

**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 December 9, 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, Clerk of the Legislature
Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office
Katie Horst, County Executive's Office
Lisa Santeramo, County Executive's Office
Charles Gardner, Chair of the Government Relations Committee/Kings Park Chamber of Commerce
Robert Braun, County Attorney'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
Suzanne K. McBride, SCAME Police Emergency Unit
Kathryn Gutleber, Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk
Caitlin Chandler, Police Communications
Jennifer Nunns, Police Emergency Unit
Russ McCormick, SC Detectives Association
Lou Tuttone, First Vice President PBA
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:06 AM

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Good morning and welcome to the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing, and Consumer Protection Committee. We're going to get started. If we could all please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator McCaffrey.

SALUTATION

Okay. Welcome everyone to our last Government Operations, Personnel, Housing and Consumer Protection Committee of the year. We are going to get into our agenda here. We have no correspondence so we're going to move right into our Public Portion.

PUBLIC PORTION

I have a few cards here. And our first speaker is Suzanne McBride. Suzanne, come on up.

MS. McBRIDE:

Good morning, gentlemen. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. As most of you know, in November 2012 I appeared before the Public Safety Committee in regards to the severe staffing shortage in the 911 Center. And while we were very grateful for the quick response we got back then, as most of you know, we're right back into the same position we were despite the best efforts of this Legislative body to fix those problems.

Now, we have another issue that I think is going to continue to affect our staffing shortages. Recently, members of our unit went before the Salary and Appeals Board for a grade increase. Unfortunately half of our members were denied while others received their grade increase. Our 911 call-takers, formally known as Emergency Complaint Operators, were denied. As you know, they're our first first responders. Without them, the Police Department doesn't function. They're the ones that your family calls when they're in need. They're the ones that take the calls from the severely emotional parents who have found their children OD'd on heroin. We know -- all know what a great epidemic that's become. They're also the ones that take the calls for the suicidal subjects that don't want to be found. And they have to use every resource available to them to try and locate them.

It may seem that a call-taker's job hasn't been -- doesn't change over the years. You take a 911 call. What could possibly change? While since the last time they got a grade increase back in the early 1990s, New York State has implemented rigid requirements for all PSAP operators from call-takers to dispatchers. Instead of being a few weeks of training to answer calls, they now have to undergo over 200 hours of training. They have to recertify 21 hours every year. They have to certify for FEMA tests, for Homeland Security, which they've never had to do before.

All of these things, again, are both our call-takers and our dispatchers. The fact that the call-takers were overlooked in this grade increase is unfathomable. Without those call-takers, 911 doesn't work. The public safety would be in danger. We need your assistance to try and find a way to fix this problem. I understand there's no appeal process, but there has to be some way to fix this injustice. Because if we don't have those call-takers in the seats, if we can't attract people to fill those positions, you're going to have to fill those positions with higher paid people, whether they're dispatchers at a higher grade or whether it's police officers backfilling. We need to find a way to attract professional people and keep them so that we don't keep running into this problem of not having staffing in the 911 centers. I'm sure by now most of you are getting tired of hearing from me and seeing me. So, please, anything you can do, we'd truly appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Does anybody have any questions for Suzanne?

LEG. CILMI:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Legislator Cilmi, go ahead.

LEG. CILMI:

Good morning, Suzanne. We're not getting tired of you. What we're getting more tired of is complaints from residents that get put on hold when they call 911. And that sometimes our having to deal with an operator who may not be well enough trained because the staff just isn't there to do the training and so the response isn't as good as it should be, details of calls being missed or misinterpreted because somebody's been working for 16 or, you know, 18 hours straight without a chance for a break or anything like that, that's -- and I'm sure -- if I'm getting those phone calls, I'm sure every member of this Legislature's getting those phone calls.

What -- first of all, what -- how did the board that gave one group of employees one status and left the other group of employees with a lower status, what was the reasoning for that?

