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CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

April 5, 2022

Held at

474 BROADWAY

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK 12866

PRESENT:

RON KIM, Mayor

DILLON MORAN, Commissioner of

Accounts

JAMES MONTAGNINO, Commissioner of

Public Safety

MINITA SANGHVI, Commissioner of

Finance

TARA GASTON, Supervisor

MATTHEW VEITCH, Supervisor

1

2

MAYOR KIM: Good evening, everyone.

3

I think we're gonna to start the public

4

hearings. They're scheduled for 6:30 to

5

begin. We have several, so we can run

6

through those. The first public hearing

7

is on the Civilian Review Board. I'd

8

ask anyone to come forward if they have

9

a comment on the public -- the Civilian

10

Review Board.

11

This is a matter that's been open

12

for a few City Council meetings. And as

13

the rules are, you have two minutes.

14

Please state your name when you come up

15

to the -- and -- and where you live when

16

you come up to mic and -- anyone have a

17

comment about the Civilian Review Board?

18

MS. GRAY: Good evening.

19

MAYOR KIM: Good evening.

20

MS. GRAY: Where is everybody?

21

It's only three of you.

22

MAYOR KIM: They'll -- they'll --

23

MS. GRAY: Okay.

24

MAYOR KIM: Minita, she's -- she's

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1 here is, is she's here, some place.

2 MS. GRAY: Sherry Gray. I've been
3 a resident of Saratoga Springs for more
4 than 30 years. And I've, you know,
5 never had an issue with the police in
6 Saratoga Springs, and I do support them.
7 However, I also highly support the
8 Civilian Review Board.

9 The police task force turned in
10 their report almost one year ago, this
11 month, to the State, and one of the
12 things that they wanted more than
13 anything was a Civilian report -- Review
14 Board and I can't understand why here we
15 are a whole year later with incidents
16 happening in the city just recently
17 again and we have no CRB.

18 Their report was very thorough. We
19 don't need to re-invent the wheel.
20 There's communities like Ithaca who have
21 had CRB since 1993. Go take theirs,
22 start it. Get it started and get it
23 started sooner rather than later, before
24 we have another very serious incident.
25 So whatever you have to do, get this

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 thing done, get some people to volunteer
3 for it.

4 It will probably change over time
5 as all of the almost 20 boards and
6 committees on your website probably have
7 changed and been altered and alternated
8 through different people in this city.
9 But let's get this thing going now
10 before we have another serious incident.
11 Thank you.

12 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Is there
13 anyone else here to speak about the
14 Civilian Review Board?

15 MR. CHRISTIANO: Hi, good evening.
16 My name is Bill Christiano, Benton
17 Drive, and I have a question for -- how
18 are the people on the board selected and
19 when is that process gonna begin?

20 MAYOR KIM: I'm -- I'm sorry. I
21 didn't hear the question.

22 MR. CHRISTIANO: How are the people
23 for the Civilian Review Board selected
24 and when is that selection process gonna
25 be begin?

26 MAYOR KIM: Do you want to -- do

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
you want to answer it?

2 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Yes. In
3 fact, if -- if I may respond, sir, to
4 your -- to your question, I had promised
5 at the last meeting that there would be
6 draft -- a draft ordinance that would
7 outline the CRB. I apologize that it's
8 not yet ready for public release. I'm
9 putting the finishing touches on it.

10 One of the things that's causing me
11 some difficulty is getting in place a
12 method for selecting the members of the
13 board. There are a number of different
14 suggestions that have been made over
15 time and what I'm -- what I'm intending
16 to do to answer both you and the lady
17 who spoke before you is not to reinvent
18 the wheel.

19 The task force had appendix G,
20 which is a very detailed recommendation
21 about how the Civilian Review Board
22 should be created and we had some public
23 comment on that. And one of the things
24 that I am struggling with is a method of
25 selection that would leave us with a

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 review board that's a fair cross section
3 of the community that has representation
4 of various sections that compose the
5 community and allow for people to step
6 up and volunteer to serve on the board.

7 So -- so that is something that's
8 on the front burner of the fine tuning,
9 if -- if you would.

10 MR. CHRISTIANO: Okay. So we'll be
11 notified, Saratoga residents, when
12 that's gonna begin and -- and how to put
13 your name in if you're interested.

14 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Yes --
15 yes. I -- the -- certainly, appendix G
16 speaks about that, speaks about a
17 specific form that would be promulgated
18 for people to fill out that it would be
19 available for public inspections so that
20 everyone could see who the people are,
21 who have put their names in as
22 volunteers.

23 MR. CHRISTIANO: Yeah.

24 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: And I'm -
25 - I'm trying to come up with a fair
selection process where the City Council

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 would have the authority to ratify the
3 selection and to guarantee that, for
4 example, appendix G speaks of at least
5 one member being between the ages of 18
6 and 30.

7 So trying to come up with a way of
8 making that selection so that we do have
9 at least one member 18 to 30 and to have
10 a -- a system in place where if there
11 needs to be a replacement for that
12 person, how that person would be
13 selected.

14 MR. CHRISTIANO: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: That's by
16 one -- way of one example.

17 MR. CHRISTIANO: Sure. All right.
18 Well, thank you very much.

19 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Thank --
20 thank you, sir, for your comment.

21 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
22 here to speak about the Civilian Review
23 Board? Seeing no one else who wants to
24 discuss the Civilian Review Board, I'm
25 gonna move to our second public hearing,
 which is on the Community Development

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 Block Grant Recommendations.

3 These were offered -- oh, I'm
4 sorry. Also, I'm reminded we're keeping
5 this open. Correct, Commissioner
6 Montagnino?

7 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Yes --
8 yes, Mr. -- Mr. Kim. I would ask that
9 to be the case.

10 MAYOR KIM: So the Civilian Review
11 Board will be left open. Our second
12 public hearing is on the Community
13 Development Block Grant Recommendations.
14 These were made at the last City Council
15 meeting. And I -- is there anyone here
16 to speak on -- on those recommendations
17 for funding?

18 Seeing no one who wishes to speak,
19 this is also being left open. I believe
20 we're gonna be voting on this at the
21 next City Council meeting. We'll move
22 to the third public hearing, which is on
23 Possible Amendments to the Unified
24 Development Ordinance.

25 And on that the -- I'd ask people
to step to the mic if you have last City

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1 Council meeting we passed to the UDO and
2 now we're -- I ask soliciting any
3 amendments from the public.

4 MS. GRAY: Hi, Sherry Gray. I'm
5 back again.

6 MAYOR KIM: Yeah.

7 MS. GRAY: 30-year resident of
8 Saratoga Springs. I currently serve on
9 zoning. I don't wanna any -- really
10 discuss any particular parts of the UDO.
11 I just wanna mention that during the
12 process, I went to many of the meetings
13 and asked questions and expressed some
14 disappointment in some of the changes,
15 and I never felt like I got any answer
16 as far as why something was changed or
17 where the logic came in the change in
18 the UDO.

19 And these were particular zoning
20 issues that I thought should maybe
21 either stay the same or should change
22 just a little bit. And there was really
23 no back and forth discussion. There was
24 no one that said to me, oh, this is why
25 we've decided to change it this way. It

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
was just, thanks for your suggestions.

2 End of story.

3 So, yeah, I have a lot of concerns
4 about some of the changes that are gonna
5 come with the UDO, but I just felt like
6 I was really never heard. Thank you.

7 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Any --

8 MR. JONES: Your Honor, members of
9 the council, I'm Matt Jones of Jones
10 Steves. I practice law here in Saratoga
11 Springs. Just a procedural question
12 mayor. Is the -- the amendments there
13 were a number of them that were
14 considered by the previous council, and
15 I've heard reference to the fact that
16 they -- they may be among the ones that
17 this council is -- is -- will be
18 considering or may be considering.

19 Could you just maybe outline the --
20 the process? Is there three or four
21 that are still pending? Is -- is that
22 the idea?

23 MAYOR KIM: So actually, no
24 amendments are currently pending. What
25 this hearing was for, and we may also do

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
a workshop where we're gonna have that
2 discussion with members of the City
3 Council and the public is really to
4 solicit any kind of amendments from the
5 public that they'd like to see us.

6 My guess is that the City Council
7 members will have some that they'll
8 propose. There may be some other
9 interested parties that will do that.
10 And that'll probably -- what we're
11 hoping to do is have that discussion and
12 maybe even some votes at the next City
13 Council meeting.

14 In addition to that, and this goes
15 to Miss Gray's comment, what we hope to
16 do is also have, as I said, I referred
17 early to a workshop that might be able
18 to also answer some of those fundamental
19 questions that people have you know,
20 about maybe how it or neighborhood, et
21 cetera.

22 And by the way, those might also --
23 those might be outside City Hall in
24 places -- in -- in neighborhoods that --
25 that might be interested in that.

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1 That's probably later in the you know,
2 Mayish that we'd be doing that. And --
3 and the hope would be that we'd know
4 more about the complete package of
5 what's not only was passed, but also any
6 amendments that have gone forward.

