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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

JANUARY 9, 2018

7:00 P.M.

BEFORE: LAURA A. GILLEN,

SUPERVISOR

APPEARANCES :

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SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY

COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO

COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO

COUNCILMAN DUNNE

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY

TOWN CLERK CABANA

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK TUMMINELLO

TOWN ATTORNY RA

COMPTROLLER CONROY

RECEIVER OF TAXES CLAVIN

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Welcome to the
2 Hempstead Town Board Meeting.

3 First, we will have Public Hearings,
4 followed by the Administrative Calendar.

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5 There are meeting agendas available in
6 the rear of the Pavilion if you wish to be
7 heard on any of these meetings.

8 Please, go in the rear of the Pavilion
9 and fill out a slip which may be obtained
10 from one of our Public Safety Officers.

11 After the meeting is adjourned, the
12 Town Board will follow the custom of three
13 hundred and fifty years and remain in session
14 to hear any residents that wish to be heard
15 on any other matters.

16 Madam Clerk, would you, please, call
17 the roll.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

19 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Present.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Here.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
2 Goosby?

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.

4 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-
5 Sweeney?

6 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Here.

7 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Here.

9 CLERK CABANA: In attendance we have
10 Receiver of Taxes Donald X. Clavin, Jr.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I would ask
12 everybody to stand and I ask Senior
13 Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby to lead us in the
14 Pledge of Allegiance.

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Hand over
16 your heart.

17 (Whereupon, Senior Councilwoman Goosby
18 led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
19 After, the following ensued.)

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would
21 you, please, call the first Public Hearing.

22 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:
23 "Regulations and Restrictions" to limit
24 parking in BELLMORE, OCEANSIDE, (To amend
25 Chapter 202 of the Code of the Town

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 of Hempstead)

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any
3 slips on this matter.

4 Does anyone wish to be heard?

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

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Having none, may I
8 have a Motion on this item.

9 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY:
10 Supervisor, I move that the Hearing be
11 closed, and the item adopted.

12 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I second the
13 Motion.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, could
15 you please call the roll.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

17 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

18 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

21 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
25 Goosby?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-
3 Sweeney?

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

5 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

7 Madam Clerk, would you, please, call
8 the second Public Hearing.

9 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:
10 "Parking or Standing Prohibitions" in
11 OCEANSIDE (NR) VALLEY STREAM (To amend
12 Section 202-1 of the Code of the Town of
13 Hempstead)

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any
15 slips on this matter.

16 Does anybody wish to be heard?

17 (Whereupon, no response was heard.

18 After, the following ensued.)

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none,
20 Madam Clerk, would you please call the roll.

21 May I have a Motion.

22 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Supervisor, I
23 move the Public Hearing be closed and the
24 item be adopted.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 SENIOR COUNICLWOMAN GOOSBY: I second
2 the Motion.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would
4 you please call the roll, now.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

6 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

9 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

10 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

11 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

12 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

13 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
14 Goosby?

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-
17 Sweeney?

18 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

19 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

21 Madam Clerk, would you, please, call
22 the next Public Hearing.

23 CLERK CABANA: Yes.

24 Proposed amendment of Section 302 of
25 Article XXXI of the Building Zone Ordinance

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 of the Town of Hempstead, insofar as to
2 create a new Subsection 302S thereof, in
3 relation to "Restricting and Prohibiting
4 "Hookah" facilities or establishments" in the
5 Town of Hempstead.

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6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a number of
7 slips on this matter.

8 First, we have Corinne Alba.

9 Ms. Alba, would you, please, come up
10 and state your name and address for the
11 record.

12 CORINNE ALBA: Corinne Alba. I am
13 here today representing the YES Community
14 Center.

15 We are located in Levittown, Town of
16 Hempstead.

17 And, I am, here, today, just to
18 support this legislation moving forward
19 because what we know in the treatment World,
20 in the substance-abuse World, the earlier,
21 um, kids begin to use substances, whether it
22 is cigarettes, Hookahs, um, the likelihood of
23 addiction is higher.

24 So, today, we are here to help keep
25 faith, families and children safe.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 So, anything, any legislation that
2 could prevent substance abuse which our
3 community members are young and old.

4 We support any legislation that helps
5 educate community members and prevent early
6 onset of substance abuse.

7 Keeping paraphernalia out of our
8 communities is a strong step in this
9 direction.

10 Therefore, again, we support this
11 legislation moving forward.

12 Thank you.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you for your
14 comments.

15 Next, we have Felix Procacci.

16 Please, state your name and address
17 for the record.

18 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. 1165
19 Barns Street, Franklin Square.

20 First, why is the Town prohibiting the
21 Hookah facilities?

22 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Mr. Procacci, we
23 are not prohibiting them.

24 We are making them, um, go ahead, I am
25 sorry.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

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Go ahead.

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: We are restricting them away from residential areas as was mentioned earlier.

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FELIX PROCACCI: Restricting and prohibiting them so - -

TOWN ATTORNEY RA: They are prohibiting them in certain residences and business districts and going in Industrial Y Districts.

We are permitting them in Industrial Y Districts.

FELIX PROCACCI: Were any studies done to determine the effect of Hookah facilities on property values?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Right, now, as you know, smoking hookah for one hour is equivalent to smoking a pack of cigarettes.

The Hookah Lounges that are opened right, now, the neighborhood is finding drug paraphernalia in their front yard and aside yards.

We don't want it in residential areas.

So, the studies are what we hear from the people in our Town of Hempstead right,

1 now.

2 FELIX PROCACCI: Okay, um, yeah, I
3 looked into all of this, um, there is very
4 few studies and actually studies showing
5 there aren't studies on the addiction of the
6 Hookah, you know, that kind of smoking.

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7 But, um, regarding what is a matter of
8 you used public comments to come to this
9 conclusion on how to restrict it.

10 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Not to be in
11 residential areas and all the kids being
12 subjected to the smoke.

13 FELIX PROCACCI: I agree they
14 shouldn't be in residential areas.

15 Just like, you know, the different
16 between this and a bar, I don't want a bar in
17 a residential area either.

18 It is the same, you just are
19 restricting it to Industrial areas, that is
20 all this legislation is?

21 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Yes.

22 FELIX PROCACCI: Thank you.

23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you.

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Donna LaScala?

25 DONNA LaSCALA: To the esteemed

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 Council, my name is Donna LaScala.

2 I am the Director of the East Meadow
3 SMART Coalition located in East Meadow.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. LaScala, can
5 you just state your address for the record,
6 please.

7 DONNA LaSCALA: Sure.

8 My address is 12 Hick (as heard)
9 Circle, Hicksville.

10 I am not currently living in the Town
11 of Hempstead, but I am representing the
12 Coalition which is in the Town of Hempstead.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

14 DONNA LaSCALA: We are working along
15 with the East Meadow School District,
16 political leaders, business leaders and
17 community leaders to combat the drug abuse
18 problem in our youth.

19 And, I am glad the heroin and opioid
20 problem is starting to get some recognition.

21 We really do need to pay more
22 attention to this issue of vaping drugs like
23 nicotine and alcohol.

24 And, the Hookah Lounges and vaping are
25 rising in use and posing a great health risk.

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1 The Center for Disease Control and
2 Prevention reports that Hookah smoke carries
3 many of the same health issues and risk as
4 traditional cigarette smoking, oral cancer,
5 lung cancer, stomach cancer, esophageal
6 cancer.

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7 Hookah smoke delivers nicotine, but it
8 also contains smoke from a heat source which
9 is, um, latent with carbon monoxide and other
10 toxic carcinogens.

11 This is very dangerous for second-hand
12 recipients.

13 In addition, as Councilman Dunne said,
14 traditional smokers take an average of twenty
15 puffs to finish a cigarette.

16 An hourlong Hookah session involves
17 two hundred puffs from a mouth piece with
18 several participants.

19 This is a health hazard, to clarify
20 the gravity of the situation.

21 I want to bring some specifics in, um,
22 East Meadow, we, currently have sixteen
23 hundred ninety-two municipal students and two
24 thousand and two hundred and seventy-nine
25 High School students in the School District.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 The CDSC reported in 2016 that 7.2 percent
2 of the Middle Schoolers and 20.2 percent of
3 the High School students reported they are
4 using some type of tobacco product.

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5 And, also, two percent of the Middle
6 Schoolers and 4.8 percent High School
7 students reported using Hookah in the last
8 thirty days.

9 So, if you look at the Hookah use over
10 a thirty-day period of time, that means that
11 thirty-four kids from Clarke and Brooklyn
12 Middle School combined and one hundred and
13 nine kids from East Meadow High School and
14 Clarke High School combined are visiting
15 Hookah lounges.

16 Um, this is also present in Colleges
17 students - - twenty-two - - some were
18 between twenty-two and forty percent of
19 college students are going to Hookah Lounges.

20 Now, we have several, um, Colleges in
21 our Community; Hofstra, Molloy, Adelphi,
22 Nassau Community College, that is about forty
23 thousand students in those four Colleges.

24 So, if I look at twenty-two to forty
25 percent, that is somewhere between eight

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 thousand and sixteen thousand kids between
2 the ages of eighteen and twenty-one going to
3 Hookah Lounges.

4 Honestly, we made it just too easy for
5 them.

6 The Cazpa (phonetic spelling) is
7 located at 2051 Hempstead Turnpike, that is
8 within walking distance of East Meadow High
9 School.

10 The Mystique Lounge is at 9073 Old
11 Country Road is easily reached by Park
12 students and Scorpion is conveniently placed
13 between Hofstra and NCC and that is at 723
14 Fulton Avenue.

15 So, we can point the finger at the
16 manufacturer of these non-tobacco products
17 because they make it so attractive to kids
18 with flavors like apple, mint, cherry,
19 chocolate and watermelon or we can take a
20 good look at ourselves and realize we need to
21 be part of a solution and not part of the
22 problem.

23 And, on behalf of the Coalition, I
24 would like to endorse Councilman Dunne's
25 initiative to limit Hookah Lounges

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 and limit their proximity to schools.

2 Thank you very much.

3 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

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5 Is there anybody else that wishes to
6 be heard on this?

7 Oh, wait, I am sorry, one more slip,
8 County Legislator John Ferretti.

9 Legislator, would you, please, state
10 your name and address for the record.

11 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATOR FERRETTI:

12 Sure.

13 John Ferretti. 76 Ridge Lane,
14 Levittown.

15 Good Evening, Supervisor.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good Evening.

17 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATOR FERRETTI:

18 Congratulations.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

20 You, as well.

21 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATOR FERRETTI:

22 Thank you so much.

23 I am here, today, in support of this
24 initiate in Levittown.

25 As Councilman Dunne is well aware

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 we have a Hookah Lounge that was proposed,
2 um, on the corner of Wilcox Lane and
3 Hempstead Turnpike and they actually opened
4 without building permits.

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5 And, the Town has done a good job in
6 closing them down, but I fully support this
7 legislation as Councilman Dunne is well
8 aware.

9 I have given him some input on this,
10 as well.

11 Um, we have a severe problem, not just
12 in Levittown, not just in the Town of
13 Hempstead, but, really, throughout the State
14 of New York with the opioid epidemic that you
15 are all dealing with.

16 People don't realize that the Hookah -
17 - smoking hookah is just as harmful as
18 smoking cigarettes and sometimes even worse
19 because while you may smoke cigarettes, the
20 whole business model of Hookah Lounges is a
21 social environment where you are sharing this
22 Hookah pipe and taking two hundred hits, I
23 will call it, of this Hookah pipe.

24 With a single cigarette, you can smoke
25 with far fewer.

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1 This is something that does not have
2 an odor like cigarettes does.

3 It is something that, as a parent,
4 really can't detect on your child.

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5 And, so, it is so important that we
6 nip this in the bud right, now.

7 And, I ask that you all support
8 Councilman Dunne's legislation.

9 Councilman, I really thank you for all
10 the work you put in on this and I fully
11 support it.

12 Thank you so much.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody
14 else that wishes to be heard on this item?

