## SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

FIRST DAY

January 3, 2017

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 and Transcribed By
Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer

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(*The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m.*)
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         ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
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          Okay. Good morning, everyone. Good morning, Mr. Clerk.
          MR. RICHBERG:
          Good morning, Legislator Gregory.
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         ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
         Please do the roll call.
11:07AM 10
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         MR. RICHBERG:
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          Surely.
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                              (Roll Called by Mr. Richberg)
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          LEG. KRUPSKI:
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         Here.
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         LEG. FLEMING:
11:07AM 20
         Here.
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         LEG. BROWNING:
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         Here.
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      2.5
         LEG. MURATORE:
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         (Absent)
         LEG. HAHN:
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         (Not Present)
11:07AM 30
         LEG. ANKER:
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         Here.
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         LEG. CALARCO:
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         Present.
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         LEG. LINDSAY:
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         Here.
11:07AM 40
          LEG. MARTINEZ:
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         Here.
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         LEG. CILMI:
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         Here.
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         LEG. BARRAGA:
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         Here.
         LEG. KENNEDY:
11:07AM 50
         Here.
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         LEG. TROTTA:
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         Here.
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LEG. MC CAFFREY:
          Here.
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          ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
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          Here.
          LEG. STERN:
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          (Absent)
          LEG. D'AMARO:
11:07AM 10
          Here.
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          LEG. SPENCER:
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          Here.
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          MR. RICHBERG:
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           Hahn (Not Present). Fifteen. (Not Present: Legislators
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           Hahn/Absent: Legislators Stern and Muratore)
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          ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
11:08AM 20
           Okay. Would you all please rise. We're going to have the
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           presentation of the colors from the Amvets Post 111, Patchogue.
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                                 (*Presentation of the Colors*)
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                  Next, our Salute to the Flag, to be led by Legislator
           Okay.
           Rob Calarco.
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                                          (*Salutation*)
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           LEG. CALARCO:
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          And now I'd like to call up the Patchogue-Medford High School
           Select Choir, who will present us with the National Anthem.
           students are Daniel Barna, Jack Pringle, Autumn Manes, Jordan
           Yates, Nicole Kelly, Jenna Fannelli, Sam Rossi and Braden Elkins.
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           (*Performance by Patchogue-Medford High School Select Choir*)
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                                           (*Applause*)
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           Many thanks to my friends from the Patchogue American Legion
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          Post 111 for presenting the colors this morning. And we're going to have another song by our choir this morning. The students will
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       43
           sing "That Ever I Saw".
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           (*Performance by Patchogue-Medford High School Select Choir*)
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                                          (*Applause*)
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          Thank you to the very talented students, and under the leadership of Mark Stuckey, who is the Director of Art and Music and Cultural
11:15AM 50
           Arts for the Patchogue-Medford School District, and to the School
          District for allowing their students to join us today.
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          And at this time, I'd like to call up Pastor Anthony Palella from
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the Medford Assembly of God. And Pastor Anthony is going to be

providing us with our invocation this morning.

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Pastor Anthony Palella is a native New Yorker and has lived on Long Island since the age of three. He is married with two daughters, and had become Senior Pastor of the Medford Assembly of God in October of 1997. He has seen the church grow from three people to now about 1,000, who call it their home.

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Pastor Anthony is an author, and also the overseeing Presbyter for the Assemblies of God Churches in both Suffolk and Nassau Counties. He takes special pride in the Compassionate Care Ministries of the church. Their outreach to the homeless, children and foster care, children with special needs, law enforcement, and soldiers struggling with PTSD are their priorities.

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11:16AM 10

And I can say I have had many personal interactions with Pastor Anthony. He does a wonderful job. He runs a Hope Day once a year in our community, where he hands out much needed goods to residents, whether it's backpacks for kids for their school supplies, or haircuts, or shoes, or those kind of things that people sometimes don't think about. And he does now outreach not just in my community, but also into Brentwood, in Legislator Martinez' community, with his church and many other churches. So we thank him very much for all of his dedication, helping the people who most need it in our community.

11:16AM 20

And, at this time, I'd like to ask Pastor Anthony to give us our invocation.

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#### PASTOR ANTHONY:

This makes me feel like Captain Kirk. Could I use this?

## LEG. CALARCO:

You can try this one. It doesn't always work.

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#### PASTOR ANTHONY:

I love America. I love those who protect our country, I love those who lead our country. I'm so grateful to have had a relationship with Legislator Calarco and Legislator Martinez. I'm looking forward with Legislator Hahn to do some work in the Port Jeff area as well.

11:17AM 40 41

And as I stand here before you today, I think about the genesis of our government. I think about the fact that our Founding Fathers looked into the scriptures to find a checks and balances, so that this government that leads would be able to have to look each other in the eye and be accountable.

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11:18AM 50

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There's a verse found in Isaiah 33, Chapter -- Chapter 33, Verse 22, and it says, "The Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, and the Lord is our King." And it was our Founding Fathers that found the three branches of government in that verse for us to be led by, even to this day. The Lord is our lawgiver. Today, we have our Legislative branch of Suffolk County getting together to make some vital decisions, decisions that will affect all of us. And we want to pray that God will give them wisdom, since he is the

ultimate lawgiver, that we would look to him to give them wisdom, to give them the unity that they need, and to give them the direction that their steps have to take to make sure that we, the People of Suffolk County, would be led in a direction that would be pleasing to God.

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So with that said, if we could just bow our heads and go the Lord in prayers.

11:18AM 10

Heavenly Father, we come before you today, recognizing that you are the creator of all, that you have give life, and that you give direction to those that you have wonderfully and fearfully made.

I pray, Lord, God, for this gathering today. I pray, Lord, for these wonderful men and women that you have called. Yes, they've been elected, but you have called them, Lord, God. You have put them in the seats that they have. The authority that they have has been given by you to them. And I pray that with character and integrity, with no selfishness behind their decisions, but selflessness for the people of Suffolk County, they would make decisions, they would make sure that their elections would be done with integrity and with clear thought, Lord, God. That they would stand together as one in decisions to the best of their abilities.

11:19AM 20

They won't agree on everything, but even at times they'll agree to 2.5 disagree, lifting one another up, standing by one another, and, inevitably, representing Suffolk County in a way that people could 27

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look and say, "Well, as far as our County goes, we have officials that are worthy of their seats."

11:19AM 30

We pray you bless them, you give them the wisdom, the knowledge, and the discernment they need to make this session of 2017, the first one that we have, a session that they could look back on and say, "We did some good things that day to help a lot of people."

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> Bless these Legislators, bless this gathering, we ask in the name of my Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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# (\*Amen said in Unison\*)

11:20AM 40

#### ACTING P.O. GREGORY:

If you all will please remain standing. Clerk, would you mark Legislator Stern as an excused absence.

Now we'll have a moment of silence in memory of Stewart Stern, Father of Legislator Steve Stern. And George Will McAlevey. is Alison? She's here? Alison, one of our Stenographers, her father passed, passed away recently. And we extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to their families.

11:21AM 50

As always, let us remember all those men and women who have lost their lives in service to our country, and to those who continue to sacrifice and ensure our freedoms.

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And, also, as we celebrate the holidays in the new year, may we be inspired by the spirit of the season to help those less fortunate,

and keep in our hearts those who struggle to provide for their loved ones.

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## (\*Moment of Silence\*)

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Okay. Again, welcome to 2017. This is our Organizational Meeting, where we select our leadership. And the first item on our agenda is to -- I see my good friend, the County Executive is here. Please come forward. He has some remarks for us.