7 MR. JONES: And -- and the proposed
8 amendments that the council may be
9 considering at the next or future
10 meetings, they'll be linked up, will
11 they, on the --

12 MAYOR KIM: Yes.

13 MR. JONES: Great. Thanks, Your
14 Honor.

15 MAYOR KIM: Thanks. Anyone else
16 wish to be heard on the --

17 MS. MAHANEY: Good evening. Wendy
18 Mahaney, executive director of
19 Sustainable Saratoga. We've been
20 participating in the development --
21 development of the unified development
22 ordinance over the last couple of years.
23 Our goal, one, I believe we share with
24 the City Council and city staff is to
25 protect our green belt to keep our

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
downtown vibrant and to promote
2 sustainability and city practices.

3 The vision of Saratoga Springs
4 comprehensive plan includes a powerful
5 commitment, the overriding philosophy
6 that will guide future development in
7 our city and the country will be a
8 sustainability.

9 Compact urban design is a hallmark
10 of sustainable cities that will keep our
11 town business district alive with
12 residents who can walk, bike, or take
13 the bus from nearby homes and visitors
14 who are attracted by our city's unique
15 character.

16 However, unless we are vigilant,
17 our city's green belt can easily succumb
18 to the sprawl that is so common across
19 the country with higher costs for
20 building and maintaining more roads,
21 more water and sewer lines, more power
22 and gas lines.

23 New commercial and high density
24 development far from downtown would
25 encroach upon important natural

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resources and make people more dependent
2 upon cars, creating more traffic, more
3 fossil fuel use, and more carbon
4 emissions.

5 With that in mind, we're proposing
6 four specific amendments that can easily
7 be adopted during this current amendment
8 process that would uphold the 2015
9 comprehensive plan city and the country
10 vision. First, we proposed to remove
11 some specific users in the rural
12 residential and rural gateway districts
13 that have the greatest potential to
14 erode the rural character of the green
15 belt.

16 Second, we proposed to clarify
17 criteria and requirements for the land
18 use boards to ensure the maintenance of
19 rural character within the green belt.
20 Third, we recommend a few changes and
21 clarifications to the stream and wetland
22 protections.

23 And fourth, we suggest changes to
24 the land use disturbance activity permit
25 to ensure that an applicant cannot

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
circumvent the intent of the UDO. Over
2 the past two years, we've raised other
3 dish -- other issues with the UDO, which
4 should be addressed, affordable housing,
5 rural design standards, and green
6 building standards are top among them.

7 Some are detailed and we will
8 require a lot more time to adequately
9 address, but -- so we're pleased to hear
10 that the City Council considers the UDO
11 to be a living document, and we remain
12 committed to following up on these
13 issues with you in the future. And the
14 coming days, we'll send a detailed --
15 the City Council and staff, a detailed
16 list of our amendments and the rationale
17 behind them.

18 And we welcome the opportunity to -
19 - to discuss those and answer any
20 questions that you might have. Thank
21 you.

22 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
23 wish to be heard on our public hearing
24 for the Possible Amendments to the
25 Unified Development Ordinance? We are

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
going to keep that public hearing open
2 and of course, anything that we receive
3 from the pub -- public will be posted on
4 the website in due course so that people
5 can see what the City Council's
6 considering in connection with
7 amendments to the UDO.

8 Our next public hearing is the
9 Caroline Street Traffic Control. Is
10 there anyone who wishes to be heard on
11 the Caroline Street Traffic Control
12 public hearing?

13 MS. O'MALLEY: Hi, Olivia O'Malley,
14 McArthur Drive. I wanna reiterate what
15 I've said previously. The no parking
16 and no standing is working well and is
17 definitely necessary. The extended one
18 way does nothing for the safety of the
19 children and causes a lot of disruption
20 to the neighborhood.

21 The new do not enter sign should be
22 removed and traffic from the other
23 direction should instead be divide --
24 diverted onto Schuyler Drive. I wanna
25 thank you for providing a reliable and

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
efficient crossing guard. She's doing a
2 wonderful job and we're really grateful.

3 I do have to point out previously I
4 mentioned that Lake Avenue has three
5 crossing guards. Division Street also
6 has three crossing guards. Up until a
7 few weeks ago, we didn't have of one.
8 The project scores for the tips grant
9 were posted to the CDTC website and the
10 Caroline Street project scored very low
11 and low in comparison to the other
12 bicycle pedestrian projects.

13 If this project is not funded is
14 there another plan to fund the Caroline
15 Street sidewalk project? Thank you.

16 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Jim, do you
17 wanna answer that or (indiscernible)?
18 Anyone else wish to be heard on the
19 public hearing for Caroline Street
20 Traffic Control?

21 MS. HORST: Hi, good evening.
22 Susan Horst, 24 MacArthur. First, we
23 wanna thank you for employing a cross
24 walker at Caroline Street School. I
25 know you had to cast a wider net to do

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1 so, and we appreciate those efforts.

2 She is conscientious, punctual,
3 pleasant, and has a formidable presence.

4 We thank you again. Regarding this
5 issue at large, I know it is a concerted
6 effort. Commissioner Moran made it
7 clear two City Council meetings ago that
8 the safety of the walkers of Caroline
9 Street hinges on everyone doing their
10 part and asked for the school district
11 to step up.

12 Coupled with individually asking
13 each vehicle exiting the Caroline to
14 please turn left or right onto Schuyler,
15 I want to recount the following e-mail,
16 Dr. Packard, the principal, shared with
17 the Caroline Street School community on
18 March 4th. Dear Family, five years ago,
19 we had approximately 50 students getting
20 picked up by their parents at the end of
21 the school day.

22 Now we average 140 students being
23 picked up by parents each day. This has
24 caused a significant amount of cars
25 parking and traveling down Caroline

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
Street. This is a significant safety
2 concern for our student walkers that use
3 Caroline every day. Caroline Street
4 does not have a sidewalk after the stop
5 sign.

6 Thus, our children are sharing the
7 traffic with the -- sharing the road
8 with traffic. I'm asking all families
9 to help reduce traffic on Caroline
10 Street and improve the safety of our
11 walking students. There are two ways we
12 can immediately improve safety for our
13 children. One, when you leave school
14 and approach the four-way stop sign,
15 please do not drive Caroline's -- down
16 Caroline Street. Instead, please turn -
17 - turn right or left onto Schuyler.

18 Two, when you come to pick up your
19 child during dismissal, if you do not
20 see a parking space in front of the
21 school, please park on Schuyler Drive.
22 Thank you so much for your help in
23 keeping our children safe. Dr. Packard,
24 it's worth mentioning, also dismissed
25 nearly 20 walkers prematurely from

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 school as a temporary measure until a
3 cross walker was hired.

4 Both Dr. Packard and the district
5 superintendent have also written of
6 support for the sidewalk grant, which
7 was submitted on December 3rd. In the
8 wake of the aforementioned e-mail, Dr.
9 Packard is in doubt, our walkers have
10 never been safer. Given the colossal
11 amount of disgruntled residents
12 surrounding the one way, I am left
13 wondering if we might be able to
14 encourage the so fore mentioned traffic
15 flow with apropos signage, bolstering
16 our cross walker's presence and in sync
17 with Dr. Packard's messaging.

18 MAYOR KIM: Thank you.

19 MR. MONTAGNINO: Oh, Miss -- Miss
20 Horst, can I ask one question? What --
21 what's your position on the extended one
22 way?

23 MS. HORST: What's my personal
24 position?

25 MR. MONTAGNINO: Yes -- yes.

MS. HORST: I -- I think I don't

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
get a real offsetting benefit.

2 MR. MONTAGNINO: Okay.

3 MS. HORST: That's not my sense.

4 Yeah. Just because the vast majority of
5 the cars are actually traveling East.

6 So by encouraging the Caroline to come
7 East, it's encouraging our children to
8 stay in the traffic. So if there was a
9 one way, it would actually -- it's
10 counter-intuitive the way it's willing.

11 MR. MONTAGNINO: Okay. Thank you -
12 - thank you very much.

13 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
14 wish to be heard on the public hearing
15 for traffic control at Caroline Street
16 School?

17 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: I would
18 ask, Mr. Kim, if we could keep this open
19 until the next meeting, because we don't
20 have any draft ordinance in the offing
21 at this point. We were working under
22 the emergency powers to do the no
23 standing signs and the extended one way.
24 So I'd like to ask our city attorney
25 between now and then to -- to draft the

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
language.

2 We'll put that on the minutes for
3 the next meeting.

4 MAYOR KIM: Sure. So we will keep
5 the Caroline Street public hearing open.
6 And no one else wish to be heard on
7 that? Seeing none, we're gonna move to
8 the final public hearing, which is on
9 the Weibel Avenue PUD Amendment.

10 MR. JONES: Your Honor, members of
11 the council, I'm Matt Jones. I'm
12 appearing for my partner, Justin Grassi,
13 who is the attorney for the -- for the
14 Petitioner here. This is a matter that
15 commenced in 2021, was recently amended
16 and is fairly right for your counsel's
17 consideration.

18 I'd ask, Mr. Grassi, couldn't be
19 here tonight, that it be put over to
20 April 19th to continue the public
21 hearing until that time at which I would
22 expect Mr. Grassi will be in touch with
23 Your Honor's office about the logistics
24 of handling the public hearing and those
25 other materials that the council may be

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1 find useful or necessary to -- to reach

2 a disposition of the (indiscernible)

3 MAYOR KIM: Sure. Thank you.

4 MR. JONES: Thank you, sir.

5 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
6 wish to be heard on the Weibel Avenue
7 PUD Amendment? So we'll leave the
8 public hearing open, and we'll call the
9 meeting to order. I'll ask Commissioner
10 Moran to do the roll call.

