

Long Island Regional Planning Council
Summary Minutes

July 11th, 2019 Meeting
Hofstra University Club

LIPRC Members Present

John D. Cameron, Jr., Chair
Jeffrey Kraut, Treasurer
Theresa Sanders, Secretary
Elizabeth Custodio
Barbara Donno
Jeff Guillot
Robert Kennedy
Ed Wehrheim

Staff and Guests Present

Richard V. Guardino, Jr.
Elizabeth Cole
Missy Leder
Kyle Rabin
David Berg

Averil Smith
Carol Allen
Marty Araciam
Mary Byrne
Pearl Jacobs
James B. Jacobs
Mark Grossman
Ernie Fazio
Colleen Pereira
Joe Campolo
Debbie Tinnirello
Tatyana Golihova
Victor Ocasio
Shelby Knowles
Adam Moss
Terry Alessi-Miceli
Adam Haber
Regina Zara
Shelley Brazely
Kayla Ethridge
Kelly Morris
Mohinder Taneja

Meeting Commenced:

- John D. Cameron, Jr., opened the meeting at approximately 10:15AM with a welcome
- Pledge of Allegiance

Rich Guardino: Roll Call

John Cameron, Mayor Kennedy, Jeff Kraut, Elizabeth Custodio, Jeff Guillot present.

We will have Barbara Donno and Theresa Sanders joining us shortly and we will be videoconferencing in Supervisor Ed Wehrheim.

John Cameron: Thanks Rich. We can't adopt or pass any resolutions until we have the quorum so we will start with our presentations. The first presentation is on the Hauppauge Industrial Park and the Long Island Innovation Park: Regional Competitiveness and Growth Strategies by James Lima Planning and Development. I would like to thank the Economic Development Corporation of Suffolk County. They are one of our funders. We also have Kelly Morris and Regina Zara here. Welcome to the President of the Hauppauge Industrial Association, Terry Alessi-Miceli and a number of other board members who are with us. I sincerely appreciate you being here to join us. James, please begin your presentation and we will have a vote later in our meeting.

PRESENTATION:

James Lima, James Lima Planning and Development

Good morning. My name is James Lima and it's a pleasure to be here today. I am joined by my colleague Yuxiang Luo who will make the bulk of the presentation today since he did the lion's share of the research on what we found to be an increasingly complicated and important topic of the future economic competitiveness and growth opportunities for Suffolk County and for Long Island as a whole. Our firm James Lima Planning and Development is a Real Estate and Economic Public Policy Advisory firm that works with public and private sector clients to create more vibrant, resilient and sustainable communities around the country with particular focus on the northeast region. We were hired by the Suffolk County Development Agency to work with them and the HIA-LI. It was a pleasure to work with Joe Campolo and Terry and Kelly on this project and we are excited to talk about the findings and preliminary ideas about areas for early action and steps necessary to move forward with that.

We looked at two general areas and we will present in two general categories. We will talk about the findings of the Hauppauge Industrial Park report itself which is available online and then we will present the outline of a proposal to initiate phase one of a two phase work plan which is what we recommend as a Long Island Workforce Training Center.

We identified that while the Hauppauge Industrial Park represents just 0.2% of land area of Long Island, it represents 5.0% of the total jobs on Long Island and it represents 8.2% of the economic output of Long Island, which is extraordinary for a place that most people have never heard of. It has a GDP larger than the Bahamas. It has over \$13 Billion a year in sales. It is quite

extraordinary. It boasts some 55,000 employees and an enormous number of companies. What we identified is the idea of sustainable strategies in terms of physical planning and physical brick and mortar changes to the park campus itself, but also creating what we call a social or cultural infrastructure to support more of an innovation knowledge economy. The kind of things that stitch together innovation districts by creating meet up spaces, convening spaces, centers for idea exchange, TED talks, but also social convening for industry specific activities in the tech sector. One critical area that most of you are aware of is that we are seeing an incredible tightening on the labor market which in some ways is a good problem to have with a low unemployment rate, but it's a serious threat to the potential growth in all places that are facing this. Long Island is right there with others. How do you both attract and retain talent in the highest value economic sectors where you have the greatest opportunity for sustained economic growth. We will talk about what those sectors look like and then recognize that this is part of an underlying stress that places like Long Island have ie: high cost of living in the long shadow of the very appealing job hub centers of New York City. There is a quality of life here and a whole series of components to quality of work life and living that make a strong case that a significant positive benefit would come from some of these strategic investments. With that, I will turn it over to Yuxiang who will walk you through the methodology and some of the findings of the report.

Yuxiang Luo: Thank you James and good morning everyone. When we first started this assignment, we were faced with two facts. First, we know that the Long Island economy is underperforming if we compared the growth rate of jobs and wages to the New York State average and the United States average. Second, we know that the park has the largest concentration of jobs and companies on Long Island. As James mentioned, there are more than 1,300 companies in the Industrial Park taking up what is less than 1% of Long Island's land area generating over 8% of the Long Island GDP. These are impressive numbers and facts we must know as we begin try to understand the economic potential and challenges.