MS. McBRIDE:

I am not privy to the exact reasoning other than I was led to believe that it was a financial consideration as well as they possibly felt that the person presenting for our Emergency Complaint Operators didn't have enough experience to sit there and request.

LEG. CILMI:

And share with us -- just give us a thumbnail sketch of exactly what happened in that process.

MS. McBRIDE:

Basically the -- the process started back in 2006. Our members had to file forms for a grade increase. Those were filed back in 2006. They were not heard until the 17th of November of this year; quite a lengthy wait because of the long backlog. There was a presentation put together by members of my unit on behalf of the four different job titles. That presentation was then presented to a five-member panel. It's two members from the Association of Municipal Employees and three members from the County: The head of Civil Service, head of Labor Relations and the Deputy County Executive. They listened to the presentation. Each job title, and again there were four, had 15 minutes to present. Afterwards, it was about a week, week-and-a-half before we were informed that two of the job titles were granted their grade increase and the other two, we have Emergency Complaint Operators and Emergency Complaint Operators Spanish-speaking, they were both denied.

LEG. CILMI:

And what were the two that were granted?

MS. McBRIDE:

Those would be Public Safety Dispatcher I and Public Safety Dispatcher II. Our Public Safety Dispatcher IIIs were actually excluded from the process because they didn't exist when that -- those forms were submitted in 2006.

LEG. CILMI:

And from a practical point of view, what's the difference between, you know, a day in the life of each of those titles?

MS. McBRIDE:

Between the ECO and a dispatcher?

LEG. CILMI:

Between -- yeah, between some of the titles that got -- that were granted increases and some -- and the titles that weren't granted increases.

MS. McBRIDE:

Emergency Complaint Operators spends their entire shift working on the phones. They -- they're the ones that are the initial contact person for the public when they're in crisis. And, again, whether it's the heart attack, the car accident, the lost child, the heroin overdose, whether it's a shooting that occurs somewhere, they're the first ones. They have to get the caller calmed down. They have to walk them through to find out exactly where they are, which is not an easy task. Back when we got our last grade increase, most phones were still landline. You had caller ID. It showed us where everybody was. Now you have cellphones. You have phase I, you have phase II, you have voice-over IP. They have to know all of this different technology and what they're looking for and how to locate these subjects.

So they'll sit, they'll try and calm them down, get enough information to find their location, to find out what's going on to make sure that we're sending the proper response. If we have a heroin overdose, they have to let the dispatcher know so that the dispatchers sends the appropriate units with the Narcan.

LEG. CILMI:

And then the dispatcher's role is --

MS. McBRIDE:

The dispatcher's role -- we primarily dispatch the calls to the police officers. We're the ones, it comes on our computer screen. We tell the units the information that our 911 operators have given us. We make sure that they have everything they need, whether they need a canine unit, aviation, ES for overturned accident. We keep track of where all the officers are so that if one comes up screaming for help, we know where they are, we know how to get them help as quickly as possible. We are the lifeline between the road and communications while our EC Operators are the lifeline between the public and us.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. You know, we've all gotten the e-mails. I've read every single one of them. And your frustration is palpable and well understood. I can't imagine living -- working in the circumstances that you're working in. And, you know, we're designed sort of in our society to work, you know, a ten-hour day or maybe a twelve-hour day, some of us more; but, nevertheless, not under -- not under a constant, constant flow of stressful work that you all are. You know, the -- the --- emotionally and physically I don't think folks are truly capable of handling that kind of day-after-day, hour-after-hour, week-after-week stress. So we do have to find a solution.

Any ideas? You heard, you know, the -- about the hurdles that we have in terms of dealing with this. Any other ideas that you have?