11 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Mayor Kim.

12 MAYOR KIM: Here.

13 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Commissioner
14 Sanghvi. Commissioner Montagnino.

15 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Present.

16 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Commissioner
17 Moran is here. Commissioner Scirocco is
18 absent.

19 MAYOR KIM: If we get all rise to -

20 -

21 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Hold on one
22 sec. Amending my roll call a little
23 bit.

24 MAYOR KIM: Sorry.

25 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Supervisor

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 Gaston.

3 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Here.

4 COMMISSIONER MORAN: And

5 Supervisor Veitch.

6 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Here.

7 MAYOR KIM: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Thank you,
9 Mr. Mayor.

10 MAYOR KIM: We'll rise to salute
11 the flag.

12 VARIOUS: I pledge allegiance to
13 the flag of the United States of
14 America, and to the republic for which
15 it stands, one nation under God,
16 indivisible, with liberty and justice
17 for all

18 MAYOR KIM: So we're gonna move on
19 to the public comment period. This is
20 the general public comment period. As
21 I've said in the past, there's just one
22 rule, three suggestions. The one rule
23 is you have two minutes. It's yours
24 alone to use as you see fit. I will ask
25 you to stop, wrap up and basically, I'll
ask you to observe that rule.

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1 We have a lot of -- I think we're
2 gonna have a lot of public comment here,
3 so I'd -- I'd also ask you to -- to hold
4 to that rule. Our three suggestions are
5 to remember we're part of a community.
6 Not only are you speaking to a community
7 that -- but you're part of that
8 community.

9 So please keep that in mind. Be
10 kind. No act of kindness is ever wasted
11 and then be factual and accurate. So if
12 we observe those rules, I think we can
13 move pretty quickly through this and
14 have a dialogue. So I'd ask anyone who
15 wishes to speak at our public comment
16 period, come up to the mic, give us your
17 name, your address. And as I said, you
18 have two minutes. Anyone wish to be --
19 be heard.

20 MS. KROSKY-SANGARE: Good evening.
21 My name is Tracy Krosky-Sangare. I'm
22 here tonight as a parent of two of the
23 Black Lives Matter organizers and a
24 friend to a lot of them. It's very hard
25 for me to stand up here and talk about a

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
lot of the things that I've seen in this
2 city that I actually really love.

3 And after watching what happened
4 with SSPD and then the charges that the
5 Black Lives Matter activists faced, and
6 then what happened in court and watching
7 white members of the community get much
8 better sentences and treated much better
9 in court than the Black Lives Matter
10 activists, I'm coming here tonight
11 because I have no faith in the system
12 that there is any intention of justice
13 here.

14 I hope that everybody that is
15 watching what's happening in Saratoga is
16 watching what Saratoga's doing to Lex
17 Figuereo. 'Cause I'm here tonight
18 because I'm really concerned about
19 Alexis. He's being targeted for his
20 speech and belief in liberation. And
21 Saratoga's trying to imprison Lex. Your
22 assistant chief lied about whether
23 Saratoga police had his phone.

24 I mean, it was a very obvious lie
25 and when Lex -- it was like they were

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surprised when he produced the receipt
2 for it. I have found the actions of
3 SSPD, DA Heggens and Judge Vero
4 absolutely chilling and appalling,
5 honestly, especially knowing that
6 they're being watched by the Attorney
7 General's Office.

8 We've all heard the quote, the
9 definition of insanity is doing the same
10 thing over and over again and expecting
11 different results. Time and time again,
12 SSPD has showed us that what is
13 happening here is not a problem of
14 individual officers, but a systemic
15 cultural problem where black lives are
16 devalued and targeted by SSPD. You all
17 up here have a choice.

18 You can continue to do the same
19 thing, and then pretend you are
20 surprised when nothing changes or you
21 can invest in your community, you can
22 invest in the unhoused people here. You
23 can invest in the poor --

24 MAYOR KIM: Can you wrap up?

25 MS. KROSKY: -- and you can promise

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1 accountability for SSPD and the pain
2 they have caused. You all here control
3 what happens.

4 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Who's next?

5 MS KAUFMAN: Angela Kaufman. I
6 live on stolen land in the Town of
7 Saratoga. And when I'm illegally
8 evicted, I will still live on stolen
9 land, surprising how that works. So I'm
10 going to pull some direct quotes and
11 paraphrasing from a book called the End
12 of Policing by Alex Vitale. I want to
13 address the question that was raised by
14 a member of this board.

15 Are the actions of the SSPD
16 incompetence or bias? To answer this
17 fairly, there are some historical facts
18 that need consideration. Before the
19 establishment of professional police
20 forces in the UK, cities in the southern
21 United States paid and deputized slave
22 patrols with power to enter private
23 property to make sure enslaved people
24 weren't learning to read, write or
25 conduct meetings and patrolled rail

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roads to ensure no one was escaping.

Some of these slave patrols
professionalized as early as 1783. In
1844, New York created professionalized
police department to combat the influx
of immigrants and suppress strike.

Wealthy protestant nativists turned
to policing to suppress immigrants and
the initial policing focused on crimes
of morality, such as people's apparel,
hair length, and public kissing. In
1855, the Chicago Police Department was
formed as a result of what was known as
the lager riots, which is -- was a
response of German workers to mass
arrests for drinking. Elites in the
city called for more law and order.

Corruption was so endemic in the --
in the early police departments that
businesses and religious leaders began
to organize together to demand that
police become more efficient and
actually do the job they wanted them to
do, which of course was to enforce white
supremacy and classism.

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1 This led to the professionalizing
2 of police through civil service. Police
3 courses and textbooks, communication
4 technology were introduced as were
5 police laboratories.

6 These technologies came from
7 military testing ground of the -- at the
8 time occupation in the Philippines.
9 Pennsylvania was instrumental in the
10 early labor movement in the 20th
11 century. Mine and factory owners turned
12 to the State to protect business
13 interests.

14 Initially, the State authorized the
15 coal and iron police to deputies' people
16 for a dollar per person. They could
17 deputize the person of their choosing
18 and they by Pinkertons to be
19 strikebreakers and agent provocateurs,
20 fomenting violence. Coal and iron
21 police were instrumental in the Lattimer
22 massacre of 1897 that killed and wounded
23 dozens of miners, that being people who
24 worked in the mine, not specifically
25 children, although it could have been

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
both at the time.

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MAYOR KIM: Can you wrap up?

MS KAUFMAN: Okay. Fast forward through the KKK Jim Crow era in which police were very much the same, in the 1960s, the LAPD partnered with media networks to create the first cop shows to try to save face in the wake of the Watts Uprisings. These shows have significantly impacted how white people view policing.

Are the police corrupt? Are they inefficient or are they biased? The Saratoga Springs police are doing exactly what policing was historically devised to do.

MAYOR KIM: Your time is up. Thank you. And -- and again, I'll just ask everyone, I know there's passion on both sides. I know people have a lot to say, but when I ask you to wrap up, I'm actually -- I'm -- I'm saying your time is up at that moment. Okay? And -- and we just have to respect each other for that. Okay? So if you can just wrap

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
1 up, that'd be great. Okay. So let's
2 take our next speaker.

3 MS. LEWIS: Good evening. My name
4 is Julian Lewis. I reside on Oakland
5 Drive in Saratoga Springs. First, I
6 wanna say thank you very much for
7 accepting the roles and challenges that
8 come with the position of a City Council
9 Commissioner. I've been hopeful that we
10 have some new energy and idea is in our
11 city government.

12 That said, I'm also here to hold
13 those elected accountable for their
14 duties and to maintain the safety and
15 wellness of our citizens. Back in the
16 fall of 2021, I attended an online
17 public safety forum in which all of you
18 were present. And we were asked for
19 input at that time in terms of public
20 safety in our community.

21 I shared the experience of being
22 the mother of a youth victim involved in
23 the justice system and the many
24 frustrations that come with navigating
25 that process. A state at the time that

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1 foundational, trauma informed, anti-
2 racist training would benefit not only
3 those who serve in a paid public safety
4 post, but it would greatly impact the
5 experience the victims have in the
6 process and model a process for the
7 community safety that is more
8 restorative and reparative.

9 It supports our police force in
10 understanding their role in our
11 community, especially as it relates to
12 families and youth, and especially as it
13 relates to bodies of color in our
14 community. I directly experience this
15 kind of process as my own training and
16 professional work is founded in trauma
17 informed and anti-racist training,
18 especially as it relates to white people
19 engaging in anti-racist practices.

20 I also work in this capacity in my
21 work in schools where trauma informed
22 restorative practices are being put in
23 place to help resolve disputes that
24 involve minors. To my knowledge, there
25 has not been an effort to explore this

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
1 type of training and support for our
2 public safety officials and our
3 community members.

4 It is badly needed. Our youth are
5 struggling. Our community is
6 struggling. It is a bigger systemic
7 undertaking that goes beyond simply
8 demoting police officers and
9 administrative -- and putting them on
10 administrative leave, which may be
11 necessary. I -- I'm not in disagreement
12 with that, but without president or
13 precedent, our police force and our
14 community do not have an understanding
15 of the values, agreements, and covenants
16 of community and public safety.

