

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Over a decade ago, God gave Reverend Mangum a vision to build a distinctive church. He endeavors to teach excellence, integrity and give the tools of empowerment to impact this generation and future generations to come.

Reverend Mangum's message emphasizes on building men and women, instilling a God-conscience to successfully function as individuals, husbands, wives and parents.

Reverend Mangum is married to Lady Sylena, and they are the proud parents of David, Christine and Joshua, and They reside here in Suffolk County. Reverend Mangum.

### **REVEREND MANGUM:**

Happy New Year to everyone. Let us pray. I celebrate all the Legislators, all the elected officials, all those that's being sworn in again, and the newly sworn in, I celebrate you. Let us all pray.

Father, in the name of the Lord, we thank you for being our God. Thank you for being God over all of us. But now, Lord, we ask that you bless this organizational meeting, the meeting that will jumpstart us in 2016. Father, bless every hand that's in the pot, that will help bring change, an effective change to our communities. Father, we thank you for blessing every part of this meeting. In the name of God, let everyone say amen.

*(\*Amen Said in Unison\*)*

### **ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Please remain standing for a moment of silence. Staff Sergeant Louis Michael Bonacasa, 31, a Coram father serving his fourth and final military tour was among six American service members killed on December 21st by a suicide bomber near Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan. Staff Sergeant Bonacasa served with the New York Air National Guard 105th Base Defense Squadron, and had previously served in Iraq, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Technical Sergeant, Joseph Lemm, 45, a 15-year New York Police Department Veteran was also killed in the December 21st suicide bombing in Afghanistan while serving with the 105th Base Defense Squadron.

Also killed were Air Force Staff Sergeant Michael Cinco, 28, from Mercedes, Texas; Air Force Staff Sergeant Chester McBride, 30, from Statesboro, Georgia; Air Force Staff Sergeant, excuse me, Peter Taub, 30, from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Air Force Major Adrianna Vorderbruggen, 36, from Plymouth, Minnesota.

We extend out heartfelt prayers and sympathies to their families, as we remain forever in their debt for the lives they gave for the safety of our nation.

And as always, let us also remember all those men and women who put themselves in harm's way every day to protect our country.

*(\*Moment of Silence\*)*

Okay. Thank you. Color Guards, dismiss the Colors.

All right. Thank you. Please be seated. On this day, at our Organizational Meeting, it is always an exciting experience and time for all of us as we enter the new year and get ready to embark on our agenda for the year. And it's always a pleasure to have our colleagues in government, our elected officials that are here that recognize today in its meeting. And it's a special pleasure to have our County Executive, who has joined us here today, and he wishes to say a few remarks.

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**COUNTY EXECUTIVE BELLONE:**

Good morning. It's an honor to join you today at the start of a new year and another chapter in Suffolk County's story. And I am very happy to see many familiar faces, and, in particular, I want to congratulate and welcome the newest Legislator in Suffolk County, Bridget Fleming.

*(\*Applause\*)*

I want to congratulate the Legislature on your choice of two talented and incredibly dedicated public servants to lead this body prospectively. This Legislature is in very good hands, or will be in very good hands, with the choice of our Presiding Officer, DuWayne Gregory, and the newest member of the body's leadership, Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco.

I also want to acknowledge and congratulate the Majority Leader, Kara Hahn.

*(\*Applause\*)*

Minority Leader, Kevin McCaffrey.

*(\*Applause\*)*

And all of my colleagues on the Suffolk County Legislature for your great work.

A new year and a new Legislature is a great time to take stock of where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. For the past four years, I've been proud to work together with this body to undertake the hard work necessary to move Suffolk County forward. Together, we've tackled numerous issues, many of which have plagued our County for decades. We did things like merge the offices of Comptroller and Treasurer, and I'm pleased that those most originally critical of the measure came around and actually helped to implement it sooner. And I want to congratulate and thank our Comptroller, John Kennedy, for his leadership and work in making that happen.

**MR. KENNEDY:**

Thank you.

*(\*Applause\*)*

**MS. BELLONE:**

It is a great testament to the fact that we can find common ground. We've made this government smaller and more efficient, begun the steps needed to improve water quality, and worked together with partners like Sheriff Vinny Demarco and New York State to eliminate the \$300 million State mandate to build a new jail.

We're also blessed to be protected by one of the nation's finest law enforcement communities, particularly the men and women of the Suffolk County Police Department. I think we all take pride in the fact that crime was once again down last year, and over the past four years, crime has dropped in Suffolk County by more than 21%, including a 10% decrease in violent crime. Ladies and Gentlemen, our police and the work they do every single day out there in the streets has made one of America's safest counties even safer.

*(\*Applause\*)*

Yet there are many, many challenges that we still face that we must come together on. We have a new leadership team in the Police Department, which is already doing great things to move the Department forward, building on crime fighting successes by doing things like rebuilding our relationship with our Federal law enforcement partners. For anyone who wants to work together with this new leadership team and be part of moving this department forward, the door is open to

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any productive ideas.