11:22AM 10

#### **COUNTY EXECUTIVE BELLONE:**

Good morning. Thank you very much for the honor of coming here once again to give a few brief remarks at the start of a new year. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with you and your families. And I know we all keep in our thoughts and prayers our colleague, Steve Stern. Wonderful remarks this morning by the Pastor. Thank you.

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This Legislature is in my view very good hands with the leadership of our Presiding Officer, DuWayne Gregory, and our Deputy Presiding Officer, Rob Calarco. I also want to acknowledge and congratulate our Majority Leader, Kara Hahn, Minority Leader, Kevin McCaffrey, and all of my colleagues in the Suffolk County Legislature.

11:23AM 20

For the past five years, I've been proud to work in partnership with this Legislature to undertake the hard work needed to move Suffolk County forward. Together we've tackled many issues, many of which have plagued our County for decades. Working together, Suffolk County government today is more than 1200 positions smaller than it was just five years ago, and we continue to take the tough steps necessary to put Suffolk County on strong fiscal footing.

11:23AM 30

I'm pleased that just a few weeks ago the Legislature overwhelmingly supported a number of critical economic development projects. We sent a strong important message to communities throughout our County that we will support community-based planning, particularly when it comes to creating the kind of vibrant downtowns centered around transit that we need to retain our young people and create high-paying jobs in Suffolk County.

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Last year, this Legislature supported my nominee for Police Commissioner, and I'm proud to say that we have leadership in the Suffolk County Police Department which is worthy of the brave men and women who put the uniform on every day. Under Commissioner Tim Sini and our Leadership Team, crime is down from already record lows, and our relationships with both communities and other levels of government have never been stronger. And I'm pleased that Chief Cameron's program to register alarms, supported by this Legislature, has resulted in a dramatic decrease in false alarms, which means that our police resources are focused on fighting crimes, not responding to false alarms. Once again, our police continue to make one of America's safest counties even safer.

11:25AM 50

And this Legislature has worked hand in hand with our water quality experts to modernize Suffolk County's Sanitary Code, much of which hasn't been touched since the 1970s, bringing it into the 21st

Century. I'm confident that we will continue working together to make tremendous progress to reverse the trend of declining water quality and reclaim our water.

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And I look forward to working with this Legislature in 2017 to develop an understanding of the causes and to implement the reforms necessary to fully restore integrity and public confidence in our Criminal Justice System. We have many challenges in this County and in this region, but we also have great opportunities, great assets, and I believe great public servants who are ready and able to work together to meet those challenges. And, by the way, that is exactly what the public demands of us.

11:26AM 10

Suffolk County voters are not interested in electing Democrats or The same voters will vote for a Republican President Republicans. and a Democratic U.S. Senator, a Republican State Senator and a Democratic Assemblyman, a Republican Supervisor and a Democratic Legislator. That's not because they're confused, it's because they're more interested in electing problem-solvers who are going to work for them than the letter that comes behind someone's name. They've entrusted all of us with a great responsibility to work on their behalf, and together to build a stronger Suffolk County.

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Congratulations, and I look forward to continuing our work with you, our work together to build a stronger Suffolk County. Thank you.

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## (\*Applause\*)

11:27AM 30

## ACTING P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Now we will go to the election of the Presiding Officer, and I will accept nominations for the office of Presiding Officer. at this time, I'll recognize Legislator Rob Calarco for the first nomination.

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## LEG. CALARCO:

It is my honor to nominate DuWayne Gregory to continue as our Presiding Officer.

11:28AM 40

Over the course of the last three years, DuWayne has effectively led this body and our County through some very difficult With each problem, he has sought out input and advice situations. from the different members of this body, be they newly elected or veterans, in the majority or in the minority. He has always sought consensus when possible, but placed governing this County in the best manner possible as first and foremost. And throughout this he has done so in a manner that has always emphasized respect for each of our respective point of views and opinions.

49 11:28AM 50

He has defended the integrity of this body as an independent branch of government, charged with deliberating and making policy. seen him stand up for many of us, even at times where I don't think he necessarily agreed with us. And this is what I think is a true sign of leadership, the ability to not only respect, but stand up for his colleagues when needed, to always reach out with a phone call to talk issues through, to take counsel from others and still

hold true to one's beliefs. DuWayne has exhibited these characteristics, and he certainly has my full confidence, and I hope all of yours, to continue as our Presiding Officer.

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**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:** 

Thank you, Rob. Now I'll recognize Legislator Kara Hahn for a second.

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LEG. HAHN:

11:29AM 10

Thank you. Ditto, obviously, to everything Rob said.

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(\*Laughter\*)

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DuWayne Gregory began his tenure as Presiding Officer in 2014 on the heels of a crippling recession that put tremendous strain on the County budget. Governing in good times is easier than in hard times. Hard times like this demand we balance the needs of the County's 1.4 million constituents with the need for extraordinary fiscal restraint.

11:29AM 20

During these tough three years two things have stood out about Presiding Officer Gregory. He is a man of honor, and he's right on the issues. He's a trustworthy guy, he's a straight shooter. DuWayne can be counted on to stand by people when they need him. He has thrown his support behind struggling families, single parents, women escaping domestic violence, veterans and the elderly. At the same time, he has encouraged projects like the Ronkonkoma Hub, Wyandanch Rising, redevelopment efforts in downtowns like Patchogue, projects that have tremendous economic potential.

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In times of crisis there's nothing more critical than a leader one can take at his word and trust to have your back. DuWayne Gregory is that kind of man. And so it is with pride that I second the nomination of my friend, DuWayne Gregory, to continue his tenure as Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature.

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(\*Applause\*)

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ACTING P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you. I can now ask if there are any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

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LEG. CILMI:

Mr. Chair.

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ACTING P.O. GREGORY:

Yes, Legislator Cilmi.

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LEG. CILMI:

I would like to place into nomination Legislator Kevin McCaffrey as Presiding Officer of this Legislature.

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In his relatively short time here at the Legislature, Legislator McCaffrey has shown keen ability to lead not only within our caucus, at times when sometimes our caucus is -- has divergent

<sup>\*</sup> Index Included at End of Transcript

points of view, but he's also shown an ability to lead in this body, to vote in favor of resolutions that make sense for our County, to vote in favor of resolutions that support our County's infrastructure, while at the same time recognizing that our County is under historic fiscal challenges. It's this ability to discern between those policies that place our County in a position to, as the County Executive says quite often, move forward, but do so in a way that's fiscally responsible. His ability to lead at a time of great fiscal challenge, that I am proud to place the name of Legislator Kevin McCaffrey before this body for Presiding Officer. Thank you.

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ACTING P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Are there any seconds?

16 LEG. TROTTA:

17 I second it.

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ACTING P.O. GREGORY:

11:32AM 20 I'll recognize Legislator Trotta.

21 22 **LEG. TROTTA:** 

Clearly, DuWayne's a great guy, a nice guy. Unfortunately, the direction of this County is going in the wrong direction.

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I went to the dentist yesterday, wealthy guy in Fort Salonga. He has two daughters and both of them have just graduated college. One's moving to Florida, one's moving to New Jersey, and the reason is she can't afford to buy a house here. And he went over, he went over the litany of fees and burdens we've put on the taxpayers of this County.

11:33AM 30 31 32

And people don't realize, that they put their heads down and say, "Oh, it's going to be okay," but it's not going to be okay, because if we're losing two highly educated people amongst, as you'll see coming up in the next couple of weeks, about 185,000 more people leaving New York City -- New York State, we have serious problems. So we need tough decisions being made here and they're not being made.

