

**Long Island Regional Planning Council
Summary Minutes**

**LIRPC Meeting - June 18, 2020
Zoom Virtual Meeting**

LIPRC Members Present

John D. Cameron, Jr., Chair
Michael White, Vice Co-Chair
Jeffrey Kraut, Treasurer
Theresa Sanders, Secretary
Don Clavin
Elizabeth Custodio
Barbara Donno
Nancy Engelhardt
Jeff Guillot
Robert Kennedy
Ralph Scordino
Edward Wehrheim

Staff and Guests Present

Richard V. Guardino, Jr., Executive Director
Elizabeth Cole, Deputy Executive Director
Missy Leder
Kyle Rabin, LINAP Program Manager

Carol Allen
Cory Archie
Kendra Armstead
Alan Belniak
Lou Bekofsky
Richard Bivone
Michael Borsuk
Phillip Boyle
Mary Byrne
Tiny Catalan
Eve Critton
Sean Deery
Dorian Dale
Rosalie Drago
Jim Green
Mark Grossman
Joe Kampala
Alan Kovesdy
Larry Levy
Paul Lillehaugen
James Lima
Cara Longworth
Yuxiang Luo
Carol Mauro
Jim McCaffrey

Terri Miceli
Kelly Morris
Adam Moss
Allyson Murray
Victor Ocasio
Sean Sallie
Kate Schlagel
Natalie Wright

Meeting Commenced:

John D. Cameron, Jr., opened the meeting at approximately 10:30AM

John Cameron: Welcome to our first virtual meeting of the Long Island Regional Planning Council. This is a new experience for all of us. We are in the new normal. I would like to have our Executive Director Rich Guardino do a roll call of the members.

Roll Call

John D. Cameron, Jr., Chair
Jeffrey Kraut, Treasurer
Theresa Sanders
Elizabeth Custodio
Barbara Donno
Nancy Engelhardt
Jeff Guillot
Ralph Scordino
Edward Wehrheim

Don Clavin and Robert Kennedy will be joining the meeting before 11am.

Chairman's Report:

John Cameron

I'll start with my Chairman's report. When we have a quorum we can do the adoption of the minutes. If that doesn't occur before the presentation, we will move straight into the presentation.

Thank you very much for joining us and welcome to our first virtual meeting of the Long Island Regional Planning Council. Much has transpired since our last meeting in February and much, unfortunately, is not good. Not only have we encountered the first global pandemic in a century, our country is in the midst of civil unrest due to the tragic killing of a black man by a police officer in Minneapolis. Since George Floyd's death, we have had national protests calling for greater scrutiny over police policy and procedures. Unfortunately, in addition to peaceful protests, there have also been numerous incidents of property damage, destruction, looting and acts of violence. On Long Island fortunately, the protests have been largely peaceful with few police arrest. Regrettably, some say that it takes a tragedy to spur action for change. Hopefully the death of George Floyd can serve as such as a catalyst. This Council has always advocated for equal rights and treatment for all citizens. In fact, back in 2010, when we produced and published Long Island 2035, a 25-year sustainability plan, we devoted 25% of the report to equity. We dedicated a significant effort to pursuing equal opportunity for Long Islanders in areas of housing, education, health care and employment. This effort has always been a hallmark of the LIRPC and will continue to be such. We look to lead, collaborate and support. We intend to lend our voice to influence and affect significant change in a positive way. We look forward to continuing to be an instrumental in that effort.

As we all know, with our neighbors to the west, we have been at the National epicenter of this COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, this public health crisis has quickly morphed into an economic crisis. No segment of our society has been spared from this wrath. Governments, businesses, schools, colleges and universities and non-for-profits have all have been impacted financially and operationally. The healthcare institutions have been hit hard. Our residents have suffered personally, financially, socially and psychologically, some worse than others. The impact is so great that a reasonable recovery is not possible without significant financial assistance from the federal government. Our state, counties and local governments have major deficits that cannot be reasonably restored. The longer the pandemic lasts, and the longer the federal government delays in providing much needed relief, the more difficult and painful the recovery will be. We need to bond together to come through this as fellow Long Islanders and fellow Americans. We also need our elected officials in Washington to do the right thing and enable those hardest hit to recover. With a proper level of assistance, we will restore our local economies and the quality of life we so treasure.

With that said, I will turn it over to Rich.

Rich Guardino: John, we do not have the appropriate number of folks for a quorum so I suggest that we forge ahead with the presentation.

Alan Belniak: This is Alan Belniak from VHB. I just want to welcome all of our attendees and make it clear that this meeting is being recorded for archival purposes. This meeting will be part of the public record. I want to quickly run through how this will work for some folks that may be new to virtual meetings. There will be a portion of time later on for commentary and questions and answers. For those of you connecting on Zoom, you can use the Q&A function at the bottom row of commands. Please enter your first name and last name and you can either enter a question that we will read into the record and then someone can answer it or comment. If you'd like to speak, you can use the raise hand feature. You can press the raise hand feature and we will selectively and methodically take you off mute, allow you to enter your comment or ask your question on the record, and then put you back on mute just minimize the background noise. If you're dialing in, use star nine for the raise hand option. Please, if you could withhold raising your hand or asking your question until we get to the Q&A portion, it would be great. With that, please take it away.

Rich Guardino: Thanks, Alan. We're delighted to have James Lima and Yuxiang Luo with us this morning. All of you are familiar with the fact that they have done a workforce training and development study for us. This study is a follow-up to the April 2019 Study, which they did on the Hauppauge Industrial Park regional competitiveness and growth strategies. One of the key strategies of that report was to strengthen training and workforce development. Certainly, in view of the recent developments that John has been talking about, workforce is more critical than ever. With that, I think I'll turn it over to James.

PRESENTATION - "UPSKILLED: Preparing Long Island's Workforce for the Future"

James Lima, James Lima Planning and Development

Throughout the world today, we face multiple crisis at once: an extraordinary public health crisis and an unprecedented economic crisis. Both are compounded by a painful reckoning here in the U.S. with this country's history of systemic racism. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows the New York Metro Area unemployment rate is at or near 20%, including Long Island, while the U.S. total is more on the order of 13 to 14%. So clearly, we're facing unprecedented economic challenges on Long Island that require

bold action by government, by business, and by institutional leaders. We know that hospitality, healthcare, retail and construction have been particularly hard hit and that people of color have been disproportionately impacted in these sectors. So, now more than ever Long Island's workforce, particularly its most impacted populations, can benefit from new investments in training and upskilling to create greater access to jobs in sectors that will recover most quickly and are within our projected growth sectors for Long Island.