17 MAYOR KIM: Wrap up.

18 MS. LEWIS: I urge you to
19 immediately seek this kind of guidance
20 for the Saratoga Springs Police
21 Department and our community, families
22 and youth. It is your responsibility.

23 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else wish
24 to be heard?

25 MS. LEARY: My name is Erin Leary.

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting

1 I live on Phila Street, and I'm here
2 tonight because what -- of what I
3 believe to be a dangerous set of leaks
4 from members of law enforcement and
5 people in power to the Facebook page,
6 moving Saratoga forward, and the way
7 those leaks and leakers participate in
8 the vitriolic harassment of protestors,
9 witnesses, and victims.

10 The most recent example of this
11 came this weekend when an anonymous
12 source provided information in order to
13 promote a single police officer's agenda
14 and a larger resistance to reform. This
15 leak resulted in additional press
16 coverage, a subsequent post, and a
17 series of comments on the Facebook page
18 on.

19 Saturday, a sock puppet account
20 provided details on a victim's identity.
21 It's possible the comment was a knowing
22 community member, but it is also quite
23 possible it was a member of law
24 enforcement. This is not the first
25 example of a police source leaking to

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
the page.

2 When Saratoga BLM protestors were
3 arrested on September 7th, moving
4 Saratoga forward posted that 12 warrants
5 were executed that night. At the time,
6 only four had been executed, and none of
7 the individuals arrested had yet been
8 arranged -- arraigned.

9 The other eight waited days. The
10 page has also shared quotes from
11 prospective hires in recent months.
12 These leaks are presumably intended to
13 back the blue, but they also serve to
14 harass people, to violate due process
15 and to revictimize victims. As such,
16 the lack of understanding and respect
17 for the rights of community members from
18 even one person in the department is
19 calling.

20 I'm not under the misconception you
21 all are responsible for the management
22 of that page or the enforcement of
23 Facebook's policies. I'm asking the
24 City Council to systematically and
25 continually address biases that have

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
1 become entrenched in SSPD and City Hall
2 to lead an investigation into police
3 participation on that page, as it is not
4 protected press, pursue disciplinary
5 action for those who endanger due
6 process and rights to privacy and to
7 establish an autonomous Civilian Review
8 Board with subpoena power to protect our
9 rights. Thank you.

10 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
11 wish to be heard?

12 MR. ZWICKER: Hi, my name is Arlo
13 Zwicker. I used to (unintelligible). I
14 live in Saratoga. Went to school here.

15 MAYOR KIM: Can you come to the mic
16 a little bit? I'm -- I'm not sure we
17 all can hear you.

18 MR. ZWICKER: Yeah.

19 MAYOR KIM: Thanks.

20 MR. ZWICKER: This good?

21 MAYOR KIM: Yeah.

22 MR. ZWICKER: Oh, I got a few
23 things to say. I first wanna say that -
24 - that I am a white person who was
25 arrested. I was arrested twice for

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
1 uplifting the message of Saratoga BLM
2 once in July, and then once a few months
3 later on warrant.

4 And I would like to attest my
5 firsthand account to do the huge
6 difference in treatment that our police
7 -- the police and our legal system or
8 justice system, or whatever gives to
9 people of different races. There were a
10 lot of accounts or just a lot of --
11 throughout the entire process, I felt I
12 -- I was treated way better than -- than
13 the black people next me, who I was
14 arrested with.

15 At the protest, I -- I could say a
16 lot. I -- right now, what I'm thinking
17 about is coming in a warrant a few
18 months later. I saw a lot of videos of
19 -- of other organized -- other people at
20 a warrant walking to the police station,
21 getting cuffed immediately. And then
22 when I came in to turn myself in, that
23 did not happen.

24 I -- they --they just -- they said,
25 hi, welcome sat me down. And I --a lot

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
of that is just cause of my whiteness.

2 There -- there's so much racism in our
3 justice system and Saratoga right here
4 around us in this building is where, you
5 know, I was taken.

6 The rest of this building is where
7 I had court. This building is where --
8 building is where so much racism
9 happens. And I think a lot of people --
10 a lot of white people don't see it. A
11 lot of our government doesn't see it.
12 Our government in this town has been
13 pretty white.

14 And when they don't see it, it's --
15 it's because they -- they're -- it meant
16 to be blind to it. I want to say that -
17 - that I support our --

18 MAYOR KIM: Can you wrap up?

19 MR. ZWICKER: Yeah. I'll be really
20 quick. I -- I wanna support dissolving
21 assistant -- the assistant chief of
22 police position. I don't think the
23 funds should go back into the police
24 department. I think they should go to
25 something actually useful. I think we

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 should invest in housing or mental
3 health. I wanna support the Civilian
4 Review Board with subpoena power, and I
5 think that the SSSPD s disciplinary
6 records should be put -- should be open
7 to the public. I've filed freedom
8 information, law requests, and been
9 running around with that for -- for
10 months. I think SSPD's record should be
11 public.

12 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
13 wish to be heard?

14 MS. SUTHERLAND: My name's Diana
15 Sutherland. I live on State Street in
16 Albany. I'm from Saratoga Springs, New
17 York, and I just left the city recently
18 as I am studying globalization down at U
19 Albany.

20 Based on some of my experiences
21 that I've had protesting with Saratoga
22 Black Lives Matter, I am now pursuing --
23 law is my intention after I'm done with
24 this undergrad degree. I didn't have a
25 statement prepared, but I just wanted to
 lay a couple questions out there. I was

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
present on July 14th and as we were told
2 to step back by the Saratoga Springs --
3 Saratoga Springs Police Department on Broadway,
4 and we did, as we were stepping back, we
5 were both charged.

6 Why did I, a white person, see cops
7 go around me to grab my friend, Adam, by
8 a black man by the backpack and drag him
9 down and have two men on top of him with
10 their badge numbers covered with a knee
11 in his back? I just wanna lay that out
12 there.

13 Why were there other white women
14 that have no masks on that owned
15 businesses in Saratoga Springs that
16 absolutely could have been identified,
17 not arrested? I know I could have been
18 identified. I know that I was on video
19 that was used. I watched -- I saw the
20 video from a fellow protestor.

21 I believe that the video that was
22 used to identify the protesters and
23 organizers that were arrested after the
24 fact of the event they could have
25 identified far more people, far more

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1 white people, and there was a choice not
2 to do that. And I'm just curious as to
3 why.

4 I'm curious as to why the Saratoga
5 district attorney is also so persistent
6 on the black man with a megaphone and a
7 record being the one that is -- what --
8 how did she put it? There was some
9 statement about her essentially saying
10 that he -- I'm gonna paraphrase. This
11 isn't exact, but essentially, he
12 deserves to be isolated from society.

13 Why? Why does he deserve to be
14 isolated? Is it because his ideas are
15 dangerous to the systems that are in
16 place in this white town that is known
17 as a sun downtown? Thank you.

18 MAYOR KIM: Thank you.

19 MR. WALKER: Okay. So they said
20 quite a few things. Wait.

21 MAYOR KIM: Can you just tell us
22 your name and --

23 MR. WALKER: Oh, it's Adam Walker
24 and I live in Albany. So they've
25 mentioned quite a few things about the

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
1 arrests, about why a lot of us are here.

2 And I just wanna lay some things out and
3 kind of help you move forward. You, Mr.
4 Kim, I'm sure and someone who wants the
5 bottom line.

6 You wanna know what's gonna happen
7 and like -- and like how we're gonna
8 move forward. So the bottom line is, if
9 you do not address a few key issues,
10 you're going to keep seeing us. You're
11 going to keep having protests. You're
12 going to keep having the same things
13 happening.

14 So it would be in your best
15 interest to at least address these
16 things. That being said, the first
17 thing is, you cannot allow the Saratoga
18 DA, Karen Heggen, to continue
19 prosecuting Lex. It's unjust. And
20 every second that you continue this
21 prosecution, you cause yourself more
22 protests, more civil unrest. So your
23 solution is to end that.

24 Now, let's go to the two minutes.
25 I understand two minutes is a rule, but

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1 oftentimes, your bureaucratic rule
2 versus what's happening on the ground
3 are very different. So we have to be
4 done with two minutes. It's a
5 suggestion. I'm not gonna try to go
6 over, but -- but when folks are over, I
7 need you to not comment and just let it
8 be.

9 And if you have to be here until
10 10:00 PM, that's okay because part of
11 your job is to accommodate. So you're
12 gonna be fine with the extra time. All
13 that being said, you still have to
14 address Darryl Mount that would not go
15 away. I was the person who was -- who
16 this young lady mentioned, who was
17 thrown to the ground.

18 So you personally, your police
19 department personally insulted me. I
20 should be upset, and I am, and you're
21 going to personally rectify this for me
22 in time, but I'm still offering you the
23 olive branch of communication. I don't
24 want you to, and they don't wanna stop
25 me, but you're gonna have to wait. I

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1 don't want you to go into your silo and
2 not communicate with these folks and
3 continue to have these meetings.