11:33AM

We have out of control spending. It's -- the debt is through the roof, and I think Legislator McCaffrey and this Legislature needs a fresh view, and I think he's the guy to do it. And we can sit here and borrow and borrow and borrow, but at some point it's going to collapse. And if it wasn't for New York City and with commuting back to the City, we'd be done already. So I think we need a fresh view, a fresh look at it, and that's why I stand behind Legislator Kevin McCaffrey.

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11:34AM 50

ACTING P.O. GREGORY:

And I asked him to pull a couple of teeth and he wouldn't do it for me.

(\*Laughter\*)

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Okay. I'll make a motion to close nominations. Do I have a

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second?
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         LEG. SPENCER:
          (Raised hand)
          ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
          Second by Legislator Spencer to close nominations. All in favor?
          Opposed? Abstentions to close nominations?
          MR. RICHBERG:
11:34AM 10
          Sixteen. (Absent: Legislators Stern and Muratore)
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          ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
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          Okay. We will vote on my nomination. Mr. Clerk, roll call.
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                              (Roll Call by Mr. Richberg)
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         LEG. CALARCO:
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         Yes.
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11:34AM 20
          LEG. HAHN:
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          Yes.
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         LEG. KRUPSKI:
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          Yes.
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          LEG. FLEMING:
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         Proud to vote yes.
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         LEG. BROWNING:
11:34AM 30
          Yes.
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         LEG. MURATORE:
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          (Absent)
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         LEG. ANKER:
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         Yes.
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         LEG. LINDSAY:
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         Yes.
11:34AM 40
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          LEG. MARTINEZ:
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          Yes.
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          LEG. CILMI:
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          No.
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         LEG. BARRAGA:
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          No.
11:34AM 50
          LEG. KENNEDY:
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          No.
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         LEG. TROTTA:
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          No.
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<sup>\*</sup> Index Included at End of Transcript

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LEG. MC CAFFREY:
          No.
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          ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
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          Yes.
          LEG. STERN:
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          (Absent)
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          LEG. D'AMARO:
11:34AM 10
          Yes.
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          LEG. SPENCER:
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          Yes.
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          MR. RICHBERG:
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                   (Absent: Legislators Stern and Muratore)
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          Eleven.
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          P.O. GREGORY:
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          Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much.
11:35AM 20
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                          (*Applause and Standing Ovation*)
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      23
          (*Presiding Officer Gregory was sworn in by the Honorable Derrick
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          J. Robinson, and signed the Official Oath Book*)
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                                     (*Applause*)
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                              (*Photograph Was Taken*)
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11:37AM 30
          P.O. GREGORY:
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          Thank you. Thank you for nominating me and electing me for one
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          more term as your Presiding Officer. It is truly my pleasure and
          honor to lead this great institution. And I wouldn't be able to do
          what I do if it weren't for the support of my family, particularly
          my wife, who fully understands the challenges of being a spouse of
          an elected official, the missed holidays and family events, and
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          she's mostly understanding.
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                                     (*Laughter*)
11:38AM 40
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          But she is always a true friend and partner, and, again, I wouldn't
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          be able to do what I do without her. So thank you. I love you.
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                                     (*Applause*)
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          And my stepson, Kyle, who is here today with his girlfriend, Erin.
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          Thank you for being here as well and being supporters of mine.
          really appreciate your support as well.
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11:38AM
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          Also, to Judge Robinson, a terrific and wonderful Judge, but most
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          importantly a great friend, thank you for coming here today and
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          swearing me in.
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                                     (*Applause*)
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Our County Executive, thank you for once again for being here and providing your words. And I look forward to working with you, not only this year, but the years to come, to keep Suffolk County moving in the right direction so that we can make the best choices and decisions that will impact not only our young people, but all the residents that live here, because it's not only important -- it's critically important for our region, but, as you know, we are an important region in New York State. So where New York State -- where we go, New York State goes, and it needs good leadership, and you certainly present that, and I look forward to continuing our friendship and partnership.

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11:39AM 10

# (\*Applause\*)

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

Mr. Presiding Officer, if I may. I just want to, although, I want to make it clear that our votes in dissension of your election as Presiding Officer is not a reflection of how we feel about you personally and how you treat the Minority here. You, as Legislator Calarco said, you always have respect for different views and you clearly do that. And even though we -- even when we disagree strenuously, you always respect the views of the other side, and you always treat us fairly here in the Minority. And I just want to go on record as saying that, and appreciate the work that you've done. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, I appreciate that.

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11:40AM 20

## (\*App1ause\*)

And for Rob and Kara, I want to thank you for your kind words. As my wife will tell you, I'm not, I guess, a bad politician in a sense that I don't look for accolades, so it always makes me feel a little awkward to hear such flattering words, but I certainly appreciate them. I appreciate your friendship. And, you know, our team is a terrific team and we're going to do some great things, and, you know, I look forward to a wonderful 2017. So thank you again.

11:40AM

Now I hope you all had a special holiday season with family and friends, and I wish you a happy and healthy, prosperous new year. I welcome to you the annual Organizational Meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature. We hope to continue on the successful bipartisanship -- excuse me -- bipartisan accomplishments of 2016 in the coming year.

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11:41AM 50

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It has been a great honor for me to act as Presiding Officer of what I consider one of the best governments in this country. While other branches of government often seem paralyzed with partisan squabbling, we at the Suffolk County Legislature work together for the good of all County residents. Certainly we at times disagree, but more often than not, we can find a common ground that we can all share.

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I would like to recognize four Legislators in particular, Steve

Stern, Lou D'Amaro, Kate Browning and Tom Barraga. starting their final year as Legislators because of term limits. They have all had distinguished careers as County Legislators, and I am certain they will continue their exemplary work in their final year. I thank you, and every resident of Suffolk County thanks you for your years of dedicated service.

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## (\*Applause\*)

11:42AM 10

I would like to give a brief outline of my top priorities for the coming year, priorities I share with many of my fellow Legislators. First and foremost is to ensure public safety. Under the leadership of Police Commissioner Tim Sini, the Suffolk County Police Department continues to be one of the best departments in the country. Commissioner Sini has made extraordinary efforts to cooperate hand in hand with his Federal and State counterparts, and if we are to effectively fight gang and drug violence, that cooperation is critically important.

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He also has made great strides in reaching out to the public he serves with community meetings, greater transparency and a vastly expanded presence on the internet, which is more important every day.

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We will continue to give the Suffolk County Police Department the support it needs to continue its fine work in the coming year.

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We will once again hold the line on General Fund property taxes for the eleventh straight year in a row. We will continue to battle homelessness, especially for our returning veterans.

11:43AM 30

We made a serious effort to reach out to young millennials with the formation of our Next Generation Advisory Council. That effort will continue and expand in 2017.

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We will continue to make Suffolk County more transparent. In the past year, we expanded our live coverage on the internet of our General Meetings, both here and in Riverhead. And under legislation sponsored by Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco, we established the Open Data website, which makes a vast amount of our County data available quickly and easily to all residents.

11:43AM 40

But the centerpiece of my priorities for the coming year is continue to do all we can to bolster the middle class in Suffolk One critical aspect of that effort is to support the Suffolk Community College. That is where students can get training they need to get good jobs that will allow them to stay here in Suffolk County.