15 Please, come forward.

16 State your name and address for the
17 record.

18 JANE FINKELSTEIN: Congratulations.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

20 JANE FINKELSTEIN: Jane Finkelstein.

21 848 Mayer (as heard) Drive, Wantagh, New
22 York.

23 As a parent representing the Levittown
24 Community Action Coalition, we are dedicated
25 to helping keep our community safe.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 Um, there is representation by all
2 sectors of our community; the schools, the
3 churches, the businesses and the students, as
4 well.

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5 As recently as today, this morning, we
6 discussed concerns about the presence of
7 these establishments in our community.

8 Um, they should not be in residential
9 areas where there are so many children, so
10 many schools.

11 Today, we had a meeting where we had
12 students through our School District and I
13 can tell you, every single topic of
14 conversation of these children were, in terms
15 of vaping, of drug paraphernalia and what not
16 having any place in the Town of Hempstead, my
17 community, to go to, which results to this
18 type of behavior.

19 So, we surely do not need one on our
20 corners right where we live.

21 So, I greatly appreciate, as a parent,
22 that this is strongly considered, and this
23 legislation is passed with these
24 establishments are not in residential
25 neighborhoods.

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1 Thank you.

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

3 Is there anybody else that wishes to
4 be heard?

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5 Please, come forward.

6 State your name and address for the
7 record, please.

8 RICHARD SCHURIN: Good Evening.

9 Richard Schurin. 167 Jefferson
10 Avenue, Island Park, New York.

11 Congratulations.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

13 RICHARD SCHURIN: I support this
14 measure, but I have some questions regarding
15 the legality of it.

16 What is the definition of a Hookah
17 Lounge?

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Ra, can you
19 help us on that one.

20 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I have to tell you
21 that I really don't know, um, exactly, what
22 it is.

23 But, it is a premises where people go
24 to smoke large, I guess they call them,
25 "hookahs" and, um, and so, I am not one

1 hundred percent sure.

2 I apologize.

3 RICHARD SCHURIN: Really, my question
4 is - -

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5 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: You know it when
6 you see it.

7 RICHARD SCHURIN: I know what a Hookah
8 Lounge is, what is the difference of a Hookah
9 Lounge in this proposed law if hookahs are
10 present and used in bars or they are used in,
11 um, cigar shops, for example, which I know
12 they exist in, um, how do you define a Hookah
13 Lounge under this law?

14 Has there been any attempt to do that?

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Can I jump in.

16 Basically, a Hookah Lounge, as our
17 Town Attorney stated, is a place where people
18 congregate, smoke the material, has excessive
19 amounts of nicotine where they share the same
20 pipe which is obviously a major health
21 concern aside from the nicotine.

22 It is the same thing, you know, you
23 can't have a bar in certain areas, near a
24 school, so, a bar is a bar.

25 A Hookah Lounge is a Hookah Lounge.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 I don't see that as an issue.

2 RICHARD SCHURIN: All Hookah Lounges
3 in the rear would be permitted?

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: No.

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5 RICHARD SCHURIN: So, any
6 establishment, if it is predominately a bar
7 or cigar shop, it happens to also have Hookah
8 facilities, which I know places exist, do you
9 understand that would be prohibited?

10 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: The legislation
11 states that various hookah bars, hookah
12 lounges, hookah services, established
13 lawfully and actually operating right, now,
14 will continue to be open.

15 We are not going to close anybody
16 down.

17 It is preventing anybody from opening
18 a new one like someone spoke about earlier
19 and they want to open in Levittown on
20 Hempstead Turnpike, all around it and kids
21 constantly in the area there.

22 This is not acceptable.

23 And if you want to do something in
24 your home, that is fine.

25 You cannot do it in public.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 We don't want the kids and even young
2 adults that are impressionable to have this
3 in residential areas.

4 If you want to enjoy it and do it, you
5 can go to the City or go to Industrial areas
6 where it is allowed, and they will open
7 there.

8 RICHARD SCHURIN: I am not nitpicking.

9 I am recommending that you define what
10 Hookah Lounge is to make sure that this law
11 is enforceable.

12 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: It is an
13 establishment that has - -

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: No, I
15 know what a Hookah Lounge is.

16 I did see one and I visited one, so,
17 that is why I know what it is.

18 It is a large area where you guys go
19 to smoke pipes.

20 It is a large piece of equipment that
21 they use with different tobacco and different
22 smells in it and they sit there and smoke.

23 And, the smoke is all over the place.

24 So, that is what they do.

25 It is not just one.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 It is three or four different pipes
2 or more that they use to smoke.

3 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: If I may, I
4 think Mr. Sherman's questions is how are we
5 going to differentiate between a hookah bar
6 standing alone and a hookah bar that maybe
7 involved in another premises, is that
8 correct?

9 RICHARD SCHURIN: Yeah, a hookah being
10 involved in any premises.

11 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: What the law
12 states, it has, if it is in a facility that
13 has, as the primary accessory or ancillary
14 use smoking tobacco or other substances
15 through hookah pipes, either single or multi
16 use and so, there are different types of
17 hookah pipes and, um, there is also something
18 called a water pipe, a shisha pipe, so that
19 and so it is clubs that have these types of
20 facilities and has as its primary or
21 ancillary or accessory use facilities where
22 people can be in lounges, cabarets or, um,
23 bars which have as their primary use smoking
24 those substances.

25 RICHARD SCHURIN: Thank you.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 My last question; has the Town
2 received a legal opinion from anyone as to
3 the legality of the law?

4 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The law was patent
5 after the laws in other municipalities and we
6 are confident it would be upheld.

7 RICHARD SCHURIN: Thank you.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody
9 else that wishes to be heard on this time?

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

12 COUNCILWOMAN DUNNE: I make a Motion
13 to close the Hearing and move on the item, to
14 adopt the item.

15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second
16 the Motion.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would
18 you call the roll.

19 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

20 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Before I vote, I
23 would like to congratulate Councilman Dennis
24 Dunne on this initiative. I think it is the

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 right thing to do and I am glad to vote
2 before us, I vote aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

4 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I just want to say
7 Father Ralph from Saint Barnard, my parish,
8 opened up a room in the school for people
9 that have opioid overdoses and he says he
10 supports this, also and together with our
11 initiative, I vote aye.

12 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
13 Goosby?

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I
15 definitely vote yes.

16 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-
17 Sweeney?

18 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I want to
19 thank Councilman Dunne for his incredible
20 leadership on this issue and I happily vote
21 aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I, too, thank you,
24 Councilman Dunne for bringing this issue to

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 our attention and presenting this Resolution
2 and I vote aye.

3 That concludes our Public Hearings,
4 Madam Clerk, please, call the Administrative
5 Calendar.

6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: The item passes
7 everybody. Thank you.

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

10 CLERK CABANA: On the Administrative
11 Calendar we have Items 1 through 21.

12 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Are there any
13 Council Members who would like to sever any
14 of the items on the Administrative Calendar.

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Yes,
16 Supervisor, on Item 17, I believe it is 17, I
17 would like to sever two individuals from the
18 items pertaining to Mathew Coleman and
19 Theresa Gaffney.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Are there any
21 other Council Members that would like to
22 sever any items on the Administrative
23 Calendar?

24 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Number 5,
25 forget that, I am sorry.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, I
2 would like to sever, also on Item Number 17,
3 Nasrin Ahmad.

4 May I have a Motion.

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5 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move
6 the Administrative Calendar in its entirety 1
7 through 21 with the exception of those
8 severed items.

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a number of
11 slips from those that wish to be heard on the
12 Administrative Calendar, um, for the items
13 that were severed.

14 I will call them later.

15 Janet Peretsky (phonetic spelling)
16 Administrative Calendar Item Number 5, but
17 that has been tabled.

18 Felix Procacci on Item 7.

19 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. 1165
20 Barnes Street, Franklin Square, New York.

21 Um, question, um, the person named
22 Jake Hanson being appointed to a position, is
23 he related to anyone from the Town?

24 I would like to know if Jake Hanson is
25 related to anyone being appointed to a

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1 position in the Town, if he is related to
2 anybody?

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Sammon?

4 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Madam
5 Supervisor.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, Mr. Sammon.

7 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Yes, I
8 believe the individual is related to a Town
9 person.

10 FELIX PROCACCI: I believe one of the
11 things we are trying to reform is everybody
12 gets a shot at getting the job.

13 And, I ask Mr. Hanson be severed.

14 The application should be opened so
15 everyone can apply for that position and have
16 an opportunity because it is not fair that
17 employees' children, relationships to
18 employees get first dibs at jobs.

19 Um, with regards to Gaspare
20 Tumminello, I would recommend instead of
21 hiring another Deputy Town Clerk, why not we
22 transfer Felice Guarnari back to the Town
23 Clerks Office and he has all the years of
24 experience.

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1 It is a little bit more money but it
2 is not a difference bringing in additional
3 salary by not being more sufficient, that is
4 my suggestion on that.

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5 With regards to Susan Pokalsky, I
6 can't get that name right, I am sorry, back
7 in 2011, when I worked with Gary Port, um, I
8 received an email from a reporter and this
9 Ms. Pokalsky wrote this in an email to Jackie
10 Nash of the L.I. Herald, "as mentioned, here
11 is the info about Felix Procacci received
12 eight hundred and eighty dollars from Gary
13 Port's campaign."

14 It is available from the Board of
15 Elections filings.

16 It was done from her TOH email account
17 at 1:56 p.m., 11/4/2011.

18 Um, she is a policy maker.

19 She is involved in politics and, um, I
20 really, you know, I question, you know,
21 really keeping somebody who is really a
22 political person on board when they were
23 really hired for other reasons.

24 James LaCarrubba, I didn't know him.

25 I looked him up.

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1 And, the issue I have with him is he
2 also has a consulting firm, Blue Street
3 Strategies.

4 If he gets a phone call at 10:00
5 O'clock in the morning, 11:00 o'clock in the
6 morning over here regarding his consulting
7 firm, does he take the call?

8 Does he wait to 5:00 o'clock when he
9 gets home?

10 He does public and private work in his
11 consulting firm as stated on his LinkedIn.

12 It is just an issue that I bring up
13 with a conflict of interest on bids his
14 company may have.

15 I know nothing about it.

16 I just bring it up because how can you
17 run a company and have a fulltime job?

18 And, um, on Matt Hynes, um, as
19 everyone knows who knows me, I do, from time
20 to time, I do email facts, you know,
21 regarding issues in the Town of Hempstead,
22 things like, you know, all factual
23 information.

24 I am not political, as everyone knows.

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1 It is just fact-based stuff and back
2 in 2013, he asked me to be removed from one
3 of my mailings lists.

4 And, it was shocking to me because
5 someone who is involved in the day-to-day
6 things of politics in the Town of Hempstead,
7 I think you should be up-to-date on the
8 latest and greatest stuff that is going on in
9 the Town of Hempstead.

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I can assure you,
11 Mr. Procacci, Mr. LaCarrubba will not be
12 doing any private business while he is
13 working here working on Town time.

14 And, also, Mr. Hynes, I am sure he
15 will be very much engaged in the matters of
16 the Town of Hempstead while he is working
17 here.

18 FELIX PROCACCI: Okay, there are
19 things that concern me.

20 And, like I said, I don't know Mr.
21 LaCarrubba.

22 I can't speak to anything that he
23 does.

24 He has to fill out, if he didn't
25 already, his Disclosure Forms.

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1 And, like I showed with Ms. Pokalsky
2 on Town time and other employees that are
3 contacting news reporters about politics and
4 not Town business and once you are political,
5 how do you separate like Matt Coleman, how do
6 you separate what time you go home and what
7 time do you start your job as a consultant
8 for Mr. Santino.

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9 He had two jobs, too.

10 He was hired on his campaign and he
11 was an employee.

12 When does one job end and one job
13 begin?

14 And, you know he got a forty-thousand-
15 dollar raise for his additional
16 responsibilities, meanwhile he transferred to
17 another position, which, obviously, doesn't
18 have those additional responsibilities, at
19 the same salary.

20 I don't know how that is going to go.

21 That is just an example of how it is
22 unfair.

23 First, you give a raise for additional
24 responsibilities.

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1 Now, you take away the additional
2 responsibilities and you don't take away the
3 money.

