GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL, HOUSING & CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

OF THE

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

A meeting of the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on September 2, 2015.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Leg. Robert Calarco, Chairperson
Leg. William J. Lindsay, III, Vice Chair
Leg. Jay Schneiderman, Deputy Presiding Officer
Leg. Thomas Cilmi
Leg. Kevin J. McCaffrey

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:
George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel/Legislature
Jason Richberg, Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature
Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office
Vincent Mezzanotte, Commissioner/IT
Scott Mastellon, IT
Michael Azzara, IT
Jim Daly, IT
Katie Horst, County Executive's Office
William Shilling, Aide to Leg. Calarco
Michael Pitcher, Aide to PO
Brian Sapp, Aide to Leg. Lindsay
Chris DeLuca, Aide to Leg. Cilmi
Greg Atherton, Aide to Leg. McCaffrey
Christina DeLisi, Aide to Leg. Schneiderman
Michael Stolz, Association for Mental Health and Wellness
Ralph Fasano
Kathy Malloy, AME
Elaine Learnard, Town of Smithtown
Rick Brand, Newsday

MINUTES TAKEN BY:
Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:05 AM

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Welcome to the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing and Consumer Protection Committee. If we can all please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Lindsay.

SALUTATION

Okay. Welcome everyone and welcome back from our summer break. We're going to get into our agenda here. We have no correspondence. I have no cards for the Public Portion. Is there anybody here who would like to speak? Someone's raising their hand. Please come on up. Just have -- fill out a card afterwards with the Clerk.

MR. STOLZ:
I did fill out a card.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Oh, I don't have them. Come on up and speak and we'll take it from there. Just state your name for the record.

MR. STOLZ:
Good morning. My name is Michael Stoltz. I'm the Chief Executive Officer for the Association for Mental Health and Wellness. We oversee an organization that we merged with just two years ago called Suffolk County United Veterans. And we're part of a group of three agencies that under the Helping Our Homeless Heroes Act will be -- are seeking your -- this Committee's and ultimately the Legislature's approval of the act to be able to allow us to acquire eight houses. In this act we'll be using these houses for housing homeless and at risk veterans and veterans' families.

My particular agency under Suffolk County United Vets has been around since 1990. Many of you may know the John J. Lynch Veterans Place in Yaphank, which is an emergency shelter and serves as the anchor for outreach and engaging homeless veterans. And then we'll be helping to move them into transitional and into permanent housing.

We want to thank this Committee and the Legislature and the Executive Branch for being able to put forward this proposal. We appreciate your consideration. Our particular agency will be -- is slated to acquire three of these eight houses: One in Mastic, which will be a four-bedroom when it's renovated, will be a four-bedroom house for senior veterans; one in Riverhead, that will be a three-bedroom family house; and one in Medford that will be a four-bedroom house for four individuals, formerly homeless individuals.

Thank you for your consideration. There are other speakers behind me from other agencies that are involved in this transaction. It is extremely important. I will also say on behalf of a broader agency that serves people with a wide range of behavioral health issues, that I hope that this is an entree into the County working with non-profit organizations who can use these kind of properties, leverage State and Federal funds to be able to create more openings, to be able to also envelop and wrap services around people who unfortunately fall into homeless for a range of reasons. So we hope that this might be an entree for the Legislature to look at doing more of these for other homeless groups, people with disabilities and such other people with needs.

So, thank you for your consideration. And if you have questions, my suggestion might be as the group of us are here discussing this from a non-profit's, so we might be better able to handle your

broader questions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Great, thank you, Michael. Does anybody have any questions, Michael? Thank you very much. We appreciate it.

Our next speaker is Ralph Fasano.

MR. FASANO:
Good morning. Ralph Fasano, Executive Director of Concern For Independent Living. I'm also here to support resolution 1618. This resolution helps us do three different things. One, it obviously helps us house homeless veterans, veterans who have served our country, who we owe a debt to and have the ability now to really change their lives. Two: It takes abandoned -- what the press has called Zombie Houses in the community and allows us to get the resources to fix them up to like new conditions or in our case we're building new housing. And three: As Mike said, it allows us to leverage significant state funding that far exceeds the contribution of the County.

This Legislature has funded several of our projects. Liberty Village in Amityville opened last year, 60 brand new homes for homeless veterans and their families; huge success, award-winning program and a heart-wrenching experience just to walk through and talk to the veterans who were previously in shelters, living in their cars, who now have beautiful housing.

