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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING

HOWARD J. KOPEL, PRESIDING OFFICER

SCOPING MEETING

County Executive and Legislative Building
1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, September 9, 2024

5:11 p.m.

TAKEN BY: ALEXA LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL
Presiding Officer
7th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT
Alternate Presiding Officer
13th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.
Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer
15th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR SCOTT DAVIS
1st Legislative District

LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE
2nd Legislative District

LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES
3rd Legislative District

LEGISLATOR PATRICK MULLANEY
4th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR SETH KASLOW
5th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE
6th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JOHN J. GIUFFRE
8th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR SCOTT STRAUSS
9th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP
10th Legislative District

DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON
Minority Leader
11th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR MICHAEL GIANGREGORIO
12th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR, III
14th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR ARNOLD W. DRUCKER

16th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

17th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR SAMANTHA GOETZ

18th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

19th Legislative District

MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

JAMES DARCY, ESQ.

Attorney for Clerk of the Legislature

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PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Matty Aracich
- Ryan Stanton
- Meta Mereday
- Pearl Jacobs
- Steve Rolston
- George Krug
- Lynn Krug
- Karen Rierdan
- Richard Catalano
- Chris Jacobs
- Caprice Rines
- Jeff Reynolds
- John Durso
- Adriene Esposito
- Chris Murray
- Marc Herbst
- Anthony Simon
- Alexandra Arso
- Diana O'Neill
- Joe Squicciarini
- Vinnie Muldoon

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Public Comment Continued:

Jerry Kornbluth

Stefan Krompier

Sammy Chu

Maria Cucurillo

Susan Kaye

Richard Catalono

Erica Gambardella

Mayor Mary Carter Flanagan

Lawrence Board

Mike McKeever

Leo Stimmler

John Ellsworth

Ed Finneran

Frank Camarano

Pete Gaffney

Matt Aracich

Brian Nigro

Matt Silver

Jack Majkut

Richard Brooks

Tim McCarthy

Jack Lang

Jaime Hollander

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Public Comment Continued:

Sequoia Weber-Truitt

Rose Ward

Jeanine Maynard

Anthony Maffia

Gina Farese

Jewel Nash

Elizabeth Wellington

Anne Meyers

Luis Vazquez

Donna Karatas

Dan Lloyd

Mariano Ugalde

William Cassidy

Anne Cronin

Rob Allen

Russ Comeau

Julie Berger

Gerry Johnson

Maryam Hamatakasi

Jennifer Lloyd

Mike Jacobs

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Everyone please take a seat so that we can begin. Mr. Pulitzer, would you please call the roll?

CLERK PULITZER: Deputy Presiding Officer Thomas McKevitt?

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer John Ferretti?

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy Minority Leader Siela Bynoe?

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Carrie A. Solages?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Debra Mule?

LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator William Gaylor, III.

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John Giuffre?

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LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.

Legislator Mazi Pilip?

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.

Legislator Scott Davis?

LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
Kennedy?

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Patrick
Mullaney?

LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.

Legislator Seth Koslow?

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Scott
Strauss?

LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.

CLERK PULITZER: Deputy Minority
Leader Arnold Drucker?

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose

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Marie Walker?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Samantha
Goetz?

LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Michael
Giangregorio?

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
Minority leader Delia
DiRiggi-Whitton?

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Presiding Officer
Howard Kopel?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
sir.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
Everyone, welcome to this meeting of the
Nassau Legislature. We're having a
hearing tonight, and I want to go over
what it is exactly that we will be doing
here tonight, what we will not be doing
here tonight, and some of the ground

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rules for conducting this hearing. What we will not be doing tonight is taking any vote on anything. Let's start with that. No votes here tonight. We are here to listen to the public.

Now, there is a subject tonight. The subject is not, Do we like a casino? Do we not like a casino? We're not discussing that at all tonight. We don't need to hear that you like it, you don't like it. We will have plenty of time at other hearings to talk about that kind of thing. There is a very limited subject here tonight and that is to discuss the draft Scope for the for the proposed resort. In other words, what we have to do according to New York state law is we have to comply with the state Environmental Quality Review Act and to discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed lease between Nassau County and LVS NY Holdco 2 LLC, which may include a casino and other uses on the approximately 71.6 acre Nassau

1
2 Veterans Memorial Coliseum site, and
3 potentially the adjacent 14.7 acre
4 Marriott Hotel site.

5 So what we would like to hear once
6 again is, the Draft Environmental Impact
7 Statement has been filed. It is available
8 on the County website. It is also
9 available in several libraries Garden
10 City, Hempstead, Uniondale and East
11 Meadow Public Libraries.

12 Now, what we want to know is whether
13 this draft scope for the environmental
14 impact statement is proper, whether the
15 public feels that there are other
16 environmental impacts that should be
17 investigated, and that's it. We don't
18 need to hear other things.

19 Now, you can also submit your
20 statement -- you can go ahead and speak
21 at the podium when your name is called,
22 or you can submit things in writing, and
23 writing it will go into the record. Both
24 of these are going to be considered when
25 the revision to the Draft Environmental

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Impact Statement is made. People who come to discuss other things than the environmental impact, it's just not going to be considered in any important context because all these statements are going to be used for is that purpose alone and nothing else, and when the committees go ahead and review it, they're going to discard any statements that are for other purposes. All right.

One other thing I would say is that if someone has made a point, in other words, let's say we need you to consider the impact of the proposed development on a certain road, there's no point in eight other people telling us the exact same thing. It's going to be considered after the first person says it, but we're going to let anyone who wants to speak be heard. The time limits are three minutes per speaker, please don't ask for an extension, they generally will not be granted. And with that, we're going to start off with Jeff Reynolds and we'll

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start teeing up other speakers. As I call one speaker, I'll say that John Durso will be next.

Mr. Reynolds.

DR. REYNOLDS: Good evening. My name is Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds. I'm the president and CEO of Family and Children's Association, a 140 year old not for profit organization located a couple of miles from here.

Most germane to this conversation, we provide a variety of addiction services to the residents of Nassau County, including two recently opened problem gambling centers, one in Hicksville and one in Hempstead. I'm very happy that your environmental scope includes a discussion about the health, welfare and safety of our local residents.

On the issue of problem gambling, I've appeared before you on a number of occasions to talk a little bit about the prevalence of problem gambling, which,

1
2 quite frankly, is not all that big, but
3 there are some things that you should
4 know about. Generally, the last study
5 done on this, December 2022, found that
6 the prevalence of moderate or risky
7 problem gambling was about 2.43%. The
8 percentage of folks that had a
9 significant pathological gambling issue
10 was about 1.29% of the adult population.

11 In terms of citing, there have been
12 a number of studies about how proximity
13 to a casino actually impacts gaming. The
14 studies are mixed. In at least one study,
15 it said that living within a ten mile
16 radius potentially increases your risk
17 for a problem gambling issue; however,
18 the authors also said that individual
19 traits are far more important than
20 geographic traits. They said, for
21 example, that problem drinkers have 23
22 times the odds of developing a gambling
23 problem than folks who are not drinkers,
24 so the individual traits of the
25 individual matter more than anything

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else.

All of the studies around proximity to a casino, quite frankly, were pre 2021. As you all know, the game changed here in New York State in 2022 when New York State went ahead and put a casino in everybody's pocket that blinks and beckons you 24/7 with sports betting deals.

In 2023, there were \$19 billion in sports bets placed in New York State. Last month alone, August, 1.43 billion was bet online, and so we know the number is going to increase.

I have met with the folks from Sands, including their director of problem gambling on a number of occasions to talk about what their program looks like, and quite frankly, I said to them, please don't tell me you're going to put stickers on slot machines. That doesn't work. And they've outlined for me a very responsible and thorough problem gambling program that reflects the state of the

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art not only in our community but nationwide.

Going into this, obviously as a social service organization and a child welfare organization, we had a huge number of concerns around this. Those concerns have been addressed. We've set up the problem gambling centers, just to tell you, there's nobody coming through those sites that is not young, male and addicted to sports betting. We are not seeing casino goers in those sites, but those sites are open and ready in the event that a casino lands here in Nassau County. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you, Mr. Durso, and then Adriene Esposito.

Once again, I want to remind people we're not here to discuss gambling or whether the casino is a good deal or a bad deal. We're not here for that reason. We're here to discuss the environment.

MR. DURSO: Okay, well, considering the rules you set up, Presiding officer,

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that cut my remarks in half. But I will manage to fill in.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I'm doing my job.

MR. DURSO: You're doing your job; I'll try to do mine.

So, my name is John Durso. I'm the president of the Long Island Federation of Labor, representing some 250,000 residents here on Long Island.

As a 72-year-old resident of Long Island and various stops along the way, very concerned about our environment. We're an island. We have no choice. We have to be concerned about our environment. And I am absolutely thrilled about this process; absolutely thrilled about this process. Because one, it'll put to bed all the rumors, the misconceptions and tell people exactly what the facts are. And that, I think, goes a long way into moving the process forward. Yes, I have very, very strong feelings on the issue. Of course, you're

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not willing to listen to them at this time, so I won't tell you how in favor I am of it. I won't mention that because it doesn't fit with the program. But I will tell you that this process and the Sands organization has been out ahead on this issue, listening to the community, hearing what is being said, and looking to see where the concerns are as it relates environmentally.

So I applaud this Body for the work that it is doing. I look forward to the completed process so we all can feel better about the decisions that we're going to make. And I say we while you have the votes, we are your neighbors and your constituents, and we look forward to moving this process in a very positive direction.

And I have an extra minute. So if you want to hear a story, I'll tell you. But other than that, thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
Let me just, by the way, make a note that

1
2 anyone who wants to submit written
3 comments for the record, those should be
4 addressed right here at the Theodore
5 Roosevelt Building and should be
6 addressed to Michael Pulitzer, Clerk of
7 the Legislature at the at the Legislative
8 Building, 1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola,
9 11501 or by email
10 MPulitzer@NassauCounty.ny.gov.

11 Ms. Esposito, and that will be
12 followed by Elizabeth Nabet.

13 Go ahead, please.

14 MS. ESPOSITO: Good afternoon,
15 members of the legislature. My name is
16 Adriene Esposito, executive director of
17 Citizens Campaign for the Environment.

18 You want to hear about the
19 environment? We want to talk about the
20 environment. So happy to help. We have
21 prepared a ten page letter to you with
22 the many different criteria that we
23 believe needs to be assessed in the
24 environmental review statement.

25 So just to name a few things: First

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and foremost is aquifer use and water consumption. We want to know such things as in the previous environmental document it said that the Town of Hempstead will have to sink a new well to be used specifically for Sands, and we want to know if the Town of Hempstead Water District will be owning and operating that well, how much water will be used, and what happens if or when that well becomes contaminated? Who will pay for the very expensive filtration treatment, whether it's for PFAS or 1,4-Dioxin, or maybe even both? Who pays? Is that going to be amortized over all of Town of Hempstead Water District, or will Sands be paying for that treatment technology?

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Also, what will the increase water withdrawal have, if any, as far as impact on the drawdown of nearby streams and rivers and whatever, even, you know, variable ponds which are seasonal.

The other thing that we want to talk about in this particular EIS is

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stormwater. As you know, flooding is critical throughout Long Island right now, because we're getting unprecedented amounts of rain in very small amount of time. What's the stormwater management plan? Will there be such things as permeable pavements, which are more expensive but very effective in mitigating stormwater runoff, bio swales and other techniques? What is the stormwater management plan?

The other thing, a big concern on Long Island is solid waste management. We would like to see the environmental impact study have a very robust solid waste management plan. Number one, a robust recycling program; two, a plan to either eliminate or reduce single use plastics; three, a plan to deal with food waste. For instance, the New York State's largest anaerobic digester should be in operation by the end of next year. Food waste scraps from this establishment should not be going into a landfill, it

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should be going to make compost and renewable energy from the anaerobic digester, which is going to be located in Yaphank. So that's some of the solid waste management plans.

The other thing is energy use. Obviously, New York State is under a mandate to reduce energy use. Thirty percent of all carbon dioxide and climate change emissions come from the building sector. So what kind of energy conservation will be established? Will there be solar that's being used? Green roofs, which acts naturally to cool buildings. These are all things that are very important to reduce energy consumption and alleviate the burden on our grid.

Of course, we have much more details and I have copies I can submit to you today, and we look forward to rigorously participating in the environmental review process for this project. Thank you very much.

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
And I appreciate those remarks, because they were right on point and very valuable and very important for us to consider. Thank you.

MS. EPOSITO: Thank you so much.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Elizabeth Nabet.

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Pearl Jacobs. Come tell us about the environment. Followed by Steve Rolston.

MS. JACOBS: Pear Jacobs, Uniondale. I'm here today to speak about the environment, to reflect on what is happening in our communities. I'm just giving you the facts today.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has identified the following Nassau County communities as being disadvantaged: Uniondale, Hempstead, Roosevelt, New Cassel and Freeport, due to high levels of air pollution and climate change. The New

1
2 York State DEC Air Quality Report for
3 2022/2023, attributed the poor air
4 quality of these disadvantaged
5 communities to their close proximity to
6 five heavily trafficked roadways, traffic
7 congestion and gridlock.

8 New York State declares that asthma
9 rates over 29.1 for youth is of high
10 concern. Nassau County's asthma rate for
11 the youth, our youth, and disadvantage to
12 overall Nassau County is 20; Hempstead
13 Village rate is 69.1; Uniondale's rate is
14 36.4; Roosevelt's rate is 59.5; and
15 Freeport's rate is 37.4. A significant
16 increase in traffic on roadways in these
17 disadvantaged communities would only
18 exacerbate asthma rates among minority
19 youth. Operating hours for a casino are
20 typically 24 hours seven days a week,
21 which would increase vehicle traffic by
22 35,000 to 40,000 vehicles per day.

23 This project would also check the
24 boxes for other environmental issues,
25 light pollution and noise pollution, as

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residential homes are directly across Hempstead Turnpike. There are two senior care facilities in close proximity to the Coliseum site. Our senior population would also be subjected to increased air pollution, higher health risks and safety issues.

There is great concern regarding our aquifers and our water quality in Nassau County. Uniondale's water currently contains high levels of 1,4-Dioxin, and residents in Uniondale frequently complain of discolored water from faucets in their homes.