4 MAYOR KIM: Can you wrap up?

5 MR. WALKER: You're going to have
6 to communicate with these folks and have
7 dialogue on their terms. So even though
8 it is against your rules, after this
9 meeting, if any of you have anything to
10 say, I suggest that you start to say
11 more things to the public in open
12 dialogue.

13 I'm sure you will continue the
14 conversation, but I will say you're
15 already doing a little better than your
16 predecessor. Not enough to give you a
17 pizza party, we're not offering partial
18 credit. And that's -- and that's kind
19 of funny, but it's -- it's easy to
20 reward you for the simplest gestures and
21 you can't be rewarded until you actually
22 do your job. Drop the charges, pursue
23 their amount and the SSPD needs to be
24 reined in. Thank you.

25 MAYOR KIM: So -- so just two

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
1 things. First of all, and this is to
2 everyone here, we have a two-minute
3 rule. If you want to talk to me at any
4 point in time you can call my office,
5 make an appointment. I'm happy to talk
6 to -- I've -- I've -- I know some of the
7 people in this audience I've -- I've met
8 with on both sides of the issue. Happy
9 to continue to do that.

10 My door's open. The second thing,
11 I just wanna make clear, and I think
12 Commissioner Montagnino would -- would
13 agree with this. We have no authority
14 over what the Saratoga County prosecutor
15 does or does not do. So I want -- I
16 wanna make that clear. We have -- we've
17 made our voices known as to what we
18 would prefer to do, but there is no
19 direct line authority that this City
20 Council has.

21 We can't take a vote. We can't do
22 anything about that. So I -- I -- you
23 unfortunately have to take that up with
24 the -- the -- the -- pro -- the county -
25 - Saratoga County --

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1 MR. WALKER: Well -- well. What
2 we're saying, please try to come up with
3 creative ways to get involved in the
4 process.

5 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
6 wish to be heard?

7 MR. MATSON: Hi, I'm -- I'm Chris
8 Matson. I live at 28 Friar Tuck Way,
9 and I wrote -- my time's unions with me
10 today. And it says -- the headline is
11 official, officer bias throwing out. I
12 think there should be also another or
13 there or it's a -- it's an officer who
14 made a decision based upon their
15 expertise and based upon the
16 circumstances that were presented to
17 them.

18 There's an or there too, if
19 possible, or this is really unfortunate
20 that this is being waged or -- in the --
21 in the press. In the past if someone
22 came to the Commissioner with a
23 complaint about something that happened
24 on -- on the part of the -- the
25 department the Commissioner would --

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 would immediately speak to the chief and
3 the assistant chief about the complaint.

4 The chief and the assistant chief
5 would then go speak to the person about
6 whom this con -- the -- the concern has
7 been raised or about whom the -- the
8 decision or their -- their -- their
9 judgment had -- had been questioned, and
10 the three of them based upon all of
11 their expertise after all years, many,
12 many years in law enforcement, the chief
13 and the assistant chief and the other
14 member of the department would usually
15 come together and work something out.

16 And certainly was -- there was no
17 issue regarding reprimand or demotion.
18 That way is way over hill. And at that
19 point in time decisions would made --
20 would -- would be made. The issue would
21 be dealt with. And as -- as you can
22 see, I -- I speak to keep talking about
23 the assistant chief. I was extremely
24 surprised how suddenly, and without real
25 notice to the community the four of you
26 decided to vote to approve the

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
elimination of that position.

2 If Commissioner Scirocco were here,
3 I'm sure he would've advised you
4 would've table that until everyone had
5 had the opportunity to weigh in and
6 understand exactly what you're doing.
7 The command structure of the -- the --
8 the police department is very lean.

9 It's been very effective and the
10 reliance on having an assistant chief as
11 well as the chief has been -- has -- has
12 worked out very well but I -- I think
13 you made a big mistake. Thank you.

14 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
15 wish to be heard?

16 MR. BEATTY: Hi, Andrew Beatty, 21
17 Michael Drive, just as somebody who's
18 been around for a number of public
19 altercations between members of the
20 public and the SSPD I just wanted to
21 voice my support for --

22 MAYOR KIM: Could you hold the mic
23 closer?

24 MR. BEATTY: Oh, closer. Sorry. I
25 just wanted to support the actions that

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 are currently being undertaken. I don't
3 know if they're gonna lead us to a more
4 successful paradigm of public safety,
5 but having been on scene for a number of
6 these -- these clashes, where I've been
7 left with the question you know, how did
8 this make anybody safer?

9 I just feel like there's a cultural
10 problem that is just -- just leading our
11 community to have a lot more clashes
12 between just regular people out -- out
13 exercising their rights and -- and our
14 public safety officers. And I come back
15 to the -- the Darryl Mount case as well.
16 Just from the recently discovered
17 eyewitness and -- and film that
18 apparently was -- was available as
19 evidence all this time in the face of so
20 much public outcry, it's shocking to me
21 as somebody who is a professional in --
22 in a -- a field with consequences that
23 nobody went out said, there's a lot of
24 interest in this.

25 Maybe I should -- maybe I should
26 check it out. Apparently, we've had the

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 answer to this the whole time and just
3 nobody cared to -- to -- to know what
4 happened and to show what happened to --
5 to the people who were -- were out in
6 the streets.

7 So I'd just like to say again, you
8 know, I don't know where we're going,
9 but I'm happy to see that we're taking
10 just different steps trying new things.
11 So thank you very much.

12 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
13 wish to be heard?

14 MS. BRENNAN: Hi, Norah Brennan,
15 Saratoga Springs. I just wanna follow
16 up on some of what Andrew said and point
17 out that the reality is -- is that for
18 many people in this community, the
19 police department lie, they cannot be
20 trusted, and that is a serious deficit
21 of public safety.

22 If black people, people of color in
23 our community cannot feel safe, if white
24 allies do not feel safe it means we need
25 to shine a light on what's going on in
 our police department, and it may not be

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
1 the proper process. It -- you know, the
2 idea that things have always been worked
3 to just find the way they did, worked
4 really great for the people, for whom it
5 worked well, but for the people who have
6 been abused by the process, abused by
7 the silence and the protection of the
8 system, it hasn't worked.

9 And so it is time to shine a light.
10 And I do appreciate that -- that effort.
11 I would also like to point out that we
12 have a lot of work to do just with the
13 basics. You know, there was a curve
14 fluffle that I saw earlier today,
15 adultery is very 1950s concept and needs
16 to be taken out of our policy
17 guidelines, but we also haven't updated
18 our use of force policy, which was
19 discussed in great detail in 2020 when
20 the police reformed task force came into
21 place.

22 And it still -- still shows that
23 de-escalation is an alternative to the
24 judgment of the police officer. De-
25 escalation should be the first thing

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1 that people do. And that was a
2 recommendation that came out time and
3 again and discussed. We need to make
4 changes to just how we see, how people
5 should be policed in this community and
6 what public safety of people in this
7 community really needs to look like.

8 On --on another front, I do just
9 wanna state that Commissioner
10 (indiscernible) who's not here tonight I
11 think he's in the thoughts of everybody
12 and his family. And so I just wanted to
13 share my thoughts and well wishes.

14 MS. ZWICKER: Good evening. And
15 thank you for inviting us here. My name
16 is Lori Zwicker. I live at 16 Cassidy,
17 and as my child would tell me, I live on
18 stolen land. And I'm doing this for my
19 child, but I'm also doing this for our
20 community because I love our community
21 and I've worked to be an ally to people
22 of color almost my entire life.

23 And it's hard to live in a
24 community where people are being
25 targeted. And so I'm just gonna say

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 that I'm gonna read from the BLM
3 website, the Saratoga BLM website. I do
4 support reallocation of funds from that
5 assistant Commissioner.

6 I do not support hiring more police
7 officers. I think we have a problem
8 with housing in this community and we
9 could spend money on that. We have
10 mental health issues. There are so many
11 other things we could do. My child's
12 very involved in food justice.

13 I think, you know, we know there
14 are people that live in this community
15 that don't have enough to eat. So why
16 aren't we taking public land and turning
17 it into food? There's so many things
18 that we could do that would be loving
19 and supportive instead of targeting
20 black and brown bodies in our community,
21 in a community that I love.

22 So let's support reallocation of
23 funds for housing, mental health
24 services, harm reduction, community
25 outreach, and restorative justice.
26 Thank you.

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1 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone

2 else?

3 MS. NUT: Hi, my name is Anita Nut
4 and I live in Albany. I was here July
5 14th. I've watched some of my nearest
6 dearest who literally all happen to be
7 black, the exception of one or two white
8 people, get arrested.

9 I'm really happy to see Miss
10 (unintelligible) up here and Officer
11 (unintelligible) back there because I
12 witnessed them make terrible lies about
13 abusing their power. And I've been
14 seeing things about this the new public
15 safety Commissioner looking to seriously
16 look into this.

17 It is not enough to just discipline
18 people, CIS white men, who will happily,
19 and at their own -- at their own
20 discretion, not only abuse their power,
21 but abuse the tools this council gives
22 to them on innocent people, peaceful
23 people who ultimately were complying
24 with police instruction.

25 My back turned and all of a sudden,

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1 I see people running. I turn around
2 farther and all I see are a bunch of
3 pigs charging at us. For what? I'm
4 listening to Miss (unintelligible) over
5 there, the former Public Safety
6 Commissioner tell lies about what
7 happened, perpetuating stories to make
8 the peace -- to make these pig seem more
9 innocent than they actually are. They
10 were thrilled to arrest people. They've
11 literally said that while it was
12 happening.