You've also funded Concern Ronkonkoma, currently in construction, another 59 units of housing that will be along the lines of Liberty Village. We encourage any of you who are really interested in seeing it to come and visit. It's truly a great experience. And we're working on a project in Middle Island; will be 123 units, not all for veterans but we consider -- we anticipate having a significant amount of veterans there.

So those projects, the County put in $1.5 million for Liberty Village, 1.5 for Ronkonkoma, 1.5 for our Middle Island project. The total amount of funds that we've leveraged for those three projects is over $70 million from State funding; creating jobs in our community for the construction industry and then permanent jobs for the operations of the programs.

So as Mike said, this is good. I think every little piece where we can come together, non-profits and the County to attack the problem of veteran homelessness, makes a difference. We have decreased the number of homeless veterans in Suffolk County by more than half within the last two years. And we're moving in a direction of eliminating it. And that's -- that's serious. The numbers are there. We're creating more housing. We're finding more housing for veterans than veterans who are becoming homeless. And that's the formula for eventually eliminating it.

So thank you for your past support and we hope that you will support this legislation as well.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Great. Thank you very much, Ralph. And Legislator Cilmi has a question for you.

LEG. CILMI:
Good morning.

MR. FASANO:
Good morning.

LEG. CILMI:
How you doing? Without taking up too much time, because I know this is not before us today, but

3

could you just give me a status on Concern Ronkonkoma Project?

MR. FASANO:
Sure, sure. It's -- you know, we had some delays. We had three months of a brutal winter so that -- we fell a little bit behind but we're catching up and we believe that the -- we should be able to open by March of 2016.

LEG. CILMI:
Now are you already taking applications for tenants? How is that working?

MR. FASANO:
Not yet. We start about a month or two before that; before we open.

LEG. CILMI:
Okay. And what are your expectations in terms of the population of tenants? Do you expect it will be pretty much exclusively veterans or what?

MR. FASANO:
Well, 30 out of the 59 will absolutely be veterans. Those are slotted for homeless veterans. We'll work with the VA. We'll work with Tom Ronayne and the County and we'll make sure that we get veterans in there who -- who need that housing who are currently homeless.

The other 29 are open. And those are affordable units for people making about 60% of the AMI. And what our intent is, to heavily market those units to veterans, particularly what we're interested in, is younger veterans coming back from the current conflicts who can't afford housing on Long Island. They're not homeless. They're not necessarily disabled, but they've come back into a housing market that is very difficult to manage. And we're hoping that we can serve some of those veterans.

LEG. CILMI:
But there's nothing that precludes the balance of those 29 units, let's say, from going to veterans if the need is there; is that correct?

MR. FASANO:
There's nothing that precludes it.

LEG. CILMI:
Right. Okay, could you just keep in touch with me, Ralph?

MR. FASANO:
Absolutely.

LEG. CILMI:
About the progress. And at some point call my office, let's get -- I want to get together up there and see how it's going.

MR. FASANO:
Okay; would love to do that.

LEG. CILMI:
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Great. Thank you. Any other questions? Ralph, thank you very much. We appreciate it. And to both you and Michael, thank you for everything you do to help our veterans. It's important that we address this issue. I know the County has made it a priority. And the fact that we're making such good progress is a wonderful thing to hear. So thank you very much.

MR. FASANO:
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Okay. I have no other cards. Is there anybody else who'd like to address the Committee this morning? Going once, going twice? Okay. Then we will close the Public Portion and move on.

PRESENTATION

We have a presentation this morning on our Open Data Policy. Vincent Mezzanotte is here with his -- a couple members of our Open Data Committee. As some of you remember, we passed a resolution earlier in the year directing the County to develop a policy and start making open data available for residents in Suffolk County and anybody else who'd like to see it quite honestly. We've been meeting quite diligently every month for sometime now and have gotten quite a bit of progress done. So Mr. Mezzanotte is our Chair of that committee and he's going to kind of walk us through some of the things we've accomplished.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
Good morning. And thanks for the time this morning to provide you with a brief overview of where we are with the Open Data Initiative. As Legislator Calarco mentioned, this was a resolution that was introduced roughly a year ago by Legislator Calarco and Legislator Hahn and was signed into law in October of 2014.