These serious environmental issues are unmitigable (sic). Moving this project forward, given these serious environmental and health issues that burden Nassau County's disadvantaged communities, would be a total disregard to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's mandates; it would be a violation of the New York State 2019 Climate Act. A mega casino

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project at this site would cause further environmental harm to disadvantaged communities, and would check all the boxes for environmental racism. That's why I wear my shirt. Environmental racism. Thank you very much.

I would like to submit this for it sheds light on the community health assessments and the disparities among disadvantaged communities. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Sure. Over here. And by the way, those who are wishing to submit written statements, you have until Thursday, September 19th to do so, it'll be still open at 5 p.m.

And I have been corrected in something. Let me just point that out. And that is problem gambling. That is something that we can consider here tonight. Problem gambling is apparently part of the state law that we consider in terms of SEQRA.

Mr. Steve Rolston, please. And that'll be followed by Chris Murray.

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Thanks.

MR. ROLSTON: I'm Steve Rolston from Baldwin.

Congratulations to the legislators across, all 19 Nassau County districts for the tourism article in *Newsday*. Together, you helped make Long Island one of the most popular destinations in America. How do we continue to generate this consistent revenue stream? Leave it as it is. Peaceful, beautiful shorelines and lovely parks everywhere. Relaxing restaurants and music venues. Nighttime stargazing and walkable communities. A casino will damage the good work you have done to draw visitors to this open air Paradise. And yes, Mr. Kopel, we live in something close to Paradise.

Congratulations for committing resources to protect our precious water supply. You enabled the DEC to do the research. The DEC found that our drinking water, while safe, is threatened by overdevelopment, overpumping and

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unhealthy runoff in our groundwater. A casino is unnecessary overdevelopment. Your legacy can be tourism grew to heights which other states envy. You helped preserve our precious water supply.

But leadership, Bruce Blakeman, has me wondering why would he latch on to a terrible idea introduced by a Democrat? Blakeman has aligned himself with Cuomo and Hochul. Why? A disgraced Democratic Party governor, Andrew Cuomo, sought new revenue for upstate New York in 2013. Someone in the gaming industry got to him. Until Andrew Cuomo came along, commercial gambling was prohibited in New York. How have the five upstate casinos done? They all remain economically depressed.

You, the legislative body, have been given a do over. Economists and environmental groups have confirmed the casinos do not lift up any communities. The jobs offered are low paying. Casinos

1
2 are notorious for limiting employees
3 hours so that they do not have to provide
4 full time or benefits.

5 Their environmental impact statement
6 will confirm the construction and
7 operation of a casino at the Hub would be
8 a huge mistake when tourism is already
9 strong and our water and air quality need
10 your help.

11 Please think of your legacy as
12 protectors of this beautiful island. Your
13 next vote should be unanimous and
14 rejecting a casino. I urge you to ask
15 Bruce Blakeman, why does he believe that
16 Andrew Cuomo's shortsighted idea, which
17 failed, might work in Nassau County? Let
18 our open spaces thrive as is, with
19 minimal new development. Your legacy is
20 already secure.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
22 Chris Murray. Followed by Marc Herbst.

23 MR. MURRAY: Good evening. My name
24 is Chris Murray. I'm a partner in the law
25 firm Rivkin Radler, and I'm appearing

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today on behalf of Hofstra University. Hofstra will be submitting a detailed written comments regarding the draft scope, but I'd just like to highlight a few concerns at this time.

Although the draft scope calls for the review of the impact of the proposed development on neighborhood characteristics, it does not indicate that there will be discussions concerning the negative impact of a casino on the surrounding educational institutions, such as Hofstra University, Kellenberg Memorial High School, and Nassau County Community College. These educational institutions, with over 30,000 students, are in the immediate vicinity of the proposed casino and the impact on these educational institutions, including the safety and well-being well-being of the students, should be examined.

Also, the scope should require the DES to examine the ramifications of the two stages of development. The proposed

1
2 development cost for the construction of
3 the casino first, and only after four
4 years, will the other improvements be
5 made by Sands. The DEIS should discuss
6 the impact of developing the casino
7 first, without the other improvements
8 that are designed to mitigate the
9 casino's negative impact.

10 Further, Hofstra environmental
11 consultants, Colliers, will be submitting
12 a written report regarding the traffic,
13 water, air quality and other
14 environmental concerns, and although
15 their prior comments the previous scope
16 were represented to be included, most of
17 Collier's prior comments were not
18 addressed in the updated draft scope.

19 Also, while the draft scope mentions
20 the review of No Action, it does not
21 describe what this review will entail,
22 which is mandated by state law. Is it
23 alternatives where the Coliseum remains
24 in operation. Is it alternatives where
25 the lands are put to public use, or might

1
2 be something completely, entirely
3 different? The scope should require
4 decision of what will occur at the
5 property if a new lease is not entered
6 into with Sands, and the potential impact
7 of the operating lease remaining in
8 effect. Is there a potential for
9 Coliseum going dark?

10 Concerning alternatives, the scope
11 should direct a detailed discussion of
12 what type of alternatives will be
13 examined, such as the developments that
14 do not include a casino. The scope should
15 provide for an examination of different
16 types of developments, including family
17 friendly attractions and whether
18 alternatives could be pursued that
19 provide financial benefits to the county
20 and surrounding communities without the
21 casino. Thank you for your time.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: So we have
23 Marc Herbst followed by Anthony Simon.

24 MR. HERBST: Good evening. Members of
25 the legislature. My name is Marc Herbst.

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I am the executive director of the Long Island Contractors Association. We represent the heavy construction industry on Long Island. Our member firms are proud family owned businesses, many of them third, fourth generation. Long Island is home. Long Island is the place where we work. It's the place we live and it's the place we want to stay. This is where the economy works for us. It keeps us employed and our member firms who are responsible for all the sewers, the roadways, bridges, tunnels, parks and all utilities. We are the ones that bid on the jobs and perform the work for our partners and government. We are excited to support this proposal, and it is most important to know that the workers that we have are all union employees.

And as we go through this process, I want to assure you that the union workforce that we have and the companies that we represent are ready to get to work with all the mitigation measures

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that are needed; the traffic mitigation measures, the utility measures, sewers, whatever needs to be done for this site or anywhere else in Nassau County, we are prepared to do that job.

And I must say, the firms that are working on this project right now, VHB for one who does traffic mitigation, you couldn't find a finer firm anywhere in the United States, their reputation's on the line. They're responsible for this community, and they will do a yeoman's job to make sure that they're protecting our community, because this is something that we need. This isn't a firm or any other organization. It's coming in fly by night, going to make a profit and leave. This is people who work here, live here and care about what happens here in Nassau County. And we're proud to be part of this process, and we are here to support you to make sure that everything goes according to plan that makes this a responsible project. And I thank you for

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allowing us to share our thoughts. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Anthony Simon, followed by Karen Rierdon.

MR. SIMON: Good evening, and thank you for committing your time and attention to this special project that's most important.

My name is Anthony Simon. I'm the general chairman of Smart Transportation workers on the Long Island Railroad. I am here today not only to add my voice of support for this project, but to remind everyone that the transformational infrastructure improvements that have already been completed on the Long Island Railroad that strongly complement this project, East side access to Grand Central, Madison, third track expansion, and double track have all been completed. Collectively, these infrastructure improvements represent over \$17 billion in investment in connectivity for the region. These public investments were

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made to increase connectivity to New York City, boost economic development for the region, and allow for reliable reverse commuting, which had been severely limited until now. These investments allow for transformative projects like Sands Resort to be developed. They provide a reliable form of mass transit, commuting for 5000 permanent workers that will operate the resort, as well as visitors. While there is no direct Long Island Railroad connection to the site, Hempstead Station will serve as a transit hub with a shuttle as well as rapid transit service, providing a seamless connection, and an additional investment in the area surrounding the Hempstead station will improve the Long Island Railroad experience there for all riders. I am also a past IDA board member and know that our region we must continue to allow for economic development if we are to be sustainable and to keep taxes down. Nassau Coliseum was the center of an

1
2 entertainment for the region for decades,
3 attracting over 15,000 people per event
4 for world class entertainment and sports.
5 Now it's 50 plus years, the site must be
6 reimagined to not only provide Long
7 Islanders with world class entertainment
8 options, but to attract tourism dollars
9 to the region. The site right now is
10 highly underutilized, and before you, you
11 have a once in a lifetime opportunity to
12 add vibrancy to the region, jobs and over
13 \$100 million in annual taxes.

14 Now I see today there are a few
15 folks here are in opposition, including
16 Garden City, and I think it's important
17 to remind you all that Garden City
18 originally opposed the third track
19 improvements. The MTA and Garden City
20 worked together to not only deliver a
21 safer, more robust service through the
22 region, but made improvements within the
23 project for local communities. Garden
24 City elected leaders need to do the same
25 here and work with the project. Together,

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we can achieve more together working than we can apart. This should be an easy decision. I urge you to move this forward, and all of us can keep the Long Island Railroad on track.

I look forward to welcoming the employees and visitors on the railroad and visiting the Sands Resort ourselves. What is better for the environment than taking mass transit? We're ready for you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Karen Rierdon, followed by Chris Jacobs.

MS. RIERDON: This SEQRA process should have been completed prior to the County entering into any lease agreement with Las Vegas Sands, including the one you signed a few weeks ago, which gives site control to the Coliseum to Sands for 42 years. This was an illegal act with respect to SEQRA.

The recent study by the federal government, shows Las Vegas shows Long Island's water safety is under immediate threat from saltwater intrusion,

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2 especially in coastal communities like
3 Great Neck and Long Beach. Therefore,
4 it's now more important than ever to
5 follow the SEQRA laws, as we need to
6 protect our sole source aquifer. In light
7 of this study, saltwater intrusion must
8 also be part of the scope of the EIS.
9 What we do in the middle of the island
10 affects the coastal communities first.
11 Just imagine what will happen to Nassau
12 County's home values, taxes, etc., if we
13 damage our only source of drinking water
14 Sands estimates that this mega casino
15 will require a serious demand for water,
16 as they need to dig a new well to pump a
17 staggering 875,000 gallons of water a day
18 to accommodate the tens of thousands of
19 visitors 24/7.

20 Additionally, Sands acknowledges
21 that there may be contamination in this
22 area as it's a known Superfund site and
23 plumes may exist underground. One may ask
24 if it's even wise to disturb this area at
25 all, as it may dislodge a toxic plume

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into our groundwater. If that happens, what then? Who is liable for the damages and the potential harm that it may cause to our communities for decades?

Additionally, NYU Langone plans to build a \$3 billion medical center adjacent to this property. It's commonly known that resorts and hospitals are among the largest consumers of energy and water. Therefore, the environmental impact of these two projects must be considered together. NYU Langone must also be part of the scope. For example, the saltwater intrusion of these two projects must be evaluated. We might find that the island can support these two major projects of this scale at the same location. We might have to pick one. What are the environmental impacts of only a hospital, only a casino, or both? This information needs to be known by you before you can make an informed decision.

Given the serious nature of the environmental impacts on a known

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Superfund site in conjunction with another major project next door, I urge you to understand your vote on this matter will have serious consequences for the entire island and your families for decades.

Mitigation is nearly impossible once wells are contaminated. We need to get this development right. As *Newsday* reported, I quote, "in some wells, such as in Long Beach, the salt concentrations have reached levels that may be irreversible". Let's not make the problem in Long Beach worse by building the second largest casino in the country in Uniondale. This project is too big and the wrong time for our fragile island. Say no to the casino.

Next, Chris Jacobs followed by Alexandra Arso.

MS. JACOBS: Good afternoon, Chris Jacobson, Uniondale, New York.

Regarding the Sands Casino proposed development at the Nassau Veterans

1
2 Memorial Coliseum site, there are many
3 concerns which I have in regards to the
4 environmental impact this development
5 will have on Uniondale, as well as
6 surrounding communities. The New York
7 State Department of Environmental
8 Conservation identified Uniondale,
9 Hempstead, New Cassel and Freeport as
10 disadvantaged communities, meaning that
11 these communities have a higher rate of
12 asthma as well as various illnesses as
13 opposed to the County in the state's
14 average. The New York State DEC findings
15 have identified the primary cause of
16 these high levels of asthma and other
17 respiratory illnesses in Uniondale is
18 primarily caused by high levels of
19 vehicular traffic.

20 Nassau County is plagued by daily
21 gridlock due to inadequate road network,
22 as well as having insufficient public
23 transit alternatives. In fact, the Nassau
24 Coliseum site has been labeled a transit
25 desert due to inability for anyone

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2 traveling to and from and to access it by
3 any other means of the vehicular. The
4 Meadowbrook Parkway, which is situated
5 right near the Nassau Coliseum site,
6 prohibits all commercial vehicles,
7 meaning all trucks and busses going to
8 the Coliseum site have to utilize our
9 overburdened and smaller local roads. It
10 is projected that this proposed project
11 would add 30,000 more vehicles daily to
12 our roads. Nassau County's willingness to
13 over develop over the past decades, and
14 negligence in updating its current
15 infrastructure had led to air pollution,
16 gridlock, water and waste management
17 crises. Here in Uniondale, the neglect by
18 a local town and county government on our
19 infrastructure is evidenced by a
20 dilapidated water tower that has not been
21 maintained in over 30 years, which
22 continues to languish in a state of
23 severe corrosion and disrepair.

24 Finally, as a resident, I'm still
25 awaiting the first of two required town

1
2 hall meetings as part of the New York
3 State Gaming Commission with our local
4 officials to discuss and answer questions
5 residents have regarding this proposed
6 project.

7 I always reference that State
8 Senator Jessica Ramos has held three
9 public town hall meetings with her
10 constituents regarding the Citi Field
11 casino proposal. Why do our local
12 officials continue to violate the New
13 York State Gaming Commission's rules?

14 A question I have that has to be
15 answered is, how does adding 30,000 more
16 vehicles to our overburdened local roads
17 mitigate our gridlock crisis and lower
18 our heightened hazard rates caused by air
19 pollution? Have a great evening.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Alexandra
21 Arso, followed by Lynn Krug.

22 MS. ALEXANDRA: I'm here today on
23 behalf of the Long Island Association,
24 we're the region's leading nonprofit,
25 Nonpartizan business organization,

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representing the interest of Long Island businesses and advocating for the economic development of our region.

The Long Island Association strongly supports a Sands New York proposal for the Hub, and feel that this project has the potential to be a significant economic driver for Long Island.