Despite the fact that we have reduced the size of government by more than 1100 employees in the past four years, we continue to face fiscal challenges that we must come together to tackle. Despite the progress we've made in securing nearly \$400 million to tackle our water quality crisis, and beginning to permit on-site systems, we still face many challenges to reverse the decades of decline and to reclaim our water. Despite the fact that the unemployment rate is down, and Suffolk County, more Suffolk County residents are employed, we still have a long way to go to help build the kind of innovation economy that we need to keep our young people here and to have Suffolk County reach its full potential.

We have many challenges in this region, but we also have great opportunities, great assets, and I believe great public servants who are able to work together to meet these challenges. Congratulations to everyone here, and I look forward to continuing our work together to move this County forward. Thank you.

*(\*Applause\*)*

### **ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Thank you, County Executive Steve Bellone, and we all look forward to working with you in the coming year as well.

We have another special guest who is here to recognize the significance of the day. And I must be honest, I'm always amazed that his energy and his ability to get -- be everywhere. I'm an identical twin and I haven't been able to benefit from using that ability yet, but I don't know, but I would swear that I think our United States Senator, Chuck Schumer, is a twin as well, because he is just everywhere. And certainly appreciate him being here today, as he has been at least for the past several years, if not every year, and that's certainly something remarkable. Our United States Senator, Chuck Schumer, thank you for being here.

*(\*Applause\*)*

### **SENATOR SCHUMER:**

Well, good morning, everybody, and Happy New Year to you, to one and all. I hope you and your families have a great healthy, happy prosperous, new year, and I wish the same for Suffolk County.

And I am so honored to be here. I love coming to these events, because they really represent what America is all about. You know, we take it for granted, but we are the only country that's been on the face of the earth for hundreds of years where the torch of power is passed peacefully. It's an amazing thing, and it's a beautiful sight to me every November to watch people in quiet dignity. They've come home from -- they're on their way home from work, they want to get home, put food on the table for the kids, or it's been a tough day at work, plop into their favorite chair and watch their favorite TV show, but, no, they go to the polling place and do their duty. And people line up in quiet dignity, and they wait their turn, and they vote for their choice, and then the next morning we all abide by the decision. There are no tanks in the streets, or no rioting, or people saying, "I'm not going to serve," or be under this person or that person. It's an amazing thing, and so it's the beauty of our democracy. The Founding Fathers were called the greatest collective group of geniuses that were ever assembled, and they were, they were. And so that's one reason I'm here.

Second, this is a great Legislature. It has influenced the nation time and time again, many new ideas that bubbled up from the days when my old friend to Tom Downey was here. I was elected to the Assembly at 23, and he was elected to the, I guess, Congress at age 25. But you are an amazing group, and because you represent a County that is so vital, and represents much of what America is all about, and all the changes that have occurred in America since World War II, you come up with great ideas, and many of those ideas are repeated in other counties throughout the

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country, and states throughout the country, and even in the Congress. And so this is a great body. It's a body that's known to work together. It's a body, Steve, that's known not always to listen to its County Executive.

**MR. BELLONE:**

Yes.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**SENATOR SCHUMER:**

Sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse, but it's a body that does a great job, and so I thank you for that.

And, finally, because this County is so important as well, as I mentioned, Suffolk County is really a crucible to where America is headed. Settled after World War II, largely, most of these residents of the County came in after World War II and did what Americans were supposed to do, work hard, serve their country, raise a family, and the County prospered. It's one of the most prosperous places in the country, and pointed to as that for decades. And now it's a little more mature, and we're all concerned with what the next generation is going to do. Are the good jobs going to continue to be available as they were to this new generation's parents? Is the quality of life going to be the same, that fine quality of life that this County is known for? That's our challenge, and it's not just a challenge for you, it's a challenge for our whole country, because this story is being repeated all over.

What I can tell you is this, just two things. First, and I know you do this, working in a bipartisan way to get things done is the most satisfying part of being a Legislator. I mean, something of great concern to the residents here, passing the Zadroga Bill, so those who rushed to the Towers and got poison in their systems are actually now going to get the medical care they needed. I mean, I --

*(\*Applause\*)*

I, along with my Democratic colleague in the Senate, Kirsten Gillibrand, spearheaded this in the Senate, and Suffolk County's representative, Peter King, spearheaded it in the House, and if we didn't have bipartisan support, it wouldn't have happened.

Another thing that's happening just this week, we have finally gotten our mass transit tax deduction to be equal to that for cars. So anybody who takes the Long Island Railroad into work or a bus into work can deduct a full \$255 from their taxes every month for the cost of commuting, just as drivers can, as both should be able to do. Again, I worked on that and got it done in the Senate, and Peter King worked and got that done in the House.

So working in a bipartisan way is a very important thing to do, and I hope that you will all continue to do that as well.