4 So, I bring this up as facts and that
5 is it.

6 I hope decision get made of these
7 Facts.

8 Thank you.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr.
10 Procacci.

11 I think you raised some issues that we
12 will address.

13 We will make sure all employees are
14 devoting all their efforts to the Town of
15 Hempstead when they are here on Town time.

16 Next we have Jim Alcus?

17 (Whereupon, "yeah, I want to speak at
18 the end" was heard yelling from the audience.
19 After, the following ensued.)

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody
21 else that wishes to be heard on the
22 Administrative Calendar outside of the
23 severed items?

24 Please, come up.

25 DOMENICA CALIFANO: Congratulations.

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1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

2 DOMENICA CALIFANO: Congratulations,
3 Councilman Blakeman and congratulations to
4 you too. I wasn't sure.

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5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: State your name
6 and address for the record.

7 DOMENICA CALIFANO: Domenica Califano.
8 4043 Long Beach Road, Island Park, New York.

9 I wasn't sure what, um, Councilman
10 D'Esposito was talking about some names you
11 mentioned, now, Matthew something - -

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: You didn't
13 understand what I was saying?

14 DOMENICA CALIFANO: I didn't get the
15 names.

16 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: The Supervisor
17 asked if there were any items that we wanted
18 to be severed off the Calendar.

19 She severed one name, which was Nasrin
20 Ahmad.

21 I severed two names, Matthew Coleman
22 and Theresa Gaffney.

23 DOMENICA CALIFANO: Theresa Gaffney is
24 from East Rockaway?

25 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Yes, she is.

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1 DOMENICA CALIFANO: Isn't she overpaid
2 and part of the Santino political connections
3 and, um, getting extra money for her house
4 from Superstorm Sandy that should be looked
5 into more.

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6 Thank you.

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

8 Is there anyone else that wished to be
9 heard on the Administrative Calendar?

10 Good Evening.

11 META MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday,
12 Baldwin resident and liberty and justice for
13 all.

14 Congratulations.

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

16 META MEREDAY: One and all, 2018, a
17 New Year, hopefully.

18 Um, I did have a question with regard
19 to 16 and 17.

20 I am curious and, yet, optimistic with
21 regard to why Number 5 was tabled because
22 that was on my list, as well.

23 I will see how that develops.

24 I am just curious whether this
25 amending process under 17 has to do with some

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1 of the, let's just say, inaccuracies that
2 were presented at the December 12th Meeting
3 that are being corrected, now.

4 I am just curious.

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5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Which parts are
6 you talking about Ms. Mereday?

7 METE MEREDAY: Well, I don't have the
8 extensive list as the precious speaker, Mr.
9 Procacci, from what I gathered, some of the
10 issues that are being amended under 17 have
11 to do with some of the decisions that were
12 made hastily on December 12th.

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Item 17 is mostly
14 bringing in most of my new staff, getting
15 them added to the Town of Hempstead payroll.

16 There is a bit of reorganization going
17 one within the majority Town Board Members
18 staffing.

19 Maybe Mr. Ra, would you like to speak
20 to that.

21 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The Town Board is
22 reorganizing how the staff and how they
23 assign their personnel.

24 They are going to have a central pool
25 that all Town of Hempstead Council persons

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1 can utilize together with one employee
2 assigned to each individual Council person.

3 Councilwoman Goosby is in a separate
4 situation.

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5 She is going to have the same
6 situation but in her situation, she is the
7 only Member of the Minority.

8 She will have all access to the entire
9 group.

10 META MEREDAY: So, the amending
11 process has to do with Supervisor Gillen's
12 appointments?

13 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: No.

14 META MEREDAY: No?

15 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: No.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Item 17, many of
17 the personnel that are listed here are people
18 coming on to my staff, in addition, there are
19 a number of reassignments of people keeping
20 the same salary, correct me if I am wrong, Mr.
21 Ra?

22 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I thought you were
23 referring to the explanation about the Town
24 Board if that had anything to do with
25 Supervisor Gillen's election, I thought.

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1 That was the question I was answering.

2 Supervisor, you are one hundred
3 percent correct in what you are saying.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: A number of the
5 personnel changes on 17 are Majority Board
6 Members reorganizing their staff.

7 People are already employed by the
8 Town of Hempstead.

9 They are keeping the same salaries.

10 This is not addressing the one hundred
11 and ninety-two personnel moves that happened
12 at the December 12th meeting.

13 META MEREDAY: Okay and I think many
14 of us would like to know when those issues
15 would be addressed.

16 I mean, for example, I get - - unless
17 I am going to hear about it later, um, there
18 have been no changes as far as I can see with
19 regard to providing additional resources and
20 property for the forty thousand-plus
21 Veterans.

22 I have not seen anything.

23 I have not read anything in NEWSDAY,
24 um, skywriting, nothing, that speaks to that
25 which is a major concern as previous speakers

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1 have addressed with the opioid crisis that we
2 have.

3 We can talk about Hookah Lounges.

4 We can talk about some of us like
5 myself who as a 911 First Responder just
6 walking into this building, getting passed
7 the corridor where the cigarette smoke is
8 still intense.

9 We can talk about these types of
10 issues.

11 Let's talk about, first, the training
12 we sorely need in this Country, as well as,
13 in this County and in the Township with
14 regard to harassment issues, things like
15 that.

16 So, I am still concerned as to these
17 Resolutions and creating and continuing and
18 we have not made any changes, that is a
19 concern for many of us who are out, here and
20 particularly those of us who attended these
21 meetings in December, where people were
22 getting appointments that were making more
23 money than you, Supervisor Gillen, that is a
24 problem.

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1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I can tell you
2 that is a concern of mine, as well.

3 Um, we are doing what we can to try to
4 research some of those issues in terms of the
5 Veterans.

6 I welcome your input, Ms. Mereday,
7 things we can improve.

8 I think all our Council Members will
9 support some of the initiatives that you want
10 to suggest, but, please, reach out to my
11 staff and we can talk about it further.

12 META MEREDAY: Okay and my last
13 question has to - - really has to do with
14 just an overall fiscal accounting and I am
15 hoping that is currently underway because
16 there was that issue, I guess, as they say,
17 the elephant in the room with the multi-
18 million-dollar mailings that were taking
19 place in the Town of Hempstead, as well as,
20 Nassau County.

21 And, I am hoping, again, that we will
22 see some movement with regard to some of the
23 funds that I would not want to say were
24 diverted but, let's be realistic, some of
25 those funds were diverted into different

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1 areas that I think could provide the services
2 that our members desperately need.

3 So, I am just hoping that those are
4 taken into consideration and if misconduct is
5 the only way that people will have to be
6 removed from their job or not performing
7 their job, then, they need to be
8 removed by any means necessary.

9 Lastly, I am just hoping that we have
10 more diversity.

11 I definitely am looking for more
12 professional courtesy.

13 Um, from those of us who sit before
14 this Board and I am glad that I can see that
15 when a question is being asked, when it is
16 answered, the clock has been stopped because
17 no one should be disrespected the way many of
18 us have been disrespected in the past.

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

21 META MEREDAY: And, it is a pleasure
22 seeing you before us, like I said, we look
23 forward to doing what we need to do to make
24 sure that our Town runs smoothly and all of

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1 the interests, all the constituencies' voices
2 are heard and their needs are addressed.

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

4 Is there anyone else that would like
5 to be heard on the Administrative Calendar
6 other than the items that have been severed?

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

9 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Hearing none, may
10 I have a Motion on the Administrative
11 Calendar?

12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I move we move
13 the Administrative Calendar.

14 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: We moved
15 it.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I apologize.

17 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Call the roll, we
18 have a Motion.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, so, Madam
20 Clerk, would you, please, call the roll.

21 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

22 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

23 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

25 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

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1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

2 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

3 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

4 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman

5 Goosby?

6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-

8 Sweeney?

9 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

10 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

12 Madam Clerk, would you, please, call

13 the first severed item.

14 CLERK CABANA: Personnel Resolution

15 concerning Nasrin Ahmad.

16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Valerie Lampe.

17 VALERIE LAMPE: Good evening,

18 everyone.

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Please, state your

20 name and address for the record.

21 VALERIE LAMPE: Hi, Valerie Lampe.

22 2506 Lakeside Drive, Baldwin, New York.

23 And, um, so, I am excited, really

24 excited about the, um, new regime,

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1 congratulations to everyone, Councilman
2 Blakeman for his Deputy appointment.

3 Um, all right, so, rock and roll, um,
4 with regards to this transfer for Nasrin
5 Ahmad, I would really urge the Board, the
6 full Board to consider the facts that, um,
7 not only did on Department, um, you know,
8 basically, say, they can't afford this
9 additional payroll and it was going to be
10 a huge financial burden.

11 Um, and, now, they are looking to
12 transfer this person to a new department.

13 Should I go on? I will wait.

14 Okay, I will wait. Yes?

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Sorry, go ahead.

16 VALERIE LAMPE: No, that is okay.

17 I am basically, making the case to not
18 approve this transfer for Nasrin Ahmad.

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

21 VALERIE LAMPE: I have been - - you
22 know more and more there are a lot of
23 commentary divided amongst this issue.

24 Some people have known her and worked
25 with her.

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1 Some people think she is a nice
2 person.

3 I don't know her personally.

4 I don't think that is a reason to give
5 someone a six-figure salary or any salary for
6 that matter but, also, um, specifically, to
7 the department which she is allegedly going
8 to be transferred to, um, the Parks and Rec.
9 Department, um, this is the same department
10 that denied the Wynsum Park funding.

11 And, basically, told them to go out
12 and fundraise.

13 So, what I am trying to ascertain
14 would hey hire someone for one hundred-plus
15 thousand dollars when they made the
16 citizens and residents of South Merrick
17 fundraise for a playground and, then,
18 actively fundraise.

19 They still dealt an issue.

20 This is a quote from "let's Play" page
21 on FACEBOOK, "The Merrick Park, um, issue
22 with the help of Councilwoman Erin King-
23 Sweeney who worked hard to assure approval
24 from the Town of Hempstead to build this

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1 Park, however, there is no room in the
2 existing Town budget to support the Bill."

3 So, you know, I just - - there seems
4 to be a huge discrepancy what is right.

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5 I can't hire someone for one hundred
6 and twenty-nine thousand dollars
7 simultaneously telling my customers, in
8 this case the residents, I can't afford to
9 give you the Park.

10 Additionally, I want to quote Mr.
11 Conroy, the, um, former Town Comptroller in
12 October the Town proposed the budget raises.
13 Mr. Conroy's, um, statement was "the Town's
14 Budget calls for a total fund balance of
15 about one hundred and forty million,
16 including one hundred and twenty million
17 dollars of reserve cash available."

18 So, we - - this is a quote, "We were
19 out of compliance with our policies and
20 previous budgets and we are using the Fund
21 Balance to mitigate a tax increase."

22 So, they were raising taxes
23 exclusively to replenish the Fund Balance.

24 It doesn't sound to me that the Town
25 has an extra one hundred and twenty-nine

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1 thousand and change just to transfer a
2 "nice person" so that she still has a job.

3 I mean, this is to be irresponsible
4 and financially imprudent.

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5 Um, in a World of finance, they urge
6 every single human being to have three to
7 six months-worth of emergency expenses,
8 three to six months of special expenses in
9 your bank account, okay.

10 If we are a Township and we are out
11 of compliance for years, how can we just toss
12 around hundred thousand dollar-plus
13 salaries to people because we may like
14 them?

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

17 VALERIE LAMPE: Thank you.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

19 Is there anyone else that would like
20 to be heard on Nasrin Ahmad?

21 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. 1165
22 Barnes Street, Franklin Square, New York.

23 Um, to save time, I agree with
24 everything Valerie said,, the only thing I
25 would like to add, anyone who wants to vote

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1 yes, including anyone else who thinks that
2 this should be done, please, explain to the
3 residents of the Town of Hempstead why they
4 can't afford to pay seventy-five thousand
5 dollars for some playground equipment but can
6 afford one hundred and thirty-five dollars
7 for an employee just that I am not for or
8 against Ms. Ahmad moving.