So what we wanted to do today is really to provide you with a quick overview of the Initiative. And then I'll have Scott Mastellon here who's going to provide you with an overview of the policy -- an introduction to the policy that will help govern the Open Data Initiative. Mike Azzara will provide a brief overview of the process that we will follow to inventory and identify datasets that will be made available through Open Data. And Jim Daly will provide a brief overview into the technical solution that we will deliver to provide access to the data as well as a really brief demonstration.

So we have a quick deck here that we can walk through. I thought it would be useful to provide you with what are the key objectives of the Open Data Initiative. And it's really to make the operation of county government more transparent, effective and accountable to the public. This is accomplished through making datasets available online through a web portal in a consumable format. This is going to be raw data that can be sorted and manipulated and used in various ways through the development of applications to provide the public with information about services and offerings throughout the County.

As I mentioned before, it was a resolution that was approved back in October of 2014. The Open Data Committee was established on March 6th of 2015 and we meet on a monthly basis. I happen to Chair it. And the Vice Chair is Legislator Calarco. We have committee members representing the County Executive's Office, Information Technology, our GIS Coordinator, the Budget Office, Social Services, Health Services, Economic Development, the County Attorney and the Legislature. We are also in the process of looking towards bringing someone in from police to also represent the public safety aspect of Open Data.

The focus of the Committee thus far has been on the establishment of an Open Data Policy, which

Scott will walk you through. Also how we plan to go about inventorying and identifying datasets and the publication process and finally on the technology platform.

So with that, I'll turn it over to Scott to provide you with the basic foundation of the policy.

MR. MASTELLON:
Good morning. All of you should have gotten a copy of the policy in a draft format that was reviewed and approved by the Committee in July of this year; is that correct? Okay, excellent.

So just to kind of give you a little bit of a brief overview as to how we went about identifying what the various components were required to put forth into this policy, we reviewed a number of policies across various counties and municipalities including Chicago, New York City, New York State. We had representatives from New York State come down and give us some information, give us some presentations, talk about some of the challenges they've had, some of the successes they've had. Montgomery County, San Diego County and various other municipalities, as this is a relatively mature program in many other municipalities. So we took advantage of a lot of the information that was available in those particular municipalities.
In addition to that we received information, reference information from the Sunlight Foundation, which is really a nonpartisan, non-profit organization that advocates for open government. So there was a tremendous amount of resources available on their website to support the development of this particular policy.

And based upon all of that, obviously the feedback and the cooperation of the committee itself, we were able to define a relatively brief policy but, you know, concise and appropriate that had a number of different components, the first of which obviously the purpose; and then goes into a various -- a number of definitions to ensure that everybody's -- we're talking about the same things here.

We talked about data set availability and Mike will go a little bit more into that process that we're following as it relates to that. The portal administrations are the actual administration of the system itself; the terms of use for the individuals that are acquiring information through the portal itself; the role of the Committee. And obviously that's -- you know, it's defined there, the anticipation. One of the -- the major aspects of the committee will be to review and accept various datasets that are presented by the departments for release onto the Open Data Portal. Annual portal requirements: To this body in addition to the County Executive's Office, what's required of the Committee. And then technical standards. Obviously this a technical initiative as it relates to, you know, providing -- facilitating the open data itself and we're going to define a set of technical standards that will be separate and apart from the policy, but will be used as reference for both internal use as well as external use. So, and as I mentioned, the policy was reviewed and accepted by the Open Data Committee on our July 31st meeting.

So that being said, we'll move onto the next -- and Mike Azzara who will talk a little bit about the inventory process and how we go about publishing the information that we look into the different departments.

MR. AZZARA:
Good morning everybody. One of the biggest challenges with the Data Inventory process is not so much from a technical prospective of getting the information onto the portal, but rather simply identifying what datasets are out there within each of the departments. Hopefully the next few steps will outline how we're going to go about that.

Initially we need to focus on communication with the departments. Documentation has to be sent out along with the policy that got just defined, and we need to outline the Open Data Process, what

it is, the process itself, the timeline and goals and requirements of what we're calling the Open Data Coordinator. Each department will be identifying an Open Data Coordinator. This individual, it's important to mention, is not necessarily a technical person, but this individual will be more or less the liaison between the department and the Open Data Committee.

With that, the Open Data Coordinator will work to identify and submit datasets through an intake process. We're working on coming up with a standardized process by which they can submit their datasets. Once the datasets have been identified and submitted, we will perform a gap analysis. Basically what that means is that we're going to look at the core functionality of each department and make sure that the datasets that they've provided match those expectations.

