SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

FIRST DAY

January 2, 2019

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

Taken By:
Lucia Braaten & Diana Flesher - Court Stenographers
Organization Meeting 1/2/19

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

("The meeting was called to order at 11:09 a.m.*)

ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
Good morning, everyone. If you could please have a seat, we'll get started. Okay. Happy New Year, everyone, and welcome to the -- our today's installation. I am going to turn the mic over to our -- Legislator Rob Calarco.

11:09AM

LEG. CALARCO:
Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. And, at this time, it's my pleasure to introduce Commander Dave Rogers of the Patchogue VFW Post 2913, who will instruct the Color Guard, and we will have the Pledge of Allegiance. So if we could all please rise.

("Presentation of the Colors*)

("Salutation*)

11:10AM

LEG. CALARCO:
And if we could all remain standing, it's my pleasure to now introduce the Patchogue-Medford High School's Vocal Jazz Ensemble, who will join us to sing the National Anthem.

("National Anthem Performed by the Patchogue-Medford High School Jazz Ensemble*)

11:13AM

LEG. CALARCO:
A big thank you to the Patchogue VFW, and they're the Jayne Lattin Post. And some of you may have recognized the name Jayne, because that was in the news recently. It was one of the seaman, a Navy member who lost his life at Pearl Harbor whose body was recently identified and returned. So thank you so much, gentlemen, for coming this morning.

And with that, I will invite you all to sit as the Jazz Ensemble gives us a little melody here.

("Performance by the Patchogue-Medford Jazz Ensemble*)

("Applause*)

Thank you so much to the Patchogue-Medford Jazz Ensemble, and Mr. Reich, their Instructor. You guys are wonderful.

("Applause*)

11:17AM

Okay. If we could all please rise again. I'm sorry to do the sit down/stand up, but we have to have our invocation yet. And it's a pleasure for me to introduce Reverend Kevin O'Hara, who is Pastor of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Patchogue, New York, where he leads a mid-size congregation and ministry and service to the community. He is ordained to the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelic -- Evangelical -- excuse me -- Lutheran Church of
America. He also serves as Dean of his conference, which has 11 churches, and he is chair of the Protestant Campus Ministries at Stony Brook University. He is a native to the suburbs of Philadelphia, but is thankful that Long Islanders have been so receptive to him, which I am proud to say in Patchogue we love to have new people coming into town as often as possible.

And I got to meet Pastor O'Hara first actually at an Eagle Scout Award. He is an Eagle Scout himself, and it was -- I was able to have conversations with him and it was a wonderful opportunity.

And then after the massacre, the shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, I got to hear Kevin O'Hara speak, Pastor O'Hara speak at our local synagogue, Temple Beth El. And he spoke so eloquently and so movingly to the congregation there about how we all share in one another in our community, and when they suffer, we all suffer, and I knew I had to have him here today. So with that, Pastor O'Hara, thank you very much for joining us.

PASTOR O'HARA:

And thank you all for everything that you do. I worked for the United Nations as an intern for a year and I realized I couldn't be in government, because it just wasn't my thing. But you guys --

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

It's not our thing either.

(*)Laughter*)

PASTOR O'HARA:

I only had 350 congregation members who will complain to me about a bad sermon, but I could imagine that, you know, any time that somebody has a complaint, that you hear from them. So thank you, guys, for all of the work that you do on behalf of Suffolk County and the area that I get to watch and see grow. It's been a blessing to be here.

As you are able, let us pray. Oh, God, you have called these elected officials and their staff to lead your people here in Suffolk County. Give them the strength to carry out their duties with diligence and compassion. Give them wisdom in their struggles to answer some of the world's toughest questions. Ensure them when their confidence wavers, and give them the voice and heart for those who cannot speak for themselves.

God, you have called us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending by paths yet untrodden and through perils unknown. Give us all faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us. And finally, God, make us complete in everything good, so that we may do your will, working in us that which is well pleasing in your sight. In all things, God, equip us to do the work you have called us to do. Amen.

(*)Amend Said in Unison*)
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ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
Would you all please remain standing for a moment of silence. We ask that you remember Linda Lipp, wife of Robert Lipp, our Director of BRO, who passed during the holidays. Please keep the Lipp Family in your thoughts and prayers.

And, as always, let us remember all those men and women who have lost their lives in service to our country, and our military, serving in areas throughout the world who continue to sacrifice to ensure our freedoms.

As we celebrate the holidays and the new year, may we be inspired by the spirit of the season. And may our generosity extend to those less fortunate, those who have endured personal health issues or the loss of a family member or friend, and those who struggle to provide for their loved ones. May we find peace in the new year, encourage kindness and respect, and embrace diversity to build a more accepting world.

(*Moment of Silence*)

11:21AM

Okay. Now I would like to invite our County Executive for an opportunity to say a few remarks.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE BELLONE:
Good morning, Mr. Presiding Officer, members of the Legislature. Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words once again at the annual reorganizational meeting. I’m proud to be joined, of course, by my colleagues in the Executive Branch, and I want to congratulate them on their return to office, our County Clerk, Judy Pascale, and our Comptroller, John Kennedy.

(*Applause*)

We’re also joined by one of our former County Executives, of course, Peter Cohalan. Most people refer to him as Judge. I think I may be the only one who refers to him as County Executive Cohalan. But he has spent a lifetime in service to this county, to this state, and to our country, and he continues that service as our County Historian, and I want to thank him for that as the County Executive.

(*Applause*)

And to our Judicial Branch and our Chief Judge, Randy Hinrichs. I want to thank him for the work that he does and all of the members of the Judiciary do on behalf of us in Suffolk County each and every day. Thank you very much.

(*Applause*)

11:23AM

And I would ask, also, that we keep in our thoughts and prayers one of our former colleagues, former County Executive Michael LoGrande, who passed during the holiday season. He also made a huge difference in our county with his record on the environment, with his work in the Pine Barrens, in preserving and protecting our

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water quality, and many other things. And I want to acknowledge
that and ask that we keep in our thoughts and prayers the members
of his family as we thank him for his service to our county.

So let me begin by saying, of course, Happy New Year to all of my
colleagues in the Legislature, and, of course, to all of your
hardworking staff. It goes without saying that we have had a
productive working relationship over the past year with a number of
important accomplishments. And I look forward to continuing the
progress that we've made in this past year and over the years, and
our residents deserve no less.

We welcomed, of course, new colleagues to the County Government, to
the County Legislature last year, Sue Berland, Tom Donnelly, Steve
Flotteron, Rudy Sunderman. And this year we, of course, said
good-bye to one of our colleagues, not entirely, though.
Legislator Monica Martinez, of course, is now Senator Monica
Martinez, and I have no doubt that the tenacity that she displayed
here in this body will continue to serve us well in Albany. I want
to congratulate her.

But right now in Washington, our Federal Government is shut down
amid partisan gridlock. Petty differences and sound bites rule the
day. Suffolk County is charting a different course for how
government should operate, and in 2018, it was a year of action. A
total of 711 bills in the Legislature, 96% were adopted with
unanimous support. By comparison, House of Representatives passed
only 2% of all of its bills with unanimous support. So as we begin
the new year, I want to remind all of my colleagues that there are
many, many things that we agree on. And one thing I know that we
certainly agree on is that we're all here to do the people's
business and all working on behalf of our residents. And I expect
and I know that we will do some great things in the year ahead.