MS. McBRIDE:

I -- I honestly, I would like to see the job titles in the communication section reclassified. We have other job titles by police operations. It's that -- do functions that do not -- no longer fall under their job description. I think that we need to sit down and really look at the communications section as a whole and see what we can do to fix the issues. Unfortunately our unit is about 130 -- 133 people. And in a union of 6,000 people or more, when we get to the bargaining table, we're lost in the

shuffle. Our issues do not make it to the bargaining table. We need to find a way for this County, not just for my members, but for public safety.

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

MS. McBRIDE:

-- to deal with the issue that our members face. We have to find a way to limit the mandatory overtime. We have to get rid of the mandatory six free days a year, known as X days that my members work. There has to be a better way. Public safety in our association -- unfortunately, we're a small group. We need to find a better way to make sure that their needs are met so that we can make sure that the needs of the public are met. It's --

LEG. CILMI:

Have there been any direct communications with the Administration?

MS. McBRIDE:

The Administration of the union or of the County?

LEG. CILMI:

The County.

MS. McBRIDE:

No.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. Well, after -- after we're done with Public Portion, maybe at the Chairman's deference, we can have a conversation with the County Executive's folks. Thanks very much, Susan.

MS. McBRIDE:

Thank you.

LEG. CILMI:

And thank you and everyone here who works in that department for the great work that you do.

MS. McBRIDE:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Suzanne, before you go, just real quickly on the reclassification issue, if I can get the word out right, other municipalities around us in terms of the people who are doing the jobs that our EOCs are doing right now, are they the same title, are they different titles, are they in another title that we may be able to move towards that would be more appropriate for their job responsibilities?

MS. McBRIDE:

There's several titles throughout the State under New York State Civil Service. Off the top of my head I know Nassau County is -- I believe it's Police Communications Officer. I believe New York City is similar. Other municipalities have police communication technicians. There's several different titles that are used throughout the State that we could look to move towards and incorporate perhaps a better system than what we have now currently in the communication center.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

So there are other titles out there; and perhaps what the solution here is that we need to find a title

that more properly reflects the responsibilities and duties that these employees are fulfilling right now. Okay, sounds good.

MS. McBRIDE:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Thank you, Suzanne. Okay, my next speaker is Kathryn Gutleber.

MS. GUTLEBER:

Good morning. My name is Kathryn Gutleber. I am the Real Estate Development Project Manager for Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk. And I'm here before you today in support of IR 1942, authorizing the sale of County-owned real property pursuant to section 72-h of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Riverhead for affordable housing purpose.

The 72-h Program is an integral part of our Affordable Housing Program as Habitat Suffolk. The intent of this resolution is to transfer this property in Riverhead to the Town of Riverhead and in turn to Habitat Suffolk for redevelopment. The parcel's located at 713 Harrison Avenue in Riverhead. And the transfer of this parcel to the Town of Riverhead and in turn to Habitat Suffolk would provide us with another opportunity to remove an abandoned, blighted structure and replace it with a new affordable home for a working class family in Suffolk County. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Great. Thank you. Does anybody have any questions? Thank you very much.

MS. GUTLEBER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Our next speaker is Caitlin Chandler.

MS. CHANDLER:

Good morning, gentlemen. I'm sorry if I seem to be rehashing some of Suzanne's arguments about the Salary Appeals Board. I thought you might like to know the -- a few just main facts about the emergency 911 system. For example, the adoption of the Chapter 441 into the Suffolk County Code was in 1995. That's when the enhanced 911 system was first brought in. Since then technology has changed so much that I've only been there for five years, and I've already been through an entire system overhaul and now we're integrating a new telephone system as well.

There's one-and-a-half million residents in Suffolk County. And people just like those people sitting back there in the back of the room are answering phones even now with over hundreds of thousands of people who call in every day. They go through stress that some of it I don't even think you can comprehend if you haven't actually sat with us and seen some of the things that we've heard. Every day we can go through calls like Suzanne said, heroin overdoses, children choking, people who have been assaulted, who have been robbed, who have been called day in and day out by people who just want to hurt them, who want to frighten them.