13 MAYOR KIM: Wrap up.

14 MS. NUT: So these subhuman don't
15 need the motions, don't need suspend.
16 Their badge, their gun should all be
17 taken.

18 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
19 wish to speak?

20 MR. MARSHALL: Matthew Marshall,
21 High Rock F. One of the things about
22 the debate about the assistant chief
23 position is one side is being entirely
24 disingenuous. Opponents of eliminating
25 the position are saying that this is

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
1 defunding the police as if it's some
2 kind of scary boogeyman to be afraid of.

3 What they don't wanna mention to
4 you is that the money being reallocated
5 is going to more patrol officers.

6 Whether I agree with the at or not,
7 you'll find out in a little bit.

8 Conservatives always talk about how
9 government should be run like business,
10 and that we should look to businesses on
11 how things should be inefficient.

12 Businesses all the time consolidate
13 and eliminate positions that are
14 ineffective and redundant. In my last
15 comment here, I talked about the problem
16 with crime, where the police are seen as
17 the thin blue line behold, no
18 responsibility for crime that happens
19 nor preventing crime.

20 The police are merely reactionary
21 in their existence and are in a win-win.
22 Last July, the former public safety
23 Commissioner sat and listened as the
24 former assistant chief of police said
25 borderline racist dog whistles over and

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
over again.

And when asked what she believe the police department needed, she said an additional 20 positions is what she would be hopeful for. When crime has not increased by any significant measure in Saratoga Springs in the last five years, over 50 percent of the city's budget goes to public safety.

The SSPD talks about how they're out in the community when almost half of their workforce never leaves the station, according to the current public safety Commissioner. The SSPD wants their cake and eat everybody -- ate else's cake as well. Over the past two years, we've had violation of constitutional rights.

Attorney general probes, obstruction, conspiracy, and policing on the basis of race. Last year, it was take back the narrative. The only narrative that seems to persist is the administration of the SSPD continues to be a black eye on this city. Over 50

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 percent of the city's budget goes to
3 public safety, and all I ever hear is
4 that they need more, more money, more
5 equipment, more technology, more
6 cooperation, more officers, more, more
7 and more.

8 At what point do we start
9 wondering, maybe this department isn't
10 effective at anything they do, and
11 perhaps throwing more money at reacting
12 to crime, doesn't prevent it?

13 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
14 wish to speak?

15 MS. CINGARI: Hi, Samari Cingari
16 (phonetic). I'm a member of Saratoga
17 BLM. I'm just gonna reiterate what's
18 been said tonight how I -- I -- support
19 the demotion of Bob Gelsen, the same
20 person who said we had different rights
21 than diners and shoppers. He's also the
22 same person that literally lied and that
23 they don't have Lex's phone.

24 And now surprisingly that this
25 demotion is going on, they found it.
 Also I just like to reiterate that I

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1 don't support hiring new police. I feel
2 like -- like has been said, there needs
3 to be serious reallocation to mental
4 health calls to the housing and the
5 homeless.

6 There's been a lot of cold blue
7 going on as well and I also believe that
8 we need to really focus on restorative
9 justice. When people say something and
10 when the minority is talking, you gotta
11 believe them. We gotta start believing
12 people. And we really need to go to the
13 source and not just add and more
14 policing, because we've seen that there
15 is no correlation with an -- decrease in
16 crime with an added police presence.

17 I also just wanna say that we need
18 to push for the Civilian Review --
19 Review Board with subpoena power. And I
20 also wanna say mayor Kim I also wanna
21 bring up the -- looking at the public
22 records of the police officers, like you
23 said in your campaign. And that's all I
24 got. Thank you.

25 MAYOR KIM: Thank you.

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1 MS. HICKENBOTTOM: Chandler

2 Hickenbottom, Saratoga Springs. So I
3 just wanted to respond to something that
4 you had said earlier about not being
5 able to really do anything for my
6 brother with the situation that's going
7 on with Karen Hagen, the DA. There are
8 things that you can do.

9 You can speak to the media because
10 I'm telling you right now, if a whole
11 City Council is sitting here going
12 against what a DA is doing in the town,
13 that's gonna make a lot of noise.
14 That's gonna cause some people to be
15 like, well maybe we should finally start
16 dropping these charges.

17 That's something you can do. Use
18 your voice much like we do all the time.
19 And what do we get? Repercussions all
20 the time for that, not only that, Jim
21 Jimbo, a guy, you were quick to use your
22 voice when you wanted to talk about
23 gangster rap and Gaffney's and all those
24 other things, right?

25 But you are not quick to use your

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1 voice when there's a black man that has
2 been using his voice for months for
3 change and he's getting ready to face
4 jail time in your own town. Use your
5 privilege because a lot of you, even
6 you, Mayor Kim, have privilege. Use it.
7 Use it for good.

8 If you don't like something that's
9 happening in this town, speak to the
10 media cause I'm very -- everybody else
11 was so quick to do something. The last
12 people were so quick to speak in the
13 media about us, all these bad things.
14 But you, you are disagreeing with
15 everything that's happening right now.
16 You could be speaking good into the
17 media about us, but you choose not to.

18 That's complacency. That does
19 nothing for us or to change Saratoga, or
20 for like these people that are out here
21 that have not even come up to speak
22 because they're so scared moving
23 Saratoga forward. That's how you move
24 Saratoga forward. You speak up when you
25 see injustice.

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1 Like they love to say all the time,
2 see something, say something. Well, why
3 don't you start doing the same?

4 MAYOR KIM: Can you --

5 MS. HICKENBOTTOM: Oh, I'm not.

6 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Thank you.

7 Anyone else wish to be heard?

8 MS. BROWN: Off the floor. Alexis
9 Brown. I'm from Saratoga. I'm also a
10 leader of Saratoga Black Lives Matter,
11 who has witnessed firsthand SSPD's
12 overreach racism and brutality.

13 I have seen the failures of the
14 city's government present and former and
15 the police department. While I stand in
16 support of the dissolution of the
17 assistant chief of police position, I do
18 not believe that we need additional
19 officers in the police department.

20 I understand that everyone and
21 myself included is concerned about the
22 highly public incidents that have taken
23 place, but there are a few reasons why
24 I'm not sure that this is the solution.

25 On July 2, 2021, the Saratoga

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1 Springs police chief released a
2 statement announcing a partnership
3 between the Saratoga Springs Police
4 Department, the Saratoga County
5 Sheriff's Office and the New York State
6 police in response to an incident where
7 shots were fired on Caroline Street.

8 However, even with all agencies
9 being present and patrolling the
10 streets, a month after this
11 announcement, a man was assaulted and
12 killed 0.2 miles from this building.

13 I'm deeply concerned by the
14 Saratoga Spring Police Department's use
15 of social media to post arrests that
16 many have viewed as political motivated,
17 who decides what arrests are and are not
18 posted.

19 You know, there was a former
20 official whose son was arrested that
21 wasn't posted anywhere. You know, our
22 videos are blasted all over their
23 Facebook.

24 Still, currently. You know, if
25 there's a person arrested from Troy,

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1 Schenectady, Albany, it's politically
2 advantageous for them to post these
3 arrests to feed this narrative of, it's
4 their issue, it's not us.

5 So yeah they're grasping for straws
6 in an attempt to justify their
7 mischaracterization of Saratoga BLM and
8 are worsening the racial resentment in
9 the capital region by driving a moral
10 panic on Facebook.

11 It is not the people from Albany,
12 Troy, and Schenectady to blame. If it's
13 not them, then it's rap music. If it's
14 neither of those things, then it's the
15 movement for black lives and the defund,
16 the police movement.

17 I know of four individuals local to
18 this area, Saratoga, that have caused
19 severe bodily harm to individuals in the
20 last year that do not fit this false
21 narrative.

22 MAYOR KIM: Can you wrap up?

23 MS. BROWN: When are we as a whole
24 going to come to the realization that
25 there's a culture of violence and harm

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 that people continue to normalize and
3 enable that is culminated to this
4 moment?

5 We're so quick to say, you know,
6 this person has a ghost gun. We're
7 gonna send them to jail. Well, more
8 violence happens in jail. More harm is
9 caused in jail.

10 We're not doing anything to stop
11 violence. So unless we address the
12 social economic and political causes
13 that got us to this moment, we are going
14 to continue to face the same issues.

15 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
16 wish to be heard?

17 MR. FIGUERO: Alexis Figuereo,
18 Saratoga Springs. You know when it
19 comes down to Bob Jason you know, at the
20 end of the day, you should be fired
21 anyway way before now.

22 At the end of the day, we have sat
23 here, like they said, it's in the times
24 union in the media, he lied and said
25 that they did not have my phone without
 a warrant.

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1 They stole my phone without a
2 warrant for over seven months. That's
3 gonna be a part of a lawsuit. They
4 can't do that. We know that. That's a
5 fact.

6 The moment that Jim said that, that
7 he was getting rid of this position,
8 that same night, my lawyer received a
9 call saying that I could pick up my
10 phone at any time.