I want to thank the leadership of the Long Island Regional Planning Council, John Cameron and Richard Guardino. I would also like to thank Suffolk County IDA's Kelly Morris as her team has been steadfast in their pushing for workforce training investment for Long Island. Thank you to Suffolk County Commissioner of Labor, Rosalie Drago whose good counsel has been undeniable throughout this process, and finally to many LIA stakeholders whose participation in numerous interviews has been the foundation for our report and recommendations.

This is a first phase of a multi-phase planning process to prepare a business plan for a Long Island Workforce Training Center that meets the needs of residents and businesses and responds to the extraordinary challenges facing every community across the country. As you'll hear from my colleagues, Yuxiang Luo and Andrew Jones, who researched and drafted the report, there are highly promising opportunities for Long Island to upskill its workforce and better compete in the regional, national and global marketplaces. Recent events have highlighted the social and economic imperative for all of us to do much better to ensure that everyone has access to economic opportunity. Long Island needs to make generational investments now toward a more resilient economy. With that, I'll turn it over to you, Yuxiang Luo.

Yuxiang Luo; Thank you, James. As we know, the current situation is a chance for us to rethink our economy and our communities. Looking at the numbers on the left of the screen, we know that the pandemic wiped out almost a quarter of our jobs in the region and within the large economy of Long Island. The numbers also show that racial disparities exist. Just before the pandemic, we see that the black population has the highest level of unemployment in all racial groups. The wage of black workers has declined since 2000. It is in this context that we must ask the question about how to develop the workforce in a useful and equitable way. Before the pandemic hit, the Governor actually announced the most recent plans for the Workforce Development Initiative. Given how important workforce is to both recovery and social equity, we hope that this can continue to be the priority for everyone.

In fact, for Long Island, workforce development is particularly important and also very complicated. This slide shows some of what we learned from the research. As you can see, the issue of our workforce is multifaceted. Sometimes it's about connecting the right people to the right opportunities that they may not have known about and other times it's about making sure that the pipeline of skilled workforce is large enough so that companies don't have to cannibalize each other. It is also about making the educational institutions and providers of training services aware of the new demands in growing industries. Luckily, we know on Long Island, there are many organizations and stakeholders who are actively promoting training programs in the region. These include schools, research institutions, nonprofit organizations, community groups, public agencies, and the private sector. What we really want to stress with this report, is that for the next chapter of workforce development, Long Island needs a regional commitment to collaboration.

And by collaboration, we mean that collaboration needs to be formed between different sectors and across the two counties and to be championed by multiple institutions.

In this research, employment planning and development, we conducted analysis asking these four core questions; How to properly respond to industry trends and economic realities? What are the training programs that already exist on Long Island? What are the specific skill gaps and training needs? How can the different stakeholders effectively collaborate? To answer these questions, we went through a qualitative analysis and also a quantitative analysis; doing interviews in addition to data research of the training programs and also career training opportunities for two regions and for two counties in the region.

So, about our findings and opportunities. First, in a nutshell, there are four main points that define a successful regional workforce development initiative and align bottom up instead of being designed and implemented in a centralized or top down fashion. The best workforce training programs are often shaped by a combination of local actors and contributing organizations from the initial design of the system to the eventual execution of the plan. Players should form partnerships and share data and insights with each other. So, for the next phase of original workforce development initiative, Long Island's communities, employers, institutions and governments need to find ways to work closely together, especially with the partners on the ground. Second, we know that industries are constantly changing. They respond to different market conditions, technology, global and regional forces, and major events like the COVID-19 pandemic. So, the next phase of workforce development program needs to be nimble and adaptive to these changes as well. We know that there will be unknown challenges in the future so we simply can't design a rigid system as a response. Long Island is an increasingly diverse region and we know that three factors often correlate with each other; economic well-being, educational attainment, and demographic characteristics. The next phase of workforce development needs to help people of all backgrounds thrive. This includes people without a bachelor's degree or those coming from disadvantaged communities. They were often excluded or de-emphasized in some of the more traditional paradigms of workforce training. We need to change that. Lastly, we need to be creative in order to deliver the workforce development initiative that works for the 21st century. We need to break out of the status quo. In this report, we provide insights for innovative program designs that can better respond to changes in the economy, labor, market and policy priorities.

Andrew Jones: To get this all going, we identified eight specific areas of actions that will help deliver such an initiative. Again, many organizations on Long Island are already doing this. What we hope to emphasize here is that with effective, moderate and shared resources, impacts would be even better. We will discuss these eight questions one by one.

Number one, foster the co-evolution of workforce and industry clusters. Traditional training programs focus on making the workers more skilled, but we think that is only half of the story. In fact, a successful training initiative also needs to make industries and companies create opportunities. Why? Because if companies elsewhere are offering better positions that actually use new skills, then the workers can choose to relocate to other places after the training. So, in the discussion of workforce training, we can't ignore the need for businesses to up their games as well. In the report, we analyzed eight tradable industry clusters as our initial sample of tradable sectors, meaning industries that export goods and services to other regions that are very important because they bring new dollars into Long Island and are the cornerstone of the region's economic development strategy. You can also say that sectors with long-term growth

potential are especially important for COVID recovery. The sectors that we analyzed in this report include aerospace, biopharma, business services, construction, distribution and e-commerce, financial services, food processing and IT. The selection could be further refined or include additional sectors to reflect future priorities. Remember, flexibility is a key characteristic of the training program and our analytical framework is capable of analyzing different sectors.

In our report, we studied the job posting trend of each cluster to see what positions Long Island companies are offering to the region. We compare those to the companies in other regions that specialize in the same industry. Specifically, as you can see on the diagram of this page, we measure the risk of automation for those occupations. The higher the risk, which is more red color in the diagram, the more likely we think that the occupation will be replaced by computers and robots in the next 20 years. That wouldn't be good for our workers in the region. According to our data finding, several industries on Long Island can do better in this regard. For example, the current pharma jobs on Long Island tend to have a relatively high risk of automation. If you search for the top occupation that Long Island pharma firms are trying to hire in the last year, the result is factory inspectors. For comparison, in San Francisco, the pharma firms are looking for medical scientists as their most in-demand occupation. If our local companies don't have the need to hire more advanced talent, then our post-docs from Cold Spring Harbor might choose to go to San Francisco after graduation. In this report, we made a strong point that just as the workforce needs to be upskilled in order to embrace the 21st century jobs, Long Island's industries also need to evolve in order to compete for talent for the future. In a nutshell, workforce development and economic development should be pursued as a unified strategy for the region. This is especially important for the recovery from COVID related disruptions.