We will also be reviewing, scoring and prioritizing those datasets. And there are a lot of factors involved here. For example, if a department is regularly getting requests for a particular dataset, this would alleviate some of the administrative overhead that they -- you know, involved with, with producing that dataset regularly. There may also be datasets that are -- will be of value to other departments and other departments may not realize that different departments have these datasets already. We'll also be scoring it based on what data is readily available. You know, some data may take a little bit of gathering while some may be, you know, available from day one.

Once datasets have been identified, there will be an approval process by both the department as well as the Open Data Committee. It must be approved by both bodies before going any further. And once it has been approved, it will be released to the Open Data Portal Group. And I believe we're going to be demonstrating that portion in just a moment.

MR. DALY:
Good morning. My name is Jim Daly, the GIS Coordinator for Suffolk County. Part of the Open Data Process is then to put the data out there for the public to consume. So how do we do that? As many of you might know already, that the County has an Enterprise License Agreement with a GIS software vendor called Esri. One of the products under this licensing is a product called open data. So the company Esri provides us with a product that's kind of out of the box with a little bit of configuration that we need to do to get our data in this portal. And currently we're testing that data, that portal right now. And I'd like to give you a little quick demonstration of what it looks like and how it can be interacted with by the public and by internal staff.

So here you see the home page. And within the home page there are a number of tabs under different types of categories. Again, this is configurable by us and we can tweak this as needed. So if we see something that just doesn't look quite right, we can make some changes to it. So it's easy to work with. And it is basically the end point for where we put the data for the public to get access to.

One of the nice things and features of it is that it supports all different types of data, not just GIS data. So you might ask well, why is a GIS product supporting an Open Data Portal where there's many different types of data formats? Well, this particular product happens to answer all of that as well. So one thing that GIS people have been doing for many, many years, even before open data has become popular is that GIS users are no stranger to sharing data. It's something we've been doing for many years because of the uniqueness of the data and the expense to try and create new data. So we've always -- trying to share it as much as we can to save expenses and redundancy.

So it's no surprise to me that this particular vendor has come up with a product that really knows how to share data quite well. And I think it's serendipity for the County right now that we can actually use this product without having to go through, you know, great efforts to produce something and pay for something else as well. So it's already paid for under the GIS Software Licensing. We have it. And we'd like to make better use of the Licensing Agreement overall. So I

think it's a win/win for us.

Real quick if we go into some of the tabs, you'll see we can share different types of file formats. We can share Excel spreadsheets. You can dive a little bit further into it. We can see types of fields. So a user can go in and determine whether or not this is the actual spreadsheet that they're looking for without having to download it and waste their time. So it's efficient in that regard. We can go into demographics. We can put up some population data, again, an Excel spreadsheet formats for downloading purposes. So it really runs the gamut on all types of datasets that we need to put up in there. And once the Commission or the Committee approves the data, we can put this in there quite easily.

MR. MASTELLON:
I would just like to make one note, that this is obviously something we're testing out right now. It's not an officially live site at this point in time. We're looking to get approval obviously from this group as well as from the County Executive from a policy standpoint moving forward. And then as datasets are officially approved by the Committee, they will be produced onto this. This is really for demonstration purposes only, but we wanted to give you guys a look, see as to what this might look like.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
So I guess at this point we're concluded with the presentation. If you have any questions, we will be more than happy to entertain them.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Okay, I'm sure we'll have several. Legislator Lindsay is first.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Good morning, thank you gentlemen for the presentation. Couple of questions if I can run through them with you. Does this platform allow for expansion to where if we wanted to expand the capabilities, it would enable us to do that?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
In terms of expansion to deliver other types of applications?

LEG. LINDSAY:
You know, maybe -- let me re-order -- reshuffle the order of my questions here. My first question should be does it allow you just to pull info or can residents actually fill out forms and push information back to the County?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
No, this would be just a portal where we would provide raw data that can be consumed by the public.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Okay, okay. Because I -- you know, one of the -- some of the other initiatives that we've talked about and that, you know, I've actually tried to -- trying to work on is making it more -- making the County more paperless where the public can fill out forms, fill out licensing applications, you know, what have you, and send that information electronically to eliminate the need to -- you know, for someone to enter that data and all the time and expense associated with it.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
Yeah, those would be applications that you would need to develop -- design, develop and establish for the public to utilize.