11 They all of a sudden found my
12 phone. So once again, he also has lied
13 plenty of times. He also was a part of
14 a lot of the teams, including the take
15 back the narrative team.

16 He was a part of all these things.
17 Once again, it's not a question when we
18 say, is it racist or is this really
19 caused by racism? Is this just like icy?
20 No, it's clear as day what it is.

21 They're under investigation still
22 to this day by the attorney general of
23 New York State for violating civil
24 rights, violation of civil rights of
25 black people.

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1 So it's clear as day that they have
2 a race problem. So let's not -- let's -
3 - let's not beat around the bush
4 anymore. Saratoga Springs Police
5 Department is a racist organization,
6 plain and simple.

7 And we cannot reallocate funds into
8 these same police officers until you fix
9 what's going on at home. You can't add
10 more officers into this. You can't add
11 more into the same culture until you
12 change this culture.

13 And the culture needs to be
14 changed. And Jim has the power to do it
15 right now and it needs to be done. We
16 support what he's doing right now. The
17 people wanted to support the funny back
18 -- the blue one to support when he came
19 out here and said that he didn't believe
20 that anything happened to Darryl.

21 All of a sudden, Chris Matthewson
22 all of a sudden appeared outta the thin
23 air. He's been in Saratoga Springs
24 hiding in his hole this whole time.
25 Same as Robert Dalton.

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1 But now people wanna come out. Now
2 people wanna speak, but really, they
3 don't wanna speak. They just wanna come
4 here and play on the internet. That's
5 what they wanna do. They're here for I
6 guess, a new election that they're
7 running for.

8 FEMALE SPEAKER 1: (Indiscernible).

9 MR. FIGUERO: We're not -- we're
10 not worried about that. Like I said, at
11 the end of the day, until there is
12 actual change and sustainable change,
13 and we see the real changes in the city,
14 there will be protests.

15 There will be civil disobedience.
16 There will be direct actions and in --
17 and that's a fact. It's not a threat,
18 but in fact, when it comes down to my
19 case and it comes down to me being
20 prosecuted for unlawful things, we had
21 people getting assaulted in Saratoga
22 Springs and the police don't wanna press
23 charges, but they wanna press charges
24 cause I speak too much. It needs to
25 stop.

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1 MS. HAMMOND: Holiday Hammond in
2 Saratoga Springs. I don't have anything
3 of value to add. I am so impressed with
4 the statements made. Thank you all.
5 I'm only here as a white woman who
6 supports Black Lives Matter and believes
7 that we can do better, and we need to do
8 better.

9 And I wanna publicly and visibly
10 show my support, cause that's about all
11 I can do. Like I said, they -- they
12 listen to them. They are so passionate.
13 They -- they are exhausted.

14 It is dangerous for them to come
15 here and be so public and they keep
16 showing up. So please listen to them,
17 meet with them and us. These dialogues
18 are so important. So please follow
19 through with that.

20 Am I echo restorative justice and
21 definitely not adding anymore police to
22 a culture that's already racist and very
23 dangerous.

24 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Is there
25 anyone else who wishes to speak?

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1 MS. DALTON: Hi, Robin Dalton, 78
2 Caroline Street. I just wanna know when
3 you profess to support kindness, respect
4 how we're supposed to speaking our
5 truth, you know, to this council, how
6 you can sit here and allow your law
7 enforcement officers to be called
8 subhumans.

9 How are you allowing that?
10 Practice what you preach.

11 FEMALE SPEAKER 2: That's not what
12 I said --

13 MAYOR KIM: Just continue with your
14 statement. Can you just continue?

15 MS. DALTON: I think that the
16 actions taken to defame the assistant
17 chief of police line were reckless.
18 There was no transparency. There was no
19 opportunity for the public to weigh in.
20 And I would just urge this council to
21 pause on the budget transfer so that the
22 public is allowed to give some input and
23 let you know how they feel about it
24 because that's how you should be
25 operating.

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1 You're not here to serve yourself.

2 You're here to serve the citizens and
3 people of Saratoga. So I'd like to see
4 that happen. Thank you.

5 MAYOR KIM: Does anyone else wish
6 to be heard? Anyone else wish to be
7 heard? Seeing no other, we -- we are way
8 past our time, 7:40. I'm gonna close
9 the public hearing. I appreciate all
10 the comments and the input, and we'll go
11 to our first agenda item.

12 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Mr. Kim.

13 MAYOR KIM: Oh, I'm sorry,
14 Commissioner.

15 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Would it
16 be out of order for me to say a few
17 words in response to some of the public
18 comment?

19 MAYOR KIM: No, I think that's
20 fine.

21 FEMALE SPEAKER 3: (Indiscernible)

22 MAYOR KIM: I -- I just asked, let
23 -- let the Commissioner speak. Thanks.
24 Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Some of

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
the comments that people made tonight
2 make reference to things that I don't
3 think everybody here is aware of. So
4 I just wanted to give a little bit of
5 background.

6 A few weeks ago, I was asked by
7 Tara Gaston, who's right here, county
8 supervisor, to speak with the family of
9 a young man who had been the victim of a
10 gang assault. I sat first with the
11 mother, the father, and the older sister
12 of the victim in Tara Gaston's office.

13 And what said to me was that their
14 son was at a party, their son -- they
15 happened to be African American, and
16 they were at a party. He was at a
17 party, and he was --

18 MAYOR KIM: I just asked, let's --
19 let Commissioner Montagnino make his
20 statement. (Indiscernible) Can we --
21 can we -- I'm just gonna ask that we --
22 we've allowed everyone to speak. Let's
23 -- let Commissioner Montagnino speak.
24 Thank you. (Indiscernible).

25 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: They told

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 me that the young man went to the police
3 department with his older sister, gave a
4 report in which he described that he was
5 thrown against a kitchen counter, that
6 he was then set upon by two other young
7 men who punched him repeatedly.

8 He provided medical records to show
9 that he had suffered a concussion. He
10 provided medical records that showed he
11 had several days later, still symptoms
12 of cognitive impairment. He showed
13 photographic evidence of a split lip, a
14 black eye, and a laceration more than 12
15 inches long across his back.

16 He was told, according to the
17 family, that there wasn't enough
18 evidence to charge anyone with a crime.
19 And that's why the family asked me to
20 make an inquiry. And I did. I asked
21 the police chief to look into it. He
22 assigned -- (Indiscernible)

23 MAYOR KIM: Can we -- I -- you
24 know, I'm just gonna ask everyone to
25 (indiscernible). Can we -- so can we
26 let Commissioner Montagnino finish his

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1 statement, please. Come on. Can we --

2 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: I'm --

3 MAYOR KIM: Can we let Commissioner
4 Montagnino finish his statement, please?

5 (Indiscernible) let's -- let -- let's --
6 let Commissioner Montagnino finish his
7 statement.

8 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: The
9 police chief assigned the Lieutenant in
10 charge of investigations to review the
11 file and to report. Without going into
12 granular detail, I was told that the
13 injuries that were described were
14 insufficient to prove an assault.

15 I was also told that the fact that
16 the victim was said by two of his
17 assailant to have been the one to push
18 one of them first, without injuring
19 anyone, that somehow justified one of
20 the assailants to throw him against the
21 countertop and the other two to beat
22 him.

23 I found that deeply troubling
24 because I don't think anyone would
25 disagree that a concussion is physical

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1 injury. When I began my own inquiry,
2 details were leaked by social media or
3 in social media, and I received a call
4 from a reporter asking me for details.

5 It was not my choice to be the one
6 to bring the case public. It was
7 brought public by someone else. I
8 merely responded.

9 MAYOR KIM: Commissioner, can we
10 wrap up just because we're --

11 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Yeah.
12 Thank you, sir.

13 MAYOR KIM: Thanks.

14 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: So what
15 happened was, when the case was reported
16 in the press and on television, a new
17 narrative arose saying that I was
18 interfering with the pending
19 investigation, that in fact it was not
20 the case, as I knew was the case, that
21 there were going to be no charges filed.

22 And just this afternoon, the
23 district attorney, Karen Hagan issued a
24 statement that excoriates me for
25 interfering on a -- an open

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
investigation. She calls it an active
2 police investigation.

3 In fact, the New York State
4 incident report that was filed with the
5 Department of Division of Criminal
6 Justice Services, a public document says
7 the case was closed on March 1st. In
8 other words, someone high up is
9 attempting to rewrite history.

10 And to suggest that somehow my
11 asking some questions as to why no
12 charges were brought when an individual
13 was beaten to brain damage, it was not
14 the result of my going public with
15 anything.

16 It was the result of a decision
17 made for reasons that I do not yet know
18 that that case was closed on March 1st
19 and was intended to be swept under the
20 carpet. And the district attorney's
21 statement this afternoon is proven false
22 by the very records filed with the State
23 on March 1st. Thank you.

24 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Thank you,
25 Commissioner. We're gonna close the

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
public comment period.

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FEMALE SPEAKER 4: Mayor can -- can I make a really quick statement here? I understand that there are a lot of emotions, but I do want to reiterate that no human, no matter how repugnant you may find them is subhuman.
(Indiscernible)

MAYOR KIM: I'm gonna -- I'm gonna ask you, let -- let -- let the Commissioners speak, please.

FEMALE SPEAKER 4: No person of color is a subhuman.

MALE SPEAKER 1: No.