49 11:44AM 50

In hopes of providing the College and its students some financial surety going into the a future, a panel I formed, including the Suffolk County Community College officials, myself and other County officials, has drawn up a five-year financial plan for the College. That plan is currently under review by our Office of Budget Review.

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We also need to continue our support of transit-oriented

development projects that are regionally significant, like Wyandanch Rising and the Ronkonkoma Hub. Those two projects will create affordable housing for our young people, and their location at transit hubs will free those young people from the necessity of buying a vehicle. And those projects will create hundreds of construction jobs and more than 100 permanent jobs when completed.

So thank you for your time and attention as we at the Suffolk County Legislature begin a new year. And, again, thank you all for 11:45AM 10 your support.

## (\*App1ause\*)

Next is Introductory Resolution No. 1, election of the Deputy Presiding Officer. I will accept nominations for the office of Deputy Presiding Officer. I will now recognize Legislator Spencer for the purpose of our first nomination.

## LEG. SPENCER:

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11:45AM 20

11:46AM 30

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. And congratulations on your reelection. I share your vision and look forward to working with you.

During the election for our Presiding Officer, there was a second nomination for Kevin McCaffrey, and we saw a vote that I really appreciated, and that is the voice that we have in this Legislature that offers a balance on both sides of the aisle. And I understand the concern and I take those concerns very seriously every day.

One thing that I've learned, though, as a doctor is that sometimes we don't see the healing, but it is occurring, and sometimes it's slow and we have to reassure ourselves that we're on the right track. And that's why it gives me great privilege to nominate Rob Calarco for Deputy Presiding Officer.

One thing about Rob is that he exhibits wisdom beyond his years, although he is one of the youngest members of this Legislature. think that he's been around in a variety of different roles, and he takes the time to study and to learn the delicate balance that it takes to be a fine representative of the people, but also a leader amongst colleagues. I've seen him mature over the years. offers a steady hand, he's focused, he's got a great temperament, but he really has a depth of knowledge that is absolutely amazing.

And I think that although we can look at this economy and see what's going wrong, and I saw something early this morning where it had indicated that over the last eight years we've seen over 125% growth in our market. We've seen steady decrease of unemployment, we've seen jobs created year after year, but yet we've seen great losses on one side of the aisle, and that is that people are hurting and people are hurting right now. But there are also critical functions that we do every day, and families that rely on us, and there's infrastructure, and Legislator Calarco understands this. Ι.

I don't think it's any accident that he happens to represent the

\* Index Included at End of Transcript

14

11:47AM 40

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11:48AM 50

district in Patchogue that is the blueprint for our future.
Although a lot of credit is given on the town level, I do think that Rob, his leadership and some of the things he's represented, has played a great role in that success.

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I've seen many examples of Rob's leadership as we've dealt with very difficult decisions. And I've seen his ability to be able to reach out, to compromise, to back off his own position for what he feels is best for our County. He represents his constituents with pride and with honor, but, at the same time, he has a greater vision of what the entire County needs.

12

11:49AM 10

He's been a friend to me. He's always had an open door. As a Majority Leader and as a Deputy Presiding Officer, he continues to grow in his leadership abilities. So with that said, it gives me great honor to nominate Rob Calarco for Deputy Presiding Officer once again.

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## LEG. CALARCO:

Thank you.

11:49AM 20

## P.O. GREGORY:

Excellent. For the purposes of a second nomination, I will recognize Legislator Monica Martinez.

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#### LEG. MARTINEZ:

Thank you. I am also pleased to -- pleased and honored, actually, to second the nomination for my colleague, Rob Calarco, as Deputy Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature. He's proven to be an able leader and honest broker to maintain the civility and order of this body.

11:50AM 30 31

To me, Rob has been more than just a Deputy Presiding Officer, but a friend. There have been issues in which I may not have been in favor of, and I've spoken to him about my reservations. What I appreciate he has done with me, and I'm sure with my other colleagues, is provide information based on facts and not based on emotions, and he has always supported the decisions that I have made. He has also been very supportive in assuring that my district has the necessary resources that our families, but especially our children, need.

11:50AM 40 41

Are we losing our children to other states or to our fiscal constraints? Yes. But I know that we're losing our children to gang violence and drug epidemic. And I know that you have been completely supportive of my district in making sure that we get the resources needed, not only for our families, but for your children. And to me, I cannot have anyone better than that, knowing that I have you in my corner to protect my district as well. And not only my district, but I know that you represent a district similar to mine, and that you yourself have encountered situations that have affected the County as a whole, and you understand that. And not too many people can sympathize nor empathize with that, and for that I thank you.

11:51AM 50

And I know that there have been times that I've taken you to the

back, because I'm mad about a certain vote that we have to take, and I really appreciate the fact that you just -- you're there not only as a Deputy Presiding Officer, but you're there as a friend. And like I said before, you provide me with facts, and that's what I appreciate.

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You've been here for a very long time. Your knowledge is amazing of what you've gone through in the last, I don't know, decade, maybe, of being here.

11:51AM 10

# LEG. CALARCO:

Sixteen years.

## LEG. MARTINEZ:

Sixteen years? So -- and it shows, Rob. So I thank you. And I know that having you as part of our leadership team, you're going to continue making this County even a better place for the residents of Suffolk County. So thank you.

19 11:52AM 20

# P.O. GREGORY:

And before I ask for any other nominations, I just want to add that Rob has been a good friend, but, most importantly, a true partner. He is a critical component of our leadership team, and, you know, someone I feel I couldn't do the job without. And, certainly, I'm proud to support him for his renomination this year.

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Is there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Yes.

29 11:52AM 30

## LEG. MC CAFFREY:

Yes, Mr. Presiding Officer. It's my pleasure to put into nomination for the office of Deputy Presiding Officer Legislator Tom Cilmi.

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Tom is an experienced Legislator. He's worked tirelessly on providing -- trying to provide transparency in government, and especially in our budget process. He is one that works very hard to try and get us out of the hole that we are in and balance our budget. He continually will highlight the fact that we're running a \$75 million structural deficit every year, although others may make it sound as if we have a balanced budget.

11:52AM 40

It's personal to him. He's got, like myself, adult children who we want to keep here on Long Island. We don't want to continue to make it harder for them to be able to stay here and potentially have the loss of our own children off Long Island because they can't afford to live here, so he shares my views on that.

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11:53AM 50

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And on a personal note, when I was thinking about running for the Legislature, Tom was one of the people I spoke to, and he gave me honest evaluations. He was good counsel to me in whenever I had a question about what I needed to know about the Legislature, and he continues to be to this date.

54

And so Tom Cilmi is a Legislator man that we can all look forward to as someone that shares our views of wanting to balance our

budget and make this County the type of place where all of us can afford to live here.

2

So it is my pleasure to place in nomination the name of Legislator Tom Cilmi for the office of Deputy Presiding Officer.

6

## P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Any seconds?

9 11:54AM 10

## LEG. TROTTA:

(Raised hand)

11 12 13

## P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. I'll recognize Legislator Trotta.

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#### LEG. TROTTA:

Again, Rob Calarco, I personally go to you at times, because your depth of knowledge is, I can almost say, unmatched. You're really into what you do. You're very knowledgeable, and I appreciate all the help you've given me over the years. However, there's a fundamental difference here and it's about taxing and spending. You cannot tax your way or figure your way out of this, and that's basically the difference between the two parties here.