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9 I would like everyone who would vote,
10 yes, to sand up and say why, why,
11 that is, that you can't afford some
12 playground equipment but you can afford this.

13 And, that is really what it comes down
14 to.

15 I think if everybody had to explain
16 how they voted - - there was a commercial
17 like in the '70's or '80's, it went like if
18 you had to put your name on everything you
19 did and there was a street sweeper and if he
20 put - - signed his name to the street he just
21 swept and a builder who just built a building
22 and he put his name on the building, if they
23 had to put their name on what they did, here,
24 I think they would vote differently.

25 The thing is, the vote happens.

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1 It goes away and they go out
2 campaigning and say, "we did good" and it
3 only takes people with a lot of gumption, a
4 lot of energy to go out and find what the
5 truth is and, then, they have the extra
6 efforts of getting the Press to write it, so,
7 people will know what you guys really voted
8 on. So, I am not for or against the
9 appointment, but I ask all those who are for
10 the appointment to explain why they
11 are for it.

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12 Have some courage. Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
14 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

15 DIANE MADDEN: What a sight for sore
16 eyes, congratulations.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you very
18 much.

19 Can you state your name and address
20 for the record?

21 DIANE MADDEN: Diane Madden,
22 Hempstead, New York.

23 Um, I am against this transfer of
24 Nasrin Ahmad.

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1 And, I am not going to beat around the
2 bush.

3 This has very little to do with
4 securing her job, this has everything to do
5 with securing the Republicans, um, for their
6 hopeful but doubtful come back and this is,
7 um, I hope and I am counting on your
8 leadership to weed out the difference between
9 a job and a trusted-appointed employee and
10 what is happening, here.

11 Um, as you know,
12 the Town employees, the hardworking Town
13 employees, the heart and soul of this Town,
14 not the one hundred and ninety-two, not
15 Nasrin, got you into office and they are the
16 ones watching.

17 And, they are the ones that don't
18 approve of this either, but to, not for long,
19 they are watching.

20 They are watching these transfers.

21 They are watching these hires and they
22 are going to be the ones to decide in two
23 years that the Republicans, based on their
24 conduct, are not coming back.

25 Thank you.

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1 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
2 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody
4 that wishes to be heard on this severed item?

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5 Please, state your name and address
6 for the record.

7 RICHARD SCHURIN: Richard Schurin. 167
8 Jefferson Avenue, Island Park.

9 I think it has been very well said.

10 I really don't have much to add.

11 Mr. Procacci raised
12 something that got my thinking, um and I
13 really think it is healthy for the Board to
14 announce what the topic is to be discussed
15 and, then, discuss it in public, tell us in
16 front of us, um, there are too many deals
17 going on behind the doors.

18 You can't even tell from the agenda
19 what is really on the agenda.

20 And, I have been to many school board
21 meetings where the board members engage in
22 discussion with each other, respectfully, had
23 discussions of disagreements, maybe they
24 agree but we know where they stand.

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1 Um, the perception in the Town of
2 Hempstead is that the decisions are made by
3 political leaders not Board Members, whether
4 that is true or not, the fact that the Board
5 sits here and doesn't debate any of these
6 issues, we don't know exactly where you stand
7 on it, from that perception.

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8 And, you know, I would like to say
9 this is a very critical issue.

10 I believe it goes to the heart of what
11 the public has been debating for the last
12 year or so.

13 So, I would ask starting with you, Mr.
14 Ambrosino, what is your position and can you
15 tell us where you stand and why you stand on
16 this issue?

17 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I am thinking
18 about my vote.

19 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
20 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

21 RICHARD SCHURIN: How about you,
22 Councilman D'Esposito, what is your position
23 and where do you stand on this?

24 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am waiting
25 to hear from everybody.

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1 RICHARD SCHURIN: Senior Councilwoman
2 Goosby, what is your position?

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Ditto.

4 RICHARD SCHURIN: Councilman Dunne,
5 how do you stand on this issue and what is
6 your rationale?

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: This is public
8 comment, I am here to listen to you, not to
9 answer questions.

10 I am here to listen to you, then, I
11 will make my vote.

12 RICHARD SCHURIN: My question is
13 where do you stand?

14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: We are here to
15 listen to you and, then, I will make my vote.

16 That is my vote.

17 RICHARD SCHURIN: Ms. King-Sweeney,
18 can you tell us how you feel about this
19 issue?

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Um, I
21 support Nasrin's position.

22 I realize some of you in this room
23 disagree with me.

24 I think Nasrin has had a fine record
25 of public service.

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1 I know her well and this is not a
2 political decision.

3 It is a professional decision and I
4 respect your comments.

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5 I respect everyone that has spoken
6 today.

7 I think that while you might not see a
8 lot of debate in front of you, tonight, I
9 think what is actually happening is a lot of
10 productive conversation that we are having,
11 we had upstairs, tonight.

12 There is a lot of collegiality on
13 the Town Board.

14 I think all of us are trying very hard
15 to get things done for the residents of the
16 Town of Hempstead.

17 We will disagree on things, that is
18 fine.

19 There is a lot of healthy
20 conversations and debate going on.

21 RICHARD SCHURIN: I think that is
22 great.

23 I think we ought to see it.

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1 This is a Public Hearing; the public
2 is hearing and we ought not to be afraid to
3 express our disagreements and defend them.

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I don't
5 think any of us are afraid.

6 I certainly am not afraid.

7 I think this is healthy and I think we
8 are here in the spirit of cooperation,
9 tonight.

10 And, um, I think we have had a lot of
11 frisky meetings in the last several months
12 and we are looking to have dialogue and move
13 forward in a positive direction.

14 RICHARD SCHURIN: I am glad to
15 hear that.

16 I want to reiterate I think adults can
17 respectfully disagree and I would expect that
18 a Board like this would certainly not agree
19 on many things and can have public debate and
20 discussion which we would all benefit greatly
21 from and is sorely missing, in my opinion.

22 That is it, thank you.

23 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
24 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

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1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody
2 else that wishes to be heard?

3 ARLENE WALKER: Arlene Walker.

4 (Whereupon, "speak into the
5 microphone," was yelled out from the
6 audience. After, the following ensued.)

7 ARLENE WALKER: My name is Arlene
8 Walker. I am a resident of West Hempstead.

9 I am against the appointment of
10 Nasrin.

11 Um, we voted for you to make a clean
12 slate on this Board and holding onto Nasrin
13 is like putting dirt back on your plate - -

14 (Whereupon, "and dirt in our face,"
15 was yelled out from the audience. After,
16 the following ensued.)

17 ARLENE WALKER: Thank you.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody
19 else that wishes to be heard on this severed
20 item?

21 LUCILLE DEFINA: Lucille Defina,
22 Merrick, New York.

23 Um, I don't completely feel like I can
24 judge or say anything about her performance,
25 her work, whether she should be hired.

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1 The only thing that I did hear is that
2 she is being moved to a Department that has
3 no funding, that hasn't any money, so, if, as
4 Councilwoman Sweeney thinks she is a valuable
5 employee and she has done great things, of
6 course, we don't know what she has done.

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7 But, if you feel that way, if the
8 Board feels that way, why isn't she being
9 moved into a position where she actually has
10 work to do and she will be doing something
11 for this high, overpaid-salary rather than
12 going into a Department where it doesn't
13 sound like they are going to be doing much
14 anyway?

15 Isn't that a total waste of money?

16 There must be a place if she is that
17 value a person that has such a great track
18 record, there must be a position where she
19 will actually have to work and use her
20 talents if she is that talented.

21 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: To
22 clarify, she is being transferred from the
23 Department of Occupational Resources to the
24 Parks Department.

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1 It is the current Department that she
2 is in that did not have the funding.

3 It is not the Parks Department that
4 does not have the funding, correct me if I am
5 wrong, Mr. Ra.

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6 Additionally, obviously, I fought
7 hard, um, for the Wynsum Park, um, that is in
8 a way a separate issue.

9 And, I don't think it is fair to say
10 we don't have funding for Parks.

11 I think that, um, the decision was
12 made not to fund that Park, um, we will be
13 rebuilding that Park.

14 The residents of Merrick are raising
15 money.

16 It will be great and I am working
17 with the community, but, we are mixing a
18 couple different issues.

19 LUCILLE DEFINA: I said I totally
20 don't understand.

21 I am a little hesitant to come up here
22 and speak about this.

23 Her position will be in the Parks
24 Department and that is a Department that has
25 the money to maintain and improve, what

1 is her position there?

2 Will she be a valuable employee that
3 is worth making that kind of money?

4 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: My
5 expectation is she will continue to be a
6 valuable employee.

7 If, at some time, if she or anyone
8 else is having, um, issues that warrant, you
9 know, a move be made, then, we will address
10 it at that point.

11 But, as far as I know, she has been a
12 good employee for her entire time she was a
13 Town Clerk and she served in the Clerk's
14 Office prior to being appointed to the Town
15 Clerk.

16 So, she does have years of a track
17 record in the Town of Hempstead.

18 As far as whether or not the Parks has
19 money, I don't want to suggest any Department
20 is flushed with tons of cash and we are
21 giving cash out to everyone.

22 I think everything is a budgetary
23 decision that the Board, Supervisor and the
24 Commissioner of that Department will discuss
25 it.

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1 Um, but there was not enough money in
2 the previous Department and she is moving to
3 Parks.

4 Did I say that correctly, as far as I
5 want to make sure I have that accurate.

6 LUCILLE DEFINA: You would think that
7 the Parks Department that would be a
8 Department that is more laborers and
9 supervision and maintenance.

10 You would think.

11 So, what does someone coming from her,
12 um, type of work being a Town Clerk, what her
13 value would she be to the Parks Department,
14 what will she be doing there?

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

17 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: She is filling a
18 vacancy position, that is all I know.

19 She is filling a vacant position.

20 She is working on Personnel issues and
21 as the Commissioner decides, any other
22 things.

23 She is mainly going to work on
24 personnel issues.

25 LUCILLE DEFINA: She is a little

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1 over-qualified for - - I mean, it seems just
2 kind of putting her wherever you need to put
3 her to keep her.

4 And, again, that is what is upsetting
5 and because we are coming off years of
6 Hempstead just being a place where people
7 just did favors and took whatever they had to
8 do to keep their friends and family employed.

9 It will be very disappointing if we go
10 and do this, again.

11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Defina, I want
12 to point out to you I am the one who severed
13 this from the Administrative Calendar because
14 I do not support this move.

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

17 (Whereupon, cheering was heard from
18 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: She was moved to a
20 place where they thought her services would
21 be valuable but when they had no money for
22 her, they are moving her someplace else.

23 I do not support this move.

24 I will be voting against it.

25 I don't think I will have a lot of

1 Company.

2 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
3 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I read in NEWSDAY
5 that Maureen O'Connell might be looking for a
6 Deputy Clerk.

7 Who knows if her services could be
8 used elsewhere.

9 LUCILLE DEFINA: Thank you, Supervisor
10 Gillen, I must say me and a bunch of other
11 people in this room are very relieved, still
12 may be disappointed.

13 Councilwoman Sweeney, you did a great
14 job getting us here and I hope you
15 reconsider.

16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Okay, I
17 would like to thank you, many people know
18 there is a difference between the Parks and
19 money in the Parks Department.

20 It is Parks and Recreation, many of
21 you know we have great programs for all of
22 our Seniors.

23 We have great programs for our
24 children and we have wonderful programs all
25 Summer for our residents.

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1 It does take time to work on those.

2 If you ever come to the programs, they
3 have Halloween.

4 They have wonderful concerts that all
5 of our residents truly enjoy.

6 Seniors get a free pass. If you come
7 to the Park, I really think it is wonderful
8 if you have the opportunity and of course, we
9 have problems with money in Occupational
10 Resources and funding has cut most of the
11 money you get and that money is helping our
12 people in our Town to residents, together and
13 we have many people that know why she went
14 there, because Nasrin does a wonderful job.

