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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

OCTOBER 3, 2017

10:30 A.M.

BEFORE: ANTHONY J. SANTINO,

SUPERVISOR

APPEARANCES :

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SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO

COUNCILMAN DUNNE

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY

CLERK AHMAD

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK DIANA MULLER

TOWN ATTORNY RA

COMPTROLLER CONROY

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Welcome to our
2 regular Town Board Meeting.

3 We have a Public Hearing calendar,
4 Administrative Calendar and, then, the
5 public-comment session.

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6 At this time, before we begin, I would
7 like to call on Senior Councilwoman Dorothy
8 Goosby to lead us in the Pledge of
9 Allegiance.

10 (Whereupon, Senior Councilwoman Goosby
11 led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
12 After, the following ensued.)

13 (Whereupon, a moment of silence was
14 observed for the victims of the terrible
15 tragedy in Las Vegas and all those suffering
16 from natural disasters in Puerto Rico, Texas,
17 Florida and the Islands of the Caribbean.)

18 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
19 much.

20 Madam Clerk, please, call the roll.

21 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Here.

23 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

24 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Here.

25 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

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Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Here.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Here.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: At this time, I
would like the record to reflect that the
Town Clerk is delivering a copy of the
tentative budget to each Town Board Member.

Madam Clerk, call the first Public
Hearing, please.

CLERK AHMAD: Petition of Commissioner
of Buildings to demolish and remove the two
story wood frame one family dwelling with
detached garage and remove all litter and
debris from property - near EAST ROCKAWAY (3
North Boulevard) South side of North
Boulevard, sixty feet East of East

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 Boulevard - Department of Buildings.

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone
3 that would like to be heard on this matter
4 before the Town Board?

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5 (Whereupon, no response was heard.
6 After, the following ensued.)

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There being none,
8 I will accept a Motion, please.

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Mr.
10 Supervisor, I move that the Public Hearing be
11 closed and the petition be granted.

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second
13 the Motion.

14 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

16 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

17 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

18 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

20 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

21 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

22 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

24 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
25 Goosby?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

2 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
3 Sweeney?

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Next item,
6 please.

7 CLERK AHMAD: Petition of Commissioner
8 of Buildings to demolish and remove the two
9 story wood frame one family dwelling and
10 remove all litter and debris from property -
11 UNIONDALE - (526 Southern Parkway) South side
12 of Southern Parkway, 51 feet East of
13 Fullerton Avenue - Department of Buildings.

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone
15 that would like to be heard before the Town
16 Board on this matter?

17 (Whereupon, no response was heard.
18 After, the following ensued.)

19 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There being none,
20 I will accept a Motion, please.

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Mr.
22 Supervisor, I move that the petition be
23 granted.

24 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the
25 Motion.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

3 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

4 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

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5 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

7 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

8 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

9 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

10 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

11 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman

12 Goosby?

13 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

14 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-

15 Sweeney?

16 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Next item,

18 please.

19 CLERK AHMAD: Petition of Commissioner

20 of Buildings to demolish and remove the

21 inground swimming pool and remove all liter

22 and debris from property - near VALLEY STREAM

23 (64 Lynwood Drive) East side of Lynwood

24 Drive, 503 feet North of Hendrickson Avenue -

25 Department of Buildings.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone
2 that would like to be heard on this matter
3 before the Town Board?

4 (Whereupon, no response was heard.
5 After, the following ensued.)

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There being none,
7 I will accept a Motion, please.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Supervisor,
9 I move that the petition be adopted.

10 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I second the
11 Motion.

12 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

13 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

14 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

15 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

16 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

17 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

18 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

20 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

21 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

22 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
23 Goosby?

24 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
2 Sweeney?

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

4 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Next item,
5 please.

6 CLERK AHMAD: Proposed Local Law Re:
7 "Regulations and Restrictions" to limit
8 parking in MERRICK (To amend Chapter 202 of
9 the Code of the Town of Hempstead)

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone
11 that would like to be heard on this matter
12 before the Town Board?

13 (Whereupon, no response was heard.
14 After, the following ensued.)

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There being none,
16 I will accept a Motion, please.

17 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Mr.
18 Supervisor, I move we close the Public
19 Hearing and adopt the item.

20 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the
21 Motion.

22 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

23 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

24 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

25 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

3 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

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5 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

7 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman

8 Goosby?

9 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

10 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-

11 Sweeney?

12 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

13 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Next item,

14 please.

15 CLERK AHMAD: Proposed Local Law Re:

16 "Parking or Standing Prohibitions" in

17 BELLMORE, MERRICK, ROOSEVELT, UNIONDALE (To

18 amend Section 202-1 of the Code of the Town

19 of Hempstead)

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone

21 that would like to be heard on the matter

22 before the Town Board?

23 (Whereupon, no response was heard.

24 After, the following ensued.)

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There being none,

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 I will accept a Motion, please.

2 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Mr.
3 Supervisor, I move to close the Public
4 Hearing and adopt the item.

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5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second
6 the Motion.

7 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

9 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

10 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

11 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

13 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

15 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

16 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

17 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
18 Goosby?

19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

20 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
21 Sweeney?

22 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

23 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Next item,
24 please.

25 CLERK AHMAD: Proposed Local Law Re:

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 "Arterial Stops" in INWOOD, WEST
2 HEMPSTEAD (To amend Section 197-5 of the Code
3 of the Town of Hempstead)

4 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone
5 that would like to be heard before the Town
6 Board on this matter?

7 (Whereupon, no response was heard.
8 After, the following ensued.)

9 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There being none,
10 I will accept a Motion.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Supervisor,
12 I move that the Hearing be closed and the
13 Local Law be adopted.

14 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I second the
15 Motion.

16 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

18 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

19 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

20 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

22 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

24 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
2 Goosby?

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

4 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
5 Sweeney?

6 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Next item,
8 please.

9 CLERK AHMAD: Proposed Local Law Re:
10 "Traffic Regulations in the Vicinity of
11 Schools" in INWOOD (To amend Section 197-13
12 of the Code of the Town of Hempstead)

13 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone
14 that would like to be heard on this matter
15 before the Town Board?

16 (Whereupon, no response was heard.
17 After, the following ensued.)

18 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There being none,
19 I will accept a Motion, please.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Supervisor,
21 I move that the Hearing be closed and the
22 Local Law be adopted.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the
24 Motion.

25 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

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SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Next item,
please.

CLERK AHMAD: Proposed Local Law Re:
"Loading Zones" in Roosevelt (To amend
Section 202-53 of the Code of the Town of
Hempstead)

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone
that would like to be hear on this matter
before the Town Board?

(Whereupon, no response was heard.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 After, the following ensued.)

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There being none,
3 I will accept a Motion, please.

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Mr.
5 Supervisor, I move that the Public Hearing be
6 closed and the proposed Local Law be adopted.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the
8 Motion.

9 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

11 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

12 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

13 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

15 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

16 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

17 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

18 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

19 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
20 Goosby?

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

22 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
23 Sweeney?

24 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Next item.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 CLERK AHMAD: Proposed Local Law Re:
2 "Gross Weight Restrictions" in near WESTBURY
3 - Bowling Green Drive, Grand Boulevard (To
4 amend Section 192-1 of the Code of Town of
5 Hempstead)

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6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone
7 that would like to be heard on this matter
8 before the Town Board?

9 (Whereupon, no response was heard.
10 After, the following ensued.)

11 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There being none,
12 I will accept a Motion, please.

13 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Mr. Supervisor,
14 I move the Public Hearing be closed and the
15 proposed Local Law be adopted.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the
17 Motion.

18 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

19 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

20 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

21 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

22 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

23 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

24 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

2 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

3 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
4 Goosby?

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5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

6 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
7 Sweeney?

8 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

9 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Next item,
10 please.

11 CLERK AHMAD: Proposed Local Law Re:
12 "School Speed Limits" in LIDO BEACH - Lido
13 Boulevard (To amend Chapter 190 of the Code
14 of the Town of Hempstead by the insertion and
15 repeal of locations into Section 190-4,
16 Subsection "B")

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone
18 that would like to be heard on this matter
19 before the Town Board?

20 (Whereupon, no response was heard.

21 After, the following ensued.)

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There being none,
23 can I have a Motion, please.

24 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Mr.
25 Supervisor, I move to close the Public

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 Hearing and adopt the item.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the
3 Motion.

4 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

6 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

7 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

8 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

10 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

12 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

14 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
15 Goosby?

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

17 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
18 Sweeney?

19 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Next item,
21 please.

22 CLERK AHMAD: Proposed Local Law Re:
23 "Lowering the permitted time to replace the
24 highway or sidewalk, pavement, curb or
25 gutter" (To amend Section 175-3-A & 175-5-D-2

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 Of Chapter 175 of the Code of the Town of
2 Hempstead)

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone
4 that would like to be heard on this matter
5 before the Town Board?

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6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, Supervisor,
7 can someone explain to us what the purpose of
8 this Local Law is and why are we considering
9 this, today?

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Muller.

11 ATTORNEY MULLER: The Town has
12 received calls from people that are
13 complaining that utilities are getting too
14 long.

15 They come to the streets. They open
16 potholes and they take too long to repair
17 them, so, what the Town is seeking to do, in
18 a way, is that there are three things, if you
19 want to call this with the next item, as
20 well, because it works in conjunction.

21 But, what it is, we reached out to the
22 Commissioner of Highways.

23 We are also trying to contact the
24 utility, that the utility comes and repair
25 it.

1 There were three ways to incentive-
2 wise, the way to repair it, we would deny
3 them further permits if they had outstanding
4 repairs that they had not done, yet.

5 Because, again, several residents
6 complained that the utilities were not
7 repairing the leftover work.

8 The second thing, basically is, in
9 writing, the Commissioner of Highways be
10 empowered to say we are not giving you new
11 permits until you clear up the new damage to
12 the streets you already made.

13 The second thing we did was under the
14 current Code, you have a year.

15 The Town - - if you don't repair it in
16 a year, the Town can use that to repair, we
17 go back thirty days to incentivize the
18 repairs by the utility of any broke work that
19 they have done.

20 And, the last thing we have done is
21 and I have an amendment if I can read that,
22 175.5 D, work must commence satisfactory
23 restored within sixty days of the issuance of
24 a permit unless otherwise extended in writing
25 by the Highway Department for good cause.

1 And, I think the way the Commissioner
2 and I discussed it would be good cause,
3 whether it is a larger project and physically
4 couldn't do it, but, that is basically it.

5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Two questions,
6 first of all, I think it is a good idea to
7 get the utilities to comeback.

8 Sometimes, like you said, they
9 disappear but I am wondering whether or not
10 there is other than the, um, discretion of
11 the Highway Commissioner, whether there is
12 any mechanism, here, for automatic granting
13 of a permit in the case of an emergency, like
14 you said, hurricane, some kind of power
15 failure, some kind of, um, substation issue.

16 And, again, my second question is, do
17 these both comply with the New York State
18 Law?

19 ATTORNEY MULLER: They do. They do
20 and also one of the things we do, if you look
21 at what empowers the Commissioner that is
22 still, basically, the Code has an emergency
23 provision if they have to go out to Mill
24 Neck, go repair it and notify the Buildings
25 Commissioner, it still has current emergency

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 Provision is still in it.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Good, thanks.

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Any other
4 questions?

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5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: It is a
6 great idea because I have had so many calls
7 about potholes by PSEG or any company that
8 comes in and tears up the streets, so, thank
9 you.

10 I read it already and I think it is a
11 great idea.

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you, Senior
13 Councilwoman.

14 Any other Members of the audience, the
15 Board on this item, if not, on a Motion,
16 please.

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Mr.
18 Supervisor, as someone who has had these
19 issue, definitely, in Island Park, Barnum
20 Island and Oceanside, um, I move that the
21 Public Hearing be closed and the Local Law
22 adopted.

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second
24 the Motion.

25 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

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SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Next item,
please.

CLERK AHMAD: Proposed Local Law Re:
"Empowering the Commissioner of Highway to
deny any application for a permit to excavate
a Highway or sidewalk, pavement, curb or
gutter the applicant has not completed the
repairs on their prior permitted excavations
within the Town of Hempstead" (To amend
Chapter 175 of the Town Code to include a new

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 Section 175-C of the Code of the Town of
2 Hempstead)

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone
4 that would like to speak on this matter?

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5 (Whereupon, no response was heard.
6 After, the following ensued.)

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: If not, I will
8 accept a Motion.

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Mr.
10 Supervisor, I move the Public Hearing be
11 closed and the proposed local law be adopted.

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second
13 the Motion.

14 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

16 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

17 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

18 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

20 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

21 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

22 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

24 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
25 Goosby?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

2 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
3 Sweeney?

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: On the next item,
6 please.

7 CLERK AHMAD: Proposed "Handicapped
8 parking on public streets" in BALDWIN,
9 ELMONT, FRANKLIN SQUARE, MERRICK, NORTH
10 VALLEY STREAM, WANTAGH (Schuman Place, Jacob
11 Street, Franklin Street, Maxwell Street,
12 Thomas Street, Fenwood Drive, Mermaid Avenue)

13 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone
14 that would like to be heard on this matter
15 before the Town Board?

16 (Whereupon, no response was heard.
17 After, the following ensued.)

18 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There being none,
19 I will accept a Motion, please.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Supervisor,
21 I move that the Hearing be closed and the
22 regulations be adopted.

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second
24 the Motion.

25 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

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SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.
CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?
COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.
CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?
COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.
CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?
COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.
CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?
COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.
CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
Goosby?
SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.
CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
Sweeney?
COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.
SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Next item,
please.
CLERK AHMAD: Proposed "Handicapped
parking on public streets" in near Atlantic
Beach, Baldwin, Elmont, Inwood, near
Lawrence, Merrick, Roosevelt (Scott Drive,
Exeter Street, Wellington Road, McClure
Avenue, Oakley Avenue, Belmont Boulevard,
Bonta Street, Roosevelt Avenue, East Avenue,
Lippold Street, Ronald Place.)

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there anyone
2 that would like to be heard on this matter
3 before the Town Board?

4 (Whereupon, no response was heard.
5 After, the following ensued.)

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6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There being none,
7 I will accept a Motion, please.

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Supervisor,
9 I move that the Hearing be closed and the
10 regulations adopted.

11 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second
12 the Motion.

13 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

15 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

16 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

17 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

19 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

20 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

21 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

23 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
24 Goosby?

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
2 Sweeney?

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

4 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Next item,
5 please.

6 CLERK AHMAD: Application of Ekam
7 Singh Cattray for variance from provisions of
8 "GSS" Ordinance to convert (3) service bays
9 into a convenience store & waive off-street
10 parking - NORTH WOODMERE - South side of
11 Rosedale Avenue, 464 feet West of Park Lane.

12 ATTORNEY McKEVITT: Good Morning,
13 Supervisor Santino, Members of the Board:

14 For the Applicant, Thomas McKevitt,
15 Sahn, Ward, Coschignano. 333 Earle Ovington
16 Boulevard, Uniondale, New York.

17 Um, this actual premises is located at
18 928 Rosedale Road, um, in Valley Stream.

19 It is also sometimes considered to be
20 North Woodmere.

21 This premises has been the site of a
22 gasoline service station for, approximately,
23 forty years.

24 Um, the current operator had been in
25 control since 1995 and currently used as a

1 Shell station.

2 In 1988, this site was incorporated
3 into the Gasoline Service Station District of
4 the Town of Hempstead.

5 Um, at one time, there were three
6 automotive repair bays.

7 The applicant comes to the Board,
8 today, to convert those repair bays into a
9 convenience store.

10 Um, currently, one of those bays has
11 already been converted into a convenience
12 store.

13 The application, today, is to convert
14 the other two bays into a convenience store.

15 Um, if this application is granted,
16 there will no longer be any automotive
17 repairs at the premises which is currently at
18 this point.

19 I have photographs for the Board,
20 indicating the site and what the site looks
21 like, um, you know, certainly, the site to
22 the North is a Chase Bank, um, to the
23 northeast is a Gulf Service Station which
24 currently has four, um, operating automotive
25 repair bays.

1 So, there are automotive repairs in
2 the area, again, literally, directly across
3 the street from the current site.

4 Um, to the East of the site is a Key
5 Food Supermarket and to the West is Hook
6 Creek, you know, Hook Creek Boulevard.

7 There is, indeed a Hook Creek and
8 literally the Nassau/Queens border runs along
9 the western side of the premises.

10 And, there are some homes of the creek
11 and they are all located in Queens, New York,
12 in Queens County.

13 If you look at Exhibit Number 1, it
14 just, basically, shows a schematic.

15 We will not do any expansion of the
16 building whatsoever.

17 We are simply going to have a
18 convenience store within the - - excuse me,
19 the footprint of the current service station
20 and converting those bays.

21 Number 2, we will just show what the
22 floor plan will be.

23 It will be a very basic convenience
24 store.

25 There will be a walk-in cooler with

1 some items for food items, but there will be
2 no hot service of food.

3 It will simply be a service of
4 prepared items.

5 Um, we would like to be operating for
6 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

7 Um, there will be two employees at the
8 site at any one time, one at the convenience
9 store and one, obviously, assisting the
10 gasoline operation.

11 But, currently the site is a self-
12 service station, as well.

13 Um, we are not going to make any
14 changes to the gasoline station whatsoever.

15 There are currently two pump islands
16 that will remain as two pump islands.

17 We are not looking to install a canopy
18 or, again, change anything to the current
19 gasoline portion of the premises.

20 We are only looking to go and change,
21 um, the service bays to the convenience store
22 at this point.

23 We will be improving the landscaping
24 of the site.

25 We do know the - - we will make

1 Landscaping improvements to the site, as
2 well.

3 And, um, in addition, we will be
4 looking to serve alcohol at the premises.

5 We will be willing to covenant no
6 alcohol sold between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00
7 a.m., as well.

8 There is currently no generator
9 transfer switch, but, this Board does request
10 us to have a transfer switch for a backup
11 generator, if need be.

12 My client has indicated to me he will
13 certainly accommodate with that, as well.

14 Um, I do understand - -

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Do we see the
16 landscape plan, do you have that?

17 ATTORNEY McKEVITT: There is none but
18 we will provide one to the Board.

19 I will make sure my client provides
20 one.

21 We will provide it to the Board. The
22 landscaping, we will work with you so it is
23 adequate for your needs.

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That is an
25 important thing if you are going to change

1 the use of the service bays to a convenient
2 store, it seems like a good opportunity to
3 reconfigure the whole property and add
4 landscaping to beautify the premises.

5 So, I would ask that you sit down with
6 our Building Department and they work out
7 with you a landscaping plan that improves the
8 beautification of the community.

9 ATTORNEY McKEVITT: We will certainly
10 work with the Department and I think you will
11 find it more satisfactory and an improvement
12 to the site for the community.

13 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you.

14 ATTORNEY McKEVITT: Um, I do notice
15 there is a violation issued by the Building
16 Department.

17 If I go through them, I think we can
18 come to a satisfactory resolution.

19 One of them is for a plumbing permit
20 from 2012, sewer line.

21 My client says the work has been done
22 on the site sometime.

23 He believes it was inspected.

24 Um, it was just filled out. We will
25 make sure it is the case.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 There is no permit regarding the 1962,
2 four-thousand-gallon tank that was,
3 approximately, two tanks ago.