And that's interspersed with other calls like "when does the Power Ball come on TV?" And "where can I park my car if the water level starts to rise?" It's a little bit of everything for us. We don't just answer the phones. And our job title is classified as clerical, the same as a secretary or a clerk typist. We do so much more than that. We're the calm voices in your darkest hours. And we're paid the same as any other secretary. We're paid less than the guy who makes the maps for the County. We're paid less than the person who checks the County traffic patterns. We're paid less

than a jail cook. I don't really think that's fair. Is there anything that you guys can do considering our 27.3% above the national average cost of living on Long Island that can help us? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Thank you. And I think we all appreciate your -- where you're coming from. And I think that perhaps we can work together with the union and the Administration and look at, as Suzanne has offered, possibly looking at other titles that are more appropriately reflecting what you're doing and giving you a more appropriate compensation for what you do.

MS. CHANDLER:

We've offered a number of times for anyone to come and sit with us and see what it's like day to day. Feel free to come and see us.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Great. Thank you very much. Does anybody have any questions? Oh, Legislator Cilmi -- or Legislator Lindsay has a question.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Hold on. Sorry. I appreciate the invitation. I'm actually scheduled to meet on Friday and come and see. From a -- since you're on the frontline and in the trenches, do you see -- are there any opportunities to enhance maybe efficiencies or ways to cut costs or things that you do now that you see -- find to be wasteful in terms of time or in terms of maybe technologies?

MS. CHANDLER:

Well, the technology, like I said, we're just getting a new phone system, which is actually a lot easier to use than, I think, our other phone system was. It's definitely streamlined a lot. Our regular system has its quirks, but it works if you know how to work it. There really isn't any cost that you can cut for it. It's not -- there's no way that you can really just pick and choose things to change for us. There really isn't anything that you can do. Unless there's a way to hire maybe part-time people or something like that, which, I mean they'd burn out just as fast as the rest of us, but the staffing level alone is hard for us to comprehend. There is sometimes where -- days where you're mandated four out of five days a week that you're working. And the only way to fix that is more staffing levels.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Right. I have a lot more questions, but I think it'd probably be better waiting until I spend some time there on Friday and probably get some of those questions answered. Thank you. I appreciate your testimony.

MS. CHANDLER:

You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Thank you. Thank you very much for coming down today. My next speaker is Jennifer Nunns.

MS. NUNNS:

Good morning, everyone. I'm just going to elaborate on what Caitlin and Suzanne has already spoken about. I'm going to read to you a letter that I wrote to the Legislators about a week-and-a-half ago. I know I sent it to some of you as well.

Basically hello, my name is Jennifer Nunns. I'm PSD, which is a Public Safety Dispatcher in a communication center at Police Headquarters. I want to say thank you for listening to us and trying to help us resolve our issues. Again, I just want to give my point of view on the ECO function.

12/9/2015 Gov Ops, Housing, Personnel & Consumer Protection

That being said, I call upon you again to help with the disgraceful results of the Salary and Appeals presentation. I know some coworkers have reached out to the legislative board to try to rectify this degrading decision.

I started as an ECO in 2009. And I can safely say that I am horrified by this decision. I can in no way imagine a 911 operator being classified in a lower grade as the jail baker. No offense to the bakers, but reality is their job is much different than that of an ECO. At no point will a baker have to hear a mother's cry as she finds her child has committed suicide. Never will a baker have to hear a family scream for help as they watch their house on fire fully engulfed all lost. I cannot imagine a time when a baker would have to respond to hearing someone has been shot and getting help to that person within minutes. Again, I'm not degrading the job of the bakers. I am showing the glaring differences in the responsibilities.