15 ALBERTO DE LaROSA: Good Evening.
16 Congratulations to the new transition team.

17 SUPERVISOR SANTINO: Can you state
18 your name and address for the record.

19 ALBERTO DE LaROSA: Alberto DeLarosa.
20 I am very proud to be here, tonight, but I
21 have been listening to the whole conversation
22 and I had to come to the mic and I want to -
23 - I want to say something different, first,
24 all people came to Nassau to do something
25 different and we want you to move in a

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1 Direction because it doesn't matter what
2 Party you belong to that is what I have to
3 say.

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I agree with you,
5 sir and I believe this Council will work
6 together as a team to do great things for the
7 residents of the Town of Hempstead.

8 ALBERTO LaROSA: Thank you very much.

9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anyone
10 else that wishes to be heard on this severed
11 item?

12 We are talking about the Nasrin Ahmad
13 item.

14 SCOTT BANKS: Scott Banks. 165 Willis
15 Avenue, West Hempstead, New York.

16 Congratulations.

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

18 SCOTT BANKS: Um, Mr. Ra, how long has
19 the position been open in the Parks
20 Department?

21 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
22 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

23 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Mr. Sammon, may
24 have that information.

25 SCOTT BANKS: Can you tell me,

1 Please.

2 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: The
3 vacancy was created in 2017.

4 (Whereupon, "we cannot hear you," was
5 yelled out from the audience. After, the
6 following ensued.)

7 SCOTT BANKS: 2017, end of 2017.

8 Were there other individuals
9 considered for the position in the Parks
10 Department who worked in the Parks Department
11 during that period of time?

12 Can you respond to that?

13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Sammon, you
14 answered that not as a Member of this Town
15 Board and Council and I was not Supervisor in
16 2017.

17 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: No, other
18 people were considered by my office.

19 (Whereupon, "we can't hear you," was
20 yelled out from the audience. After, the
21 following ensued.)

22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Leno, can you
23 answer that?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LENO: Supervisor,
25 if I may, a number of position opened up.

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1 We weren't exactly sure, exactly who
2 was retiring, taking advantage of this early
3 retirement incentive.

4 Most of them opened up in the month of
5 December.

6 I don't know if there was time to
7 consider other people.

8 We were familiar with the facts of
9 Nasrin Ahmad, I have to say, by the way is a
10 very impressive employee.

11 She started off part-time in the Town
12 Clerk's Office, worked her way up, several
13 times taking Civil Service Exams, did a
14 remarkable job, went to do, I believe a good
15 career in public service.

16 She possesses a lot of institutional
17 knowledge of the Town of Hempstead.

18 She knows the operation and she knows
19 the people.

20 The Parks Department serves the
21 residents of the Town of Hempstead and her
22 skills, her expertise would be a valuable
23 addition to that Department.

24 SCOTT BANKS: If I can be heard,
25 please, apparently, her expertise and her

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1 accomplishments are, as was explained, were
2 not considered for the Parks Department,
3 initially, because she was hired for a
4 totally different Department outside of the
5 Parks Department, isn't that correct?

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6 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR: That is correct.

7 SCOTT BANKS: So, now, when that, um,
8 when the Commissioner of Occupational
9 Resources realized, "I have no money,
10 resources," I apologize, maybe we need her,
11 that, um, they had no money to pay her, then,
12 they had to find another spot for her.

13 Is that correct?

14 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: The
15 Department of Occupational Resources, as
16 Councilwoman Goosby just explained, has
17 suffered significant cuts with the Federal
18 cuts in budget in funding.

19 Um, we became aware of this several
20 months ago.

21 The feeling in the Town was that the
22 Town Board is going to decide the operation
23 in this Department because the services it
24 provides are extremely valuable to the
25 residents of the Town of Hempstead.

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1 However, it certainly would have
2 complicated the necessary steps the Town
3 would have to take.

4 SCOTT BANKS: If I may, if the
5 appointment for this position, the Parks
6 Department, was delayed from the end of
7 December to until the commencement of Ms.
8 Gillen's tenure, here, on the Board, as
9 Supervisor, would that have jeopardized the
10 working of the Parks and Recreation
11 Department?

12 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: Well, I am
13 not sure I understand your question.

14 SCOTT BANKS: Well, the appointment
15 for this position that Ms. Ahmad is currently
16 was appointed to, if it was delayed until
17 after the start of the New York, when
18 Supervisor Gillen became a Supervisor, would
19 that delay have jeopardized the Parks and
20 Recreation Department?

21 What was the rush?

22 The bottom line is, respectfully, that
23 elections have consequences.

24 I sat here on the Town Board in 2000.
25 I had a great staff of people who worked

1 hard for their constituents.

2 When I was voted out, they had
3 consequences.

4 Those consequences were my chief of
5 staff, who was an able person, who, frankly,
6 would have done a great job working for
7 constituent services in the Town of Hempstead
8 was not offered the same opportunities that
9 this political appointee is being given and
10 frankly - -

11 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
12 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

13 SCOTT BANKS: This is why - - this is
14 why people are just so upset by the process
15 and want changes, here.

16 Ms. Goosby, you saw the staff of the
17 Democratic Minority people losing their jobs.

18 People who are very able, people who
19 should have been given an opportunity to work
20 in various departments in the Town of
21 Hempstead, they were never offered that same
22 opportunity.

23 Why?

24 I suspect because their political
25 affiliation, because of their skills.

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1 We should be hiring people because of
2 their skills, not their political
3 affiliations.

4 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
5 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

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6 SCOTT BANKS: Ms. Sweeney, I
7 appreciate, I understand, you know, you have
8 a, um, you know, you are doing this because
9 you believe it is right.

10 I understand that.

11 I don't believe you are doing this
12 because purely out of politics.

13 I think this move is made because of
14 politics.

15 I think you should take a step back
16 and reconsider this position because, once,
17 again, Elections have consequences and that
18 this position is going to be filled, it
19 should be filled by somebody who has
20 experience in the Parks Department, knows the
21 personnel in the Parks Department and not
22 somebody who was elected, a former elected
23 officials.

24 Thank you for your time.

25 (Whereupon, applause from the audience

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1 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody
3 else that wished to be heard on this severed
4 item?

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5 Please, state your name and address
6 for the record.

7 AUDREY CHIUFFO: Audrey Chiuffo. 40
8 Matsee (as heard) Boulevard, Merrick New
9 York.

10 First, I would like to say, Happy New
11 Year to all and congratulations, Supervisor
12 Gillen.

13 And, what I want to say, we did elect
14 you, Supervisor Gillen to have change from
15 the way the usual things were done.

16 Now, I understand Ms. Sweeney, that
17 you feel that, um, Nasrin Ahmad was a very
18 good employee, that doesn't mean that she
19 should necessarily move to this position.

20 I know as a resident of Merrick, Town
21 of Hempstead, I had some difficulties with
22 the Town with Recreation and Parks
23 Department.

24 I play tennis in Prospect Park and for
25 the longest time, they wouldn't let us play

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1 on Sundays until 12:00 o'clock because of
2 church services and when I inquired, they
3 just said the church complained it was too
4 noisy, that was really because of the
5 basketball players who were very noisy.

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6 And, very focused tennis players are
7 not really noisy people who are vocal in the
8 things they say.

9 I got know help.

10 I tried my best, that was part of the
11 culture.

12 It was, "keep things as they are," the
13 people complained, it was the church.

14 We will keep it as it is.

15 We wanted a change, that is why we
16 elected a new Supervisor.

17 So, therefore, why can't our
18 Supervisor decide, interview candidates and
19 select that person?

20 Why is there just still the culture of
21 the same thing, this political thing?

22 Change should be happening.

23 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
24 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

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1 AUDREY CHIUFFO: Supervisor Gillen
2 selected Bruce Blakeman as her Deputy
3 Supervisor.

4 Let's all clap for that.

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5 (Whereupon, applause and cheering were
6 heard from the audience. After, the
7 following ensued.)

8 AUDREY CHIUFFO: She is reaching
9 across Party lines, so, let's do this.

10 Let's give free hand.

11 Let's give her free hands to help
12 select the best people.

13 She doesn't want to have people
14 foisting on her a job that she should be
15 selecting.

16 Come on, you know, let's use our
17 brains.

18 Let's do the right thing.

19 (Whereupon, "yeah," was heard from the
20 audience. After, the following ensued.)

21 AUDREY CHIUFFO: You all see that is
22 happening.

23 Come on. Don't do this.

24 Let's do the right thing, all of you.

25 Come on.

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1 She is reaching across Party line.

2 Why don't you reach across?

3 I know, just, now, when someone was
4 speaking a few minutes ago and they weren't
5 speaking into the microphone and I said, "We
6 can't hear you," is the rude to say, "we
7 can't hear you"?

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8 But, yet, one of the Officers, here,
9 like looked at me in a threatening manner and
10 said, "don't yell."

11 I just said, "we can't hear."

12 What is wrong with that?

13 There is a culture and it is the
14 culture of keeping things the way they were.

15 You can't speak up. You can't
16 dissent.

17 That is what this Country was built
18 on, wasn't it, everyone?

19 (Whereupon, cheering and applauding
20 was heard from the audience. After, the
21 following ensued.)

22 AUDREY CHIUFFO: So, let's give our
23 new Supervisor the free hand that she needs,
24 deserves to select the best people for the
25 jobs.

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1 And, why don't you all work with her,
2 not against her, but work with her.

3 She is here and she is here to stay.

4 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
5 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Um, you
7 saw there was a lot of dissent on the Board
8 and I congratulated my friend, Bruce,
9 publicly on the selection that the Supervisor
10 made.

11 I think that was great, a great sign
12 of bipartisanship.

13 He will do a great job.

14 And, you live in Merrick. I am not
15 sure about the tennis situation.

16 I can't imagine that happened and my
17 office, if they didn't help you, I apologize.

18 We love tennis, but - -

19 AUDREY CHIUFFO: That was before you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I think
21 there are a lot of things that have changed
22 but, also, not everything that happened
23 before was bad.

24 And, I think that, um, you know,
25 someone like Nasrin or any other person, um,

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1 is subjected to a Town Board vote and that is
2 what we are doing right, now, voting as a
3 Board with different positions and we are
4 going to agree and we are going to disagree.

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5 And, as far as supporting the
6 Supervisor, I have said a lot of public
7 things about the Supervisor and I have been
8 at public events with her and if you could
9 see my phone log, today, of all the phone
10 calls back and forth with the Supervisor, I
11 went and chatted with the Supervisor right
12 before the Town Board Meeting, um, so, I
13 think there is a tremendous spirit of
14 cooperation, um, going on.

15 And, I think we are all really trying.

16 Just because someone was old, I don't
17 mean age-wise, from a couple of years ago and
18 we are trying to keep her on, that is not
19 necessarily a bad things.

20 And, we can all disagree on these
21 types of things, but, I think we are really
22 trying our best to work together.

23 AUDREY CHIUFFO: Let's, maybe, take a
24 little more time before we decide on someone
25 who was elected for one office and is,

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1 now, being put into something else which she
2 may not really be qualified.

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Does it
4 help that she plays tennis.

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5 (Whereupon, laughter was heard.
6 After, the following ensued.)

7 AUDREY CHIUFFO: I will tell you what,
8 let's have a tennis match.

9 Let Lucille Defina play her. Try to
10 beat Lucille Defina.

11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Obviously, you
12 never seen John McEnroe play, if you say
13 there are quiet tennis players.

14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I tell you that I
15 am optimistic, as you know, personnel
16 decisions, they are on the calendar because
17 they are voted on by the Town Board.

18 I am very optimistic that I will be
19 able to work cooperatively with many of the
20 members of this Town Board.

21 We have been talking all day.

22 Sometimes we are going to agree,
23 sometimes we are not going to agree.

24 This maybe one of those instances.

25 I am moving in. I hope we will all

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1 work together in a bipartisan manner to do
2 the best thing for the Town of Hempstead,
3 that is my sincere hope.

4 AUDREY CHIUFFO: Thank you.

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

7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, any others?

