

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & HOUSING COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Economic Development, Planning & Housing Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Maxine S. Postal Auditorium of the Evans K. Griffing Building, 300 Center Drive, Riverhead, New York on March 1, 2023.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. James F. Mazzeella, Chairperson  
Leg. Trish Bergin, Vice Chair  
Leg. Kara Hahn  
Leg. Robert Trotta  
Leg. Jason Richberg  
Leg. Stephanie Bontempi

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Presiding Officer Kevin McCaffrey, 14th Legislative District  
William Duffy, Counsel to the Legislature  
Legislator Al Krupski, 1st Legislative District  
Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature  
Hope Clark, Acting Clerk/Legislature  
Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office  
Elizabeth Stroehlein, Budget Review Office  
Sarah Lansdale, Director/Economic Development & Planning  
Stephanie Rosen, Director/Affordable Housing  
Tom Ronayne, Director/Veterans Agency  
Tim Rothang, Aide to Leg. Mazzeella  
Chris DeLuca, Aide to PO  
Catherine Stark, Aide to Leg. Krupski  
Sidney Joyner, Director/Real Estate Department  
Jason Cofield, appointee/SC Citizens Advisory Board  
Jennifer Iacono, public speaker  
Bryan DeLuca, public speaker  
Ed Carr, public speaker  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:52 PM**

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

Good afternoon. I'll call to order the Committee for Economic Development, Planning and Housing. We will begin by saying the Pledge led by Legislator Bergin.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A moment of silence, again, for the victims of the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey and, of course, for our troops around the world.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED**

Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK TASSONE:**

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

Roll call, please.

(Roll call by Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature)

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

Present.

**LEG. BERGIN:**

Present.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Present.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Here.

**LEG. RICHBERG:**

Present.

**LEG. BONTEMPI:**

Present.

**P.O. McCAFFREY:**

Here.

**CLERK TASSONE:**

Seven.

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

Thank you. Is there any correspondence?

**CLERK TASSONE:**

All correspondence has been distributed accordingly, Mr. Chairman.

1 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

2 Thank you. We're going to proceed to public portion. I have a  
3 list of speakers here. First on the list is Jennifer Iacono.  
4 Jennifer, are you here? Yes. Okay, you can come to the podium and  
5 you'll have three minutes to address the Committee.  
6

7 **PUBLIC PORTION**  
8

9 **JENNIFER IACONO:**

10 Okay. Good afternoon, Legislators. Thank you for the opportunity  
11 to speak this afternoon. And I'm here to provide my input and  
12 perspective on resolution 1096, a local law to amend the hotel and  
13 motel tax.  
14

15 My name is Jennifer Carney Iacono and I live in Montauk, New York.  
16 I'm quite lucky to have lived in Montauk most of my life growing up  
17 on the beach during summer vacations. And my husband and I moved  
18 to Montauk full-time when our children were in middle school. I  
19 try to help out in my hamlet. I was a census worker during the  
20 recent decennial count. I'm on the Montauk Citizens Advisory  
21 Committee for the Town of East Hampton and recently became a member  
22 of the Montauk Playhouse Community Center Foundation Board. I've  
23 seen Montauk change a lot and grow in 60 years, mostly all for the  
24 good. But resolution 1096, which almost doubles the HMT tax rate  
25 with its revised distribution plan is not good for the hamlet I  
26 love nor for the visitors who love it as well.  
27

28 So I am here to strongly request that this Committee vote to not  
29 recommend passage of resolution 1096 to the full legislature in  
30 order to extend and continue your fact finding. And please hold  
31 additional public hearings in the most impacted towns and villages  
32 to solicit their opinions and consider it seriously its pitfalls  
33 and unintended consequences. Historically the HMT tax has been  
34 problematic for the East End. It is seen as unfair and inequitable  
35 especially for Montauk. But now if this new increase in  
36 distribution scheme is passed and the tax never sunsets, in my  
37 honest opinion, it will cross the line into severely negative  
38 consequences, a hidden tax borne by one hamlet far in excess than  
39 any other with very little in return benefits to its visitors or to  
40 its residents.  
41

42 I didn't travel here today just to make this request without proper  
43 forethought and research as I'm asking all of you to do. For me,  
44 it helped to read your former colleague's legislative debate prior  
45 to their September 17, 2009 vote that reauthorized and increased  
46 the tax from point 75 to 3 percent and cemented the earmarks for  
47 the Vanderbilt and Walt Whitman Museums.  
48

49 Obviously, resolution 1614 passed. The vote was 13 in favor, 6  
50 against. Legislators Romaine, Schneiderman, Eddington, Montano and  
51 Alden were opposed. And their comments for the record during that  
52 hearing are very informative and today still provide a critically  
53 important perspective while also foreshadowing some unintended  
54 consequences that echo here today. I urge you to read those  
55 minutes. I particularly like Legislator Ramano's (sic) remark  
56 "when we as a body look at taxes, we try to be fair. We try to be

1 equitable in how we impose taxes." Let me explain why I like his  
2 remark. As you all know, actual HMT receipts collected in 2022  
3 were just over 14 million. (Timer sounded) Should I stop?  
4

5 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

6 You can wrap up.  
7

8 **JENNIFER IACONO:**

9 Okay.  
10

11 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

12 Take a couple more seconds. Go ahead.  
13

14 **JENNIFER IACONO:**

15 Okay. Driven by the hotels, motels and guesthouses of the little  
16 powerhouse hamlet of Montauk, population just over 4,000 -- I know,  
17 I counted them -- 33 percent of the county's hotel properties whose  
18 guests remitted 25 percent of the receipts, total receipts from  
19 Montauk were by far the highest at \$3.5 million. The second  
12:57PM 20 village wasn't even close, Melville, at 6 percent with 888,000.  
21 Actually I agree with progressive taxation. So it's gratifying to  
22 look at the fund 192 budget list and see Suffolk's numerous  
23 cultural organizations that have and will benefit from the HMT tax  
24 paid by Montauk's visitors.  
25