The County Legislature this past year unanimously approved
Geri Hart, the former head of the FBI on Long Island, to be our new
Police Commissioner. Also, the first woman to ever serve in that
capacity anywhere in this region. And today, crime in Suffolk
County is at the lowest level in recorded history. And, again, I
thank the members of this Legislature for their support of law
enforcement in this County.

Our economy is strong, and with some of the lowest unemployment
figures that we have ever seen. And, at the same time, we are
laying the foundation to build a better future for our communities.
We took collective action to fund critical public safety
initiatives and infrastructure work. And I was proud to partner on
a number of different individual projects with this Legislature
that will make a difference in the lives of our constituents. And
this year we stand to do even more for the people of Suffolk
County, and I look forward to continuing our work together and
making Suffolk County an even better place to live, work, and to
raise a family.

Happy New Year once again, and congratulations. Thank you.
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(*Applause*)

ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
Great. Thank you, County Executive. Look forward to working with you as well, and getting some very important things done for the residents of Suffolk County. So thank you for being here today.

Now we get to our program. We all know you're here to see Judy get sworn in, so we're going to ask --

(*Laughter*)

I'm going to ask -- we're going to administer the oath for our Suffolk County Clerk, Judy Pascale.

(*Applause*)

(*Oath of Office was Administered to Suffolk County Clerk Judith Pascale by Judge James Hudson*)

(*Applause and Standing Ovation*)

MS. PASCALE:
Thank you all very much. I'd like to thank -- a special thanks to Judge Hudson for taking the time out of his busy calendar to administer my oath. As some of you may know, the Judge's mother, Joan Hudson, was a woman ahead of her time, and even then she encouraged women to run for elected office. And many of us are in office today because of Judge Hudson's mother, Joan, so I know she's with us today.

(*Applause*)

I'd also like to thank the political leaders, Jessie Garcia, Bill Ellis, Frank McKay, and Frank Tinari, for allowing me the opportunity to continue to serve the residents of Suffolk County. I'd like to thank the municipal unions for their consummate support, with a special thanks to Noel DiGerolamo of the PBA, whose friendship is something I consider to be a very special gift, and I know he's here somewhere.

(*Applause*)

Obviously, I'd like to thank my family, my husband, Vinny, my children, Amy, Joseph, my grandson, J.T., my daughter-in-law, Kathleen, and my sister is here from Florida, Annette and Brian, because as each of you Legislators know, the sacrifices that families make to allow us to continue to serve in elected office. You can't approach or continue in elected office without the support of your family, so I thank you all. I love you.

(*Applause*)

And, of course, my staff, my management team, led by my Chief Deputy, Nicole DeLuca, and my employees. I am blessed with an exceptional team who individually and collectively consistently

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deliver the kind of service the residents of this county expect and
deserve.

My special thanks to this Legislative body and Executive Branch.
You've consistently provided me with the tools that I've needed to
run a state-of-the-art office. It's due to your support that of
the 62 counties in the State of New York, the Suffolk County
Clerk's Office has been awarded the Best of New York three times.
None of that --

(*Applause*)

None of that would have happened without your support and the
Executive's support as well. I can't remember a time that we've
come before this Legislative body or the Executive and asked for a
tool that we needed to advance our delivery of service to the
constituents of this county and we've never been denied. So on
behalf of my staff and my office, and, obviously, all of the
constituents that we represent, I thank you very much.

And I would be remiss. I don't think he's here today, but I want
to say a special thanks to my predecessor, and my political mentor,
and my friend, Ed Romaine. Years ago he saw something in me and
had faith in me. And I have to tell you, I would not be here
today, I would not have even approached running for political
office were it not for him. He is now the Brookhaven Supervisor
and he is an elected official that many of us wish to emulate.

I want to thank you all. I wish you all a very happy, healthy new
year. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart, and God bless
you all. Thank you.

(*Applause*)

ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Next, the oath of office will be administered to Suffolk
County Comptroller, John Kennedy, Jr.

(*Applause*)

It will be administered by the Honorable Peter Fox Cohalan.

LEG. KENNEDY:
I have a 50/50 shot of being joined by my family.

(*Laughter*)

JUDGE COHALAN:
Before I swear in John, I just wish to thank Presiding Officer
Gregory for having us here today. And, also, I noted that I just
found out Steve Bellone was involved in an automobile accident the
other day. I didn't know that, and I wanted to --

COUNTY EXECUTIVE BELLONE:
Yes, and everyone knows now.
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(*Laughter*)

JUDGE COHALAN:
Our esteemed County Executive and friend is hale and hearty and he's fine, and I salute you.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE BELLONE:
Thank you.

(*Oath of Office was Administered to
John M. Kennedy, Jr. by Judge Peter Fox Cohalan*)

(*Applause and Standing Ovation*)

COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:
Thank you. And I am truly humbled and honored to go ahead and be returned to office for another term. I'd like to thank Judge Peter Fox Cohalan for swearing me in. He is the first County Executive that I ever worked for, and gave me an opportunity here in County Government back 32 years ago. Little did I know that I would stand before you today, be reelected as our County Comptroller.

I want to thank the people of Suffolk County for reaffirming our mission, and our vision, and our constant quest for improvement with operations of County Government.

I want to thank my wife, Leslie, 43 years, my high school sweetheart, and the rest of my family for love and support.

(*Applause*)

I am a blessed man, but you folks got the better half of the equation, no doubt about it.

I'd like to thank our municipal unions, and, in particular, I would like to extend thanks to law enforcement as well, certainly to Noel DiGerolamo, to John Cowie, and to Jimmy Hughes. The men and women in law enforcement here in Suffolk County, and our Corrections Officers Unions, our Dep. Sheriff's Unions, our Probation Department, make us the safe county that we are that allow us to achieve those outstanding results that the County Executive talked about. It's a great place to raise a family. I'm blessed not only with four children, but eight grandchildren.

I've lived here in Suffolk County all my life. I do it, Ladies and Gentlemen, because I love it. I'd love to go ahead and work with you. But I also need to thank the men and women of union labor who stand behind me on my right-hand side. I do not forget my roots, Ladies and Gentlemen. I started with a card out of Local 25 when I was a kid jumping poles. To this day union labor has supported me. I'm proud to work with them hand in hand. I'm proud to go ahead and adopt a continued platform for improvement, and proud to work with this Legislature to go ahead and seek from you the additional support to allow us to expand into things like hotel-motel, to upgrade our computer backbone, to automate and bring our county into the 21st Century, which all of our citizens deserve. I look
forward to working with you.

Thank you to the men and women from the fire service. Thank you to my friend, Elaine Renner, who snaps pictures just great. And thank you to everybody that we have here in the audience who's here today. Thank you. I look forward to working with you.

(*Applause and Standing Ovation*)

11:38AM

ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Congratulations to you both. We've got to get to our agenda. Mr. Clerk, can you do the roll call?

(*Roll Call by Jason Richberg, Acting Clerk*)

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Here.

LEG. FLEMING:
Present.

LEG. SUNDERMAN:
Here.

LEG. MURATORE:
(Absent)

LEG. HAHN:
Present.

LEG. ANKER:
Here.