8 SUE MOLLER: I am here, hello.

9 Sue Moller, congratulations,
10 Supervisor Gillen.

11 I am very excited. I just wanted to
12 bring something up about, um, the transfer of
13 Nasrin.

14 To my understanding, she is involved
15 with active litigation with the Town of
16 Hempstead and she is named in papers with the
17 Parks and Recreation Department in charge is
18 that a problem?

19 (Whereupon, "woe," was heard from the
20 audience. After, the following ensued.)

21 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: No, it does not
22 present any conflict.

23 SUE MOLLER: Is it a smart move?

24 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: It is irrelevant to
25 what she is doing.

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1 (Whereupon, "No, it is not," was heard
2 yelling out from the audience. After, the
3 following ensued.)

4 SUE MOLLER: Okay, thank you very
5 much.

6 (Whereupon, "such a lie," was heard.
7 "He is a liar. He is such a liar," was heard
8 from the audience. After, the following
9 ensued.)

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: State your name
11 and address for the record?

12 GIOVANNI ORTIZ: Giovanni Ortiz,
13 Freeport, New York.

14 And, I would like to start by saying
15 congratulations to you, Supervisor Gillen and
16 to our new Town Clerk, as well.

17 Um, I just want to reiterate a point
18 that you brought up earlier because I think
19 it is important, um, as far as it being a
20 political move, rather than the best person
21 for the job, for them to move her to a
22 position that didn't even have the funding to
23 support her in the first place, shows it was
24 rushed and not thought of and was rushed
25 because it was a political move at the

1 last minute.

2 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
3 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

4 GIOVANNI ORTIZ: And, she was
5 appointed to the Occupational Resources
6 Department, I believe, was the first move
7 that was made and then because there was no
8 funding, she was then transferred to the
9 Parks Department which, in my opinion, are
10 two very different Departments and require
11 very different qualifications, so, if she was
12 qualified for one, I am not sure if she is
13 qualified for the other.

14 Um, she was an elected official, who
15 lost her election, fair and square.

16 (Whereupon, "that is it," was heard
17 yelled out from the audience. After, the
18 following ensued.)

19 GIOVANNI ORTIZ: And, that is the risk
20 you taken when you are an elected official.

21 You have to win your election and win
22 reelection.

23 She did not.

24 So, that does not mean because she is
25 a nice person and was well liked by many

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1 people, she should get a job for that reason.

2 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
3 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

4 GIOVANNI ORTIZ: So, because it seems
5 like some of the Council Members have their
6 minds wondering which way they are going to
7 vote, I suggest, maybe, they conduct a new
8 search for that position.

9 And, if Nasrin Ahmad is the most
10 qualified, then, she should get the job, but,
11 if there is somebody more qualified, just
12 because they were not an elected official or
13 a Member of the Town before, they should have
14 a right to apply for that job, as well.

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

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Please, state your
18 name and address for the record.

19 AUBREY PHILLIPS: Aubrey Phillips,
20 Elmont, New York.

21 Congratulations, I notice that you
22 are, now, sitting atop a very gerrymandered
23 Board.

24 So, congratulations, again.

25 I hope you are successful under

1 these conditions.

2 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
3 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I am optimistic
5 that the Town Board Members are more
6 cooperative and do the best things for the
7 Town of Hempstead residents.

8 AUBREY PHILLIPS: Terrific, so, I have
9 been listening to this conversation or this
10 discussion, actually or community dialogue
11 with the Board and the problem that I have
12 with everything that has comeback from behind
13 the dais is that it evolves around cash,
14 money.

15 One Department didn't have sufficient
16 funds, so, we moved her to another Department
17 and this seems to be done without any
18 conversation for skill set.

19 I would like to know where is the
20 posting for this job so that others could
21 have applied for it?

22 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
23 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

24 AUBREY PHILLIPS: If no one can answer
25 where this job was posted, I

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1 would - - might suggest that this is a Public
2 Body and that I believe this job is not one
3 that affords appointing to anyone, that maybe
4 we should pause, post this job, the
5 requirements, its qualifications, etc., so
6 that people who qualify for this job can
7 actually apply for it and in reason,
8 discussion can be had about the candidates
9 that apply for this job.

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10 I am from the community of Elmont.

11 Elmont remembers.

12 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
13 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

14 AUBREY PHILLIPS: At this point,
15 Elmont is very educated, so, we understand,
16 Supervisor Gillen that the conversations in
17 the community that may come about suggesting
18 that you have been doing a good job, etc.

19 We understand that you are sitting on
20 top of a gerrymandered Board and, so, with
21 that said, let's repost, if it wasn't posted.

22 Let's post this job in a way that the
23 community can have access to it.

24 People can apply for it and, in fact,
25 if she is the best candidate for the job,

1 she will get it.

2 But, the way you are doing it,
3 tonight, is nothing more than a vulgar,
4 political move.

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5 Thank you very much.

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

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Anyone else that
9 wishes to be heard?

10 DEANNA DiVUTTI: Hello, Good Evening,
11 my name is Deanna DiVutti, Rockville Centre,
12 New York.

13 Happy New Year to everyone.
14 Congratulations to those who were elected.

15 If you were elected, that means that
16 the community has entrusted you with spending
17 our hard-earn tax dollars that will maximize
18 in a way that will maximize the benefit to
19 the public.

20 So, I had a question, as the previous
21 gentleman, what was the search process for
22 this role?

23 Was it posted anywhere?

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Sammon, can
25 you answer that question.

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1 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
2 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

3 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: They did
4 not post the Notice.

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5 (Whereupon, "We can't hear you," was
6 heard from the audience. After, the
7 following ensued.)

8 DEANNA DiVUTTI: He said they did not
9 post a Notice.

10 I will repeat what he said.

11 He said, "They did not post the
12 Notice."

13 Okay, thank you.

14 Now, my question is that there is
15 arguments that have been made that she is
16 highly qualified, has experience, is it not
17 true her previous role as Town Clerk, she
18 forgot or did not correctly post or give
19 Public Notice to certain legislation and/or
20 Town Meetings, such, that legislation was
21 passed to be invalidated?

22 So, if that is the case, would
23 someone, please, correct me if that is wrong,
24 doesn't that show a track record of a little
25 less than success?

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1 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Let's have
2 the facts, here, before we disparage someone,
3 I want to make sure we are correct, here.

4 Mr. Ra, in the context we are talking
5 about that was the Ethics Law that I was
6 heavily involved with, which I totally fought
7 against that had nothing to do with Nasrin.

8 I want to defend her character, here.

9 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: She had nothing to
10 do with it.

11 DEANNA DiVUTTI: Okay, but did she not
12 fail to publicly notify the public or
13 something?

14 I remember reading about this in
15 NEWSDAY.

16 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: There was an issue
17 with a Notice.

18 It had nothing to do with the Town
19 Clerk's Office.

20 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: It was the
21 Notice that was provided to her, the legal
22 language of the Notice.

23 I fought hard against that, that Bill.

24 I cannot wait to get rid of the income
25 cap but that was not Nasrin's fault.

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1 You have to lay the blame, it was not
2 with her.

3 DEANNA DIVUTTI: She posted a Notice
4 that shouldn't have been posted.

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5 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: It was
6 legal wording that was provided to her by our
7 legal department.

8 She is not a lawyer.

9 She is not asked a as a lawyer to
10 confirm if that language is correct.

11 She was absolutely fulfilling the
12 responsibilities of her job.

13 I will not stand by and let someone's
14 character be attacked.

15 This was not her fault.

16 That mistake rested with someone else.

17 I was totally opposed to what happened
18 and I will litigate that if necessary, but,
19 this was not Nasrin's fault.

20 DEANNA DIVUTTI: Okay, that was good
21 to know.

22 In a way, whether or not this, um, Ms.
23 Ahmad is qualified, I think that her
24 appointment creates a perception that the
25 Town of Hempstead is really a Jobs Program

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1 for friends and family - -

2 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
3 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

4 DEANNA DIVUTTI: - - For the Town of
5 Hempstead and I believe that we need to move
6 forward as the largest Township and most
7 successful Township in America.

8 We really need to have more of a
9 meritocracy, whereby, positions are opened up
10 to the public.

11 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
12 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

13 DEANNA DIVUTTI: Finally, it is true,
14 other residents are saying there wasn't a
15 budget for Parks or what not, yet, you have a
16 budget for one hundred and thirty-thousand-
17 dollar position for Ms. Ahmad, who are voting
18 for her role, believe it is so necessary and
19 crucial to have her.

20 Perhaps, they are willing to
21 reallocate funds from other places in the
22 budget, um, because, it seems that people
23 articulated the Parks Department has been
24 unable to fulfill, um, its role to the
25 residents of the Town of Hempstead.

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1 And, finally, I wanted to ask some
2 other Council Members just as a general
3 principle, do you believe that you owe your
4 constituents and the residents of the Town of
5 Hempstead a justification for any vote that
6 you make?

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7 So, do you believe, just in general
8 principle, that if asked, you should provide
9 justification for any vote that you make to
10 your constituents?

11 Mr. Ambrosino?

12 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I believe if
13 the case warrants, sometimes.

14 It is not - - this Board does a lot of
15 contemplation.

16 We discuss. We debate. We research.

17 Every Member on this Board, whether
18 Republican or Democrat supports the decision.

19 It is an individual decision whether
20 or not we decide to explain his or her vote.

21 I support their conclusion.

22 It is America and I do believe we need
23 to justify and explain every single decision
24 that we make provided that you do the
25 homework necessary to make a formal decision.

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1 DEANNA DIVUTTI: Okay, so, you don't
2 believe that you need to provide
3 justification to your constituents?

4 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: That is not
5 what I said.

6 DEANNA DIVUTTI: No? Okay, do you
7 believe that you should provide justification
8 for any vote that you make to your
9 constituents?

10 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: It depends on
11 the vote.

12 DEANNA DIVUTTI: So, sometimes you
13 don't think you need to justify your vote.

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: It really
15 depends on the vote.

16 DEANNA DIVUTTI: Ms. Goosby?

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: If I can
18 correct, for one second, if I may,
19 Supervisor, if I could ask the Comptroller a
20 question real quick.

21 Um, just to be clear on the budget, I
22 think it was something that Councilwoman
23 King-Sweeney was referencing before, the
24 budget is broken into many different parts.

25 Now, the budget to build a Park or to

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1 Fund the building of a Park, correct me if I
2 am wrong, Mr. Conroy, would come out of the
3 Capital Project Budget, correct?

4 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Yes, that is
5 correct.

6 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Were any
7 personnel who is a signed to Parks or working
8 in Parks or working in General Services,
9 those salaries and that money come out of the
10 personnel portion of the budget?

11 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Correct.

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: So, the
13 building of Parks and the funding of
14 personnel are completely two different budget
15 items?

16 COMPTRROLLER CONROY: Correct, the
17 personnel that you mentioned is operating and
18 budgetary matters of the Parks, since it has
19 a long-term life, something greater than one
20 year, would be a capital item would in
21 incorporated into the Town's annual capital
22 plan and acted upon by the Town Board.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Okay, thank
24 you.

25 DEANNA DIVUTTI: Okay, I guess

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1 I just want to finish my comment by saying,
2 you know, if Ms. Ahmad is very qualified for,
3 um, she is just a competent person, maybe she
4 can find a job elsewhere outside of the Town
5 of Hempstead, if you do think that about her.

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

8 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I just
9 want to clear up one more thing, there was a
10 statement made that the Parks Department does
11 not do a good job.

12 And, I take extreme issue with that.
13 I spend, um, yesterday visiting two Park
14 facilities.

15 I had snow workers, snow plow workers
16 that who hadn't slept for thirty-six hours
17 and worked straight through in that blinding
18 snow, so, do not disparage the Department of
19 the Town of Hempstead because you are trying
20 to make a political ploy.

21 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
22 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

23 COUNCILMAN KING-SWEENEY: And, I would
24 shout out to the Commissioner who worked his
25 heart out, not only from the Parks Department

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1 from Sanitation, um, from the Water
2 Department and all of those people, everyone
3 that didn't have a perfectly plowed street
4 and we are correcting all of that.

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5 But to criticize an entire Department
6 because of political issues, right, now, is
7 not fair.