Number two, remember to target selected sets of skills for customized training. There are two aspects to this. The first is regarding the skill levels and different career options. Again, we know that educational attainment of specific knowledge around race and economic well-being can often be correlated to each other. On this page, the chart represents the population on Long Island with and without a degree. Compared to the rest of the country, we know that indeed, Long Island is a highly educated region but we simply cannot ignore that the majority of workers actually do not have advanced degrees. This exists across age groups and racial categories. In the report, we made sure to identify good occupations that do not require advanced degrees, in addition to ones that do, and in the data analysis, we always analyze skill gaps and training recommendations for the two educational levels. This is one way of making sure that the next workforce development program is promoting equity and provides support to people of different backgrounds and career trajectories. In addition to people's needs, customization is also about attending to the needs of different industries. In this report, we used a data driven approach to identify industry specific training needs in order to compare Long Island's existing workforce against the skills that are needed at the key industries as to see if people want to move from local service jobs to tradable sectors. We are asking, what are the new skills that they will need to learn in order to make that transition successfully. Our report summarizes the findings for each of the eight industry clusters that we analyzed. For each industry, we listed the top occupations, as well as the specific skills needed for training. This is an example of a skill list generated by analysis. The same can be generated for any additional industry of interest and these lists and potentially informed curriculum design for next training program.

Number three addresses soft skills and workforce development. Traditionally, workforce development programs are primarily focused on technical skill training. However, as more and more of this technical work becomes automated, as Yuxiang alluded to, soft skills such as critical thinking, professional communication and time management become more highly valued by employers. A recent national survey found that 77% of employers rated soft skills as being of equal importance to technical skills. As a result, the next phase of workforce development on Long Island is to incorporate soft skill modules into all technical training programs. The West Philadelphia skills initiative, the case referenced here, was one of the first programs to do this nationwide. It led to a significant increase in job placement rates among participants. This impact was particularly felt by young workers and workers of color who especially benefit from soft skill training. Before forming partnerships for industry led programs, sometimes there's a mismatch between the skills that workforce development programs are training for and those that are in demand by employers in the region. This creates inefficiencies for both employers and job seekers resulting in employers having to dedicate more time and resources to on-the-job training. Letting industry partners play a lead role in training, curriculum development and design can resolve this, helping them ensure that their needs are being met and that trainees are being placed in jobs. Northland Workforce Training Center and the Workforce Training Center in Buffalo have been the leaders in this, both in New York State and across the country. Partnering with energy companies and regional advanced manufacturers has increased job placement rates in the process. Even before the pandemic, Long Island's economy was rapidly changing and the workforce needed to adapt to the presence of new businesses and industries where development serves as the starting point for how policymakers think about how to prepare for and how to capitalize on the presence of new players, such as with offshore wind. In upstate South Carolina, when BMW announced new major plant, regional officials scan the workforce and identified a shortage in automotive engineers. They made substantial investments in developing this talent pipeline and the region is now home to a dense cluster of auto related industries.

Number four is the opportunity to link academic research and innovation to workforce development. While Long Island is home to a number of innovative research institutions such as some of the ones that Yuxiang referenced, they appear to be a bit detached from the regional economy and the workforce. In particular, the capacity to translate innovation into economic opportunity is an increasingly critical component of long-term regional growth. As a result, the next phase of workforce development on Long Island should seek out opportunities for stronger linkages and form new partnerships between innovative research institutions and workforce development entities. North Carolina Biotech, which is a regional association of Life Sciences companies, runs training programs that seek to train and place workers without bachelor degrees in what are known as middle-skilled STEM jobs. They also work to place undergraduate and graduate business students with research entities to help make them more entrepreneurial and to identify opportunities to commercialize their research. As both Yuxiang and James alluded to, the next phase of workforce development on Long Island needs to be highly collaborative. One way to break down some of the barriers that exist is to approach workforce development from a consortium perspective that seeks to pool resources and maximize the strength of existing organizations and training operators. Often this is accomplished through physical co-location. In Sacramento, policymakers decided to establish a centralized physical and digital hub that serves as the front door to a broader range of training programs and workforce services to embrace and enhance the capacity of existing efforts. There are a number of highly effective in demand training programs on Long Island that, through our stakeholder engagement process, reported the lack of resources to be able to scale up and meet some of the excess demand. Now more than

ever, this combination of heightened demand and limited resources is squeezing program operators. As a result, Long Island's workforce development system should seek to equip these programs with the space, staff and technical expertise they need to meet demand. Space in particular is going to become important as operators seek to ensure safety through adequate social distancing measures. In Cambridge, Massachusetts, the city supported a large-scale flexible office project called *The Link* that offers low and no cost training space to program operators and helps connect program participants and some of the companies based in the building.

Yuxiang Luo: Thank you, Andrew. With all these ideas, let's talk about what the next training initiatives look like. Here we identified three components of the next initiative. These components can be thought about as a “let's make one unified initiative” or it can be phased out in different time horizons to have something first before you implement the next phase. I'll describe very quickly what those are.

The first component is a training center. This is a centralized space where students attend training courses and access resources where services are in the same space. Co-location has the benefit of making sure that these essential support services are more likely to be used by those who need them and not everything in center needs to be totally new. We see opportunities for the center to be fresh and up-to-date by incorporating elements, such as on-the-job training space for hands-on demonstration of machines and equipment, industry specific course modules, and also soft skill training as Andrew alluded to. Also, very importantly, in the report, we described how some part of this operation can generate revenue from industry sponsorships and contributions. So there are more details there.

The second component is an incubator, which is different from the training center per se. This one is not about training students and doesn't have a classroom, but is more about helping the many providers of the training programs to be better and stronger. Specifically, it exists to incentivize the training providers and economic institutions to be able to deliver programs that can reflect actual industrial needs. This will function like a think tank that operates in two sides. For the private sector, it offers workforce related consulting and generates revenue. For non-profits and institutions, you redirect the resources and information to provide the coaching and host competitions to help them innovate. These components will be very important to activate and involve some of the more community-based organizations in the ecosystem.

The last one is a connector. Essentially, this is a website or a data system that takes information and data from the students, industries and training providers and processes the data in different packages to be shared with each other. The goal is to close the information gap and manage job seekers and companies that are suffering and to help make training programs more data driven. This one requires no physical footprint. It is essentially just a website so it can be one of the first things to be implemented. Information is power, and this one can have a big impact.

In conclusion, we hope we make a case for not only how workforce development is very important, but also how new thinking and new approaches are necessary. The next development of the program needs to reflect Long Island needs at this moment and the future, make the region more competitive as we recover from Covid-19 and address very important equity issues by focusing on the needs of people. Needless to say, this new initiative will take efforts including a regional commitment to help preparation for your vision and leadership and efficient deployment resources. We hope this report will be a helpful guidebook

to implement the new initiative. In fact, as I mentioned earlier, the data analysis that is included in the appendix of the report is already the foundation of the curriculum design. Stakeholder analysis can also inform the organizational structure of the next phase of the business plan. In conclusion, this is a time to take action, because among all the other things, workforce is one of the most important assets for Long Island and developing the skills for all is the key to a more resilient and equitable future. This concludes our presentation. Thank you very much.