First and foremost, we would like to acknowledge the extensive scope of the assessment to ensure the well-being of the community and the regional economic sustainability. We commend both Sands and Nassau County for their commitment to executing a thorough and extensive analysis as part of the State Environmental Quality Review process. Sands commitment to working with the local community and developing this project has been significant and diligent, and a diligent effort to ensure that it aligns with the regional needs and aspirations, while also respecting and enhancing the quality of life for

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2 residents. Their dedication to ensuring
3 that every aspect of this development is
4 evaluated for environmental, social and
5 economic impacts, while encouraging
6 public input should be a model for other
7 projects to follow.

8 We feel that the that this
9 transformative project by Sands New York
10 stands as a catalyst of economic
11 revitalization, promising to boost the
12 local economy, create numerous job
13 opportunities, and enhance the region's
14 attractiveness to both tourists and
15 residents alike. The Long Island
16 Association commends the comprehensive
17 approach taken by Nassau County and
18 Sands. We should thoroughly scrutinize
19 any economic development project of this
20 scale. However, Sands has proven to be
21 working in good faith as they invest
22 billions of dollars into Long Island and
23 take the proper precautions to evaluate
24 their impact on our local environment. We
25 are confident that this project, with its

1
2 complete and historically extensive
3 analysis, will significantly enhance our
4 region's economic sustainability. Thank
5 you.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Lynn
7 Krug followed by Diana O'Neill.

8 MS. KRUG: Hi. Good afternoon, I'm
9 Lynn Krug. I live in Garden City.

10 As all Long Islanders should be, I'm
11 very concerned about our sole source
12 aquifer. LV Sands projects at their
13 complex will use 880,000 gallons of water
14 each day. To put that in perspective, the
15 average home on Long Island uses 400
16 gallons daily. So this one casino resort
17 resort will use the equivalent of 2200
18 homes. That's greater than the total
19 number of houses in Carle Place. Think
20 about that. The plan is to build a
21 gambling Mecca in the middle of our
22 county. That will use more water than a
23 nearby town. A just released DEC USGS
24 study shows that our water supply is
25 under unprecedented stress. Saltwater

1
2 intrusion has already caused wells on the
3 south and north shores to be abandoned.
4 Geologists have reported that water
5 withdrawals in the center of Long Island
6 are exacerbating saltwater intrusion
7 along the coasts. The same issue is
8 having an impact on the critical,
9 delicate marshes and wetlands along our
10 coastline that support wildlife.

11 Many of our surface water streams go
12 totally dry by summer due to our water
13 table dropping. In a typical year, they
14 reappear when rains come. But that
15 delicate balance could easily be
16 disrupted. As one expert put it at the
17 last Long Island Commission for Aquifer
18 Protection website webinar, we are only
19 two drought years in a row away from a
20 water supply crisis.

21 We've got major issues with
22 contaminants from the Grumman Plume and
23 the Brookhaven landfill to name just two.
24 And we know that there are contaminants
25 in the soils in Mitchell Field and the

1
2 wells at Roosevelt Field. Obscure car
3 waste in Brookhaven has sparked
4 environmental concerns that cannot be
5 ignored.

6 What we don't know, and what must be
7 addressed, is whether construction of
8 this casino resort will disturb those
9 contaminated areas and cause further
10 degradation of our water supply. If
11 there's any potential for this to occur,
12 remediation must take place before ground
13 is broken.

14 As a recent *Newsday* article said,
15 our water supply is precious. We need to
16 start treating it like that. If we're
17 going to allow projects that plan to use
18 nearly a million gallons of this precious
19 resource every day, it ought to be for a
20 project that benefits the community, like
21 the proposed NYU Medical Center, or even
22 homes for 2200 Long Island families. If
23 we're going to allow our precious
24 resources to be used. I favor a project
25 that will bring varied employment

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2 opportunities, and many high paying
3 career jobs that will lift up our
4 communities, not a casino that will
5 surely degrade our environment. Thank
6 you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
8 Diana O'Neill, followed by Ryan Stanton.

9 MS. O'NEILL: Diana O'Neill, Garden
10 City, New York. And I am vehemently
11 opposed to this project. Two of my
12 colleagues have already spoken about the
13 impact of asthma caused by pollutants in
14 the air.

15 I am recently retired from the local
16 hospital, and I worked on a community
17 health needs assessment and assets for
18 the year 2022 to 2024. We found a high
19 degree of asthma in the Hempstead
20 community that had been caused by
21 pollutants. I can only imagine how it
22 will increase and the impact that it will
23 have on its residents.

24 I think that if this proposal is to
25 go forward, then all of you have given

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rise to the fact that you are part of a decision that causes racial discrimination.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Ryan Stanton followed by Kim Sillifant.

MR. STANTON: Good evening.

Ryan Stanton, Long Island Federation of Labor. You heard from our president a little earlier. I got a few other points I'd like to make, not only double down on some obvious points he made.

You know, we are an island, but some that are opposed to the potential that this project brings have highlighted there's high levels of 1,4 Dioxin in our water and that there are communities surrounding the site that have been disadvantaged communities and are disadvantaged communities, by definition, right? I really have a hard time struggling and have a hard time understanding why we would as a county, as elected officials who care about the public, are committed to our communities,

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would pass up the opportunity to have a privately funded study of the environment that also happens to be the most robust scoping document that I'm aware of that's ever come before this Legislature.

So we heard Adriene Esposito who, as far as I'm concerned, is among the foremost experts in this state when it comes to environmental issues, highlight a number of things that we know are in or are going to be in the scoping document. And so whether you agree with the development, whether you agree with the proposal or not, we have an opportunity to study potential impacts. We have an opportunity to learn more about our environment. We have an opportunity to really get a better understanding of as as some opponents have mentioned, the potential contamination that's already there.

You know, I'm certain the residents of Bethpage, I'm certain the residents of Calverton have long, long, really

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struggled for the resources and the attention of corporations to consider the environmental impact of decisions that have been made over time and how that's impacted their residents. Well, we have a tenant who has had no existing footprint there, willing to dedicate resources to study the impact others have made, and how that could have implications for the residents that live there now.

So for me, I can't see a logical reason why those of you who are clearly committed to your communities, who sit through hearings like this over and over and over again, which can be painful, would pass up that opportunity. It's a robust scoping document, and it's really just a responsible decision for the taxpayer from my perspective.

So, I'll just leave you with that. I mean, that's my take on behalf of the working people of Long Island. You know, we're an island in the Atlantic Ocean. We have to care about the environment. The

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economy is not part of the scoping document, but when people make a good living, individuals, they can make good environmental decisions. And this opportunity, this economic opportunity provides career opportunities for working people to not only learn more about their community, but have the opportunity to make those good decisions when these jobs become a reality. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.

Kim Sillifant, followed by Joe Squicciarini. Forgive me if I didn't say that right. Kim Sillifant.

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Joe Squicciarini. Forgive me if I didn't say that right.

MR. SQUICCIARINI: Good evening. My name is Joe Squicciarini. I'm the Nassau County business agent for Plumbers Local 200. I represent 1100 hardworking members and their families.

I want to express my sincere

1
2 gratitude this evening for having the
3 opportunity to voice my opinions to
4 representatives. I value the effort and
5 dedication that Nassau County is
6 investing in this process.

7 It's reassuring to know that Sands
8 had already developed a comprehensive
9 plan to address and minimize any
10 potential environmental impacts even
11 before the hearings began. The ongoing
12 studies are crucial for the project
13 success and for the long term prosperity
14 of Nassau County. I have been
15 consistently impressed by Sands proactive
16 and forward thinking approach to ensuring
17 that the development will benefit both
18 our community and the environment.

19 The SEQRA process is vital as it
20 clarifies misinformation and media
21 spending. For instance, the site was
22 designed to host 15,000 to 20,000 people
23 for events, so accommodating guests for
24 hotel and resort should be manageable.
25 Issues that are exaggerated to create

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confusion should be addressed by SEQRA process which will provide clear facts for the county to make an informed decision. Any attempt to obstruct these public hearings threatens our community's health, well-being, and ability to have a voice. I look forward to the SEQRA process continuing and the project advancing. Thank you. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Vinny Muldoon. Followed by George Krug.

MR. MULDOON: Good evening, all. And thanks for everybody being here tonight.

I want to talk about three different sectors. I hope to take too much of your time. I'm a local resident in Garden City, and I'm on the board of trustees in the village as well. An Irish immigrant who came here about 30 something years ago at this stage of the game and blessed to have done so, the greatest country in the world.

Let me talk about labor and construction. I own a construction

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2 company locally, employ a lot of people.
3 Great people who work hard in the
4 construction business. And there's nobody
5 who wants a great project to happen over
6 at the Coliseum more than I do. Been
7 here for a long time, and I would love to
8 see that project. The difference is in no
9 way, no how do I want to see the casino
10 be there. I want any other business to
11 be there except for the casino. Because I
12 think most people sit up at the dais here
13 tonight, have either kids, grandkids or
14 some all of the above. This is about our
15 future. This is about our kids. This is
16 about our grandkids. Anybody that knows
17 anything about gambling, and we all do to
18 some degree, none of it is good. None of
19 it is good. And that should be black and
20 white for everybody to say tonight,
21 irrespective of their views on this
22 project.

23 Addiction. Gambling addiction is one
24 of the biggest and the worst problems we
25 have in this country, and it's going to

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be worldwide. It already is to some degree. I know too many people, too many kids too many adults that have suffered from this problem. And if you don't think that the casino that if it's if you guys go ahead and approve this, it's going to destroy thousands and tens of thousands and probably hundreds of thousands of lives in Long Island, especially. And it's not the people with millions and millions of dollars. It's going to destroy their livelihood and their and their home and get divorced and everything else that goes with addictions and gambling, especially if you do it. You know, in your hearts and souls that's going to be the outcome. And that's what this is really all about. This is not about building a great facility over the Coliseum and employing hundreds of thousands of great plumbers and contractors. I want that more than anybody. I'm in that business, but I don't want the casino here because that's

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what it's going to do. It's going to destroy your kids, your grandkids, their friends, their cousins, their aunts, their uncles. It's just an awful, awful addiction.

The only reason Sands wants to come here is to clean out as many pockets as they can and create as many of those situations. That's reality. They're not in the charity business. They're in the business of making money by taking people's hard earned money from them. That's the reality of what Sands or any other casino does. They're not in it to provide a great entertainment like our great Islanders that are on the island who have moved, unfortunately, they provided great entertainment. People spent a few dollars and went to go see a game and had a great time with their family. There's a huge difference between that and people getting addicted to gambling, especially with what's going on. So I thank you for your time

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(buzzer). And the last thing I'm going to finish on is the environment. If you think for a minute --

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I'm sorry.

MR. MULDOON: Okay. Thank you, thank you. The environment is very important.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. George Krug, followed by Jean Mullins.

MR. KRUG: Good evening. My name is George Krug. I'm from Garden City. Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak. We're here because SEQRA Law requires a full accounting of the environmental impact of this project. SEQRA assumes that we will trade off some environmental harm in favor of economic and social benefit. But what if a project will cause economic and social harm? SEQRA doesn't cover that. And why would it? Why would anyone pursue a project that damages the environment and also damages our economy and our quality of life? This project is being sold on its economic benefits. But where's the proof?

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What's the impact of placing a \$2 billion a year drain in the middle of a thriving local economy? Where is that data? When we hear that LV Sands is spending 4 or 5 or \$6 billion to build a resort, remember they're building the casino first, the casino comes first, and that revenue will fund whatever else gets built.

They call Las Vegas, the city built by losers. This project will be no different. And the Sands expects that the bulk of those losers will come from nearby, taking dollars from our local economy. They've said as much. They've told us they like the demographic. That needle, we feel, won't be a shot in the arm. It will be a drain and we will be the donors. So when you hear the constant refrain of integrated resort and casino's only 10%, remember this, on day one, this project is 100% casino. That's smart business for the Sands. Not so great for us. There are social costs of having a casino in a community and they are real

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2 leaning. Economists say that for every \$2
3 in benefits brought by a casino, there
4 are \$3 in costs. That's not a good deal.
5 Our state comptroller reported that
6 casinos chronically underperform as tax
7 revenue generators. That's not a good
8 deal.

9 Even the *New York Post* recommended
10 against any new casino downstate. And you
11 know why? Because even the *New York Post*
12 knows it's not a good deal if the phrase
13 social cost is too vague, just Google the
14 phrase Bethlehem Casino orphans. Go ahead
15 and do that. You'll see some very vivid
16 examples of what these kinds of places
17 can bring. Even if some of you sincerely
18 think that the benefits really do
19 outweigh the costs, unless you have the
20 data to prove it, you're making an
21 assumption that will have profound
22 ramifications on our county for years to
23 come.

24 LV Sands has done their diligence.
25 They know the risks and benefits to their

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business, and if we didn't look like a goldmine, they wouldn't be giving away lawn mowers and partnering with community groups to gain support. Sands isn't bringing prosperity to Nassau County. They're coming because the prosperity is here and they want some. You are the stewards of our community. You owe it to us to do your diligence. You owe it to us to make make public the true costs of handing over 76 acres of our public property to a private company for private gain. Until we see those numbers, this review process seems a little bit ahead of the march to me. Thank you for the opportunity.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Jean Mullins followed by Jerry Kornbluth. Jeanne Mullins.

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Jerry Kornbluth, followed by Sammy Chu.

MR. KORNBLUTH: Good evening. Legislators. My name is Jerry Kornbluth,

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vice president of community and governmental relations at Nassau Community College. I appreciate the Nassau County Legislature for initiating this public hearing and the environmental review process for the Sands Project.

The environmental integrity of the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum property is paramount not only for the site itself, but for the well-being of its neighbors including Nassau Community College, our students, and the broader communities we serve.

The State Environmental Quality Review (SEQRA) Process is a key safeguard ensuring that we move forward with economic development. We do so responsibly, balancing progress with the protection of our environment. We are pleased to see the enormous scale of this proposed scope. Sands has shown once again that they are listening by making sure that critical issues such as traffic management, water resources and air

1
2 quality will be studied as part of this
3 SEQRA process.

4 We strongly support this
5 comprehensive approach as these are
6 essential to maintaining the quality of
7 life for Nassau County residents. The
8 Sands project has the potential to bring
9 significant economic opportunities to our
10 region, including the creation of
11 thousands of new jobs and partnerships
12 while maintaining high standards of
13 environmental stewardship. By studying
14 the environmental impacts rigorously, we
15 can ensure that the project will be
16 sustainable for future generations
17 aligning with Nassau Community College's
18 values of education, sustainability and
19 community engagement.