So let me salute you all. Let me salute our great President, DuWayne Gregory, who has done an amazingly great job as leader here. Let me salute all of you and let me wish this -- in this new year, this great -- it's truly a great County Legislature, one of the best in the country. Let me wish you the best and pledge my cooperation to help you in any way that I can. Thank you very much.

*(\*Applause\*)*

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Thank you again. Our Senior Senator, New York Senator, New York -- U.S. New York Senator, Chuck Schumer.

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*(\*Laughter\*)*

We know that the responsibilities in Washington are great, and we certainly respect your presence here today.

All right. Next, we have the fun part, the ceremonial oath of the Suffolk County Legislators for 2016. We have Judge Randall Hinrichs, Suffolk County District Administrative Judge, who's here to do the oaths.

**JUDGE HINRICHS:**

All right. Good morning. Happy New Year to all of you, and congratulations to each and every one of you. If you could please all rise and raise your right hand and repeat after me.

*(\*The Legislators were Administered the Ceremonial Oath by  
The Honorable C. Randall Hinrichs\*)*

Congratulations to all of you, and the best of luck in 2016. Thank you.

*(\*Applause\*)*

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Now, next, we'll have our Suffolk County Clerk, Judith Pascale, she'll do the official oath and administrative signing of the official record.

**MS. PASCALE:**

You don't have to stand right now, just you can sit for a second. I just wanted to -- before I administer the oath, I'd just like to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to this Legislative body for their consistent support of the Suffolk County Clerk's Office. It's because of this support, as well as that of the County Exec's Office, that the Suffolk County Clerk's Office is now recognized as one of the most progressive and efficient Clerk's Offices throughout the State of New York. And, in fact, we have been awarded numerous awards, and, in fact, we have been awarded the Best of New York. None of that would have happened without your support. You've always been there for my office, and I just want to thank you very much from the bottom of my heart. None of this would have been possible without your support, so I thank you very much.

I'm going to ask you to rise.

*(\*Applause\*)*

We're going to do this again. I'm going to ask you to raise your right hand and repeat after me.

*(\*The Legislators were administered the Official Oath by  
Suffolk County Clerk, Judith Pascale\*)*

Congratulations. I'm going to ask you one by one, DuWayne, if we can sign the official oath book. Thank you.

*(\*All Legislators Signed the Official Oath Book\*)*

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. Can I have all Legislators back in their seats here. Can I have all Legislators to the horseshoe, please.

Okay. Next on our agenda is the election of the Presiding Officer. And I will accept nominations for the office of Presiding Officer, and recognize Legislator Monica Martinez.

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**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

Thank you. Good morning and Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season.

So I thank you, first of all, for allowing me this honor to speak before you today as we commence our Legislative session. But last year was a productive year, as many important laws and resolutions were passed to secure the health, safety and welfare of all Suffolk County residents. There were times that debates became quite heated and extensive. The conversations always focused on what is best for Suffolk County. I am more than certain the mission and vision will remain the same in bringing Suffolk County to the forefront, and continue being the leading county of New York State.

We are an independent body of lawmakers who represent specific districts that vary from the next, whether economically, politically, socially, or all the above. But the one thing we have been able to do is to look carefully at the needs of each of our districts and then make an intellectual and honest decision on the laws and resolutions presented before us. This was accomplished by the leadership in place, which consisted of Legislator Gregory as Presiding Officer, along with his leadership team, and the bipartisanship within this esteemed body. I am confident Legislator Gregory will lead us into a more productive Legislative session in 2016 as our Presiding Officer. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to nominate Legislator DuWayne Gregory to Presiding Officer for the 2016 Legislative year.

*(\*Applause\*)*

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Thank you, Legislator Martinez. And no offense to Rob, but I'm starting to get used to Monica being here. We better get this going real quick.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

For the purpose of recognizing a second, I want to recognize Legislator Browning.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Yes. Thank you, DuWayne. And again, Happy New Year to everyone. I would like to second the nomination for Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory to continue serving as our leader of the Legislature.

DuWayne, first and foremost, I call you my friend. We met 11 years ago, and I can honestly say that you're the same good person today that I met back then. You're trustworthy, you're loyal, and since you have been a Legislator, you have proven to be someone who cares about the needs of our taxpayers and the residents of your district.

DuWayne, I've always expressed the need to protect the Legislature as a separate branch and I know you do, too, and will continue to do that. We are a body of individuals from different walks of life, different parties and opinions, and Lord knows, you've heard mine often, like it or not. We only have to look at the other levels of government and how dysfunctional and partisan they can be. We don't need that here. It does not benefit the taxpayers of our County. We must maintain a Legislature that will embrace a good idea if it's a good idea, no matter who brings it forward, and I think we know the person that said that quite a few years ago, and I believe that you will do that. So, for that reason, I'm happy to second your nomination for Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature. Congratulations.

*(\*Applause\*)*

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**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Thank you, Kate. Are there any other nominations?