LEG. CALARCO:
Present.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Here.

LEG. CILMI:
Here.

LEG. FLOTTERON:
Here.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Here.

LEG. TROTTA:
Here.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:
Here.

ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
Here.
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LEG. BERLAND:
Here.

LEG. DONNELLY:
Here.

LEG. SPENCER:
Here.

11:39AM

MR. RICHBERG:
Sixteen. (Absent: Legislator Muratore)

ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Please recognize Legislator Muratore has an excused absence.
Okay. You ready? Are you ready to go?

MISS BAPTISTE:
No.

ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
No?

(*Laughter*)

All right. So the first on our agenda is the election of the Presiding Officer. For that purpose, I will recognize Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Thank you. Good morning. So, you know, I have to say, it was just over six years ago I came in here and I walked through those doors, and I didn't know anyone here. And I kind of looked around and I looked at the faces on the walls. Unfortunately, the only ones I recognized were the ones on this side here. And I was met by two people. One was Wayne Horsley, whose face is up there now. The other one was DuWayne Gregory. And they were gracious enough and they showed me around the building, and they told me what -- you know, this is this person, and this is that person, this is what they do, this is -- this is how the -- you know, this building functions. It was -- and I was really impressed, because I really -- you know, they didn't have to spend that much time with me. And it really made an impression on me, the generosity of their time. And I said, oh, this -- you know, there's definitely something there in County Government that they're very proud of, and I -- that, that always stuck with me.

You know, you look at a Presiding Officer, you want someone who works with everybody, who listens to everybody. I've gotten to know DuWayne in the last few years. He and I agree on some things, we don't agree on some things, but he's got a good spirit, I think, and a really good attitude on how government should work and how people should get along. And because you, really, in the end, you work for all, everyone, you work for all the taxpayers, and you have to listen to everyone.
So I'm going to read a quote here from Douglas MacArthur. "A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent." And I think that says a lot. That really describes how DuWayne's conducted himself since I've known him. So it is really -- I've got a lot of faith in his ability, and I'd like to nominate him for Presiding Officer.

(*Applause*)

ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
Thank you, Al. I don't think I've ever been, you know, compared to Douglas MacArthur, but I'll take it. I will now recognize Legislator Donnelly.

LEG. DONNELLY:
Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. Good morning, everybody. I'd like to just echo Legislator Krupski's comments. But I just want to add, in a world of tumultuous times, DuWayne, your leadership is something to be acknowledged, I actually find it inspirational. As one of my role models when I first entered government ten years ago, you taught me the value of constituent service, making sure that the most important thing that we do is to represent those residents that we serve. And your service to this nation, both as an Infantryman and an Artillery Officer, your service in Town government, and your service in County government is really something for all of us to follow.

And then I would just add that, firstly, in my first year, this body can be very tensionist at times, but you lead us with a steady hand and with a sense of decency and fairness to all. And it's an honor to second your nomination for Presiding Officer.

(*Applause*)

ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
Thank you, Tom. Okay. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

LEG. CILMI:
On the motion, if I may.

ACTING P.O. GREGORY:
On the motion, Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:
Yes. Thank you very much. Happy New Year, everybody. So over our past nine years in this body, Mr. Presiding Officer, we have seen our financial condition in this County deteriorate. Even now, at a time of economic growth, a time when unemployment, as the County Executive said, is at historic lows, this County continues to suffer bond downgrades, $100 million deficits, and historic levels of debt. Despite progress in certain areas, and there has been progress in certain areas, there is no doubt that this County is on the wrong path.
Republicans have seen many pieces of good legislation killed by the Majority in this Legislature. Not once have Republicans, certainly not I, been personally vindictive, not once have I ever voted against someone's bill because they voted against mine, or simply because he or she is a member of another party. Recently, however, I have seen the tone in this body grow more political, and that's sad, and now it seems that a punitive tone has all but taken over. You, Mr. Presiding Officer, have the power to put an end to this divisiveness. We all shoulder some responsibility in that regard, for sure. Things seem to have gotten worse. But I think you're a good man, I think you're a fair man, and I think among the Majority of this body, you, above others, have the ability to stand as our unifying voice. I hope we see that in the coming year.

For now, rather than put up a candidate of our own as Republicans, as we have done in the past, we'll simply abstain from this vote with the hope that we can work together toward a more unified Legislature in the coming year. And I wish you all the best of luck, and I, with all sincerity, look forward to working with you in that regard, and all of our colleagues in the Legislature, to do good things in 2019. So thank you.

(*Applause*)

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**
Okay. So without any other nominations, I'll make a motion to close the nominations.

**LEG. DONNELLY:**
Second.

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**
Second by Legislator Donnelly. Roll call.

(*Roll Call by Jason Richberg, Acting Clerk*)

**ACTING P.O. GREGORY:**
Yes.

**LEG. DONNELLY:**
Yes.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**
Yes.

**LEG. FLEMING:**
Yes.

**LEG. SUNDERMAN:**
Abstain.

**LEG. MURATORE:**
(Absent)
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LEG. HAHN:
Yes.

LEG. ANKER:
Yes.

LEG. CALARCO:
Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Yes.

LEG. CILMI:
Abstain.

LEG. FLOTTERON:
Abstain.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Abstain.

LEG. TROTTA:
Abstain.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:
Abstain.

LEG. BERLAND:
Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:
Yes.

MR. RICHBERG:
Ten. (Absent: Legislator Muratore)

("Applause and Standing Ovation")

JUDGE HINRICHS:
First, I would say, Presiding Officer Gregory, congratulations on your well-deserved reelection as Presiding Officer. I wish you nothing but the best in the future.

("Oath of Office was Administered to
Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory by Judge Randall Hinrichs")

JUDGE HINRICHS:
Congratulations.

("Applause and Standing Ovation")

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

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Welcome to the 50th Organizational Meeting of the Suffolk

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County Legislature. I hope you all had a holiday season filled with many blessings, and I wish you a happy and healthy, prosperous new year. It has been an honor to serve as Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature for the past five years, and I look forward to continuing our good work in the future.

I want to recognize the commitment and dedication of our former Legislative Counsel, George Nolan, who was elected a Supreme Court Justice in November, and Legislator Monica Martinez, who will now be serving in the New York State Senate, and thank them for their service.

I also want to acknowledge my colleagues on the Legislature. While there are times we may not agree, I believe that we all have an interest in accomplishing the goals we set forth at the start of each new year. Part of that is the desire to build a strong foundation on which Suffolk County residents can be proud, one in which they can be assured of a future here, a thriving economy, an opportunity for home ownership, environmental quality, safe communities, and access to remarkable natural beauty that exists on Long Island.

This past year has been a -- has seen significant strides in public safety by identifying and combatting gang violence with community programs, education and outreach. The Emergency Department Opiate Response Working Group, created this year -- excuse me -- will be tasked with developing and approving a protocol model for hospital emergency departments, in conjunction with healthcare officials, to improve the care of opioid-addicted patients. Initiatives to tackle the opioid crisis are in place, and we are beginning to see results with legislation that targets opioid manufacturers for false advertising. In addition, the County's mobile app, which provides direct access to assistance for young adults who are using drugs, school districts and community groups, has been a lifeline for many struggling with drug addiction. The expansion of the life-saving Narcan program has been enormously helpful in saving lives and partnering with community agencies and healthcare institutions to assist addicts who have overdosed with recovery and have been very successful.