20 The robust scope of the SEQRA
21 process reflects an ongoing commitment to
22 work with local leaders, stakeholders and
23 community members to ensure that every
24 concern is addressed and that we create a
25 responsible path forward. We are

1
2 confident that the SEQRA process will
3 provide a comprehensive review of
4 environmental impacts, ensuring that this
5 property has a bright future as a vibrant
6 space that benefits the community while
7 maintaining environmental integrity. The
8 project is not just about economic
9 development, it's about enhancing the
10 quality of life for Nassau County
11 residents, including new work force
12 training opportunities, improving
13 infrastructure, creating functional
14 community space, and supporting local
15 organizations.

16 In conclusion, Nassau Community
17 College fully supports the SEQRA process
18 and looks forward to continuing our
19 engagement as this important project
20 moves forward, ensuring that it brings
21 both economic vitality and environmental
22 stewardship to our community. Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.

24 Sammy Chu, followed by Maria
25 Cucurillo.

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MR. CHU: Good afternoon. My name is Sammy Chu, CEO of Edgewise Energy and Plainview, New York. I also serve as chair of the US Green Building Council, the Long Island chapter. I had the pleasure of being asked to serve as the co-chair, alongside Jeanine Maynard of the Environmental Working Group that was formed to levy recommendations for both implementation on the project and community benefits. Through that process, we convened a group of both community members as well as experts in various topics on the environment, including some of us spoke today.

Sands commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship is well documented. Their sustainability commitments and accomplishments are prominently featured on their website. I suggest everyone who's interested to check it out. Because of Sands' existing commitments, it allowed our working group to focus on the specific priorities of

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the surrounding communities, all of which were well represented on a working group. We were able to have in-depth discussions on topics ranging from water conservation and reuse to waste management, bringing in sector experts for all of these topics to present to the working group. These conversations translated into design, and it's clear from those designs that Sands is not only committed to being a friend to the environment, but also a friend and member of the community.

I have now logged 20 years as a green building practitioner, and I can confidently state that when this project is built, it will be amongst the most impressive demonstrations of green building on the island. Sands commits to building to LEAD standards, which stands for Leadership and Energy and Environmental Design, which was first created by the US Green Building Council. They commit to LEAD standards and meeting certification on all of its projects,

1
2 including this one. This world recognized
3 leading standard ensures careful review
4 and verification of the following
5 considerations: And that's independent
6 review and verification, location and
7 transportation, sustainable sites, water
8 efficiency, energy and atmosphere,
9 materials and resources, and indoor
10 environmental quality. And this project
11 takes account to all of them and will
12 accelerate them. This project will
13 provide necessary economic benefits for
14 our region, and will do so in a way that
15 also takes great care and respecting the
16 environment. Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
18 All right. Maria Cucurillo, followed by
19 Susan Kaye.

20 MS. CUCURILLO: I'm not sure you
21 want to hear what I have to say. I didn't
22 sign anything to talk. So this is like, I
23 guess, divine intervention.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I'm sorry
25 you're not Maria.

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MS. CUCURILLO: I'm sorry?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Are you
Maria Cucurillo?

MS. CUCURILLO: Cucurillo.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Forgive
me.

MS. CUCURILLO: C-U-C-U-R-I-L-L-O.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay.

MS. CUCURILLO: Because I didn't say
I was going to speak, but --

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Well,
somebody was kind enough to sign you up.

MS. CUCURILLO: Obviously, you want
to hear me. So you know, I'm sure you're
going to build a really great casino. I
just think -- I can't even believe that
I'm here. It's putting 40 pounds of
potatoes in a 10 pound bag. What are we
going to do with all the cars? What about
the traffic? We're already sitting in
traffic. People drive like crazy. Now
we're going to have more angry people,
right? And they're on their phones.
Where are all the cars going? And maybe

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you guys don't live here. Maybe you don't

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have to deal with it. We have to deal

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with it. We can't move now. We really

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don't want to be little Manhattan. I

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don't think there's room for this. Plus a

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hospital. I mean, anything's possible.

8

You can do anything, but is it logical? I

9

mean, you know, when you when you stop,

10

don't think about the money. I mean, are

11

we going to be able to get home at night?

12

I know I don't want to sit in traffic

13

half my life. Where are all these cars

14

going? Hello? Anybody? Is anybody with

15

me? I mean, is this like the elephant in

16

the room? This is. I can't even believe

17

I'm here. This is so stupid. I can't

18

believe that I have to come here and talk

19

about this. It's insane. It's too small.

20

Go put your wonderful Sands Casino

21

someplace else where there's room. That's

22

what I came to say. No.

23

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay.

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Susan Kaye followed by Richard Catalano.

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MS. KAYE: The Grumman Bethpage

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plume has polluted the four wells since 2009. Where is that water running off into? Uniondale. The Hempstead water Tower which has 1.4 Dioxin, where is that polluted water running into? Uniondale.

The New York State Health Department in August of this year is studying cancer rates in Bethpage. I lost a sister in January this year to leukemia. It was probably caused by environmental. There was no history of leukemia in my family. I did genetic testing last January.

I am a 27 year breast cancer survivor. I was one of the 2000 women in the Long Island Breast Cancer Project. That was a study in the environmental that showed nothing.

We are killing ourselves by environmental pollution with diseases of autoimmune lupus, Ted, Hashimoto. Keep it up. We'll have another Love Canal in the state. Love Canal was an area that was polluted upstate by Hooker Chemical Hook, a chemical polluted wells in Hicksville.

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We do not need this project. Sands, take a project out of Nassau County and leave Nassau County alone. We can. Do better. I can think of a lot more better things. We could have a not. On a meditation center, a yoga. We don't need this stupid casino.

And I will say, one person who has voted with her heart and mind as Delia Dawicky (sic). Hands off of Nassau County. We don't need this ridiculous, stupid project.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right, Richard Catalono and then Erika Gambardella.

MR. CATALONO: As you start the SEQRA process, you must demand complete transparency from Sands. So far, Sands has refused to give exact estimates of daily visitors. Sands knows exactly how many people are coming, but they've refused to disclose that information because they know the numbers would absolutely shock Nassau County residents and result in significant and immediate

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opposition to their casino.

The same is true for jobs. The scoping document says 7800 permanent jobs. Sands new website says 5000, with a plus sign. What is the real number? MGM Springfield promised 3000 permanent jobs. Many years later they only have 1500. You have to discount Sands job estimates, given the history of casino companies exaggerating job losses, automation and the advent of online gambling trends.

The economic evaluation discussion in the scoping document focused solely on job creation and is grossly inadequate for this analysis. SEQRA must encompass a comprehensive economic impact assessment of all the harms and revenue offsets that results from this massive casino, such as the significant and permanent economic harm that this casino will cause Hofstra University, NCC and Kellenberg Catholic High School. The cost must be quantified.

The increase in drunk drivers that will be on our roads will lead to the

1
2 loss of innocent lives. The economic
3 losses associated with the loss of these
4 lives must be considered in your
5 analysis. The only mitigation to address
6 this would be to make the facility
7 alcohol free. I can assure you that
8 Sands would never agree to that, since
9 they know alcohol consumption increases
10 gambling losses and increases their
11 bottom line.

12 Higher tax paid and funded social
13 starts from the increase in problem
14 gambling, including suicide prevention,
15 must be quantified. Higher taxpayer
16 funded costs associated with the increase
17 in property crime from higher incidence
18 of problem gambling, as well as the crime
19 associated with drugs and prostitution,
20 must also be quantified in this study.

21 The economic harm to our local
22 restaurants in downtown business, from a
23 diversion of \$2 billion a year of
24 discretionary dollars into gambling
25 losses, must be quantified. That

1
2 discretionary spending, if it stays in
3 the restaurants and the local business,
4 would be subject to sales tax. Gambling
5 losses are not subject to sales tax.
6 There's no double dipping in this
7 process.

8 And finally, the negative impact to
9 our home values on the surrounding
10 communities Uniondale, Westbury, East
11 Meadow in a non rural setting, when
12 you're in a rural setting, you might see
13 an uptick, but a non rural setting you're
14 seeing 3 to 9% lower home values as the
15 homes near a casino become less desirable
16 because of the quality of life issues
17 such as traffic, pollution and crime. If
18 this casino is built, given the high home
19 prices in Nassau County, it will
20 undoubtedly be the largest transfer of
21 economic wealth from private homeowners
22 to a corporation in U.S. history, easily
23 exceeding \$1 billion.

24 I encourage all 18 of you to start
25 to do your job. Hold town hall meetings,

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meet with the say no opposition, and start to listen to the 51% of Nassau County residents that don't want this casino.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Erika Gambardella? Erika Gambardella?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Mayor Mary Flanagan. Followed by Lawrence Board.

MAYOR FLANAGAN: Good afternoon or good evening. Thank you for this opportunity. Mary Carter Flanagan, mayor of the Village of Garden City, our Board of Trustees remains unequivocally and unanimously opposed to this project, as you all know. We'll be submitting written comments, but a few points I'd like to make.

The Nassau County Legislature should reject the proposed lease between Nassau County and Sands involving the property of the site. The proposed integrated resort aims to transform the area into a multifaceted entertainment complex,

1
2 including everything from a casino to
3 retail spaces. This expansion, however,
4 will have catastrophic impacts on
5 neighboring communities, including the
6 Village of Garden City.

7 The Village's primary concern is
8 that considering the lease at issue,
9 which would permit Sands to redevelop the
10 Coliseum property separately from the
11 lease approved by the Legislature on
12 August 5th, 2024, constitutes unlawful
13 segmentation under the State
14 Environmental Quality Review Act.

15 The August 5th lease was not merely
16 an operational Agreement, but it was the
17 first of required steps towards securing
18 a gaming license for the site. A bedrock
19 principle of SEQRA is that the lead
20 agency should consider the environmental
21 impacts of the whole action before
22 approving, funding, or undertaking any
23 specific element of the action. By
24 developing two different leases and
25 treating them as separate actions, the

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Legislature is attempting to circumvent the requirement for a comprehensive environmental review that considers the full scope of the proposed development and its cumulative impacts.

The Legislature has already determined that by authorizing an operational lease, Sands can undertake the necessary planning activities, make licensing, land use and funding applications, and undertake other necessary activities to secure required approvals for development. This segmentation appears to be a direct attempt to avoid compliance with Nassau County Supreme Court's ruling, which invalidated the May 2023 lease transfer, failing to undergo a full environmental review. This deliberate and illegal effort to sidestep judicial oversight stands in direct contrast to the procedural safeguards set forth under SEQRA.

Furthermore, after thorough review,

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2 the village has identified deficiencies
3 that we will be detailing in our written
4 comments and is greatly concerned that
5 the draft scope is devoid of complete
6 analysis in several key areas of concern.
7 It's nearly identical to the previous
8 version prepared as part of Sand's
9 application to rezone the site. The draft
10 scope under consideration does not
11 reflect any substantial effort to address
12 the broad range of public comments raised
13 during the last scoping session held by
14 the Town of Hempstead. I realize my time
15 is up will be submitting detailed
16 explanation as to our objections. Thank
17 you for the time.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you,
19 Mayor Flanagan.

20 Lawrence Board followed by Mike
21 McKeever. Good evening.

22 MR. BOARD: My name is Lawrence
23 Board, and I'm the chief financial
24 officer of the Epic Family of Human
25 Service Agencies. I'm sharing these

1
2 remarks on behalf Of Lisa Burke, the CEO
3 of Epic Family. We provide services to
4 individuals struggling with epilepsy,
5 behavioral health, and intellectual and
6 developmental disabilities. I'm here to
7 show my support for the comprehensive
8 environmental review proposed by Sands
9 New York.

10 Our headquarters are located almost
11 directly across Hempstead Turnpike from
12 the proposed site of the integrated
13 resort. So we have a vested interest in
14 this project, which promises not only to
15 drive economic growth, but also to uphold
16 Rigorous environmental and community
17 standards.

18 Even before the official hearings
19 began, Sands New York has shown its
20 commitment to a comprehensive and
21 transparent approach to potential
22 impacts. Firstly, Sands New York has
23 developed a detailed environmental impact
24 statement that covers a wide array of
25 critical areas. The EIS will examine the

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effects on community facilities like schools and hospitals, and organizations like Epic considering increased demand and proposing initiatives for security and waste reduction.

Traffic and parking studies, examining 114 traffic points and intersections to address concerns from seasonal patterns to rush hours, including during construction, are thorough. This study will ensure that traffic flow and parking solutions are well planned to minimize disruption.

Air quality is another focus. The EIS evaluates emissions Submissions with particular attention to disadvantaged communities such as Uniondale and Hempstead, ensuring that both stationary and mobile sources of emissions are scrutinized. This proactive approach reflects Sands New York's dedication to environmental justice. The plan also includes a robust community character assessment. It evaluates cultural

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resources, esthetics, and zoning impacts, ensuring that the project fits in with the local environment and respects community values.

Public health is a priority, too, with studies on gambling trends and services to address any issues that may arise. Sands, New York has worked with many community based providers, including Epic, to analyze socio economic impacts, including job creation, especially for those in the disability community, and has pledged voluntary payments and support for local training programs.

Finally, the cumulative impacts of this development, including interactions with other local projects like the NYU Langone Hospital, are parts of the comprehensive review process. Sands, New York is demonstrating a forward thinking approach by addressing these critical areas in their EIS. Their dedication to environmental stewardship and community well-being makes them a responsible

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partner for this project.

Epic family of human service agencies strongly supports the opening of Sands New York Casino and their commitment to thorough, transparent impact studies.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. All right. Mike McKeever and then Leo Stimmler.

MR. MCKEEVER: Hi. Good evening. I'm Mike McKeever. I'm a resident of Garden City. I'm here today, really because of my family. I've got three kids, five, three and two. I'm a graduate of Chaminade High School. My daughter could end up at Kellenberg one day. We go to the Long Island Children's Museum all the time. We play at Mitchell Park with my kids. Putting this casino in this area that's so treasured, so rich with tradition with Nassau County really just is sort of painstaking for me. I just I can't imagine a worse project.

