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**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**OF THE**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**November 17, 2020**

**A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**WAS HELD AT THE**

**WILLIAM H. ROGERS LEGISLATURE BUILDING**

**IN THE ROSE Y. CARACAPPA LEGISLATIVE AUDITORIUM**

**725 VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY**

**SMITHTOWN, NEW YORK**

Minutes taken by:

Diana Flesher - Court Stenographer

1 THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:20 PM

2  
3 **P.O. CALARCO:**

4 Welcome everyone to the special legislative committee to  
5 investigate the death of Thomas Valva. This is our second  
6 committee meeting of this special committee. And a notice was sent  
7 out last week regarding today's committee for the purpose of  
8 considering a vote to appoint special legislative counsel as well  
9 as any other relevant matters in association with the work of this  
10 committee.

12:20PM

11  
12 Let me first state that as our initial special counsel Kevin Werner  
13 had to recuse himself from the case because of a conflict with his  
14 firm on a case -- an unassociated case with the County involving  
15 the County.

16  
17 So today we are here to consider a special vote. Counsel, do I  
18 need to have a public portion on this?

19  
20 **MS. SIMPSON:**

21 No.

22  
23 **P.O. CALARCO:**

24 No, we don't have a public portion, that's what I thought. Okay,  
25 so our first item that we have is **resolution number 3, appointing**  
26 **Lawrence J. Braunstein, Esquire, as counsel to the Special**  
27 **Committee.** Mr. Braunstein is here with us today. So I will --  
28 does anybody want to make a motion?

29  
30 **LEG. CILMI:**

31 I'll make the motion the approve.

32  
33 **P.O. CALARCO:**

34 Motion to approve by Legislator Cilmi; second by Legislator Hahn.  
35 Anybody on the issue? Seeing none, we'll do a roll call.

36  
37 (Roll call by Mr. Dubois, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature)

38  
39 **LEG. CILMI:**

40 Yes.

41  
42 **LEG. HAHN:**

43 Yes.

44  
45 **P.O. CALARCO:**

46 Yes.

47  
48 **MR. DUBOIS:**

49 Three.

50  
51 **P.O. CALARCO:**

52 Congratulations, Larry. You are now our special counsel.

53  
54 **MR. BRAUNSTEIN:**

55 Thank you.

1 **P.O. CALARCO:**

2 And I know we will execute the contracts associated with that  
3 briefly, if we haven't, I guess, probably got that ball rolling  
4 already.

5  
6 With that what I would like to do, Mr. Braunstein, is ask you that  
7 you would develop, put together a letter requesting any relevant  
8 documentation associated with this case from the Department of  
9 Social Services including any and all case notes and their after  
10 incident report that they submitted to the State; any other  
11 relevant documents that you think would be pertinent to this  
12 investigation; as well as request to the Suffolk County Police  
13 Department for any and all documentation that they have regarding  
14 to their points of contact with the Valva, Zubka-Valva and Pollina  
15 families; as well as any relevant documents from both Family and  
16 Supreme Court that we can obtain that would be relevant to this  
17 investigation; and any other items that you feel would be relevant  
18 for us to pursue.

19  
20 **MR. BRAUNSTEIN:**

21 I will do that.

22  
23 **P.O. CALARCO:**

24 Okay. Does anybody have any of questions or issues that you'd like  
25 to address with Mr. Braunstein at this time?

26  
27 **LEG. CILMI:**

28 No.

29  
30 **P.O. CALARCO:**

31 Am I saying it right, Larry, Braunstein?

32  
33 **MR. BRAUNSTEIN:**

34 Braunstein.

35  
36 **P.O. CALARCO:**

37 Okay, Braunstein.

38  
39 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

40 Thank you.

41  
42 **LEG. CILMI:**

43 Great to be off and running here, so.

44  
45 **P.O. CALARCO:**

46 I think so. So, as we were discussing just before committee  
47 started, Mr. Braunstein, if you could -- we'll provide you with a  
48 copy of our letterhead and we'll let you send those documents out  
49 under your signature but under our letterhead. And you can make it  
50 clear that you're operating as special counsel to this special  
51 committee.

52  
53 **MR. BRAUNSTEIN:**

54 Yes.

55  
56

1 **P.O. CALARCO:**  
2 Okay. And we did adopt a set of rules at our last meeting that you  
3 should have in terms of the rules of operation for this committee.  
4 If there are any -- if you have questions or concerns about the way  
5 they're written, you can certainly let me know offline and we'll  
6 talk about any amendments that you think we might need to adopt.

7  
8 **MR. BRAUNSTEIN:**  
9 Great, I will do that.

12:24PM 10  
11 **P.O. CALARCO:**  
12 Okay. With that I have no other items. So, Legislator Cilmi, do  
13 you have anything?

14  
15 **LEG. CILMI:**  
16 No. I said perfect.

17  
18 **P.O. CALARCO:**  
19 Okay, great. Thank you, everyone. We are adjourned.

12:24PM 20  
21 **LEG. CILMI:**  
22 Thanks, Larry.

23  
24 **MR. BRAUNSTEIN:**  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 **THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12:24 PM**  
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