We have made efforts to enforce laws that prevent dumping in our County parks, and allocated funding for cleanup efforts to ensure these precious assets are preserved for the next generation. We continue to explore the new transit-oriented developments that will inject new life and taxes into areas that are struggling. And recently, I have begun exploring opportunities for millennials who want to remain on Long Island, but are burdened by student loan debt and hampered by the lack of affordable housing and the inability to secure funding for the purchase of a home.

We are bringing residents, employees and community leaders into the governmental process by extending opportunities to offer ideas that identify ways in which to make Suffolk County more competitive in business and in manufacturing, improve and enhance efficiency of County government, and reduce costs. New ideas can mean new life for an area like Long Island, which has a large part of its
population set to retire in the near future. The Next Generation Advisory Council, which I created in 2016, indoctrinates young adults into the world of government and provides them with the tools in which to learn civic engagement.

We will continue to tackle homelessness, especially on the part of our returning veterans, and assist them with the services and resources they need to return to life as they see -- as they left it before serving our country. This past year, we expanded our minority and women-owned businesses law to include businesses owned by service-disabled veterans, who will now be given priority in competing for County contracts. Several pieces of legislation aimed at promoting equality and human rights, including the Rise Act, restricting information of salaries and earnings, will assist minorities and women who have historically encountered lower wages.

In addition, non-English speaking residents, the deaf, and those hard of hearing will benefit from a new law that require County agencies to provide translation services to the public in six languages.

Health and welfare were a priority this year, as well with the County law prohibiting smoking, now including bus shelters, and a free sunscreen dispensing program set for next summer at County parks.

In an effort to protect taxpayer dollars, several changes were made as to how asset forfeiture funds are monitored and used, and new amendments were adopted to the Campaign Finance Law that will create public funding of elections in Suffolk County.

It has been a productive year for the Suffolk County Legislature, and, yet, there is always more to be done. With a new year comes opportunity, a chance to wipe the slate clean and start anew. It offers reflection and promise, a look back and a look ahead, a way to view things differently to inspire change. I encourage -- I am encouraged by the strides we have made and filled with anticipation and hope for the future. And I'm always -- and I am, as always, honored to have your support and privileged to serve. Thank you. Thank you all.

("Applause and Standing Ovation")

Thank you. Thank you. Okay. Next on our agenda is the election of our Deputy Presiding Officer, and for that purpose, I'm going to recognize Legislator Calarco.

("Laughter")

P.O. GREGORY:
Oh, sorry, hold on. Oh, right, right, right. I thought you were going to --

LEG. CALARCO:
No.
P.O. GREGORY:
That's right. All right.

(*Laughter*)

All right. For the purposes of nomination of the Deputy Presiding Officer, I'm going to recognize Legislator Berland.

LEG. BERLAND:

11:54AM
Thank you very much, Mr. Presiding Officer. Happy New Year to everybody. It is my distinct honor and privilege to nominate Robert Calarco as the 2019 Deputy Presiding Officer for the Suffolk County Legislature. Rob has held this post since 2016, when he was elected by a bipartisan coalition of his peers, and has done an incredible job bringing his knowledge, expertise, experience, and passion to serve the residents of his district, as well as all the residents of Suffolk County.

Rob was elected to his first term in 2011 and has served the residents of the Seventh Legislative District with distinction. Rob earned his Bachelor's in Political Science from Dowling College, and a Master's in Public Administration from Stony Brook University while working full-time.

Rob has served Suffolk County as a Legislative Aide to former Legislator Ginny Fields, as a Senior Advocate in the Office for the Aging, and as Chief of Staff to his predecessor, former Legislator Jack Eddington. Rob is a dedicated public servant and a dedicated Legislator. He sponsored the legislation which was the catalyst for the lawsuit filed by the County against the opioid manufacturers. He conceived of an innovative public campaign finance program for County races, and he was an integral partner in the revitalization of Downtown Patchogue, now a prime Suffolk County destination.

As a Legislator, committed to the fiscal condition of our County, he is the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, and has led the budget process, bringing in all the contract agencies to report to the Legislature on how they operate and how they're spending County funds.

As a new Legislator, I've had the distinct pleasure of serving on three committees with Legislator Calarco, as well as participating in the budget process. He has been such an inspiration to me. His commitment to public service and his knowledge of County government, public policy, his constituency, and how to best serve the people of Suffolk County is unparalleled. But most importantly, his willingness to share that knowledge, to help make my transition to the Legislature easier, to be there to offer advice and counsel, not just to me, but to all our colleagues, to answer questions and to lead by example.

Legislator Calarco is bright, articulate and a great leader, who's also humble, modest, so even-keeled, and such an asset to the people of Suffolk County. And being able to wrangle three young kids puts him at the top of my book.
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(*Laughter*)

I am so honored to nominate Legislator Robert Calarco to serve as the 2019 Deputy Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature. Thank you.

(*Applause*)

11:57AM

P.O. GREGORY:
Next, I'll recognize Legislator Hahn.

11:58AM

LEG. HAHN:
Thank you. And congratulations, Presiding Officer Gregory. Happy New Year, everyone.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to second the nomination of Rob Calarco as Deputy Presiding Officer. I am proud to be part of this leadership team at this extraordinary Legislature. During some very tough times with serious challenges, we have kept the course and made difficult decisions to make real progress, keep the government running and functioning, to protect our residents, and enhance our communities.

Always at DuWayne's side, Rob has been a constant, smart, reasonable voice of experience and knowledge. Rob is a strong, patient man of integrity and intelligence, diligence and compassion. His budgetary prowess and procedural understanding has been an important compass for all of the members of this Legislative body. His measured approach to leadership has helped to guide this County forward and do great things for our residents and communities.

I am proud to second his nomination as Deputy Presiding Officer, and look forward to another positive and impactful year in 2019. Thank you, my friend.

LEG. CALARCO:
Thank you.

(*Applause*)

11:59AM

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Are there any other nominations? Any other nominations? Any other nominations? I'll recognize Legislator Trotta.

LEG. TROTTA:
Yeah. I just want to echo my colleague, Legislator Cilmi's sentiments on, you know, the position we're in today. And both of you gentlemen are very fine gentlemen, but there's a reality out there that people don't want to face, and the reality is, since I've been here, and since -- actually, Sue, you were wrong, he's the Deputy Presiding Officer since 2014, not 2016.

You know, we've incurred -- we took $171 million from our Sewer Fund that was supposed to provide clean water for our residents and
we borrowed it, and we're paying it back 5% a year. And in 2029, we are going to owe a balloon payment of $100 million, and almost all of us will not be sitting here. That's not a legacy I want to leave my children.

We borrowed $385 million from the pension fund that we are going to have to pay back that we couldn't afford to pay. That's not a legacy I want to leave my children.

We sold the H. Lee Dennison Building, a building that was appraised at $23 million, we took $73 million and we'll be paying back $108 million. That's not a legacy I want to leave my children.

We've instituted cremation fees, tax map verification fees, mortgage fees, a variety of fees that are making it harder and harder for our senior citizens and our children to live here. As a matter of fact, after this meeting, some time the next few weeks, I'm going to be getting in the car with one of my closest friends who could no longer afford to live here and moving down south. Legislator McCaffrey's Aide just moved down south. This is not a legacy we should be leaving our children.