Rich Guardino: Thank you. At this point, I'd like to introduce Commissioner Rosalie Drago, the South County Department of Labor, Licensing and Consumer Affairs. I would like to ask her to give some context to the report. We're certainly privileged to have her with us this morning. As you know, Rosalie has been active in workforce development for many years and she is serving now as the Commissioner in Suffolk County, Rosalie.

Rosalie Drago: Thank you to the Regional Planning Council, Kelly and her team at the IDA and James Lima, for putting into words, something that I think about and visualize every single day and can never explain to anyone. Now, your team has put my thoughts in pictures and writing and I can just say look at what they wrote. That's what I've been trying to say for 15 years. When I was first asked to speak, I was not at the Department of Labor. I was at the Workforce Development Institute and spent five years meeting with over 100 people every year who would continue to tell me that they have thousands of jobs open and can't find one person to hire, which was mind blowing. We knew we had great educational programs and we knew, at the time, there were many unemployed people. It was like I spent five years trying to figure out what the problem was now James and his crew outlined it in six months. Now in addition, I'm losing sleep every day since COVID-19, thinking about 300,000 people who will need a job when that unemployment runs out on Long Island.

I want to talk about the context of this issue in three buckets. This plan talks about the education and industry collaboration we have. I'll take manufacturing, because it's one of my favorite sectors. We have an amazing advanced manufacturing training center at Suffolk County Community College with a robust industry advisory board. It advises on the curriculum. Every single person who is in their training program gets a job when they graduate and still, it's not enough people to fill all the jobs in advanced manufacturing (which by the way continued to hire through COVID-19 and is still hiring). I got off the phone with D'Addario recently which makes guitar strings and drums and they are looking to hire many people and can't find them. The reason is not because we don't have excellent educational institutions, Stony Brook has an amazing engineering department and lean manufacturing practices. The challenge is that the industry requires hands on training. The technology, the practices and the industries change at a really fast rate and the colleges cannot respond because they cannot afford the latest high-tech equipment that came out most recently. Industry has to put that in place in order to stay relevant, but the college can't turn that quickly nor can they meet the constantly changing curriculum because it takes a while to develop curriculum and get it vetted by the Department of Education.

So, we have amazing institutions that are doing training, but there isn't an ability to turn as quickly as industry can turn. The second part is that the industries that are hiring require hands on learning. If you take a look at manufacturing for instance. Advanced manufacturing and defense are regulated by the Depart-

ment of Defense. You are not allowed to put someone on a piece of equipment unless they've had a certain number of hours of training because A, if the screw is loose or it doesn't get made right, the engine falls out of the airplane and B, because it's just not allowed by regulation. With biopharma, the FDA requires certain things and they can't just throw anybody who hasn't used a machine on the production line, because that's danger to health. Even with the best educational institutions, in the best circumstances, we need a place where people can train hands on and get real time experience.

The second part of this is the pipeline. Career and pipeline and equity go hand in hand here. These are career trajectories. These industries that are highlighted here have a career ladder and that's very important. The barrier to entry is low. There's nothing more than a high school diploma required to get into these industry sectors where you can come in, starting with some hands-on experience at \$20 an hour with full benefits. These are jobs that if you can get hands-on experience, you can climb up a ladder, you can enter with a high school diploma and then get access, in many cases, to a free education in order to become more economically empowered. Lastly, exposure, whether you are college bound or not, to these careers it is beneficial. You can't just let anyone on the manufacturing floor and the same goes for energy and high tech. High school students aren't necessarily able to go in and learn about how to apply the STEM practices they're learning in their classroom to a career because you can't just go in on the floor and touch some of this equipment.

The last part, in terms of equity and pipeline building, is the need for a place where you can send people/high school students and have them do practical hands-on work. Project based learning is critical to building the interest and awareness about these jobs. This is how we build a pipeline.

All of these issues existed prior to COVID-19 and now they're compounded by COVID-19. There are still industries hiring, still calling me up every week saying I need people that I still can't produce. I think what's important here is timing. There are all these people who are going to need to go back to work.

The last thing I want to say is regarding soft skills. I think it's a matter of contextualization. I'll say two things personally about why I'm passionate about this. I came from a poor uneducated family. If there was no career ladder, and someone had not opened the door and said, here's the pathway, I wouldn't have this job. I have a master's degree now. But I can tell you that when I was 16, that was not something that was even on my radar or possible. I was working three jobs in high school. I was a grocery store clerk, I waited tables, and did childcare because I didn't know what career was possible until someone opened the door and physically said, "I'll train you." That doesn't happen anymore. People don't say "Come in, I'll give you a shot, you have a good attitude." That career ladder is essential to success. The second thing I'll say is about contextualized learning. BOCES gets a really bad rap. People say I don't want to send my kid to BOCES because that's for the people who can't do well in school. But for example, at Eastern Suffolk, students who couldn't pass the math and their traditional classes have scholarships now to engineering schools because they contextualize their work by working with companies on Long Island solving robotics problems for Canon, for instance. We're leaving a heck of a lot of people out of the market, just because they can't pass a test, not because they can't learn the material. Lastly, we need to address contextualizing English language learning. The entire production lines of a number of Long Island companies are predominantly non-native English speakers. If we can contextualize English language learning to the job, it would be another use of empowerment and workforce development.

John Cameron: Thank you, Rosalie.

Mayor Kennedy: Good morning, everyone. Thank you for bringing everybody together here today. I just wanted to make one comment and it may fit pretty well into this discussion. The Village of Freeport recently took possession of the New York State Armory. I've been in touch with both Nassau County and New York State looking for some community development block grants because we're looking to put in a daycare center with a training facility for hands-on training. We've been to Apex and we've been to Nassau BOCES. We are looking for some other entities to come in who may be interested if we can put that childcare center in as well as training facilities for electricians, plumbers, steamfitters, mechanics, so on and so forth. Many people are looking for blue collar training. We might be able to move them right into training and get them jobs quickly. This building will be available hopefully by September. I have about 30 classrooms ready to go. If anybody can help either on the childcare side of it or training facility side, I would definitely be interested to speak with them because I want to move on this as quickly as possible, especially considering this COVID-19 issue. Students may not be going back to school in September. Between the idea of bringing in some hands-on training in trades and having a childcare facility right off the Meadowbrook Parkway, any assistance provided by anybody out there would be greatly appreciated.