And ECO is not simply a data entry function. There are numerous other details that go along with that using a map to determine where someone is, trying to get as much detail as possible, relying on cell phones, cell tower information to gauge a caller's location. Text to 911 is a reality coming next year, a not so futuristic function. Language barriers are real: Spanish, Mandarin, Chinese, Cantonese, French, Polish, others. Being verbally abused by some callers and having uncooperative callers is commonplace. The steady flow of negative situations create mental stress on such levels, most people want nothing to do with this type of position. With paying into benefits, retirement, the threat of lag pay, mandates and this latest slap in the face of no step or grade increase, the unit will be hard pressed to keep ECO positions filled.

There is now a rift between the ECOs and the PSDs. There is no incentive to work overtime voluntarily so mandates will occur more often. The morale is at its lowest since I started. We are considered non-essential. We're the first two responders for each call: The ECO taking the call, the dispatcher getting it out to the streets. I'm asking that you help investigate the situation with whatever resources are available. I feel the ECO group has been unfairly treated. And the decision made basically says that their job is not as important as the rest of the unit. Couldn't be farther from the truth. Without the ECOs, we are nothing. I'm proud to work for Suffolk County Police Department. It's time we're treated as part of the organization.

Thank you for all your understanding in our ever-changing unit. And I look forward to a resolution to this issue with your help. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Thank you very much for being here. Does anybody have any questions for Jennifer?

LEG. CILMI:

I do.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Legislator Cilmi does.

LEG. CILMI:

Hi, Jennifer.

MS. NUNNS:

Hi.

LEG. CILMI:

Thanks for the work you do. So you said you were an ECO and now you're a dispatcher.

MS. NUNNS:

Correct.

LEG. CILMI:

Right? So you've seen, you know, both ends.

MS. NUNNS:

Absolutely.

LEG. CILMI:

Legislator Lindsay asked the previous speaker about efficiencies that can be potentially gained. One of the things I know happens in your area is that there's a lot of redundancy. There's a lot of, you know, somebody calls in, they are asked their address. Depending on what the circumstance is, they may get transferred then to somebody else who might reiterate -- have to reiterate the address and -- can you talk a little bit about that?

MS. NUNNS:

Sure. Basically what happens, if someone calls in where that redundancy comes into play is where -- if we get a request for an ambulance or fire department, basically we're going to ask for the address first so that we can at least get an officer started. At that point it would be transferred to FRES where they would ask, again, the same address, maybe some other pertinent information because they have to get that information out to the fire department, the ambulance, whoever else might be responding. So some of that redundancy does come into play. Unfortunately it's just a process that we have that we're trying to get an address first so we can at least get someone going. And 90% of the times the officers are there before the first responders or the fire department, etcetera, etcetera.

The only other place that I might see some issue in lag time is when we have problems with the language line. Basically when we call language line, you expect an interpreter as soon as possible. And there's times that we're holding and holding and holding while they're trying to find an interpreter for us. And at that point they want to ask, you know, a code, they want to ask, you know, all these information before they even get to the speaker. So it's not unheard of to have a three-minute lag between the time the caller calls and we actually get someone on the phone who can start asking questions. A lot can happen in three minutes.

LEG. CILMI:

Sure.

MS. NUNNS:

You can save --

LEG. CILMI:

Going back to the address thing --

MS. NUNNS:

U-hum.

LEG. CILMI:

So when the ECO takes the address initially so you can get a police officer out --

MS. NUNNS:

Right.

LEG. CILMI:

-- you're not really writing that on a napkin or something; I mean you're keying it into a system, right?

MS. NUNNS:

Exactly. I mean scrap paper's there if you need it.

LEG. CILMI:

Sure, of course.

MS. NUNNS:

If you want to write something.

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

MS. NUNNS:

But they are at their console; there is a data entry screen; there's a map; there's a phone.

LEG. CILMI:

U-hum.

MS. NUNNS:

All this stuff is on their screens.

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

MS. NUNNS:

As they're taking information, they're adding it into the computer. And as soon as they have an address -- and basically you can throw out any subtype you want if you really need to get the call started.