We are paying for things we shouldn't be paying for. We have County employees that could design a dog pen, yet we're paying it -- we're putting it out to bid to huge contributors. That is not the kind of campaign finance that we instituted here, we need better campaign finance.

These are all things that the reality of is going on. We are going bankrupt, plain and simple. Our debt has tripled since I took office, since I came here five years ago. We had 1. -- $1.2 billion of long-term debt, now it's over $3 billion of long-term debt. That's not a legacy I want to leave my children. And I think we need to work together and work harder to stop this, because we can do it.

What's troubling to me is we just went through ten years of economic expansion, and guess what happens after that? It slows down. And if our sales tax slows down, we're all in trouble. Don't think that we can't go bankrupt, because we can, and I look forward to working together to make sure that doesn't happen. So we will be abstaining. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. The Chair will recognize Legislator Berland.

LEG. BERLAND:
Just for correction, 2014 Legislator Calarco was the Majority Leader. 2016 --

LEG. TROTTA:
Oh.

LEG. BERLAND:
-- which is what I said --
LEG. TROTТА:
That's --

LEG. BERLAND:
-- because I was correct --

LEG. TROTТА:
He nodded to me, so I assumed he was right.

LEG. CALARCO:
This is my fourth year.

LEG. TROTТА:
Oh, I'm sorry, I thought it was '14.

LEG. BERLAND:
All right. I accept your apology.

LEG. TROTТА:
I stand corrected.

LEG. BERLAND:
Thank you.

LEG. TROTТА:
You gave me the four.

LEG. BERLAND:
I do, I do my research, and I, you know --

LEG. TROTТА:
I thought it was four.

LEG. BERLAND:
See, you were surprised. Okay. Your apology is duly noted and accepted.

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. I -- so I close nominations, and roll call.

(*Roll Call by Jason Richberg, Acting Clerk*)

LEG. BERLAND:
Oh, yes, yes.

LEG. HAHN:
Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Yes.

LEG. FLEMING:
Yes.

LEG. SUNDERMAN:
Abstain.
LEG. MURATORE: (Absent)

LEG. ANKER: Yes.

LEG. CALARCO: Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY: Yes.

LEG. CILMI: Abstain.

LEG. FLOTTERON: Abstain.

LEG. KENNEDY: Abstain.

LEG. TROTTA: Abstain.

LEG. MC CAFFREY: Abstain.

LEG. DONNELLY: Yes.

LEG. SPENCER: Yes.

P.O. GREGORY: Yes.

MR. RICHBERG: Ten. (Absent: Legislator Muratore)

(*Applause and Standing Ovation*)

D.P.O. CALARCO: All right. Thank you, everyone. And first, let me thank Legislator Berland and Legislator Hahn for their kind words of support, and their nomination for me to become Deputy Presiding Officer. To Judge Hinrichs and Clerk Pascale for swearing me in. And, you know, I usually actually write something out and I'm going to wing it today.

I also want to thank the Presiding Officer, DuWayne Gregory. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve next to you. I've learned a lot from you over the years, not just as your time as Presiding Officer, but as your time as Majority Leader as well, and I appreciate and respect your leadership here in this body.
So I happen to really love my job as a County Legislator, and I
tell people all the time that we are probably very fortunate that
we have the best elected official job that there is to have. We
are able to have effectuate change that the people can see and that
we get to see on a first-hand basis, and it's a wonderful thing.
But it's a job, and we're all here to do the job of making the
County Government work and function, and the County Government does
the most critical services, we take care of the health, safety and
welfare of the residents of Suffolk County.

And, you know, there's been some illusions to some of the
contentiousness at this body in the last year, and it's -- it has
been at times, but that's natural. That's the course of a
Legislative process. We all come from different places and
different points of view and different perspectives, and some of
those are going to be quite different. And it's our job to come
here together as a body and still make decisions and make the
County Government function. And I think over the last year that
this body has been in existence, and with our new members, we've
done that, as the Presiding Officer so well illustrated in his
speech earlier, but we certainly have a lot more to do. And
Legislator Trotta, in his resounding speech for me, did make a very
good point in that we do have to have concerns that if there is a
downtown in the economy, it will have catastrophic impacts on this
County.

So, as the Deputy Presiding Officer, I think I have tried to
solicit input and information from all of the members, not just my
caucus, but of the Republican caucus as well, to provide advice and
background information to members of both caucuses as well, because
if I'm going to win an argument, I like to win an argument on the
merits, and not by depriving somebody of information or facts. So
I'm going to commit to my colleagues that as Deputy Presiding
Officer, I will continue to do those things, and I will continue to
try to make sure that we find ways of reaching compromise, reaching
agreement, and helping each other, and thereby helping the County.
And I hope that each and everybody sitting at this horseshoe will
continue to do that as well, because that's the only way we're
going to have a productive 2019, and we'll be able to face any
potential economic downturns as it comes.

So I thank you all again for your support, and in my leadership,
and I look forward to working with all of you in 2019.

(*Applause and Standing Ovation*)

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Next on our agenda is Introductory Resolution #2 - Adopting
the Rules of the Suffolk County Legislature. They should be in
your manilla folders. Are there anyone -- is there anyone that has
a rule change?

LEG. KRUPSKI:
(Raised hand)
P.O. GREGORY:  
I'll recognize Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:  
Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. So I did propose a rule change to Rule 2(A)(5) by adding a new sentence. "Legislators shall not take photographs in the Legislative auditorium with persons receiving proclamations or commendations once a meeting is in progress, with the exception of all-18 photographs authorized in advance of the meeting by the Presiding Officer."

12:10PM

There's been -- there's been a lot of -- and, certainly, I'm as proud of anyone else when a team representing my district wins the County title in whatever sport, or someone does something of distinction in the district that deserves recommendation. But it is a big disruption to the whole meeting when you have to -- first, you explain what happened, what the score was, who scored the goal, and who made the basket, and then you have the -- you know, everyone's got to line up for the picture, and that goes on for a long time. And it does make it -- it does kind of make the meeting go -- well, the meeting's actually delayed for a long time, and that's really what we're here for.

So the proposed rule change would say that you really need to get people that you're giving a commendation to before the meeting to take a picture. If you'd like to take it at the horseshoe, to line up beforehand, so that when they're -- once they're recognized, then they could sit down and the next person can be recognized. Just sort of a ministerial change to try to increase the efficiency of the whole proclamation process.

12:11PM

Now, if there's obviously something outstanding that's happening and there's an all-18, that we'd all like to take a picture with that person or persons, then, obviously, that would be an exception that the Presiding Officer could make in that -- you know, in those circumstances.

I know there are -- I have to acknowledge, this morning I heard some very valid logistical challenges to my proposal, you know, to try to get people on the bus, off the bus, through the lobby. The lobby is not big here. There's a lot of equipment out there now that prevents people from lining up and taking pictures, and also being part of the -- just part of the general public, so that does present its challenges. And I don't know if anyone else has any other suggestions on how to move things around at all.

12:12PM

P.O. GREGORY:  
Okay. Legislator Hahn.