In the report, we ask two questions. First, what does the regional challenge really mean for the future of the park and second, how can the redevelopment and growth of the park fuel the revitalization of the Long Island economy as a whole. In the report, we have four main sections. The first one is about researching the overall economy of the region to understand where the potential lies for the park. Second, we develop a regional vision for the park. The future of the park could be better integrated with the future of the region. Third, we look at multiple case studies around the nation and the world to understand other innovative ways of making a job center even more competitive than it is. Last, we have a detailed report where we have a section with recommendations that are implementable and actionable for stakeholders to consider and implement to better the park.

First, we will talk about economics. When we looked at the economy of the region with the two counties combined, we analyzed the economy in two major categories. The first we call local services. Those refer to restaurants, local hospitals and local daycare. Those are mainly consumed by local residents on Long Island. The second bucket is called tradeable sectors. Those are industries that export goods and services to other regions. In our analysis, we want to prioritize the tradable sectors because of their importance in the economy. Tradeable clusters bring outside dollars in, create goods and services, and offer better paying jobs for the residents. That is why tradeable clusters and sectors are a more reliable and resilient path for a regions long

term economic development. In this graph on the right-hand side, we use the color orange to denote the percentage of jobs in the geography in the local service areas. We use blue to refer to jobs in the tradeable clusters. You can see on the lower bar, the number for the U.S. You will notice that 36% of jobs are in tradable clusters. The middle bar which represents Long Island's economy shows only 23% of jobs are in the tradable clusters. The good news is that if you look at the Hauppauge Industrial Park, now known as the Long Island Industrial Park at Hauppauge, more than half or 58% of jobs in the park are in the tradable clusters. That is why we want to acknowledge not only the size of the park being a major asset, but also the concentration of tradable cluster jobs in the park can really help it become a stronger player in the region of the revitalization of the economy.

In addition to looking at the economy as local and tradeable sectors, we also divided the economy into different clusters to understand what areas are growing and which ones have the largest potential for the park and for the region. Based on our analysis, we selected nine key clusters on which the region and the park can focus. These clusters are either very large or very specialized or they are experiencing substantial growth. These clusters are aerospace, pharmaceuticals, business services, construction materials, distribution and e-commerce, education and research, finance, food processing and IT and analytical instruments. Based on our analysis, we believe these are holding the largest potential for future growth and if the park prioritized these clusters, they could also become a larger player for the entire region's growth. Based on our understanding of the data and also multiple interviews with important stakeholders in the area, like in the government, institutions, the business community, we came up with these five key strategies for the stakeholders to consider. These five strategies are to:

1. Facilitate business growth
2. Attract and retain knowledge workers
3. Strengthen training and workforce development efforts
4. Promote innovation and technology transfer
5. Connect business, governments and institutions

Based on our understanding of the needs of these different industry clusters, we believe that by prioritizing these five policy actions, the region and the park can grow in a more integrated way. Also, because the park has such a large concentration of companies and tradeable sector jobs, we believe that the park also offers an opportunity to translate what appear to be high level strategy recommendations into detailed actions on the ground. We think that it is important for the park to design a regional vision for itself to begin to translate these larger policy strategies into detailed actionable recommendations.

For the regional vision, we believe that the park should be the center of Long Island's economic future and achieving the park's potential will require broad collaboration. Sharing the park's long-term vision requires support. As you can see on the map, geographically the park is already at the center. In this report we argue that the park should play an even more central role in the economy.

Overall, we have three elements we want the stakeholders to consider. The first one is about policy alignment which means that the park should really align its growth strategies with the

government priorities and the regional industry trends. For example, for the New York State consolidated funding application, four interconnecting strategies have been identified. They are placemaking, workforce, tradeable sectors and innovation. By aligning the park's growth strategies with that of the government, the park can become more competitive in the future. The second element of our original vision is to think about partnerships in very broad categories with both institutions and major private sector partners as well as non-profits. We believe the man power, resources and expertise of partnerships can help the park grow in a smarter and more competitive way. The last major element of our original vision is about competition. We are talking about the fact that the park is not the only job center on Long Island which is striving to be competitive. It is important for the stakeholders of the park to asses the competitors, to learn from them, to differentiate from them, and to collaborate with them if we are thinking about broad and ambitious investments.

At the last section of the report, we have a more detailed action plan where we have four types of recommendations

1. Regulation and Zoning
2. Public Realm
3. Business Facility and Amenity
4. Management and Operation

I am just going to quickly run through some recommendations in greater detail. In the report, we propose zoning changes to be adopted by the municipalities. We recommend Smithtown to modify its overlay district in terms of building heights and density criteria. We believe this can unlock more potential for the park. Based on our analysis of the view code and building heights, we don't see the recommendations seriously interrupting the experience of the residents. We also propose a mixed-use development along Meadowbrook Parkway as well as residential development to be situated on the east side of the park where there are already green spaces and parks connected to it. We believe by creating these mixed use and residential recommendations at these locations, we can begin to create a live/work environment in the park instead of just having everyone leave at 6pm with nothing happening after.