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11:54AM 20

And I think that, you know, as Albert Einstein said, the definition of insanity is repeating the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. It's not going to change. We can't sell a building, we can't borrow from the Sewer Stabilization Fund, and I think Legislator Cilmi brings that point of view to the public and to this Legislature. We need a different way of doing things, because what we're doing, we can make -- pretend it's working, but it's not working.

11:54AM 30

You know the County Executive came in here and talked about, you know, the great Police Department. Well, it was us who came here when I got here who said, "Look, this guy's a criminal," and here he is, James Burke, on the cover of Newsday again today and embarrassing this Police Department.

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11:55AM 40

So Legislator Cilmi and the Republicans are something that's needed now, because if it doesn't change, you know how bad it is this year, just wait until next year. And I think that Tom brings a unique perspective and we need change now, and that's why I fully support him.

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#### P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Are there -- well, I'm going to make a motion to close nominations.

49 11:55AM 50

# LEG. BARRAGA:

(Raised hand)

51 52

## P.O. GREGORY:

Oh, Legislator Barraga.

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#### LEG. BARRAGA:

I'd like to say one or two words with reference to supporting Tom Cilmi for this particular post, and yet, Mr. Calarco I think has done a fine job, and I supported you last year.

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My own opinion is that Suffolk County has reached a fork in the road. We either start making some definitive decisions with reference to how we spend money and how we pay for it, or else we're going to go down the road of good intentions, but face financial control boards and bankruptcy.

11:56AM 10

Tom Cilmi, my impression of him in the last five or six years that he's been here is that he's an individual that gets into the nitty-gritty of the budgetary process, who really takes the time to not only take and look at the major issues, but the minor ones as well. He's an individual who works seven days a week, 24 hours a day, not only dealing with Legislative issues, but with his constituents. He realizes, as most of us do, that the financial makeup of Suffolk County now is dire and it's not getting any better.

11:56AM 20 21

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When we sit here and we approve budgets and we put in spending, we have to have enough courage to also vote for the revenues to pay for those expenses. When we do, so be it, let the chips fall where they may. When those who vote for budgets like that don't want to support the revenues, then I think that's a bit hypocritical. It's like the fellow who debates for a pay raise and he's dead set against it, but he can't wait to get down there and pick it up.

29 11:57AM 30

So, you know, there are many, especially with reference to Newsday, that editorialize all the time about the plight of different counties, of Suffolk County, and how we have to control spending and get control of our deficits. Well, that certainly is true, and I think the best approach is to have someone like Tom Cilmi in the Deputy position who takes the time to do the nitty-gritty hard work of this Legislature with reference to the budget. You know, we're talking about a fund of \$2.8 billion. And things have to be looked at a lot closer.

39 11:57AM 40

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Some of us had problems with the original budget from the Executive branch, because we felt it wasn't aggressive enough in reducing that spending and controlling those expenses, and I think Tom Cilmi was in that perspective. But most of the time a County Executive is going to get 98% of what he asks for anyway. The problem we have is sometimes at the Legislature we want to be less aggressive in reducing expenses, we want to keep all the good programs in there. I mean, who wants to cut child care? Who wants to cut domestic violence issues? Who wants to cut a whole host of issues? We have 580 different nonmandated programs, we don't want to cut any of them. So if you put an additional 33 million in there, then you have to have enough courage to turn around and vote for the revenues to pay for that 33 million, otherwise you blow a big hole in the Legislature, otherwise you increase the structural deficit, otherwise you increase the overall three-year deficit to better than \$400 million.

11:58AM 50

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And Tom Cilmi is the kind of person who will get into the
          nitty-gritty of all of this and do a heck of a job. So I'm happy
       2
          to second his nomination for Deputy Presiding Officer.
          P.O. GREGORY:
          Okay. I will make a motion to close nominations, second by
          Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions to close
       7
          nominations?
          MR. RICHBERG:
11:58AM 10
          Sixteen. (Absent: Legislators Stern and Muratore)
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      12
          P.O. GREGORY:
      13
          Okay. We will vote on Legislator Rob Calarco's nomination.
          call.
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      16
                             (Roll Call by Mr. Richberg)
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      18
          LEG. SPENCER:
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11:59AM 20
          Yes.
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      22
          LEG. MARTINEZ:
          Yes.
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      24
          LEG. KRUPSKI:
      2.5
          Yes.
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      27
          LEG. FLEMING:
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      29
          Yes.
11:59AM 30
          LEG. BROWNING:
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          Yes.
      32
      33
         LEG. MURATORE:
      34
          (Absent)
      35
      36
          LEG. HAHN:
      37
          Yes.
      38
         LEG. ANKER:
11:59AM 40
          Yes.
      41
          LEG. CALARCO:
      43
          Yes.
      44
      45
          LEG. CILMI:
      46
          No.
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      48
          LEG. BARRAGA:
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          No.
11:59AM 50
      51
          LEG. KENNEDY:
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      53
          No.
      54
          LEG. TROTTA:
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          No.
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<sup>\*</sup> Index Included at End of Transcript

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1
          LEG. MC CAFFREY:
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       3
          No.
       5
          LEG. STERN:
          (Absent)
          LEG. D'AMARO:
          Yes.
11:59AM 10
          MR. RICHBERG:
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      12
          Gregory.
          LEG. LINDSAY:
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          Jason you skipped me.
      15
      16
          MR. RICHBERG:
      17
          Oh, Lindsay.
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      19
          LEG. LINDSAY:
11:59AM 20
          Yes.
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      22
          P.O. GREGORY:
      23
          Yes.
      24
      2.5
          MR. RICHBERG:
      27
          Eleven. (Absent: Legislators Stern and Muratore)
          P.O. GREGORY:
      29
          Okay. Congratulations.
11:59AM 30
      31
          D.P.O. CALARCO:
      32
          Thank you, everyone.
      33
      34
                              (*Applause and Standing Ovation*)
      35
      36
               (*Deputy Presiding Officer Robert Calarco was sworn in by the
      37
           Honorable Derrick J. Robinson, and signed the Official Oath Book*)
      38
      39
                                        (*Applause*)
12:01PM 40
      41
                                   (*Photograph Was Taken*)
      42
      43
          D.P.O. CALARCO:
          I want to thank all of you, my colleagues, who have supported me
      45
          for the Deputy Presiding Officer. And a special thanks to Legislators Spencer and Martinez, both who I consider friends, as
          well as colleagues, and especially for those very kind words from
          both of you.
                         Thank you so much.
      49
12:03PM
      50
          And, also, I thank my family, who cannot be with me today, as my
      51
          wife, Laura, is taking my youngest daughter, Alma Rosa, to her
          first day at UPK at the Pat.-Med. School District. So she started
          at 11, so they are there this morning, as well as my young son,
          Patrick.
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In listening to the debate over this position, I heard some very fine words about my colleague, Legislator Cilmi, and I think Tom is a terrific Legislator. And I remember when he first started in the Legislature and I was still just an Aide sitting behind him, in leaning over to one of the other Aides when he was debating a bill and saying, "You know what, he's really good." So I have a lot of respect for Legislator Cilmi, and actually appreciate having the opportunity to sit next to him. Unlike other levels of government where you have different sides of the aisle and don't sit next to each other, we sit next to each other here, and having the opportunity to dialogue with Tom during the course of a meeting and we chat a bit. I get to hear his perspective and his points of views on things, and it certainly helps me, I think, become a better Legislator and better Deputy Presiding Officer.

## LEG. CILMI:

Thank you.