**LEG. TROTТА:**

(Raised hand).

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Yes, I will recognize Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I'd like to nominate Legislator Kevin McCaffrey. We just heard the County Executive and the Senator paint a rosy picture of this County, but the reality is the debt gets bigger and bigger. We're burdening our children. And the leadership of this County is Democrat, the County Executive and this Legislature. Our children will be paying for this. They'll be paying for the Dennison Building that we refinanced. They'll be paying for all the debt and all the things, the decisions that are made at this, this horseshoe. The Democrats are unable to make the tough decisions, to be able to say no. We just privatized our health clinics, and then a week later comes back that we're going to build 15 -- spend \$15 million to build new ones. We have to make tough decisions and they're not being made here, and the Democratic leadership is not doing it. It's time for the Republicans to take charge.

This County is riddled in corruption. It's embarrassing every single day we're in the paper, and this Legislature stood here and did nothing. It's horrible what's going on here. I'm embarrassed to have been -- to be sitting here and have done nothing about it. It's about time we make tough decisions.

You know, in this County, it seems if you lose an election, you get a job. It's pay to play. It's ridiculous, it has to end. Businesses are leaving here, are leaving, our children are leaving here. It's about time that we took seriously what's going on and not stand there and say everything's rosy, because guess what, Ladies and Gentlemen, it's not rosy.

I was a Suffolk County cop for 25 years, and for the first time in my life I was embarrassed by it for a short time, and we stood here and did nothing when every one of us knew what was going on. We should be ashamed of ourselves. That's why we need new leadership, and that's why Legislator McCaffrey is the fresh voice for what's going on here. And whether he wins or not, we all should take a look in the mirror as to what's happening in this County. We're on the cover of the New York Times today. We're having stories done about our County. It's ridiculous. And if we want to get serious about it, there is a bipartisan way to do it. We've got to start saying no, because my kids want to live here and I want companies to stay back here. Our taxes are out of control and we have to make tough decisions, and I think Mr. McCaffrey is the man to do it.

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. Do we have a --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

(Raised hand).

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

I see Leslie, Legislator Leslie Kennedy.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I second the nomination for Legislator McCaffrey.

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. Any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other

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nominations? No? Okay. I'll accept a motion to close the nominations by Legislator Anker, second by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions to close nominations?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Eighteen.

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. We have a roll call vote on the nomination of DuWayne Gregory.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

In the third person. Clerk, Mr. Clerk, roll call.

*(Roll Call by Mr. Richberg, Acting Clerk of the Legislature)*

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

Yes.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Yes.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Yes.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Yes.

**LEG. MURATORE:**

No.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yes.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Yes.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Yes.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Yes.

**LEG. CILMI:**

No.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

No.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

No.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

No.

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**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

No.

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**

Yes.

**LEG. STERN:**

Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yes.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Yes.

**MR. RICHBERG:**

I'm sorry. Spencer.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Yes.

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Twelve.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. All right. Thank you.

**(\*Applause\*)**

All right. Judge Hinrichs.

**JUDGE HINRICHS:**

First of all, congratulations, Mr. Gregory, on your election as Presiding Officer. I wish you all the best in your new term as Presiding Officer. And it's a privilege. Thank you for asking me to be here to swear you in today. If you could please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

**(\*Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory was sworn in by  
The Honorable C. Randall Hinrichs\*)**

Congratulations.

**(\*Applause\*)**

**(\*Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory was sworn in by  
Judy Pascale, Suffolk County Clerk, and signed the Official Oath Book\*)**

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Thank you. It's truly a humbling experience to have your support. Thank you, Kate, and thank you, Monica, for putting my name into nomination and for your kind words. You truly are -- both of you are truly great friends, and I have a great deal of respect for you both, particularly Kate, as she's right, we did meet 11 years ago when I first screened her for her position, and I was so impressed, and my respect just grows every day that I know her and -- but I want to thank you all for your vote of confidence and warm reception.

I'm truly humbled by the trust my fellow Legislators have placed in me. I'm proud to be part of one

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of the greatest Legislatures in New York State, and look forward to leading this passionate and tireless body in the new year. But as any smart elected official or politician will tell you, they can't do it without the support of their family, and I'm so proud to have the support of my wife, who is here today, and my family every day, and hope for her continued support. I know six and seven days a week, sometimes it gets difficult, but I think when it's really important, I have to be somewhere, and she makes sure she tells me well in advanced. So I don't keep myself out of trouble, but thank you. I love you, Erica.

**(\*Applause\*)**

Also, I want to thank Senator Schumer for his words of encouragement and support. It's always an honor to receive him here in our County. We are grateful for all you do in Washington to represent the interests of residents of Suffolk County and New York State. You handle the challenges of the job with grace and poise, and weather difficulties well. Thank you again for your time and friendship.