Also, as James mentioned earlier, we propose a social network to be happening in the park in a more intense way. In the report, we have detailed strategies regarding how to combine social networking with specific industry growth trends to provide networks and spaces for industries in the same cluster to co-mingle and think about how they can grow together. Also, we propose a three-phase strategy to enhance innovation. In the short term, we can think about co-working spaces, in the medium term we can think about incubators and in the long term a full-blown innovation center might be appropriate at a select location in the park to make different companies come together and exchange ideas and combine resources.

Again, in the report we have long list of such recommendations, but we want to highlight one of the most important elements of such recommendations which is the workforce training center. Because we know that even though Long Island benefits from the high education attainment of its overall population, workforce training is still a pressing need in the region. We discuss four reasons for this in the report. First, there is an aging workforce problem in certain industries.

Specifically, we are talking about aerospace and IT where based on the data and conversations with companies, we see the majority of the workforce retiring very soon. Second, based on our interviews with companies, many of companies have difficulty filling their job openings. Here specifically, we are talking about major companies such as pharma, business services and finance. As companies keep growing, there are new job opportunities constantly filling the market, but no one is taking them because there is a mismatch in what is required and what exists in the workforce. Third, there is an equity issue to address because there are many underserved communities such as new immigrants and families in poverty who can benefit from workforce training to have a more secure career path for their future. Lastly, when we have conversations with different institutions, government agencies, and businesses, we see that there are organizations providing some sort of training, but there is a lack of coordination and resource optimization going on here. If there can be a connection of those entities, there could be economies of scale and we could create a more industry driven workforce training program for the institutions and labor force that we are serving. Again, there is an example in the report where we provide more detail of the case of an Ohio based organization that provides workforce training for the labor force, but also organizes high school students to come to the large clients to observe what is happening and to be inspired and motivated for pursue internships and further careers.

In order to consider planning and developing such a workforce training center in Hauppauge and Long Island in general, we need a business plan. In our proposal, we have a two-phase recommendation for the business plan. The first phase of the business plan is about economic data analysis and Long Island partnership analysis. The second phase is about reviewing existing stakeholder input, designing the Workforce Training Center focus area and facilities planning, designing organizational structure and putting together the operational strategy and fast-start business plan. We want to stress that phase one is not isolated from phase two. Phase one will become part of phase two. For example, the economic data analysis will become part of the curriculum recommendations, focus area and facilities planning in phase two. The Long Island partnership analysis will become a part of the organizational structure defined in phase two.

For the economic data analysis, we propose to look at two areas in detail. The first one is about industries. Here we are talking about analyzing data based on industries, firms and companies and also job openings to really understand where the needs are in terms of skills and also the pipeline for the key industries. Second, we want to look at population and demographic trends. We are talking about taking a snapshot of Long Island communities because it is a very diverse region and we want to understand age, educational attainment, socio-economic background of different communities to begin to understand who needs the workforce training the most and where we can have the maximum level of social benefits in the region when we provide workforce training. Overall, this two-phase process will culminate with a skill gap analysis where we will identify preliminary curriculum recommendations for the center. Such analysis from phase one will directly inform and become part of phase two in the business plan where we define the focus area and curriculum in greater detail.

The second part of business plan we are proposing is the Long Island partnership analysis. As I mentioned earlier, multiple organizations in different sectors (government, academic institutions, private sector and business and civic associations) are providing some support for workforce

training. We propose to analyze how their goals and policies could be aligned, assess the training capacity, and identify resource and funding opportunities. We are not simply talking about money, but also man power and expertise which are crucial to making a workforce training center successful. In the end, we want to construct a narrative case which can be useful when we bring this Workforce Training Center plan to other areas and agencies who may want to work with us. As I mentioned earlier, our work defined here could directly inform and become part of the phase two business plan when we talk about organizational structure and implementation strategy.

I will leave the final comments to James.

James Lima: We welcome any questions that you have and encourage you to review the work. There are detailed score cards for each of those identifiable sectors about what is working well and where there are gaps and well as opportunities to grow the sectors. Again, we would propose to create one deliverable which would work toward the creation of one complete business plan which has two key components and reports the data findings and analysis of our economic assessment as well as who are the potential academic institutional partners who help with both the motivation and resources to participate collectively in this Long Island workforce training investment. With that, we welcome any questions you may have. Thanks for the opportunity to present.

Question: I am part of an organization that may be able to help with training resources. I would also like to know how are you interacting with the LIA? Are you working with them or are they competition?

James Lima: We are here to serve the greater interest of the Long Island economies. We have no specific agenda and we want to talk to everybody about what is working well today, who is doing what currently, and who has the interest and the resources to participate in the future to benefit everyone. We are open to talking to and engaging with and considering the possibility of partnerships among any number of groups. As far as the implementation strategy, that will be an outcome of the analysis. Who is best situated to be part of providing those resources over time is open ended and we look forward to future conversations. Just to be clear, we are a consulting firm hired to provide you with this report. We are working in collaboration with the HIA-LI but have no direct relationship or membership with that organization.

Question: Fabulous presentation. I am curious how transportation dovetails into everything.