#### D.P.O. CALARCO:

So over the last year I've tried to understand and fulfill what the expectations of a Deputy Presiding Officer are. I mean, the obvious is, you know, to run the meetings when the Presiding Officer has to step away. But there's a lot more to it than just that. At times it's being counsel to the Presiding Officer, to DuWayne. And as he said, I think we have a great partnership, and that he has done a terrific job as our Presiding Officer. And, you know, sometimes, it's simply just to be his counsel to, you know, hash out an issue or a problem and help come up with the best solution and the best way forward for us as a body and for the County as a whole. At times, it's to be a sounding board to bounce ideas off and to help refine those ideas for my colleagues. And then once those are refined in the policy proposal, it's often to help champion those issues with you to help make sure that they are enacted into law, and to help make sure that each and every one of you are getting the resources that you need for your districts.

At times I find I'm a liaison between different members, and often between the Legislature and the Executive Branch. And in that role, you know, I set aside my own personal feelings to make sure that I'm accurately portraying the position of my colleagues and the consensus of the body or the Administration to each and every one of us, so we have that clear representation of what each other's points of views are, and then try to work from there to build consensus and compromise so that we can move forward. this isn't to say that I don't make my opinions clear, because I think I certainly do. And we have certainly championed some policies such as Open Data Policy, the action, the lawsuit action against pharmaceutical companies for their role in our opioid epidemic, and to -- for the encouragement of the creation of affordable housing. And on each of these and other issues, I've always tried to find common ground with each and every one of you to make sure that as we move forward, it is in a fashion that as many of us can get behind as possible, while at the same time respecting when people have a different opinion from mine.

And I'm honored to be given the opportunity to continue in this

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12:04PM 30

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12:06PM 50

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12:05PM

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role, and I hope that I am able to continue to meet those goals.
          And I'm always open to concerns and criticisms at times, because I
          think that each and every one of us can always learn and improve in
          what we do.
          I look forward to working in another year with Presiding Officer Gregory and all of you to do the People's business, to find ways to
       7
          innovate and make Suffolk County government more effective and
          efficient in delivering vital services to the residents of this
          County, so they feel and know that they're receiving real value for
12:07PM 10
          their tax dollars. So thank you all again for your support.
      12
                                      (*App1ause*)
      13
      14
          P.O. GREGORY:
      15
          Okay. Next, we'll have on our agenda is Introductory Resolution 2
      16
          - Adopting Rules of the Suffolk County Legislature. I'll make a
      17
          motion to approve.
      18
      19
          LEG. KENNEDY:
12:07PM 20
          Second.
      21
      22
          P.O. GREGORY:
      23
          Second by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed?
      24
          Abstentions?
      2.5
      26
          MR. RICHBERG:
      27
          Fifteen. (Not Present: Legislator Browning/Absent: Legislators
      28
          Stern and Muratore)
      29
12:07PM 30
          P.O. GREGORY:
      31
          Okay. Next is Introductory Resolution No. 3 - Appointing the Clerk
      32
          of the Legislature, Jason Richberg. I'll make a motion to approve.
      33
      34
          LEG. LINDSAY:
      35
          Second.
      36
      37
          P.O. GREGORY:
      38
          Second by Legislator Lindsay. All in -- All in favor?
                                                                      Opposed?
          Abstentions?
12:08PM 40
      41
          MS. ELLIS:
      42
                     (Not Present: Legislator Browning/Absent: Legislators
      43
          Fifteen.
          Stern and Muratore)
      45
          P.O. GREGORY:
      46
          Okay. Congratulations.
      47
      48
                                      (*Applause*)
      49
12:08PM
      50
          We're going to move on to Resolution No. 4, and then we'll have you
      51
          two sworn in together, okay?
      52
      53
      54
          All right. Introductory Resolution No. 4 - Appointing the Chief
          Deputy Clerk of the Legislature, Amy Ellis. I make --
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LEG. ANKER:
          (Raised hand).
         P.O. GREGORY:
         A motion by Legislator Anker.
         LEG. HAHN:
       7
         (Raised hand).
         P.O. GREGORY:
12:08PM 10
         Second by Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
      11
      12
          MR. RICHBERG:
      13
          Fifteen. (Not Present: Legislator Browning/Absent: Legislators
         Stern and Muratore)
      16
         P.O. GREGORY:
      17
         Okay. Congratulations.
                                     (*Applause*)
12:08PM 20
      21
                 Would you two please step forward and take your oath of
         Okay.
      22
         office.
      23
      24
          (*Jason Richberg, Clerk of the Legislature, and Amy Ellis, Chief
      2.5
          Deputy Clerk of the Legislature, were sworn in by The Honorable
          Derrick J. Robinson, and signed the Official Oath Book*)
      27
      28
                                     (*Applause*)
      29
      30
                              (*Photograph Was Taken*)
      31
      32
                                     (*Applause*)
      33
      34
         P.O. GREGORY:
      35
         Okay. Next is Resolution No. 5 - Appointing Counsel to the
         Legislature, George M. Nolan. I will make a motion.
      38
         D.P.O. CALARCO:
         Second.
12:11PM 40
      41
          P.O. GREGORY:
                                          Did you want to --
      43
         Second by Legislator Calarco.
      44
         LEG. FLEMING:
      45
          I would love to make a motion. Can we have a third?
      46
      47
          P.O. GREGORY:
          Motion by Legislator Fleming, second by --
      49
12:11PM 50
         LEG. FLEMING:
      51
         When it comes to George, he's got a third, a fourth, a fifth, all
      53
         the way to 12th.
      54
         P.O. GREGORY:
      55
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Okay. So I'll put you as first, and then Rob as seconding the

