



## OFFICE OF THE NASSAU COUNTY COMPTROLLER

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**Hon. Elaine Phillips**  
*Nassau County Comptroller*

### NEWS RELEASE

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May 11, 2022

### **Comptroller Elaine Phillips Meets with the Nassau County Living Wage Law Advisory Committee Nassau County Living Wage 2021 Annual Report Released**

May 11, 2022 – Mineola, NY – At a meeting of the Nassau County Living Wage Advisory Committee on May 10, 2022, Comptroller Elaine Phillips presented the County’s Living Wage Law 2021 Annual Report. Highlights of the report include:

- As a result of a review by the Comptroller’s Office, payments totaling \$435,269 were made to 304 Nassau County employees and hourly pay was increased for some union employees who were eligible for the Living Wage but were not receiving it under their collective bargaining agreements.
- The Rules of the County Executive relating to the Living Wage Law were amended to bolster enforcement of the Living Wage Law in Nassau County. A new component of the law, “Section 9: Enforcement,” provides a process whereby employers who are allegedly in violation of the Law will have a reasonable opportunity to remedy the situation or face stiff fines.

The Nassau County Living Wage Law was enacted by the Nassau County Legislature in 2006 and took effect January 2007. In addition to establishing the Living Wage, it includes requirements for health benefits or a health benefit supplement to the hourly wage for covered employees and sets required minimums of 12 paid days off per year for covered full-time employees and proportionate paid days off for part-time employees. Since the law went into effect, 2,114 instances of underpayments of wages totaling \$1,075,827 and an additional \$418,085 in under-accrued paid time off have been identified and paid out to the affected employees.

The Nassau County Living Wage Advisory Committee is comprised of individuals who represent people most affected by the law:

- Matty Aracich, President, Nassau-Suffolk Building Construction Trades Council (BCTC)
- John Durso, President, Local 338 Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union (RWDSU)
- Ron Gurrieri, President, CSEA Local 830 Civil Service Employee Association
- Nikki Kateman, Political & Communications Director, Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW

- Nick LaMorte, Former CSEA Region 1 President
- Jerry Laricchiuta, President, Civil Service Employee Association (CSEA) Region 1
- Douglas O'Dell, Executive Director, Bethany House
- Richard Seery, President, Seery Systems Group, Inc.
- Onika Shepherd, Political Director, Local 1199 Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
- Josh Slaughter, Mason Tenders Local 66 District Council PAC
- Ryan Stanton, Executive Director, Long Island Federation of Labor
- Michael Tompkins, Senior Associate, Leeds Brown Law, P.C.

The Living Wage is reevaluated on August 1 of each year based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). On August 1, 2021, the hourly Living Wage rate in Nassau County was raised to \$15.20 for employees with benefits and \$17.57 for employees who do not receive benefits.

Anyone who believes they have information about a Nassau County contractor violating the Living Wage Law can call a dedicated hotline in the Comptroller's Office. The hotline **516-571-WAGE** will connect callers directly with staff in the Comptroller's Office during business hours. Callers will also be able to make inquiries about the Living Wage Law, such as how to find out if their job is covered.

### **About the Comptroller's Office**

Comptroller Elaine Phillips is the independent protector of the taxpayers and residents of Nassau County. With a population of more than 1.35 million people and an annual budget of approximately \$3.68 billion, Nassau County relies on Comptroller Phillips and her dedicated staff to monitor Nassau's budget and financial operations, report on matters that affect Nassau's financial health, proactively advocate for operational efficiency on behalf of the taxpayers, and audit government departments and outside agencies that do business with the county to uncover and prevent waste, fraud, and inefficiency. Each year, the Comptroller's Office reviews thousands of contracts and reviews and approves approximately 100,000 payments. The Comptroller's office also administers payroll and health benefits for the County's 8,000 employees, 12,000 retirees and their dependents for a total of 50,000 covered lives and works with the County's administration and legislature to help the county overcome its fiscal challenges.

For additional information, please contact Wendy Goldstein, Director of Communications for the Comptroller's Office, at [wgoldstein@nassaucountyny.gov](mailto:wgoldstein@nassaucountyny.gov) or (516) 571-2386.

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