26 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

27 Miss Iacono, I'm going to have to ask you to wrap up, please.  
28

29 **JENNIFER IACONO:**

12:58PM 30 Okay. I'll skip. The expanded Hotel/Motel tax is a further  
31 continuation and expansion of an extraction tax; historically  
32 benefitted western Suffolk projects and continues to funds its two  
33 major sites with earmarks. To finally cap that earmark funding  
34 just to now turn around and move tax to an infrastructure fund for  
35 the design and construction of a convention center is hugely unfair  
36 and unwise, perhaps not even wanted by Suffolk voters or Suffolk  
37 visitors. Perhaps the infrastructure that is needed -- last phrase  
38 --  
39

40 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

41 Miss Iacono, Miss Iacono, your time is up.  
42

43 **JENNIFER IACONO:**

44 -- actually needed -- consider the needs of the golden goose a/k/a  
45 Montauk so it's able to keep laying its golden eggs for Suffolk.  
46 Thank you.  
47

48 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

49 Thank you, Miss Iacono.  
50

51 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

52 Could I -- could I ask her -- I know I'm not on the Committee.  
53

54 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

55 Absolutely. Yes, you can ask a question, Legislator.  
56

1 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

2 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that. So you live in Montauk?

3  
4 **JENNIFER IACONO:**

5 I do.

6  
7 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

8 So part of this is -- there's two questions. One is what do you  
9 think the business response in Montauk to doubling a tax would be,  
10 or almost doubling this tax? Because that's part of it going from  
11 3 percent to five and a half.

12  
13 **JENNIFER IACONO:**

14 Absolutely.

15  
16 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

17 And how will that affect, you know, business out there?

18  
19 **JENNIFER IACONO:**

20 I skipped a portion of my remarks. So, Montauk benefits last year  
21 three ways. One, the Discover Long Island organization gave the  
22 Chamber of Commerce and Montauk \$58,000, out of the 14 million that  
23 was raised. The Montauk County Park, which used to be called Teddy  
24 Roosevelt Park, also benefitted from some capital funding to finish  
25 that park. And lastly one Montauk cultural organization, one, the  
26 Montauk Historical Society, which runs the lighthouse, the Second  
27 House and has recently -- now responsible for the Carl Fisher's  
28 historical house, they received \$12,000 in an omnibus grant.  
29 That's it.

30  
31 Out of the \$3.5 million that Montauk visitors spent, Montauk got  
32 less than a hundred thousand dollars. The lighthouse -- the  
33 Historical Society does well because they pay tax -- they do ticket  
34 sales and they fund our operating expenses. But when the  
35 lighthouse was about to fall in the ocean in 2021, capital money  
36 was unavailable from this fund and the private funds had to be  
37 raised including from Montauk businesses. I'm pretty sure that  
38 Montauk businesses, of course, any business and they work their  
39 asses off out there, I am pretty sure that Montauk businesses in  
40 general pay taxes.

41  
42 If you look at Mr. Monty and Miss {Kregan's} comments back in 2009,  
43 they were on fire trying to get that tax stopped. Now their  
44 reasoning at the time was it was a recession; they were frightened;  
45 their business was collapsing, etcetera. In the meantime that  
46 didn't happen. But the tax is still wrong. It is wrong to ask  
47 out-of-towners who don't even know they're going to pay it until  
48 they show up and then not benefit them from that payment. It is  
49 literally a hidden tax without representation. The Montauk  
50 businesses don't even really know, you hold this hearing in March  
51 and they don't know. And I'm not a business owner. I am doing  
52 this because this is fundamentally wrong. Thank you for your  
53 question.

54  
55 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

56 I have one more question. And it has to do with -- currently \$2

1 million out of this tax was spent on promotion. The proposal is to  
2 spend six million on promotion. Do you think Montauk is going to  
3 benefit from promoting Montauk; or the East End for that matter?  
4

5 **JENNIFER IACONO:**

6 I think that those who are in western Suffolk should try visiting  
7 eastern Suffolk during our summer months and understand what the  
8 phrase "over-tourism" means. I'm sure some of you have heard it.  
9 And clearly you're not experiencing it in western Suffolk or you  
10 wouldn't be asking to build a convention center that will literally  
11 blow up your local roads. But I live in an area where I cannot  
12 leave my house and go west for at least three months of the year.  
13 The businesses are drowning; our water is getting polluted. We  
14 love our visitors. Montauk has always. I grew up playing with the  
15 local businesses, the local families but many of them are just  
16 saying they're collapsing from the weight of this and you're not  
17 helping them. You're not helping them. You're taking actually the  
18 money that they could have used. Some of this tax, maybe the three  
19 percent, they could have used but you're not giving it to them to  
20 help.  
21

22 So what are some of the local families doing? They're going *I'm*  
23 *done. I gotta sell.* They're selling to off island ownership. And  
24 those businesses are changing Montauk into a wonderful resort  
25 destination, God bless all businesses that can thrive in this  
26 world. But honestly you're not thinking clearly about what this  
27 tax will do not only -- has done and will do when you go to five  
28 and a half percent, continue your earmarks and fund a marketing  
29 fund of \$6 million and an infrastructure fund of unknown tapped  
30 amount, none of this is gonna go to help not just Montauk but all  
31 of the East End deal with the incredible over-tourism problem we  
32 are experiencing today much less ten years from now.  
33