LEG. CILMI:

Right. Now why isn't that then visible to the other -- to the FRES operator when --

MS. NUNNS:

It should basically go right to the FRES operator, but, again, there has always been issues of, you know, maybe they put the wrong town in, maybe they have a different address. Sometimes people get on the phone and say, "oh, my God, I moved. I'm not at that address no more." So that's why they clarify or if you want to reverify the address just to make sure that we're both on the same page.

LEG. CILMI:

Right. Okay. All right. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Legislator McCaffrey.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Thank you. And once, again, thank you for all the work that you do and all the -- the operators, I know it's a very difficult job.

MS. NUNNS:

Thank you.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

And very demanding. And I think we're all in agreement that we need to find some resolution to this. I just had a question because in our -- where I live, it's in the Town of Babylon, we have actually our own fire rescue --

MS. NUNNS:

Yes.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

They get their own calls. Now do you get those calls as well, I mean, when they come over? Or is it only for the -- you get the fire and rescue calls for the municipalities or the districts that do not have their own dispatch system?

MS. NUNNS:

Right. Ninety percent of those calls, they get, you know, they still have to notify us because the police has to respond. So we do get the calls through Babylon -- Babylon Central as they call it.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Right.

MS. NUNNS:

But, yes, a lot of those calls come in direct from Babylon Central. They'll call us and say, "hey, we got to go here." There are times when it'll come into our system, we'll transfer to FRES and FRES will be like "hold on, we have to transfer you to Babylon Central. We don't dispatch for you." So there is another lag.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Right.

MS. NUNNS:

It's all about where they're calling from. And, again, the cell towers and the cell phones have been problematic, at best, if you want because there's so many times we cannot track that person.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

But you get a lot of -- 911 gets a lot of calls that should be directed to the -- say, Babylon Central, or whatever?

MS. NUNNS:

Yeah. Because, like I said, based off whatever tower they're calling from, it's going to ping it to where it thinks it should go. So it may not generally be that, *okay, I'm in Babylon, I'm going to get Babylon Central.* It doesn't always happen that way.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Yeah. Are their dispatchers in a civil service title?

MS. NUNNS:

We're all --

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Babylon Central?

MS. NUNNS:

That I am not aware of. Maybe Suzanne would know.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

No. Okay. Yeah, okay. I'm just trying to get a comparison in terms of as we look at these other areas to see how they're being compensated, see if it's similar, so. Okay. Thank you. Thanks again for the work that everyone does for us.

MS. NUNNS:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay, thank you very much for coming today.

I have no other cards. Is there anybody else who'd like to address this Committee? Anybody else? Going once, going twice. Okay, we are going to close the Public Portion and move along with the agenda.

LEG. CILMI:

Mr. Chair?

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Yes?

LEG. CILMI:

At your pleasure, since we have just heard some of this testimony, it's fresh in our minds, would you mind if we had the County Executive's Office come up to the podium just so we can have a brief discussion?

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Sure. Is -- I guess, Katie, you want to come on up? I'm not sure how much they're going to be able to share. At least --

LEG. CILMI:

No, I understand.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

I think we -- they're probably being caught a little bit off-guard as -- you know, I know this issue is coming up, but in terms of talking of reclassifications --

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

-- I think that's an idea that's just starting to get floated here.

LEG. CILMI:

Hi, Lisa and Katie. So are you caught off-guard by this? I mean, is this something that the Administration is aware of and --

MS. SANTERAMO:

I do believe the Administration is aware of this issue, but Katie and I are not prepared to speak on it today. We were not --

LEG. CILMI:

Okay.

MS. SANTERAMO:

We were caught off-guard in that we did not -- we are not prepared --

LEG. CILMI:

Sure, understandable. But it is something that you know that the Administration is aware of this. And I would -- I would just ask if you both could find out, you know, what, if anything, we can do together to rectify the situation. You know, we all are dealing with the same challenges together. But at the same time, you know, the health of our employees is at stake, I think, and public safety in the County is at stake. And those two things are, I'm sure everybody would agree, are very, very important. So let's work together and see if we can fix this; okay?