8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMN GOOSBY: I agree
9 with you one hundred percent and that is why
10 I don't say too much because people
11 misinterpret what you say and next time it is
12 something different and the next time, you
13 know, somebody has a lawsuit against the
14 Town.

15 So, I stay quiet. I do my homework.
16 I do know what I need to do and that is it.

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

19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do hope no one
20 was trying to disparage the hardworking men
21 and women who did so much during the
22 snowstorm, um, for the Town of Hempstead.

23 They worked very hard.

24 I applaud their efforts.

25 Our goal is not perfect, but, we are

1 looking into it.

2 And, as I said, our men and women of
3 the Town of Hempstead worked very hard.

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: One
5 thing, I would like to say this is the worst
6 storm that we had in a long, long time.

7 There was a lot of snow to be removed
8 and many of us did not move their cars off
9 the street.

10 They did not put them in the
11 driveways, so, when the snowplows came by, it
12 was very hard for them to move the snow.

13 If you live in a cul-de-sac, please,
14 remove your car when the snowplows come, so,
15 they have somewhere to push the snow.

16 If you leave your cars in the
17 driveway, hopefully, we won't have another
18 one like this, in case, please, put your cars
19 in your driveway.

20 And, unfortunately, we have many
21 people who live in this Town, all over Town,
22 we have more cars than we have had and some
23 people live in homes where there aren't
24 places to park.

25 I know they work so hard, many of them

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1 work all night, thirty-six hours.

2 Thirty-six hours with no sleep, no
3 food. It is cold out.

4 So, I applaud you. They did a
5 fantastic job.

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

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody
9 else, just on this severed item, on Nasrin
10 Ahmad?

11 KEVIN McKENNA: Good evening, my name
12 is Kevin McKenna.

13 I live in Syosset, New York.

14 Congratulations, Ms. Gillen and anyone
15 else that has been elected.

16 I am from outside of the Town.

17 I am sitting here observing and, um,
18 you know, I spent many years in the business
19 World in management.

20 Um, and listening to what everybody is
21 saying and everyone has made excellent points
22 before me.

23 Does the Town have a Human Resource
24 Department?

25 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 The audience. After, the following ensued.)

2 KEVIN McKENNA: From where I come
3 from, a Human Resource Department looks out
4 for all the people in the company, as well
5 as, others in the outside World.

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6 And, um, I am also curious to know
7 where the Department of Labor stands on this.

8 First off, I want to say, this is, in
9 light of what I have been watching, this is a
10 major precedent that you all - - that you are
11 all going to sit right, here.

12 I am sitting in the room, here,
13 thinking if I would have known that somebody
14 could just be moved over, it doesn't happen
15 in the Business World, then why would I have
16 voted for another Clerk.

17 You know, you are setting a precedent,
18 here, where somebody has lost, you know, they
19 are going to be assured somewhere else, then,
20 why have a vote in the first place.

21 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
22 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

23 KEVIN McKENNA: The Human Resource
24 aspect, you know, someone made the reference
25 and I know you didn't, I know your position

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1 on this, who is "they" that decided that this
2 person should go to that first position,
3 which they didn't have the funding?

4 And, who is "they" that then, is it
5 Ms. Ahmad, did she find out about this job
6 after "they" decided to give it to her?

7 Ms. Sweeney, I listened to your answer
8 very carefully, um, does anyone, here, on the
9 Board have a present job description?

10 Do you have a job description?

11 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
12 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

13 KEVIN MCKENNA: Does anybody on the
14 Board have the job description that is very
15 capable person is going to be - - is going to
16 excel on this job?

17 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: I believe she is
18 going as a Deputy Commissioner.

19 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: That is
20 correct.

21 (Whereupon, "that is not what he
22 asked," was called out from the audience.

23 After, the following ensued.)

24 KEVIN MCKENNA: So, nobody has gotten
25 a job description.

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1 Where I come from and she is probably
2 a very, very capable individual, but, that
3 doesn't mean that individual is going to be
4 good at the job that you are shoehorning her
5 into.

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6 And, you know what, you might even be
7 doing her a disservice.

8 I am sure she is happy to have a job
9 but where I come from when you tell somebody,
10 you know what, they have to let you go but I
11 am going to put you over here, a lot of times
12 they don't want to be over there.

13 So, what is the job description?

14 I listened to Mr. Ra kind of say,
15 well, she is going, um, to review personnel.

16 You're making it up as you go along.

17 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
18 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

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

21 (Whereupon, "you got it right, you got
22 it right, was heard yelling out from the
23 audience. After, the following ensued.)

24 KEVIN McKENNA: And, lastly - - and,
25 lastly, where I come from, who is she

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1 reporting to in the Parks Department?

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

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5 KEVIN McKENNA: I would like to hear
6 the Supervisor come here and tell all these
7 people behind me that are paying her salary,
8 I would like to hear the Supervisor tell
9 everybody what she is going to do.

10 And, I would like, more importantly,
11 to hear the Supervisor tell us whether the
12 Supervisor really wants her.

13 And, you know, for you to say that you
14 made a statement, Ms. Sweeney and I am from
15 outside of the Town of Hempstead, so, I am
16 really surprised that for you to say this
17 person has great, um, you know, her - - I am
18 not saying you like her.

19 She, obviously, is a capable person,
20 but, you don't have a job description, so,
21 how can you say she is going to be useful at
22 that job when you don't have a job
23 description?

24 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I don't
25 have a job description in front of me.

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1 KEVIN McKENNA: How can you say she is
2 going to be good at that job?

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I don't
4 have any job descriptions in front of me, at
5 this minute, so, actually, no, I don't have
6 one in front of me.

7 KEVIN McKENNA: So - -

8 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: She was
9 given "Deputy," when we were discussing the
10 new position, what is it "Deputy Commissioner
11 of Parks."

12 What is she handling? Personnel.

13 Now, I have in front of me dating back
14 to 1998 when Nasrin worked at the Town of
15 Hempstead.

16 You can go through the amount of tests
17 that this woman took.

18 You might not like it.

19 You might not think she is the best
20 person for the job.

21 KEVIN McKENNA: I don't know.

22 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Right, she
23 worked for the Town since 1998.

24 I am not aware of a single problem in
25 her file.

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1 She had done an amazing job from
2 everyone's account in the Town of Hempstead.

3 So, do I have her job description in
4 front of me?

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5 No.

6 Do I have any job descriptions in
7 front of me?

8 When these are presented to us and we
9 ask questions to Bill Sammon, to Joe Ra, what
10 is the job about?

11 I honestly had been the head of H.R.
12 and I am still in private industry, now.

13 I get it.

14 But, the process, here, is not quite
15 as faulty as you are suggesting that it is.

16 I have spoken a lot in the past when I
17 disagreed with it.

18 I think you are not giving her a fair
19 shake.

20 I really do.

21 KEVIN McKENNA: Again, I just want to
22 say, it is not about her.

23 I know nothing.

24 If I asked you, if you own a company,
25 you own a company and you need to fill

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1 an important position and you are the owner
2 of the company, are you going to only
3 interview one person?

4 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
5 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

6 (Whereupon, the five-minute bell rang.
7 After, the following ensued.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: This
9 person was presented to me by H.R.

10 I knew what the job was and I think
11 she fits it perfectly.

12 KEVIN McKENNA: You don't know what
13 her responsibilities are.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I do. I
15 said I do know her responsibilities.

16 She is Deputy Commissioner handling
17 personnel.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a
19 Motion on the severed item, on Nasrin Ahmad?

20 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: I make the
21 Motion to adopt this Resolution.

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

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, call
25 the roll.

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1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

2 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I am going to

5 accept Felix's offer, my constituent from
6 Franklin Square's offer to explain my vote.

7 So, as per our last meeting, I
8 actually voted against her appointment to
9 Occupational Resources and I voted against
10 everybody's appointment because I thought we
11 should go through them one by one and not
12 rush to judgment.

13 So, um, I do have a record of voting
14 against that.

15 However, in this particular
16 circumstance, I have had time to consider her
17 appointment as Deputy Commissioner and, um,
18 she is a capable person.

19 She is experienced in Town government.

20 She is well experienced in Town
21 government and although she and I have had
22 our differences in the past, the reality is
23 that I do think that she is capable.

24 That being said, I did struggle with
25 this because being a fiscal conservative,

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1 I want to make sure that, um, we are
2 appointing people that are important and
3 necessary to the administration of government
4 and to be mindful of the taxpayers' burden.

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5 And, when I thought about this, um, it
6 comes to mind that recently I read a book,
7 for those of you who may know me, um, I am a
8 voracious reader, I sometimes read two or
9 three books at the same time.

10 I read a book by an FBI Agent, who was
11 a Muslim American and this FBI Agent was very
12 successful in saving many people's lives by
13 investigating, successfully, Islamic
14 Terrorism, here, in the United States.

15 And, one of the points he made in his
16 book was that people in the Muslim American
17 community need more positive role models and
18 I believe that Nasrin Ahmad is a positive
19 role models to young people in the Muslim
20 American community, not only her, I think her
21 daughter - -

22 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
23 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

24 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I think her
25 daughter, um, who is a former Assistant

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1 U.S. Attorney, who has prosecuted terrorism
2 cases is also a positive role model in the
3 Muslim American community.

4 So, um, for me, I thought about Parks
5 and Recreation and the types of messages that
6 we want to give out.

7 And, by the way, I concur with
8 Councilwoman Erin King-Sweeney, if we do
9 anything right, Parks and Recreation is
10 something that we do amazingly well.

11 And, I also want to stand up for the
12 workers of the Town of Hempstead.

13 I was out in the blizzard. I visited
14 the Inwood Yard and the Franklin Square Yard.

15 The Inwood Yard lost heat.

16 The workers were working without heat,
17 water pipes burst.

18 They were working without water.

19 They were working under some of the
20 worst conditions.

21 The snowfall was at a very large
22 proportions but, certainly, not the largest
23 that we have had in the Town of Hempstead,
24 but combined with the continued forty-eight
25 hours of fifty-mile-an-hour wind gusts and

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1 wind chill at ten below zero, I think the
2 sanitation people are great people.

3 Parks and Recreation people all our
4 people, um, really worked hard and performed
5 very well under the circumstance.

6 So, Felix, I hope I explained my vote,
7 I vote, yes.

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

10 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

11 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Well, I also
12 will take the opportunity to explain my vote,
13 I think Nasrin has nearly two decades of
14 institutional knowledge of the Town of
15 Hempstead.

16 I think I will agree with Councilman
17 Blakeman and Councilwoman King-Sweeney, the
18 Parks Department is probably one of the
19 finest Departments we have in the Town of
20 Hempstead.

21 It has had great leaders, its past two
22 or three Commissioners up until right, now,
23 have been excellent leaders.

24 They lead a great team of workers who
25 really work hard and have respect for the

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1 Taxpayers and I think that her institutional
2 knowledge, her two decades of experience and
3 her hard work will be an asset to the Parks
4 Department.

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5 I vote yes.

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: When I compare our
8 Parks to other Parks in the area, I am an
9 avid sports fan.

10 I go to a lot of High School games,
11 not only here, but across the Country, um,
12 people travel, the times that they have come
13 here to play in our Town, rave about our
14 Parks.

15 They go, "wow, this is incredible."

16 Some think it is like stadiums.

17 So, we have a good administrator and
18 Nasrin has proven herself as an incredible
19 administrator.

20 But, I want to deviate for a second
21 and like Senior Councilwoman Goosby said and
22 Councilwoman Sweeney said and Bruce and,
23 again, Anthony, you know, we had eight
24 hundred trucks out in the last five days,
25 eight hundred trucks out, driving twenty-

1 eight hours straight, plowing.

2 We had to respond to numerous phone
3 messages with people panicking, text
4 messages, concerned citizens.

5 We further viewed the Mom pages on
6 FACEBOOK and the complaints on FACEBOOK.

7 I will ell you, our Town, our County
8 and School Districts came together as a team
9 and they did an incredible job and
10 individually, they did an incredible job.