4 The current tanks on the site are
5 seven years of age.

6 The site is clean.

7 Obviously, when they put in new tanks
8 to make sure there was no leakage of any
9 product whatsoever, I will make sure that is
10 closed out, as well.

11 But, again, that tank is over fifty
12 years old and literally two tanks ago, when
13 that tank was done.

14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Was there an
15 environmental report done when you replaced
16 the tanks?

17 ATTORNEY McKEVITT: Yes.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You have
19 certification that the site is clean?

20 ATTORNEY McKEVITT: Yes, we have.

21 As a matter of fact, as you are aware,
22 when they do replacement of the tanks, the
23 Fire Marshall doesn't complete that out
24 unless you have a clean site, so - -

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You actually

1 have a certificate?

2 ATTORNEY McKEVITT: Yes.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Approved by the
4 Fire Marshall?

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5 ATTORNEY McKEVITT: Yes.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Of Nassau
7 County?

8 ATTORNEY McKEVITT: Yes. My client -
9 - by experience, the Fire Marshall will not
10 even let the possibility of putting up the
11 sign and opening up the pumps.

12 My client has assured me there is a
13 certificate and I have no doubt there is a
14 certificate just based on how things operate.

15 Obviously, there is a pylon sign from
16 the BZA that has expired.

17 We will take care of that, as well.

18 There had been a conversion of one of
19 the garage bays to the convenience store
20 which is why we are here, today to legalize
21 that and the further expansion from the site,
22 again, within the current footprint of the
23 building, not any change of the building
24 whatsoever.

25 Um, there is also an issue of

1 privacy fencing.

2 We will be fencing the property. We
3 will put privacy slats there, as well, in
4 order to comply with that.

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5 There is some indication of violation
6 of unregistered vehicles, sale of vehicles,
7 stored vehicles and an ice machine.

8 My client has actually given me
9 photographs this morning that show that all
10 those violations have been remedied.

11 I will give that to the Clerk.

12 If you go and look at the photograph,
13 it shows all the cars and vehicles and tires
14 and the site has been definitely cleaned up
15 not like my prior application where I had to
16 clean it up myself.

17 This client is good enough to clean it
18 up before I had to clean it up myself.

19 Um, so, that has been done.

20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You sound like a
21 full-service lawyer.

22 ATTORNEY McKEVITT: Um, it is amazing
23 how full service I get sometimes.

24 You have to roll up your sleeves
25 yourself and people save time when I do that

1 type of work.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Make sure you do
3 your work around the house for your wife.

4 ATTORNEY McKEVITT: First in line,
5 trust me.

6 Again, that is the application we
7 have.

8 Again, I think we already made some
9 improvements to the site.

10 We will bring a landscape plan to
11 further enhance the site and make it an asset
12 to the Valley Stream and Woodmere community.

13 If there are any questions, I will
14 answer them.

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Are there any
16 other questions from Members of the Board on
17 this matter, on this Public Hearing?

18 Okay, there is no one signed in from
19 the audience on this matter.

20 Is there anyone in the audience that
21 would like to speak on this Public Hearing?

22 (Whereupon, no response was heard.
23 After, the following ensued.)

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There being none,
25 thank you, Mr. McKevitt, I will accept a

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Motion.

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yes, Mr.

Supervisor, I move that the Hearing be closed and we reserve decision in order to give the applicant and Building Department time to formulate an adequate landscape plan and to assure that all violations are being remedied by this application or in the process of being remedied.

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Second.

CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-Sweeney?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay, Madam
3 Clerk, now, on the Administrative Calendar.

4 CLERK AHMAD: On the Administrative
5 Calendar, Supervisor, I have Items 1 through
6 33.

7 I also have three resolutions that are
8 of urgent nature to be added to this
9 calendar.

10 The first resolution is resolution to
11 authorize the Supervisor to execute an
12 application for funding for Barnum Isle
13 drainage improvement.

14 This will be Item 34 on the
15 Administrative Calendar.

16 The second resolution is a resolution
17 to authorize the Supervisor to execute an
18 application for funding for Atlantic Beach
19 Fire Rescue Building.

20 This will be Item 35 on the
21 Administrative Calendar.

22 The third resolution is a resolution
23 calling a Public Hearing on a Local Law to
24 enact a new Chapter 33 of the Code of the
25 Town of Hempstead to be entitled, "Mass

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 Mailings Restrictions."

2 This, Supervisor, will be Item 36 on
3 the Administrative Calendar.

4 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
5 much, Madam Clerk.

6 Do any of the Council Members wish to
7 sever any of the Items on the Calendar?

8 Councilman D'Esposito?

9 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Supervisor, I
10 wish to sever Item Number 23.

11 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Any other? Okay,
12 then, I will ask for a Motion.

13 We will move the Administrative
14 Calendar.

15 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I wish to
16 speak on Item Number 36 that we are proposing
17 - -

18 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: She will make a
19 Motion, first, then, we will hear comments on
20 that.

21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move
22 the Calendar with the exception of 23 to Item
23 number 36.

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there a
25 second?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I second the
2 Motion.

3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Supervisor,
4 I don't understand.

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5 Did we sever 34, 35 and 36?

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: No one said that.

7 We said Number 23.

8 So, now, we will hear from the Public
9 and, obviously, the Members of the Board can
10 make any statements that they want on the
11 Administrative Calendar, any individuals that
12 have signed in, now, this is everything
13 except Item Number 23 for thousands of you
14 out there, that is Wynsum Avenue Park.

15 This is Wynsum Avenue Park.

16 This is on the matters on the
17 calendar, so, we will begin with - -

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Supervisor -

19 -

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Martha Ann Brady?

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Mr. Supervisor,
22 may I make a suggestion; I understand there
23 is a lot of people to speak on Wynsum Avenue
24 - -

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you for

1 your suggestion.

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I haven't
3 finished.

4 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: No, I run the
5 meeting.

6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: There are a lot
7 of people, let them get out of here.

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Blakeman,
9 there are four speakers that want to talk
10 about items other than the Wynsum Avenue
11 item.

12 There are people that want to talk ab
13 out that and Wynsum Avenue has a lot of
14 people and it will take a lot longer.

15 In deference to these four people, I
16 think since I am running the meeting, we will
17 call these folks first.

18 We are going to start with Martha Ann
19 Brady.

20 MARTHA ANN BRADY: Martha Ann Brady.
21 5716 Mott Court, Uniondale.

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Yes, ma'am.

23 MARTHA ANN BRADY: I wish to speak on
24 this resolution providing a grant for the
25 Youth Services to the Uniondale Community

1 Council.

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay.

3 MARTHA ANN BRADY: Uniondale Community
4 Council provides afterschool services at
5 Northern Parkway and Lawrence Road and a
6 Summer Camp, also.

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7 And, it is vital to all of our youth
8 in our community that they have these
9 opportunities to interact with one another to
10 learn how to play, for, um, help with
11 schoolwork, etc.

12 And, although this grant is small, I
13 understand it is five thousand dollars, every
14 penny counts.

15 I have been almost a lifelong resident
16 of Uniondale and participated in afterschool
17 projects and other things within the Town.

18 And, I want to thank the Board for
19 approving this because it is necessary and we
20 have to take care of our children.

21 Thank you.

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you.

23 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I agree
24 with you.

25 I come to the programs and the kids

1 are really happy.

2 Thank you for coming and speaking
3 about the Uniondale program.

4 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay, thank you
5 very much.

6 Rori Gordon?

7 RORI GORDON:

8 Good Afternoon, Rori Gordon,
9 Hauppauge, New York.

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Yes?

11 RORI GORDON: Item Number 3.

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Yes?

13 RORI GORDON: Can you explain to me
14 how it works, a building is deemed in eminent
15 danger?

16 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay, Mr. Town
17 Attorney, do you want to explain the method.

18 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Essentially, the
19 Building Department has an Architect/Engineer
20 look at the premises that they believe will
21 be, um, structurally in peril and they get an
22 Engineer's Report and Architect's Report that
23 suggests that the building is in danger of
24 eminent collapse and that is how they do it.

25 RORI GORDON: Thank you.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 All of these buildings that are, here,
2 do they all have Engineer's Reports?

3 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes, if they are
4 being torn down, they all have reports.

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5 RORI GORDON: What is the name of the
6 Engineer that the Town uses?

7 Is it all the same or does it vary
8 from place to place?

9 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Why don't we have
10 - - Commissioner Rottkamp, do you want to
11 come up and address that question.

12 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Good Morning,
13 Supervisor and Members of the Town Board:

14 The current engineering firm that we
15 use is Kash and Associates which is located
16 in Hauppauge.

17 RORI GORDON: Okay, is the same
18 procedure followed if there is a fire?

19 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: Yes.

20 RORI GORDON: Okay, so, how does it
21 work when there is a fire, the Engineer comes
22 the next day or the day after and deems it is
23 - -

24 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: It depends on
25 the damage of the house.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 We are a complaint-driven Department.

2 When we receive a call in case of a
3 fire from the Fire Department, we will
4 respond at that time.

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5 It could be, you know, so it could be
6 twenty-four hours a day.

7 We would go there and our Code
8 Enforcement Officer would determine, um, how
9 much damage it was.

10 If it is not too bad, we will have a
11 board-up company board up the holes in the
12 property.

13 And, if it is severely bad, then, we
14 will bring an engineer in after that.

15 RORI GORDON: Okay, so, the Engineer
16 wouldn't be coming in until twenty-four
17 hours, forty-eight hours, is that correct?

18 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: No, that is
19 not correct.

20 RORI GORDON: Give me an idea what the
21 timeframe is.

22 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: If it is in
23 eminent danger and we need them out of there
24 at 3:00 o'clock in the morning, they will
25 come out there 3:00 o'clock in the morning.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 RORI GORDON: And, it would be
2 reported on any property that there was fire
3 damage that it happened.

4 It is not up to a person in the
5 Building Department.

6 It has to be done by an Engineer, it
7 is that correct?

8 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: If we are
9 going to demolish it.

10 RORI GORDON: All right.

11 Lastly, if there is a fire, that was
12 the situation, who would be the person that
13 goes out and does that?

14 Is it, um, Ray Schwartz, Roy Gunther
15 or is it yourself?

16 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: It is the
17 Inspector that is working at that time.

18 RORI GORDON: The way I read the law,
19 you, as a Commissioner, are doing all of
20 these jobs, which doesn't seem feasible.

21 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Or the
22 Commissioner's designee.

23 RORI GORDON: Okay, that is good for
24 me.

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you

1 very much.

2 It said, "maybe" on speaking, Donna
3 Casazza?

4 DONNA CASAZZA: Donna Casazza,
5 Hempstead, New York.

6 I am, here, on Number 13.

7 Thirteen is rescinding of a contract.

8 This contract, the opening bid was
9 done on June 22, 2017, so, I have a couple of
10 questions.

11 One, what was the date that the error
12 was discovered?

13 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Town
14 Attorney?

15 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Mr. Supervisor, I
16 think this is an IT contract and I will find
17 it.

18 Is someone here from IT?

19 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is Commissioner
20 Prim, here? You are. Come on up,
21 Commissioner.

22 DONNA CASAZZA: There were two bidders
23 on this bid.

24 You are rescinding it October 2nd.

25 When did you discover the error?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 COMMISSIONER ROTTKAMP: I don't think
2 this I.T. - -

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Conroy, the
4 Comptroller.

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5 COMPTROLLER CONROY: Supervisor, this
6 is a maintenance agreement for microfilm,
7 microfiche equipment.

8 There were two bidders. Dr. Freed was
9 the initial bidder that was awarded in error
10 the contract.

11 What happened, the bid was a series of
12 fee schedules, five different categories
13 about five items per category, simply put.

14 An error was made in the weighted
15 average calculation in awarding the bid.

16 What this is doing is rescinding that
17 bid and awarding to the second bidder,
18 Precision.

19 DONNA CASAZZA: Again, that wasn't my
20 question.

21 When was the error discovered?

22 COMPTROLLER CONROY: July.

23 DONNA CASAZZA: July, that is an
24 important date, July, okay.

25 Who discovered the error?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 Was it the second bidder?

2 COMPROLLER CONROY: The second bidder
3 reviewed and brought it to our attention and
4 we reviewed it and the second bidder was
5 correct and it was awarded to the second
6 bidder, again, it being Precision.

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7 It was an error in calculation, a
8 weighted average.

9 DONNA CASAZZA: What was the total
10 different in error between the first and the
11 second?

12 COMPROLLER CONROY: I don't have
13 those.

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I am sure we can
15 get that information.

16 DONNA CASAZZA: My second question is,
17 how long after the contract is opened, the
18 bid is opened must it be awarded?

19 COMPROLLER CONROY: I don't believe
20 there is a timeframe.

21 DONNA CASAZZA: Thirty days?

22 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Whatever is
23 reasonable to review the bids.

24 DONNA CASAZZA: Real quick, obviously
25 you got children here in carriages that

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 want to go to this other item.

2 The bottom line is I am not as bright
3 as you are, but, when I looked at the page
4 from June 22nd, on the Calendar and the dollar
5 amounts for opening bids and dollar amounts
6 that are showing up, today, I saw not one
7 change in difference, what was published in
8 the agenda and a resolution, so, to me I saw
9 no change.

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10 COMPTROLLER CONROY: I don't have that
11 in front of me.

12 I would have to review that.

13 DONNA CASAZZA: Okay.

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you.

15 Felix Procacci?

16 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. 1165
17 Barnes Street, Franklin Square, New York.

18 The first thing I would like to review
19 of the three added items on the
20 Administrative Calendar - -

21 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: You would like to
22 what, sir?

23 FELIX PROCACCI: Review of the items.

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Town
25 Attorney?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The first two have
2 to do with the Governor's Office of Storm
3 Recovery and they are Grants that are given
4 to the Town of Hempstead.

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5 We have to have the Grant contract
6 signed by October 10th.

7 If we do not, we lose eight million
8 dollars in New York State funding, so, that
9 is what those do.

10 The third resolution is the calling of
11 a Public Hearing for October 17th at 7:00 p.m.
12 on mass mailing restrictions.

13 FELIX PROCACCI: Okay.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Mr.
15 Procacci, I have a copy of that.

16 Alex is handing it out to everyone so
17 you fully understand what it says.

18 FELIX PROCACCI: Okay, thank you.

19 I would like to speak on the calling
20 of the Hearing for October 17th about the
21 preliminary budget and I am opposed to the
22 date of that and I oppose it for many
23 reasons.

24 I have a statement that explains those
25 reasons why I oppose that date.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 I oppose it, first, because it is
2 clear that some Members of the Town Board
3 have not been briefed on financial
4 information over the last year.

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5 Second, two weeks to review a budget
6 over four hundred million dollars is not
7 adequate.

8 Third, the public is not being given
9 the opportunity to comment on the tentative
10 budget.

11 There are Towns that allow residents
12 to comment on them and most importantly, the
13 Board has not met to discuss either the 2016
14 financial results nor have they met to
15 discuss how the 2017 financials are tracking
16 against the budget projections.

17 In this regard, discussion of the 2018
18 budget is premature.

19 In addition, neither the audit nor any
20 other 2016 financial documents have been
21 distributed to Town Board Members.

22 Even if they were distributed, today,
23 two weeks is not enough time to review a four
24 hundred and thirty million dollar budget.

25 Clearly, Supervisor Santino seems

1 to know about the 2016 financials.

2 He has been talking and even boasting
3 about them for the last five months.

4 The problem is no one outside of his
5 inner circle has seen these numbers.

6 It is important to note what
7 Supervisor Santino is claiming to be a budget
8 turnaround, his estimated numbers, it is
9 important for the public to know that budget
10 numbers and actual numbers are not always the
11 same.

12 For example, in October, 2015, the
13 Town reported it would be using eighteen
14 million dollars in reserve for the 2016
15 fiscal year.

16 Apparently, the estimated needs for
17 Fund Balance increased, 5 million dollars to
18 23.5 million after 2016 budget has passed.

19 So, things can change with budgeted
20 numbers.

21 In 2014, Deputy Town Comptroller
22 Michael Copiano told NEWSDAY the budget is
23 only a spending plan.

24 And, the Town could still see a surge
25 in the fourth quarter revenue or windfall

1 by the end of the year, referring to the 2015
2 budget projections.

3 A budget isn't a blueprint of what is
4 going to happen.

5 It is just an estimate or projection
6 of what may happen.

7 Supervisor Santino also fails to
8 mention that the revenue in 2016 excluding
9 revenue from debt was six million dollars
10 more than it was in 2015 while expenditures
11 remain virtually flat.

12 Supervisor Santino attributes his
13 budget turnarounds primarily to his budget
14 cuts.

15 In fact, revenue increases due to many
16 fee increases, he has voted for may have
17 contributed to the improved financial
18 outlook.

19 Supervisor Santino claimed on April
20 25th of this year that an independent audit
21 was formed while Comptroller Conroy claimed
22 it would not be completed until October 1st.

23 Supervisor Santino lied to the public.

24 Why should the public be convinced
25 about Supervisor Santino's budget turnaround

1 when his Administration puts out inconsistent
2 and false statements.

3 This year, Supervisor Santino
4 emphasized the need for the Board Members to
5 adequately disclose all their outside income,
6 at the same time, Supervisor Santino refuses
7 to disclose the financial documents that he
8 used to justify his success in the Town's so
9 called budget turnaround, which was
10 advertised at taxpayers' expense with no
11 documentation to back it up.

12 Therefore, for all the aforementioned
13 reasons, I opposed calling the preliminary
14 budget Hearing on October 17, 2017 until
15 adequate documentation can be distributed to
16 the Town Board Members and to the Public at
17 large.

18 Thank you.

19 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: You made a
20 good point.

21 I did not receive the audited
22 financials for 2016, um, we have not met
23 since October of 2016 to discuss the
24 financial results of the budget or anything.

25 I did meet with Mr. Conroy.

1 Thank you, Mr. Conroy for meeting with
2 me about ten days ago.

3 I do appreciate that but we have asked
4 for how we track, um, our budget versus what
5 we spent on 2017.

6 I was told we don't have a tracking
7 mechanism.

8 I asked a whole bunch of questions.

9 I was told we have a thirty-year-
10 outdated system that does not allow for
11 answering questions easily.

12 Um, so, I think you raised some really
13 good points.

14 I only found out yesterday afternoon
15 what happened in 2016.

16 I have no idea what happened in 2017
17 and, now, we are expected to vote on the 2018
18 budget.

19 FELIX PROCACCI: Yes.

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I think it
21 is very hard.

22 FELIX PROCACCI: Also, what Supervisor
23 Santino has been putting out in NEWSDAY.com,
24 these statements about the turnaround with
25 the five million dollar surplus, even though

1 the numbers that are on Open Book New York,
2 shows loss.

3 And, most importantly, there is an
4 official statement that I found on a
5 municipal bond website that was added just
6 recently by the Town subsequently on February
7 2nd, MOODY's downgraded the Town's underlying
8 credit rating from AA2 to AA3 and revised the
9 outlook from negative to stable.