But I also want to comment, and

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there have been so many comments about environmental impacts that some of the things I was going to say have already been covered. You know, when we sit here, we have to understand that Sands doesn't have a track record, that Sands does not operate a casino in North America right now. So when you hear from all these associations, Sands has a \$90 million budget. If you look at the 2023 10-K for Sands, they spent \$90 million promoting this casino and one other casino in the state of Texas. You've got people here grandparents, parents like me, aunts, uncles, legislators. We're here because we don't want this to impact our homes. We want to protect our families. We want to protect the values of our homes. We worry about our safety. People from these associations, notice they don't even say where they live. And the reason is -- and Jeff Reynolds started this off. Okay. My mother in law is the chief nursing officer at the Behavioral Health Center,

1
2 and Northwell runs one of the biggest
3 behavioral health clinics in the country
4 for Jeff Reynolds Family Children's
5 Association to talk about that this is
6 not an issue, that gambling addiction is
7 not an issue. That is insulting. And I
8 think it's important for the public
9 record, given this \$90 million budget
10 that Sands has, that Sands, through Jeff
11 Reynolds, his organization, a fundraiser.
12 You're not getting biased perspectives
13 here.

14 And with all due respect to the
15 unions, none of the union members have
16 stated where they live. Okay. And the
17 union members would probably be happy to
18 knock down the existing Nassau Coliseum
19 and build it right back up the way it is,
20 because they just want to work and they
21 want to build, and I respect that. But we
22 cannot discount all the impacts of this
23 casino.

24 Now, I want to go on the record as
25 well. Legislator Bynoe was very opposed

1
2 to the casino project ten years ago, and
3 recently made a statement that she now
4 supports Sands because they're going to
5 get \$25 million in community benefits in
6 her district. Okay. Now, if we assume --
7 \$25 million, that's a big number. If we
8 assume Uniondale alone loses 5% of its
9 home values because of this casino,
10 that's about 50 million bucks. Okay. If
11 it's 10%, it's even more.

12 So when you guys think about the
13 environmental impact of this, you've got
14 to look at your constituents in the face
15 and you explain to them why their nest
16 egg in this economy is their home -- if
17 they are lucky enough to have one, and
18 those home values are going down the
19 tubes, because who the hell wants to live
20 by a casino? Thank you very much.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right.
22 Leo Stimmler, followed by John Ellsworth.

23 MR. STIMMLER: Good evening. My name
24 is Leo Stimmler. I live in Garden City.
25 I'd like to use my few minutes to talk

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about the front page cover story that was written by Tracy Tullis and which covers saltwater intrusion. Tullis focuses her article on an eight year study, a collaborative study between the US Geological Survey and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. I hope you all saw last week's *Newsday*. And Tullis says that based on that eight year or nine year study, overpumping has caused the boundary where the saltwater meets the freshwater, to shift inland and shift inland significantly. Consequently, we now have in a number of communities elevated levels of chloride and chloride is a component of salt.

One other point I wanted to make about Tullis' article. She quotes Sara Mallon, and according to Sara Mallon, the problem is not the quantity of water. She says -- Sara Mallon, by the way, was a professor of hydrology, and she was also, I don't know if she still is, a member of the New York State Department of Health's

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Drinking Water Quality Council. I think there were only 8 or 9 members of that. But Mallon says the problem is not the quantity of water. There will always be water in the aquifer system, she said. It's just a question. Is it going to be a fresh water or is it going to be saltwater?

And in closing, I just wanted to say one last thing. Some of the speakers here, according to *Newsday*, have received funds from the Sands Casino. I think they should reveal that before they speak and when they come to this microphone. And Presiding Officer Kopel, I believe that when you laid out your ground rules for three minutes and other things, I think you also should have said to all of us, if you've received funds from the Sands Casino, you need to share that with everyone. So we know whether your comments may be colored by the money. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: So I will

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say that I did not receive any funds, and I don't know of anyone here who has. I don't believe anyone else here has. Now John Ellsworth followed by Ed Finneran.

MR. ELLSWORTH: Good evening, and thank you to the Nassau County Legislature for providing me with an opportunity to speak today. My name is John Ellsworth from Nelson Pope and Voorhees, and we represent the Town of Hempstead, America's largest and most diverse township. I'm here today as an impartial observer to listen to and absorb the questions, concerns, and ideas of the local residents, business leaders, and representatives from organized labor that they shared throughout the scoping session as this multi-step, state mandated and court ordered environmental review process begins anew. As the Town of Hempstead has been designed, has been designated and involved agency in the proposed project, the Town will participate in the county SEQRA process

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as necessary, and in the immediate term, the Town plans to submit detailed and thoughtful written comments within the next week regarding the proposed project. Thank you. All right.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Ed Finneran followed by Don Valente.

MR. FINNERAN: Good evening. My name is Ed Finneran from Garden City. There seems to be a lot of us here tonight, and I think I share the passion that has been expressed at this dais.

I'd like to just change the discussion a little bit, and I'd like to ask you a question. Of course, it's rhetorical because you're not allowed to answer, and that's fine. How much do you think you should be paid by Sands the county? Okay, let's go through it. Is \$54 million enough for The impact on our daily lives. Is it enough for the impact that each of the institutions, the educational institutions, is going to feel? Is it enough to address the water

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problems which have been very eloquently outlined here? Is it enough to address all of the traffic issues; 54 million bucks? Best case, 100 million? That's if they get up to their \$2 billion of of revenue. So what's 100 million bucks. It's 2% or so of your budget. Maybe a teeny bit less. Is it enough to address and mitigate all of the problems that have been outlined here today?

Now, this study has to go through. Obviously we are in support of the study. Both sides are in support. You have to to roll up your sleeves and demand the best from your staff and your experts, as we're going to get from our our experts to decide these issues.

Now, this isn't an issue just for Ms. Bynoe, Mr. Strauss, Mr. Giuffre and I think Mr. McKevitt, those are the folks. And I'm not perfect on the legislator the legislation map, but I think those are contiguous and/or abut the Coliseum. So you owe a super duty to us, as I would if

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I was sitting in your chairs.

So where does that leave us? It leaves you with one of the most difficult decisions that you're going to have to face. I've been up here 3 or 4 times. I've enjoyed sharing my thoughts from you. I've enjoyed hearing from both sides. But why can't the reds and the greens work together to find something that we can all be proud of? That we can find a project that can be defined.

Final point. I ask all of you, especially those legislators that live closest to the arena, and you all know the arena. I'm sure you've all been there. Walk in our shoes. Get to the site. Get out of your car. Walk in Hempstead. Walk in Uniondale, East Meadow and Garden City. We're about a half a mile from the parking lot there. I ask you to do your jobs. I ask you for us and for your families. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Dom
Valente.

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(Whereupon, no response.)

Okay.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Georgios Kitras, followed by Frank Camarano.

MR. KITRAS: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I completely support this project. So I don't have that much to say. But what I will say is that this project, that presenting is going to be built technologically advanced they're going to have sustainability in mind, and it's going to be great for the local economy as well. So I completely support it. It's time to put Uniondale back on the map. I'm a local resident as well, so you got my vote. Let's build it.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Frank Camarano followed by Pete Gaffney.

MR. CAMARANO: Hello. My name is Frank Camarano. I'm the president of The National Council of Chambers of Commerce. We represent the chambers across Nassau County, 49 of them currently.

You know, I'm a little confused. You

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started off saying that, you know, the conversation wasn't going to be about the casino today. Just about, you know, the SEQRA and all that. But people tend to be going all directions. So instead, I use this opportunity on the County's anniversary, the 125th year anniversary, to thank the County Executive and you all for the positive things that folks have been bringing up today. Tourism is up. The business is up. Something that hasn't come up, you know, the the cricket was great. It affected businesses all across Nassau County. I've heard talk about the museums, Museum row, Nassau community, which is my alma mater. All the great things that are happening across the county. And in fact, even Langone came up wonderful things and the folks -- and take credit for it that I'm sure have partly behind this. Instead of people realizing that there's smarts around, right. That good things are happening. All of a sudden when it comes to the

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possibility of a resort with part of it being a casino, all of a sudden these smart folks don't have any brains at all. Right.

Look around. I'm from Nassau. I've been here, you know, pretty much my whole life, and it's looking pretty good. You know, it's the safest county in all of all, you know, United States. Unless that's changed; I don't think it has. And I'm just here, you know, let's talk positive.

And the gentleman from Garden City who says, you know, blending the green and the red together. Well, that doesn't look too good. It was brown, right?

We come here we've been supportive of the project because of of small business, and the communities and the Sands have been supportive of that all along. But again, today is not about that, right? As long as the process moves forward. And the pollution, I'm going to talk about pollution in terms of testing,

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I'm talking about the noise pollution doesn't affect that process will be in good shape. And again, thank you for everything.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Pete Gaffney and he's followed by Matt Aracich.

MR. GAFFNEY: My name is Pete Gaffney, Westbury. Because the three minute rule is insufficient. I'm giving my environmental questions and comments to all Nassau County legislators. And I've copied the New York State Gaming Commission. What I'd like you to do is to please include any and all Sands Casino project comments posted on the Town of Hempstead website from one 1/18/24 public scoping session.

And what I'd like to know is whatever happened to the 2020 conceptual master plan? It had all the amenities there were going to be. Things were going to be great. What happened? Lipstick was put on the Bond, Sloan-Kettering built

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the cancer center and the tiered parking lot. Nassau Coliseum lease changed hands four times. Now a \$6 million county executive and the corporation entity, Las Vegas Sands, wants to build a casino and other social amenities costs could exceed \$5-6 billion. Nassau County officials appear to be all for it.

Based on Las Vegas Sands casino development, public presentation from 1/18/2024, Las Las Vegas Sands continues to maintain that the casino would be only 10% of the proposed plan, yet their proposed hotels will create shadows over the cancer center. How will it affect the Cancer center's operations? Will it aid the cancer patient in depression?

And 12 to 15% of the population. Have addictive tendencies? I disagree with that 1-2%. Several drug treatments centers on nearby. Why would you want to jeopardize. The casinos typically are open 24/7/365 days. This affords the opportunity for certain crimes, drugs,

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prostitution, theft, extortion, stolen
cause, gun violence.

Far too many colleges and
universities and primary schools and
nearby.

Several roadways are the most
dangerous in New York and said Turnpike,
Merrick Road, Jericho Turnpike, and the
Meadowbrook Parkway. Having a casino with
no improvements on the roads will only
worsen the dangers. According to New York
State, Hempstead Turnpike is the most
dangerous road for pedestrians.

Will Nassau County create a
transportation park? Who is going to pay
for it? There are many more environmental
concerns and challenges with this
project. Water, wastewater, sewers,
Hempstead Plains, etc..

Remember, Las Vegas Sands
Corporation is a publicly traded company
and works for their shareholders and the
Adelson family only. Prior history of all
sands business, when it doesn't meet

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their requirements, their tendency is to
bail. So Nassau County legislators,
please do the proper background vetting
on this project. Nassau County residents
are counting on each of you. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right.
Matt Arachich, followed by Debra Izzo.

MR. ARACICH: Good evening, Mr.
Presiding Officer, member of the
legislature, thank you for the
opportunity to speak.

I want to make it clear that there
was something that was said earlier about
the amount of residents that actually
live here, and yet I represent 65,000;
the vast majority live in Nassau County.
That's Nassau County.

So here it is. We're talking about
the most helpful thing is I'm going to
stay on message. The reason is you've
heard so many other things, such as
things that are not related to the SEQRA.

So why are we supporting this? The
reason is because it's the right thing.

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In 45 years in this industry, not once have I ever had an opportunity to work with a company that has touched every single subject to the part of so deep that it's kind of -- even for me, I was like, I just found it not alarming. I found it that I never knew that there were so many other things to talk about. Now, in my particular industry, it's about energy efficiency. I've been doing this for three generations, 109 years. We know what we're talking about. So if you're talking about a robust project, one of the things to talk about is what we get on these committees, whether it be the Transportation Committee, whether it be the Building Committee, whether it be, the Green Energy Committee. Here's what happens. We talk about things such as the water quality. Yes, water quality. And the one thing that we have to say is we want to reduce the amount of water that this place uses. However, what what's not said is that we're trying to be as high

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lead processed as possible when it comes to the quality of this building.

Nobody here has ever mentioned anything about water usage when they're talking about watering their grass. And quite frankly, I think that that's something that's completely different than this. We're looking to save that. We're looking to use greywater from runoff, rainwater.

And at that point you can also go ahead and take the trash. They're looking at things such as passive solar. The materials that are here, such as the glass, the lighting, the roadways the elements and the process of everything that gets built here. Recovery. Recovering the heat, recovering the cold. All these things are elements in making sure that this is a project that has the least amount of carbon footprint as possible for its size. So that's being on message here.

So with that you can find something

1
2 else, such as if you're looking at a
3 percentage of water usage, let's take
4 something which is your neighboring
5 county, 75% of the water it's used in
6 four months in in Suffolk County is used
7 to water lawns. I wouldn't expect it to
8 be any different here because everybody
9 wants a green lawn.

10 When we're talking about changing
11 people's opinion, you're talking about
12 getting people the jobs so they don't
13 have to travel further and making sure
14 that the roadways are clean, the roadways
15 are wide, and all this thing with the
16 traffic study is the thing that does the
17 best use for all this project. This way
18 you can move people in, move out, stagger
19 the times, etc. And that's the thing that
20 has most of this impact. When it comes
21 to energy, it's the same thing. Making
22 sure we reduce the carbon footprint.
23 Thank you very much for your time.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Debra Izzo
25 followed by Brian Negro. Is Debra here?

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No. Brian Negro followed by Matt Silver.

MS. NIGRO: Good afternoon. My name is Brian Nigro. I'm a business representative For Sheetmetal Workers Local 28.

The SEQRA process is essential as it helps cut through misleading narratives and media exaggerations. For example, the site was designed to accommodate 15,000-20,000 people for rock concerts, so hosting guests for a hotel and resort should be feasible.

The SEQRA process will provide clear facts and dispel any, misconceptions, allowing the county to make well informed decisions. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Matt Silver followed by Majkut.

MR. SILVER: Good evening. I don't have any prepared statements like other speakers, but I'm just speaking from my heart. I am the co-founder and vice president of the Long Island Community Chest, and many of the people that we

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fund don't have jobs and can't find jobs. And a project like this will definitely bring in many, many jobs to Nassau County that people from all over the Island could benefit from. I'm also excited to hear about a entertainment center with a hotel and a venue similar to the Coliseum, but maybe not as large, where concerts will be back in the the Sands, and there'll be nice restaurants to go to on date night. And I'm looking forward to that. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Jack Majkut and then Richard Brooks.