LEG. HAHN:  
Thank you, Legislator Krupski. And I'm sorry that I didn't have an opportunity to call you about this. As much as, you know, I appreciate the effort to streamline the meetings, and we have done other things such as I believe we're supposed to limit it to one per elected official per meeting. I believe we are not supposed to invite the individual being awarded up and to have a moment at the

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microphone, and those are things that have not been adhered to by many at this Legislature.

I do think that if someone is taking the time to come here and to be recognized, it's about them, and I think the moment it takes to take a picture in front of the seal is one that we can spare. And I think that we can call people up, the next folks that are in line to be honored can be called up a little bit sooner, like while the picture's being taken, so, you know, to streamline it a little bit.

But I just -- I just believe if we've asked someone to take time out of their schedule to come down here, we can take the extra 30 seconds to take a picture with them during the meeting.

And I understand we can make every attempt, and I believe our photographer does, to take those pictures before the meeting, but there are those times when either someone doesn't arrive on time because of traffic or other reasons, that it just shouldn't be part of our rules saying we can't do that. And so I appreciate your effort to improve the efficiency, I just disagree. And I may lose, but that's just my point of view (laughter).

LEG. KRUPSKI:
No, no. And thank you for those comments, but the point you made also is the point I'm trying to make. If you'd like to take a picture with someone, you could do so before the meeting, so that when you give the proclamation, the meeting moves along, right.

P.O. GREGORY:
Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:
I tend to agree with Legislator Hahn. I think it's a special moment for somebody who's receiving a proclamation. And those meetings where we tend to take a lot of those types of photographs and we recognize a lot of -- they happen to be -- they happen at certain times in the year predominantly, so -- and I think perhaps the Presiding Officer has the ability to limit the amount of time that we take. I know we all like to -- I'm the worst of everybody who likes to hear ourselves talk, you know, but -- and the accolades for which, you know, we're recognizing folks for deserve, you know, a decent explanation of why they're being recognized. But sometimes we go on and on, and sometimes we let the folks who are being recognized speak as well. And just so maybe there's a way, just administratively through the Presiding Officer's Office, that we can shorten up that length of time and allow people to have their due respect of a photograph here with everybody watching. I think it's -- I think it's nice for somebody, you know?

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Legislator Berland.

LEG. BERLAND:
Yeah. I'm sorry, Legislator Krupski, I didn't have a chance to talk to you ahead of time, but I don't agree with this at all. I mean, I think we become anesthetized to the effect that a proclamation has on the people who are getting them, because we're
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the ones giving them out. But a lot of people here, it's their first time either at the Legislature, it's their first time getting a proclamation. And to stand up, I think, during the meeting, if there's times if you could make those pictures beforehand, great. But if you can't, it's part of like the whole, you know, like essence of getting the proclamation and coming here before the Legislature, and standing there and being recognized by all the Legislators and who's ever, you know, in the audience. And I just think it's just -- it makes it more magical for the people who are here, and I don't think we should take that magic from them, so.

12:16PM

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Sounds like a real bipartisan effort here. (*Laughter*)

P.O. GREGORY:
You're bringing people together. Legislator Spencer.

12:17PM

LEG. SPENCER:
I can be very brief, because I applaud your effort, but I do agree with the other three speakers. And I just would add another point, that I have had people who have had that moment, taking a picture in front of the seal, that have specifically referenced that time. And there are people that will literally take time from -- off from work, and will have family members come in, and to give them that 20 seconds that it takes to do that.

12:18PM

And I was thinking that along the lines of being able to streamline the meeting, there's a rule that I've never seen us use that may help us a lot more. And, again, every Legislator has a right to debate as much as possible, but there are certain times where we can maybe have a multi-hour debate. And on our rules, on Rule 11(F)(3), there is a rule that we still have on the books to cut off debate. And I was researching that a little bit, and our Counsel, like, you know, I don't know if she would agree or disagree, but that seems to be -- you know, I've noticed that there are items that occur at the end of the meeting that are very important, when we're bleary-eyed, that we just kind of pass right over, and there are items up front, things that we take out of order that will take up the vast majority of time. And it looks like with Rule F, to cut off debate, that we have the ability to call the question, and then that's in a situation where everyone has had a chance to speak, both sides have been heard. It requires a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to do it, and I think that maybe we could utilize that more if we're looking for some efficiency, sometimes when we're beating a dead horse.

12:19PM

But as far as the photograph, I think that's part of the package that people really love, and so I respectfully disagree, but thank you for your effort.

P.O. GREGORY:
Legislator Anker.
LEG. ANKER:
Also, I appreciate Legislator Krupski's concern about moving along
the meetings, because, you know, my meetings, some of my meetings I
believe are what, three minutes, if we only have one resolution
or -- I mean, I try to get my committee meetings going fast. But
this particular event is a moment in time that we can all share to
celebrate, and we don't do that as often as I wish we could. So,
again, I prefer to keep the rule as is, but thank you for your
concern.

12:20PM

P.O. GREGORY:
Legislator Fleming.

LEG. FLEMING:
Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. Could I just get some
clarification on the procedure here? Are we -- is this a motion to
approve this rule change that we'll have the opportunity to vote
on, or are we just --

12:20PM

P.O. GREGORY:
No. I believe Legislator Krupski was going to make a motion to
present this rule change, but I think he just kind of offered it up
for debate, and that was going to determine whether he actually
made a formal motion or not.

LEG. FLEMING:
Well, you definitely have one more vote, Al. I'd like to offer my
support, then, for Legislator Krupski's characteristically
thoughtful approach to his job. I think that, in fact, some of the
arguments that have been made from a commonsense perspective maybe
sound good if you say them fast, but, in fact, we're talking about
a photograph. So for those who feel that the recognition is so
critically important to our constituents, I share that. I
certainly have been really pleased to be able to have meetings in
Riverside, where we can bring members of the East End community to
be recognized, particularly First Responders, and the sports kids,
but we have that opportunity for recognition, even with Legislator
Krupski's suggestion.

12:20PM

You have a proclamation. The Legislator has the opportunity to
stand at the podium and articulate why it is that this particular
member of the community should be recognized. And, quite frankly,
it takes a very long time to gather everybody up and get the photo
taken when the recognition has already taken place. If we all made
an effort to get the photos taken prior, then -- before the gavel
falls, then you still have the photo, and that's what's so lovely
for members of the community who have been recognized. So I think
that Legislator Krupski's suggestion, in fact, achieves our ends.

12:21PM

I'm a little troubled that the place where you might shave some of
that time is to cut off debate, when our job is, in fact, to debate
bills and to make the thoughtful decisions on matters of policy.
So I think it's a great idea, and I really do appreciate Legislator
Krupski's focus on always moving us in a more professional
direction. So I wish we had an opportunity to vote, because I
wanted to cast a vote yes. But, at any rate, you have at least one

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other vote in support. And thank you, Legislator Krupski, for your always thoughtful approach to your job.