10 Mr. Santino's advertising that as a
11 rating upgrade which it is not.

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
13 much, Mr. Procacci.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I am
15 responding to a resident's comments, um, my
16 understanding is that most recently we have
17 three rating downgrades in a row and we are
18 counting that as success.

19 It was outlook upgrade and to me that
20 is not overly honest when you talk about the
21 financial health of the Town if you have
22 three ratings of downgrades.

23 Talk about outlook upgrades, I think
24 that is inappropriate.

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay, we have,

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 now, called the roll on the Items, everything
2 but the item that was severed.

3 Call the roll, Madam Clerk. Call the
4 roll.

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5 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

7 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

8 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

9 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

11 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

13 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

15 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman

16 Goosby?

17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

18 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-

19 Sweeney?

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Actually,

21 I was trying to speak.

22 There are a couple of things I want to
23 talk about.

24 DONNA CASAZZA: There you go.

25 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Um, with

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 regarding to Item Number 36, recent news
2 reports have described developments in
3 neighboring municipalities where lawsuits are
4 being filed against them alleging that such
5 Town matters are blatantly political and in
6 violation of State Law.

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7 As we meet on October 17th to discuss
8 an adopt the 2018 Town Budget, it is
9 imperative that we show respect for the
10 taxpayers of the Town of Hempstead by
11 restricting these mailers thereby saving
12 taxpayers of the Town of Hempstead by
13 restricting these mailers, thereby saving
14 taxpayers money and said budget we must act,
15 now, to protect the Town from exposure from
16 costly lawsuits, save taxpayer money in our
17 upcoming budget through restriction of Town
18 mailers and give our residents complete
19 confidence that the Town is seriously trying
20 to influence the outcome of the Elections so
21 that is Number 36.

22 And, then, I did have a question about
23 Number 26 because I did want to speak.

24 Number 26 deals with personnel and
25 just because we haven't had a chance to meet

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 privately, I think maybe we have this
2 conversation in public.

3 I have reviewed our policies in the
4 Town of Hempstead and while they are good,
5 they also seem not to be working so well
6 because I had a Senior Member of the
7 Supervisor's staff who instructed my staff to
8 tell me to go "F" myself.

9 And, that was about a year ago and
10 there has been no investigation, to my
11 knowledge, conducted on that.

12 So, perhaps we need to have a
13 conversation about the harassment policy and
14 enforcement of those policies - -

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay.

16 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: - -

17 Considering a chance to speak earlier - -

18 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Is there a vote?

19 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I vote
20 yes.

21 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Very good.

22 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Except the
23 following Items on which I abstain, Items
24 11,12,14,15 and 16 as I continue to call for
25 real ethics reform.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Now, we are going
2 to call the residents wishing to speak on the
3 severed item, that is, now, pertaining to
4 Wynsum Avenue Park.

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5 So, just give me one moment, sorry,
6 Kevin Devlin.

7 And, just at the outset, there are,
8 obviously folks with opinions on both side of
9 this issue, I would ask that everyone's
10 opinion and voice be respected so everybody
11 give the speaker the courtesy of our
12 attention, so - -

13 KEVIN DEVLIN: Supervisor Santino and
14 the rest of the Town Board:

15 My name is Kevin Devlin. I am, for
16 the record, I am Legislative Assistant to
17 Senator John Brooks, Senate District 8.

18 Um, the Senator asked me, he is unable
19 to attend, today's meeting but asked me to
20 say a few words on his behalf.

21 "Dear Supervisor Santino and Town
22 Council Members:

23 "I am writing you to ask you to
24 support the children of Merrick, Let's Play,
25 11566 Project of the South Merrick Civic

1 Association.

2 "With your affirmative vote on
3 Administrative Calendar Item 23 at the Town
4 Board Meeting on October 3, 2017.

5 "For several years, now, families have
6 recognized the need of our playground
7 equipment at the Wynsum Avenue Park which is
8 presently only an open field with no
9 recreation amenities and the support of the
10 community's effort to transform this vacant
11 parkland into a playground easily accessible
12 to children.

13 "I am proud to inform one hundred
14 thousand dollars is available to the Town of
15 Hempstead in the form of a Grant administered
16 by a dormitory authority of the State of New
17 York and under the provisions of New York
18 State Law.

19 "These funds are to be used to
20 reimburse the Town for expenses related to
21 the development of the Park.

22 "It is my understanding additional
23 funds in the form of Nassau County Community
24 Revitalization Project, COP has been approved
25 as a response to requests made by

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 "Supervisor Santino to Nassau County.

2 "In addition, I have been advised that
3 Let's Play, 11566 raised, approximately,
4 twenty-five thousand dollars in extraordinary
5 community base funding efforts.

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6 "Government works best when elected
7 representatives come together in a bipartisan
8 fashion to benefit the taxpayers.

9 "It is in that bipartisan spirit that
10 I urge each of you to vote in favor and pass
11 Item Number 23 on behalf of the Let's Play
12 11566 Project without delay. Sincerely, John
13 Brooks, Senator."

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
15 much, sir.

16 Sharon Fields?

17 (Whereupon, "She had to put money in
18 the meter" was heard called out from the
19 audience. After, the following ensued.)

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Shawn Field?

21 SHAWN FIELD: Supervisor Santino and
22 entire Board - -

23 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Good Morning.

24 SHAWN FIELD: I have a letter that I
25 want to submit to for the record and I

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 dropped off 5 packets for each of you.

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Please give it to
3 the Clerk if you want it to be on the record.

4 SHAWN FIELD: I want to read it first.

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Fine.

6 SHAWN FIELD: So, from the
7 Inspector/Commanding Officer of Nassau County
8 Police Department and our concerns.

9 "Dear Mr. Santino, after conducting a
10 survey on the proposed addition of the
11 playground existing park located on the
12 corner of Lona Lane and Wynsum Avenue in
13 Merrick, over a three-year period, there has
14 only been on accident.

15 "There have been no crime reports at
16 the park.

17 "We think the addition of the
18 playground will enhance the community in a
19 positive way for the families and children
20 that live near it.

21 "Very truly yours, Thomas Corona,
22 Inspector and Commanding Officer, Nassau
23 County Police Department."

24 So, again, before I continue to speak

25 - -

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1 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Absolutely.

2 SHAWN FIELD: I want to say thank you
3 for coming a few weeks ago at the 911
4 ceremony at the train station in Merrick.

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5 My brother was Empire. I played on
6 the hockey team with all those guys.

7 I know it meant a lot to them to have
8 you there.

9 I have been to a lot of these meetings
10 to know that you don't get many people up
11 here saying "thank you" for anything that you
12 do but it truly meant a lot.

13 Thank you.

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you.

15 SHAWN FIELD: Now, the playground and,
16 again, we are not - - I saw a sign out there
17 that says, "No Wynsum Avenue Park."

18 It is a Town of Hempstead Park.

19 They are saying no to small children's
20 playground put into a Park.

21 So, we are not rezoning anything.

22 We are not asking for anything that
23 is, you know, has any special requirements.

24 A quick background to other Board
25 Members who may not be familiar with this

1 Project, we are proposing a children's
2 playground in an underutilized vacant three
3 acre lot in Merrick that is already zoned a
4 Park.

5 Over a year ago, the interests of the
6 children by Members of the immediate
7 community and the Town receiving overwhelming
8 response in favor of the playground and thus
9 notified that this project was approved by
10 the Supervisor.

11 At that time, we began fundraising - -
12 are you on the phone?

13 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I am just
14 sitting, here, sir.

15 SHAWN FIELD: At that time, again,
16 fundraising and gathering permission from the
17 Supervisor, even though this was approved, it
18 was funded exclusively from private
19 fundraising and Grants not taxpayer dollars.

20 We have raised a significant amount of
21 money from donations and fundraising and
22 secured seventy-five thousand dollars from a
23 community revitalization Grant from Nassau
24 County and one hundred thousand dollars State
25 Municipal Grant from New York State.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 The Supervisor and staff have been
2 working with our Legislators to come up with
3 a plan to utilize the Grant money and
4 privately raised funds to being construction
5 of the playground.

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6 Last week, we dropped off at Town Hall
7 information to provide you with some
8 background information on this project.

9 I thought it was important the seven
10 of you are going to vote on the signing of
11 this IMA that you deserve and the public, as
12 well, to have this information, since I only
13 know one of you who has ever set foot in the
14 Town of Hempstead Park.

15 In July, 2016, Supervisor Santino
16 formerly requested the funding of seventy-
17 five thousand dollars from a CRT Grant from
18 Nassau County.

19 In this letter, he wrote, "this
20 project is potentially enhancing parkland and
21 open space."

22 The County agreed to grant the IMA and
23 the IMA was sent to the Town in July of 2017.

24 Supervisor Santino provided our Civic
25 Association with a letter on May, 2017

1 stating his support of our fundraising
2 efforts and further enabled us to further our
3 fundraising goals.

4 Supervisor Santino and Council Board,
5 we have finally raised over twenty-five
6 thousand dollars.

7 Also, included in your packets are a
8 breakdown of this proposal and that is simply
9 for a small children's playground.

10 In that packet is an aerial of the
11 Park so you can see the size of the Park in
12 relation to the surrounding houses.

13 I also included a partial map of
14 Merrick from South of Merrick Road to
15 illustrate where the playground is located.

16 This was asked by Councilman Dunne
17 when I spoke to him last week.

18 You can see that South of Merrick Road
19 walking from your house near Wynsum Avenue
20 and Julian Lane Park with children is nearly
21 impossible.

22 All we are proposing is a small
23 children's playground similar in play as the
24 one we have on the other side on Merrick and
25 it is not costing the Town a single dime of

1 Taxpayer money.

2 Lastly, in your packets, an article
3 from Supervisor Santino swearing in on
4 January 5, 2016 where he said, "We should not
5 let kneejerk NIMBYism stifle proposed
6 projects that play a vital role in our Town's
7 future."

8 I know "NIMBY" was a new term to many
9 in our civic association, so, for the benefit
10 of us today and for the record, NIMBY is
11 acronym for "not in my backyard."

12 (Whereupon, the five minute bell rang.
13 After, the following ensued.)

14 SHAWN FIELD: They are the exact
15 definition of NIMBYism, um, to jump through
16 all these hoops - -

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Your time has
18 expired, so, if you can submit the rest as
19 part of the record.

20 Finish up, go ahead.

21 SHAWN FIELD: Why do we have to jump
22 through all the hoops?

23 Why does it have to come down to this?

24 Why did the Town of Hempstead Attorney
25 go door-to-door to the homes of people who

1 oppose this proposal to hand deliver a
2 calendar of today's events and tell them, you
3 need to show up today.

4 It wasn't every home in the area.

5 It was my parents' house which is
6 closest to the Park and some of the homes
7 that were visited by Bill Muller, even their
8 house was on your map.

9 I sat through enough of these meetings
10 and you say everything is posted online.

11 Why so, is there an offering procedure
12 for calendar items since we began the
13 discussion with the Town of Hempstead over
14 two years ago about this proposal?

15 We have done everything the right way.

16 We have done everything you and your
17 staff have asked of us to make this a
18 reality.

19 I don't know if what I said just, now,
20 has any effect on how, at least, you will
21 vote, today with the people who poured
22 countless hours into this project and the
23 numerous donors that I would do everything I
24 could when we leave, here, today.

25 I have no doubt everything you did

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 over the past two-plus years.

2 The time is here. Today is the vote.

3 We all have to ask ourselves what our
4 word is worth.

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: With all due
6 respect, that is a lot more than ten seconds.

7 Make it part of the record. We thank
8 you very much. We have a lot of people that
9 want to speak.

10 We will make it all part of the record
11 by giving it to the Clerk.

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is that true,
13 your Counsel went door-to-door?

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We are hearing
15 public comment, Mr. Blakeman.

16 David Tarp, resident David Tarp?

17 No, Mr. Tarp, okay.

18 Royce Winnick?

19 Good Morning, how are you?

20 Name and address for the record.

21 ROYCE WINNICK: My name is Royce
22 Winnick.

23 I live at 2758 Lincoln Boulevard,
24 Merrick.

25 I am in support of the Park.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 I have been in support of the Park for
2 the last two years since we have been trying
3 to get it.

4 I am here, today, to read some letters
5 from a resident that could not be here.

6 "Dear Supervisor Santino, I am writing
7 this letter to be submitted at the Town Hall
8 Meeting scheduled for 10:30.

9 "I am unfortunately unable to
10 participate given my work commitments and
11 want to ensure my support for the Wynsum Park
12 playground.

13 "It was recorded for full
14 consideration.

15 "I, now, have been a Member of this
16 community for five years.

17 "I have two children ages seven and
18 four and live within walking distance to the
19 green space for the intended Park.

20 "A Park would be a wonderful addition
21 for the community, as it would provide a
22 great place for the Merrick community and our
23 immediate neighbors to come together,
24 interact allowing for adults to network and
25 children to begin to build long-lasting

1 Friendships.

2 "A Park is also a great place to
3 promote physical activity in our children,
4 increasing health benefits and increasing
5 convenience for local neighbors as currently
6 there is no Park on the Wynsum/Hewlett
7 Peninsula for our children.

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8 "Additionally, I would like to voice
9 my extreme disappointment for the Town, it's
10 officials and the process relating to the
11 current status of the Park.

12 "Local residents, Let's Play 11566
13 with best intentions surveyed the
14 neighborhood over a year ago seeking to
15 understand whether the community at large
16 would support a Park at the proposed
17 location.

18 "Following overwhelming support, they
19 approached the Town to ensure appropriate
20 steps were taken to build at the Wynsum
21 location.

22 "The Town, subsequently, conducted its
23 own survey.

24 "Further, Town residents were largely
25 in favor of a Park.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 "Despite prior objections, the Town,
2 in a letter, signed by the Town Supervisor,
3 you, Mr. Santino, provided your support and
4 ongoing maintenance of a Park at the proposed
5 location as long as the Town was not
6 responsible for initial funding.

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7 "Upon approval from your office,
8 Members of Let's Play, 11566 were able to get
9 a Grant and raise enough money from Members
10 of the community, such as, myself, to fund
11 the Park.

12 "Now, that the money has been raised
13 and the community is ready to break ground,
14 it is my understanding that your office is
15 unwilling to release the Grant provided given
16 specific residents bordering the Park
17 objections.

18 "These objections, as I heard at the
19 last Town Hall Meeting, as we have previously
20 heard and I do not understand what has
21 changed and why your office is flipflopping
22 on the decision that was already made.

23 "The Park is not for a select few who
24 live closest to the Park.

25 "We all pay taxes and those taxes go

1 for its upkeep.

2 "The taxpaying community has voted.

3 "The Town sustained that the vote
4 through the letter you drafted and signed.

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5 "I, now, ask you to honor your
6 commitment and allow the community to
7 proceed."

8 I have another letter I would like to
9 read.

10 "Dear Supervisor Santino, I am writing
11 this letter to be submitted on record in
12 support of the Wynsum Avenue Park Playground
13 Project.

14 "Although I am unable to attend the
15 meeting on Tuesday, I would like my support
16 for this project to be noted.

17 "I moved here with my husband and
18 children two years ago.

19 "We relocated from Manhattan so our
20 children would have a place to run around to
21 play and I truly believe that a Park on our
22 block would make a great addition to the
23 neighborhood and give our children a chance
24 to do that.

25 "Currently, we have to drive or walk

1 "to get to the closest Park.

2 "I strongly believe that parents would
3 be so grateful to have a playground in
4 walking distance. Thank you for your time in
5 this matter.

6 "I really believe if this Park is
7 built, you will be making a tremendous
8 difference in the lives of the families that
9 live in the neighborhood."

10 "Lauren Sherer.

11 "Dear Supervisor Santino, we are
12 writing this letter to be submitted on record
13 in support of the Wynsum Avenue Playground
14 Project.

15 "Due to work commitments, we are
16 unable to attend the Town Hall Meeting on
17 October 3rd.

18 "We recently purchased a home in
19 Merrick and part of the reason we elected to
20 do so was the recognition that this
21 neighborhood was filled with young families.

22 "So many people we have met believe in
23 this community and seek opportunities to meet
24 each other and come together to form a strong
25 neighborhood that will benefit us and our

1 "children for years to come.

2 "Many of us have moved to the
3 community due to the fact that the children
4 in our neighborhood do not have a playground
5 to accommodate us.

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6 "It seems like the empty lot off
7 Wynsum Avenue is such a place for a
8 playground to exist.

9 "Our children do not have access as
10 all the other communities surrounding.

11 "While we understand we have a lovely
12 neighborhood as it is, we also prefer a
13 simple playground would enrich the lives of
14 our children.

15 "We have gathered for meetings and
16 raised funds and raised awareness for this
17 cause.

18 "We have done so because we strongly
19 believe that this playground would be a great
20 asset to our community.

21 "We thank you for your time and your
22 tremendous service to the Town of Hempstead
23 and hope your help to see this project
24 through to its completion. Jennifer
25 Missone."

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.
2 After, the following ensued.)

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
4 much.

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5 Do you want to give them to the Clerk
6 to make them part of the record.

7 Paul Goodman?

8 Name and address for the record, sir?

9 PAUL GOODMAN: Paul Goodman. 3016
10 Wynsum Avenue, directly sharing the gates
11 with the Wynsum Avenue parking lot.

12 So, I guess it is fair to say, I am
13 not for the Park.

14 We had a meeting not too long ago, it
15 was a South Civic, South Merrick neighborhood
16 volunteer meeting where the items were
17 discussed and I took an approach at that
18 meeting, not trying to convince others that
19 they should be for the Park or against the
20 Park because it is pretty clear that you have
21 a lot of people that are coming to - - coming
22 up, here and ae for the Park.

23 And, regardless of where they live or
24 anything like that, people want to have a
25 voice.

1 And, then, you will find that people
2 who are going to come up here and are against
3 the Park.

4 So, as far as letters and emails and
5 things like that, from what I heard, it is
6 pretty clear, a very large pile of letters
7 that are "for" the Park and there are a very
8 large pile of letters that are "against" the
9 Park.

10 So, getting passed that, I never
11 realized before that, the thought, the
12 feeling that the parents of South Merrick
13 were so, you know, feeling so, I guess,
14 jipped by not having a Park in walking
15 distance.

16 There are plenty of Parks in our
17 neighborhood.

18 There are Parks as what we referred to
19 as the other Peninsula that you will hear
20 from.

21 There is a large, beautiful Park down
22 by Newbridge Road.

23 There is a Park by a school.

24 There is a Park called Julian Lane.

25 There are plenty of Parks.

1 On top of that, we have backyards
2 where many of us have swing sets.

3 Again, I never realized until today,
4 how the parents, children of the South
5 Merrick community are missing anything in
6 life without having a particular Park that
7 they consider they can walk to.

8 But, this is America, people can fight
9 for things that they want, so be it.

10 One of the things that we mentioned in
11 the South Civic Meeting was that we were
12 going to have an amicable collection of minds
13 that would come together and say what can we
14 do to get on the same page.

15 And, yes, of course, those of us that
16 are surrounded by the Park, sharing a fence
17 with the Park, yes, we are probably the
18 loudest voices that are against the Park.