34 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

35 Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36

37 **JENNIFER IACONO:**

38 Thank you.  
39

40 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

41 Thank you. Thank you, Legislator Krupski. Next speaker is Bryan  
42 DeLuca. Good afternoon, Mr. DeLuca.  
43

44 **BRYAN DeLUCA:**

45 Good afternoon.  
46

47 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

48 You have three minutes to address.  
49

50 **BRYAN DeLUCA:**

51 Thank you. Thanks for having me today. I appreciate it. My name  
52 is Bryan DeLuca and I am the Executive Director of the beautiful  
53 resort destination at the Long Island Aquarium, the hundred-room  
54 Hyatt Hotel and the twenty-room boutique hotel at the Preston House  
55 and Hotel, which is also a restaurant. I'm also the President for  
56 the past 12 years of the East End Tourism Alliance. And I am the

1 past chairman of the board for Discover Long Island. I was raised  
2 in Lake Ronkonkoma and still bleed a little black and gold as a  
3 Sachem graduate.

4  
5 We are in support as business owners of the hotel/motel tax. And  
6 it actually will be one of the lowest taxes in the country. The  
7 increased support that this tax would give is funding a mechanism  
8 for the Long Island's first convention center at Midway Crossing;  
9 the first increase for regional marketing investments through  
01:05PM 10 Discover Long Island since 2013, which is a \$6 billion industry,  
11 which will also lend to additional tax revenue for the County; a  
12 substantial increase in funding for our museums and historical  
13 societies in Suffolk County; increased funding in our cultural  
14 programs and grant program that is in place through Discover Long  
15 Island in Suffolk County; funding for marketing of the Long Island  
16 MacArthur Airport; hopefully additional airlift and more airlines  
17 coming in for that purpose; specific funding in the law for the  
18 East End tourism promotion, which is year round promotion to bring  
19 people not only the peak of time but shoulder seasons. There's a  
01:06PM 20 strategic plan always in place for that; increased funding for  
21 Suffolk County promotion.

22  
23 So the allocation been's strategically laid out and supported by  
24 several businesses. Business leisure travelers that would come to  
25 a convention center would also come out, a percentage, and enjoy  
26 the East End year round as conventions are held throughout the year  
27 mid-week business. It's important to support this. Paul Monte is  
28 on my board. He was the past owner of Gurney's and is in full  
29 support of this. Gurney's, which Michael Nenner runs that  
01:06PM 30 organization, is also in support of this.

31  
32 So with that said, this economic development opportunity for Midway  
33 Crossing and the airport and the additional funding for Discover  
34 Long Island and all the cultural centers, it is important for us to  
35 say thank you for supporting this legislation and this law of 1096.

36  
37 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

38 Thank you, Mr. DeLuca. I think we have one question from the  
39 Legislature.

01:07PM 40  
41 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

42 Hi, Mr. DeLuca, how are you?

43  
44 **BRYAN DeLUCA:**

45 I'm great.

46  
47 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

48 So you're familiar with the hotel industry, I assume, right?

49  
50 **BRYAN DeLUCA:**

51 Yes, sir.

52  
53 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

54 Okay. So I travel time to time and I can tell you when I look at  
55 my motel bill, I expect there to be these kind of fees beyond just  
56 a sales tax. I was staying at Disney recently for a meeting and I

1 paid almost 20 percent in these taxes, you know, above and beyond  
2 the sales tax. So when you compare even the expanded tax that  
3 we're putting on here, we're substantially lower than anywhere else  
4 including if you were to go into New York City for a stay.

5  
6 **BRYAN DeLUCA:**

7 We will still be the lowest in the country.

8  
9 **P.O. McCaffrey:**

01:08PM 10 Yep, absolutely. Thank you.

11  
12 **BRYAN DeLUCA:**

13 Absolutely.

14  
15 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

16 Mr. Chair?

17  
18 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

19 Thank you. Yes, Legislator Krupski.

01:08PM 20  
21 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

22 Thank you. And, Bryan, I appreciate you coming here. You and I  
23 have spoken about this many times in the past. I just have one  
24 question about -- part of the funding is dedicated towards a  
25 state-owned museum. Do you think that's a fair allocation of that  
26 one state-owned museum is -- is the beneficiary of that tax that's  
27 collected by local businesses?

28  
29 **BRYAN DeLUCA:**

01:08PM 30 You know, there's funding obviously for the Vanderbilt, which is a  
31 county-owned museum. So there's some balance that goes on there  
32 and that's decisions that are made well beyond my pay grade. But I  
33 strongly support the fact that the East End is getting a -- written  
34 into the law a portion of funding. So the East End Tourism  
35 Alliance, which represents the five East End towns for the past 12  
36 years, has been getting REDC grants for the State of New York.  
37 We've received over a million and a half dollars in the last ten  
38 years. And that money gets allocated to support the Montauk Music  
39 Festival; the lighting of the Lighthouse, you know, West Hampton  
01:09PM 40 events that go on; a Hampton Visitor's Council; Greenport  
41 celebration. We are behind the scenes supporting those events  
42 through REDC grants. Now there's going to be an additional funding  
43 source just for the East End. In addition, Discover Long Island  
44 has a grant program in place that will also increase by the board  
45 of directors to some degree to increase for more funding for the  
46 East End. And that is shoulder season promotion is what our  
47 objectives are.

48  
49 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

01:09PM 50 Thank you. And I've seen other promotion during the height of the  
51 season, too, which I wonder how effective that is since it's at the  
52 height of the season. But I have to say that, you know, Presiding  
53 Officer's remarks about paying the hotel/motel tax in other areas,  
54 so now that I know where the money goes, then, I think when you  
55 travel you're going to have to scratch your head as to where all  
56 their money goes also. Thank you.