Ralph Scordino: Rosalie, thank you very much for your wrap up. I think you hit the nail right on the head when you said that you need somebody in education to guide you through. My wife had that same person in a guidance counselor who really set her up and gave her a pathway to go to college and get her master's degree in speech therapy. She also became a professor is now teaching Communications at Suffolk Community. I think that's missing presently in a lot of our schools and that's a very, very important fact. I think education is a very important fact. A lot of schools have given up the tech aspect and students don't have the opportunity to go to the different types of activities and careers. For example, carpentry, auto mechanics, appliance repair, are excellent places for many people to go and have an occupation. I really think high school education really must be revamped.

Jeff Kraut: Hey, everybody. Thank you, James, and Rosalie, for this presentation. I think a lot of these issues are aspects that Rosalie and I have been talking about for a long period of time. Several times during the course of this narrative, James and company talked about the idea of a centralized hub through which the elements of this plan could be executed. Now, I don't have to tell the folks on this panel, that that's very difficult in this region. We are talking about two counties, 13 towns, two cities and more villages than are accountable. So, do you have any thoughts on if there were to be a centralized place through which all of this work would flow, where would that be, and who would run it? A centralized place or an organization or an institutional? That is the big question. The second phase of creating a business plan is to address location facilities, real estate, curriculum, academic partners, other partnerships, and really assess all of those through the lens of impact and a need. That's a piece of work that's ahead. There are plenty of examples to look at about how best to use that. I think what we tried to do is to create a model that yes, has a bricks and mortar piece of it, but also has an online piece that's pretty significant in terms of its potential impact. It's not an either or, but maybe a combination of different components.

Rosalie: One of the players has said they have equipment ready to donate in terms of entire production lines and equipment, state of the art equipment and materials and software. The issue is where to put it.

While I do believe in the real estate and centralizing it, we know that it is going to be a challenge. There's a lot of willingness on the side of employers to provide equipment, time expertise, installation maintenance, because this benefits them. To some extent, we have some willing partners. The focus is really on the how and the where.

Nancy Englehardt: Rosalie, I know that, during the presentation, it was mentioned that the next step in the business plan is to really bring together a group of stakeholders and it's clear from what you talk about that you are in touch with the CEOs of large organizations on Long Island as it relates to school districts. You also talk about stakeholders. What has your experience been on the collaboration and being on board with this plan from the school districts?

Rosalie: The school districts are begging for them for a couple of reasons. One, it depends on the school district, but they want to be able to do hands-on work. No one has this and no one can afford the real estate because for one college or one high school to put in some hands-on learning, the price tag is exorbitant. But, to put it in someplace they can all share it and take turns renting the space would make it affordable. They all want hands-on experience. They see the value of it, specifically project based learning, which is going to be the direction we're going to go right away. But there's going to be more of a focus now because people are out of the classroom. The excuse before was we can't get a bus to go on to visit a site. This will not be a thing anymore. We're remote already. School districts have wanted project-based learning initiatives for students to create career awareness and hands-on learning for a long time. This goes to the equity of it all. Some of our schools have the funding to put in a lab and train the students and most of the schools (where they really need it) can't afford to put that in and give those options.

Question: When you look at a group of stakeholders across a region who need to be present, is there any specific sector of our region that's not on board or do we have any gap with regard to who we need on board to help generate the next level of this business plan?

Rosalie: I think industries are waiting and want to know what's taking us so long. They are ready to go. I think that educational providers have been interested. I think that the issue continues to be what Jeff brought up, which is who's organizing? Who's neutral enough to do it? Who is going to own it, who's going to shepherd it? Who's going to do the fundraising? Where's the funding going to go? So, prior to COVID-19, there was there was an abundance of workforce money and economic development project capability, but coordinating, finding out how to centralize that and how to leverage that was an issue. Again, before coming here, I had about \$300,000-\$400,000 per year in grants to give away in workforce training and had trouble a lot of times finding out who could be the conduit to the funding. I suspect this would be one of the major issues. And James, maybe you have some thoughts.

James: Well, I just want to make the more general point. Given our work around the country, Bruce Katz, who was with Brookings Institution, talks about the need for a new localism. He also talks about the notion of networked governance and the regions that will succeed and compete for investment and talent and growth and equity will be those that have strong collaboration. I think the two counties are collaborating in unprecedented ways now in response to COVID-19. I think the biggest threat that has existed for Long Island and that it still exists today is the multiplicity of governmental entities, layers of government fiefdoms, and protected self-interest. And so there's nothing like a crisis to show how we have to really be

thinking about a more regional approach to lifting all boats, because other regions are going to outcompete you and that's going to harm everyone's quality of life and the ability of your kids and grandkids to have options to stay in the communities where they grew up and to grow businesses here and to recover and to take advantage of so many things that are assets for Long Island that have really been held back by the barriers, really people's own making, which is an inability to create the kind of collaborative infrastructure that leverages resources so that you're really creating what other regions are doing successfully.

John Cameron: Thanks James. Back when we did the LI2035, we dedicated a significant amount of effort into looking at the inequities in the educational system. A number of the members who are still on the Council today will recall that we actually felt that an entity or entities such as BOCES could provide an excellent vehicle because they know no boundaries. In other words, we talked about this where you have school districts where Garden City could be adjacent to Hempstead could be adjacent to Rockville Center could be adjacent to Uniondale. There are issues of bussing and costs and budgets but now, I think everybody's seen firsthand how we can virtually exchange information and learn online. We are all doing it. We are doing it right now. I think that we can have central locations, as Rosalie's alluded to, where you can have some kicking the tires, and some hands-on learning, with regard to technology or equipment, etc.

I'm very, very involved in STEM education on the Island. You can speak in front of a couple hundred students, but if you project that through to online training, you can access thousands of students, many more times than the audience itself. Additionally, you don't have the cost of the students traveling to get there, etc. So, I agree that we need these central locations, but I also agree that we really need to further look at ways that we can utilize the internet for education. We can have one school district interacting with a wider school district. We talk about the great inequities between the districts. We talk about the great K-12 educational system we have on the Island plus our colleges and universities. We also talk about some of the greatest failures in the state of New York with regard to educational systems. We need to be able to wipe out those boundaries and those borders, instead of sitting here trying to figure out how we're going to consolidate districts. We could be doing this for years and we are going to have generations of kids pass through our educational systems and move on. We talk about this all the time. In particular, in the STEM careers, the minority communities are totally underrepresented. We need to start to be able to access and to penetrate those different districts so we can get the young people not just educated, but just even informed as to what the possibilities are.

Rosalie talked about how personally for her, she had somebody help shepherd her to see what was possible. We have so many young people today, especially in underprivileged communities, who have no clue as to what the possibilities are. We should be able to find a way to try and penetrate these different districts to get them educated as to what can be possible and to open their eyes as to what can be done. We should help enable them. We should provide the opportunities. We're not guaranteeing outcomes, but we want to guarantee opportunities.