19 We will be affected by the Park.

20 What will the affects be?

21 We don't know.

22 Nobody can know and that probably is
23 part of the fear of exactly what it will be
24 like to put a Park in there.

25 Will the parking exceed what the

1 limits on parking are?

2 Will people continue to speed as
3 children are crossing the street?

4 A lot of people brought up Stop signs.

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5 I personally can tell you, I could
6 care less about Stop signs. Everybody in
7 South Merrick pretty much rolls up anyway.

8 They don't come up to much of a stop.

9 It is really the fear of the unknown.

10 What to do about noise?

11 Is the parking going to be maintained?

12 Things of that nature.

13 So, what we decided to do, we decided
14 to - - we agreed with, you know, those that
15 are head of the Park, we would take some
16 time.

17 We would get together and come to an
18 amicable solution.

19 Can we agree to do something together
20 and I believe that we left that meeting
21 shaking hands and saying that we can do that.

22 Now, we fast forward to, now and
23 whatever the correct term is, the item has
24 been put on to the calendar, so, we are,
25 here, talking about it, today.

1 But, we have missed the opportunity to
2 sit as we wanted to sit. Speak
3 intelligently, professionally, amicably and
4 say what can we do, together as a community,
5 so, that people can be as close to everyone,
6 being as happy as possible.

7 We have not had that chance, however
8 many days ago.

9 All of a sudden, we got messages and
10 memos and social media bites saying, if you
11 want your voice to be heard, you are,
12 basically, in the 9th inning.

13 You are in the bottom of the 9th and
14 there are two outs. This is your chance to
15 say something.

16 Well, I would like to have that
17 opportunity to leave this room, have this
18 discussion tabled for a future date so that
19 we can speak to the neighbors that are
20 touching the Park that would be most affected
21 by the Park and see if we can figure this out
22 together.

23 And, I know that I can speak for - - I
24 will call them "the leaders," of Let's Play,
25 11566, you know they are willing to do that

1 but it seems that we simply have run out of
2 time.

3 This, you know, IMA is a term that I
4 recently learned about, is, apparently, under
5 a clock and we have to leave this room with a
6 decision.

7 Let's come up with a decision that we
8 can leave this room that says we are going to
9 take a listen.

10 We are going to allow the community to
11 discuss this together and we maybe can come
12 back, here and figure something new out.

13 Thank you.

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you, sir.

15 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
16 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aaron Goldsmith?
18 Aron Goldsmith? Name and address for the
19 record, sir.

20 AARON GOLDSMITH: Aaron Goldsmith.
21 2174 Vine Drive, Merrick, New York.

22 Good Morning. I live at the
23 intersection of Motor Drive and Vine Drive,
24 which is at the South entrance of this Park.

25 I oppose the Park.

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1 However, I will also note with Mr.
2 Goodman, that he and I did attend that
3 meeting this past weekend, in an attempt to
4 try to litigate some of our concerns.

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5 I do also feel that there can be and
6 should be further attempts to do that but,
7 let me run through the concerns that I have.

8 As I said, I live directly across the
9 street from this Park.

10 I have three young children, so, my
11 children are at an age where it is
12 appropriate for them to play in a playground.

13 There are going to be a number of
14 individuals who are opposed of this Park, who
15 I expect you will hear saying that everything
16 was honky dory for the last year and a half
17 until, now.

18 The fact of the matter is, as I have
19 expressed to some more reasonable individuals
20 who are proponents that there was very
21 limited Notice to any of us.

22 And, we can all on both sides blames
23 whether it was the Supervisor's office or
24 whether it was King-Sweeney's Office for
25 failing to respond.

1 However, that is, it helps none of us.

2 What does is the opportunity to
3 continue to work and rather than focusing on
4 everything was fine because the lack of
5 Notice and public discourse over the previous
6 eighteen months has been evident, I think, to
7 almost everyone on both sides.

8 My concerns are as follows:

9 Traffic and public safety are of the
10 utmost concern.

11 This is a Park. On the northern
12 entrance has a blind curve to it, in which
13 numerous vehicles on a daily basis in which
14 the vast majority of the proponents, none of
15 whom live surrounding the Park could be able
16 to tell you how many cars daily I see there.

17 I do think there should be more
18 traffic control devices, such as, Stop signs,
19 particularly at the intersection of where I
20 live.

21 It is a three-point intersection.

22 It does not have a Stop sign on any
23 street.

24 And, it is situated immediately at the
25 South entrance of this Park where presumably

1 if this measure passes, there will be a large
2 population of young children entering and
3 exiting.

4 There are alternatives.

5 There is a playground, a large
6 playground development on Julian Lane Park.

7 There is a playground development at
8 Lakeside Elementary School.

9 There is a playground development at
10 the Newbridge Road Park.

11 There is a playground development at
12 the Birch School.

13 All of these playground developments
14 lie situated within one and a half to 1.8
15 miles of this Wynsum Avenue field.

16 There are plenty of options.

17 These areas are close. They are even
18 close enough where my son will soon be twelve
19 where we actually use to ride our bikes at
20 the Julian Lane Park.

21 In addition, there is, from my
22 understanding and I don't stand here to say
23 even for a heartbeat that we as those who
24 live directly surrounding the Park deserve
25 some sort of super majority or super veto

1 or anything of that nature, it is also my
2 understanding that historically speaking,
3 that the Town of Hempstead has not approved
4 any similar park development where the
5 individuals who are most impacted, directly
6 impacted being the people who immediately
7 surround the Park are all those - - even if
8 there had been one or two individuals that
9 immediately surround the Park were in favor,
10 that is still not an accurate reflection.

11 This is the vast of all the
12 individuals that immediately surround the
13 Park or both.

14 There are others who oppose, that live
15 further out.

16 There are others that support this
17 that live further out.

18 Time is not of the essence in this
19 case.

20 We have been told and I know Mr.
21 Goodman took the opportunity to meet at
22 Councilwoman King-Sweeney's house this
23 evening weekend of the leaders of the
24 proposition to ask why it had to be done so
25 quickly, was there a hard and vast deadline

1 to this funding in the IMA.

2 The answer is simply no.

3 This is a political-base assumption on
4 the part of the proponents.

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5 I am running out of time. I have ten
6 seconds.

7 I ask for the courtesy of a few
8 seconds more.

9 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Just a few.

10 AARON GOLDSMITH: Most importantly, I
11 also happen to feel - - I will wait for the
12 buzzer.

13 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.
14 After, the following ensued.)

15 AARON GOLDSMITH: The Park is zoned
16 duly as a Park but it is also zoned as a
17 wildlife conservation, which, I believe,
18 presents a more significant hurdle than
19 people are willing to give credit for and I
20 do have copies for every one of the local
21 zoning to make part of the record.

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
23 much.

24 AARON GOLDSMITH: There is another
25 option that does satisfy the concerns of

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 Public Safety for the local residents.

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Can you, please,
3 rap up.

4 AARON GOLDSMITH: Supervisor, there is
5 a similar filed three blocks away on a far
6 less populated street, far less traveled with
7 one point of ingress and egress and
8 presumably pose far less of a threat for
9 children entering and exiting into traffic.

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you.

11 AARON GOLDSMITH: And, I do hope
12 whatever happens beyond, today, the parties
13 as neighbors can try to go forward.

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you.

15 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
16 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Kathryn Stone?
18 Kathryn Stone?

19 KATHRYN STONE: Hi, my name is Kathryn
20 Stone. 2087 Birchwood Lane, Merrick, New
21 York.

22 I am here, today, as a resident of
23 Merrick to not only put on the record the
24 undeniable support for Wynsum Avenue
25 Playground Project but to ask the question

1 why?

2 Why are we having doubts that we are
3 all here to vote on today is not going to be
4 unanimous, in favor.

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5 Why do I question, you, Mr. Santino on
6 your ability to follow through with your
7 request for funding for this project?

8 The only way that this project was
9 able to secure funding from Nassau County was
10 with your written request.

11 So, why?

12 Why am I skeptical that you will not
13 be voting in favor for something that you
14 asked for?

15 We began the project with a single
16 petition reaching out to the residents in our
17 area to see who would be in favor of having a
18 playground on a piece of land that belongs to
19 all of us.

20 We were presented with the
21 information.

22 The Town felt that they needed to hear
23 voices of those closest to the proposed area.

24 The Town chose the homes that you felt
25 would be impacted the most and ask for their

1 side.

2 Of those homes, the majority of them
3 voted in favor of the project.

4 With that information, addition was
5 made.

6 You gave us your full support in
7 raising funds for this project at no cost to
8 the taxpayer, happily provide the land and
9 maintenance if we can fund it.

10 What has made you second guess to
11 voices of the people of the homes around the
12 Park?

13 I believe there is an answer.

14 I put on the line my time away from my
15 family, my money and my reputation as a
16 Community Member so to help support this
17 project.

18 I hope with today's vote, you will all
19 honor your word to us and vote in favor for
20 the playground at Wynsum Avenue.

21 Thank you for your time. I do have
22 three minutes left.

23 So, I would like to read some other
24 letters in support, particularly from an
25 eight year old third greater.

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1 "Dear to whom it may concern: We
2 should build a Park for many reasons.

3 "One reason we should build a
4 playground is because it is just a lot more
5 fun to walk into a Park with things to do,
6 such as a playground, a swing set, a chance
7 to ride our bikes, a path to walk on.

8 "Another reason we should build a
9 Park, there, is if you are bored one day and
10 you want to go to the Park, it would be much
11 closer so the kids living near Julian Lane
12 can go there and people closer can go to this
13 one.

14 "Neither Park will be so crowded. I
15 have been to Julian Lane.

16 "I had to wait a very, very long time
17 for the swings.

18 "Kids on the North peninsula should
19 have Parks closer to their homes, maybe we
20 wouldn't be on our street so much if we had a
21 fun place to play.

22 "The final reason we should have a
23 Park is because walking there could be a fun
24 thing to do with family and friends.

25 "You can ride your bike and

1 "have such a fun time.

2 "Now, let's do it.

3 "No, let's build a Park. Sincerely,
4 Saddie Laffey, Age 8"

5 There is another letter from Lea and
6 Richie Berman. 3421 Hewlett Avenue, Merrick,
7 New York.

8 "Dear Supervisor Santino, we are
9 writing this letter to be submitted on record
10 as support in favor of the Wynsum Avenue Park
11 Playground Project.

12 "Due to work commitments, we are
13 unable to attend the Town Board Meeting but
14 would like to have our chance to have our
15 support to be recorded.

16 "We have lived in Merrick for forty
17 years where we still reside, today and we
18 raised three wonderful children in this Town.

19 "Two have returned and purchased homes
20 in Merrick for their own families.

21 "As you are aware, there are no
22 children's playgrounds in Hewlett/Wynsum
23 Peninsula in South Merrick.

24 "We are now at the time and age that
25 we want to enjoy the company of our seven

1 "grandchildren.

2 "There is no greater joy for a
3 grandparent than to take our grandchildren to
4 the Park and watch them have the time of
5 their lives.

6 "Our grandchildren love to jump, run
7 and play but there are playground structures
8 close by for us to take them to playgrounds.

9 "Parks are a wonderful addition to the
10 community and helped us develop friendships
11 many years ago, many of who we are still
12 friends with today.

13 "Children bring others together and
14 create such joy in this World we live in.

15 "Having a playground in the current
16 space would be a great addition to our
17 neighborhood, benefit our children, our
18 grandchildren and many families for many,
19 many years to come.

20 "We fully support the creation of a
21 playground on Wynsum and hope it can be
22 approved, built and enjoyed before our
23 grandchildren are too old to enjoy it.

24 "Thank you for all you have done to
25 improve the Town of Hempstead thus far.

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1 "Regards, Lea and Richie Berman."

2 "Casey Stone, 3230 Wynsum Avenue.

3 Dear Supervisor Santino, I am writing this
4 letter to be submitted on record, as I am in
5 support of the Wynsum Avenue Playground,
6 since I am unable to make the Hearing
7 tomorrow.

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8 "As a result of work, I am very
9 disappointed to hear that there is potential
10 for this project not to come to fruition.

11 "I personally devoted both time and
12 money to this project with the expectation
13 that we would have a Park in the Wynsum
14 Peninsula.

15 "The community Park is a great place
16 for children and adults in the community to
17 socialize and meet people.

18 "My husband and I have been living in
19 Merrick for less than two years and we want
20 nothing more than for our sons to have a safe
21 community space.

22 "Julian Lane is two blocks away - -

23 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.
24 After, the following ensued.)

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Finish, then

1 submit the rest to the Clerk.

2 KATHRYN STONE: - - "Not feasible.

3 Many of the children without things to do
4 during the day if they don't have someone who
5 can drive them to the Park.

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6 "On my days off, I only seen some of
7 the nannies and grandparents bring children
8 to this Park.

9 "Wouldn't it be great to have a
10 playground to play on?

11 "Right, now, the empty lot is serving
12 no purpose in our community, nothing than
13 having uncultivated space.

14 "Bring the community together and
15 allow our children to lead healthy lives
16 rather than being forced to stay inside and
17 play on IPADS and watch T.V.

18 "It is my sincere hope that you will
19 make the right decision. Thank you for your
20 support. Sincerely, Casey Stone."

21 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
22 much and please submit the rest of the
23 letters to the Clerk.

24 Mr. Louis Gossert?

25 Good Afternoon.

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1 LOUIS GOSSERT: Good Afternoon.

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Name and address
3 for the record.

4 LOUIS GOSSERT: Louis Gossert. 2128
5 Iona Lane, um, I live directly across from
6 the Park on Wynsum.

7 I strongly oppose any possible
8 creation of a playground in this Park and I
9 will explain why.

10 Being a resident for over twenty-two
11 years, raising four children, I never felt
12 the need or a void to have any playground
13 equipment in this Park.

14 This is a busy intersection with young
15 drivers often speeding around the corners.

16 Since this Park is on a corner, there
17 are many turns adjacent to the Park.

18 Iona Lane and Wynsum Avenue - - Iona
19 Lane and Vine Drive are busy corners.

20 Many people use Wynsum Avenue as a
21 thoroughfare to Merrick Road.

22 I have witnessed many disturbing
23 instances where safety was in jeopardy.

24 Before any thought to move forward on
25 this, the thirty homeowners on the perimeter

1 of this field need to be heard and
2 considered.

3 I have spoken to many homeowners in
4 the adjoining area to the Park and most
5 display strong opposition, mostly because of
6 the added activity it would create.

7 We are directly affected by this, by
8 our property values and the right to quiet
9 enjoyment and safety.

10 The Park is currently used for various
11 activities.

12 Little League has practices there,
13 families gather, elderly people relax on the
14 benches, just to name a few.

15 It is not as if the space is dormant
16 as many have said.

17 It is currently used by the residents
18 of Merrick.

19 Action group, Let's Play, 11566 has
20 had a petition signed by most residents that
21 don't live anywhere near this Park, some of
22 them are from other Towns.

23 The zip code, "11566," encompasses
24 many miles.

25 Anyone would sign a petition to have

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1 a playground for their young children not
2 really considering all the risks involved.

3 I don't blame them on this.

4 All these people are considering is
5 that they have another Park to choose from in
6 the area.

7 A full safety study of the area must
8 be done by the Town of Hempstead and not rely
9 on a letter from a local police precinct
10 stating that no crime or accidents have yet
11 to take place.

12 In fact, I had an accident on that
13 corner of the Park this past Summer and I did
14 not report it to the police.

15 There are playgrounds and swings,
16 monkey bars at Birch, Chatterton, Bebe,
17 Lakeside and Julian Lake Park.

18 All are centrally located for Merrick
19 families that live near these areas.

20 There are also other Parks on
21 Clubhouse Road and Elliot Drive.

22 The community does not have any
23 shortage of play areas.

24 I am disappointed by our elected
25 officials that have jumped on board in favor

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1 of this proposal without first considering
2 the safety issues and the homeowners who are
3 directly affected.

4 Thank you very much.

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you.

6 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
7 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Anthony
9 Capetola, Anthony Capetola?

10 Good Afternoon, name and address for
11 the record.

12 ATTORNEY CAPETOLA: Anthony Capetola.
13 2-C Hillside Avenue, Williston Park, New
14 York.

15 Sitting behind me is - - sitting next
16 to me, excuse me, is Stephanie Ovadio.
17 (Phonetic spelling)

18 We are both Attorneys. We represent,
19 um, several of the, um, people affected by
20 the Park issue, specifically, the
21 Matcotullios that live at 3031 Wynsum Avenue,
22 Clare and Eric Kasdorf that live at 3037
23 Wynsum.

24 These are directly across from the
25 Wynsum Avenue and entrance of the Park.

1 We also represent Patty Emerson that
2 lives on the other side.

3 We are vehemently opposed on behalf of
4 these three families to the Park being
5 approved by the Board.

6 We feel after listening to the
7 presentation by many of the citizens, I
8 don't want to rehash things that have been
9 said, but, there are five Parks in a one mile
10 radius of the area.

11 Our clients, each, were allegedly the
12 subject of a survey which they voted
13 according to the survey in favor of this Park
14 that is erroneous.

15 None of them voted in favor of the
16 Park on the survey.

17 They were, subsequently, pursued by
18 Town people, informed the Town people that
19 they were opposed where it was indicated "in
20 favor" of this.

21 Our clients, also feel as with regard
22 to this particular Wynsum Avenue because of
23 the curve of the roadway, that there is
24 substantial danger that the police precincts
25 offer to the Town that this is a road-

1 accident-free zone is erroneous.

2 We have with us a number of pictures
3 showing that the fences in this area along
4 Wynsum have been hit by cars over the years.

5 Police reports have not been made.
6 Our clients' cars have been hit. They wake
7 up in the morning, find them hit by cars.

8 They believe additional traffic from
9 people going to the Park will further congest
10 this area.

11 Parking in the area without relying on
12 their driveways and other areas that ingress
13 and egress to permit parking and this will
14 create a parking hazard.

15 I would like Stephanie Ovadio to
16 present to the Court - - to the Board and
17 give a brief explanation as she goes along.

18 ATTORNEY OVADIO: I would like to talk
19 about the maintenance.

20 Most Parks, as you know, require a lot
21 of maintenance, once you put playgrounds in.

22 This is for the safety of our
23 children.

24 Children do crazy things and you also
25 have to maintain these Parks and make sure

1 that they are safe because that is really the
2 bottom line is the safety of our children
3 with playgrounds.

4 I want to show you - -

5 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: One
6 second, we maintain Parks throughout all of
7 the Town of Hempstead.

8 I just worked on a Park for about two
9 years in Point Lookout.

10 It is beautifully maintained.

11 ATTORNEY OVADIO: I am sure it is.

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: let's her from
13 the Counsel, go ahead.

14 ATTORNEY OVADIO: I would like to show
15 you, at least, photos, the Parks current
16 state.

17 It is, first of all, the first photo I
18 would like to show you, shows the fence in
19 its current condition.

20 You can notice that this fence is
21 lifted up.

22 I don't know how that happened.

23 It could have been a car coming up on
24 the side of the road, that is possible.

25 It could have been a number of things,

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1 but this is not a fence that is in good
2 repair.

3 I hope you can see it from up there.

4 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Please, make it
5 part of the record.

6 ATTORNEY OVADIO: I will, absolutely.

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: That issue
8 came up at the last civic meeting and we will
9 absolutely ask the Commissioner of Parks to
10 replace and upgrade the fence.