MS. MAJKET: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen aboard. My name is Jack Majket. I'm a business representative for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 25. And listen closely in case somebody really wants to know, because someone was questioning. I live at 169 Elm Place, Levittown, New York 11756. And I'm a 56 year resident of Nassau County.

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IBEW represents over 2000 working families here on Long Island. I'm here tonight to fully support the proposed Las Vegas Sands project on behalf of our membership. I have every confidence in this legislative board that they will dot every "I" and cross every "T" in its comprehensive SEQRA review process. This transformative project is a once in a lifetime opportunity that should not be taken lightly. I have heard a lot of negative comments based on rumors and fear mongering, without facts or data to back it up. This is the reason why we are here tonight, to make sure any concerns are brought to the floor and properly addressed. As my mother taught me as a kid, there are no problems. There are only solutions. I believe there are plenty of experts involved in this project that can mitigate any concerns the residents of Nassau County have. The proposed Sands project is set to be a game changer for our community. I am

1
2 thrilled to see Sands commitment to make
3 this the most eco friendly building on
4 Long Island. This development will create
5 substantial opportunities, generate
6 significant revenue, and introduce
7 industries and entertainment options for
8 Long Islanders.

9 On a personal note, a few weeks ago
10 I went first time to Mohegan Sun. Took me
11 about 3-3.5 hours to get there with
12 traffic and whatnot, to go see a show and
13 do a little bit of gambling. Why should I
14 have to do that when we can have a state
15 of the art luxury resort casino hotel
16 here in Long Island, when I can be there
17 in ten minutes and enjoy a staycation
18 here and not have to pay airfare and
19 travel. When I was in Connecticut, it was
20 almost like I was in Las Vegas. You
21 didn't even realize it was. It was a good
22 time. My family had a great time, and I
23 think the residents of Nassau County
24 should have that opportunity as well.
25 Thank you.

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Once again, Local 25 fully supports this project. Thank you for your time and opportunity to speak.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay.
Richard Brooks and then Tim McCarthy.

MR. BROOKS: My name is Richard Brooks. I'm the business manager of Plumbers Local 200, represents Nassau and Suffolk County.

I want to come forward this evening to emphasize how thankful I am for the opportunity to have a perspective share with our representatives. I truly appreciate that County Legislative dedication and effect in this matter. The Sands project stands for significantly revitalizing our community, and I'm delighted to see that the Sands is dedicated to making this project the most environmental conscious building on Long Island.

This development is set to offer substantial economic benefits, create new jobs, opportunity and provide fresh

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entertainment options for our residents. It's reassuring that Sands has already established a solid plan to address and manage any potential environmental concerns prior to the hearing. Ongoing environmental assessments are essential for successful of this project and for the future prosperity of Nassau County.

Sands has built a strong network of supporters from a wide range of Long Island nonprofit, business, labor, environmental and civic sectors. This broad base of supporters reflects their understanding and community needs and their ongoing commitment to being considered neighbors. I have been consistently impressed by Sand's proactive and forward thinking of approach to ensuring that the development will benefit our community and our environment. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Tim McCarthy and then Michael Fallarino.

MR. MCCARTHY: Good evening,

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Legislative Body.

My name is Tim McCarthy. I'm a business representative for IBEW Local 25, the electricians, finest electricians, in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Many of those electricians, probably about half of them live in Nassau County, many of which live in the towns of Hempstead, Uniondale, Garden City, Garden City Park -- in a lot of the surrounding areas.

I stand up here and speak in favor of a positive -- negative dec with the utmost confidence that all the civil engineers in dealing with all the things that they all the factors that they take into consideration for the review that will be done in a diligent manner.

As far as the Sands is concerned, I've been consistently impressed by Sands proactive and forward thinking approach to ensuring the their development will benefit both the community and the environment.

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I'm reassured, as you should be, that the Sands already established a solid plan to address and manage any potential environmental concerns prior to the hearings. The ongoing environmental assessments are essential to the success of this project and for the future prosperity of Nassau County. And again, I reiterate our confidence in the SEQRA review process.

The Sands has built a strong network of and support from a wide range of Long Island's nonprofit, business, labor, civic sectors and, more importantly, today, the environmental community. This broad base of support reflects our understanding of community needs and their ongoing commitment to being considerate neighbors and good for the community. Thank you for hearing me tonight. Looking forward to a negative dec on that SEQRA review. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Michael Fallarino.

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(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Jack Lang,
and then after that will be Tara Manning.

MR. LANG: I'm Jack Lang. I'm a
representative with the North Atlantic
State's Regional Council of Carpenters
Local 290.

I just wanted to attend this hearing
and express how grateful we are to be
heard by representatives here today. I
appreciate the amount of work and time
that the County Legislature is putting
into this project.

This project proposed by the Sands
will have a transformational impact on
our community. I'm very pleased to learn
that Sands is committed to making this
the greenest building on Long Island. It
will bring significant opportunities and
revenue, along with entirely new
industries and entertainment for all Long
Islanders to enjoy.

I also think these public hearings
are necessary for transparency,

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oversight, and ensuring the environmental safety of any proposed project. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Tara Manning. Jaime Hollander.

MS. HOLLANDER: Jaime Hollander, the managing director of RDA. We are the tourism and promotions agency for Nassau County. I am also resident.

I was thrilled to hear so many people bring up the tourism numbers today. They have been impressive, to say the least. And we are just so, so pleased with the coverage lately.

Just as a reminder to folks here, occupancy is up over 12% year over year, and Nassau County is significantly outpacing Long Island and the country with a monthly rate of that 78.2%. Now is the time to ride the wave. You know, now is the time to really lean into attention the county is getting right now, the national attention, the regional attention, even the global attention from

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a tourism perspective.

We can't be competitive when it comes to hosting world class events like cricket, like the Ryder Cup, if we don't have world class facilities and accommodations to host people who are coming. As folks have said, and I can't emphasize this enough, the Sands not only gives us that opportunity to build on this tourism momentum and to be, you know, the world class destination that we've always known we are. But to really show what a green and environmentally conscious venue looks like.

We receive RFPs. We receive requests for bids that we simply can't respond to because we don't have the accommodations. We have organizations, we have global events that are specifically looking for venues that align with their own ESG goals and values. That's what the Sands is known for. They are known for green buildings. They are known for innovation. They are known for environmentally

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2 responsible operations, green meetings,
3 green events. This will enable us to put
4 our best face forward on a global stage
5 when we're responding to these requests,
6 when we're inviting events,
7 organizations, experiences to come to our
8 community, and then, of course, the
9 combination of the financial resources,
10 the influence, the commitment to
11 conservation, all of this is a very
12 powerful synergy that will really make a
13 lasting impact on the community for
14 generations.

15 So, as representatives for tourism,
16 we certainly support this, not just as a
17 casino, as an integrated resort, but as
18 an opportunity to really promote eco
19 tourism in the community.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Susan
21 Court.

22 (Whereupon, no response.)

23 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Sequoia
24 Weber-Truitt, after that will be Rose
25 Ward.

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MR. WEBER-TRUITT: Good evening.

I want to take this moment to appreciate me coming up here and this great country. And I just wanted to let you guys know that I am against this casino because the environmental issues.

I live near East Meadow. And I see every single day the traffic, the cars coming in. And I think that would actually hinder on the environment because more people are coming in and out using their cars.

Also, I think would be bad for the environment is because, like other people said, we're going to be bringing a lot more resources, food and beverages. So the trucks coming in and out every single day. As you can say, just having a lot of restaurants or Nassau Community College or Hofstra over there, every single day, things coming in that could do harm on our environment.

And there's one gentleman earlier

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said, we need solutions. I think the best solution is, is to take the necessary approach that we don't need a casino. Actually, we need to make sure everybody in our town is safe and healthy. That's all I need to say. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Is Rose Ward here? Okay. And then after that will be Caprice Rines.

MS. WARD: Good evening. I'm Rose Ward. I'm also a resident of Uniondale. I am the vice president of the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce. We're the largest chamber in the state of New York. We are 400 plus strong, and we support Sands.

Sands, we believe, is taking all the necessary steps by working with the appropriate government entities to ensure that a sound environment review is done and the highest standards are met throughout the entire process to provide the public full transparency throughout the entire area. Sands know how important

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this is to them. Therefore, we believe they will do the right thing for the community, for all of us at large. We know that it is important for the residents who work, play and live here in the area. We believe that Sands will provide jobs for those not just in the community, not just in Nassau and Suffolk County, but probably also Queens and Brooklyn. So therefore we support Sands. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Caprice Rines then will be Barbara Powell.

MS. RINES: Next time you guys, you have to decide; either we have good drinking water or we don't. Our water is very dangerous here on Long Island.

So I believe that this project will help us get the revenue that we need to correct the problems that we have. And I will say thank you, Ms. Bynoe, because I am in your district and we need the money. I thank God that Sands came with

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an open pocketbook and said, what problems do you have? And let's fix it. Because unlike Garden City, we have a problem -- a migration problem. And it's in all the areas, the black neighborhoods -- I'm going to say, just like that -- in the black neighborhood. And sand is providing the finances that we need for the burden that we have, because people that's building in our neighborhoods, they ask it for PILOTS. Sands didn't ask for a PILOT. They came bringing money. And that's what we need; we need money, we need money, we need money.

So and I'm going to say this, I went to MGM and in Massachusetts and they're in a black neighborhood. And guess what? They challenged them. They brought the money. They're employing people, but they're employing the community to raise up the finances, to hire people in the stores and stuff in the area, so we need to stop. I'm going to say stop with the B.S. and let's do what is right. Let's

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raise up the economics. Because guess what? White and black people in this neighborhood are suffering. An old lady came to me because she couldn't afford to pay for her aide anymore. And guess how much she's paying her 50? She complained about paying her \$15 an hour. That's minimum wage. So let's do what's right. Because they came with their pocketbook open to say, what can we do? And guess what? I told my daughter, I don't care what's going on in Susie's house. Like the gentleman was talking about Bethlehem. Guess what? Bethlehem allowed them to take advantage of him. We smart here in Nassau County. So you're not going to come in here and snow us. Because we're all smart. Everybody that's that's doing what we need to do. We are consulting with them what we want. So this SEQRA study is telling them what we need to do. That Young lady came up first, she said. This is what needs to be done. So guess what? We're going to hold

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2 them to it. And if they don't, we'll send
3 them a cease and desist letter and kick
4 them right out because our sports the
5 land. So we're not going to let them come
6 in here and do what they want in Nassau
7 County. Because guess what? We had a good
8 tourism year. It's going to be better.
9 It's like Disney is doing well in
10 Florida. It's doing well. We need resort.
11 It's a resort. They are hanging on to
12 casino. Let's hang on the resort. I want
13 a nice date with Mr. Solages, he's still
14 single. We're going to go out to dinner.
15 All right. Come on. You're going to take
16 your wives out. All right. We're going to
17 have some staycations. Let's start
18 playing games. Just do what's right. I'm
19 for the casino.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Barbara
21 Powell. Is Barbara Powell here?

22 (Whereupon, no response.)

23 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay.
24 Jeanine Maynard, and then we'll be
25 Anthony Maffia.

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MS. MAYNARD: Hi. Good evening, I'm Jeanine Maynard. I reside at 255 Perry Street in Hempstead, New York. I'm part of the greater Uniondale area with the school district. I'm also the co-chair of the environmental committee working with the Sands.

As you can see, I'm not here with my button on. Why? Because I represent the community. And we are people that trust but verify. So part of the job today is to make sure that the right things go into the SEQRA analysis, that it is as thorough as it needs to be, that it includes everything that was done with the Town of Hempstead and more as it's developed in the months in between.

And I support what the co-chair has said. The process with Sands has been remarkable. It is worth noting that I haven't had any questions that I've come to them with, and I've gotten a serious and a reassuring answer about the seriousness of their willingness to bring

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experts to answer my questions. So I think that that kind of partnership is important for our community.

Nassau County has struggled to develop something in that space for a long time. I've been in the community for my lifetime, and I've seen the lighthouse project, the Mitchell Field former zoning, the Nassau Hub project, where I was also the co-chair with Sammy Chu in the Environmental Committee. And this is the most thorough discussion we've had, the most integrated discussion we've had. It includes everything from waste management to how the trucks will provide things. It's not just pedestrian traffic, it's not just cars. It's whether or not those big trucks are going to be overnighting in our neighborhood and mitigating all kinds of conditions and issues. So I appreciate the thoroughness of the discussion. I want to see it in writing. All right, then my vote will be something we'll talk about. I want to see

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what makes it to the final copy as mitigations and considerations, but it won't happen if you don't make a robust report.

Now, I'm saying this because I've also seen the scope of the largest SEQRA that was done in the United States for the Lighthouse project. It's been many, many years, but it was many, many binders full of data and reports and conditions. And Nassau County deserves to know what those conditions are now. It's time for an update. Sands has the capacity and the expertise to bring that to Nassau County. And that is valuable. If we're going to be here and consider anything, we should be with partners that believe in excellence. They believe in standards, and they also believe in measuring it for the future, not just building to the standard, but ensuring with data that it'll stay functional in its lifetime. So I'm looking for those ongoing studies as well.

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay.

Anthony Maffia and after Mr. Maffia will be Gina Farris.

MS. MAFFIA: Hi. How are you? My name is Anthony Maffia, and I work for Northstar Contracting Group. We do demolition. We do environmental. We do demolition. We do mostly big -- nuclear power plants we take down. We make sure that the environment is well kept. And the Sands Corporation is a big corporation also too. And we think that it's good for the community, it's good for revenue. It'll bring jobs for union.

I don't know why everybody is worried about the environmental part of it. It's done the right way. We have done nuclear power plants we had taken down. You talked about environmental work. We have these rods. That we have to protect for the environment.

The revenue that the communities want to make is very good for the community. Everybody wants, wants,

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wants, but where do they expect to get the money from?

So I just want to say I think it's a good thing. I thank the board for listening. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Gina Farese and next will be Jewel Nash.

MS. FARESE: Good evening, everyone, and thank you for hearing me out today.

My name is Gina Farese, and today I'm here to join Sands because they have proven themselves to be a good friend to our community. They are working to save jobs. This is a LEAD project, which means it is environmentally safe. They are taking precautions with the process of building this project with the environment in consideration.