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. I recognize Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:
Just to add quickly that we can all do -- we can all make an effort, at least. If it doesn't pass, we can all make an effort, especially when we have large groups, to get those groups in front of the horseshoe beforehand and take the pictures beforehand. I think it's something that we should all and can all do to speed things up.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Mr. Presiding Officer, if I could. So thank you. So I won't put it up to a vote, because I don't sense that there's support for it. But I would appreciate everyone's -- thank you. But I do appreciate everyone's, you know, thoughtfulness when they do try to get your people here earlier. Don't forget, it's not just the people who are here being recognized for something that they did, whether it was an achievement on a field of play, or whether it was an achievement at some point in their lives where they help people, but it's -- also, you've got usually a room full of people here for Public Portion who took time out of their day to come down here to get their three, precious three minutes to address us on something that's very important to them, and they're sometimes sitting here for an hour or two waiting to have their say. So it's -- you know, it's for those people, also, to move the process along.

So I appreciate everyone's consideration on that, and I appreciate some of your support, but we'll see how it goes in 2019, so thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Thank you. So I'm going to make a motion to adopt our rules.

LEG. TROTTA:
I have one more.

LEGISLATOR GREGORY:
As -- well, let me make the motion, then you can make -- offer a motion to make an amendment.

LEG. TROTTA:
Okay. Thanks.

P.O. GREGORY:
All right? Second by Legislator Calarco. Legislator Trotta.

LEG. TROTTA:
Just quickly. You know, I put a bill in before. I would like to have not everyone who speaks at the Public Portion sworn in, but, you know, clearly, public officials, people who speak on expertise of something, because I personally have -- I've had the former
Chief of Detectives sit there and lie, blatantly lie to us, and I had a contractor who does work for the County who I know lied to us. So I think there should be some recourse. You know, when a cop goes into court, he's sworn in. And this is, you know, a government facility, where we're expected to hear the truth, and I think that that little added extra of being sworn in will make them think twice about lying to us. So I would like to -- not for the Public Portion, not for people coming to speak to us, but for experts who sit here and are giving us what's supposed to be the truth.

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Anyone else? I think -- my response to that is I know in the past people have been -- suffered criminal liability for making false statements before the body. I think that's true before any governmental body without necessarily being sworn in, but I understand what you're trying to say. But I think if that is, in fact, something that is done, there is a recourse for that, if someone comes before this body and falsely testifies.

LEG. TROTTA:
You know, I was advised by other legal counsel that it's more effective that if they're sworn in. I don't know, I'm not a lawyer.

MS. SIMPSON:
I like how you said other legal counsel there (laughter).

LEG. TROTTA:
I'm sorry?

MS. SIMPSON:
You said other legal counsel. I didn't advise you as to that --

LEG. TROTTA:
Yeah, yeah.

MS. SIMPSON:
-- better or worse. I mean, it's something that our office has been looking at for you. If you'd like us to continue to do that, we can do that.

LEG. TROTTA:
Oh, I definitely -- I just think, you know, I don't -- you know, I'm not saying it could happen tomorrow, but you know, five years, ten years from now. We had a -- you know, prior to this, we had situations where people come here and lie to us. I know for one, a thousand -- two people definitely lied to us about serious things, and, you know, there's no recourse, and I think there should be.

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:
You know, my response is that, you know, I think we all should be held to the same standard, that it shouldn't be picked and chosen.
on who comes in, who's declared as an expert, and who's just someone from the public. We all have a duty to speak the truth, and that includes all of us as well. I would be in favor of adding something to the comments cards where you sign the bottom of it that attests to the truthfulness of what you're about to testify towards, and would ask Legal Counsel how binding that would be. And if someone signs that, and then knowingly misrepresents the truth, that is there any recourse legally?

12:26PM

MS. SIMPSON:
Well, to be fair, people are allowed to provide their opinions, which may or may not be factually accurate. And that's part of what the public comment is for, is for people to provide their version of what they see is happening. So I don't know how binding it would be on certain types of testimony. I can -- I can look into it further, of course, but --

12:27PM

LEG. CILMI:
No, no, you could -- I'm just thinking out loud, but you could theoretically have a check box on the card that says is what you're going to say your opinion, or are you testifying as to some facts. And I don't know if people would answer that question honestly or not, but just a thought.

P.O. GREGORY:
We could have them look. We could have Counsel's Office --

MS. SIMPSON:
I can always look into this.

12:36PM

LEG. TROTTA:
I don't want to burden us with it. I'm just looking to -- I'm going to put a bill in, if necessary.

MS. SIMPSON:
Not a problem at all.

P.O. GREGORY:
Legislator Berland.

(*The following was taken by Diana Flesher - Court Stenographer*)

LEG. BERLAND:
Yeah. I was just curious as to the recourse issue, because if someone comes before the body and lies and is caught in a lie, and, you know, could be prosecuted for that lie, swearing, raising their right hand and saying the same thing that they just said, it's not -- like it's -- you're not in a courtroom, so it's not -- I don't -- I don't legally it's, you know, perjury as you would be in a courtroom, but you're still going to be -- you know, if you're -- if you're going to sit there and you're going to lie, chances are you're going to raise your hand and lie, too, probably, you know, but you're not in a -- you're not in a courtroom setting. So I don't know what it is you're --
LEG. TROTTA:  
I know the --

LEG. BERLAND:  
-- you're looking for. What --

LEG. TROTTA:  
Other Legislative bodies, they swear you in, like, you know, in  
Congress you're sworn in, you know. I just don't -- I don't know.

LEG. BERLAND:  
Well, if you're --

LEG. TROTTA:  
Look, I'm not a -- I have no idea, but --

LEG. BERLAND:  
I guess if you're testifying before a Congressional committee on a  
specific thing and you've been called by that committee, you're  
probably subpoenaed by that committee, and that's why you're  
raising your hand and you're taking an oath. We're not subpoenaing  
people. And our own employees who are coming here and are  
testifying, you know, and giving us information, there's a  
difference between, you know, testifying based on a subpoena and  
giving information from the -- you know, from your department. You  
know, and if you want to go -- if you want to go after somebody who  
has testified, that's -- that's your question, what is the recourse  
when they've, you know, said something that's untrue. And, then,  
again, you know, who's the arbiter of the truth, also? That's a  
problem, I think.

12:30PM

LEGISLATOR GREGORY:  
Okay. Legislator Kennedy, you wanted to say something?

LEG. KENNEDY:  
I'll pass.

P.O. GREGORY:  
No. All right. Legislator Spencer.

12:30PM

LEG. SPENCER:  
To Counsel, it is just --

LEG. MC CAFFREY:  
Can I make a motion to swear him in?

(*Laughter*)

12:30PM

LEG. SPENCER:  
That's -- I would take that, let's do it. Let's do it. I like  
that. Who called the question?

LEG. FLEMING:  
Maybe you want to call the question.
LEG. SPENCER:
I would be -- I would love for us to take that action when I'm
about to speak. That would be wonderful, because I put the idea.
Do you want to do that?

LEG. TROTTA:
Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:
Okay.

LEG. FLOTTERON:
Can we take a photo of it?

LEG. SPENCER:
But my remark is --

LEG. TROTTA:
Will you swear Doc in before he says anything?

LEG. SPENCER:
My remark is very brief, and that is my understanding of the
difference is that if we have subpoena powers, if we were doing an
investigation and we're calling in factual witnesses, then they
would -- they would be sworn in, we have that power. But just for
people coming out and offering information, they're allowed to
present their opinions and that -- would you agree, Counsel, that
that's the difference, and is that an accurate statement?

MS. SIMPSON:
That is an accurate statement.

LEG. SPENCER:
Okay.