11 ATTORNEY OVADIO: When was the last
12 civic meeting?

13 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: It was
14 sometime last week.

15 ATTORNEY OVADIO: Well, because I was
16 there yesterday, these pictures were taken
17 yesterday.

18 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: It was
19 just last week we had the meeting.

20 ATTORNEY OVADIO: I am just showing it
21 has not been repaired.

22 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I wouldn't
23 expect it in a week to be replaced.

24 ATTORNEY OVADIO: Okay, okay, I also
25 want to show there is holes in the fence.

1 I don't know how it happened but there
2 are actually holes in the fence.

3 Also, I don't know what this is. This
4 might have been the repair, some of the
5 repairs, maybe.

6 This looks like to me a shower
7 curtain.

8 ATTORNEY CAPETOLA: You can't see it,
9 it is essentially someone erected cyclone
10 fencing over the existing cyclone fencing
11 without properly fixing it.

12 It is just laid over.

13 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: We should
14 get a new fence there.

15 ATTORNEY CAPETOLA: You can do a lot
16 of things on an ongoing basis.

17 It is going to cost the Town a
18 fortunate and once you start that process of
19 getting the initial funding in place, the
20 ongoing maintenance and the liability that
21 will continue to incur for maintenance and
22 for accidents that may incur at that facility
23 - -

24 Let me finish, ma'am, the accidents
25 that will occur at the facility will make

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1 Insurer and that, in this case, is the Town's
2 responsibility.

3 We are just showing and we are - - I
4 don't' want to be attacked.

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5 I am trying to show you the condition
6 of the site as it presently exists.

7 Our clients, all who live directly
8 across from this are most affected by it are
9 extremely agitated by the additional traffic
10 that this will cause them and the addition of
11 cars in the area.

12 There are five other Parks within one
13 mile of this Park.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Can I get
15 a word in.

16 ATTORNEY CAPETOLA: No, I am not done.

17 I am not done. Our clients - -

18 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Counselor, go
19 ahead.

20 ATTORNEY CAPETOLA: Our clients have
21 had the opportunity to observe what goes on
22 the street and they do not wish to have this
23 here.

24 The Park can be used for other things
25 as it currently stands; touch football games,

1 Wiffle ball, things of that type but the
2 liability that the Town will incur on an
3 ongoing basis is unfeathered.

4 It will continue because you are
5 personally insured.

6 The Town is personally insuring these
7 liabilities.

8 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
9 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY:

11 Supervisor, I would like to respond to that.

12 We are in full agreement that the
13 fence needs to be replaced, updated, fixed,
14 whatever is required.

15 I think that is a separate issue.

16 I am fully in support of the fence
17 being fixed.

18 There is no question there, as far as
19 liability.

20 We had the Point Lookout Park that I
21 worked on.

22 It was the same scenario.

23 We received County funding from
24 Legislator Ford, just like we are receiving
25 County funding from Legislator Rose.

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1 It is the same situation.

2 The insurance issue is, now, raised at
3 the eleventh hour.

4 This is new. We have not discussed
5 this before.

6 ATTORNEY CAPETOLA: Excuse me - -

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: No, no, I
8 - -

9 ATTORNEY CAPETOLA: Don't tell me.
10 You should have.

11 (Whereupon, calling out from the
12 audience was heard. After, the following
13 ensued.)

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Please, the
15 audience, we will retain all good order.
16 Thank you very much.

17 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Regarding
18 the insurance issue, this has been worked
19 with our Attorneys, the Town of Hempstead and
20 with Nassau County and this is - -

21 (Whereupon, calling out from the
22 audience was heard. After, the following
23 ensued.)

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We will maintain
25 order. Everyone will have their opportunity,

1 so, let me suggest - -

2 (Whereupon, calling out from the
3 audience was heard. After, the following
4 ensued.)

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Sir, sir, sir,
6 sir, we need to maintain good order.

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: We can
8 have a different opinion on how insurance can
9 be handled.

10 My point is there has never been an
11 objection raised as to how we are handling
12 the insurance, the insurance issue.

13 I just received a text from Legislator
14 Rose has been worked out with the Town and
15 the County.

16 It is the same way it has been handled
17 with other situations, that is what I am
18 saying.

19 What is the difference?

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
21 much, Councilwoman.

22 Jay Ragoff?

23 Let's hear from Jay Ragoff.

24 JAY RAGOFF: Good Afternoon. Jay
25 Ragoff. 2757 Shore Drive, Merrick, New York.

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1 So, I would like to start off today by
2 reading a letter from Steve Rhodes, who was
3 not able to be here this morning.

4 "Dear Supervisor Santino and Members
5 of the Board: I am writing to respectfully
6 express my support with the intermunicipal
7 agreement with the Town of Hempstead and
8 County of Nassau regarding the partial
9 financing for the proposed installation of
10 the Wynsum Avenue Park through the Nassau
11 County Revitalization Program, CRP funds.

12 "As the County's representative for
13 the Merrick Community, I was excited when I
14 was approached by the South Merrick Civic
15 Association and leaders of Let's Play 11566
16 about their grassroots efforts to install
17 play equipment at Wynsum Avenue Park.

18 "As a resident of Bellmore, just a few
19 houses down from the Town's Renulane Park, I
20 understand and have lived the benefits of a
21 neighborhoods play area within walking
22 distance of the homes in our community and
23 believe it would be a wonderful addition to
24 the Merrick community, to which, would be
25 enjoyed for many years to come.

1 “The proposal, itself, is well thought
2 out and the community efforts at fundraising
3 ability to maintain land commitments from
4 both the County and State to raise collective
5 two hundred thousand dollars to both design,
6 installation of the playground is an
7 extraordinary display of the community’s
8 support.

9 “In recent weeks, a few members of the
10 community immediately surrounding the Park
11 have raised very legitimate concerns and
12 questions regarding the proposal’s potential
13 impact upon traffic, parking and safety for
14 both the users of the playground and
15 surrounding residents.

16 “I have had the opportunity to speak
17 and meet with several of these homeowners and
18 remain confident that many of those concerns
19 can be addressed in a way to alleviate them
20 before the project moves forward.

21 “The timing of this agreement,
22 however, is important to address the Town’s
23 concerns with traditional CRP financing,
24 reimbursed on retroactive basis.

25 “I have secured a commitment from the

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 "County Executive and County Comptroller to
2 advance up to thirty-seven thousand five
3 hundred dollars of the seventy-five thousand
4 dollars in Grant funds so as to allow not a
5 single dollar of Town money to be spent on
6 completing the project.

7 "This commitment is reflected in the
8 intermunicipal agreement before you.

9 "The timing, regardless of the outcome
10 of November's Elections, there will be a new
11 County Executive and a new County Comptroller
12 on January 1st.

13 "The failure, therefore, to have a
14 fully-executed intermunicipal agreement in
15 place before January 1st means the possibility
16 that the new County Executive and/or his
17 County Comptroller choose to retract that
18 commitment, reversing the extraordinary
19 process I worked hard to achieve in
20 addressing the Town's financing concerns
21 given the calendars of the Town Board and the
22 County Legislators.

23 "I must - - we must act to approve the
24 IMA.

25 "Once executed by the Town, it is

1 "unlikely the IMA can be fully executed by
2 January 1st without approval by the Town
3 Board, today.

4 "In contract, approving and executing
5 the IMA does not bind the Town to any
6 specific timetable nor does it bind the Town
7 to complete the project at all.

8 "It merely secures the financing of
9 the playground should the Town choose to move
10 forward.

11 "This would allow the Town the time
12 necessary to continue efforts to address the
13 parking and traffic and safety concerns
14 raised by the residents directly bordering
15 the Park.

16 "I think the goal for every elected
17 official is to use resources given to the
18 government by the people we serve and the way
19 it best serves them.

20 "The challenge is not always easy and
21 the path is not always clear but advancing
22 the funds for this project, today, keeps open
23 the opportunity to pursue something which
24 would benefit the residents of Merrick.

25 "Very truly yours, Steven Rhodes,

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 "Legislator of the 19th District."

2 With that, I would also like to read
3 two letter, we, as a Committee, have received
4 from you and the Board.

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5 The first is from you, Mr. Santino.

6 "Dear Legislator Rhodes: The Town of
7 Hempstead and I would like to formerly
8 request the funding of the revitalization
9 project in the amount of seventy-five
10 thousand dollars for a project located in the
11 South Merrick Community Legislative District.

12 "Wynsum Avenue Park is a beautiful
13 Park bounded by Wynsum Avenue, Laurel Lane
14 and Ellen Drive.

15 "Neighbors in the Town want to upgrade
16 the facility so it could better serve middle
17 class families, children and neighbors
18 utilizing it throughout the year for
19 recreational purposes.

20 "The CRP fund would be used to help
21 defray the cost and installation equipment,
22 benches and all equipment that would be used
23 by adults and children of all ages coupled
24 with donations and investments by community
25 stakeholders.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 "This project that the Town of
2 Hempstead is searing with your office has the
3 potential of bettering the community and
4 quality of life and further enhancing the
5 community Park land and open space.

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6 "Thank you in advance for your
7 interest and cooperation and upgrades and
8 enhancement to the Wynsum Avenue Park will be
9 greeted with excitement by the South Merrick
10 neighbors."

11 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Can I ask
12 you a question, um, what was the date of that
13 letter?

14 JAY RAGOFF: July 28, 2016.

15 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: So, just a
16 quick thinking - -

17 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.
18 After, the following ensued.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: As far as
20 the timing, so, um - -

21 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you.

22 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Legislator
23 Rhodes was able to secure that CRP funding
24 shortly thereafter.

25 I don't have the exact date in my

1 head.

2 I think it was a month or two, as soon
3 as that funding became available.

4 You all rightfully got excited and
5 said, okay, let's start planning this Park.
6 Let's sit with the community and plan the
7 Park.

8 And, then, unbeknownst to any of us,
9 the Supervisor said, no, you can't have
10 access to that funding because, um, the Town
11 of Hempstead wouldn't spend any funds.

12 None of us thought when we applied for
13 that CRP funding that would mean we would not
14 be able to operate on this reimbursable basis
15 which is always - - it was the case with
16 Point Lookout.

17 But, nonetheless, we spent months and
18 months and months with it, County Attorneys
19 and Town Attorneys to create this very artful
20 IMA.

21 So, the Town of Hempstead would never
22 be out any cash with the money that you
23 raised, with the County money that is the
24 reason for all of this delay is that because
25 we were not able to actually access these

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 CRP funds that the Supervisor had requested
2 from Legislator Rhodes, which he got, which
3 was great.

4 But, we had to spend months and months
5 and months negotiating this incredibly novel
6 type of IMA.

7 JAY RAGOFF: Right and you started
8 raising funds with the letter the Supervisor
9 wrote us.

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
11 much. Your time has expired.

12 Chris Loftin, Chris Loftin?

13 Submit those to the Clerk.

14 Chris Loftin? Here we go, please,
15 have a seat, Mr. Loftin.

16 CHRIS LOFTIN: Good Afternoon.

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Name and address
18 for the record.

19 CHRIS LOFTIN: Good Afternoon, Wynsum
20 Avenue.

21 I come in front of the Board, sir, to
22 thank you for your service, by the way, as I
23 am an opponent of the Park and I will briefly
24 tell you why.

25 My wife and I just purchased a home,

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 3063 Wynsum Avenue which is directly across
2 the street from the intersection where Wynsum
3 comes down and you make a right.

4 We bought the home, in part, because
5 of the beautiful water behind it, which we
6 pay a premium for, about three thousand
7 dollars a month in real estate taxes.

8 And, the other reason, because the
9 beautiful green Park across the street.

10 I have three kids ranging from eight
11 to thirteen years old.

12 We just moved from North Merrick where
13 my wife and I lived for fifteen years.

14 We had an elementary school close to
15 us.

16 We used to take the kids to the school
17 to play on the equipment, which you have
18 designed to put in the Park and like
19 clockwork, every Saturday morning and every
20 Sunday morning, we find nice fresh broken
21 beer bottles, cigarette butts and the whole
22 nine yards from the night before from the
23 teenagers.

24 And, I was a teenager, too and I had a
25 lot of fun myself and I am not looking

1 forward to having it across the street from
2 my house.

3 Like I said, I am paying a premium to
4 live there and this is the reason I bought
5 this home.

6 I am not as passionate as some of the
7 people here are.

8 I understand both sides of the
9 argument.

10 I will comment, also, that the fence
11 is tolerable.

12 I guess one of my neighbors comes down
13 and locks the Park every morning and there is
14 another group of guys that comes up - -
15 excuse me, unlocks it in the morning and
16 locks it in the evening, that is taxpayers'
17 expense, correct?

18 I ask the neighbor why don't we take
19 down that ugly fence and leave it open
20 because there is nothing to steal except
21 trees and grass.

22 And, he explained to me that they put
23 the fence up because previously the kids were
24 driving through the Park like the old show,
25 you know, the Dukes of Hazards when they

1 would do the donuts in the field and all of
2 that.

3 Like I said, I was a teenager, too.

4 I am from down South, a lot of fields.

5 I did it, myself. So, that is what I
6 giving to you.

7 I am explaining to you the premium
8 that the residents are paying down there,
9 especially the ones that are on the water.

10 And, I will tell you that the first
11 thing that I did was warn my children because
12 people take that South side.

13 They don't run the Stop sign.

14 They go through the Stop sign thirty
15 miles an hour.

16 And, I can only tell you I am not a
17 lawyer. I am not a policeman.

18 I am not a politician but I am smart
19 enough to know that in our days, the police
20 answer 911 calls and that is about it because
21 they are on the hook if they get out of the
22 car and try to do anything else.

23 I understand that. I am not trying to
24 raise a separate argument, here, but that is
25 the facts on the ground.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 So, the cops re not down there looking
2 to ensure the safety of the residents, so,
3 why do we think by putting in a purple
4 sliding board and a yellow set of monkey bars
5 that all of a sudden that the police are
6 going to come down there and create a safe
7 situation and how do I know?

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8 Human nature is human nature. People
9 smoke cigarettes. They throw their butts on
10 the ground.

11 The drink their coffee. They throw
12 their cups on the ground.

13 It will be the residents down there
14 that will be cleaning up the streets and
15 everyone is gone having a good time.

16 Thank you very much.

17 I appreciate your time.

18 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
19 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you.

21 Karen Ottenstein?

22 KAREN OTTENSTEIN: Hello.

23 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Good Afternoon.

24 KAREN OTTENSTEIN: Good Afternoon.

25 My name is Karen Ottenstein.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 I am at 3490 State Court, just South
2 on the Wynsum Avenue Peninsula.

3 I am a Mother of two young kids, also,
4 five and seven years old.

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5 Um, I am in favor of the Park on
6 Wynsum Avenue, you know, we are looking to
7 embrace the opportunity to play on the land
8 for the children.

9 I do want to read a couple of letters
10 from some of my neighbors that were unable to
11 come today.

12 The first is Lisa Fan and she wrote,
13 "Dear Supervisor Santino and the Town Board:

14 "I am writing this letter to be
15 submitted on record in support of the Wynsum
16 Avenue Park playground.

17 "Due to work commitments, I am unable
18 to attend the meeting scheduled on October 3rd
19 but I would like to voice my support on this
20 matter.

21 "I moved here with both of my children
22 in October of 2015 from New York City.

23 "My kids love to go to the playground
24 and run around and play with the other kids.

25 "They often meet new friends there

1 "and meet up with friends that they already
2 know.

3 "As I am sure you are aware, there are
4 no playgrounds on this Peninsula.

5 "I often drive to Bellmore because
6 they have numerous playgrounds available
7 there.

8 "I moved here with my kids but I grew
9 up around the block from an empty,
10 underutilized Park.

11 "My parents still live there.

12 "We always said that the Park was a
13 sad waste of space in the neighborhood filled
14 with children and young families.

15 "I chose to move back to the community
16 that I grew up in, as did many of my friends.

17 "I think this playground would be a
18 huge asset to this community allowing all of
19 us access to a simple playground space like
20 the other areas of Merrick and Bellmore.

21 "My parents, my children and friends
22 would be extremely grateful to you for this
23 much needed improvement so the Park.

24 "Thank you for your time and service
25 to this amazing community."

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 Um, there is another neighbor, Nicole
2 Casella. 2575 Wynsom Avenue.

3 She writes, "I am writing this letter
4 to be submitted on record for Wynsum Avenue
5 Park playground project.

6 "Due to work obligations, I am unable
7 to attend the Town Board Meeting but I want
8 to be heard and have my chance to offer my
9 support to be on record.

10 "Our community is full of young
11 families and a playground, what is, now, an
12 empty, underutilized lot would be a great
13 addition to my community of neighborhood,
14 serve as a great place to meet and socialize
15 for both children and adults.

16 "Currently we do not have any children
17 play areas on the Wynsum area Peninsula.

18 "And, walking nearly two miles with my
19 seven and two years old on another peninsula
20 is not feasible.

21 "The proposal that I have seen is for
22 a simple playground that people in the area
23 can walk to, just like the opportunity
24 afforded to living - - those living on the
25 other peninsula.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 "I thank you for your time and
2 tremendous service to the Town of Hempstead."

3 And, one more, I will share.

4 This is from Gary Blair. 302 Wynsum
5 Avenue.

6 "Supervisor Santino: I am in support
7 of the Park at Wynsum and Iona.

8 "You approved this.

9 "You supported this.

10 "Why the change of heart?

11 "You surveyed the community a year ago
12 and two to one people were in favor of this
13 Park.

14 "Two to one in support.

15 "You represent the entire community,
16 not a dozen homes.

17 "This Park belongs to the entire
18 community, not just a few homes.

19 "A few people are trying to dictate
20 what is appropriate for the entire community.

21 "How is that fair?

22 "In May you wrote the Civic
23 Association to tell them that you were in
24 support of this project, as long as it did
25 not cost the taxpayers money.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 "So, Let's Play, 11566 Group was able
2 to secure one hundred and seventy-five
3 thousand dollars in Grants and they raised
4 another twenty-five thousand dollars in
5 funds.

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6 "This is not costing any taxpayers any
7 money and yet, you seem to be stalling.

8 "Please, do the right thing. Please,
9 listen to the entire community, not a handful
10 of angry people who bought homes adjoining
11 the Park and, now, want to keep it to
12 themselves.

13 "It is our Park, too. We back
14 hundreds of other homes that live there and
15 want this.

16 "It belongs to the community. These
17 homes do not pay more taxes than I do.

18 "So, their wishes should not have more
19 weight than mine or anyone else in the
20 community.

21 "Our children deserve a playground on
22 the Hewlett Peninsula.

23 "I know that your representative
24 knocked on some doors in the neighborhood, it

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 "is unfortunate he only knocked on the doors
2 of the people adjoining the Park.

3 "He did not make his way up or down a
4 block away from the Park.

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5 "Optically, it makes your vetting
6 process feel good.

7 "I do not care to hear what anyone
8 says, to find out what one side has to say if
9 you are not going to knock on all doors, if
10 you are not going to fair and balanced.

11 "Unfortunately, I could not attend
12 this meeting due to work commitments and I
13 support this project and the Board should
14 vote yes."