James Lima: It is definitely a study in and of itself to think about how to create stronger connections there. One of the things we looked at that is happening right now is in the Brooklyn Navy Yard which is also an industrial phenomenon in terms of the growth and innovation. They have partnerships that allowed them to deploy driverless shuttle vehicles throughout the campus. We have discussed how to create more bus service to make stronger connection from train stations to the park. As the park continues to grow and be understood for the economic generator that it is, resource allocation to the park will follow. We have not had a significant amount of State support but maybe overtime, we would see it in terms of increasing mobility options.

Telegraphing the importance of this Center may allow the State to see and amplify those benefits by taking the assets we have and being strategic about those stronger connections.

Question: We do have a strong need for Workforce Development. Is there a plan to leverage the current resources the State has toward workforce development?

James Lima: There are two task forces or working groups already dedicated to improving the state of workforce training on Long Island. Those are two groups to plug into to make sure that the starting point for assessing how to move forward ensuring the good work that is happening is leveraged with what exists. I think we have identified that part of this process is to know what is already happening on the ground today and to build off those resources. In terms of state funding, we are trying to create greater relevance and a more compelling policy argument to say that when the state of New York goes through its annual combined funding process it is thinking about priorities. We hope that they see that one of the priorities is clearly workforce development. So how do we make it possible for the state to say yes to more resources? How do we make it possible to talk to all of you about the partnerships so we make this actionable and implementable? We are looking to get to a specific plan with some rigorous analysis behind it allowing government, private and philanthropic funding to get behind us.

Jeff Kraut: I think that is the whole point of this. You do rigorous analysis to have a fact base and then you have a compelling document with those facts. There are many strategies to development. My organization has a major commitment to workforce development because we see it as the future.

John Cameron: James, the wisdom of the HIA is obvious. They are saying we are 8% of the GDP of Long Island and we are successful, but we can do much better. I'm sure you will be looking at better transit connections so you can facilitate workforce access to the site. The creation of this Workforce Training Center for us could be a model for Long Island. We need to train workers for the jobs of today. We pride ourselves on our K-12 excellent educational system but it does have challenges across equity. We also have strong colleges and universities on Long Island. That being said, the narrow band may not be satisfied. I know that organizations have focused on this in the past, but I think that you with the HIA-LI working with the LIRPC looking at and identifying needs, can be successful. The only way Long Island is going to be affordable is to increase the denominator and the only way to accomplish that is to have a vibrant economy with a young work force that will be able to grow with the economy. We consider this a venture with high importance. I believe that this can be the model for other centers on Long Island.

James Lima: Thank you for that. I also want to flag a project that is worth visiting. It is called Northland Workforce Training Center. It is in Buffalo, New York and it has been the recipient of significant New York State government support. It is a workforce training center for technology innovation, but it's specifically targeted for more equitable economic development providing greater access to economic opportunities for underserved communities for the immediate and wider Buffalo area. It also is acting as a revitalization project for a distressed neighborhood in Buffalo. It is a partnership among multiple academic institutions co-located with an advanced manufacturing prototyping facility. In other words, there is a Workforce Community Training Center where all the kids are and adjacent to it is a facility that SUNY and the SUNY Foundation

and the State of New York with its funding support helped to establish which has equipment that individual companies couldn't possibly afford. There are shared places for prototyping. There is a 3D printer that allows you to make parts to test something you otherwise wouldn't have the chance to do. It is a hub of innovation run by a third party. When you are trying to attract people to Long Island you would end your tour at this hub which would be part beer hall, part TED talks, sound stage, automated robotics, automated printing of 3D metal parts. It knocked our socks off when we saw it. The other important piece to that to note is that it is owned and operated by the Buffalo Urban Development Corp. I think one of the things that Long Island needs to think about is the fact that we don't have an entity like this. It's a public benefit corporation funded mostly by government money. It's a relatively small facility in terms of staffing, but it's very high capacity so it has ability to take ownership of property. The State gave them money, they were able to acquire an area of abandoned factories. They have the capacity to pick architects and contractors and oversee the renovation. They have the ability to own and operate the facility long term through the management contracts for others. Now, the HIA-LI is not that entity but it's something to take a look at and think about in terms of how Long Island can be more competitive. Long Island could think about having something like a New York Economic Development or like the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corp. These entities that are set up to be the stewards of economic growth without actually doing the business themselves, but to be the landlord and facilitator.

John Cameron: I think the idea of this Center is to be focused on identifying needs as well as resources. We are looking to give people who would like to pursue a trade without a four-year degree an opportunity. I think the ideal goal is to identify the needs and collaborate energies and efforts to the mutual success of the Island because the success of the Island depends upon collaboration. I think together we need to realize that if this really works at the HIA, at the Innovation Park, maybe it can work in other areas too. This can be the fulcrum or hub by which folks reach out to create jobs. This is very exciting.

Joe Campollo: I want to address that at the HIA-LI we act as the advocates for not just our members but for folks inside the Industrial Park. We have partnered very closely with people on this project and with folks interested in policy. LIBI is interested in housing. The HIA is interested in policy. The park is the second largest in the country second only to Silicon Valley which only became Silicon Valley because of advocacy and marketing. That is what we at the HIA-LI are interested in doing. We want to protect and preserve jobs. We partner with everyone. The importance is that 58% tradeable jobs are in the park versus only 26% on Long Island as a whole. If we can continue to grow the tradeable jobs on Long Island, it means that we will be less burdened by tax dollars over time with more profit dollars coming to the sector. We are open for business at the HIA-LI with anyone who wants to help us with this.