LEG. LINDSAY:
So that -- so this would be kind of wrapped around another system, then.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
Yeah, so -- well, yeah. If there was -- in that example, if the public was submitting forms with data, that data's being collected, if that was relevant data that we wanted to put out into the portal for consumption, we could do that through the Open Data Portal.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Okay.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
But those types of initiatives are not included within the scope of open data.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Yeah, I understand that. I'm just trying to look -- take more of a global approach to it and see, you know, this might be the first step and there might be future evolutions going forward. In terms of how the information is released into this portal, will this interact with all of our departments? Because I know it's -- we're so siloed here that we're using so many different software systems, will this system that you guys are -- talk about here, will it interact with all the different software systems that we have throughout the County?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
Well, the goal would be to take the raw data that's available within all those different systems and get it into a standard format that can be used for further development.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Okay.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
The benefit of this, from my perspective, is this doesn't only help us in terms of making data available externally, it gives us an opportunity. And one of things that we're focusing on is data governance. You know, we do have many siloed applications right now --

LEG. LINDSAY:
Right.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
-- that don't really talk to each other. What we would like to do is start to look at those applications through this process, and within this data governance process that I just mentioned to see how we can make it more readily internally for consumption to the employees and the folks that run Suffolk County government.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Do you see this as the natural first step to getting to that eventual paperless environment that we're all hoping to be at?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
Well, I don't know if it's going to get us to the paperless environment --

LEG. LINDSAY:
Well, maybe not this particular system, but this process being the first step.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
That's a tough question. I think it will help, but I don't -- I don't necessary see this as a major conduit towards getting to that point. I think that, you know, that point really starts with looking at business process and looking at where we do things in a manual way and how we can automate that so that it's less paper-driven and more electronic.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Okay. That's all. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Okay. And what I would say to some of those questions, Legislator, is, you know, my thought process when I introduced this resolution was that there was going to be a follow-up resolution, which I don't think was necessarily needed at this point, that would direct us to start developing a dashboard where we can take this data that we're finally collecting in a generalized format and use it for our decisionmaking processes. And that's certainly something administration, through their Performance Management Team, has made a priority in this last budget process. So I'm confident that we won't need to do it ourselves in terms of telling them to because they're already in the process of developing that format.

And I think that's -- it's all going to lead together. So as we're developing these datasets and giving them standardized -- because some of the issues is just the standardization, as they mentioned, it's -- you know, you could have one dataset, it's keeping addresses with the number and the street in the same column; and the next data set's keeping the number in one column and the street in another column and the actual -- whether it's a street or an avenue or road in another column. And having that all standardized in one format so that these datasets can speak to each as well is important.

Legislator Cilmi has a question.

LEG. CILMI:
Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the presentation, gentlemen. Has -- Commissioner, has the committee looked at -- and please forgive me, my memory is maybe failing here, but I believe there's a software called Open Gov which focuses on budgetary information and transparency and takes municipal budgets basically and turns them into interactive online documents where users can go in and get information about a variety of different budgetary components in the municipalities' operations. Have you looked at that at all? Is that something that this might work with?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
I'm not sure. Jim might be able to add.

LEG. CILMI:
I had arranged for a -- sort of an online conference between the folks at Open Gov and myself and the County's Budget Office as a demonstration to see what, you know, the power of this software is, so.

MR. DALY:
I believe Open Gov is a proprietary software piece.

LEG. CILMI:
Right.

MR. DALY:
It would be another expense to the County if we were to --

LEG. CILMI:
Right.

MR. DALY:
-- take it on.

LEG. CILMI:
Yep.

MR. DALY:
When I was asked to be a part of this committee, working with GIS for many years and working with this Enterprise License Agreement, you know, it was one of the things I offered up right away. I said, hey, you know, we have a product right now in our back pocket that we can answer the call with to provide open data to the residents of Suffolk County right now. As a matter of fact you're seeing a demo, but, you know, as soon as the Committee says, you know, green-lights this, this thing goes live. It's already. It's done.

So it -- as far as we can see right now, it answers everything we need to do when it comes to providing open data in a portal that we're looking to do. If we were to come across a stumbling point with certain data formats that, you know, we weren't able to provide to the public in that manner, then, we would certainly look at other products. I think this Committee is open to other ideas. I mean, there are certainly many other products out there that do open data. One of the most popular ones is Socrata. And I do believe New York State uses that. It's expensive. So, again, we're looking to save money here. And I think this really is one of the answers to that.