I would also like to thank County Executive Steve Bellone for his kind words, and congratulate him on the start of his second term. We have accomplished great things together, and I look forward to continuing our work toward our shared vision for Suffolk County's future.

To my colleagues of the 2016 Suffolk County Legislature, many of whom who have become dear friends, I extend my sincere congratulations. You all won hard-fought elections.

I'd like to extend an especially warm greeting on our newest Legislator from the Second Legislative District, Bridget Fleming. Welcome. We look forward to working with you. We will, of course, miss Jay Schneiderman. But in his own indomitable way, I'm sure he'll be coming before us fighting for more resources for his town. He is nothing -- he nothing, if not the most tenacious Legislator we've seen in a long while. He may no longer sit on the side -- on this side of the horseshoe, but his passion and fighting spirit has touched and inspired each and every one of us.

2015 was a very productive, challenging year. We worked together in a bipartisan fashion to pass landmark legislation and craft difficult budgets. In cooperation with the County Executive, we have set this County on a great course. In the year to come, we will continue to protect our drinking water, environment -- and environment, further our economic development goals, and make fiscally prudent decisions to protect taxpayer dollars. This should be a great year.

This month also marks milestones for four of our colleagues who are embarking on their last term here in the Suffolk County Legislature. As Legislators Barraga, Browning, D'Amaro and Stern run out their service here, we expect bold and brave representation, as well as calm resolve and sage leadership. I am certain that they will make their last years memorable.

I would also like to recognize and thank all the people who help make this Legislature a successful, productive and as organized as it is. Counsel's Office, guided by the esteemed George Nolan to my right, who should be reappointed shortly for his eleventh year as Counsel to the Legislature, has drafted and possessed -- processed -- excuse me -- hundreds of pieces of legislation since he was first appointed. Working for all 18 of us is challenging, but George and his staff are consistent in their professionalism, acute attention to detail.

Those in our independent Budget Review Office, under the direction of Robert Lipp, who should be appointed shortly to his first term as its Director, continue to be steadfast and vigilant, keeping their eyes on our bottom line.

Carey Flack in our I.T. Department keep us humming technologically.

Our new Clerk, Jason, and his staff make sure all the I's are dotted and T's are crossed.

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Last, but certainly not least, my staff continues to support us behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly. My sincerest thanks to you all.

A final note to my colleagues. More than ever, our residents need as leaders rational thinkers who are willing to work together in a way that is constructive, respectful and fiscally responsible. It is time we look at our differences not as weaknesses, but as one of our strengths. For it is our differences that make us better, push us forward, expand our thinking, and broaden our horizons. We will face many challenges in the coming year, but we will tackle each one with fierce determination. We all shall -- we all share to build a stronger Suffolk.

Now, with a grateful heart and inspired spirit, I say let's get to work. Thank you.

**(\*Applause\*)**

Okay. Next on our agenda, I will accept nominations for the position of Deputy Presiding Officer. Okay. And I will recognize --

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

(Raised hand).

**P.O. GREGORY:**

-- Legislator Lindsay for the purpose of making a motion.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer, and congratulations on your re-election. I was happy to see that the spirit of bipartisanship lasted at least through breakfast and got us to being sworn in. And now, as we move on to the Deputy Presiding Officer post, I'd like to nominate my friend and colleague, Legislator Rob Calarco.

Over of the past several years, we have seen Rob make tremendous progress in turning around a possible catastrophic financial situation here within the Suffolk County. This turnaround was made possible by strong leadership and vision, but that work is nowhere near complete. In order to continue this effort, we need to continue to have strong leadership to keep the momentum moving forward. And, in my opinion, Rob Calarco is one of the leaders that we need, and he is the person that we do need in the position of Deputy Presiding Officer.

I've had the pleasure of sitting next to Rob for the last two years and I've been very gracious in thanking him for his counsel, not only to explaining the procedural and technicalities of the Legislature and how we work, but I always was impressed by how much knowledge he had and how pragmatic he was in dispersing that knowledge.

Most recently, he led the fight to authorize action against prescription opiate manufacturers, and along with Legislator Browning, he led the charge to sell the John J. Foley Skilled Nursing Facility to Brookhaven Memorial Hospital. He has fought feverishly for the restoration of Canaan Lake, and spearheaded many community efforts to get Hurricane Sandy funds disbursed in a timely and orderly fashion.

Not only has Rob represented his own Legislative District, but I think he's represented the entire residents of Suffolk County as a whole. He has an uncanny ability to work across the party lines and his determination to solve problems have made a tremendous impact on this Legislature, our residents and our home.

So please join me in supporting the nomination of my good friend, Rob Calarco, as Deputy Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature.