Jeff Guillot: I want to applaud this report. I want to recognize how important it is to see the tangible industry pipeline problems we have in this region. Folks just don't know about the great jobs in manufacturing that are available in this region. This is one reason we lose young people to other places. I graduated from Hauppauge High School and grew up in the shadow of this Industrial Park. In high school I was never told that one of the best ways to earn \$100,000/year before you turn 30 on Long Island is to become a union plumber. One thing that I never learned is that there is a real value and need to work in manufacturing and that you don't need a four-

year degree to be able to own a home out here. My sincere hope is that this Innovation Center can start to answer some of those questions for people and start to remove the negative connotations that exist for things like BOCES and other workforce training programs.

John Cameron: Great presentation. We sincerely look forward to working with you. We are now looking forward to facetimeing with Supervisor Wehrheim who couldn't be here with us today. In the meantime, while we get connected, I will conduct the Chairman's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

John Cameron: First, I would like to thank Hofstra University for their hospitality. I would also like to thank the IDA and EDC for supporting us in this pathway moving forward.

As we all know, the economy is very strong right now not just nationally, but in the state and on Long Island. Locally, we have the lowest unemployment we have seen in decades. Challenges still abound, but what we need to do is still capitalize on the assets that we do have as we face the challenges we are facing. The Country is more divided than it has been in the last 50 years, since the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement in the 60s. Some of us remember those days. It's unfortunate that it is not just one issue that divides us and makes it a challenge to come together to tackle issues that we face. While New York is a great state in which to live, it is still at a national competitive disadvantage due to high taxes and in particular now with the Federal tax changes. The state and local tax limitations make it more difficult for Long Islanders and the rest of the State. We also know that we have an aging infrastructure that requires significant capital investment. This is unfortunately the off-balance sheet liability that hasn't yet been addressed. A major capital investment is necessary at the state and local level. Long Island is also suffering from a perceived anti-business environment. Based on the debacle of the Amazon departure, it is real not just perceived. New York is a difficult place in which to do business making it difficult to attract new businesses. On the Island, we still face the challenges of heavy tax burden, lack of affordable rental housing, aging infrastructure, environmental challenges, and the high cost of public services, and a lack of parity in the K-12 education system. While we celebrate some great successes in education, we also have some of the poorest performers. We have discussed this in a number of meetings. Specifically, Elaine Gross presented the challenges in her "How do We Build a Just Long Island." We see these issues in both housing and education on Long Island. This disparity is something that affects each and every one of us on Long Island. We have a declining millennial population which effects the demographics in many ways and affects our future workforce. We need to continue to address this challenge. Additionally, we have an aging workforce. This aging workforce results not only in retirements, but also affects the cost of health care. There are many reasons why the healthcare industry is one of the largest growing industries on Long Island. The aging population is one reason.

The Council has continued to work diligently on numerous issues affecting Long Island's sustainability, including numerous supplements and sub-elements of the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan. Many of you may recall we are co-managing that with the New York State DEC. There are a number of elements and programs we are working on. The group has made many presentations. This is headed up by Rich and Liz, but also by the LINAP Program Manager Kyle Rabin who is with us today. Every day, you can turn the page in Newsday to see that we have

lots to work on whether its nitrogen contamination of our surface waters and ground waters or our drinking water. There are new initiatives that have been advanced. We are very focused on this. Kyle attended a presentation in Stonybrook where they are looking at different ways of treating contaminations from waste water here on Long Island.

We are also working on economic development and the creation of affordable workforce housing and affordable rental housing. Affordable meaning something that our young millennials can afford. The focus of those have mainly been in our downtown areas and transit served areas. We are working with Nassau County. We have a meeting next month with the Mayor of Farmingdale in conjunction with Nassau County looking at the positive economic impacts of the downtown. You may remember we did this presentation a number of months back on the Village of Patchogue and now we will be doing a similar study in Nassau County focused on the Village of Farmingdale which has also been undergoing a Renaissance.

Lastly, a thank you to all the Council Members who made the effort to be here today on a hot July day, especially Supervisor Ed Wehrheim for calling in. Thank you also to the diligent staff of Rich Guardino, Liz Cole and Missy Leder who are doing an excellent job managing the stewardship of this Council.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Rich Guardino: Let me return the compliment. As you know, all of our members are volunteers and they have very busy lives and are very involved in many organizations. So, thank you. Congratulations to Theresa Sanders who recently stepped down as Chair of the Suffolk County Community College. She served there for two terms and did an excellent job during some interesting times. Fortunately, she will continue to serve on the College Board of Trustees. Let's give her a well-deserved round of applause.