1  
2 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

3 Thank you, Legislator. Okay, thank you, Mr. DeLuca.

4  
5 **BRYAN DeLUCA:**

6 My pleasure.

7  
8 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

9 Next speaker is Ed Carr. Good afternoon, Mr. Carr.

01:10PM 10  
11 **ED CARR:**

12 Good afternoon, Legislator Mazzarella and members of the Economic  
13 and Development board. My name is Ed Carr. I'm here from Discover  
14 Long Island. I'm here to speak in favor of the proposed  
15 legislation. It's really for two reasons I think you should really  
16 support this. The first is fairly obvious and that is that the  
17 majority of people staying at hotels in Suffolk County all from out  
18 of town. So you're really not taxing Suffolk residents. You're  
19 taxing visitors to Suffolk County. And I think it would be prudent  
01:10PM 20 that you tax them at approximately the same rate as whatever  
21 national average is so to speak of what other regions across the  
22 country are taxing our residents, our Suffolk County residents when  
23 they, say, go to Orlando or they even go intrastate to Albany or to  
24 Atlantic City. So I think it enures to the county's benefit to not  
25 leave that money on the table. It's an appropriate tax. It exists  
26 everywhere.

27  
28 The second reason I believe that you should support this is that a  
29 lot of effort was put into making sure that this would not only  
01:11PM 30 enure to the benefit of a tourism promotion agency, such as  
31 Discover Long Island, but also to numerous cultural attractions.  
32 And people are not coming to Suffolk County for Applebee's.  
33 They're coming here to go to things like the Vanderbilt Museum and  
34 a tapestry that's basically created from different exciting  
35 downtowns and cultural events located throughout the County.

36  
37 I want to point out some tax rates just for your information. As  
38 you know, our hotel/motel tax right now is 3 percent; Albany 6  
39 percent; New York City 5.875 percent plus a two dollar per room  
01:12PM 40 flat charge effectively giving you around a six-and-a-half percent  
41 towards the hotel/motel tax. Atlantic City, I'm going to read  
42 right off this, Atlantic City, the hotel tax rate is a whopping  
43 13.6 percent. And New Jersey the state tacks on a 3 percent  
44 occupancy fee, a two dollar state casino hotel surcharge and a two  
45 dollar tourism promotion fee. Orlando that the Presiding Officer  
46 spoke about, is a six percent resort fee and there's also a six  
47 percent special tourism resort fees in certain areas. Bottom line  
48 is you're leaving a lot of money on the table if you don't support  
49 this tax.

50  
51 My final point would be that I know previous speaker had stated  
52 that the East End does not benefit from this tax. And I believe  
53 all of Suffolk would especially with the convention center. Right  
54 now Discover Long Island gets calls and we have to turn down calls  
55 that are coming in for meeting space. These are entities that are  
56 looking to meet outside of New York City; they're looking to go

1 outside the region and hold, let's say, a pharmaceutical conference  
2 or something like that. The total amount that we have had to  
3 decline is around \$35 million of business that we've had to tell  
4 people we just don't have the space for you. (Timer) My time's  
5 up.

6  
7 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

8 Thank you very much, Mr. Carr. Any questions? Oh, sorry, come on  
9 back up, i think we have a question from Legislator Krupski.

01:13PM 10

11 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

12 Thank you. You and Bryan had both said, and you were kind enough  
13 to come to my office, I appreciate that --

14  
15 **ED CARR:**

16 Sure.

17  
18 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

01:14PM 19

20 And it's about the, you know, the tourism that's successful here in  
21 the past because we preserved open space, we preserve farmland.  
22 The beaches are open all summer for boating and fishing and even  
23 raising shellfish and swimming. So that's the reason that people  
24 come out to the East End. Now, is there going to be a dedicated  
25 effort to again promote the East End during the summer and fall?

26 **ED CARR:**

01:14PM 27

28 Yeah, as we had spoke in your office, Discover Long Island is now  
29 driven by analytics, meaning we have a computer based analytical  
30 program that is able to track visitors to Long Island based on the  
31 of geolocations on the cellphones and also cross comparing that  
32 with credit card data, which gives us financials. So we're able to  
33 tell the type of visitor who comes, the type of salary they earn,  
34 the location they live in, where they sleep, etcetera, their home,  
35 their business. Once we look at all those factors analytically we  
36 believe that we can actually help with some of the congestion  
37 problems on the East End on the weekends. Because the hotels are  
38 filled. They don't need anybody else being driven to locations  
39 that are already filled. It's really the midweek and the down and  
40 the off season times that we can promote the East End and try, and  
41 if anything, move masses to other areas that need the tourism quite  
42 frankly on the weekend.

01:15PM 43

44 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

45 And so to the analytical part, you mentioned that Atlantic City has  
46 a hotel/motel tax of 13 percent. Do you have any data on showing  
47 how that's driven tourism to Atlantic City?

48 **ED CARR:**

49 I don't because I don't know if their local tourism promotion  
50 agency is using the same type of analytical driven thrusts that  
51 Discover Long Island is. Discover Long Island has always had a  
52 constrained budget. And I'm sure you hear from everybody,  
53 Vanderbilt Museum, etcetera. But because we have \$2 million to  
54 work with, we can't do the same thing that other tourism promotion  
55 agencies do, which is maybe invest in brochures or invest in side  
56 show type, going community to community outside of New York. We

1 have a limited budget so what we've really tried to do is use our  
2 budget for analytics and for content. We notice the content piece.  
3 We push a lot of content through social media and other venues that  
4 we believe are successful and we've won awards for that.

5  
6 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

7 All right, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
8

9 **APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION**

10  
11 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

12 You're welcome. Thank you, Mr. Carr. I don't have anyone else on  
13 the list but is there anyone else in the auditorium that would like  
14 to speak public expression?

