

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Public Hearings

on

IR 1968-22, AUTHORIZING THE RESTATEMENT AND EXTENSION FOR THE LEASE OF PREMISES FOR USE BY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (CO. EXEC.)

and

IR 1969-22, AUTHORIZING A NEW LEASE AGREEMENT FOR USE OF PREMISES BY SUFFOLK COUNTY'S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (CO. EXEC.)

A Public Hearing was held in the Office of Suffolk County Legislator Trish Bergin, 10th District, 96 East Main Street, Suite 5, East Islip, NY, 11730 on January 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance:

Legislator Trish Bergin
Legislator Robert Trotta
Chief Deputy Clerk Brett Robinson

Minutes Taken and Transcribed By:

Gabrielle Severs, Court Reporter

(The public hearing was opened at 10:07 a.m.)

CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Local Law 27-1977, a public hearing authorizing the lease of premises by Suffolk County must be held in the legislative district in which the property is situated by the Ways and Means committee and the legislator from that district.

10:07AM

Notice is further given that the Suffolk County Legislature Ways and Means Committee and Legislator Bergin will hold a public hearing in the 10th legislative district located at 96 East Main Street, Suite 5, East Islip, New York 11730 on the sixth day of January, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. to take testimony with regard to the lease of property located at 3500 Sunrise Highway, Building 300, Suite 102, Great River, New York 11739 by the County of Suffolk for use by the Suffolk County Department of Health.

10:07AM

This will be an in-person-participation only public hearing. The clerk will accept written testimony via mail or e-mail to Frank.Tassone@suffolkcountyny.gov as well as recording voice testimony at (631) 853-3685 through 3:00 p.m. on January 6, 2023.

Additionally, you can testify at a public hearing scheduled for January 6, 2023. Written e-mail testimony submissions will be attached to the minutes of this meeting as Addendum A. A transaction of the record voice testimony, which was submitted, will be attached to the minutes of this meeting as Addendum B.

10:08AM

By order of the Suffolk County Legislature, Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature, this public hearing will be for **IR 1968-22, Authorizing the Restatement and Extension For the Lease of Premises For Use By Department of Health Services (Co. Exec.) and for IR 1969-22, Authorizing a New Lease Agreement For Use of Premises By Suffolk County's Department of Health Services.**

Is there anyone who would like to speak?

10:08AM

LEG. TROTТА:

Yes; Legislator Robert Trotta, actually the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. I will be suggesting that the legislature not approve this lease. I believe that it is unfair to the taxpayers of Suffolk County. I believe that they used a real estate broker when they didn't need to. They are paying a million dollars in commission when they didn't need to, and that real estate broker donated large sums of money to the county executive even though he's not running for office anymore. I've referred this to the district attorney's office. I think we should wait until the outcome of the investigation to find out what happens, and I will be asking my fellow legislators not to support this. Thank you.

10:09AM

LEG. BERGIN:

And my comment, Legislator Trish Bergin, I am absolutely appalled that a real estate agent would be accepting such a tremendous commission based on such an extensive lease on a building that we currently --

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LEG. TROTТА:
Yes.

LEG. BERGIN:
-- lease. I think it's prudent for the district attorney's office to put eyes on this to give us a clear evaluation on whether or not illegal activity has happened.

10:10AM

LEG. TROTТА:
(Indicating.)

(A brief discussion was held off the record.)

LEG. BERGIN:
And I also don't understand why we didn't purchase a building for 12- \$14 million as opposed to renting it for 30 million over the span of several years. Done.

10:10AM

CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:
Is there anyone else who would like to address this hearing? There being none, I'm going to close this hearing.

(The hearing was closed at 10:10 a.m.)