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We will take a
16 ten-minute recess for the Court Reporter.

17 (Whereupon, a ten-minute recess for
18 the Court Reporter was taken. After, the
19 following ensued.)

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Bridget Cohen?
21 Bridget Cohen?

22 Good Afternoon.

23 BRIDGET COHEN: Hi, Good Afternoon.

24 SUPERIVSOR SANTINO: Name and address
25 for the record, please.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 BRIDGET COHEN: Bridget Cohen. 2036
2 Oliver Way.

3 I am, here, to speak in favor of the
4 Park.

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5 I grew up in the Hewlett Peninsula and
6 was so happy to move back with my family.

7 We were even more excited when we
8 found out that, Let's Play 11566 had gotten
9 approval to start fundraising.

10 This was the one thing that was
11 wanted, a local Park in local distance,
12 adding a Park to our neighborhood would only
13 enhance the lives of our children and
14 families.

15 Please, do not let those opposing few
16 to make the decision for hundreds of families
17 in the neighborhood.

18 Please, do the right thing and let our
19 children play.

20 I have letters from some of the
21 neighbors that could not be here, today, the
22 Alfonsian Family.

23 "Dear Mr. Santino: My name is Sarah.
24 I am writing on behalf of my family
25 expressing our need for a neighborhood

1 Park.

2 "And, how, we, along with the rest of
3 the community, would greatly benefit from
4 having one.

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5 "My family and I moved to Merrick in
6 2015.

7 "Prior to moving, here, we were in
8 Long Island City where we enjoyed several
9 Parks within walking distance.

10 "Parks are wonderful, safe place to
11 bring a community together.

12 "We were shocked when we moved here
13 but the closest Parks to go to were Newbridge
14 Park and Julian Lane Parks.

15 "Although they are great Parks, we
16 must drive to them and we do not meet other
17 children from our neighborhood.

18 "What was even more shocking is that
19 there are two open fields in walking distance
20 that aren't being used as a functional
21 playground.

22 "We believe that the Park on Wynsum
23 would not only enhance the sense of community
24 in Merrick, it would give a safe place to
25 play and exercise.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 "Being a Mother of two children that
2 not only both have asthma, but also have a
3 son with delays in motor skills, then benefit
4 of a Park would be great.

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5 "Having a Park in walking distance
6 would greatly enhance their health, also,
7 give my son the opportunity to build and
8 strengthen his muscles.

9 "It would be amazing to bring a
10 beautiful Park to Merrick, that would make
11 the community stronger and provide our
12 children with needed exercise and lasting
13 friendships.

14 "Thank you in advance for your
15 consideration. Sarah Alfonsian." (Phonetic
16 spelling)

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
18 much.

19 Sharon Field?

20 Good Afternoon, name and address for
21 the record.

22 Pull that a little closer if you
23 could, thank you very much.

24 SHARON FIELD: 2165 - -

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Can't

1 Hear her.

2 SHARON FIELD: I have been living at
3 that address for thirty-four years.

4 I am the second house on the corner
5 and, um, I raised my two children there from
6 the age of four and sixteen months.

7 There are a few things. I don't have
8 anything prepared figuratively and I am old
9 school.

10 It is all coming from here.

11 (Indicating)

12 Having lived here and raised my
13 children here, who, in turn, purchased their
14 own homes and are, now, raising their own
15 children here, I have lived in the area of
16 this parcel of land that should become a
17 Park.

18 Um, the only living creatures that
19 seem to appreciate the Park are the dogs of
20 the people that live surrounding that Park
21 bring there, rather than bringing their dogs
22 in a car to the Newbridge Road and taking the
23 dogs to the doggy Park at Newbridge Road
24 Park, they bring their dogs right across the
25 street and let them enjoy this big, empty

1 land.

2 The other day I saw the dogs run
3 around. It was one adult and one child
4 standing on the cement walkway there.

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5 As far as the cars parked along Wynsum
6 on both sides, um, those homes that are on
7 the water, um, people seem to entertain a lot
8 on the weekends in the Summer, so, yes, when
9 you ravel up and down Wynsum, North or South
10 on the weekends, on beautiful days, these
11 people are very gracious to the families and
12 friends that host them and there are cars
13 parked all around the streets, there, on both
14 sides.

15 Um, as far as going through a Stop
16 sign at thirty miles an hour, you can't
17 because when Wynsum ends, you have to make
18 your right-hand turn onto Lona.

19 We had police representatives at the
20 Civic Association.

21 They said - - I believe he said there
22 was a one-car accident within four years.

23 (Whereupon, "reported" was heard
24 yelling out from the audience.)

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Let's be

1 Respectful to the speaker.

2 SHARON FIELD: Um, excuse me, we had
3 to put our children - - they talk about
4 Julian Lane, they talk about Lakeside, they
5 talk about Birch, um, there is a Park on
6 April Lane in Bellmore.

7 Those you have to put your children in
8 the car and go there.

9 This Park is going to be a walking
10 Park.

11 It is not going to be a drive Park.

12 It is not going to be.

13 There are bigger and better Parks
14 around.

15 This is going to be purely for a
16 little outdoor activity, healthy activity for
17 the children.

18 Um, it may create stroller traffic,
19 but it is not going to cause vehicular
20 traffic.

21 As far as those cigarette butts and
22 beer bottles, I doubt very much that the two
23 to five years old will be littering with
24 that.

25 And, I don't think that the parents

1 who are taking their children there will be
2 doing that either.

3 Um, again, I have lived there for
4 thirty-four years.

5 I was a stay-at-home Mom and so, I was
6 in that neighborhood all day, every day and
7 when the children came home from school,
8 quite honestly, there weren't places to go in
9 between school and dinner, where there is
10 that in-between time where you want them to
11 do something to give them some activity.

12 If you have to, you have to put them
13 in the car and drive them somewhere and it
14 just seems that there is just a small scale
15 of outdoor places where the community could
16 get together, um, and just raise children in
17 a happy, safe, environment and help the
18 ecology and not getting in a car and driving
19 but by walking.

20 So, I thank you very much.

21 I appreciate you listening to me. I
22 appreciate what you do.

23 This is really for the children and,
24 um, you know, the dogs have their own Park.

25 The dogs have their own Parks. How

1 many doggy Parks are there?

2 There are a lot and you know, why
3 can't we have something for the children?

4 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
5 much.

6 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.
7 After, the following ensued.)

8 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
9 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Rachel McClosky?

11 (Whereupon, "She had to leave," was
12 heard yelling out from the audience. After,
13 the following ensued.)

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Kate Loftin?

15 Good Afternoon. Name and address for
16 the record, please.

17 KATE LOFTIN: Good Afternoon,
18 everyone.

19 Um, my name is Kate Loftin and I live
20 at 3063 Wynsum Avenue, directly across the
21 street from the Park.

22 I have, um, three school-age children
23 and I am opposed to the Park.

24 I am not angry as some letters seem
25 to indicate that I am.

1 I really hope that I become friends
2 with many of these people that are even in
3 favor of the Park, but, I do have to say
4 after being a Merrick resident for, um, just
5 about fifty years and at my current location
6 for just over a year, you don't need a
7 playground to play.

8 You take a ball. You take a mitt, um,
9 all my children use the Park regularly and we
10 take a lacrosse stick or a baseball and we
11 utilize that space.

12 I am in favor of preserving a green
13 space.

14 I am not opposed to children playing.

15 It is important that everybody
16 understands what the difference is.

17 I think it is also important, um, that
18 children get out and exercise and leave their
19 I-Pad at home, but, you can easily do that
20 with the space that is over in a Park.

21 You take a jump rope. There are
22 beautiful winding paths in the Park.

23 You learn how to ride a bike there.

24 I would like to meet the people of the
25 neighborhood and I am in the Park and

1 nobody is coming out to meet me.

2 You don't need playground equipment to
3 meet other neighbors or to enjoy conversation
4 or to network.

5 Um, maybe if you just go out and enjoy
6 the space and spread a blanket and sit under
7 a tree, it doesn't need equipment to get that
8 job done.

9 I, also, feel that we need to
10 thoroughly vet the option and honestly I was
11 thrilled to hear the letter from the woman on
12 Holland Drive because that is the other open
13 green space currently available that maybe
14 would be a viable option and compromise that
15 we are all looking for, um, I think it would
16 be a great space to put that playground that
17 the Peninsula seems to so badly want.

18 Um, that would affect far fewer homes
19 if it went into that location and it would
20 also, um, provide the opportunity for those
21 people a little bit further down the
22 Peninsula to have a place to go.

23 Um, the people that are closer into
24 Merrick Road can have easier access to the
25 other Parks and schools that are available.

1 So, um, as Mr. Goldsmith mentioned, it
2 is only three blocks from the area that we
3 are discussing, now and I think if we
4 postpone this and don't make a decision,
5 today, that, um, maybe that would be a good
6 solution for us all.

7 Um, as the letter mentioned, there are
8 already a few people on Hollard Drive that
9 are in favor of putting a playground, um, in
10 and that could be the option that works for
11 all of us.

12 I think we owe it to each other to
13 have some civil conversations and try to
14 reach an agreement that works for everybody
15 in this space.

16 I did, in part, buy that house because
17 of the beautiful lot but that is across the
18 street from my home and I certainly don't
19 think that I deserve to use it more than
20 anybody else but I do like looking at a green
21 space.

22 And, we already mentioned all the
23 Parks in the neighborhood and, um, there
24 aren't very many green spaces that are there.

25 If we look at the other space on

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1 Hollard Drive, there are no trees that might
2 have to be taken down to provide for the
3 playground, the best construction needed.

4 So, all I am asking is we sit together
5 and take the opportunity to discuss this, um,
6 fairly and levelheadedly.

7 And, as I mentioned, I don't want
8 anybody to think I am angry over this
9 prospect because I am not, but I think there
10 are options that we still need to vet.

11 And, um, as I mentioned, my three
12 children use the Park daily.

13 It only takes a ball and a
14 conversation and, um, some smiles to get the
15 community together.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
18 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

19 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
20 much.

21 Janice Kleinman?

22 JANICE KLEINMAN: Hi, my name is
23 Janice Kleinman.

24 I live at 2081 Berkman Lane in
25 Merrick.

1 I would like to voice my opinion about
2 the playground ready to be built on the
3 Hewlett Peninsula in South Merrick.

4 This is a project that is so overdue
5 it can only enhance our community.

6 I have lived in South Merrick for
7 twenty-seven years.

8 I raised my two children in Merrick.

9 I am, now, a grandparent whose
10 grandchildren are, now, also living in the
11 neighborhood.

12 They deserve a place to play.

13 It is crazy to have land that is not
14 utilized in our community.

15 This playground could be inviting to
16 families interested in moving into the
17 neighborhood.

18 Finally, people have worked so hard
19 for this playground, so, do the right thing
20 and allow the construction of this playground
21 to begin.

22 Our children and grandchildren have
23 been waiting for this playground for many
24 years.

25 I have a bunch of letter but, you\

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 know, I just want to talk about the traffic
2 in the area because, now, I said I was a
3 grandparent.

4 I pick up my grandson from Fox
5 Boulevard from nursing school, now.

6 Lately, usually, I drive down Hewlett
7 Avenue, now, that is a busy intersection but
8 that is the main road.

9 I have been gearing myself to go down
10 Wynsum.

11 It is like a ghost town.

12 There is no one driving there. There
13 is nobody there - -

14 (Whereupon, "How about 2:00 o'clock in
15 the afternoon," was heard yelling out from
16 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Please, show
18 respect to the speaker. Let's show respect
19 to the people.

20 JANICE KLEINMAN: I have been driving
21 down with my grandson and there is no traffic
22 there at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, at
23 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon, um, and this
24 is a beautiful are for a Park.

25 It says, "no ball playing" on the

1 gate.

2 It says, "no dogs."

3 Now, they want it for their own
4 personal playground because you are not
5 supposed to playball in there.

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6 We need to utilize that area so that
7 our children can play and they can meet each
8 other, new neighbors that they can, you know
9 - - this is good for the kids.

10 There are pictures.

11 This is not a huge playground.

12 It is a little jungle gym, a few
13 pieces of equipment so that people can gather
14 and play with their children.

15 I would love to take my grandson after
16 nursery to play in that area.

17 It says, "no ball playing," so, that
18 would be great for the neighborhood.

19 And, as far as, um, paying taxes, we
20 all pay plenty of taxes in Merrick.

21 If you chose to live on the water, you
22 pay those taxes.

23 I live on a dead end. I pay more
24 taxes than someone else.

25 We all pay taxes and we should all

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 be entitled to use that area for our
2 children.

3 It is a good thing.

4 People that want to move into the
5 neighborhood would find it a good thing to
6 have a small community playground.

7 Thank you.

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
9 much.

10 Joe Baker?

11 JOE BAKER: Good Afternoon. My name
12 is Joe Baker.

13 I reside at 2642 Colonial Avenue,
14 Merrick.

15 And, I am a sixty-eight-year resident
16 of Merrick.

17 I live in the same house I was born
18 and raised in.

19 I am also President of the South
20 Merrick Community Civic Association, um, that
21 has been a successful organization for the
22 past twelve years.

23 I founded it and we have done a lot
24 for the community.

25 I want to thank, Supervisor

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 Santino and the Town Council Members for
2 allowing me to speak and those for and/or
3 against this issue.

4 It is very important.

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5 I think it is very healthy that we get
6 this out in the open.

7 I was accused of being partial to
8 this.

9 I am supposed to be impartial as a
10 Civic President.

11 I will tell you over two years ago, I
12 had a bunch of residents that lived on the
13 Hewlett Avenue Peninsula and brought this
14 issue to my desk.

15 I analyzed it.

16 I went and thought about it, went over
17 it and went over, over and over it and I
18 said, you know what, let me go down there and
19 see what it looks like.

20 I went down there on a Sunday
21 afternoon.

22 It was about seventy-five degrees.

23 On the way down, I passed by Julian
24 Lane Park.

25 Julian Lane Park is, I believe, 1.8

1 miles away.

2 That Park was loaded with people.

3 No problem parking. There were cars
4 parked along the perimeter.

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5 The kids were laughing and parents
6 were talking with each other and so on and so
7 forth.

8 I went down to, um, Wynsum Avenue
9 Park.

10 There wasn't one, I think, a squirrel
11 is what I saw.

12 I thought to myself, how sad is this.

13 Let me think about this very carefully
14 before I take sides.

15 Well, I decided that this probably
16 most likely is a good thing for children, um,
17 but not a carnival atmosphere type of a Park.

18 A Park where children can go down a
19 slide, maybe giggle and have the parents sit
20 on the benches and talk on a Sunday
21 afternoon.

22 I am hoping this comes to fruition.

23 This is, um, you know, I have been an
24 advocate and a supporter of the Town of
25 Hempstead for many years.

1 You know why, because they have done
2 very good for the community.

3 I have worked hand-in-hand with the
4 Town of Hempstead, with you, Supervisor
5 Santino on certain issues as with prior
6 Administrations.

7 And, I thank you for that.

8 I just hope as you vote you think very
9 hard.

10 Um, we had a meeting the other night.

11 We had between a hundred and one
12 hundred and fifty people show up.

13 It got heated at times, um, and but
14 there were those, let everyone come up and
15 speak whatever they had to say, whether they
16 were for or against it.

17 Most were for it.

18 I believe you had a survey that was
19 sent out and came back two to one in favor of
20 the Park, I understand.

21 In addition, you sent people, Mr.
22 Muller, one of the Town Attorney's to ask
23 questions.

24 Again, this is your typical NIMBY
25 situations.

1 Again, I live in Merrick sixty-eight
2 years when I was a little kid.

3 My parents bought a brand-new house
4 right near the new Town of Hempstead
5 incinerator.

6 Well, I can tell you for years we had
7 black soot on our cars.

8 My Father had to wash his car every
9 day.

10 We had to take showers almost every
11 hour.

12 This is NIMBY-ism.

13 This is for the children.

14 This is for the kids.

15 You know, I am all for working with
16 other residents, um, that live around the
17 corner.

18 I don't think there should be a
19 divisive issue.

20 This is something that we can all work
21 together on it.

22 It will be done that way, as long as,
23 I am President of the Civic Association.

24 Um, I think I covered it all.

25 Again, like Ms. Field, I am

1 old fashion.

2 I don't have a prepared speech.

3 I am talking from the heart and
4 talking the way I feel.

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5 I have five grandchildren and, um,
6 they don't live within the Town of Hempstead.

7 When I bring them to Merrick, I would
8 like to go to the local Park.

9 And, again, the only local Park that
10 we have on my Peninsula is Julian.

11 Um, and the other Peninsula, there is
12 no playground.

13 It is a Park, but there is not
14 playground.

15 I think this should be installed, any
16 way.

17 I hope you all, as Council Members
18 make the right decision when you vote.

19 And, I thank you for your time.

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
21 much, sir.

22 Ali Goldsmith?

23 Ali Goldsmith? There you are.

24 ALI GOLDSMITH: I was talking with the
25 gentleman in the back about being - -

1 whether it is appropriate to be videoed while
2 we have these discussions.

3 My name is Ali Goldsmith.

4 I live at 2174 Vine Drive, directly
5 across the street from the Park and I am an
6 opponent of the Park.

7 Just out of curiosity and because I
8 see so many familiar faces in here and I
9 don't see in here and I don't see as many
10 after the last recess are the people that are
11 here in support of the Park.

12 Can they stand so I just know who they
13 are?

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I think, at this
15 point, ma'am, make your thoughts known.

16 ALI GOLDSMITH: Okay.

17 My thoughts on that, if they would
18 stand, just show who they are, my thought
19 with that was many of those people that are
20 here in support of the Park do not live by
21 the Park.

22 They are speaking on issues that they
23 have zero knowledge about.

24 I live by the Park.

25 I see the traffic.

1 I see what goes on with the upkeep of
2 the Park and I see what goes on with the
3 community because I live there.

4 Now, I think we can all agree that
5 there are many issues that are outstanding
6 when it comes to this Park before it should
7 be developed, the safety, the environmental
8 concerns, the fact that we don't know what
9 kind of things that will bring into this
10 Park.

11 Some of my neighbors are concerned
12 with the fact that kids are going to be
13 causing ruffraff in the Park.

14 We don't know what kind of policing
15 that is going to go on.

16 We don't know what kind of congestion
17 the parking is going to cause.

18 In that small deep area of South
19 Merrick, these are all unknowns.

20 Why this needs to be decided today at
21 this juncture blows my mind.

22 The only reason that I can think of
23 logically is one that is political.

24 The children of this area deserve a
25 well thought out, well zoned

1 Appropriate space to play, whether that is a
2 Park, a jungle gym with slides and swings, I
3 don't know.

4 But why this needs to be decided at
5 this moment without all these other things
6 lined up, having our ducks in a row is
7 besides me.

8 I don't know. I don't get it.

9 What is the rush?

10 I also like to speak to this, I have
11 three children, two of them are twin girls
12 that are seven years old.

13 They enjoy, like myself, many of the
14 beautiful Parks of South Merrick and North
15 Merrick have to offer, all within walking
16 distance and driving distance, if I choose to
17 have the Wynsum Park.