15  
16 Seeing none, we'll close the public portion and we'll move into our  
17 resolutions first being an Introductory Resolution IR 1007,  
18 amending the 2023 operating budget and accepting proceeds from the  
19 2022 Suffolk County -- hold it, I missed, I'm sorry. You're right.  
01:17PM 20 Sorry, I missed the appointment resolutions so we'll go back.

21 **Appointment Resolution is 1107, and that's To appoint Jason Cofield**  
22 **as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the**  
23 **Arts. (Fleming).** And I believe Mr. Cofield is present. Is he?  
24 Yes.

25  
26 **JASON COFIELD:**

27 Good afternoon, Legislators.  
28

29 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

30 Hello, sir. Yeah, we usually -- we usually ask perspective board  
31 members to come and just briefly tell us a little bit about  
32 yourself and your reasons for the desire to serve.  
33

34 **JASON COFIELD:**

35 Sure. So my name is Jason Cofield. I'm a member -- excuse me -- a  
36 citizen of the Shinnecock Indian Nation. I am the Executive  
37 Director of travel operations for Shinnecock Nation. I manage  
38 about 86 grants, 25 million in funding; another 25 million in hard  
39 assets. I am currently over all of our operational pieces and  
01:18PM 40 departments that we have throughout the tribe.

41  
42 This particular committee board was expressed to us. I had one of  
43 my cultural department leaders that I figured would be a great fit  
44 for this piece but she wasn't available. And with her not being  
45 available, I said, you know what, I can step up and do that. I've  
46 done multicultural things throughout the country representing my  
47 tribe, representing my culture. So I think that if we have a  
48 cultural board on Long Island in Suffolk County on my ancestral  
49 territory, it makes sense that we would have a representative for  
01:19PM 50 our tribe.

51  
52 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

53 Okay, thank you very much, Mr. Cofield. Is there anyone who has  
54 any questions? Legislator Krupski.  
55  
56

1 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

2 Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry for asking all the questions at  
3 your committee today. So I read your bio. And it sounded familiar  
4 to me, Seed Saver and Grandfather and then, of course, that relates  
5 to, I get it as a grandfather story teller, so that's a great --  
6 that's a great bio. Are you aware -- and I see that you did some  
7 work with, you know, soil health, Suffolk County Soil and Water  
8 Conservation District has a lot of resources that you might want to  
9 look into --

10  
11 **JASON COFIELD:**

12 Okay.

13  
14 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

15 -- as far as -- and Cornell Cooperative Extension is trying to  
16 approve soil health. I mean, that's one of the main goals. So you  
17 can see a county with a seal that's a plow is dedicated towards  
18 that. So that's something if you want to call my office, I sit on  
19 the board.

20  
21 **JASON COFIELD:**

22 Sure. I've sat on many panels. You know, we see today that the  
23 farming industry, if you will, is changing. I sat on a panel and I  
24 had individuals stand up and say, you know, my grandfather was here  
25 17 generations ago and we started farming here on Long Island. And  
26 then I got up and said, you know, 17 generations ago my grandfather  
27 taught your grandfather how to handle this soil. This soil is very  
28 unique in the United States of America. Our soil is anywhere from  
29 a quarter of an inch to maybe three inches, right. We don't have  
30 the same type of soil that you have other places so we constantly  
31 have to make sure that we're regenerating this soil. And I love to  
32 see that the industry is changing to some of our practices.

33  
34 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

35 Thank you. Thanks for your willingness to volunteer.

36  
37 **JASON COFIELD:**

38 Thank you.

39  
40 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

41 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. Anyone else? Again, thank you for  
42 being here today, Mr. Cofield. We appreciate it.

43  
44 **JASON COFIELD:**

45 Thank you very much.

46  
47 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

48 Motion to approve 1107.

49  
50 **LEG. BERGIN:**

51 Second.

52  
53 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

54 With that, there is a motion by Legislator Richberg and a second by  
55 Legislator Bergin to approve Jason Cofield as a member of the  
56 Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. All in favor?

01:20PM

1 Any opposed? Abstentions?  
2

3 **CLERK TASSONE:**

4 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0/P.O. McCAFFREY INCLUDED IN VOTE)  
5

6 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

7 Cosponsor, Mr. Clerk. Thank you.  
8

9 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

10 1107 is approved.  
11

01:21PM

12 **INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

13  
14 Now we will move into the IRs. So IR 1007, Amending the 2023  
15 Operating Budget and accepting proceeds from the 2022 Suffolk  
16 County Marathon. (Co. Exec.). Is there a motion?  
17

18 **LEG. HAHN:**

19 Motion.  
20

21 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

22 Motion by Legislator Hahn.  
23

24 **LEG. BERGIN:**

25 I'll make that second.  
26

27 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

28 And a second by Legislator Bergin.  
29

30 **LEG. TROTTA:**

31 On the motion quickly.  
32

33 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

34 On the motion, sir.  
35

36 **LEG. TROTTA:**

37 Just how much was it? Is there a figure?  
38

39 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

40 Hey, Tom. I think there's just a question on the amount of money  
41 that was generated for the veterans.  
42

01:22PM

43 **DIRECTOR RONAYNE:**

44 So the total amount raised by the '22, and I like to refer to it as  
45 the Suffolk County marathon, half marathon and 5k to support our  
46 veterans, we'll know that number tonight. We're actually meeting  
47 as a grant committee, a marathon grant committee this evening. But  
48 I do have the expenses that relate to the marathon if that was a  
49 part of your question.  
50

01:22PM

51 **LEG. TROTTA:**

52 You have the expenses but you don't have the gross amount.  
53

54 **DIRECTOR RONAYNE:**

55 I don't have the gross amount with me, no. We're meeting as a  
56 committee tonight and that'll be part of what we discuss.