MS. SIMPSON:
We do have subpoenaing power when we are conducting specific types
of investigations.

LEG. SPENCER:
Thank you.

MS. SIMPSON:
We do have to vote to invoke our subpoena power in order to do so
and that's when we would be able to swear people in.

LEG. SPENCER:
Okay.

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. All right. So we have a motion and a second on adopting our
rules. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. RICHBERG:
Sixteen. (Absent: Legislator Muratore)
P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. *Introductory Resolution No. 3, appointing the Clerk of the Legislature.* I make a motion to put forward Jason Richberg; second by Legislator Donnelly. Roll call.

(*Roll Call by Amy Ellis, Acting Deputy Clerk*)

P.O. GREGORY:
Yes.

LEG. DONNELLY:
Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Yes.

LEG. FLEMING:
Yes.

LEG. SUNDERMAN:
Yes.

LEG. MURATORE:
(Absent)

LEG. HAHN:
Yes.

LEG. ANKER:
Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Yes.

LEG. CILMI:
Yes.

LEG. FLOTTERON:
Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Yes.

LEG. TROTTA:
Yes.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:
Yes.

LEG. BERLAND:
Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:
Yes.

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D.P.O. CALARCO:
Yes.

MS. ELLIS:
Sixteen. (Absent: Legislator Muratore)

(*Applause and Standing Ovation*)

(*Jason Richberg was sworn in by Judith Pascale, Suffolk County Clerk, and signed the Official Oath Book*)

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Congratulations. All right. Introductory Resolution No. 4 - Appoint a Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature. I'm going to put forward the name of Amy Ellis; second by Legislator Anker. And -- oh. Roll call.

(*Roll Called by Jason Richberg, Clerk of the Legislature*)

P.O. GREGORY:
Yes.

LEG. ANKER:
Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Yes.

LEG. FLEMING:
Yes.

LEG. SUNDERMAN:
Yes.

LEG. MURATORE:
(Absent)

LEG. HAHN:
Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Yes.

LEG. CILMI:
Yes.

LEG. FLOTTERON:
Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Yes.

LEG. TROTTA:
Yes.

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LEG. MC CAFFREY:
Yes.

LEG. BERLAND:
Yes.

LEG. DONNELLY:
Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:
Yes.

D. P. O. CALARCO:
Yes.

MR. RICHBERG:
Sixteen. (Absent: Legislator Muratore) Congratulations.

(*Applause and Standing Ovation*)

(*Amy Ellis was sworn in by Judith Pascale, Suffolk County Clerk, and signed the Official Oath Book*)

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

P. O. GREGORY:
Okay. All right. Introductory Resolution No. 5 - Appointing Counsel to the Legislature, putting forward the name of Sarah Simpson. Do I have a second.

LEG. SPENCER:
Second.

P. O. GREGORY:
Second by Legislator Spencer. Let me just say that Sarah has been with the Legislature for ten years. She has worked with all of us. You could tell her daughter is very excited.

(*Laughter*)

And it's really an honor to have seen her grow over the years. She is someone that I rely on her, on her legal expertise. Her and George worked well together, and she is really going to, I think, take the office to a new level, as George moves on to Supreme Court, as we know. And I look forward to working with her, and appreciate all of your support. So we have a motion and a second. I'm going to ask for a roll call.

(*Roll Call by Jason Richberg, Clerk of the Legislature*)

P. O. GREGORY:
Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:
Yes.
LEG. KRUPSKI:
Yes.

LEG. FLEMING:
Yes.

LEG. SUNDERMAN:
Yes.

LEG. MURATORE:
(Absent)

LEG. HAHN:
Yes.

LEG. ANKER:
Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Yes.

LEG. CILMI:
Yes.

LEG. FLOTTERON:
Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Yes.

LEG. TROTTA:
Yes.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:
Yes.

LEG. BERLAND:
Yes.

LEG. DONNELLY:
Yes.

D.P.O. CALARCO:
Yes.

MR. RICHBERG:
Sixteen. (Absent: Legislator Muratore)

(*Applause and Standing Ovation*)

(*Oath of Office was Administered to Sarah Simpson by Judge Randall Hinrichs*)

JUDGE HINRICHS:
Congratulations.
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MS. SIMPSON:
Thank you very much.

(*Applause and Standing Ovation*)

(*Sarah Simpson was sworn in by Judith Pascale, Suffolk County Clerk, and signed the Official Oath Book*)

(*Applause*)

12:39PM

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. All right. Introductory Resolution No. 6 - Adopting a schedule for regular meetings of the County Legislature. You all should have seen that there was a draft calendar that went around. Okay. So I'm going to make a motion to approve.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:
Second by Legislator Donnelly. I'm sorry. Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
On the motion.

P.O. GREGORY:
Yes.

12:40PM

LEG. KRUPSKI:
I just -- you know, taking a look at this, I just want to thank everyone again. This has been very important for the East End to have two rounds of committee weeks held in -- at the County Seat in Riverhead. It's been -- it's very important, you know, the elected officials who want to do -- you know, have some contact with County government, with the committees, regular citizens who want to come and address a committee. It's been -- it really is -- it's made a difference on the East End to have a couple of rounds of committees out there, and I want to thank everyone, including, of course, the Presiding Officer for that support.

12:41PM

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. All right. And we're good? Okay. We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. RICHBERG:
Sixteen. (Absent: Legislator Muratore)

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Introductory Resolution No. 7 - Designating County Depositories. I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. FLEMING:
Second.
P.O. GREGORY: Second -- who was that?

LEG. FLEMING: (Raised hand)

P.O. GREGORY: Second by Legislator Fleming. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

12:41PM

MR. RICHBERG:
Sixteen. (Absent: Legislator Muratore)

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Introductory Resolution No. 8 - Designating an Official County Paper.

D.P.O. CALARCO:
Motion.

12:41PM

P.O. GREGORY:
Motion by Legislator Calarco, I'll second.

LEG. DONNELLY: (Raised hand)

P.O. GREGORY:
All in -- second? Oh, second by Legislator Donnelly. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

12:42PM

MR. RICHBERG:
Sixteen. (Absent: Legislator Muratore)

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Introductory Resolution No. 9 - Designating Official County Paper.

LEG. CILMI:
Motion.

12:42PM

P.O. GREGORY:
Motion by Legislator Cilmi. Second by?

LEG. FLOTTERON:
Second.

P.O. GREGORY:
Legislator Flotteron. All in favor? Opposed?

12:42PM

LEG. SUNDERMAN:
Opposed.

P.O. GREGORY:
Abstentions?
LEG. SUNDERMAN: 
Opposed.

MR. RICHBERG: 
Fifteen. (Absent: Legislator Muratore)

P.O. GREGORY: 
Introductory Resolution No. 10 - Designating Official County Newspapers. I'll make a motion.

D.P.O. CALARCO: 
Second.

P.O. GREGORY: 
Second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. RICHBERG: 
Sixteen. (Absent: Legislator Muratore)

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. That is our agenda for today. We don't have any late-starters. I want to make a note that, as a reminder, there's going to be a Special Meeting of the County -- of the Legislature this Friday, January 4th, at one o'clock to set the date for the Special Election to fill the vacancy in the 9th Legislative District.

So we stand adjourned. All right. Thank you, everyone. Get home safe.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.*)
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