John mentioned the Farmingdale study. We have a meeting set up with Todd Poole from 4ward Planning next month. Many of you are familiar with the great job he did with the study on the Village of Patchogue. I think it is important in terms of some of the data we have from that report in encouraging revitalizations of downtowns providing housing opportunities in downtowns and getting real numbers. I won't go into all of the details today, but suffice it to say, it was an economic net positive to the school districts to have multi-family dwellings. That is not always what people expect when we start to talk about revitalization. We are going to do the study in Farmingdale. We are scheduled to have a meeting next month with members of Nassau County Planning, John Cameron and Todd Poole in Patchogue.

The other thing I wanted to mention is that Suffolk County has announced they have retained Raftelis as the consultant for the Water Quality Improvement District Study for which the Council approved funding. The kick off meeting for the study is next week. Raftelis is a national firm with experience working with utilities and government agencies on financial operations and governance issues. Hofstra and the Town of Hempstead are working on the quality assurance project plan for the water quality plan managing of the south shore estuary. This plan is necessary to have in place before we get in the field and actually do the water quality monitoring. The good news is they are working closely with the DEC and we hope to have a

plan in place shortly which will put them in the position to be in the field in the Fall doing water quality monitoring in the south shore. You may remember that there are a number of initiatives which will help in terms of the south shore estuary. One of these being the Bay Park diversion to Cedar Creek. The other being the changing of the Long Beach sewer system to a pumping station. There is also an engineering study looking at possibly sewerage Point Lookout. All of which will be great improvement for the water quality in the estuary and we will be able to get a baseline for that based on the work we are doing with Hofstra and the Town of Hempstead.

Finally, I will mention the STEM program which the Council is taking on. Six schools have agreed to participate in our program. The challenge is geared to grades 6, 7 and 8 and will run during the 2019-2020 year. We are really looking forward to working with these young people and giving them an education as to water quality as well.

Theresa Sanders: I wanted to congratulate Mayor Kennedy. He was elected as President of the New York State Conference of Mayors.

John Cameron: Supervisor Wehrheim is now with us on Facetime so we have a quorum. Thank you for accommodating so we can do our business.

Richard Guardino: Supervisor Wehrheim has joined us. Let's go through the roll call one more time so we establish the quorum. John Cameron, Jeff Kraut, Theresa Sanders, Elizabeth Custodio, Barbara Donno, Jeff Guillot, Mayor Kennedy, Supervisor Wehrheim.

Adoption of the April 18, 2019 minutes. All in favor.

Motion to Accept: Jeff Kraut
Seconded: Elizabeth Custodio
All in Favor: 8
Opposed: 0
So Moved.

The next resolution adopts a sexual harassment policy for the Long Island Regional Planning Council. All New York State Employers are required to adopt a written sexual harassment prevention policy and provide employees with prevention training by October 9th, 2019. The Council obviously wants to be in full compliance. The policy before you is the model sexual harassment policy recommended by New York State.

Motion to Accept Resolution No. 2019-103: Theresa Sanders
Seconded: Jeff Kraut
All in Favor: 8
Opposed: 0
So moved.

The next resolution authorizes an agreement for Consulting Services with James Lima Planning and Development for advisory services to advance planning and development of a Workforce Training Center at the Long Island Innovation Park.

Motion to Accept Resolution No. 2019-104: Jeff Kraut
Seconded: Jeff Guillot
All in Favor: 8
Opposed: 0
So moved.

PRESENTATION:
“Nassau Demographic Profile; Key Population Trends”
Jack Schnirman, Nassau County Comptroller

I would like to start by saying how happy I am to come before the LIRPC. I will just take a moment, and I know I am preaching to the choir when I look around the room and see familiar faces and I listen to the conversation that just took place with so much agreement, but it's easy to forget that it isn't always easy to get agreement and conversation about the issues we face. To me, this underscores the absolute importance of the Regional Planning Council. It has always been thoughtful and I argue, pound for pound, it's one of the better investments that our Counties make. We have a combined total spend closing in on \$6 almost \$7 billion in our budgets and for many years, there was not necessarily agreement on squirreling what is a relatively very small amount of investment in order to make this Council a go. The fact that it is back up and running and running in the right way, playing a critical role on Long Island, speaks much better to the potential for our future as a region. The future of regional planning and good evidence-based policy. If you think about some of the issues that were discussed earlier and some of the issues that face our Island, they don't stop at and respect the political boundaries of specific villages, towns, and districts or even Counties. Whether it be extreme weather, the opioid crisis, water quality, economic issues, or demographics, these things all cross the political and geographical boundaries. Today I am going to talk about how demographics are our destiny on Long Island.

Our office did a demographic analysis and we are pleased to talk about it a little bit. By way of background, Nassau County is one of the first suburban counties in the country. We are next to New York City. We evolved more than we were designed in terms of governance and suburban planning. Over a period of decades, government has catered to the needs of the population that we had. We had young first-time homebuyers returning from World War II, using their GI Bill to access greater education and build a life for families. It's important to note that we stand here having this conversation when we are about to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. We are getting to a point where that extraordinary, historic achievement in which Long Island played a critical role is old news. We have work to do to bring what might be the next moon landing to Long Island. For decades, it made sense for government to take steps to fit the needs of the population. Today, we know government needs to react faster to our changing population. It is what we are talking about as the deal. The deal of living on Long Island, not only in Nassau County. The deal has been that we have beaches, parks, good schools, access to New York City and the East End and we have had a strong local economy by and large. It has been a great place to live, yet it has to make sense for all of us who choose to live here. The deal is essentially the agreement between our residents and those of us who work in government to make it all work.

So, how can we best respond to the needs today? Let's look at the challenges that exist today. This group is working to address many of the needs and challenges with things like the very thoughtful Tax Alternative Study last year. Some of these challenges are cost of living, practical ways to promote job creation, attracting and retaining young workers, expanding affordable transit-oriented housing units, public transportation, and the need and opportunity for young people to build their careers here when they have the choice to go elsewhere now more than ever before.

One thought I will add before diving into the demographic numbers is that at a time when we are making these historic investments in public transportation on Long Island and investing in the Long Island Railroad is that we talk about our public transportation almost exclusively as anchored into getting us into and out of the city, simply east to west. North to south is a very difficult way to traverse in Nassau County. The public transit system provides virtually no way to get from north to south. For years, we said it's too expensive and too hard and it can't be done. Other areas are doing just this and the numbers we are about to look at suggest it is time. The numbers beg the question, is the cost of doing nothing outweighing the cost of doing something? The cost of nothing is more young people leaving, more traffic, more frustration, lost economic activity which comes with not making investment in transit. It is something that I know this Council will chew on as we go forward.

On Long Island we all share in common the fact that we pay a lot of taxes. We expect a certain level of service for those taxes. Essentially, government needs to be able to deliver and find out exactly what needs to be delivered. For this reason, we created our new unit of policy and research in the Comptroller's office headed up by Marvin McMoore sitting to my right. We have put out a series of data driven reports to try to create a more evidence-based conversation for policy makers in the county. Very briefly, to review, in November, we released a fact sheet on Veterans in Nassau in food and security. In December, we released a report that provides really the crux of what we will present today. In February, we released a report on black economic equity and an issue brief on MWBEs in Nassau County. In March, we did a report on women in the workforce and in May a report that examined the characteristics of our local Asian community, which is one of the fastest growing population segments Nassau County. Keep an eye out for more to come including the 2020 census and additional work on the next generation and how they are thinking about Long Island and perhaps how we can impact how they think about Long Island as we go forward.

As they say, given all that, let's get into the numbers. All of us know that Nassau County and Long Island overall is changing. We see the obvious changes. We are getting more diverse and older. Our population of 1.3 million would be declining if not for immigration. Our population has had a 4.5% growth rate since 2005 driven solely by foreign immigration. If we think about that, without getting into the national topics, on a local level, we need to deal with who is here and respect the fact that without foreign immigration, our economy would not be where it is. For a long time on Long Island, I think the discussion has centered around top-level things and how we deal with our young professionals leaving. We see this unbalanced equation which has a terrible impact on our tax base and tilts government in the direction of making sure that our senior citizens have what they need in place as they age. If these trends continue at the current rate with the tax base eroding, these issues become an economic threat to Long Island. What we

have found is that government has not been up to the challenge of efficiently serving the modern population. It seems that we have been stuck in a mode where we are delivering services in many ways that are similar to the 1950s. The technology in government has not improved over the decades. Dealing with the Nassau County government, I can tell you that the financial system is based on technology from the 1960s. We have someone from Hempstead Town Government in the room who is wrestling with typewriters the way that we wrestle with microfiche in our office. This just doesn't make sense any more and it is indicative of the fact that government needs to think anew. There have been gaps. There are language gaps in the sense that government is slow to respond to language access issues. There are education gaps, financial gaps, healthcare systems that need to gear up to prepare for an increase in the average age of our population. Kudos to the Regional Planning Council for having one of the smartest people in healthcare out there on the Council.

An interesting bottom line according to policy link and courtesy of Theresa Sanders from the Urban League is that Nassau County is going to become a majority-minority in 2030, well ahead of the nation. The government needs to evolve now before the cost to adjust at the last minute will be astronomical. It is the cost of doing nothing. As I mentioned the Urban League and PolicyLink reported on the missing economic activity and I think Elaine Gross got into this as well because of the racial income gap. If that income gap was closed, black income on Long Island would grow by \$4.5 billion. It's extraordinary. Not only is that unjust but it is also inefficient for the rest of Nassau County. The pie for the rest of Nassau County and Long Island should be much bigger than it is, meaning we all are paying much more in taxes than we need to. If we grew the tax base by that \$4.5 billion, we would reduce the tax burden on the rest of us. If you don't care for the right reasons, you should care for the wrong reasons.

Looking at the specifics of the numbers. In the Asian community 104,568 speak languages other than English. If you look at a black equity perspective, a variety of countries make up a substantial part of Nassau County's population. We have done these briefings all over Nassau County for policy makers of both parties at all levels of government. More often than not, even among folks who know their communities well, the reaction is either "Wow, I didn't know that" or "I kind of had that sense but I have never seen these number laid out." This confirms everything we have been thinking." As a policy and research unit, we are trying to make the point that here is the data, here is where we are at, and now we can't ignore it anymore. Looking at the overall population, Nassau County is highly educated, but with racial disparities and an achievement gap that can no longer be ignored. We cannot grow our economy with a shrinking achievement gap and a shrinking youth population. Your race or zip code should not be a determining factor in what determines success.

This leads us to the discussion of the census which is the elephant in the room. As we speak there is still some controversy at the national level about how it will be done and if it will be a fair and accurate count. The census is important because this is how we get our fair share from the Federal government. This is how we are recognized. I say that as the proud co-chair of the local government subcommittee of the Complete Count Committee. Here is a big number to throw at you. Six hundred and seventy-five billion dollars in annual funding is at stake for Long Island. That is huge. Compared to the enormous \$7 billion we spend as County governments, this is where it is at. Some big-ticket items, like highway funding, Medicare, Medicaid, Section

8, childhood health insurance program, foster care, are determined in Albany and Washington DC based on the census. A 0.6% undercount would mean that New York State would lose two members of Congress at a time when if you look at state and local tax situation that we have been hit with, you can see that we cannot afford to lose representation. We need more representation not less.

Which brings me to the concept of where we are from a government perspective. We have the complete count committees in both counties. There is a thoughtful effort going on. It may prove to need more funding, but it is important work going on. Suffolk County has been ahead of Nassau County on language access. Nassau County is beginning to make strides moving forward. Our policy and research unit has brought me to renew our call for partnership. There is no reason to duplicate efforts. We are happy to work with anyone that is taking a thoughtful approach to provide evidence-based research and recommendations to this critical issue.

Before I finish, I want to highlight an exciting initiative of our policy and research unit that has been expanding over the course of the summer. This is our Open Nassau Transparency Hub. Nassau County got a D+ a couple of years ago on an open record score card. Not a great result and work needs to be done. In our first year and a half, I think we have won the most improved player award so to speak. Online now, you can see our open checkbook. All of the money that is spent is explained. All the County financials are available to all without formal requests. Feel free to take a look and please spread the word.

I'm happy to take questions.

Jeff Guillot: Do we know the ethnic composition of the folks ages 18-40 that we are losing in the area? Are we losing more Caucasian young people versus folks of color? My thought would be that we are losing folks from the North Shore and the South Shore and not as many from the center of the County. Is there any data?

Jack Schnirman: The data is based mostly on class and economic class and not race. Those without the economic means are obviously not moving as readily.

John Cameron: There is a common theme to these two presentations today. I think the takeaway is focusing on how we capitalize on the assets we have. There is a changing demographic here that the HIA-LI has presented this morning. We need examine the opportunities that come with change. Change is inevitable and we need to deal with it rather than face the consequences. Let's recognize it and embrace it. There are great opportunities here. Just because the demographic is changing doesn't mean that there will be less people going to college. Maybe some of the underserved communities need to have a lift to give them the access to the American Dream, whatever that dream is. There should be equal opportunity for all. These two presentations highlight the changes that are happening and it is up to us to embrace it.

Comment: I think one thing Long Island is missing a branding effort. It would be great to create a PR program using numbers, facts and figures that shows the Millennials that this is a great place to live! There are great beaches, access to downtowns, terrific public schools, etc.

There is nothing like that and it would be great if your office could use what you have presented to bring it to a larger platform.

Jack Schnirman: That is a great idea. Coincidentally, last night I saw a video series that County Executive Curran has been rolling out talking about the welcome mat this county has for people. It talks about how wonderful it is to live in Nassau County and discusses all the amenities that the county has to offer. I think you are right. Let's make an argument to why living in Nassau County is so great while we are also improving the county.

Comment: I think we need to create and dictate the conversation nationally. I think you have the raw data to help get us there.

Jeff Guillot: I agree we want to get to that place.

Question: On immigrants, did you differentiate between legal and illegal in your data?

Jack Schnirman: We don't have access to that sort of data. The data that we use is coming from the American Community Survey.

John Cameron: It is always an interesting conversation to talk about how to document the undocumented.

Jeff Kraut: The undocumented are getting deeper underground now and harder to count. It is going to be a major challenge for the census. The number of people acknowledging their status is changing.

Jack Schnirman: From a government perspective, the fact is that we need to provide services to whomever is here.

Comment: They are probably not in your numbers.

Jack Schnirman: We are trying to push the message that people are safe to fill in the census. We are trying to educate folks that even if they are not citizens, we will need to provide services and therefore need the funding. That being said, to apply for the funding we need to have everyone fill out the census. We are otherwise at risk of losing funding and representatives. We all need to be ambassadors to tell friends and family and people in the communities to fill out the census. We are otherwise at risk of losing dollars and representation.

Rich Guardino: And they are looking for leadership in those areas where undocumented live in order to build confidence in the community. They are hoping to guide and make folks comfortable filling out the census.

Jack Schnirman: If you go to census.gov/jobs you can find the application. We are going to out to county communities and looking for people who can be hired who will be able to help get people in those communities to fill out the census. In the short term, the Census is hiring for jobs that will pay between \$21.50 and \$30.00/ hour.

John Cameron: Thank you very much everybody. I look forward to our next meeting and please enjoy the rest of your summer!

Adjournment