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*(\*Applause\*)*

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Next, I will recognize Legislator Kara Hahn for the purposes of seconding the nomination.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Thank you very much. Congratulations, Mr. Presiding Officer. My colleague and friend, Legislator Rob Calarco, has distinguished himself as a diligent and visionary lawmaker. I'm proud to serve along him, not only as a member of the Class of 2012, but as former Legislative Aides serving together now for a cumulative 13-plus years, almost 14 years. Together, we've accomplished much to drive Suffolk County forward. Rob has done a commendable job in leading, leading our caucus over the last two years, and I'm humbled to be succeeding him in that role. I know that we will make a formidable team as we tackle the challenges Suffolk continues to face.

It is with great pleasure that I second the nomination of Rob Calarco to be Deputy Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature.

*(\*Applause\*)*

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. Are there any other nominees? Yes, I will recognize Legislator McCaffrey for --

**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

Thank you, Presiding Officer Gregory. And I have to say, your breakfast was very good today. Too bad it didn't last a little longer.

Thank you.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

You're welcome, Kevin.

**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

But it is my pleasure to place the nomination -- the name of Legislator Tom Cilmi for the position of Deputy Presiding Officer. Tom is an experienced Legislator. He's concerned about economic development in this County, the environment. He's a fiscal conservative who understands the tax burden that is on the taxpayers today, and he's well aware of its impact on the future of Suffolk County. He shares my concerns, as well as the concerns of my entire caucus, about the direction of this County, especially when it comes to corruption within the County and the need for more fiscal responsibility. He shares -- and this is a county that's one of the richest counties in the country. We should not be in the position that we are today. He is someone that I've enjoyed working with, and he is someone that has reached across the aisle to work with other people. But he is -- that has not swayed him from his own beliefs and his commitment to the people of his district, and also of all the people of Suffolk County. I look forward to working with my colleague in the Legislature to lead this County into the future. Thank you.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

(Raised hand).

**LEG. MURATORE:**

(Raised hand).

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**P.O. GREGORY:**

Legislator Muratore. I recognize Legislator Muratore for the purposes of seconding the nomination.

**LEG. MURATORE:**

Thank you, Mr. P.O. It's my pleasure to second the nomination of Legislator Tom Cilmi for Deputy Presiding Officer. Tom's been a leader in his district, attempting to provide government services for those he represents. He's been a person who attempts to make government more transparent. Legislator Cilmi sends a sense of spending taxpayer money wisely, yet providing the utmost in County services. It's for these few reasons that I nominate Tom Cilmi for Deputy P.O.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Okay. Seeing none, I will make a -- I will make a motion to close. Second --

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

(Raised hand).

**P.O. GREGORY:**

-- by Legislator Martinez to close nominations. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions to close nominations?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Eighteen.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. Mr. Clerk, roll call. Roll call for nomination of Legislator Rob Calarco as Deputy Presiding Officer

***(Roll Call by Mr. Richberg, Acting Clerk of the Legislature)***

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Yes.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yes.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Yes.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Yes.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

(Not Present)

**LEG. MURATORE:**

No.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Yes.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Yes.

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**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

Yes.

**LEG. CILMI:**

No.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Yes.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

No.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

No.

**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

No.

**LEG. STERN:**

Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yes.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Yes.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Yes, absolutely.

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Twelve. (Not Present: Legislator Browning)

**(\*Applause\*)**

**JUDGE HINRICHS:**

First of all, congratulations, Legislator Calarco, on being selected as Deputy Presiding Officer. If you could please raise your right and repeat after me.

**(\*Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco was sworn in by  
The Honorable C. Randall Hinrichs\*)**

Congratulations, and good luck.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Thank you.

**(\*Applause\*)**

**(\*Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco was sworn in by  
Judy Pascale, Suffolk County Clerk, and signed the Official Oath Book\*)**

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Next, we will have some remarks by newly elected Deputy Presiding Officer.

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**D.P.O. CALARCO:**

Thank you, Presiding Officer Gregory. And thank you to Legislator Lindsay and Hahn for those words of confidence.

This is a very proud day for me. And first, I want to thank my family, my wife Laura, my two young children, Alma Rosa and Patrick. Alma Rosa took the oath as well, so we have a backup D.P.O. in case anything should happen.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

As all of us around the horseshoe know, running for office and serving as a Legislator is a full-time job that takes us away from our families, and I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for their support, patience and understanding, and I'm grateful to them for that.

I've had the opportunity to be around the horseshoe now for the better part of the last 14 years. I watched many Legislators and had worked for a few before having the honor of being elected myself. And I can honestly say that this body is truly impressive for our commitment to open discussion, the opportunity for all to be heard, and all ideas to receive a public vetting. Unlike the Federal and State governments and many other local levels, here in Suffolk, any Legislator can submit a resolution and have it debated. All parties are asked to be substantive members of the budgeting process, and decisions are made on conscience, not party. While this may not mean that we always agree, it means that no one's voice goes unheard. I value this quality and truly believe it sets us apart. I will always keep preserving that model of government and this body's integrity first.