I think we as a Council have tried this. There are so many non-for-profits, so many private companies, so many governmental entities that want to share this vision, we should find a way to pull it together. I think this study provides some very graphic data to show that we have a lot of work to do. We need to do it now. We just can't be sitting here talking another 10 years from now.

Theresa Sanders: Thank you so much, John, because we have had a lot of discussion behind the scenes. I think this is a great opportunity for us to really turn the curve a little bit here in terms of how we can be more inclusive. I mean, it starts with sometimes not having the right people around the table as we're having discussions like this. It's not enough diversity. Therefore, the lens is off a little bit, in terms of if we feel we're making good plans and good decisions and then when we get to the rollout and it's just not there. So, I would encourage us to again, make sure that we bring the same people, you know, a diverse group of people to the table, to make sure that we're getting a full vision in terms of how we should roll out these plans. I really enjoyed the presentation. Rosalie and I talk all the time, so I understand the vision. How do we connect the people to all of the plans that we have and that's the piece that John raised, which is something very important, which is that technology is now going to play the role of an equalizer. We are going to have to use that to make sure we get more people to the table that can go get these jobs. It's hard for me to understand that we have all this access and opportunity and then we have all this disparity. How do we close that gap? That is one of our biggest challenges as a group. How are we going to close that gap to get people to the jobs, to get people to training, to get people to certification. We all can recognize that John pointed out a 10-year plan and now we are still, you know, talking about the same problem, the same inequities. We've got to do something different and I think utilizing these technological platforms, it is going to be a winning point.

John: The Equity Profile for the Long Island report really does an excellent job of providing data and specific metrics to really understand the existing conditions online and the inequities that exist. We've had these discussions with Theresa and Elaine Gross, not only when she was on the Council, but also at our meetings. Even if one took a selfish perspective and said, how does this affect me? We've heard different people saying how does this affect me? It affects everyone here. The underperforming person is no longer producing in society. Theresa's Urban League did an outstanding report as to what the potential is to grow our economy here. If you're not producing, you're consuming and it's a balance. If we can enable young people to become fruitful and productive, it's good for all of society. We need to pull people together to find ways that we can not only grow our economy to make Long Island a center or really a beacon for being opportunistic for every Long Islander, not just a privileged few.

Kelly Morris: We all work together as a group. Our mission and goal are to promote economic development by helping businesses expand and grow and actually relocate to both our counties. We also are tasked with improving employment opportunities and obviously quality of life for the residents in our counties. We started working with Jim and his team, the RPA and the HIA, and Terri Alessi Miceli four years ago to really look at what we can do in the park. It led us to where we are now which is taking a really strong look at how we can develop a workforce training center regionally. So, the next phase of this that James talked about briefly, is the business plan. We came into this phase one believing that we had funding sources or an actual plan to get to the end of this road, but as the world has changed so dramatically for all of us, that no longer exists. I guess this is a little bit of a call to action. The idea is still to continue and we welcome any thoughts from the board or others to partner and collaborate with us so that we can shepherd this into the final phase, which is the business plan, and certainly the most critical, critical component, because we've all worked so hard to get to this point in time. So, again, we committed to seeing this through. We have some funding in place for it, but we can't do it alone. We see it as incredibly significant and collaboration is so critical for us to reach the goals that we all need as a region.

Alan Belniak: So, for those of you on the line, just want to remind everyone about how this will work. Again, just one more reminder, this meeting is being recorded. We have a question that came in the Q&A and our panel will respond, but I would like to read those into the record because we have a couple folks on the phone who won't benefit from seeing the Q&A. We also have a couple hand raises and we will get to those in a moment. Just a reminder, you can use the Q&A to ask your question. We'll read it out loud, and then get the response from the appropriate board member. If you would like to raise your hand, you can do so with Zoom controls at the bottom of your screen. For those of you dialing in, if you want to raise your hand, you can do so as well by using star nine. We'll go through these questions in the Q&A in a moment and then we'll get to the hand raises. So sit tight, I can see a couple of folks have their hands raised and we'll get to in just a moment. The first question in the Q&A. I will read it out loud. If anyone from the Lima team can respond, "What role will community colleges play in this collaborative workforce development?"

James Lima: Community colleges could be course providers out of a potential Workforce Training Center, among others. I think they could also stand to benefit from some of the capacity enhancing services offered by the incubator that you described in the model. As Rosalie mentioned, they have some incredible, effective programs that just need scaling up and capacity enhancement.

Question: What is the cost to build the best practice facility and what is the annual operating expense?

James Lima: That's an excellent question that will be addressed in the second phase of this planning work and that phase two report has not yet been prepared.

Larry Levy: Well, as one of the writers of the LI2035 report, I share John Cameron's frustrations but also implicit in what he said and in what Theresa said, I also have a great feeling that we are at a moment or an inflection point or whatever jargon you want to use, where there's a chance to generate some real momentum. I think one of the keys is to keep moving forward in practical ways. As number of people said, a virtual model eliminates some inequity. As John perceptively pointed out, you can have kids from Wyandanch and Garden City and Dix Hills and Rockville Center, sitting in literally the same, virtual classroom now, without getting involved in bussing and other issues that show up as manifestations of segregation and systemic racism.

I also want to say that I am also the guy who has been writing the Regional Economic Development Council reports for the last 10 years and your vision aligns very well with theirs. I would hope that there's a way of working more formally together. There even are some overlapping members or former members. There's a way of leveraging both ideas and money, private investment, public investment through that.

One other thought is that somebody mentioned BOCES and that a lot of people of all races, demographic and economic levels are uncomfortable about sending their kids to BOCES because of a stigma. They are very much aware of that and they are trying to work on their image. We partnered at Hofstra with our continuing education program, and Rich, you may have been there when this first started. We partnered with BOCES and we have people from all around and from all income levels signing up for both these

programs, because they think they're signing up with Hofstra or it's a partnership with Hofstra and BOCES. You could do that with Stony Brook. There are ways of creating partnerships that eliminate problems and create synergies that can enable you to reach more people. This gets you over the branding and economic class biases.

I'm sorry to go on. One question I have is that Hofstra University has a continuing education program and Rosalie knows that we've worked on stuff together and also with the Regional Council. With my hat as Vice President for Professional Development and Continuing Education of Professional Studies, I listen to this both again with great hope and great fear. The hope is that we can really all come together and do something that monetizes the mission where we can make a difference and we can serve people, but I'm at a private university and like a lot of people who are in the workforce development space, we do have to make a profit. We are looking for pipelines and clusters. We talk that same language, but how do you find a model that uses the incredible resources that we have? How do you get the privates as part of this in a way that we can survive?

James Lima: I want to speak to it. Rosalie has noted that this really is an opportunity to create kind of shared infrastructure and shared facilities. Right now, a lot of institutions and organizations and companies are going at it alone at great individual expense. So, there's an economy of scale and efficiency and a shared flexible, adaptive infrastructure. I think that should apply across the whole public, private, and institutional spectrum.