18 I also have a twelve year old son.

19 My son regularly goes to that Park
20 with his friends, teenagers, pre-teenagers
21 and throws a football around, organizing
22 informal soccer games, runs around, plays tag
23 without worrying about a jungle gym in the
24 back corner or little babies on blankets and
25 playing in sandboxes.

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1 There is not a single place that I can
2 think of in South Merrick where he can safely
3 do that without having young parents
4 complaining that they might be hurting their
5 children accidentally.

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6 Doesn't he deserve to play, as well?

7 He is too old to be on swings.

8 He is too old to go on a jungle gym.

9 Let me reiterate, that is the only
10 place in South Merrick where a child eleven,
11 twelve, thirteen can go and run around and
12 have all old fashion fun.

13 There are so many issues facing our
14 community.

15 There is the drug issue, which I hear
16 about, by the way, on Merrick Moms all the
17 time.

18 Many of the people who complain about
19 the drug paraphernalia in the Parks are
20 sitting, here, today, hypocrites want another
21 Park.

22 I hear concerns about locking your
23 cars because there are kinds of crime in the
24 area and people getting their cars broken
25 into.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 And, I also hear about, "Oh, my God, they
2 put 7-ELEVEN across the street from our
3 children's school, what is that going to
4 bring in?"

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5 And, you know what, they were right.

6 There was a robbery. I have no
7 problem with it, by the way.

8 There are some really big problems,
9 here and what is the rush and I really
10 strongly feel that it is on all of you our
11 elected officials to really consider what you
12 are doing before you rush to push this budget
13 along.

14 Thank you.

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you, Ms.
16 Goldsmith.

17 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
18 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

19 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Diane Madden.

20 DIANE MADDEN: Diane Madden,
21 Hempstead.

22 Um, my ears went up when I heard Mr.
23 Muller was going door-to-door.

24 Can someone, please, explain to me in
25 a little more detail if Mr. Muller was going

1 door-to-door if he visited the homes of
2 people that support this Park?

3 Um, you know, I am very concerned
4 aside from this issue that Mr. Muller
5 introduces himself as your personal Attorney,
6 Mr. Santino?

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7 So, I just want to have a better idea
8 of his participation in this issue.

9 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Town
10 Attorney, would you address that, please.

11 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I think that
12 anything that Mr. Muller did is in context of
13 him as an Attorney.

14 And, I will not comment on that.

15 If there was a record of who went out,
16 if you like to FOIL that, if there is a
17 record, we will make it available to you.

18 DIANE MADDEN: You're suggesting that
19 the people were not interviewed or they
20 didn't receive a visit from Mr. Muller to
21 FOIL to find out who did - -

22 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I don't have first-
23 hand knowledge of this but, I think, we
24 accommodated everybody with our outreach
25 through a mailing and ringing doorbells, I

1 think.

2 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Actually,
3 Mr. Ra, I think you are totally right that we
4 reached everyone when folks from, Let's Play
5 came to my office and right away, um, I said,
6 okay, I am not from South Merrick.

7 I am not from Merrick.

8 So, I don't know the community as well
9 as these people do.

10 Let's bring in the Parks Commissioner
11 to sit down and find out what the ideas are,
12 what the Town of Hempstead process is and I
13 had just finished - - I was actually involved
14 the Point Lookout Park Project, so, I was
15 somewhat familiar with the process.

16 So, the Parks Commissioner, we had a
17 map, Shawn and Jay came with, um, a bunch of
18 signatures and showed support for the Park.

19 And, there was a lot of people
20 supporting it and, I believe - - just let me
21 speak to, I believe it was the Parks
22 Commissioner, he said that was okay.

23 You have all of those letters in
24 support, but we can't accept that.

25 We have to do our own survey and we

1 did our own survey.

2 It was asked and answered and it was
3 two to one in favor.

4 This isn't my Park.

5 This isn't my neighborhood.

6 It is not Wantagh or Wantagh Woods
7 where I have a real feel for it, but, we did
8 the survey and it was two to one in favor.

9 And, now, Mr. Muller, the last couple
10 of days has selectively gone to homes.

11 I know one home for sure was not
12 visited, um, because she has been a vocal
13 advocate for the Park and I know Mr. Muller
14 was telling people who were opposed to the
15 Park to bring out the Cavalry.

16 And, I am not sure that is the role of
17 a Town Lawyer to be an advocate one way or
18 the other for a Park.

19 DIANE MADDEN: I couldn't agree more.

20 I mean this whole thing stinks to me
21 for a number of reasons and, um, who says no
22 to children?

23 I mean, this is not - - I understand
24 maybe a few people in the area might be
25 spoiled and used as property for their own

1 purposes but if this can be used for
2 children, who says no?

3 What are you going to do with all
4 these children if this is an issue that is
5 going on for over a year?

6 Are you going to take a photo op,
7 Supervisor Santino with all the children you
8 say not to that and are looking forward to a
9 Park?

10 (Whereupon, "What is the purpose of
11 this speech, at this point," was heard
12 yelling out from the audience. Whereupon,
13 "let her speak," was heard yelling from the
14 audience. After, the following ensued.)

15 DIANE MADDEN: Have a nice day. That
16 give you an example.

17 (Whereupon, "You don't live in the
18 area," was heard yelling out from the
19 audience.)

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: The audience on
21 both sides, let's maintain good order.

22 Let's maintain good order in the
23 audience and continue your remarks.

24 DIANE MADDEN: Like I said, for a
25 number of reasons, I think there are many

1 concerns about this issue.

2 I don't have to live across the street
3 to have an opinion and I do have an opinion.

4 I think that this should be tabled and
5 there should be more feedback from both sides
6 and those numbers that Councilwoman Sweeney
7 just mentioned would be concerning to me that
8 more people are in support than against it.

9 And, um, we are always talking about
10 keeping our children in Hempstead, what is
11 the message you are sending, here, there is
12 no place for you to play?

13 Have a nice day.

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Michael Capuano?

15 There you are.

16 Your name and address for the record.

17 MICHAEL CAPUANO: Michael Capuano,
18 South Merrick.

19 I just want to say the idea of the
20 Park and playground sounds good on the
21 surface but the reality of it is, it is - -
22 will cause a lot of noise, a lot of traffic
23 in the daytime and that is seven days.

24 It is not something that is one day.

25 It is all day.

1 It could be anytime from morning and
2 nighttime.

3 Brings more of the activity that you
4 don't really want.

5 Also, that is all I wanted to say.
6 Thank you for your time.

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you, sir.

8 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
9 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Howard Tuchman?

11 HOWARD TUCHMAN: Yeah, I am coming.

12 So, this is a picture of what they are
13 proposing to build.

14 They wanted me to show you.

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Name and address
16 for the record, sir.

17 HOWARD TUCHMAN: Howard Tuchman. 2977
18 Hewlett Avenue.

19 I live less than half a mile from the
20 proposed Park.

21 Um, thank you, first-time speaker and
22 attendee of one of these meetings, longtime
23 Hempstead resident.

24 Um, as a neighbor of the Park, I am
25 very excited to watch my local government

1 in action.

2 Something told me to be here in person
3 to watch this resolution pass and more than
4 one and a half years, not being rushed, of
5 collecting signatures, approvals and of
6 course, thousands of dollars.

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7 Much easier to get a signature than to
8 actually collect money from people.

9 I would have loved to bring my six
10 year old and two years old, today, but, of
11 course, they are in school.

12 They are super excited to - - at the
13 prospect of having a Park that they can walk
14 to.

15 I wanted to thank the Board and for
16 all of those, here, today, who contributed
17 their time, money and effort to making this a
18 possibility.

19 I am a humble person.

20 I am not quick to assume, but, I have
21 no doubt that the pending vote on this
22 resolution is nothing more than one small,
23 final administrative hurdle.

24 Here is why; it is a minimally
25 invasive Park.

1 The people who want to degrade this
2 Park took the happy foresight to say no
3 lights, no basketball courts, just a couple
4 jungle gyms.

5 I think I actually heard someone who
6 is opposed to the Park say the jungle gyms
7 and the babies will get in the way of twelve
8 years old.

9 I mean, come on.

10 We are just being silly, here.

11 Um, Mr. Santino had personally asked
12 for the Grant money to be approved and it
13 happened and we had a two to one support for
14 the Park.

15 Two to one is absurd, um, I can't get
16 my friends to agree to where to go to lunch.

17 To have people go two to one, to agree
18 on anything is a pretty overwhelming
19 majority.

20 Last week, um, Supervisor Santino sent
21 a representative, Mr. Muller to a South
22 Merrick Civic Association Meeting to hear
23 from the Town.

24 Two signs to me that this was very
25 positive; Number 1, Mr. Santino, I don't

1 blame you for, um, not coming.

2 It would have been a waste of your
3 time.

4 This is a very simple no brainer
5 situation.

6 It is a Park.

7 It is a jungle gym.

8 Why come and - - Mr. Muller very
9 eloquently said, well, if there are
10 legitimate reasons why we should not have
11 this Park, that is cause for concern, we
12 should hear people out who have legitimate
13 reasons.

14 Well, I am happy to say, there have
15 been no legitimate reasons or not at the
16 meeting last week nor today.

17 What you did hear was inventing
18 traffic statistics, inventing things about
19 safety, imaginary beer bottles and all kinds
20 of hypotheticals ab out noise.

21 We know what kind of noise will come.

22 Really, is this the first Park ever
23 built in Hempstead.

24 We don't know what kind of noise will
25 be at the Park.

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1 I think we know what kind of noise it
2 will be; children laughing, playing.

3 Sure, our children don't get a voice
4 in government and when we do something for
5 them, it is a win for the community.

6 It is a chance to show the children
7 the value of civics.

8 How do you suppose the vote will turn
9 out, if you just ask the children how you
10 felt about a playground?

11 The Board Members know because they
12 care for families and their children need a
13 voice too.

14 Lastly, amazing job was done raising
15 money through donations and Grants.

16 Supervisor Santino and Members of the
17 Board:

18 I believe you will all agree this is
19 an epitome of a hastag #doingmorewithless.

20 Thank you.

21 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you, Mr.
22 Tuchman.

23 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
24 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Illene Rogoff?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 Name and address for the record, good
2 afternoon.

3 ILENE ROGOFF: Good Afternoon, Ilene
4 Rogoff. 2768 Boundry Road in Bellmore.

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5 I also speak from my heart.

6 I raised my children in Bellmore.

7 I am from Bellmore. I am in my present
8 home for thirty-one years.

9 My children love the community.

10 My son and his family, now, live in
11 Merrick.

12 I have three wonderful grandchildren.

13 I am with them as much as possible.

14 I think a Park is a lovely addition to
15 the community.

16 I have no more to say.

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you.

18 Andrea Gewanter?

19 Hi, name and address for the record.

20 Good Afternoon.

21 ANDREA GEWANTER: My name is Andrea
22 Gewanter.

23 I live at 1927 Julian Lane in Merrick.

24 Um, I am here to talk today to offer
25 some prospective that may answer some

1 of these questions.

2 I live across the street from Julian
3 Lane, right, now and when I was moving to
4 Merrick, my two children, seven and ten years
5 old and I moved, here, when my son was a year
6 and a half and there was nothing better than
7 living across the street from that Park.

8 If I had ten minutes, if I had an
9 hour, whatever it was, I was new to the
10 neighborhood, I made a ton of friends and he
11 made a tone of friends.

12 Everybody knows that but the concerns
13 that were raised, I can speak to, um,
14 parking, never an issue.

15 I live a couple houses down across the
16 street, we never see parking that I can speak
17 to, um, in terms of the way the Park is
18 maintained.

19 We are there almost every day, every
20 other day.

21 The garbage is picked up.

22 I never see beer bottles or anything
23 like that, that has come across the grass.

24 You know, when my kids are playing
25 there, we always feel safe.

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1 I don't see children, I guess,
2 teenagers hanging out there at night.

3 It is locked every night.

4 It is opened in the morning and it has
5 been a positive experience living on that
6 block.

7 Um, during the day, like I agree with
8 what everyone said, the noise, if there is
9 any noise at all, it is children laughing,
10 you know, playing.

11 And, in terms of the green space that
12 keeps coming up, I want to speak to that.

13 I have a ten year old son that plays
14 football and soccer at that Park.

15 Plenty of room. It is my
16 understanding this proposal is much smaller.

17 A jungle gym, if you want to call it
18 that, there will be plenty of space for older
19 children to bring a soccer ball across the
20 street and play.

21 There will be opportunity for the
22 younger children to also stay on the jungle
23 gym, so, there are a bunch of letters.

24 I will hand them in.

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Hand them in to

1 the Clerk.

2 ANDREA GEWANTER: I am sorry?

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Hand them in to
4 the Clerk to be part of the record.

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5 ANDREA GEWANTER: Thank you.

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you for
7 your time.

8 Clare Kasdorf?

9 Clare Kasdorf?

10 CLARE KASDORF: Good Afternoon.

11 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Name and address?

12 Good Afternoon.

13 CLARE KASDORF: My name is Clare
14 Kasdorf.

15 I live at 3037 Wynsum Avenue in
16 Merrick.

17 I live there for, approximately,
18 forty-one years.

19 During my forty-one years, I have
20 observed a lot that has gone on in that Park.

21 I have observed my Mother's car hit
22 due to the fast rate of speed that people
23 travel on Wynsum Avenue.

24 I have observed cars hitting the fence
25 over the years.

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1 I have observed, even though the Park
2 is locked at night, I have observed teenagers
3 lobbying over the fence with bottle and
4 observing the bottles, the broken bottles the
5 following morning.

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6 I have observed cars entering from
7 Wynsum Avenue during the day and driving
8 through from Wynsum Avenue onto Alona Avenue,
9 that has happened numerous times over the
10 years.

11 They have driven on the sidewalk lot
12 going from one part of Wynsum Avenue and
13 exiting onto Alona Avenue.

14 I have observed on a constant, daily
15 basis over the years, dogs in the Park
16 running free.

17 I have a two-year old grandson.

18 I cannot always bring my grandson into
19 that Park to play with him, to kick a ball
20 around because these dogs are running free
21 and that happens on a constant basis.

22 I have even asked people over the
23 years if they could just put their dog on a
24 leash and they always say, "My dog won't hurt
25 anyone."

1 How do I know that?

2 I don't trust that, so, that is
3 another problem that we have.

4 In addition to the dog Park that was
5 built on Newbridge Road, I live right across
6 the street.

7 I live on the water but you can hear
8 that dog barking - - dogs barking in that
9 Park on a constant basis.

10 Every evening I hear that.

11 There is another much better area for
12 this Park for the children on Hallula
13 (Phonetic spelling) Drive.

14 I walk through that neighborhood
15 constantly and there is nothing in that Park.

16 There is not a tree.

17 There is not a Park bench, so, I think
18 that would be an alternative to the Wynsum
19 Avenue Park and, um, Newbridge Park.

20 We have all of those Parks. Lakeside
21 and Wantagh. We have so many other Parks for
22 the children that they could use.

23 And, that is all I have to say.

24 Thank you.

25 (Whereupon, applause from the audience

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

2 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you.

3 Jamie Field?

4 (Whereupon, "She is coming. She has a
5 baby," was heard from the audience. After,
6 the following ensued.)

7 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We will wait.
8 Take your time.

9 Name and address for the record.

10 JAMIE FIELD: My name is Jamie Field.

11 I live 2103 Ellen Drive in Merrick.

12 Thank you for having me speak.

13 Um, I have a few things to go through.

14 First of all, we are the community
15 that is really excited about this project.

16 This is an awesome experience to have
17 people in our community get together for the
18 benefit of our children.

19 Um, the people that you had, here,
20 today, who submitted letters and spoke are a
21 subset of the population that is pro for this
22 Park.

23 Um, we surveyed the community in terms
24 of petitions and in terms of, um, soliciting
25 money and, um, the twenty-five thousand

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 Dollars that was raised speaks to, um, the
2 community members who support this.

3 It is very, very, very difficult to
4 ask your friends for money.

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5 Um, we did it.

6 Um, they reached into their pockets,
7 you know, for the benefit for the children
8 and they put money up to support this effort,
9 um, in response to approval that was received
10 from the Park.

11 That is a really humbling experience.

12 It is very difficult to do that and we
13 did it and we think that the thousands of
14 dollars, tens of thousands of dollars that we
15 raised speak volumes towards the support for
16 this effort.

17 Um, I want to speak about a couple of
18 other points that were raised, here.

19 I mean, how far should a playground be
20 from someone's house?

21 Is it two miles?

22 Like is twenty miles right?

23 I mean this is a community with
24 children in it and we want to build something
25 that they can play on and go home.

1 It is going to be locked in the
2 morning.

3 It is going to be locked at night.

4 It is for a finite period of the day
5 that we want them to enjoy this structure,
6 this small structure, you know, in this green
7 land.

8 Um, one other point that I want to
9 reiterate, the potential to look at Hallulard
10 as another option.

11 Hallulard had one entrance and one
12 exit.

13 That Park on Ellen, the Park on
14 Wynsum, rather is larger.

15 It has two entrances and two exits.
16 In the interest of an emergency situation,
17 this is an appropriate place to build a
18 playground.

19 It is safer.

20 Um, dogs are brought up all the time.

21 It is true, this Park right, now, is
22 in the benefit of the dogs.

23 Um, the dogs are off their leash.

24 The dogs are roaming this Park and
25 that is who is really enjoying it as

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 opposed to, um, the people, the people and
2 the kids enjoying this space.

3 Um, I will read one letter, excuse me,
4 "Dear Mr. Baker: My Administration is
5 committed to being fiscally responsible to
6 the residents of the Town of Hempstead while
7 providing topnotch service programs and
8 facilities.

9 "I believe your organization shares in
10 that commitment to the residents of Merrick.

11 "I support your fundraising efforts to
12 provide a playground at Wynsum.

13 "We would be more than happy to
14 provide the land and upkeep of the proposed
15 playground as long as the initial costs are
16 at no expense to the taxpayer including no
17 initial outlay of funds whether or not they
18 are reimbursable.

19 "If I can give any assistance, please,
20 don't hesitate to contact my office.

21 "I wish you much success in your
22 fundraising efforts. Sincerely, Anthony J.
23 Santino."

24 I have a lot of respect for those who
25 are opposing the Park.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 I understand they have their views but
2 I have a hard time understanding reversing a
3 decision that was made to hundreds of kids in
4 the area to bring this project to fruition.

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5 We privately raised funds.

6 We received Grants and now, we are
7 coming to a screeching halt and we are
8 reversing the decision.

9 We need to respect the decision that
10 was made.

11 Thank you for your time.

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
14 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

15 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Patty Abramson?

16 PATTY ABRAMSON: Good Afternoon. My
17 name is Patty Abramson. 3080 Wynsum Avenue.

18 I am opposed to the Park.

19 I really don't have anything to add
20 that my neighbors haven't already said.

21 Um, I think it is important that we
22 have an opportunity to really present
23 options, um, and really research this.

24 I don't think those of us that live
25 around the Park were afforded the

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 opportunity and I think that, um, we should
2 be able to come together and see if all our
3 needs could be met in a better way before we
4 rush into a decision.

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5 That is all I have to say on that.

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
7 much.

8 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
9 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Stephanie Ovadio?