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01:23PM

01:23PM

01:23PM

01:24PM

**LEG. TROTТА:**  
All right.

**LEG. BERGIN:**  
How are we voting on this, then? What if it's a negative number and we're voting to accept this?

**DIRECTOR RONAYNE:**  
It's not a negative number. I can tell you that because part of what tonight's meeting will consist of is scoring applications for grants. We have, I believe, 27 applications for grants. We'll be scoring those in anticipation of recommending distribution of funds.

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**  
Hey, Tom, do you recall what last year's number was?

**DIRECTOR RONAYNE:**  
Right around \$100,000.

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**  
About a hundred thousand.

**DIRECTOR RONAYNE:**  
It was after expenses, that was the net number.

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**  
Okay. I think there's someone here from the County Executive's Office that might be able to help.

**DIRECTOR RONAYNE:**  
To date we've raised and distributed in excess of \$900,000 through this program, through this grant process, if that was helpful.

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**  
Okay. And I guess the only question would be, then, are we expecting something similar to last year?

**DIRECTOR RONAYNE:**  
It's been fairly consistent. If anything, I would say I would expect it to be somewhat higher, slightly higher, only because as we emerged from COVID, we begun to see a higher level of interest in participation. We also have a fairly new location with a new route that has -- it's stimulated some appeal within the runner communities so we've had more runners than we've had in previous years.

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**  
Thank you, Tom. Okay, so there is a motion on the table and a second. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions?

**CLERK TASSONE:**  
Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0/P.O. McCAFFREY INCLUDED IN VOTE)

1 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

2 IR 1007 is approved. And, thanks again, Tom, it was good to you  
3 see. Moving on, **IR 1010, Approving list of real estate appraisers**  
4 **as designated by the Division of Real Property Acquisition and**  
5 **Management. (Co. Exec.).**

6  
7 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

8 Motion to approve.

9  
10 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

11 Motion to approve by Legislator Richberg. I'll second the motion.  
12 Any questions on the motion? Yes, Legislator Krupski.

13  
14 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

15 Thank you. Is anyone here to answer this question on the list of  
16 appraisers?

17  
18 **DIRECTOR JOYNER:**

19 Good afternoon, Legislators. Sidney Joyner, Director of Real  
20 Estate.

21  
22 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

23 Thank you. I know this is an important function and maintaining  
24 that list is really critical.

25  
26 **DIRECTOR JOYNER:**

27 Correct.

28  
29 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

30 And has this list changed at all since last year?

31  
32 **DIRECTOR JOYNER:**

33 There may be an omission of one or two people who are no longer  
34 able to be a part of it.

35  
36 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

37 Is there any current outreach for, you know, new people to be on  
38 the list and to help the County?

39  
40 **DIRECTOR JOYNER:**

41 Yes. We maintain, I believe, public notices to local papers to get  
42 the word out regards to the opportunities and the RFPs.

43  
44 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

45 Great. Thank you.

46  
47 **DIRECTOR JOYNER:**

48 You're welcome.

49  
50 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

51 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

52  
53 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

54 You're welcome. Okay, so there's a motion and a second. All in  
55 favor? Any opposed? Abstentions?

56

01:25PM

1 **CLERK TASSONE:**

2 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0/P.O. McCAFFREY INCLUDED IN VOTE)

3  
4 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

5 IR 1010 is now approved. Moving on, IR 1011, Approving list of  
6 real estate Environmental Site Assessment Companies as designated  
7 by the Division of Real Property Acquisition and Management. (Co.  
8 Exec.). Motion by Legislator Richberg and second by Legislator  
9 Hahn. All in favor? Opposed?

10  
11 **LEG. BERGIN:**

12 I have a question.

13  
14 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

15 Question on the motion.

16  
17 **LEG. BERGIN:**

18 If we could bring Sidney back up again. And just similar question  
19 to Legislator Krupski how are the individuals who get on this list  
20 acquired or notified?

01:27PM

21  
22 **DIRECTOR JOYNER:**

23 They're acquired by filling out an application and RFPs to be a  
24 part of the process.

25  
26 **LEG. BERGIN:**

27 How do they know where the application is? Like, how do they get  
28 notified?

29  
30 **DIRECTOR JOYNER:**

31 It's normally done through the newspaper; local newspapers and also  
32 on our website. But we also send out correspondence to past  
33 applicants in regards to updates.

34  
35 **LEG. BERGIN:**

36 And then what's the vetting process after those people respond with  
37 filling out their application?

38  
39 **DIRECTOR JOYNER:**

40 Usually the vetting process is conducted by our appraisers who have  
41 done the work before and work with them. And it's a study of what  
42 their capacity has been. So as a department we look at the work  
43 that is done and if it suffices, they are okay.

01:27PM

44  
45 **LEG. BERGIN:**

46 So we have in-house appraisers who evaluate out of house  
47 appraisers?

48  
49 **DIRECTOR JOYNER:**

50 No. In-house appraisers?

01:27PM

51  
52 **LEG. BERGIN:**

53 You're saying that we have appraisers who evaluate these  
54 appraisers?



1 **DIRECTOR JOYNER:**

2 No. I'm saying we do have in-house appraisers but not for this  
3 matter. I'm saying those who work with them in their capacities  
4 come out to discuss that. Those who work with appraisers who --  
5 that are on the list are the ones who also make a determination  
6 about the efficacy of their work.