Rosalie: I agree with that. I think what has been successful in other Workforce Training Centers is the collaboration and the dissolving of those barriers between one Institution and the other that enables you to get the best of what Hofstra has, the best of what Stony Brook has, the best of what Suffolk has, the best of what BOCES has, as well as the best of industry. It really dissolves the barriers that we've put up either by geographic location or institution. I know that everyone is already collaborating. I think that people sometimes think that what a report like this is saying is that there's not enough collaboration. There is a lot of collaboration. There's not a space where everyone can benefit from that at the same time. That's really what a training center will do is allow us to get the best of that collaboration, which is already virtual, right? We collaborate at meetings, on specific projects, but this centralizes the collaboration that's happening in some way. While I do think we can do a lot online, it's not enough. People still need to know how to operate that machinery. I use the Suffolk Community College example where every training lab was full. Same was true with Farmingdale. Every training lab was full. It's very costly for institutions, as Larry mentioned, to have new equipment. There is a high cost involved so if they can share it there is a massive benefit. For instance, within the Stony Brook incubators, the company being incubated can't afford a \$10 million telescope or a \$10 million piece of equipment, but the incubated companies rented by the hour. It helps decrease the cost, but it also accidentally manages to cross pollinate ideas. I think we're looking at the same concept here. Giving that gift of collaboration and knowledge to the students and the emerging workforce would be a move forward. We are currently conducting a survey of our clients to ask, "How many of you are going to have to change industries now?" We have a whole transitioning workforce that are still going to shed jobs. We're not finished yet and those industries aren't coming back at full capacity. We are going to have to take people and put them into entirely new industries. We started that partnership with BOCES and the facilities are simply amazing. Unfortunately, there seems to be

some artificial barriers coming out of the Department of Education regarding how that facility can be utilized. Maybe this is something we can address with Roger Tillis or members of the Board of Regents so that that resource is more available. It's available in both counties and is a tremendous facility and would be a perfect location to do some of the training that we're talking about.

John Cameron: That's great. We are ready to do anything you need to do.

Terri Alessi Micelli: First of all, let me say thank you to Richard, John and the Long Island Regional Planning Council for taking this on and to James Lima, who has been phenomenal, Yuxiang, Andrew, Rosalie and Kelly. You heard before from Suffolk IDA, a very comprehensive analysis, particularly in this crisis why job creation and skills development and fulfillment are more critical than ever for business survival. I listen to you all. This is our moment, right? This needs to be one of the best examples of a regional commitment to collaboration so that workforce development and economic development are one. As both Rich and Kelly mentioned, when we partnered with James Lima and the Suffolk IDA on the sustainability plan for the Innovation Park at Hauppauge, we learned several things. It's the largest in the northeast and it's second behind Silicon Valley. We learned that 58% of the industries in the Park are coming from tradable sectors which makes that Park have the largest population of not only tradable sectors on Long Island, but it outperforms the national average by over 20%. We were told it offers an exceptional opportunity for economic revitalization. I bring it up because it was deemed the hub for economic development. We're hoping through this work the Park can be used as a natural place, not only brick and mortar, not only a training center, but also the incubator that you spoke about and the connector that you spoke about. I want to thank you all again because we are very, very encouraged to see that your recommended next step is to create a more comprehensive business plan that will include not only looking for location in real estate, but curriculum and operations. There is an urgent need for this, so we urge you to take the next step. Again, I wanted to thank all of you.

John Cameron: Thank you for your leadership on this and so many other issues affecting economy and growth industry on Long Island. Terri, as you were speaking, Larry chimed in the Q&A with a resounding thank you for the comment of this is our moment. So, I want to make sure that the crowd knows that there is definitely support behind that.

Victor Cassio: Hi, everyone, Victor Cassio from Newsday here. I was at the Regional Planning Council meeting in July where I think a lot of the takeaways from the April report were presented. In a tangible sense, at that time there was the allotment of \$50,000 in funding for additional research for development of the workforce. We have here talk about development of a training center and looking at the employment pipeline. What, at this point is the next tangible step? Does the funding approved last year take us into phase two and what does phase two look like? What are the next tangible steps and when can we expect to see the fruits of those efforts?

Rich Guardino: I think it's a question of trying to find the funding to do the next phase of the report. It's something that we're going to continue to discuss as the whole world is changed with COVID. Municipalities are experiencing budget stress. Certainly, this is a priority and I think that in terms of the collaboration, we're talking about trying to look at a couple of different sources here so that we can continue with

phase two of the report. We need the resources to do it. It's a question of trying to see if between the IDA, the RDC, Nassau and Suffolk County, we can come up with resources to go to the next phase.

John Cameron: I think what we know now from the completion of this phase of work is where the need is, what the opportunities are and what successful case studies look like. The next piece is quite detail oriented. It's literally writing a curriculum and doing that by having made the decisions about who the strategic academic institutional partners and other partners are. Now, that is always a political decision and that will be in part related to which institutions have the resources, financial and people, and other resources, but it also should reflect where the greatest needs are. I would challenge everybody to just look at all of this through an equity lens and kind of focus the commission to thinking about how this is an opportunity to address systemic racism from the earliest public education and other education to the workforce training programs that exist today. It's looking at the kinds of programs you deploy, whether they're in brick and mortar facilities or they're virtual or some combination of the two, who the partners are and what the operating budget is yearly in the staffing and how you're basically implementing a specific curriculum based on the needs that have been identified.

If I may add, I think we all know the need has probably never been more critical. That being said, I'll reiterate what I stated earlier in my remarks that we all know government institutions, health care, everybody's broke. So, where do you get the funding to basically help you move forward. If we don't move forward with the plan though we're not going to get there. So, it's up to us to make the case in my opinion. Then, hopefully the federal government does what they need to do, and help to restore budgets, at least to a reasonable level, so that we can actually talk about planning coming out of this crisis. This public health crisis is rapidly morphed into an economic crisis. We need to do the planning, otherwise, the implementation will never be there. So, I think we need to coalesce and decide how we basically make the case and then hopefully secure the funding to move forward. Thank you.

Alan: There are no other hands raised. I want to read into the record a comment from Larry. "I just want to add that one of the best ways to generate jobs and develop the entrepreneurs who create them. That's why we should also focus on entrepreneurial training, especially among minorities as well as the Ascend Long Island, a partnership of Hofstra and JP Morgan with support from PSG Northwell Long Island Community Foundation and other major organizations."

I don't see any other calls or comments coming in. With that, I'll hand it back to John and Richard.