LEG. CILMI:
So if I could ask you all as part of the committee and Vice Chairman Calarco to go onto Open Gov's website, and I can even forward the contact information of the gentleman that I spoke to from the company, my understanding is that it's not all that expensive. There is an expense associated with it, but the information that can be shared is much more evolved than, you know, just providing folks with datasets. I mean sometime -- you know, it's good that we're doing this. I support this effort. But, you know, for somebody to download an Excel spreadsheet that they're looking at in a vacuum would be less valuable than for somebody to sort of view an entire -- and I'm just talking about budget at this point -- I'm not talking about all the other information -- is different than for somebody to be able to look at a graphical representation of the County's finances and see where we're spending the money and be able to click to say, okay, well, we spend X amount of money in XYZ department, click and ask a question as to, you know -- or get a description of exactly what that means and maybe have drop-downs of the other areas that are related, it's a very evolved software.

So I would encourage the committee to go look at it. And I'll forward to you and to the Vice Chairman the contact information and one of the links that I got for this company. And maybe at a later date your feedback to this committee would be appreciated. All right. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Good. Thank you. And I think we'd be more than open to looking at any format that we can put the data online with. This particular format that we were looking at, as Jim put it, is free to us right now. It's not one that is unused. There are a lot of other municipalities that use this platform to publish their data. And the important thing of publishing the data, and certainly as I was talking about that platform in terms of having a method to start digesting the data for us internally for a decisionmaking process, I think, is along the lines of what you're talking about with that budget. So there's a real -- there's more to it than just, you know, numbers on a sheet.

But part of putting the numbers out there, there's a lot of folks out there in the business world that would use this data quite honestly to help them make decisions, make public -- their business decisions. And for that matter will look to develop applications and other things that use that data by putting it in that Excel spreadsheet that is -- you can manipulate it, you can, you know, write your formulas to look at the data and make your own conclusions about it, gives those individuals some real flexibility that right now, what little bit we do put up is usually in a PDF format and you can't really do much with it.

LEG. CILMI:
And it may well be that -- that this is equally as powerful as the software that I'm talking about that I've seen. So, your review of that and response to us would be great.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
My sense is that the Open -- the application that you're talking about is geared more towards delivering specific functionality; whereas this is strictly to make the data available for others to use use that data in a way that they can manipulate it and develop systems to capture what they're looking to capture. My sense is that we need to look internally just at the way we -- we track our financial data. And, you know, that's part of another effort to look at financial management and what's the right solution to really provide that type of functionality. So the data's one piece, but the functions and features of an application really go outside the scope of what this Open Data Initiative is all about. But I'm not -- I'm not diminishing the need for what you described.

LEG. CILMI:
I understand, I understand. So we'll look at it again and maybe you can chat with the folks in the County Budget Office.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
Sure.

LEG. CILMI:
I think it was -- if my memory serves correctly, I think it was Stefanie from Budget Office that sat in on the -- it was like a webinar, if you will. All right. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Great. Thank you very much. Legislator McCaffrey.

LEG. McCAFFREY:
Thank you. I just had a quick question. Is that set up now, like, so if you clicked on transportation where it is now, would that show some sort of datasets there or --

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
Yeah. But all the data that we have out there right now is really just in a test mode. None of this has really been reviewed and approved through the process that Mike described as far as the departments and the committee. So that's what's about to happen next. What we first needed to do was establish the policy. And we need to advertise and communicate that policy now within the County. And then we'll start to get into the actual inventory of datasets that we would make available through the portal.

LEG. McCAFFREY:
And, for instance, what would be under transportation? What would you put in there? Just --

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
We could put information about bus routes -- you know, again, we don't want to duplicate what

might already be available.

LEG. McCAFFREY:
Right.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTE:
We would put raw data out there that someone could utilize to develop an application; maybe a mobile app. You know, we talk about being able to track the location of busses against the schedule. If we publish bus locations, schedule information, that could -- someone could develop an application, you know, out there in the community that would bring those two pieces of data together for a mobile app that the public could utilize. And there's people that like to do that type of stuff.