MS. SANTERAMO:

Absolutely. Thank you.

LEG. CILMI:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Yeah, I think the message we want to send back is it sounds to me as if we -- there isn't much recourse for these employees who -- the channels in terms of being EOC and getting a appeal, the decision made by this board. So perhaps it's time for us to sit down with the appropriate union leadership and the Administration to determine if reclassifications might be appropriate. Because perhaps, as technology has changed and the responsibilities of these employees have changed, that maybe their title should reflect better what it is that they're doing now. Great. Thank you very much.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Okay, we're going to move into our agenda here. Tabled Resolutions, we have actually have none. So we'll go right into Introductory Resolutions.

1942, Authorizing the sale of County-owned real property pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Riverhead for Affordable Housing purposes (SCTM No. 0600-102.00-03.00-030.000). (Co. Exec.)

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Motion by Legislator Schneiderman; second by Legislator McCaffrey. Any questions on the issue? All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1942 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1946, Approving the reappointment of Thomas G. Gallagher as a member of the Suffolk County Commercial, Industrial, Residential Septic Tank/Sewer Drain Treatment, Bacteria Additives and Maintenance Board. (Co. Exec.)

LEG. CILMI:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Motion by Legislator Cilmi; second by Legislator McCaffrey. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1946 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1947, Approving the reappointment of Robert N. Falk as a member of the Suffolk County Commercial, Industrial, Residential Septic Tank/Sewer Drain Treatment, Bacteria Additives and Maintenance Board. (Co. Exec.) Same motion, same second? All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1947 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1948, Approving the reappointment of William Garthe as a member of the Suffolk County Home Improvement Contracting Board. (Co. Exec.) Same motion, same second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1948 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1949, Approving the reappointment of Michael Daly as a member of the Suffolk County Electrical Licensing Board. (Co. Exec.) I had a request that we table this so I'll make a motion to table; second by Legislator Schneiderman. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1949 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 2015, Establishing County policy to utilize former County employees. (Browning) I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Second by Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. CILMI:

On the motion.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

On the motion, Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

So, I thought we already had to do this.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Perhaps we can have Counsel provide an explanation.

MR. NOLAN:

Yeah, I prefaced my remarks by saying I spoke with Legislator Browning about this a couple days ago. Yeah, there are preferred lists. There are numerous preferred lists, like 23 preferred lists. I think what Legislator Browning is trying to accomplish is, if you're on one of those preferred lists and there's vacancies or openings in certain positions, these people must be -- on all these preferred lists must be called and offered these jobs.

LEG. CILMI:

But isn't that the point of the preferred list?

MR. NOLAN:

Well, the preferred list -- the preferred list, though, the way it works is you're in a -- they call you for a same or similar job.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay.

MR. NOLAN:

When I spoke with Legislator Browning, I think she recognized we need to do some work on this idea in order to make it workable. I think there's just some practical problems that we have to address before we move something like this.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. So -- I know that you can't speak for her, but the way you're characterizing your discussion, you said you think she understands that it needs to be tabled.

MR. NOLAN:

Yeah, I think we may go in a slightly different direction in trying to help people get on one of these --

LEG. CILMI:

Okay.

MR. NOLAN:

-- preferred lists.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 2015 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 2021, Amending the hourly rate for temporary positions in the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan. (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion to approve; second by Legislator Schneiderman. Quickly, Counsel, this is simply bringing us in line with, I think, minimum wage standards if I'm not mistaken?

MR. NOLAN:

Right. It's to reflect the minimal wage increase.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 2021 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

I have no other items on the agenda. Seeing none, we are adjourned. And I'd like to wish everyone a -- happy holidays and a happy new year.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10:41 AM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**