While I was Majority Leader, I was often asked what it was like. And as Legislator Hahn will learn, and Legislator McCaffrey I'm sure can attest, it was not always easy. However, I could say honestly, it was not too difficult, because my colleagues are engaged, intelligent, and put the needs of our County and the residents first. That is true of this entire body, which makes serving here all the more rewarding, and earning your trust to be Deputy Presiding Officer all the more humbling. I value the opinions of each of you and know that they come from a genuine position on how do we move forward best.

I want to thank all of you for your support in electing me to serve as Deputy Presiding Officer. I look forward to working with Presiding Officer Gregory and all of you to achieve the common goal of doing what is best we can for the residents of Suffolk County. We've had a difficult task these last four years and we have some big challenges to come. However, I know that this body is up to the task of debating and making the hard decisions to move us forward. And I thank you all again.

*(\*Applause\*)*

**P.O. GREGORY:**

And if I may, before we move on, I want to say a special congratulations to our new Deputy Presiding Officer. Having had the pleasure to work closely with him for the past several years as our Majority Leader, I really have gotten to know him very well, and he's very engaged. He's intelligent and is, you know, always looking out for the residents of Suffolk County, and to protect this body and what it stands for and what it can do for the residents of our County. And I'm excited. I look forward to working with you as Deputy Presiding Officer. Congratulations to you.

All right. Next, we have -- our next rule of business is adopting the rules of the Legislature. You all should have a copy of the rule changes, or rules resolutions in your manila folder. If there aren't any questions, I will entertain a motion to approve by Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

So moved.

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**P.O. GREGORY:**

Second by Legislator Muratore. Anyone else? Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Browning)

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. ***Introductory Resolution Number 3 - Appointing the Clerk of the Legislature, Jason Richberg.*** I'll make a motion to approve. Do I have a second?

**D.P.O. CALARCO:**

Second.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Seventeen -- 18.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Did she come in? Oh, she popped in, okay. All right. Congratulations.

(\*Applause\*)

**MS. PASCALE:**

We can do them all together.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Do them all together.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

All right, sure. All right. ***Introductory Resolution Number 4 - Appointing the Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature, Amy Ellis.*** Motion by Legislator Anker, second by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Eighteen.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

All right. Congratulations.

(\*Applause\*)

**P.O. GREGORY:**

***Introductory Resolution Number 5 - Appointing Counsel to the Legislature.*** What's his name?

(\*Laughter\*)

George Nolan. Motion by --

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

(Raised hand).

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**P.O. GREGORY:**

-- Legislator Martinez.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Second.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Second by Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

On the motion.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

On the motion, Legislator D'Amaro.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yes. Presiding Officer, thank you. Just a brief moment to say thank to Mr. Nolan, George Nolan. He's been a great friend, but more important, he's been a great Counsel to this Legislature, completely accessible at all times, very knowledgeable about the law. He knows what he's talking about and he's dedicated to this institution, so I'm proud to support you today, George.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Thank you.

*(\*Applause\*)*

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**MS. ELLIS:**

Eighteen.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

All right.

*(\*Applause\*)*

Okay. ***Introductory Resolution Number 6 - Appointing Director of the Legislative Office of Budget Review, Dr. Robert Lipp.*** I will make that motion to approve, second by Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**MS. ELLIS:**

Eighteen.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

All right. Congratulations.

*(\*Applause\*)*

***(\*George Nolan, Jason Richberg, Amy Ellis and Robert Lipp were sworn in by Judy Pascale, Suffolk County Clerk, and signed the Official Oath Book\*)***

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Thank you, Madam Clerk. Okay. ***Introductory Resolution Number 7 - Adopting a schedule for regular meetings of the Suffolk County Legislature.*** I make a motion to approve by

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Legislator Krupski, second by Legislator Fleming. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Seventeen. (Vote Amended to 18)

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. I'd like to recognize Legislator -- who wants to go first? Krupski -- oh, Legislator Fleming, and then Krupski.

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Eighteen.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. First, I'd like to just say that I'm very grateful to the voters of the Second Legislative District to allow me to join this august body. A number of folks came today and I really appreciate it. And to each of the members of the Legislature, particularly the leadership that's been elected today, I know that each of you has done an outstanding job in very difficult budgetary times. So I am truly delighted and honored to be joining you, and I look forward to working with you.

I just wanted to mention also regarding the rule change that's been adopted today, particularly the change that authorizes the ability to schedule two meetings out in Riverside in our -- in AI and my Legislative Districts. I do believe that government works best when the folks who elect us can keep an eye on us, and when they can have meaningful participation. It's been a long struggle to get more activities, more opportunities for participation out east, and I really do appreciate the opportunity to do that that's represented by these rule changes that have been adopted today.

So I want to thank Legislator AI Krupski, who's worked long and hard on this. I look forward to working with you, AI, but certainly congratulate you on your leadership on this change. And I want to thank in particular the western Legislators. I know that it's not necessary easy for you to vote in this way to allow that extra participation and sort of transparency that will occur for the East End voters. So I just want you to know that we out east do appreciate it and I thank you very much. Thanks.