LEG. McCAFFREY:
Yes, they do. Yeah, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Yeah. And I think it's important to note, too, that all of those tabs that you see on that sheet there are just up there for the purpose of a demonstration. And, you know, we may decide that we want to join ones or separate it out or alter it around as we see what data we actually have to make available in the best fashion.

Legislator Schneiderman.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
Let me start by thanking you for the presentation. I know this is all draft. I don't see the tab I'm looking for, which is the Real Property tab. And I know that nobody on the committee was specifically from Real Property other than there's a GIS person, I guess, there's an overlap there. So, you know, I know one of the things of most interest to people is the Real Property Data, what -- the size of a property, the taxes paid on a property, when the property transferred last. You know, I know a lot of real estate agents and things like that want access to that data. And there's been some application developers who have wanted access to that data. I haven't heard any mention per se of that data. Is that something that we're including in the Open Data Policy? We currently charge for that, and quite a bit to some entities we charge. Is that data included here? Because I think that's really important data and one that the app development community's looking for.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
Yeah, we're going to need to look closer at the bill because there was certain data that was excluded within the scope of the bill, especially in cases where there's revenue generation. So I think every department will have opportunities to identify the datasets that we would want to make public. And, then, again, it would go through committee and approval before it gets actually published. But they will absolutely -- Real Property will be represented as part of the data collection process.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
I know the Director there has a particular take on the proprietary nature of the data. And I know people who have tried to FOIL it, have not been able to get it, the tax map, because the way we lay out the tax map. There's something that may be proprietary in nature. I don't know if that's the case or whether other areas are considered proprietary information, but it's -- I think it's important in terms of economic development, real estate, which is a major piece of our economy, that that data be open somehow, in some way.

So, I know there are issues there. I would just ask that you speak with the Director of Real Property and see to what extent we can have that data opened up in a more useable, meaningful way, even if

it means coming back to the Committee or Legislature for a policy determination as to whether that data is something that you're going to have to pay to get entry for, or whether that's going to be opened without having to pay a high price. And I think the price was significantly high for some of that data that they were charging, thousands of dollars.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Yeah, I would say that we certainly -- there are members, I would say the Open Data Committee would probably agree with you, when I passed a resolution I did exempt out copyrighted materials and those items. It was not a policy issue at the time that I felt that was -- you know, I wanted to get this thing up and running and get us doing this before we started tackling some of those bigger questions and having it bog down the entire process. But that is certainly an avenue that, I think, is one that the discussion that can be had, but it's also one that, you know, as you eliminate those copyrighted materials and start making those publicly available, one of the things that we do is if you read through the policy, we make sure there's disclaimers so that folks know that while we're putting this data up there, we're making every effort to make sure it is accurate and up-to-date, we won't, you know, verify it that it's up-to-date.

So if you're a title company that wants to do a title search, you're still going to have to go into the Clerk's Office and get your certified records so that you can affirmatively state that this property has filed, you know, whatever title record it has. There are certain things that you're going to still need to come to us to get that information from us in a certified fashion. This is just an effort to make -- the data is available and every -- you know, there's an expectation that it's going to be as accurate as possible, but we're not going to -- we do have a disclaimer and that's going to tell people, you know, it may not be completely up-to-date, you know, at the date that they're looking at it.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
I mean, I think what the promise that technology holds is that, you know, in the palm of your hand, as you're driving about, you know, you could see -- you could see a particular location, there's a property right there and you would know a lot about that potential property; maybe it's for sale and you had an interest and your application could then tell you the last time it transferred and how much it transferred for, what the property taxes are, etcetera. All the information that we're holding on that piece of property could be available through a, you know, a personal computing device, whatever that device may be.

I mean, that's the direction we're going as a nation and as a planet. So I just -- it seems to me that we want to be part of that and maybe we can profit from that as well as the County on a pay-per-click basis or whatever it might be, maybe working with application developers or maybe we are the application developers and allowing people access to that data for a fee. But maybe not the, you know, the very high fee that we're currently charging.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
That may be the option. I think that might be a good idea to sit down and talk to the Director of Real Property to sees if we can't somehow work with her to have applications; and maybe not an exclusive application, but anybody who wants to, you know, develop applications to use, to make her information more readily available, and have some sort of fee structure that's in place that maybe, you know, a lot of apps are -- $2 you buy for the app, maybe we get, you know, a portion of that.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Sure. Okay. Are you -- is that all the questions you have, Legislator? Okay. Does anybody else

have question for the Committee here? Great. Thank you very much, gentlemen. I think you guys are doing a great job and we appreciate the effort and real -- I mean a real committed effort to making this thing happen. And we are making some very good progress.