7  
8 **LEG. BERGIN:**

9 These are the environmental site assessment companies that we're  
10 talking about.

11  
12 **DIRECTOR JOYNER:**

13 Yes.

14  
15 **LEG. BERGIN:**

16 So when you say they come out and they evaluate them, who's "they"  
17 is what I'm asking.

18  
19 **DIRECTOR JOYNER:**

20 They come out to evaluate them. Their work is reviewed. The  
21 County has people who inspect the work that they review and they  
22 move from there.

23  
24 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

25 Just want to -- we also within the department --

26  
27 **CLERK TASSONE:**

28 I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, could she, Miss Lansdale just state her  
29 name and title for the record.

30  
31 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

32 Sure.

33  
34 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

35 I'm sorry.

36  
37 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

38 Sarah Lansdale, Commissioner of Economic Development & Planning.  
39 So we also within Economic Development & Planning we have a staff  
40 that is qualified that runs the Council on Environmental Quality  
41 and they review within our Division of Planning and Environment the  
42 RFP or RFQ responses that are solicited. And they have background  
43 in reviewing all of the ESAs, Environmental Site Assessments, that  
44 are done for the County with over twenty plus years of experience  
45 reviewing ESAs. So they are qualified to review the proposals that  
46 determine and form this list.

47  
48 **LEG. BERGIN:**

49 Okay, that's all I was asking. Thank you so much, Commissioner.

50  
51 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

52 Okay, so we have a motion and a second. And I think we were down  
53 to asking for abstentions because I ask for approved and disapprove  
54 and abstentions are none, so.

1 **CLERK TASSONE:**

2 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0/P.O. McCAFFREY INCLUDED IN VOTE)

3  
4 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

5 Six. Thank you. 1011 is approved. Moving on, IR 1049,  
6 Authorizing the creation of a Blanket Utility Easement for Project  
7 Phase 3 for use by selected utility service purveyors at Francis S.  
8 Gabreski Airport. (Co. Exec.).

9  
10 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

11 Motion to approve.

12  
13 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

14 Motion to approve by Legislator Richberg.

15  
16 **LEG. BERGIN:**

17 Second.

18  
19 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

20 And second by Legislator Bergin. All in favor? Any opposed?  
21 Abstentions?

22  
23 **CLERK TASSONE:**

24 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0/P.O. McCAFFREY INCLUDED IN VOTE)

25  
26 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

27 1049 is approved. Moving onto 1096 Adopting Local (Law No. -2023,)   
28 A Local Law to amend the Hotel and Motel Tax Law. (Co. Exec.).  
29 1096 needs to be tabled for public hearing. I'll make that motion.

30  
31 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

32 Second.

33  
34 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

35 Second by Legislator Richberg. All in favor? Any opposed?  
36 Abstentions?

37  
38 **CLERK TASSONE:**

39 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0/P.O. McCAFFREY INCLUDED IN VOTE)

40  
41 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

42 1096 is tabled for public hearing. 1097, Establishing the Annual  
43 Gabreski Community Advisory and Review Board. (Fleming).

44  
45 **LEG. HAHN:**

46 Motion.

47  
48 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

49 Motion by Legislator Hahn.

50  
51 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

52 So in speaking with the sponsor, I believe she'd like to table for  
53 a cycle. I think she wants to make some amendments.

54  
55 **LEG. HAHN:**

56 Sorry.

01:30PM

01:31PM

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01:31PM

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**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**  
That's okay. So we'll take the motion to table. I'll second the motion to table.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**  
On the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**  
Yes, on the motion.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**  
Yeah, having been part of this a couple of years ago, a lot of this was in response to the possibility of East Hampton Airport closing. And so -- and there had been a Community Advisory Review Board in the past. And Legislator Fleming reinstated it. She included at my request a member from Riverhead and a member from Southold and, of course, the Air National Guard's represented there, so. If anyone else thinks their community should be represented on this -- it's a really critically important county facility.

**LEG. BERGIN:**  
Yeah, it's a great idea.

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**  
I agree with you, Legislator. And I think that's why we're requesting a table --

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**  
Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**  
-- want to get some more input and participation on that board.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**  
Great.

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**  
So I appreciate that. So there's a motion to table and a second. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions?

**CLERK TASSONE:**  
Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0/P.O. McCAFFREY INCLUDED IN VOTE)

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**  
1097 is tabled.

Seeing no Procedural Motions, Home Rule Messages, executive sessions or Tabled Subject to Call resolution, this Committee is now adjourned.

**LEG. RICHBERG:**  
Mr. Chair, I know -- I think the Commissioner has a question.

**CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**  
Sorry, Commissioner.

1  
2 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

3 Yes.

4  
5 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

6 I didn't bang the gavel yet. We're not adjourned.

7  
8 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

9 Fantastic. Again, Sarah Lansdale, Commissioner of Economic  
01:33PM 10 Development & Planning. I'm here with Stefanie Rosen, our Director  
11 of Affordable Housing. We just wanted to brief members of the  
12 Committee about a CN that will be before the General Meeting next  
13 week on Columbia Terrace. If Stephanie could just provide a quick  
14 overview on that CN.

15  
16 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

17 Thank you.

18  
19 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

01:33PM 20 Thank you. Stephanie Rosen, Director of Affordable Housing. So --  
21 good? Sorry, I'm short. So this project is a project that the  
22 County gave affordable housing funding to quite a number of years  
23 ago. It's finally complete and ready to be -- the units are ready  
24 to be sold. It's a 14-unit condo complex in Huntington near the  
25 train station.

26  
27 So one of the issues that Huntington brought to our attention is  
28 that the County mortgage was creating a loan to value for these  
29 properties for the individuals taking out mortgages of over a  
01:33PM 30 hundred percent. And because it's veterans preference and many of  
31 the people buying the condo units are veterans, the VA loan does  
32 not allow for over a hundred percent loan to value so the veterans  
33 would not be able to obtain mortgages for the properties.