As a small business owner myself and a mother of two, I myself am very heavily involved in the community. As the chair of Nassau County Consumer Affairs Board, daily I am advocating for the Nassau

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County consumer. I am also the on the Suffolk County Board of Directors, which is at a legislative appointed position where I'm advocating for Suffolk County consumers.

I'm here today in support of this project because, you know, the community -- Sands is community orientated. Last year I raised over \$100,000 to fight in Long Island, fight for charity and Sands was my biggest sponsor. They donated over \$25,000 and not only their time, their effort, their employees joining our events to be a part of this, for that money to stay where? On Long Island. They didn't even put a shovel in the ground and they are here backing us already.

We've got an opportunity for jobs to be created. Something's going to go here, so why not something that can bring tax revenue to the County? I was brought up in a family of addiction, and I'm in support of this project. For people to be

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bringing up addiction as an issue here.

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Where are people shutting down bars and

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restaurants being open? No one's going to

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stop this, right? Like, I live this and

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I'm still in support of this because you

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have a choice. We are Americans, and we

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have a choice to either show up or not

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show up. You don't have to go. It's

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there. You don't have to go to gamble.

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That's your choice. If you want to do

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that.

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You know, right outside of Disney is

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Lake Nona. And if anyone's familiar with

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Lake Nona, it's a millionaires'

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community, okay. And you don't hear

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people complaining about the value of

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their property going down. Those

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properties appreciate due to the tourism

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that's coming in there and the amount of

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people that are supporting Disney itself,

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the biggest tourist area ever. Right.

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So I don't understand why there is

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so much opposition here. And I have not

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heard one ounce of value of why there's

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an opposition that is actually valid and fact checked. So I really appreciate everyone's support tonight and listening. Thank you for your time and thank you for listening and all of your understanding.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Jewel Nash, you are on the way up. Good. Next would be Elizabeth Wellington.

MR. NASH: A pleasant good evening to the legislative panel. I thank you for your time. I thank you for your fairness. I was not paid by stands. I just took the opportunity for my voice to be heard.

If we knew the cause of any kind of cancer, everyone would be cured. I am a breast cancer survivor. Never drank water in Nassau, so I guess that did not add to my adversity.

Sands would not only create opportunities for years to come, but would offset taking resources to other counties and municipalities. I am certain the experts would examine all the pros and cons of such a project. Should we

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close down the liquor stores and all the catalysts that we perceive as dangers to our families and neighborhood?

Change is something we have to embrace. We have to encourage opportunities that will provide revenue and long term sustainability. I am certain there were concerns when Roosevelt Field was being built. Now look at us now.

Why should we be wary of the unknown? Everything that we are bringing to the panel today is a "what if". We don't know the answers until we have the the questions. We still wouldn't know the answers. Sands should have a fair chance to be a part of a great county. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Elizabeth Wellington. Next will be Hanif Russell.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Elizabeth Wellington.

MS. WELLINGTON: Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for listening to

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each and everyone ideas.

I am with the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce, and also I am an employee of the Nassau County Human Rights.

Your support for the Sands environment study is crucial. It paves way for the sustainable practices that protects our ecosystem. And it promotes responsibility. They promote responsible resource management. I think together, if we can support the impact of this, it will it will create jobs for the justice involved. It will help the bottom line of many businesses. And I know changes is hard for people to adjust, but sometimes changes is important. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Hanif Russell.

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Steven Kromper, Jerry Johnson, Justin Brown.

(Whereupon, all no response.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Anne Myers
and after this will be Luis Vazquez.

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MS. MEYERS: My name is Anne Myers.
I live in East Meadow. I didn't intend
to speak tonight. I really came to
observe, but. And I haven't received
anything out of this bottle of water
tonight. Which I presume may be from the
Sands.

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I did hear Mr. Herbst stated earlier
this evening that his union members, who
are our neighbors, will be competent
enough to take care of the environmental
factors, and I believe him. He spoke with
sincerity. I favor the casino as a way to
reduce residents' taxes, allowing them,
the seniors, to remain in their homes. I
would ask Hofstra attorney to suggest to
them that they come together to the table
and look at how they might ultimately
benefit, possibly a hospitality course of
study. I heard someone say they wouldn't
be well paid. Well. My niece studied
hospitality, ended up in Hawaii and is

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very well paid there.

What I'm hearing is fear of the unknown, and they're taking problems already existing and saying they'll be magnified. Not necessarily so. Other projects have been suggested for this property, and I would thank the Sands for pursuing and not giving up. You've already had a positive influence on our community. I've seen you participate in local community affairs. And I'm not suspicious of your motivations. You are, I believe, good neighbors.

To the Garden City trustee, we already have gambling. It's called New York State Lottery.

No one is guaranteed it tomorrow. I unfortunately found that out the hard way within the past two months, and ran out tonight to pick up the death certificates.

You speak of your children and your grandchildren. Well, this can be a resort for out-of-towners. And yes, you can go

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and show your children and grandchildren by example that they don't have to gamble. You're not going to make money on me; my limit's \$10.

There are checks and balances built in here. I heard there was a four year reconsideration or whatever, and these people are not here to financially rape us, as I'm hearing from the Garden City crowd over here. They're here because we have the land and we have the transportation system, so let's come together and do it.

And I am personally offended by one of the first things I heard tonight when I came in. The term was, and I hate to even use it again, but I have to speak to it, "Racial environmental discrimination". No, let's not play the race card. That is not what this is about.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Louis Vazquez.

MR. VAZQUEZ: Good evening everyone.

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My name is Louis Vazquez. I'm the president of the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. And we're in favor of the Sands. And I'll always go back to the story where we, as being a chamber for about 35 years in Nassau, in Long Island, representing Long Island, Nassau and Suffolk. And also I used to be Hispanic and for Nassau County for many years. My job was always been to be passionate about our community and to make sure we represent equal. And our neighbors, my neighbors, our are everyone. It's just not Latinos, African Americans and the Anglos is just everyone as one community. So when I get up here and speak, I speak on behalf of all of us because that's what it's all about. It's about all of us in one community. And some of us don't agree and agree. But I think in the long run is basically about how we can help our communities. Our communities are very disadvantaged for many reasons. We noticed that the Covid

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we always been advocating as African Americans, Latinos, and I think the whole community in general was very concerned about all of us. So it's not one against the other is about all of us being together.

So I think it's very important that we understand the fact that there's a lot of jobs. I represent a chamber that is definitely about jobs and bringing the Latinos to the next level and being a culture and mainstreaming them. And this is a way to do that. We are having a corporation that came and spoke to us and said, this is what we want to do, and we were really tough. We said, look, we are coming to you get all Latinos, you're going to do this, you're going to do that. And after a big meeting with some of my leaders and the Hispanic community across, we were able to ask all the tough questions and we were pretty satisfied.

I'm not selling my soul. I'm not buying anything because you sponsor my

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gala. I do not sell my soul and I never will, so far. Otherwise I'll be living, you know, in the castles. Right now, we're living in our modest home and still struggling like everybody else. Because you do the right thing, money is not the answer was. The answer is do the right thing by your neighbor and by your friends and by your family.

And Ms. Bynoe, I know there's picking on you today and Solages, they're not picking on you. You did the right thing. You are doing the right thing for your community, our community in general. And I say thank you for. If you didn't like it, now you like it. We may change our minds. So I thank you. Thank the legislators. You guys work hard. And you guys mean -- I trust you going to do the right thing. We trust. I believe in the system. I believe in God. I believe in something. If you don't believe in something, you believe in nothing. I believe that you guys are

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2 going to do the right thing. I want to
3 bless you all. God bless you. God take
4 care of you and let's do the right thing.
5 And I think the right thing is in your
6 hearts. In your heart. Thank you. Muchos
7 gracias. And God bless you. Gracias.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Sonaia
9 Jenkins. Andrew Allen. Andrew Ayodesi.
10 Donna Karatas and then Dan Lloyd if he's
11 here.

12 MS. KARATAS: Good evening. My name
13 is Donna Karatas. I am here in support of
14 Sands. I do not like it when people are
15 talking about gambling destroys lives.
16 You are all old enough to know the song.
17 Don't drink, don't smoke; what do you do?
18 Well, I gamble, I own three businesses
19 with my husband. We work six days a week,
20 12 hours a day. When I want to go out and
21 have a little bit of fun, I go to
22 Bethlehem. I go and enjoy my weekend at
23 Bethlehem. We take the day off. We go
24 relax. We go to Emeril's for dinner. We
25 get dressed up, we do a nice thing. And

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we get up the next morning. So I make my money off of the people on Long Island, and then they go spend it in another state. How great is that? Would be really nice if I could do it right here.

We all know that smoking kills, but we still have cigarettes. I come from a long line of alcoholics. I could still go buy alcohol anywhere. I want to go buy it. So why is someone going to tell me I can't spend my money the way I want to spend my money? Does everybody want prohibition back. Do we want to go back to that? Do we want to have the government telling everybody here how to live your life? Because I don't. I have enough problem with you guys telling me how to live my life with the small things you do do.

But I'm here in support of Sands so I can keep my money on Long Island.

Thank you and have a good day.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Dan Lloyd.

Followed by Mariano Ugalde.

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MR. LLOYD: Good evening and blessings.

On behalf of minority millennials, I would like to say we are fully support of the Sands Project and the SEQRA Review. We have been working with Sands for almost a year and a half now. As far as making sure that the next generation on Long Island is not only a part, but working in collaboration to create a region that is here to work hard, but as well as live a good society to enjoy the fruits of our labor when we want to continue to live here, raise our family here, but also have a a nightlife and a quality of life that is conducive to what we continue to want to build here. I am a resident of Long Island, been a resident of Long Island for almost my entire life, and we are in full support of making sure the environmental review continues to enhance the quality of life for all of the next generation on Long Island. So we're in full support of this, and thank

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you for the opportunity to speak.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
All right. Mariano Ugalde, followed by
William Cassidy.

MR. UGALDE: Good evening, members
of the legislature. My name is Mariano
Ugalde. I am the president of the
Chamber of Commerce. I represent one of
the largest business districts in all of
Nassau County. I was born and raised in
Nassau County. I'm from the North Shore.
I've lived in Uniondale for over 30
years.

I really find it offensive the way
Garden City continues to talk about
Uniondale and this community. It's like,
I don't tell you guys what to do. Why do
you come here and talk about things? You
don't even pass through Uniondale unless
it's by accident.

So I'm in favor of the SEQRA. I
really want to just state that my
interaction with the Sands group, I had
my own apprehensions at first. So I can

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attest to that my first meeting with them was probably the most contentious meeting they've had to date. I'm sure that.

That said, they really did work hard to answer my questions and my concerns. And I am confident that their project is beneficial in more ways than any other project I've seen proposed there to date. They've really been involved in so many ways in trying to get feedback from people who actually live there.

And so I just want to say that I would really like to support the moving forward of the SEQRA and whatever comes after that comes after that.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. William Cassidy. To be followed by Anne Cronin.

MR. CASSIDY: Mr. Presiding officer, honorable members of the legislature. Thank you very much for having us.

I want to speak in favor of the Sands on behalf of the IATSE. We are the

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union that works behind the scenes,
behind the lighting. We have a stake in
this as we hope to find entertainment
there that will work on, not to mention
the other employees. I hear a lot of talk
about what's wrong with the Sands. I
would suggest to anybody, what would they
put in place of where the Sands is going
to go? I saw the Nassau Coliseum in 1972,
and the parking lot and the fields are
just as empty now as they were then. I
hear about hospitals, laboratories and
different projects. Where are they?

This is a private sector investment,
the largest in Nassau and Suffolk history
coming into our community. What more do
we want? This is private sector.
Capitalism, and we are capitalists. Labor
management. You folks, all of us are
capitalists. And this is the epitome of
it. What are we doing? How can we think
about not having this? What more did he
objectors want? It's well scrutinized.
Top to bottom. Federal. State. Local.

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Town.

And I would just add one more thing. The most vociferous people are the ones from the most affluent community nearby: Garden City. Maybe it doesn't matter to them or their kids or their grandkids who gets those jobs over at the forthcoming Sands, but it matters to us. It matters to a lot of other people.

I urge you to accept the Sands, the environmental study that's going to happen, and I thank you for your time.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Thank you. Anne Cronin to be followed by Rob Allen.

MS. CRONIN: Anne Cronin, Garden City, and speaking on behalf of my kids and my future grandkids.

I'm here today to voice my strong opposition to the casino on the basis of its negative impact on our environment and quality of life. I don't have to tell you that the preservation of green space, ever increasing traffic congestion, and

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2 polluted water are critical issues
3 already facing Nassau County. Our
4 residential neighborhoods and local
5 governments are hard at work every day,
6 trying to tackle massive agendas to
7 reduce the negative impacts that each of
8 these concerns have on our towns and our
9 daily life.

10 Approving this project and the
11 traffic congestion, crime and pollution
12 that will come with the casino assures an
13 almost certain defeat against Nassau
14 County residents, who simply want to
15 preserve the quality of life that brought
16 them and their families here.

17 Las Vegas Sands and its supporters
18 have spent significant time and money to
19 try to convince us that they can mitigate
20 the environmental strain caused by this
21 development. But we have an opportunity
22 to prevent these issues from needing more
23 remediation later. Why would we open our
24 doors to a project that comes with so
25 many obvious and negative environmental

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2 impacts, that an entire mitigation
3 strategy needs to be in place before the
4 project even begins? The only reasonable
5 and prudent environmental and quality of
6 life mitigation strategy for this project
7 is to act in the interest of the
8 residents, kids and families who will be
9 directly and negatively impacted by this
10 project. Thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Rob Allen,
12 followed By Russ Comeau.

13 MR. ALLEN: Good evening, ladies and
14 gentlemen of the Nassau County
15 Legislature. I'm Rob Allen, president of
16 the TSG Group. I'm a lifelong resident of
17 Nassau County. I live within 15 minutes
18 of the proposed casino.

19 I recognize there's a lot of
20 environmental concerns. There's always
21 going to be concerns like this when
22 progress is being made. These types of
23 issues always come up. I think they
24 should be discussed, but I fully support
25 the Sands, the new casino. I believe they

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will fully take into account all of these factors. I believe they'll be addressed the way they should be. In my personal experience with the Sands, they've taken the time to care about the local community. They've taken the time to care about the local business community. They've been pro-union. They've worked to be pro-union. They were keenly interested to hear how my company recycled, how we provided carbon neutral printing. It mattered to them. And I think that kind of care is going to carry through into the rest of their operation.