As you said, we have a policy we'll be adopting. And then once we get that done, we'll be sending it out to all the departments as well as some kind of general standard formats in terms of how we would expect the data to come in so that we can start inventorying that -- what data we have and start collecting it and putting it into a format that we can put to the public. Thank you very much. We appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:
Thank you.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Okay, moving onto the agenda, we have no Tabled Resolutions. So we're going to right to the Introductory Resolutions. **IR 1612, Accepting and appropriating funds from the New York State Department of Labor through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) for the Unemployed Worker Training Program. (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Seconded by Legislator Schneiderman. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1612 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1615, Authorizing the sale of County-owned real property pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Smithtown for Affordable Housing purposes (SCTM No. 0800-034.00-01.00-004.000). (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion to approve for affordable housing in Smithtown; second by Legislator Lindsay. Is there anybody here from Housing? Come on up.

MS. LEARNARD:
I'm Elaine Learnard from the Town of Smithtown Planning Department.   And I have information about the proposal. The Town has adopted the appropriate resolutions to make this transfer of property, a SEQRA resolution, and the Town's willingness to acquire it and pass it on to the Long Island Housing Partnerships to develop this property.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Where in Smithtown is it? And what are you going to build, just one house or --

MS. LEARNARD:
It's on Frank Street. It's an existing house. It needs a great deal of renovation. The Long Island Housing Partnership's the appropriate entity to take that since they can do the appropriate underwriting so that they get somebody in there who can afford to carry the house and afford to fix it and it'll be good for the family and good for the neighborhood.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Smithtown Proper.

MS. LEARNARD:
Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Okay. Very good. Any other questions for Miss Learnard?

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
No.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
No. Okay. Great thank you very much. I believe we have a motion and a second, right? All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1615 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1618, Authorizing the transfer of eight parcels of County-owned real property pursuant to Article 36 of the Suffolk County Administrative Code to non-profit housing agencies for development as affordable housing for military veterans pursuant to the Housing Our Homeless Heroes Act. (Co. Exec.) Motion by Legislator Schneiderman. I'll second the motion. Legislator Schneiderman does have a question. Is there anybody here from Real Estate or --

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
I think my question is to George. I just wanted to make sure -- these are 72-h transfers, are they not? Can we --

MR. NOLAN:
No, they're not 72-h.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
They're not. This is specific to the Administrative Code?

MR. NOLAN:
Right.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
Because I was just curious as to how they go from the County to not-for-profits.

MR. NOLAN:
The Attorney General issued several opinions that said we could -- the County could convey properties directly to not-for-profits to create affordable housing.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
Okay.

MR. NOLAN:
So on the basis of that, we changed the Administrative Code to authorize this type of direct transfer to a not-for-profit as opposed to going through a town or a village.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
It's another process completely different than the 72-h?

MR. NOLAN:
Right. In fact, the title of the resolution was changed. The original version said 72-h, but that was corrected to reflect Article 36 of the Administrative Code.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
Okay, that's fine. I actually like the idea of these agencies taking over these properties. Because sometimes the towns, they've dragged on for years. Some towns have been more diligent than others, but these groups are established primarily for this type of purpose. And there are reverter clauses in these?

MR. NOLAN:
Right, it'd have the same type of language when we transfer to a municipality.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Just to follow-up, this particular change in the code, we did this specifically, I guess, a year or so ago under Legislator Stern's --

MR. NOLAN:
Right.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO;
-- leadership that's directly for veterans.

MR. NOLAN:
Correct.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Specific.

MR. NOLAN:
It's geared specifically to housing for veterans.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Okay. Great. Okay. I have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1618 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1643, (Adopting Local Law No. -2015) A Local Law to amend Resolution Number 560-2015, A Local Law to regulate "Board Up" businesses in Suffolk County. (Browning)
I'll make motion to table for public hearing.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Second by Legislator Schneiderman. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1643 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1644, Creating a School Employment Resource Tour ("SERT") Pilot Program for high school and college seniors. (Anker) I'm going to make a motion to table at the request of the sponsor.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:
Second by Legislator Schneiderman. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1644 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

I have no other items on the agenda; seeing no other items to discuss, we are adjourned.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10:54 AM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY