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3 **VETERANS & CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**
4
5 **OF THE**
6
7 **SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**
8
9 **MINUTES**

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12 A meeting of the Veterans & Consumer Affairs Committee of the
13 Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa
14 Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature
15 Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on May
16 15, 2023.
17

18
19 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

20 Leg. Nicholas Caracappa, Chairperson
21 Leg. Anthony Piccirillo, Vice Chair
22 Leg. Bridget Fleming
23 Leg. Al Krupski
24 Leg. Sarah Anker
25 Leg. Leslie Kennedy
26 Leg. Stephanie Bontempi
27

28 **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

29 Legislator Dominick S. Thorne, 7th Legislative District
30 Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature
31 Hope Clark, Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature
32 Elizabeth Stroehlein, Budget Review Office
33 Irene Donohue, Aide to Leg. Fleming
34 Catherine Stark, Aide to Leg. Krupski
35 Robert Martinez, Aide to Leg. Caracappa
36 Erika Hershberger, Aide to Leg. Kennedy
37 Michelle Zarafis, Intergovernmental Relations/County Executive's
38 Office
39 Afreen Wright, Deputy Bureau Chief/County Attorney's Office
40 Melanie Corinne, Joseph P. Dwyer Project
41 Nancy Tappin, Joseph P. Dwyer Project
42 Ali Nazir, Aide to PO
43 Brendan Sweeney, Aide to PO
44 Chris DeLuca, Aide to PO
45 Robert Martinez, Aide to Leg. Caracappa
46 Irene Donohue, Aide to Leg. Fleming
47 Erika Hershberger, Aide to Leg. Kennedy
48 Richard Valentin, public speaker
49 And all other interested parties
50

51
52 **MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

53 Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer
54
55
56

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:03 PM

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

All right, good afternoon everybody and welcome to our Veterans & Consumer Affairs Committee meeting. We'll begin with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a momentary moment of silence. I'd ask my colleague Legislator Piccirillo to lead us in the pledge.

LEG. PICCIRILLO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

A quick moment of silence for all those in law enforcement including the officer who was shot on Friday; though he's making a good recovery, he's still going to face challenges; all those in law enforcement serving us, our communities; all those in healthcare; all those in our US military whether it be overseas or home protecting and serving us, just a moment of silence and a prayer to reflect upon them.

MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED

Thank you. (Gavel) Can I have a roll call Mister or Madam Clerk whoever's going to take the lead on this one.

(Roll call by Hope Clark, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature)

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Madam Clerk, I am here.

LEG. PICCIRILLO:

Present.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Here.

LEG. FLEMING:

Present.

LEG. ANKER:

Here.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Here.

LEG. BONTEMPI:

Present.

CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:

Seven.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:

Thank you. Are there any correspondence, Madam Clerk?

1 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**
2 All correspondence have been distributed accordingly.

3
4 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
5 Fantastic. I see no one for public portion.

6
7 **MR. DeLUCA:**
8 I left a sheet up there.

9
10 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
11 You did? Oh, here we go, hidden, tucked away. We do. I correct
12 the record. We do have one speaker, Richard Valentin. Come on up,
13 Rich.

14
15 **RICHARD VALENTIN:**
16 Good afternoon. I didn't prepare so bear with me.

17
18 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
19 Just state your name for the record.

20
21 **RICHARD VALENTIN:**
22 Richard Valentin. What I am going over here is intro resolution
23 1429 in reference to precious metals. The argument that I am
24 making on this one is this in that there's a lot -- when you go to
25 purchase any time precious metals, it always has the gold -- the
26 stamp on it; however, you know, say, a necklace is 14 karat gold.
27 It's not always necessarily to the tee 14 karat. You have -- I was
28 explaining before, they do have an {asay} gun that they use to --
29 you know, they would take the piece of gold per say, they would
01:06PM 30 press it to the gun and the gun would read them out the exact
31 karat.

32
33 What I'm proposing is is that since a lot of people tend to get
34 jerked when they go, you know, because it's always based on, to my
35 knowledge, spot price at that time on the market when you go to
36 buy, you know, purchase precious metals. The recordkeeping that
37 they don't keep is that when they sold that particular item, what
38 the spot price was at that time for the said karat for the
39 individual. So that's what I'm inquiring about is adding something
01:06PM 40 to the records besides just identification. So, it's like there's
41 a record there for that individual knowing, their knowing what it
42 was that they got it for and knowing that they didn't get, you
43 know, taken advantage of in doing it and so forth.

44
45 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
46 And why is this important to you, Rich?

47
48 **RICHARD VALENTIN:**
49 I mean, I kind of just winged it just now to be honest with you as
01:06PM 50 a thought in my mind because gold refining is something that I have
51 learned in the past and it's something that I'm knowledgeable of.
52 So, it did come to my mind because in learning all that stuff, I
53 know that a lot of times, you know, say it was you, you went to go
54 buy your girlfriend or wife a gold necklace, it says 14 --

55
56

1 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

2 No, I get it.

3

4 **RICHARD VALENTIN:**

5 -- on it but you're getting jerked.

6

7 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

8 And I absolutely get that. So you're suggesting that we should
9 have a record on the receipt of sale at that point in time so --

01:07PM 10

11 **RICHARD VALENTIN:**

12 You have a record of spot price; you have a record of karat,
13 whether it was tested -- whether it was tested with the scratch
14 test or the laser gun. You know, it's a perfect record of it.

15

16 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

17 Right. But if there was to be any conflict, any challenge of that
18 purchase for whatever reason, wouldn't they just go back to the
19 date of sales and refer it to the index? Or are you stating that
20 that could be untraceable because you don't know what the actual
21 sale was at that point.

01:07PM

22

23 **RICHARD VALENTIN:**

24 They could do that. But essentially what would be there to assure
25 that what they were -- what they -- what they exchanged was
26 exchanged at the price that they should have been given for it.

27

28 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

29 That's typically written on the receipts but now you want to make
30 it mandatory. I don't see --

01:08PM

31

32 **RICHARD VALENTIN:**

33 I'm not saying make it mandatory. Like, it's no big thing.

34

35 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

36 Well, yeah, that's what it will turn out to be.

37

38 **RICHARD VALENTIN:**

39 But I mean in terms of receipts and in terms of record keeping,
40 yeah.

01:08PM

41

42 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

43 Well, that's what resolutions do. They write it into law and we
44 make it permanent so they would have their -- but I like your
45 thought; I like the idea behind it. Yeah, why not a complete
46 record. And if that isn't in -- if that isn't in right now, that's
47 something we can -- I'll double check and get back to you on that.

48

49 **RICHARD VALENTIN:**

50 Yeah.

51

52 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

53 Because I would think it would be in already.

54

55 **RICHARD VALENTIN:**

56 Sir, what I'm thinking of -- (inaudible).

1
2 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

3 All right. I appreciate, Rich. Well, thank you very much. I'm
4 making a note of it. It's a great suggestion. Thank you.

5
6 **RICHARD VALENTIN:**

7 Yeah, thank you guys.
8

9 **PRESENTATION**

10
11 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

12 Thank you for your time. All right. Next up would be appointment
13 resolutions. We have none. And that brings us to our
14 presentation. So while they make their way up, I will proudly
15 introduce Melanie Corinne, who is -- I'm going to read her off the
16 card exactly, she's Association for Mental Health & Wellness.
17 She's associated with the Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support
18 Project. She is a US marine veteran so she served our country well
19 and we've seen Melanie before. It's great to have her back. And,
20 Melanie, you're here with somebody or they're just for support
21 or -- Nancy, come on up.
22

23 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

24 I'm here with Nancy Tappin, our Dwyer Project Administrative
25 Assistant. All of the magic that happens is because of her working
26 hard on the back end.
27

28 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

29 All right. Well, welcome. And, first of all, thank you and
30 welcome. You can -- right in front of you there's a microphone and
31 you can just push the button, turn it on, you can pull it a little
32 bit closer to you, see the mike to your right. Yeah, okay. There
33 you go. There you go.
34

35 **NANCY TAPPIN:**

36 Good afternoon.
37

38 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

39 Good afternoon. Did you need her -- you got her name when --
40

41 **NANCY TAPPIN:**

42 Nancy Tappin. T-a-p-p-i-n.
43

44 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

45 So, I appreciate you coming in today, Melanie, Nancy. The Dwyer
46 Project is so valuable to our veterans; the mental health aspect of
47 service that you provide to these veterans are important. And, you
48 know, almost every veterans group event that I do, we try to make
49 mention of the Dwyer Project because it is so valuable; whether
50 they're veterans who have served sometime ago or they're
51 transitioning from active duty to civilian life. It's important to
52 know that these resources are there for them within Suffolk County.
53 And I'm not sure if you go above and beyond Suffolk County, I'm
54 sure you do, New York State. So, please, at this moment I'm going
55 to turn it over to you give a presentation, let my colleagues and
56 everyone who's -- the millions and millions of people who are

01:10PM

1 tuning into this broadcast, just give us an oversight of what you
2 guys do, all right.

3
4 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

5 Sure. First of all, thank you so much for having us back. My
6 colleague Danny and I were very happy to present last time. And
7 we're really excited -- Nancy and I are really excited to return
8 and give you guys a refresher of what we do and how we serve
9 veterans in the community.

10
11 So the Joseph Dwyer Project is a peer-to-peer support project,
12 meaning our entire staff are veterans themselves. We are
13 intergenerational. We come from different generations of service.
14 We come from different branches of service, different MOSs or jobs,
15 too. And we meet veterans in the community. We meet them where
16 they're at and we offer them trauma-informed care. And the goal of
17 the Dwyer Project is to help veterans and their families meet their
18 wellness goals through the support of trained veteran peers.

19
01:11PM 20 So as you can imagine a wellness goal is individual to the veteran.
21 Some veterans that have a more lower functionality, their wellness
22 goals are very, you know, very -- they need help very imminently
23 and their wellness goals are housing or mental healthcare or, you
24 know, medication management or finding the right -- the right
25 service provider; assistance with foreclosure; legal help. That's
26 some stuff we deal with and we refer those people to our amazing
27 community partners. And then sometimes we deal with veterans that
28 are just lonely. There's nothing necessarily wrong in their lives
29 but they want a sense of pride and community in themselves and
01:12PM 30 they'll come to us looking for ways to socialize with other
31 veterans. And then some veterans, you know, have other needs that
32 are, you know, they want job placement resume support; they are
33 starting a small business and, you know, want to know where to go
34 to get support there.

35
36 So, we really run the gambit with the veterans we help from, you
37 know, very severe cases all the way up to more frivolous cases but
38 there really is no frivolous case because there's no wrong reason
39 for a veteran to reach out to us. We are here for all for veterans
01:13PM 40 whether they are National Guard reservists; whether they served
41 active; whether they were discharged medically even in boot camp.
42 The VA has a very strict standard for what veteran is. And we
43 service veterans far beyond that standard. So, as far as we're
44 concerned, if a veteran took the oath of enlistment, if someone
45 stepped up to serve their country and, you know, wanted to commit
46 part of their life to serving -- to take care of our nation, we
47 support them. And that includes dishonorably discharged veterans;
48 that includes, again, reservists and National Guardsmen for whom
49 the traditional institutional resources are not quite there as much
01:13PM 50 for them to support them with certain things. So, we really take
51 pride in serving any veteran that we can find in Suffolk County.
52 And we do, of course, do resource referrals to veterans that come
53 to us from Nassau County, from New York City. We get them to the
54 appropriate agencies that can service them and support them in
55 those specific counties and areas.

1 So we at Dwyer, we service veterans mainly in three ways. We have
2 our groups that we do that we invite community members to our local
3 -- our local Dwyer groups. We run about 9 of them every week. And
4 that's a place where veterans come and they engage with each other;
5 they find community and it's pretty -- it's pretty nice. It's an
6 open group for everyone based on the principles of mutual respect.
7 It's a non-judgemental space for veterans to come and share things
8 that maybe they feel they can't share outside of the veteran
9 community. We also help veterans with individual support where our
01:14PM 10 peers will follow up with them in an individualized one-on-one
11 capacity and help them towards their wellness goals.

12
13 For some people, again, that's finding legal support; for some
14 people it's doing a hobby, you know, and we encourage them on their
15 -- you know, as they're going closer to fulfilling their goals.
16 And then the vast majority of what we do is resource referral. A
17 veteran that needs a service dog might reach out to us and say "my
18 wellness goal's a service dog." And Dwyer is not equipped to give
19 out service dogs so we will happily refer them to our community
20 partners at Paws of War or Vet Dogs. And a majority of what we do
21 is that resource referral. We're like a friendly directory for
22 veterans that need help.

23
24 And we also do education and outreach. Dwyer peers have been
25 teaching the veteran cultural competency class to the Suffolk
26 County Police Crisis Intervention Team to help them understand, you
27 know, our veterans' culture and how to best, you know, service and
28 meet veterans where they're at when they find them. We also do a
29 monthly educational speaker series at the American Legion in
01:15PM 30 Patchogue, which is not a peer support group but rather a community
31 celebration of other veterans facing non-profits that support our
32 veterans in the community. So, yes?

33
34 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

35 On that real quick.

36
37 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

38 Yes.

39
40 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

41 I'm taking notes but --

42
43 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

44 Okay.

45
46 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

47 So why do you only go to the -- is that Medford or Patchogue?

48
49 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

50 Patchogue?

51
52 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

53 Yeah, how come only that one?

54
55 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

56 Because they invite us there. We are happy to -- yes, so we are

1 happy to give these cards out, take a photo of my card, share it
2 with all of our veteran service community partners, anyone you know
3 that would like us to come and participate. We are only limited by
4 our staffing as long as it it, you know, ethical and appropriate,
5 we are happy to meet any veterans group where they're at. We go
6 all over the Island. We have been -- we have talked to veterans
7 that are part of Shinnecock Nation. We have talked to veterans
8 that are out in the Hampton Bays. We have talked to veterans all
9 the way in Amityville. Like we go all across Suffolk County, so.

01:16PM 10

11 **LEG. THORNE:**

12 We love you in Patchogue.

13
14 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

15 (Laughter) We love you guys, too. We have a good time there.

16
17 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

18 All right, we will refer you to as many as we possibly can.

19
20 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

21 Yes, please do.

22
23 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

24 It's important to get to everybody. So, go ahead, continue, I
25 didn't mean to interrupt.

26
27 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

28 No, it's okay. It's all right. So, it's a really -- it is a
29 really fun job getting to meet veterans in the community and help
30 them get the things that they need for themselves and their
31 families. I looked over the annual report for last year. And in
32 2022 we had just under 5,000 points of contact with veterans in the
33 community; 5,000 engagements. Of that, again, I'm approximating
34 these numbers, I'm a Marine, I'm going to use, like, the rounded-up
35 version.

01:17PM 30

36
37 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

38 That's fine.

39
40 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

41 So, we had about 300 veterans that continuously came to group all
42 year round and were in solidarity and community with other
43 veterans. And then we had another about 270 veterans that needed
44 individualized specialized consistent care. And it's really
45 important because our outcomes have been suicide prevention. We
46 have helped veterans. We are not a substitute for law environment
47 or for clinicians, but we have helped veterans in dire need feel
48 empowered to reach out for help to the correct medical
49 professionals. We have stopped evictions by helping people get the
50 resources they need to do that. We have put people in contact with
51 free legal support by Craig Bruno and United Veterans of Beacon
52 House that supports him when they cannot afford legal care. We
53 have so many amazing community partners. And our community
54 partners is really how we do all this magic.

01:18PM 50

55
56 So, that is a very broad overview of the Dwyer Project. And I want

1 to wrap up quickly so I can answer a lot of these questions you
2 have and start a dialogue with you guys. Thank you so much for
3 having us here.

4
5 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

6 Anybody have any questions? This organization serves our veterans
7 through all of our districts. So, if you have a post in your
8 district, these are the people to talk to to get them within those
9 posts to talk to their members and they do amazing stuff so I'll
01:19PM 10 start with Legislator Thorne.

11
12 **LEG. THORNE:**

13 Thank you so much. First off, thank you for the work you do in
14 Patchogue. One of the questions I ask all the veterans groups is
15 what do you believe -- what mechanism that we're not doing
16 currently that we should be using to reach those veterans that
17 maybe are not being reached by your organization or our great VFW
18 halls or our AMVETS; like is there something in your mind that say,
19 *hey, if we only do this, we can reach this population of veterans.*
01:19PM 20 Is there something that you might suggest to us?

21
22 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

23 Yes. So, one thing I saw, I think, not on the last meeting
24 everyone here had, but I think it was two months ago you were
25 asking this -- you know, this space was inquiring about how do we
26 catch veterans as they come in from the service; how do we catch
27 them as they come into Suffolk County? And there is a community
28 partner we have that was formerly ETS sponsorship program that is
29 now re-branded as Onward Ops. And Suffolk County Dwyer project is
01:20PM 30 their flagship partner. And what they do is they're piloting, it's
31 a pilot program, as soldiers, I believe, I don't think they've
32 moved onto other branches, just the army, but as soldiers are
33 getting out, they sign up for this program and they will tell in
34 that program -- they will tell the program where they are going to.

35
36 And so hypothetically if you have a veteran that is going to
37 Suffolk County, they will put that in there along with their other
38 stuff. And we as Suffolk County community partners at the Dwyer
39 Project, we'll be able to log on and see its vast network of
01:20PM 40 veterans returning to Suffolk County. And so for the first time we
41 will have, like, a rain catcher to be able to actually check in on
42 our veterans when they are at their most vulnerable. Everyone here
43 knows that within the first five years of returning home, veterans
44 are in a protected class even if they do not have disability. And
45 so that's a very unique period that I think needs more support.
46 And this community partner really set up, they put in the leg work
47 and set up the mechanism for us to catch those younger veterans
48 that are coming back, that are trying to reintegrate into Suffolk
49 County and become, you know, citizens. And I'm really excited to
01:21PM 50 see how that develops. So that's -- you know, that newer
51 generation of veterans that's coming in, they can feel a little
52 lost. And I think they need a little bit of special attention.

53
54 Another way to reach out to them, there is digital marketing. I
55 think it is paid but you can use social medias and medias like
56 Google to target anyone who's a vet -- a returning veteran new to

1 Suffolk County and searching for veteran compensation, right,
2 veteran benefits, disability compensation. There are ways to
3 pinpoint with pinpoint accuracy target the veterans that we are
4 looking to help whether they're new to Suffolk County or not,
5 there's a way to use data analytics and digital marketing -- not
6 marketing per se but like paid media to track it. Because people
7 don't like to Google. So when a new veteran is coming back, they
8 might not reach out because they might not know who to reach out
9 to, but if they're reaching out, you know, veteran transition and
10 then later on they Google, you know, suicide prevention resources,
11 we -- if we had, you know, if we had the money, we could have a
12 query set up to populate, "hey, if you're a veteran that's, you
13 know, lonely, reach out to the Dwyer Project. Here's our number."
14 And that could populate on their social medias. That could follow
15 them around. They don't click it the first time, it pops up two
16 weeks later. And that's, you know, that's a generational approach
17 that would work with the younger veterans.

01:22PM

18
19 **LEG. THORNE:**

20 Sounds great.

01:22PM

21
22 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

23 I have been reaching out to a lot of our -- again, I'm one person
24 but I love reaching out to our assisted living facilities and
25 meeting older veterans there. There's so many unique challenges to
26 different demographics of veterans and they -- they really all need
27 our support. But that's one that I haven't heard about -- talked
28 about before.

29
30 **LEG. THORNE:**

31 Outstanding. Thank you very much.

32
33 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

34 My pleasure.

35
36 **LEG. THORNE:**

37 Thank you, Chair.

38
39 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

40 You're quite welcome. Legislator Anker.

01:23PM

41
42 **LEG. ANKER:**

43 Hi. I just want to thank you for the work that everyone has put
44 into this, the event and all the work you've done outside of this
45 event. You know, I like how you call it a day of wellness. And
46 what happens is a lot of people, they're embarrassed about if they
47 have a mental health issue or a drug addiction issue, and this is
48 about healing. And I also appreciate it's the veteran and their
49 families. Because that's where they're getting, hopefully, you
50 know, support in addition to the things and resources that we're
51 doing for them. So, I just want to thank you for providing that.

01:23PM

52
53 And also, you know, the frustration of reaching out to the veterans
54 that are coming home. I know that has always been a problem but
55 I'm here as a Legislator for 12 years and I just wish we had a
56 better process to get that information over to them because there

1 are so many resources for them. So, again, thank you. And thank
2 you for the participants that will be here at this. I'm hoping to
3 go.

4
5 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

6 I hope you and your family can come. It is important to note for
7 anyone watching who is not a veteran, you don't need to be a
8 veteran to come to this event. We are so excited to have civilian
9 allies and supporters. The only qualification to come to this
01:24PM 10 event is if you want to support and celebrate veterans. So
11 everyone and their families are welcome. We are really excited to
12 have everyone there.

13
14 **LEG. ANKER:**

15 Thank you.

16
17 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

18 Are you all set? Thank you, Legislator. Legislator Kennedy.

19
20 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

21 Hello. I just want to thank you for your past and present service
22 to our community of veterans. I just want to reverse the referral
23 process. You do an excellent job, obviously, from what you're
24 saying and what we've seen, knock wood, we're doing okay with our
25 veterans that are returning. But there's a lot of self-isolation
26 when they come back. So, do you refer them to the basics like the
27 VFW, AMVETS, do you hook in with the leaders there? We have one
28 great one in Ronkonkoma that draws them in and works with the new
29 vets. And there are a couple other ones that are available.

01:25PM 30
31 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

32 I would be so grateful if you ladies and gentlemen could just send
33 me a referral whether you think I know them or not, just send me a
34 referral of maybe your top three people, even if it's -- you know,
35 just in your district you would like to see me support, that would
36 be -- I'd be so grateful for that because I am --

37
38 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

39 That's wonderful.

01:25PM 40
41 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

42 I am -- yeah, I'm only one person.

43
44 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

45 Yep.

46
47 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

48 But we love working with VFWs, American Legions. It depends on
49 what the veteran needs. You know, we just worked with a veteran
01:25PM 50 that -- what he needed was holistic wellness and we referred him to
51 Warrior Ranch and Long Island Fatherhood Initiative because he had
52 two young children.

53
54 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

55 Good.

1 **MELANIE CORINNE:**
2 And he really loved those resources.

3
4 **LEG. KENNEDY:**
5 Excellent job.

6
7 **MELANIE CORINNE:**
8 So whatever the veteran wants, we'll get them to.

9
10 **LEG. KENNEDY:**
11 Thank you. Keep up the good work.

12
13 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
14 Thank you, Legislator. Anyone else? Am I missing anybody? Well,
15 yes, so I'll just continue on what a couple of my colleagues
16 touched on. And that is identifying and getting in contact with
17 those transition veterans that are coming out. And I'm wondering
18 if there's a way we can work with any agency in the military that
19 when they discharge them, is there a way we can get that
01:26PM 20 information so we have it. Because I would say, and this is just
21 me, I think you'd be getting more people active in this, more of
22 the veterans active if we made first contact; we reached out to
23 them or at least gave them a flier or something upon their
24 discharge saying, *listen, these resources are available to you*,
25 whether it be the Dwyer Project or the Warrior Ranch or Paws of
26 War. And I would like to see that happen. You know, when you get
27 a discharge kit, what's in that little goodie bag? You know, I
28 want to make sure that they know that they're going home, even
29 housing now, we have housing opportunities for veterans here in
01:27PM 30 Suffolk County and we're looking to increase upon those
31 opportunities.

32
33 So, that's something I'd like to maybe get a round table together
34 of all these great organizations including the great Tom Ronayne,
35 Suffolk County, who I was just on the phone with prior to the
36 meeting starting. And I want to let him know you were speaking
37 today. He was very excited, you know. He couldn't make today's
38 meeting; he's stuck out east helping other veterans doing what
39 he does best. So he was very excited. He's proud of the work you
01:27PM 40 do for veterans here in Suffolk County.

41
42 So I'll be reaching out to you and also have something else that I
43 want to run by you, but it's not ready to come out in this, you
44 know, forum right now. But I think it's important for the work
45 that you do that you have a seat at the table on this particular
46 project that we're working on next. At the least -- at the very
47 least, Melanie, to get your input on what's being suggested here.
48 And I will elaborate more after the meeting with you.

49
50 **MELANIE CORINNE:**
51 Sure.

52
53 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
54 And absolutely extend an invitation to the both of you to be
55 involved in the process. I'd love that; like nothing more than
56 have you there, right.

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01:28PM

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01:29PM

MELANIE CORINNE:
Thank you so much.

NANCY TAPPIN:
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
Thank you, again, for all that you do for our veterans, you know, our residents, our brothers, our sisters, our sons, our daughters. So, keep up the good work. Talk to you soon.

MELANIE CORINNE:
Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
We'll be in contact. Thank you both very much.

MELANIE CORINNE:
Appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:
So do I. Better late than never, I suppose. Legislator Bontempi.

LEG. BONTEMPI:
Again, hello. Thank you so much for all that you do, Corrine -- or Melanie, I'm sorry, Miss Corrine. So I'm actually hosting a veterans breakfast this coming Friday in my district with two of my colleagues.

MELANIE CORINNE:
Nancy and I are very excited to be there.

LEG. BONTEMPI:
You're coming, wonderful!

MELANIE CORINNE:
We RSVPd. We're very excited.

LEG. BONTEMPI:
So, actually you know what, then? I was going to ask could you hand me a bunch of these so I could hand them out? But if you're coming, then, please come and bring some of these and I would like -- love for you to you speak a little bit or maybe, you know --

MELANIE CORINNE:
Absolutely, whatever you need. And that goes for all of you. If you have any constituents or even if you're working on personal legislative projects within your district that you need any sort of veteran cultural competency or support, the Dwyer team is always happy to lend a hand. We are here for your veterans; we're here for you and we want to make -- we want to continue to maintain Suffolk County's reputation as a veteran friendly and supportive county. So, thank you guys so much for all the work that you're doing for our vets.

1 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

2 Thank you. Thank you for all that you do.

3
4 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

5 Thank you. Nancy, is there anything you want to add before you --

6
7 **NANCY TAPPIN:**

8 No, I'm just happy to be here to support Melanie and to see
9 everybody. Some of you I've met before at previous events. So
10 thank you so much.

11
12 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

13 Well, she gave you a pretty good, you know, hype-up; for everything
14 that happens, happens through Nancy. So, you know, is there
15 anything you want to add or we missed anything, if you omitted
16 anything or something you want to bring to our attention, please,
17 now is the time.

18
19 **NANCY TAPPIN:**

20 No, I mean, I completely agree with what you were just saying about
21 having some way to bridge veterans to other resources. Like why
22 isn't there, like, an exit interview with each veteran to say,
23 okay, do you have a place to live; do you have access to a job; you
24 know, what do you need from us to make sure you're setup for
25 success as you transition back to being a civilian. I don't know
26 why that doesn't already happen.

27
28 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

29 They have those but they don't follow up on them because they have
30 those at the federal level and there's no way to follow up at the
31 county. So that's what that Onward Ops program is hoping to do.
32 So if we, like, focus out five years, we can hope that we will be
33 able to see the data analytics of how many women, how many people,
34 you know, how many senior level veterans, like, how many staff NCOs
35 and higher, how many officers, how many junior enlisted, we'll be
36 able to look at the data analytics of all these people coming into
37 Suffolk County. And better yet we will be able to just like you
38 ladies and gentlemen said reach out to them first and say "welcome
39 home, welcome back to Suffolk County. Can I meet you and can we
40 have a cup of coffee together as we discuss what we can do to
41 support you?" That's the goal with that program and it is
42 currently -- it's currently rolling out right now this month.

43
44 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

45 That's fantastic. We'll be meeting together sometime in the very
46 near future to talk about this and to get you up to speed on the
47 other thing that's going on. This will happen here in Suffolk
48 County.

49
50 **MELANIE CORINNE:**

51 Okay.

52
53 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

54 Thank you so much to the both of you. Have a great day.

55
56 (Applause)

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

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2
3 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

4 All right, continuing on with our agenda, we have no tabled
5 resolutions. We have one Introductory Resolution. And that is
6 resolution 1429, Adopting (Local Law No. -2023,) a Local Law to
7 amend Chapter 563 of the Suffolk County Code regarding the required
8 records and inspection of records of precious metal and gem
9 exchanges and dealers in second-hand articles. (Co. Exec.). I will
01:32PM 10 make a motion to table this resolution.

11
12 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**
13 Second.

14
15 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

16 We have further information coming in. And I have a second from
17 Legislator Piccirillo. Anybody on that motion?

18
19 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

01:32PM 20 On the motion, we do have staff here from the appropriate
21 department if they'd like to give an explanation of the bill and
22 the intent of the bill.

23
24 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
25 We are tabling it.

26
27 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
28 Okay.

29
30 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

31 We also have to table it for public hearing as well. Okay.
32 Tabling it for public hearing as well. So come on over, come on
33 down. You have some question?

34
35 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

36 Just the reason we're here, how about that?

37
38 **COUNTY ATTORNEY WRIGHT:**

01:33PM 39 Sure. Afreen Wright from the County Attorney's Office. Good
40 afternoon everyone. Legislator Krupski, we have been the subject
41 of some litigation recently which caused us to review these
42 particular articles in our county code. And so with the Police
43 Department and Labor Licensing and Consumer Affairs we've proposed
44 some amendments to the code.

45
46 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

47 Well, thank you for being responsive.

48
49 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

01:33PM 50 Afreen, also, you heard the comments from public portion. Is any
51 of that being addressed?

52
53 **COUNTY ATTORNEY WRIGHT:**

54 I did. So I just wanted to point out that the code as it currently
55 exists both for dealers and secondhand and precious gems and metal
56 dealers already requires that the transaction be identified by the

1 date and the amount paid. So, I'm not sure if the request was to
2 identify that the daily rate is what's being paid as well
3 particularly for gems --

4
5 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

6 That was one of the suggestions he had.

7
8 **COUNTY ATTORNEY WRIGHT:**

9 I'm not sure that we can control the amount that's paid because
10 that would be a --

11
12 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

13 Well, the amount that's paid but the amount that's -- on the
14 receipt is the amount that's paid out.

15
16 **COUNTY ATTORNEY WRIGHT:**

17 That's right.

18
19 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

20 We can't control what the daily index --

21
22 **COUNTY ATTORNEY WRIGHT:**

23 That's right.

24
25 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

26 Okay. Good. You're the right person to ask, so, that's great.

27
28 **COUNTY ATTORNEY WRIGHT:**

29 Thank you.

30
31 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

32 Anyone else? I'm sorry, Legislator Kennedy.

33
34 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

35 Nick, you took my question.

36
37 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

38 Sorry.

39
40 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

41 But I think you also wanted to know -- wanted it in there to be
42 tested with some gun that tests it to make sure it's actually 14
43 karat gold or 18 karat gold?

44
45 **COUNTY ATTORNEY WRIGHT:**

46 We'll look into that further.

47
48 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

49 Okay.

50
51 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**

52 I would believe that's part of the issues that are being addressed?

53
54 **COUNTY ATTORNEY WRIGHT:**

55 I'll have to look into it further.

1 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
2 Okay, very good. Anyone else? Did I miss anybody? No later
3 comers. All right, with that thank you so much. I appreciate it.
4 So we have a motion and a second to table for public hearing.
5 Anyone else on that motion? All right, with that all in favor?
6 Opposed? Abstained?

7
8 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**
9 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

01:35PM

10
11 **CHAIRPERSON CARACAPPA:**
12 All right. Very good. Thank you, Madam Clerk. So seeing no other
13 further business ahead of us, we are hereby adjourned.

14
15 **THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 1:35 PM**
16 **{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**
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