11 The State, they always do an
12 exceptional job. They always do a great job,
13 too.

14 So, you know, but, the people, we have
15 to get the word out, spread the word, you
16 know, shoveling the snow in the street and,
17 now, you are making it horrible, again and
18 the same thing with the snow plowers, plow on
19 the lawn instead of plowing it into the
20 street and that is what creates a lot of
21 problems.

22 And, people still overcame it. Our
23 Parks Department, Commissioner are here.

24 Thank you for what you have done, the
25 hours you stayed awake, you were incredible.

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1 The workers were twenty-eight hours
2 plowing your streets right because your cars
3 are parked in the street, like Senior
4 Councilwoman Goosby said you leave them in
5 the street, park on the corner if you have
6 to, get out of the way so they can do their
7 job.

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8 This was such an incredible storm and
9 the storm was just an icy storm.

10 It was a blizzard. It was a north
11 eastern artic blast and chill and they even
12 named it.

13 My God, um, they named it. They did a
14 great job. I want to thank them, our service
15 workers and the schools and the County,
16 itself.

17 They did such a great job.

18 I explained my vote.

19 And, I will go back to my vote and say
20 thank you.

21 Now, I am going back, I think Nasrin
22 will do a wonderful job and I vote yes.

23 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
24 Goosby?

25 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Well, I

1 already expressed my opinion.

2 I really think Nasrin has been a
3 person who has worked in this Town for more
4 than twenty years and she knows the Town.

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5 She knows the children and the
6 wonderful programs for our young people, as
7 well as for our Seniors and other people in
8 between.

9 I suggest that you come sometimes to
10 visit and if you have the opportunity to
11 visit our golf courses, they are wonderful,
12 as well.

13 We have people that come from
14 everyplace to visit the golf courses and it
15 is making money.

16 So, we are very proud of that.

17 We are very proud of the attributes
18 that this Town has, if you have an
19 opportunity to go and visit the Seniors and
20 see how happy they are., that means a lot to
21 me.

22 And, I know it is not an easy thing to
23 do.

24 It is a very hard job because most of
25 us, we don't want to do it all the time.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 And, again, I have to say, thank you
2 for all of our staff that worked so hard with
3 the snow.

4 They worked together.

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5 It was not just one, they all worked
6 together.

7 It is wonderful and we should applaud
8 them for the hard work that they did.

9 Because I know many of us did not want
10 to get those strong winds and snow blowing,
11 it was cold and all the water problems that
12 we had, I thank you and certainly I vote for
13 Nasrin.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-
15 Sweeney?

16 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Yes.

17 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I agree that our
19 workers worked very hard.

20 Ms. Ahmad maybe a leader in the Muslim
21 community and I applaud her for that but I do
22 not support the way that this personnel
23 decision was made and I vote no.

24 (Whereupon, cheering and applause from
25 the audience was heard. After, the following

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 ensued.)

2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would
3 you call the next severed item.

4 CLERK CABANA: Personnel Resolution
5 Matthew Coleman.

6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a
7 Motion.

8 May I have a Motion on the severed
9 item?

10 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move that
11 the item be denied.

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there a second.

13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I second the
14 Motion.

15 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Supervisor, can
16 I ask a quick question of Mr. Sammon, if I
17 may.

18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Absolutely.

19 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Before we
20 vote, just for the - - for everyone to know,
21 is there any disciplinary actions on either
22 one of these individuals?

23 Do you mind if we ask them both - -

24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: On the separate
25 individuals.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Do you mind if
2 I ask for both.

3 Is there disciplinary action on either
4 individual?

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5 PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SAMMON: At your
6 request, earlier, I checked the file, there
7 were no disciplinary actions in the file.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: There is a Motion,
9 so, we have to call the roll - - we need to
10 do Public comment.

11 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Just to
12 clarify, this is a vote on the Motion to deny
13 the Motion to terminate.

14 (Whereupon, "we don't understand
15 that," was heard yelling out from the
16 audience. After, the following ensued.)

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Maybe you can
18 explain.

19 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: This is a
20 Motion to deny the Motion pending.

21 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The pending item
22 on the calendar is to terminate Mr. Coleman.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I made a
24 Motion to deny the Motion.

25 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Correct.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: So, a vote
2 against the Motion to deny will put the item
3 back before us.

4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Point of order -
5 -

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6 (Whereupon, calling out from the
7 audience was heard. After, the following
8 ensued.)

9 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Point of order,
10 Madam Supervisor, point of order; can I ask
11 my colleagues, if we can, just vote yeah or
12 nay to terminate Mr. Coleman and Ms. Gaffney,
13 would that be okay?

14 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I am fine with
15 that. I was waiting for one of your Motions.

16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay.

17 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I rescind my
18 Motion.

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I move that the
20 item be adopted as stated on the calendar and
21 that we have a vote on whether or not to
22 terminate Mr. Coleman and Ms. Gaffney.

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: It is two
24 separate votes, Councilman.

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Okay, yes, I

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 agree.

2 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I second
3 the Motion.

4 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: So, what
5 are we doing?

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

8 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: May I, for a
9 moment?

10 Councilman D'Esposito, are you
11 withdrawing your Motion?

12 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Yes, I am
13 withdrawing my Motion.

14 I will accept Councilman Blakeman's
15 Motion to move ahead.

16 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Councilman
17 Blakeman, if I may, your Motion is to
18 terminate Mr. Coleman?

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Yeah or nay
20 whether to terminate Mr. Coleman.

21 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Your Motion is to
22 terminate.

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We need to do this
24 individually, Mr. Ra, is that correct?

25 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Yes.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there a second
2 on the Motion?

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Second.

4 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: Now, they vote.

5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk.

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

7 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We didn't take
9 comments. We have to take comments, first,
10 before we call this.

11 Is there anybody who wished to be
12 heard on the severed item for termination of
13 Mr. Coleman?

14 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci. 1165
15 Barns Street, Franklin Square, New York.

16 Um, there are several problems with
17 keeping Mr. Coleman, one is especially at his
18 current salary, he was hired for purpose one.

19 He was given additional
20 responsibilities according to the Supervisor
21 last year to get a forty thousand dollar
22 raise.

23 Obviously, if he get transferred to
24 whatever Department, he won't have those
25 individual responsibilities which he is

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 Political and I showed evidence that he mails
2 during Town time from his personal email
3 account.

4 Town officials that say he was working
5 with respect to the Camp Anchor children. He
6 got involved in that, that was all a
7 political thing.

8 He shouldn't be at the current salary,
9 at the very least and if you are going to
10 keep one hundred and fifty thousand, one
11 hundred and then thousand dollar job in
12 place, I think there has to be justification
13 for tending that kind of money.

14 And, Theresa Gaffney, we are not
15 talking about her anymore, so, just, so, once
16 again, I ask all of you to justify whether
17 does he deserve not to be terminated or at
18 least to have his salary knocked down to what
19 it was before he got his, um, his increase to
20 take on additional responsibilities.

21 Also, he ha a dual role in the
22 administration.

23 He owns a company, K Strategies (as
24 heard) it is a political consulting firm.

25 When did he go home from the Town

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 of Hempstead and start the job working?

2 And, the Board of Elections records
3 shows he worked for the Santino Campaign.

4 When did one job end and the other
5 begin?

6 I have FOIL-ed records, a cover letter
7 from the emails regarding Camp Anchor
8 children at 2:090 o'clock in the afternoon,
9 you know, the day that lawsuit was filed
10 publicly.

11 So, it is clear he wasn't doing his
12 job.

13 And, as far as I don't want to make
14 issue with those, did he have any
15 disciplinary action?

16 I filed an ethics complaint of Members
17 of the Town going back years.

18 When I FOIL-ed, it was closed and no
19 disciplinary action was taken.

20 When I FOIL-ed my case and that - - I
21 started in both instances, you know what came
22 back?

23 My papers that I submitted, nothing
24 else.

25 (Whereupon, laughter and applause

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 from the audience was heard. After, the
2 following ensued.)

3 FELIX PROCACCI: Nothing else, nothing
4 else.

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5 If you take disciplinary action, here,
6 is next to nothing.

7 Like Matthew Coleman in the position
8 he was in, no one here would dare even if
9 they wanted to would complain about him
10 because he was Santino's boy.

11 So, they would haven't done it anyway.

12 The notion that his record is clean,
13 like I said, I didn't bring it with me, I
14 should have.

15 I have FOIL-ed records that he was
16 doing work on the Camp Anchor issue, 2:00
17 o'clock in the afternoon on a work day, okay.

18 So, I brought that to the attention of
19 several people and we will see where that
20 goes.

21 But, make no mistake about it, just
22 because the record is clear in the file, that
23 doesn't mean they are clear.

24 And, like I said, I could bring this
25 to the Ethics and I will do it at the next

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 Meeting because John Ryan does not take
2 complaints from citizens as he stated last
3 time to me.

4 So, I am going to submit this and ask
5 the Supervisor to submit the ethics
6 complaints against Mr. Coleman and other
7 people that were cc'd in that email and let's
8 see what comes back after his thorough ethics
9 investigation.

10 Will it just be my complaint or did he
11 interview, at least, one person to see if
12 anything happened?

13 How can you just get your complaint
14 back?

15 It took him six months in one of the
16 ethics investigations, six months.

17 And, it came back and I FOIL-ed the
18 record. It was my complaint, six months.

19 What the hell did he do for six
20 months?

21 (Whereupon laughter was heard from the
22 audience. After, the following ensued.)

23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody
24 else that wants to be heard on this severed
25 item?

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 (Whereupon, no response was heard.

2 After, the following ensued.)

3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will
4 you call the roll.

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5 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

6 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO; Aye.

7 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I would like to
9 explain my vote, again, um, first of all, I
10 think that Mr. Coleman is a very capable, um
11 person when it comes to media issues and
12 media consulting.

13 And, I do not wish to cast any
14 aspersions on him, however, I do agree that
15 Supervisor Gillen needs an opportunity to
16 form her own message and to be - -

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

19 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMANZ: - - Her own
20 persons and I felt that, um, Mr. Coleman was
21 took close to Supervisor Santino and that,
22 um, while he served the Supervisor well, I
23 think that, perhaps we should give Supervisor
24 Gillen a fresh start and not have people who
25 are so close to the past Supervisor, as part

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 of Town Government, so, that is why I vote
2 yes.

3 (Whereupon, applause and cheering from
4 the audience was heard. After, the following
5 ensued.)

6 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

7 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: No.

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

9 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Yes.

10 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
11 Goosby?

12 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Abstain.

13 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-
14 Sweeney?

15 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Yes.

16 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes.

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

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will
21 you call the next severed item.

22 CLERK CABANA: Personnel item,
23 personnel resolution concerning Theresa
24 Gaffney.

25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 Motion?

2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So moved.

3 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: I second
4 the Motion.

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5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody
6 that would like to be heard on this severed
7 item concerning Theresa Gaffney?

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

10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, will
11 you call the roll.

12 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

13 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

14 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

15 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: For the same
16 reasons that I said that I voted on the last
17 Resolution, I am not casting aspersions on
18 Theresa Gaffney.

19 I believe that Supervisor Gillen is
20 entitled to have, um, her voice as a result
21 of the Election and I vote aye.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: No.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

1 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
2 Goosby?

3 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Same
4 thing, abstain.

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5 (Whereupon, boo, boo, boo was heard
6 chanting from the audience. After, the
7 following ensued.)

8 CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-
9 Sweeney?

10 COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

11 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

13 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
14 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a
16 Motion to adjourn the meeting.

17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: So moved.

18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I second the
19 Motion.

20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk,
21 please, call the roll.

22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Ambrosino?

23 COUNCILMAN AMBROSINO: Aye.

24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?

25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

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CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?

COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman
Goosby?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Councilwoman King-
Sweeney?

COUNCILWOMAN KING-SWEENEY: Aye.

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

(Whereupon, the official meeting of
the Hempstead Town Board was concluded. Time
noted: 9:30 p.m.)

HEMPSTEAD TOWN MEETING 1/9/18

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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 January 9, 2018, consisting of pages 1 through 127 inclusive is an accurate transcription of my cryptic notes.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



MDW

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

NORTH SHORE COURT REPORTERS

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