<sup>\*</sup> Index Included at End of Transcript

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nomination. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
      1
         MR. RICHBERG:
       3
         Fifteen. (Not Present: Legislator Browning/Absent: Legislators
         Stern and Muratore)
         P.O. GREGORY:
       7
         Okay. Congratulations.
                                     (*App1ause*)
12:11PM 10
      11
          (George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature, was sworn in by The
      12
         Honorable Derrick J. Robinson, and signed the Official Oath Book*)
      13
      14
                                     (*Applause*)
      15
      16
         P.O. GREGORY:
      17
         Okay. All right. Resolution No. 6 - Adopting the schedule for the
      18
         regular meetings of the County Legislature. I'll make a motion to
         approve.
12:12PM 20
      21
         LEG. KRUPSKI:
      22
         Second.
      23
      24
         P.O. GREGORY:
      2.5
         Second, second by Legislator Krupski. Okay. We did -- we did make
         a change.
      27
         MR. NOLAN:
      29
         There was a slight -- there's a revised copy that was circulated
12:13PM 30
         where the -- one of the Riverhead cycles has been moved from June
         to March 7th, so that's what we're voting on right now.
      33
         P.O. GREGORY:
      34
         Okay. So we have a motion and a second on Resolution No. 6. All
      35
         in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
      36
      37
         MR. RICHBERG:
      38
         Fifteen. (Not Present: Legislator Browning/Absent: Legislators
      39
         Stern and Muratore)
      40
      41
         P.O. GREGORY:
      42
                Resolution No. 7 - Designating depositories, pursuant to
      43
         Section 212 of the County Law. I make a motion to approve.
      45
         D.P.O. CALARCO:
      46
         Second.
      47
         P.O. GREGORY:
      49
         Second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed?
12:13PM 50
         Abstentions?
      51
      52
         MR. RICHBERG:
      53
         Fifteen. (Not Present: Legislator Browning/Absent: Legislators
         Stern and Muratore)
      56
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P.O. GREGORY:
          Okay. Resolution No. 8 - Designating newspaper as an official
          newspaper of the County of Suffolk. This is also a revised copy.
          Motion by Legislator --
          LEG. ANKER:
          (Raised hand)
       7
          LEG. LINDSAY:
       9
          No, she wants to say something.
12:14PM 10
          P.O. GREGORY:
      12
          Oh, motion by Legislator Calarco, I'll second. Okay. Anyone?
      13
          thought someone had -- I thought you had a comment.
          LEG. ANKER:
      16
          On the motion.
      17
      18
          P.O. GREGORY:
      19
          Oh, okay. Yeah, on the motion.
12:14PM 20
      21
          LEG. ANKER:
      22
          I just want to state for the record I will not be supporting any
          type of politically related publication, because we're using
          taxpayer money, we're using government money. And we're always
          warned, whether you're a politician, elected official or public
          servant, you don't mix the two, you never mix the two.
      27
          understand there's a New York State Law declaring this to be
          constitutional. However, I don't feel that this is the right thing
         to do, so I will not be supporting the newspapers.
12:14PM 30
          P.O. GREGORY:
      32
          Okay. All right. Oh, Legislator Lindsay.
      33
          LEG. LINDSAY:
      35
          I'll also be voting against this measure, measure 7, 8 and -- I'm
          sorry, measure 8, 9 and 10. I just -- given the financial
          constraints that we're under, and we constantly talk about it
          ad nauseam here, but it's -- this is roughly a half a million
          dollars that we just spend that is not necessary, given the
12:15PM 40
          technologies today. I know that it's -- it's legislatively
          necessary, but we need to change the law, that this could easily be posted on the internet, which it already is, and that is where most
          of the people get this information to begin with. To be doing it
          the same way we've -- it's been done for hundreds of years just
          doesn't make any sense with the new technology that we have in
          place, and to spend a half a million dollars to do is just --
          further makes it unconceivable, given the financial constraints
          that we're faced. So I will be voting against this as well.
      49
12:15PM 50
          P.O. GREGORY:
      51
          Legislator Hahn.
      52
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\* Index Included at End of Transcript

LEG. HAHN:

54

I'm going to agree with the two former speakers here. I know that our former Clerk really had worked hard to get things online, as is

the current Clerk, to make sure that we're very accessible to the public. And I think that we need to meet with our State Legislative leaders and, you know, make it clear that this is not a necessary financial burden that we need. So, you know, I'm supportive of efforts to doing that. So thank you.

6 7

## P.O. GREGORY:

8 Legislator Trotta.

9 12:16PM 10

#### LEG. TROTTA:

I just have a question to Counsel. What happens if we don't vote for this?

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#### MR. NOLAN:

I would say that, you know, there's a legal obligation to publish a lot of our legal notices. That obligation doesn't go away. So I believe we would use the -- whoever was designated at the end of 2016 as the official newspaper. I think we have to keep publishing in those papers until we, you know, redesignate new papers for 2017, because we have -- you know, there's --

12:16PM 20

## LEG. TROTTA:

23 So the law requires that we have to do this.

24 25

28

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31

## MR. NOLAN:

We have to have papers to publish our notices in.

27

## LEG. TROTTA:

Unfunded mandate, is that what it's called?

12:17PM 30

## MR. NOLAN:

I'll let you characterize it, Legislator Trotta. It's just it's the law, and the State -- that's a State Law, and we have to have papers and we've get to publish our notices.

35 36

## LEG. TROTTA:

So I don't -- you know, we're still going to spend the money no matter what, is what you're saying?

39 12:17PM 40

## MR. NOLAN:

41 I think we have to.

42 43

## LEG. TROTTA:

0kay.

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12:17PM 50

## P.O. GREGORY:

All right. I understand people's concerns about the process, but this is the process. We're legally required to advertise. To vote against the process without having an alternative and a substitute, in my mind, would be malpractice, because we wouldn't be able to do anything, the Local Laws that we -- you know, that we sponsor and legislate. You know, this body and the business of Suffolk County would literally come to a halt, then we can't do the budgets. I mean, this is important. Yes, Legislator Hahn.

#### LEG. HAHN:

Yeah, I just want to clarify. I agree that we shouldn't be spending this money, but we have to. So, you know, I will be voting for it, but I think that we should meet with our State representatives and we should find a way to make sure Albany knows that this is not necessary in this day and age. And in many ways they need to come out of the Dark Ages and this is one of them. This is absolutely not necessary. To be required to do so, you know, again, is, I agree, an unfunded mandate. So I just want to make that clear, that I'll be voting for it, but we should meet with our State elected officials and talk about this seriously.

## P.O. GREGORY:

12:18PM 10

12:19PM 20

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Right. And Legislator McCaffrey and I, before the meeting today, we spoke briefly about how we can work together in the coming year, and going up to Albany to lobby or advocate, if you will, on issues that are critically important to us, like sales tax enforcement and things of that nature. And, certainly, if there's bipartisan agreement on this issue, we can certainly add that to the agenda. But to vote against something that, you know, is literally, you know, cutting your nose off to spite your face, I mean, there --you know, we can't function without advertising by law. So to not have an alternative is just irresponsible. I think Legislator Cilmi, and then Legislator Krupski.

#### LEG. CILMI:

Thanks Mr. Chair. I just really had a question, and I'm not necessarily opposed to these bills. I think to some extent there are some folks who aren't connected to the internet and don't get their news that way, and there are some folks who actually look through, I've come to find, these postings in the printed newspapers and get their information. For the life of me, I can't imagine somebody doing that, but, nevertheless, I'm told that people actually do that.

My question, though, is this: If it's, in fact, necessary to do, how is it that we get around that requirement when occasionally, and admittedly it is very seldom, but occasionally we post notices of public hearings on, you know, 8 1/2-by-11 sheets of papers on our doors and consider that legal notice? I guess that's the question I would have for Counsel.

## MR. NOLAN:

Well, a lot of this, what's required to be published in newspapers and what's not is determined really sometimes by State Law, and sometimes by our County Law and the Charter. The tax liens, that's in the Suffolk County Tax Act, that we have to publish those in our official newspapers. In terms of meeting notices, the Open Meetings Law states that you cannot achieve notice by posting on doors of public buildings and giving a notice to the media. You don't have to publish in a newspaper your meetings to be compliant with the law. So it just depends. It's all throughout State and Local Law in terms of what has to be advertised in the official newspapers of the County.

\* Index Included at End of Transcript

27

12:20PM 50

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LEG. CILMI:
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Okay. So there are some components of the business of this body that are required by State Law to be published in the newspaper?

4

## MR. NOLAN:

Like, I believe, like our Charter requires like Local Laws to be published before they're voted on, that there has to be a notice of a Public -- Notice of Public Hearing has to be published in the official newspapers. It's chock-full. You know, you go through our Local Laws and the State Law and there's certain things that have to be published in newspapers to have legal notice to the public. Some things we don't, some things we do. But like, for example, the tax liens are the perfect example, those have to be published in our official newspapers. That's in the Suffolk County Tax Act.

16 17

## LEG. CILMI:

18 Okay, thank you.

19 12:21PM 20

12:21PM 10

## P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Krupski.

22 23

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#### LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you. So while I appreciate the concerns of some of my colleagues about, you know, spending money, there are people, I know I represent people who don't have internet access and so I --

27 28

#### LEG. HAHN:

29 We could mail it to them.

12:22PM 30

#### LEG. KRUPSKI:

I would like to.