*(\*Applause\*)*

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you. First, I'd like to just congratulate Presiding Officer Gregory and Deputy Presiding Officer Calarco. I'm sure you're going to do a fine job, and I'm looking forward to this year working with you.

And I'd like to thank, you know, all of my colleagues, you know, for supporting having committee meetings. If you read the fine print, they will all be in Riverhead. I don't know if anyone actually read it.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**LEG. FLEMING:**

That's Riverside.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

But thank you. It does mean a lot. I think it shows how everyone feels it's important to have

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County government accessible to everyone. For someone from, you know, far out, even further, I live in Cutchogue, but even further east to drive to Hauppauge to get three minutes to address a committee is difficult. And this gives people the opportunity to come to a committee, where it's a little more informal, to have County staff there at the appropriate committee, to give them an opportunity to interact and to be a little more communicative with their government, and that's really -- you know, I think everyone appreciates that. So thank you all for -- you know, I know, and I know it is not Hauppauge, it is -- I want to say Riverhead. We're going to -- we'll have to have that discussion afterwards, but --

(\*Laughter\*)

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Al, it's the Riverhead County Center in Riverside, Southampton.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

At the County Seat.

(\*Laughter\*)

But thank you. Really, I want to thank you all, because it does mean a lot to the people who live on the East End, and we appreciate it.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Thank you. All right. *Introductory Resolution Number 8 - Designating depositories.* I'll make a motion to approve.

**D.P.O. CALARCO:**

Second.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**MS. ELLIS:**

Eighteen.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. *Introductory Resolution Number 9 - Designating an official County newspaper.* Same motion, same second.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

On the motion.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

On the motion, Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. I just want to put on the record that I'm against this procedure, as we've tried to debate this over the years. And in the -- this day and age, where technology is utilized universally throughout the County, to spend half a million dollars a year to publish public notices in newspapers I think is outdated and unnecessary, especially given our fiscal issues that we have. So I will not be voting in favor of this amendment.

**LEG. ANKER:**

(Raised hand).

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**P.O. GREGORY:**

Yes, Legislator Anker.

**LEG. ANKER:**

I also feel the same way. But more importantly, our news should have nothing to do with politics. Government should have nothing do with politics. We're here, but now we're voting on political newspapers, and I am strongly against this. So I will be not -- I will not be supporting this resolution.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. Just so that it's clear for those in the audience that are not familiar with this process, the State Law requires that not only Legislative body, but township or municipality vote on official newspapers. There is a Democratic designated paper, there's a Republican designated official paper, and these -- this is the process that we go through, unfortunately. Legislator Lindsay is correct, there have been efforts in the past to do more electronic means, given in the day that we're in, but until the State Law changes the requirement to do it this way, we are prohibited, or restricted, certainly, in going that route. So we are, for the time being anyway, limited to this process. So we have a motion and a second?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Yes, we do.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

But it's State law, we have to do it.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Yes, yes.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

So saying you're voting against it really doesn't -- what if we all voted no, what would happen?

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Well, I'll let George answer that.

**MR. NOLAN:**

We'd probably use the -- you know, if we had stuff we had to publish, we would probably use the papers we -- as they had last year until we designated different papers.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

So we should be contacting our State representatives, correct?

**MR. NOLAN:**

Correct.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Okay.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**(\*Opposed: Legislators Anker, Lindsay and Martinez\*)**

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**MR. RICHBERG:**

Fifteen.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. ***Introductory Resolution Number 10 - Designating the official County newspaper.***  
Motion by Legislator McCaffrey, I suspect.

**LEG. McCAFFREY:**

Yes.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. Second by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

***(\*Opposed: Legislators Anker, Lindsay and Martinez\*)***

**MS. ELLIS:**

Fifteen.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

***Introductory Resolution Number 11 - Designating official local newspapers.*** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Second.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

***(\*Opposed: Legislators Anker, Lindsay and Martinez\*)***

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Fifteen.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. I'd like to make a motion to set the public hearings for the first general meeting on February 9th, at 2:30 p.m., in Hauppauge for I.R. 1000, I.R. 1006, I.R. 1007, I.R. 1020, I.R. 1025, I.R. 1026, I.R. 1027 and I.R. 1042. Second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Seventeen.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

And I'd like to waive the rules and lay the following late-starters on the table: Procedural Motion No. 2 to Public Safety; I.R. 1042 to Public Safety. Set the public hearing, which I just set, on February 9th at 2:30 p.m. here in Hauppauge. I.R. 1043 to Budget and Finance; I.R. 1044 to Budget and Finance. Do I have a second?

**LEG. CILMI:**

Second.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

By Legislator Cilmi. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Trotta)

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**P.O. GREGORY:**

Okay. We have no further business, we stand adjourned. Thank you and have a lovely day.

***(\*The meeting was adjourned at 12:39 PM\*)***