11 I believe she may have spoken earlier.

12 Andrew Pollack? It looks like to me.

13 ANDREW POLLACK: Good Afternoon.

14 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Name and address
15 for the record.

16 ANDREW POLLACK: Andrew Pollack. I
17 live at 2163 Vine Drive, which is directly
18 across from the South entrance to the current
19 Park.

20 I have not one but two five year old
21 children who, I am sure both, very much,
22 would enjoy getting another playground in the
23 area.

24 My wife and I, however, are firmly
25 against the addition of this proposed

1 Playground.

2 Sure, we have concerns about the
3 increasing parked cars lining the street and
4 increasing litter, lighting or lack there of,
5 but there is just one major reason we are so
6 opposed, just one reason and I challenge any
7 parent, here, today to convince me that our
8 logic and reasoning is shallow.

9 Our one major reason is safety and
10 wellbeing of our children.

11 It is a fact that there will be an
12 increase in cars and traffic flow to the
13 direct area.

14 There is already a steady flow of
15 daily traffic but should you choose to
16 install a playground, the ongoing flow of
17 cars will be increased.

18 Will it be five percent or fifteen
19 percent, time will only tell.

20 This new playground and its resulting
21 increase in traffic will bring not only a
22 decreased quality of life to all residents
23 whose homes border the Park, but more
24 importantly a decrease in the daily safety of
25 our children.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 Where are the newly proposed
2 crosswalks, Stop signs, traffic enforcement.

3 Talk to us, first, about keeping our
4 children safe before you talk to us about
5 adding, yet, another local playground for
6 them to simply have fun.

7 In short, my opposition of this
8 playground is, again, one main reason that I
9 prefer to keep my children and the children
10 who live in our immediate area safe.

11 Shouldn't this be the priority of our
12 Town?

13 Shouldn't these safety issues, first,
14 be handled and only, then, a playground
15 considered?

16 How could any reasonable parent in
17 attendance, here, today disagree with this?

18 Think about it for a moment, how could
19 any reasonable, responsible person be in
20 favor of a playground that will be built at
21 the expense of children's safety?

22 Thank you.

23 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
24 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Michael

1 Matcotullio?

2 Name and address for the record.

3 MICHAEL MATCOTULLIO: Michael

4 Matcotullio.

5 3031 Wynsum Avenue.

6 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Good Afternoon,

7 sir.

8 MICHAEL MATCOTULLIO: My house is

9 directly across from the entrance to the Park
10 on Wynsum.

11 Um, it was mentioned earlier coming
12 down Wynsum is terrifying.

13 I know there was a police officer that
14 said there was only one reported accident in
15 that location in the last three years but I
16 lived in the house for twenty-three years.

17 I can tell you that there have been
18 more than a dozen.

19 All of them are single-car accidents
20 which are never reported.

21 The fence across the street from my
22 house has been knocked down four times
23 because people lose control on that curve,
24 jump the curve.

25 They hit the tree.

1 They hit the fire hydrant.

2 They hit the fence. They don't report
3 it.

4 A lot of times they are drunk. It
5 happens.

6 The bottom line is that people show
7 you a picture of a fence, I guess that was
8 repaired, the reason it was repaired was
9 because a car went right through it.

10 Last month, my son's car - - he came
11 out and my car was hit parked out in front of
12 our house on the outside of the curb.

13 Why?

14 Because someone came around that blind
15 curve, lost control and hit the car.

16 My neighbor mentioned her Mom's car
17 that was totaled. It happens.

18 It is what it is.

19 This is not a safe place to have
20 little five, seven years old running around.

21 I feel very, very strongly about it.

22 Another thing, people, I heard a lot
23 about surveys, two to one all in favor of it.

24 We had a meeting at the golf course
25 facility two weeks ago, three weeks ago.

1 And, Ms. Erin King was there and, um,
2 one of the promoters for this project
3 submitted a satellite map of the Park and all
4 the houses around and every house had a big
5 green "Y" or a big red "N" or an "undecided."

6 Well, I can tell you the survey that
7 Mr. Santino originally got which was probably
8 what he based his original conclusions on was
9 fraud.

10 It was done in a bias way and the fact
11 is and Ms. Sweeney - - King was there. My
12 own house was indicated as a "Yes."

13 Not only that, my next door neighbor
14 who you heard from, who is a clear, "No" was
15 indicated as undecided and the next door
16 neighbor to that was also a clear "No" or
17 "against."

18 It was indicated as a "yes."

19 So, I don't know where this two to one
20 comes from but I understand why Mr. Muller
21 felt compelled to go around and ask people
22 because according to their survey, more than
23 half of the people that surrounded the Park
24 were in favor of it and that is just not the
25 case.

1 We had very little correspondence with
2 this group.

3 They came two years ago and they asked
4 us about it.

5 I made it clear I was against it.

6 You know, I gave my reason why; the
7 parking, the safety and all of these things.

8 And, we never heard another thing.

9 The only reason I knew there was a
10 meeting two weeks ago was because Mr. Muller
11 told me.

12 So, I don't believe things have been
13 done above board.

14 I don't think we really had a chance
15 to go through this completely, get everyone
16 that is involved in it, opinions and express
17 and I think, at this point in time, as other
18 people have said, the best move would be to
19 table this vote.

20 Bring it up at another time because,
21 you know, people talk about these Parks.

22 Look it is green space.

23 True.

24 There are places where you want to
25 have a lot of activities and, you know,

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1 Julian Avenue, there are tennis courts and
2 playgrounds and it is wonderful, noisy.

3 Nobody wants this Town to have
4 laughing kids more than me.

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5 My wife and I raised our kids and you
6 get a lot of joy out of it.

7 But, there is also space that you want
8 to have for quiet reflection, green space
9 without multi-colored jungle gym and slides
10 and all of these things.

11 It is wonderful for children but this
12 is a green space.

13 This is a nature preserve.

14 This is something where people can go
15 for quiet reflection.

16 People can kick a ball around.

17 All my kids learned to ride a bike
18 there.

19 I want to bring up a couple points.

20 This happened about fifteen years ago
21 because I have a key to that Park and the
22 reason I do is because there was an incident
23 where a young boy was severely burnt by
24 scolding hot water in a house, you know,
25 during, you know a family gathering - -

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.
2 After, the following ensued.)

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I have to ask you
4 to rap it up if you can.

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5 MICHAEL MATCOTULLIO: I will thank you
6 and they flew a helicopter in that Park at
7 night to evac him.

8 They had to wait for the Town guy to
9 come to unlock it.

10 The police officer said, "give him a
11 key, if it happens again, knock on his door."

12 I will get a helicopter in there and
13 get him out right away.

14 I point I will make, I don't know, to
15 me, evacuating someone, it means,
16 "emergency," medical assistance is a lot more
17 important than having another playground when
18 there is one a mile away at Julian Park.

19 Thank you very much.

20 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Thank you very
21 much.

22 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
23 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: That is the last
25 I have.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 At this point, I move we reserve
2 decision on this matter.

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Actually,
4 I want to speak.

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Call the roll.

6 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY:
7 Supervisor, I want to read a letter.

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Read the letter.

9 We will call the roll after you read
10 the letter.

11 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: This is
12 dated September 29th.

13 It is from, um, Assemblyman Dave
14 McDonough.

15 "Dear Supervisor Santino: I am
16 writing on behalf of my constituents who
17 contacted me regarding the aforementioned
18 proposal for installation of a playground at
19 Wynsum Avenue Park in Merrick.

20 "The residents for many years have
21 raised funds to purchase the playground
22 equipment are eager to see this project come
23 to fruition and asked me to express their
24 support for this Resolution.

25 "I would greatly appreciate it if you

1 "would take their requests into consideration
2 in reviewing the proposed resolution.

3 "Thank you for your attention to this
4 matter."

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5 I also have a letter that I will, um,
6 I believe that the Town Clerk has already
7 received from County Legislator Denise Ford.

8 There has been a lot of misinformation
9 by Mr. Muller and others in the
10 Administration.

11 They have been very critical of Nassau
12 County for alleging not timely reimbursing
13 the Town in connection with the Point Lookout
14 Park project.

15 I will post this online, so, everyone
16 can see this.

17 This is the County Legislator
18 explaining what actually did happen.

19 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Call the roll,
20 Madam Clerk.

21 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

22 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Reserve
23 Decision, aye.

24 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

25 COUNCILMAN AMROSINO: Again, the

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 fact this is of local concern, I will
2 pass at this time until I hear from
3 Councilwoman King-Sweeney.

4 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

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5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I would like to
6 explain my vote before I vote to reserve
7 decision.

8 First of all, I can sympathize with
9 the people who oppose the Park.

10 I grew up at 50 Kent Road in Valley
11 Stream, directly across the street from
12 Memorial Junior High School.

13 When my parents bought the house,
14 there were hundreds of children that would go
15 to Memorial Junior High School every morning
16 and go home in the afternoon.

17 There was a lot of traffic, bike
18 traffic, pedestrian, car traffic.

19 After the baby boom, Memorial Junior
20 High School expanded, so, my parents saw the
21 Junior High School expand from hundreds of
22 kids to over a thousand kids.

23 More traffic, more people.

24 Then they built ballfields and we
25 watched as they had little league games

1 every afternoon, every Saturday, every
2 Sunday, then, touch football and then
3 somewhere in the '90's, there was a soccer
4 boom and, then, we had soccer leagues, every
5 weekend practice, every weekday.

6 Basically it was being used
7 constantly.

8 And, I remember a friend of my
9 Mother's came over for lunch one day and she
10 said, how can you put up with all this
11 activity at your house and my Mother said, I
12 enjoy watching children play.

13 I knew what I was doing when I told my
14 husband that I wanted to live here. I wanted
15 my children to be able to walk to school and
16 walk home from school.

17 So, basically, I grew up in that
18 environment.

19 And, I have to tell you to this day,
20 my Father is 92 years old. I go visit him.

21 There is still a tremendous amount of
22 activity.

23 I can remember a few weeks ago, I was
24 watching girls' softball practice.

25 I thought it was hysterical.

1 I enjoy watching kids. Basically, what
2 we are talking about is a Park and one of the
3 logical things that I heard, here, today was
4 people talk about traffic, well, to the
5 opponents of this, I don't find logic in your
6 argument because, basically, to use a
7 playground, you indicated that you have to
8 travel one mile to 1.8 miles, that means you
9 are going to get in your car versus a
10 neighborhood Park where families can walk
11 their kids to the Park.

12 So, I find that illogical but more
13 importantly, the reason why I am voting
14 against reserving decision is because I want
15 it clear, for the record, that I would vote
16 in favor of the Park and the reason I would
17 is as follows:

18 In the Town of Hempstead, we have had a
19 tradition forever of deferring to the Local
20 Council Members on issues that were purely
21 local.

22 This is purely a local issue.

23 Dennis Dunne knows more about Levittown
24 than I do.

25 Anthony D'Esposito knows more about

1 Oceanside than I do.

2 I know more about my District than they
3 do.

4 And, if Councilwoman Erin King-Sweeney
5 has worked hard on this and in her opinion,
6 her judgment, in her District, she thinks it
7 is a good idea there would have to be an
8 overwhelming argument, here, not just an
9 argument against because I understand the
10 opposition and I respect your opposition but
11 it would have to be overwhelming for me to vote
12 against a fellow Member of the Town Board in
13 an issue that was purely local.

14 And, I am reminded all the time by
15 Senior Councilwoman Goosby about deferring to
16 issues in her District and I think we all feel
17 the same way and I am voting against to
18 reserve decision because, basically, I think
19 this is a ploy for the funding to run out.

20 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman, so your
21 answer is no?

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am not done,
23 yet.

24 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am not done

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 yet. You're the Clerk and I am a
2 Council Member.

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Please, call - -

4 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We are recording
6 you as a "No," on the vote.

7 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We are recording
9 you as a "No," on the vote.

10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You are not
11 recording anything until I am finished.

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Yes.

13 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Yes.

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I vote no.

16 CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
17 Goosby?

18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I am
19 going to abstain because of the fact there is
20 something coming up in my District and I do
21 not expect her to vote.

22 CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
23 Sweeney?

24 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Actually,
25 as part of my time, I would like

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 Councilwoman Blakeman to continue what
2 he was saying.

3 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There is no
4 overruling.

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5 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: You
6 wouldn't let me speak first.

7 I would like Councilman Blakeman - -

8 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: There is not
9 voting requirement.

10 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: It doesn't
11 matter.

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: You can use your
13 time.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: You told
15 me that we are allowed to speak.

16 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Mr. Town
17 Attorney, Mr. Town Attorney?

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: This is
19 ridiculous, go ahead.

20 I said enough.

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: You can't
22 make this up.

23 I am glad this is being videoed.

24 In any event, um, I truly respect the
25 opponents of this Park.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 I invited them to my home. They came
2 to my house on Sunday, um, I respect your
3 concerns.

4 I will continue to meet with you
5 should we be able to go forward with this
6 Park.

7 I am committed to you that I will do
8 everything that I can with regard to Stop
9 signs, um, fences, any of those types of
10 issues.

11 You can call me on that publicly.

12 I will continue to work with you and I
13 will continue to work with you on other
14 issues important to the South Merrick
15 Community.

16 When I spoke at the South Merrick
17 Civic Meeting the other week, I started off
18 by making a joke saying I have these two
19 really organized, smart professional men come
20 to me with an idea and it was the only time
21 in my District that I lost and I really don't
22 have any support with - - here, to start off,
23 I really got to listen to these guys, what
24 are we talking about, here.

25 How can I make the residents of

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South Merrick happy?

The last thing I want to do is annoy a resident of South Merrick because they voted overwhelming against me, so, when we had that survey, it was certainly in my political interests to have the survey conducted so that it adequately represented the residents of South Merrick and it came back two to one.

I am not aware of any political context or governmental context when you have a two to one vote and it would not be representing the people in the District.

I would love for it to be one hundred percent.

It would make my job a lot easier but in this case, I really am listening to the overwhelming majority of the residents and you know what, I think a lot of people for and against are very frustrated about this process because there have been so many misstatements by the Supervisor, that is why we are where we are.

Today's vote is not whether we are going to build a Park tomorrow.

It is to secure the County funding

1 that Legislator Rose has so ably done so
2 that Senator Brooks - - please tell your
3 Boss, "thank you," who has been able to do t
4 a Senate level for one hundred thousand
5 dollars, we have secured all of this funding
6 based on the Supervisor's request to
7 Legislator Rose to do so.

8 So, I keep saying it was asked and
9 answered.

10 We did everything that we were asked
11 to do.

12 Now, you have a bunch of people in
13 South Merrick who raised twenty-five thousand
14 dollars.

15 What are they supposed to do with it?

16 I mean there is all sorts of non-
17 profit issues, ethical issues, what do you do
18 with the money?

19 You put these people out on a limb.

20 Do you know how many people in the
21 community attended these fundraising events
22 and threw twenty dollars into a hat based on
23 good faith so they would have a Park for
24 their kids?

25 (Whereupon, "Fix the fence," was heard

1 yelling out from the audience. After,
2 the following ensued.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY:

4 Absolutely, we want a fence. There is no
5 question.

6 I will do my best to fix the fence.

7 I will certainly request that the
8 Commissioner fix the fence.

9 You are right, it should be fixed and
10 I am sorry I didn't realize it before, you
11 are absolutely right, but, the fence issue
12 and there is a Park issue.

13 When you have two to one the residents
14 supporting something, it is m obligation to
15 support them.

16 So, in any event, um, I am, obviously,
17 opposed to reserving judgment, at least, in
18 my brief tenure, here, on the Board, three
19 years, I have never seen a scenario where you
20 have a local project and other Members of the
21 Board opposed.

22 So, this is a stunning lack of
23 leadership by the Supervisor.

24 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Ambrosino?

25 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I just want to

1 make one thing clear.

2 (Whereupon, "you can't speak, you
3 already spoke," was heard yelling out of the
4 audience. After, the following ensued.)

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5 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I am running the
6 meeting.

7 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You already
8 voted. Point of order, Mr. Ra, when we are
9 voting - -

10 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I am going to
11 speak. I think we clearly have a community
12 that is divided over this Park.

13 There are people who are very
14 vehemently for it and there are people very,
15 very adamantly against it.

16 Would you, please, please, we have
17 people who are very strongly in favor of it.

18 People who are very strongly against
19 it.

20 I believe - - please, let me finish, I
21 believe that it would be in the best interest
22 of the community that we try to achieve
23 better consensus, that we try to find a
24 solution that unimentary may not be possible
25 but we achieve some sort of a consensus that,

1 at least, has much broader support than
2 we have, now.

3 I don't think there is anything wrong
4 with the discussions.

5 I don't think there is anything wrong
6 with people trying to come up with a
7 compromise.

8 This Country was built on compromise.

9 I think that is the best course of
10 action in the interest of all the residents.

11 The funding is not going to run out.

12 The funding is there.

13 There is no reason why we have to rush
14 to do this today because clearly, clearly,
15 there are a lot of people against it, a lot
16 of people for it and perhaps the good people
17 of Merrick, the good people of this
18 neighborhood could achieve some form of
19 consensus that, at least, does not lead one
20 side or the other strongly, strongly opposed.

21 Maybe there is some kind of common
22 middle ground, here.

23 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY:

24 Supervisor, de we have a standard, now, for
25 all community projects that it is ninety

1 percent.

2 You had two to one.

3 At what point is it okay?

4 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: I don't know

5 where we are on the vote.

6 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

7 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: What is

8 the standard for East Rockaway?

9 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino,
10 how do you vote?

11 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: We are waiting on

12 - -

13 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino,
14 how do you vote?

15 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Let me explain
16 my vote.

17 I would normally give great deference
18 to Councilwoman King-Sweeney.

19 I am counting the math, here.

20 Senior Councilwoman Goosby has
21 abstained from this vote.

22 Therefore, if I were to join
23 Councilwoman Sweeney and vote down the Motion
24 to reserve decision and, then, a vote would
25 have to be taken on the item, the item

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

1 would fail because it would not pass by
2 a majority because Councilwoman Goosby would
3 abstain, again, therefore, basic math, it
4 would dictate it would be a split vote and
5 the item would fail following, Supervisor
6 Santino to keep this time alive and I am not
7 voting against Councilwoman Sweeney because
8 it is an item in her District, I rather keep
9 the item alive in her District, therefore, I
10 join with the Supervisor and vote to reserve
11 decision.

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12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Okay, now, we
13 have concluded. We need a Motion to adjourn
14 the meeting.

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move we
16 adjourn the meeting.

17 (Whereupon, "You didn't vote," was
18 heard yelling out from the audience.)

19 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: So, now, this is
20 on the motion to adjourn the meeting.

21 Call the role on adjourning the
22 meeting.

23 CLERK AHMAD: Supervisor Santino?

24 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Aye.

25 CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Ambrosino?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 10/3/17

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COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Blakeman?

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Senior Councilwoman
Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK AHMAD: Councilwoman King-
Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

(Whereupon the official meeting of the
Hempstead Town Board concluded. 1:30 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony in the matter of the Hempstead Town Board Meeting held on October 3, 2017 consisting of pages 1 through 202 inclusive is an accurate transcription of my cryptic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



MDW

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