32 33

31

## LEG. FLEMING:

To each individual person?

35 36 37

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#### LEG. KRUPSKI:

vacuum, we're not going to serve our constituency very well. And I got to give, you know, the Presiding Officer credit. A couple of years ago he wanted to put cameras in our -- for our meetings and to let people have more access to how we operate. And I think -- I think it's important. I think it's important to reach out to the people that we represent, because we're really serving those people. If anybody can come up with a less costlier way of doing it, that is efficient and that you're reaching your constituency, I think I'd be happy to discuss that. But, in the mean time, this is the way we're doing it and I'll support it.

Public notice is extremely important. And if we operate in a

49 12:22PM 50

12:22PM 40

## P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Hahn.

51 52 53

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#### LEG. HAHN:

No, I agree. There are fewer and fewer people who are not connected to the internet, but there are a number that are not, and I think that they can be reached. We can have our listings printed

and, you know, posted in public libraries. They could be posted in each of our district offices. They could be posted in every, you know, County elected official's office. I think there are ways we can think of that cost a lot less than what it costs to print it in a newspaper that not everybody has access to. And so if we are really about access, then we would be printing in a paper, in papers that are required to reach every town, every village in the County, and that is not a requirement.

9

And so I think that -- I think there are ways -- this is a serious issue, and I think that it deserves, you know, full discussion about the best way to reach those individuals who are not connected to the internet, and the way that is most efficient. And there may be folks who -- there may be few enough people who can't get to a library, who can't get to a Legislative office, who can't get to a whatever. Maybe it could be faxed, maybe it could be mailed to them. You know, I think that it's worthy of discussion, because this is a tremendous expense that needs to be rethought.

19 12:24PM 20

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12:23PM 10

## P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Martinez.

## 23 LEG. MARTINEZ:

Thank you. Just quickly, I'm not sure who may know this answer, but who gets these papers? Because I know that my constituency does not even get anything and they have to pay for it. So I would actually like to know how are they distributed, and who decides who's going to get them, and who decides what goes in it, because I actually don't have those answers.

12:24PM 30

#### MR. NOLAN:

Yeah. I would just say that to be -- to qualify to be an official newspaper, there are certain minimum requirements in the State Law, which off the top of my head I can't bring to you, but I have a memo in my office that would explain that. There's a minimum circulation. And in State Law, it also states that the official newspapers would adhere to the principles of the two major political parties, Democratic and Republican. So that's right in State Law. So one of these resolutions talks of Democratic newspapers, and one Republican newspapers, and it's been that way since time immemorial.

12:25PM 40

## D.P.O. CALARCO:

I think, too, that I remember us having quite a debate over one of the papers quite a few years back. And I believe the papers are also required to be a subscription-based paper, that people are actually subscribing to and paying for these papers. They can't be just free distributions.

48 49 50

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## MR. NOLAN:

Right.

51 52 53

#### D.P.O. CALARCO:

That's part of the State Law.

```
MR. NOLAN:
         They have to have a minimum amount of paid subscriptions in order
         to qualify as an official newspaper. And you're right, one of the
         papers that we're designating today we had a debate about, and we
          concluded that they met the minimum requirements for the official
          newspaper and they were designated.
          P.O. GREGORY:
         Okay. Anyone else? All right. So we have a motion and a second.
       9
         All in favor? Opposed?
12:26PM 10
      11
         LEG. ANKER:
      12
         (Raised hand)
      13
      14
         LEG. LINDSAY:
      15
         (Raised hand)
      16
      17
         LEG. MARTINEZ:
      18
         (Raised hand)
      19
12:27PM 20
          P.O. GREGORY:
      21
         Abstentions?
      22
      23
         LEG. KENNEDY:
      24
         (Raised hand) I'm an abstention.
      2.5
      26
         LEG. CILMI:
      27
         This is -- wait. This is No. 8, right?
      28
      29
         P.O. GREGORY:
12:26PM 30
         Eight, yeah.
      31
      32
         MR. RICHBERG:
      33
         Eleven. (Not Present: Legislator Browning/Absent: Legislators
         Stern and Muratore)
      35
      36
          P.O. GREGORY:
      37
         Okay. Resolution No. 9 - Designating two alternating newspapers as
      38
          official newspapers of the County of Suffolk. Do I have a motion?
12:26PM 40
         LEG. MC CAFFREY:
      41
         Motion.
      42
      43
         MR. NOLAN:
      44
         Just could I just note, there's a revised copy that was circulated
      45
          and that's in front of you, and that's the one we are voting on, on
         No. 9.
      47
          P.O. GREGORY:
      49
         Motion by Legislator McCaffrey.
12:27PM 50
      51
         LEG. BARRAGA:
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      53
         Second.
      54
         P.O. GREGORY:
         Second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed?
```

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1
         LEG. ANKER:
       2
          (Raised hand)
       3
         LEG. LINDSAY:
         (Raised hand)
         LEG. MARTINEZ:
         (Raised hand)
12:27PM 10
         P.O. GREGORY:
      11
         Abstentions?
      12
         LEG. CILMI:
      14
         Abstain.
      15
      16
         LEG. KENNEDY:
      17
         Abstain.
      18
      19
         MR. RICHBERG:
12:27PM 20
         Ten. (Not Present: Legislator Browning/Absent: Legislators Stern
      21
         and Muratore)
      22
      23
         P.O. GREGORY:
      24
         All right. Resolution No. 10 - To designate -- oh, to designate
         local newspapers in which County notices may be published. I make
         a motion to approve.
      27
         D.P.O. CALARCO:
      29
         Second.
12:27PM 30
      31
         P.O. GREGORY:
      32
         Second by Legislator Fleming. All in favor? Opposed?
      33
      34
         LEG. ANKER:
      35
         (Raised hand)
      36
      37
         LEG. LINDSAY:
      38
         (Raised hand)
12:27PM 40
         LEG. MARTINEZ:
      41
         (Raised hand)
      42
      43
         P.O. GREGORY:
      44
         Abstentions? Please raise your hands up again.
      45
         MR. RICHBERG:
      47
         Twelve. (Not Present: Legislator Browning/Absent: Legislators
         Stern and Muratore)
      49
12:27PM 50
          P.O. GREGORY:
      51
         All right. Okay, thank you. I'd like to waive the rules and lay
         the following resolutions on the table as late-starters:
      53
      54
         I.R. 1024 to Budget and Finance; I.R. 1025 to EPA.
                                                                Set a Public
```

Hearing on February 7th, 2:30 p.m., here in Hauppauge. Also,

<sup>\*</sup> Index Included at End of Transcript

```
I.R. -- okay. All right. Second?
      1
         D.P.O. CALARCO:
      3
         Second.
         P.O. GREGORY:
         By Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
         MR. RICHBERG:
         Fifteen. (Not Present: Legislator Browning/Absent: Legislators
12:28PM 10
         Stern and Muratore)
      11
      12
         P.O. GREGORY:
      13
         Okay. Also, I'd like to set the following Public Hearings on
         February 7th, 2:30 p.m., Hauppauge:
      16
         I.R. 1006, I.R. 1007, I.R. 1023. Second by Legislator Calarco.
      17
         All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
      18
         MR. RICHBERG:
12:28PM 20
         Fifteen. (Not Present: Legislator Browning/Absent: Legislators
      21
         Stern and Muratore)
      22
      23
         P.O. GREGORY:
      24
         Okay. That is all that we have in our business. We stand
      25
         adjourned. Thank you.
      27
                      (*The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.*)
      28
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