34  
35 So we spoke to Huntington. We spoke to the Supervisor, the  
36 Director of Community Development. And the County has agreed to  
37 basically forgive our subsidy. Normally we'd forgive the subsidy  
38 after 30 years, 40 years, 50 years. I think in this case it's 31  
39 years. And that subsidy is put on there to make sure it's  
01:34PM 40 affordable for that number of years. Because the Town of  
41 Huntington basically has the same covenants and restrictions on the  
42 property as the County does, we can guarantee that the property  
43 will be affordable for that number of years anyway. So, in order  
44 to facilitate the veterans being able to close on the properties,  
45 we're going to be asking the Legislature to authorize us forgiving  
46 our loan early essentially.

47  
48 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

49 So how does that -- how does that work? Is that -- does that  
01:34PM 50 forgiveness end up almost looking like a down payment?

51  
52 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

53 No. So the County's loan is structured as a mortgage on the  
54 property right now, but it's not required to be paid back. So it  
55 looks like a mortgage to the lender, but it's not really because  
56 we're not requiring payments on it. But the VA won't lend for the

1 veterans interested in buying properties so we're essentially  
2 saying *we weren't going to ask you to pay it back anyway, we're*  
3 *going to let you off early because we know it'll remain affordable.*  
4

5 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

6 So the County's portion brings the total borrowed amount under a  
7 hundred percent is what you're saying.  
8

9 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

01:35PM 10 Yes, yep, yep.  
11

12 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

13 Okay. Legislator Krupski.  
14

15 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

16 Thank you, Stephanie. I thought the County law required that the  
17 money be paid back with interest to the County.  
18

19 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

01:35PM 20 So that's county law now. This project was -- we gave money to  
21 this project, I think, in 2009 so it's, you know, it was a longtime  
22 ago that the agreements were already made. That law applies to new  
23 projects going forward.  
24

25 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

26 This is -- you said 2009. So this is not a new project.  
27

28 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

01:36PM 29 No, it's taken a while. You know, the Town of Huntington  
30 Supervisor and Director of Community Development will be here on  
31 Tuesday to speak to why it's taken so long. I can't speak to that  
32 other than the County contributed \$439,000 in 2009 to the project.  
33

34 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

35 No. But people are just moving into a new facility today.  
36

37 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

38 Correct.  
39

40 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

41 Oh, okay.  
42

43 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

44 I know there were some amendments throughout the years. I don't  
45 know if it was originally ownership and veterans preference. I  
46 think it was partly rental and now it's all ownership. So some  
47 things have changed throughout the years, but.  
48

49 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

01:36PM 50 Thank you. Thank you, Jim. I appreciate it.  
51

52 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

53 You're welcome. Anyone else? Legislator Richberg.  
54

55 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

56 Director Rosen, so I guess the federal government is looking at our

1 portion as a deficit. Is that what it was; so the deficit ratio  
2 was too high for the loan?

3  
4 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

5 Yeah, they're looking at it like, you know, the property -- the  
6 \$130,000 when we're only loaning you a hundred thousand, you know,  
7 it's too high for the VA type loan.

8  
9 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

10 So the debt -- the debt ratio is too high --

11  
12 **DIRECTOR ROSEN:**

13 Yeah, correct.

14  
15 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

16 -- so that's why they couldn't take it. All right, thank you.  
17 Makes a lot of sense.

18  
19 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

20 Legislator Bontempi.

21  
22 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

23 Yes, thank you for being here and for giving a brief explanation.  
24 And I know that our supervisor will be here next week to speak to  
25 this. This is very important. We really -- we ask that everyone  
26 approves this because we have these veterans that have been waiting  
27 and waiting, and, you know, I really ask that we all consider this.  
28 It's very important. Thank you.

29  
30 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

31 Thank you. Thank you, Legislator. Tom, did you want to say  
32 something?

33  
34 **DIRECTOR RONAYNE:**

35 I just obviously am in support of this -- of this request. This --  
36 because there has been so much time between when these funds were  
37 allocated, when the project went into construction and the project  
38 now being ready for occupancy, a lot of people have been waiting in  
39 anticipation of the opportunity to be able to stay in Huntington  
40 and apply as veterans to live in these veterans set-aside units.

41  
42 I can give you more than one, but I'll give you one specific acute  
43 example of why this is so urgent. Our funding is showing up  
44 essentially as a second mortgage as well. And it's complicating  
45 funding. VA will not allow this funding to go forward. We have at  
46 least one disabled veteran, a disabled Vietnam veteran who had been  
47 living in the town -- he's a lifelong Town of Huntington resident.  
48 He had been living in a house with another veteran who owned the  
49 house. That veteran recently passed away unexpectedly. And the  
50 veteran who was living in the house with him, who is waiting for  
51 his mortgage to clear to move into Columbia Terrace, now faces  
52 homelessness because he's in this -- he's in this sort of  
53 netherworld of *I can't stay where I am and I have no place to go*.  
54 Absent this restriction he would be -- his furniture would be in  
55 there already.

1 So there are -- there are some complicating factors here that  
2 really touch to the humanity, the human side of how important this  
3 particular issue is. I just wanted to make you aware that this is  
4 more than merely a procedural matter of removing an economic line.  
5 There are real lives involved here.  
6

7 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

8 Thank you for the thought on that, Tom, and appreciate getting the  
9 human side of it.

01:39PM 10

11 **DIRECTOR RONAYNE:**

12 Thank you.  
13

14 **CHAIRPERSON MAZZARELLA:**

15 Thank you. All right. With that I only have one thing left. This  
16 Committee is now adjourned.  
17

18 **THE COMMITTEE ADJOURNED AT 1:48 PM**  
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