I appreciate your time. Thank you for your consideration.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Russ Comeau. Followed by Julie Berger.

MR. COMEAU: Hello, everybody. My name is Russ Comeau, president of the South Shore Audubon Society. I did not come here tonight to talk about jobs or to talk about gambling; although, those are very important concerns and I do have

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my opinions. I came here tonight to tell you that I'm a little afraid that the two nature preserves across the street from the Nassau hub, they could be endangered by this large scale development unless we take certain things into Simply consideration. I'm talking about the Hempstead Plains Preserve and the Francis Purcell Preserve. Both these grassland preserves boarder right across the street from the proposed Sands Casino. Both ecologically significant and grasslands like these, or even globally rare. These preserves represent the last remnants of the Hempstead Plains that once covered Nassau County from one end to the other. And these preserves potentially hold up to 30 endangered, threatened, special concern or rare grassland species. Whether they're birds, plants or animals, all these species are protected by New York state laws, because they are of the greatest conservation concern to New York State, and they should be of concern to

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all of us.

I have already emailed five pages of environmental comments, for the record to Mr. Pulitzer, and I urge all officials of local municipalities, all community leaders, neighborhood organizations and every local resident to go to the South Shore Audubon website and use the contact form and request a copy of those five pages of environmental concerns. I hope those concerns get incorporated into the EIS, Environmental Impact Statement that the developers are going to produce. If the Sands Casino is developed without consideration of these critical environmental issues, it can have a huge, irreversible and even disastrous impact on the last bastions of the Hempstead Plains that these preserves represent.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you, sir. Julie Berger.

MS. BERGER: Good evening. I'm Julie Berger. I live in the first neighborhood of East Meadow, right off

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Merrick Avenue, and Tom McKeivitt is my neighbor. Hi, Tom.

So, I've been to a numerous of these meetings. And my first meeting, I found out by a text from I don't know whom, stating on a Wednesday night of a Thursday meeting about this, and I knew I wasn't pleased about it right away. And I told my neighbors and they came with me to that first meeting, which was here in this building, and we couldn't get in the building. Why? Because outside, throughout the halls and everywhere else were all these construction unions with these beautiful Sands shirts on. I'm like, wow, I'm the taxpayer. The the building unions and construction unions all found out about this, but I did not know about it.

I want you to know that I am a union member as well. I am in the 1199 Health Care union. Okay? I believe in promoting positive healthy things. All right. So my biggest concern about all of this is

1
2 transparency, or lack of. It's funny
3 because this is about the environmental
4 issue called SEQRA, which to me sounds
5 like secret. That's what the word sounds
6 like to me. So I think this is all a big
7 secret. The taxpayers don't know about
8 it. The unions do know about it. All of
9 you know about it. The Sands has
10 contributed -- I'm putting that nicely --
11 to so many organizations, including FSA,
12 which is blows me away because that is a
13 behavioral health organization that helps
14 people in many, many ways. So for the FSA
15 to take their money is very surprising to
16 me.

17 But what I want to do, I also want
18 to thank Delia DeRigg-Whitton for being
19 the lone brave person out of all of you
20 to constantly vote no on this. And I want
21 to know what is it that she says no and
22 all of you say yes. It seems like to me
23 it's the almighty dollar, which is a
24 wicked thing. Do we want something there?
25 I personally don't want something there.

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Honestly, I believe in greenery. I say take out all the cement and let's plant more trees and grass. But nobody's going to listen to me.

But if you want to build something, you all can build something. It just doesn't have to be such a predatory thing. Casinos are such a predatory negative activity. Yes. You want to go to Bethlehem and go to Bethlehem, but how many times do I receive on my cell phone gambling texts? I don't gamble, why am I getting it on my phone? I have no idea. But I want to know if Sands does not get this gambling license, do all of you have to return the money? Congratulations. All right. How do we hold them accountable? Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Gary Johnson, followed by Meta Mereday.

MR. JOHNSON: Good evening. Legislatures. My name is Gary Johnson. I am the state chair for economic development for the NAACP New York State

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Conference. I bring you greetings from our president, Hazel Dukes.

For the record, I am also a resident of Nassau County. This is where I live and this is where I raise my family. And this is by choice.

That having been said, I also bring 30 plus years of real estate development expertise to the NAACP. I was trained as an architect. I consulted with and advised developers in terms of building affordable housing and complex mixed use projects. And so that expertise is what I bring to the organization so that we can focus on economic development opportunities. And this is one of those opportunities that we've identified and that we have supported in the past, and that we continue to support that.

We're here today to talk about the SEQRA process and moving forward with that. And so I'm not going to give you all my prepared statements, because I think there have been a lot of good

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comments from those who oppose, as well as those who support here. And I think it's important to listen to all.

But, NAACP has 50 branches in the state as well as ten right here in Long Island. And it is important for us to focus on capital investments that take place in our communities, in all communities, especially disadvantaged communities, which is what we're talking about here. That's important because this is paramount to mitigating the historic and systemic disinvestment that has taken place that causes its own negative environmental impacts. This project will enable residents of Uniondale, Hempstead and surrounding communities the opportunity to learn livable wages and benefits and will also allow our young people to stay in Long Island and mitigate the brain drain that has long been affected on the island.

You know, we've heard people talk about their their sons and daughters

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leaving and getting jobs and hospitality in Hawaii. Well, that's great. That's fantastic. But we have an opportunity here to attract people to Long Island with this project, as opposed to constantly losing out on these opportunities.

Sands has an international reputation for fulfilling their commitments, and we are going to hold them to those commitments. This project is intended to be a LEAD version 4.1 project that is a very high standard and LEAD, and we're going to make sure that that is adhered to because NAACP, we like to say we have no permanent friends, we have no permanent enemies, we have permanent issues.

So it's incumbent on all of us to hold everyone's feet to the fire. But the amount of dialog that is taking place between us and Sands over the last two years far exceeds any project that I have personally worked on in over 30 years of

1
2 real estate development, and with that
3 track has history and with that
4 interaction and communication, I believe
5 that this is a project that should go
6 forward not only for our communities, but
7 for Long Island as a whole. And so NAACP
8 supports this project.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
10 Meta Mereday and followed by Maryam
11 Hamatakasi. Everybody, please, when I
12 mispronounce names, forgive me.

13 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday,
14 Baldwin, resident, third generation
15 Nassau County resident.

16 My great uncle is one of the first
17 minority businesses in Nassau County. He
18 helped to build those homes. The
19 gentleman that said earlier that he lived
20 in Levittown. Well, my uncle, my great
21 uncle built homes in Levittown and
22 couldn't live there. So if anybody want
23 to talk about anything, it has to do with
24 not playing the race card, I live it. So
25 let's start with that.

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I agree that we need to have a fair and substantial SEQRA process for this, clearly. I don't have to say how I feel. Read it (indicating, shirt). But there are other issues involved with regard to this, and I felt it challenging to hear that some people were saying that the folks over here, all from Garden City. Never lived in Garden City. Born and raised Roosevelt; proud Rough Rider. Now I live in Baldwin. Okay, so go with that. At the other meetings, there have been other people from other locations, including Uniondale, who have been opposed to this for a variety of reasons.

I've too been to Bethlehem, where they have a casino. I've been to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where they have a casino. I have dealt with the on the ground issues because I still -- even the time that I was here and I got here late because most of you saw me earlier in a different outfit -- when I sat over there. And when it came down to public

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comment, you all looked over there. I was the only one in the room for public comment. So I find this amazing that folks are talking about people showing up all of a sudden from this side.

But Nassau County has a \$4.1 billion budget, a lot of jobs that could have been created from that, a lot of opportunities, a lot of buildings going up. Work is still here. Work still needs to get done. I'm not opposed to development. Again, I come from a construction building and development background. I worked in New York City.

For those that are amazed by the money that Sands is providing, it's called corporate social responsibility. There are people fighting in courts on the state and federal level against organizations that largely started out funding opportunities for black women trying to raise themselves above poverty level. Okay, so again, race was not brought to the table by those who look

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like me. It's brought to the table by those who are in power, who don't want those who look like me to even get close to that power.

So again, let's be clear. This horse race here is already decided. What's going to happen now? I suggest people who who are opposed to the casino, write to the governor, go to the State. Nassau County has already decided. No matter how this report comes out, it's either going to be lost, like the disparity study that fails to meet the forefront here. Or we're not going to see that cricket proposal. I asked earlier where would the funds from the cricket matches because we we lost money there. So again, write to the governor, petition those who are on those subcommittees on the state level.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you Maryam, you're next.

MS. MEREDAY: Yes. And if Sands wants to build something, build something that focuses on healthcare, because those

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are the needs. And for our veterans, the Nassau County Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Let's keep that on the record.

MS. HAMATAKASI: Good evening, everyone. My name is Maryam Hamatakasi and I lived in Nassau for seven years. And I always consider Nassau like my hometown. I represent an environmental testing company called Enviro Science. I'm here to express support for Sands Hotel, a business that has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainability and safety values we hold dear in the environmental industry.

Although we haven't worked with Sands Hotel directly, it's clear that the direction to environmentally, responsibly and practice from energy efficient technologies to waste reduction, set a positive example for the hospitality industry. Supporting Sand hotels not only strengthens our economy by creating jobs, but also encourages sustainable growth, the benefit that we get from this entire

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community. Thank you, everyone.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Jennifer Lloyd followed by Mateo Flues.

MS. LLOYD: Hi, my name is Jennifer Lloyd. I live in Garden City, but I work in Uniondale right across the street from Nassau Coliseum. So I'm not here only as a resident of Garden City who has nothing to do with Uniondale. I work in Uniondale.

I wasn't going to speak. I'm a little nervous, so I apologize, but I wanted to say, in terms of the environment and how green this development is going to be. It doesn't matter if this building is the most green thing in the entire world, it is going to have environmental consequences. If they bring down a 100% risk down to 50% risk, that's still risk. Why do we want to do that? And you know what? I think this is greenwashing. They say that they're for the environment. Well, if they're for the environment, why don't they put their

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money into restoring the Hempstead Plains where the Nassau Coliseum is, rip out all that cement and build a world class environmental educational center. So not only would tearing down the existing structure provide jobs. Building an educational center would provide jobs in the building as well as ongoing jobs for the people who are teaching our children how to be good stewards of our environment, instead of how to rape our environment. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Next time, don't be nervous. You're a good speaker.

Mateo Flues. Patricia Chester.

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Mike Jacobs.

MR. JACOBS: Number one. Thank you for every one of you dedicated people who are trying to get to the truth. There is no doubt this project is wonderful for labor for jobs, but that's not the issue. The issue is the long term approach of

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what every one of us want Nassau County to be for our children and their children. I respect the way they feel. On the other side, but there is no. Doubt about it. To compare this to Disneyland and Disney World, this is all baloney. The only thing that's going to stop this project is an act of courage by every one of you to look past the emotion, to look past the jobs. And say, what do we want to turn our neighborhood into? And I'm telling you beyond a doubt if you want to turn this into Atlantic City, if you want to feed this where we have two colleges right nearby, in my opinion, shame on everyone.

This is not the answer. Developing. Yes. I love the lady that say, let's turn it into a forest. You know, great pixie fairy. I love her, she's a great talker and a great woman. But we've got to do something with this. There is no doubt the answer is not feeding the addiction of gambling. Oh, we have lotteries and

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liquor. Gambling is horrific. Gambling is in a different league. Watch your children look at sports betting. Watch how it's invading.

And as I said, I believe this will go through. The only way this won't go through is if each one of you in your quiet time by yourself, say you know something, we can do better. The easy road is a casino, but it's not the right road. And if you all go and just take this and look for the easy road, the easy road many times is not the answer. The right road is to say what else can we do to develop this property without turning ourselves into a seedier place. Traffic beyond belief that's going to come up.

To me, it's not an environmental issue. It is; the environment of the human mind. And what you are going to do to promote this as a situation to create money and suck money out. Oh, we will bring money to the community. Sure. In a way we will. But the Sands is going to

1
2 come in with a vacuum cleaner and they
3 are going to take money out of the
4 pockets of the people that live here. And
5 in my opinion, I don't want this to be an
6 Atlantic City. I want it to be beautiful
7 Nassau County, New York.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay.
9 Thank you. This concludes our comments.
10 I thank you, all, for coming. And I'll
11 remind you that until September 19th --
12 you have one more speaker. Okay. We have
13 one more speaker, but let me finish what
14 I was saying. Until September 19th, you
15 still do have the opportunity to provide
16 your written comments to Mr. Pulitzer
17 over here, and they will be considered in
18 full. Thank you.

19 MR. KROMPIER. Good evening. I'm
20 Stefan Krompier, president of the Adjunct
21 Faculty Association at Nassau Community
22 College. Our 1621 members consists of
23 professionals whose careers relate to the
24 subjects that they teach. Nassau
25 Community college prepares and positions

1
2 students for meaningful, satisfying,
3 well-paying careers. And I might add, at
4 a very affordable price.

5 To our way of thinking, Sands New
6 York will enhance and expand
7 exponentially our ability to do just
8 that. They will add to our pool of highly
9 qualified insightful adjuncts. By the
10 way, adjuncts, we teach two courses a
11 week. We are part time teachers. They
12 will provide meaningful internship
13 opportunities, relevant and interesting
14 guest speakers, part time work for our
15 students and advise us as we create new
16 programs and courses. And they will do
17 much, much more.

18 Just the other day, we had a visit
19 by Legislator Arnie Drucker, your County
20 Comptroller, Elaine Phillips, and Patrick
21 Ryder, our police commissioner, was also
22 an adjunct at Nassau Community College.
23 They participated in our 9/11 ceremony.
24 The feelings and the thoughts that they
25 brought to our students and our staff are

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priceless. And I believe we're going to get much of the same thing from the Sands. We have an HR department; they have an HR department. We teach entertainment management; that's what they do. We have hospitality and tourism; again, that's what they do. We are building a new culinary arts facility. What better source than the Sands people to enhance what we do there.

So I say this to you, we believe that Sands New York coming to Nassau Community College, being located on our doorstep is a positive. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.

And thank you, all, for coming. Have a good night.

We are adjourned.

Whereupon, the above matter concludes.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)

: SS.:

County of Nassau)

I, ALEXA LORENZO, a Notary Public
for and within the State of New York, do
hereby certify:

That the above is a correct
transcription of my stenographic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand this 9th day of
September, 2024.

Alexa Lorenzo

Alexa Lorenzo

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