John Cameron: Okay, great. Thanks. I think it was very productive discussion. First, compliments to James Lima and your team as well as of course to Kelly, the Suffolk County IDA, Rosalie Drago and Terry Alessi Micelli who will help to make this a reality as well as the rest of all those who've contributed.

I would like to turn it back to Rich.

Rich Guardino: Supervisor Clavin has joined the meeting as well as Mayor Kennedy so we now have a quorum and we can proceed with the matters that need to be voted on. The first one would be the approval of minutes from the February 27th, 2020 meeting.

Adoption of the February 27, 2020 minutes. All in favor.

Motion to Accept: Jeff Kraut

Seconded: Nancy Engelhardt

All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino: The next resolution authorizes an agreement for consulting services with 4Ward Planning Inc. for a follow-up analysis of the multi-family development on public school districts and parking. You all are familiar with this. 4Ward Planning did the analysis in Patchogue and they are currently working in Farmingdale. They want to expand their analysis of the school district enrollment trends to the total of eight municipalities within the Island that have at least one multi-family rental development, developed and occupied since 2010. The idea is to do the same kind of analysis that we had in Patchogue, where we look at the multi-family development, the number of school children that actually come out of the multi-family development, and then take a look at the impact to the school district. You may recall that with 700 apartments in in Patchogue, there were a total of 40 schoolchildren coming out of those facilities, and it was a net plus to the school district when you looked at what was produced in terms of additional revenues to the school districts versus the cost of education. The idea is to expand on that study.

4Ward Planning also had a request from the Counties to look at the parking impact of the multi-family development. As many of you familiar, zoning requires a certain amount of parking spaces per unit. This study would look at some of the multi-family developments that are already in place and take a look at what the actual utilization is versus the requirements to determine the excess of the utilization, which would free up some additional space for the multifamily. Again, this would be a follow up on the study that is being done by 4Ward Planning in Patchogue and Farmingdale and it's for the amount not to exceed \$6,000.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2020-106: Barbara Donno

Seconded: Ralph Scordino

All in Favor: So moved.

Executive Director's Report

Richard Guardino

We're running a little past our closing time here, but we haven't met in a while and I do want to keep the panel and public up to date with some of the activity that the LIRPC has been working on. I mentioned the study that we're doing currently in Farmingdale with Todd Poole, who's the President at 4Ward Planning. He has completed the background review, their tours of the village, interviews with public and private sector representatives. He's working on the economic impact analysis. The follow-up on some of the interviews was delayed by COVID, but we're back in action now and we hope to have a draft report on Farmingdale by August.

Some of you are also familiar with the fact that the Council on annual basis submits to the Department of Commerce a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. We've done that once again. What we found is that, unfortunately, on Long Island, you need the CEDS in order to be eligible for grants from the Department of Commerce. We found that the Island isn't taking advantage of the fact that these grants are given, but I think given the constrained budgets we're seeing for all the municipalities, it's time to see if

we can promote this. Putting together a guide that takes users through the steps in the MDA application process includes the eligibility requirements, the funding priorities, the application forms, etc. We're going to house that guide on the LIRPC website.

As far as the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan, there's been quite a bit of activity. Many of you may be familiar that the consultant group Raftelis was retained to do the Suffolk County Wastewater Management District Feasibility Study. That's well underway. We've had a number of stakeholders that have participated in this including the Suffolk County Water Authority, the Long Island Board of Realtors, Building Institute, The Nature Conservancy Group, and East End Campaigns for the Environment. They've all collaborated on the study and a draft report is complete. We're expecting that Suffolk County will be releasing that report in the near future, perhaps within the next month. The Council has authorized funds to be transferred from the LINAP grant to both Nassau and Suffolk County. The funds for Nassau County were to help them implement their septic replacement grant program. That's the program that they're putting in place. It was \$100,000. The good news is that we have a contract with them and we're just waiting for it to be finalized and executed by Nassau County. We're in a similar situation with Suffolk County, where we authorized the transfer of \$47,000 for the Suffolk County Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan expanded scope. So, both those transfers should be able to be made in the near future. We're just finalizing some of the paperwork with regard to the Nassau County water quality monitoring and analysis project. This is the water quality analysis that we're doing in the south shore estuary in partnership with the Town of Hempstead and Hofstra University. They were able to get samples through January, February, there was a gap in March because the Town field operations were shut down as a result of COVID. They're back in the field in April and May. They will be wrapping up their water quality analysis shortly. They will also be tasked with a draft report of historical data analysis and that has been reviewed by the DEC and again, that report should be available very soon.

We also put out an RFP for the Long Island Quality of Water Integrated Data System called LIQWIDS. This is an integrated data system designed to serve as a centralized public facing water quality data portal to allow the DEC, the council officials from NASA and Suffolk counties and all interested stakeholders to share water quality monitoring data on Long Island. There is no centralized location for this data right now. We put out the RFP and we received five proposals on June 1st. The selection committee is reviewing them and we'll be bringing one of those proposals to the Council in the near future to move ahead that LIQWIDS data system central repository.

We are also working on Nitrogen Smart Communities. We want to launch a pilot program on that this year. The planning guide and action plan template has been developed. We are constrained to municipalities on the North Shore in terms of getting the pilot program off the ground because of restrictions with the grant. We've invited the Town of Smithtown, our colleague Supervisor Wehrheim, and also the Town of North Hempstead to participate in the pilot. We hope to get that launched pretty quickly.

Finally, on a very, very positive note, our STEM program was successful. We had a number of excellent applications. We would have already invited you all to an award presentation, but for COVID, so we'll do that sometime in the fall. Some of the proposals which we received from these middle school students were so good that we are looking to actually fund some of the proposals that the students came up with at their schools.

And that completes my report.

John Cameron: Thanks Rich. If I can, I would just like to update everyone on one of the items you talked about which was the Suffolk County Septic Improvement Program. It is in the paper today and you may recall that there was a decision by the Internal Revenue Service to tax the grants that homeowners were receiving for the innovative alternative, septic and cooling systems that they had installed in their homes. That was a significant detriment toward the program moving forward, not just in Suffolk but also in Nassau County. It's in the paper today that Congressman Souzzi has introduced a bill to have that tax on those programs exempt so that the homeowners who are providing their own personal capital to install these innovative, alternative systems to reduce the nitrogen in their front yards to improve the overall water quality of the Island, should not be taxed. The Congressman has introduced a bill and it may be part of the potential infrastructure bill which would be great. I think it would enable the program to grow at an accelerated pace. Any other questions or comments from the Council? Alan any hands raised for public comment?

Alan Belniak: There are no other comments or questions I can see in the zoom meeting.

John Cameron: Thank you. I think our first virtual meeting was a big success and I thank you all for taking the time to join and participate. We will announce and circulate dates for our next meeting and the topic etc. Stay safe and stay well and be good guys. Take care.

Adjournment