FEMALE SPEAKER 4: No LGBTQ person is a subhuman. No disabled person is a subhuman. No one is subhuman.

(Indiscernible) I agree. I'm not saying that you may not think that --
(Indiscernible)

MAYOR KIM: All right. So I'm -- I'm gonna close the public hearing.
(Indiscernible)

FEMALE SPEAKER 4: That I believe -
- Mayor Kim, I'm not being allowed to

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
talk here. (Indiscernible)

2 MAYOR KIM: Can you finish your
3 statement? Just let -- let's move. Go
4 ahead. Go ahead, Commissioner.
5 (Indiscernible) Can --can we -- can we
6 just hold the comments, please?

7 Commissioner Sanghvi has a statement.

8 FEMALE SPEAKER 4: People of color
9 from -- for centuries have been treated
10 as subhuman by -- by white supremacists,
11 by our colonizers. The LGBTQ community
12 was treated as subhuman, disabled people
13 were treated as subhuman.

14 MAYOR KIM: I'll -- I'll ask you
15 just to hold your comments, please.

16 FEMALE SPEAKER 4: And I'm not
17 saying -- I'm not saying that -- that
18 people are not racist. I agree that
19 there may be people. And I understand
20 that we are under investigation by the -
21 -by --by Latisha James --

22 FEMALE SPEAKER 5: Attorney
23 general's office. (Indiscernible)

24 FEMALE SPEAKER 4: But if -- I just
25 want to make sure that I go on record to

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
1 say, no human is subhuman.

2 MAYOR KIM: So I'm gonna close the
3 public hearing and we're gonna move on
4 to the first presentation. When I took
5 office one of the first letters I got
6 was from the independent school, and was
7 from their third-grade class and they
8 asked me, what -- what can we do about
9 climate change?

10 And I have known Rayna Caldwell for
11 a number of years. She's one of the --
12 she's on our climate smart task force.
13 She's been working hard on this issue.
14 She's gonna share with us some of the
15 efforts that the committee is -- is
16 actively endeavoring to pursue.

17 There's lots on the menu that we're
18 --we're looking forward to. And so
19 Rayna, take it away. Thank you.

20 MS. CALDWELL: Thank you for having
21 me. This was just a snapshot of one
22 random hot day in March. I'm here as
23 the chair of the climate smart task
24 force. We were charged with helping
25 local governments take action to reduce

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a
3 changing climate.

4 The City Council in 2011 agreed to
5 signed onto climate smart communities.
6 Let's see. So you may not realize that
7 your predecessors committed the city to
8 inventorying emissions and decreasing
9 energy use. We've made good progress.

10 We've made several inventories over
11 the years, but tonight I'd like to
12 suggest that we need to do another
13 inventory and create a climate action
14 and resilience plan. And in fact,
15 grants are beginning to require that as
16 a prerequisite.

17 You may be aware just very
18 recently, the international -- the
19 intergovernmental panel on climate --
20 climate change has released its sixth
21 assessment. The inter-- the IPCC is a
22 group -- is international group of
23 hundreds of scientists who update policy
24 makers every five or six years on
25 climate science and what we can expect
 from a warming climate.

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1 This year, they're using
2 unprecedented language to -- they're
3 sounding the alarm, they're using code
4 red for humanity and a brief and rapidly
5 closing windows to secure a livable
6 future. This is unprecedented language.
7 So how did we get here?

8 Greenhouse gases trap heat would we
9 burn high carbon fossil fuels like oil
10 and gas. They release carbon dioxide
11 and other gases into the atmosphere
12 where what I -- what policy makers to be
13 aware of is that -- this isn't gonna
14 work -- that these gases linger in the
15 atmosphere for long time horizons up to
16 1,000 years.

17 So we can't just stop emissions now
18 and expect the temperature of the planet
19 to decrease. So human activity right
20 now has warmed the planet by one degree
21 centigrade, a little over one degree.
22 That doesn't sound like much, but the
23 last ice age was only four to five
24 degrees cooler than it is now.

25 So a tiny change in global average

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1 temperature can mean a huge difference
2 in the temperature of the planet. So
3 what is very important in this slide is
4 that we know from 800,000 years of
5 direct data, that when carbon dioxide
6 rises and falls in the atmosphere, the
7 temperature follows.

8 So right now, you can see in the
9 far right, carbon dioxide is very high
10 in the atmosphere, but the temperature
11 is just beginning to climb. So we are
12 now committed to about 30 years of
13 warming, no matter what. So you'll see
14 at the top, it says 1.1 plus 0.5.

15 Scientists talk about a half a
16 degree in the pipeline. This is what
17 the pipeline is. It's the timeline lag.
18 It's coming, no matter what. So carbon
19 dioxide really determines more or less
20 the temperature of the planet.

21 But if increasing importance is
22 methane. We now know that it's one of
23 the bigger drivers at the moment.
24 Methane -- methane traps heat 86 --
25 oops, sorry that didn't work, 86 times

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1 more effectively than carbon dioxide.

2 And they're realizing that there were
3 emissions from the energy sector than
4 previously appreciated.

5 So scientists talk about a budget
6 of carbon dioxide emissions. They're
7 saying, so for many year, thousands of
8 years, it was at 280 parts per million,
9 and scientists said, okay, well, we
10 think we can handle 350 parts per
11 million.

12 And the warming that would
13 accompany that, the problem is you'll
14 see on the bottom right, we are now at
15 420 parts per million. We blew past
16 safe over a decade ago. So why are the
17 scientists worried? Well, they're
18 worried because the whole system is
19 warming up and the planetary processes
20 are much more sensitive to this small
21 degree of warming.

22 And one of the big symptoms is
23 melting ice. Ice is -- no one, not one
24 scientist in the whole world predicted
25 ice would melt this quickly is beginning

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
to contribute to sea level rise. And
2 what may eventually be varied germane to
3 this area, on the bottom right you see
4 Antarctica.

5 There's a glacier called thwaites
6 glacier that has recently been
7 recognized as about to collapse. In
8 fact, it may collapse within five years.
9 If it does, we're committed to two feet
10 of sea level rise. That's gonna be
11 significant.

12 But if the ice behind it then
13 melts, we'll be committed to 12 feet of
14 sea level rise. (Indiscernible) And so
15 I'm thinking that if you're in New York
16 city and the sea is lapping at your
17 feet, you might be tempted to move to
18 the (indiscernible).

19 So it's not just the ice that's
20 melting, permafrost is melting and
21 buried in the permafrost to big pockets
22 of methane that are being vented to the
23 atmosphere. These are not in the
24 budget, but it could cause rapid
25 warming.

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1 So catastrophe is not my word.

2 It's -- it's the word of Mark Lowry.

3 This is a director of the office of
4 climate change or the DEC, but I can
5 tell you that you'll see 4.5 degrees
6 centigrade.

7 We do not wanna live on a planet
8 that's that warm. That's when people
9 will be walking around with clubs and
10 bunking -- bunking each other on the
11 head looking for food and water. So
12 that we've been lucky in that the ocean
13 has buffered the warming, that's
14 absorbed the heat.

15 It's damage the ocean ecosystems a
16 lot, but it's protected us, but no one
17 knows how long the oceans can continue
18 to absorb the heat, and they're worried
19 that it'll begin to release it back into
20 the atmosphere, adding to the heat. So
21 warm oceans also mean more extreme
22 weather because there's more
23 evaporation, goes up faster.

24 It comes down a big torrent plus
25 con -- big convection waves create big

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1 winds. So we've had a lot of extreme
2 weather. I'm sure you've all been
3 aware, the biggest storm, the most
4 tornadoes and so on. This is a trend
5 that will continue, drought.

6 You know, California -- I heard a
7 NASA scientist say that California may
8 be in a 500-year drought. This is
9 pretty serious stuff. So it's -- part
10 of the evidence of this is that we are
11 having billion dollar storms. In 2015
12 to 2021, they doubled.

13 And you can see there's an upward
14 trajectory of billion-dollar storms. So
15 not addressing climate change is
16 expensive. So what will happen to
17 aurora? Well, in the New York climate
18 report, it shows by 2080 on the left,
19 that's the heat, it's gonna be hotter
20 and on the right shows it's gonna be
21 wetter.

22 However, it also shows for 2050, on
23 the right you'll see it's actually a
24 drying trend. So we need to be prepared
25 for both too much and too little water.

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1 But I wanted to show you this snapshot
2 of 2017. It was really hot. I'm
3 missing something. Oh, yes. And what -
4 - what happened is, we -- they had to
5 close Saratoga racetrack for -- for an
6 entire weekend.

7 Also because there's more humidity
8 to the atmosphere, perspiration doesn't
9 evaporate in cool humans and animals.
10 Also going backwards, when we get down,
11 when we get precipitation is much more
12 likely to be in Torrance, heavy
13 downpours rather than gentle nourishing
14 rains for crops.

15 So this is definitely something
16 Saratoga needs to prepare for. So what
17 have we seen so far? We've definitely
18 seen extreme precipitation, seasonal,
19 shifting warmer winters, hotter summers,
20 more ticks and mosquitoes carry diseases
21 and invasive pests love warmer winters.
22 So what can the city do?

23 Obviously, we need to re -- like
24 every -- like the whole world, we need
25 to reduce and eliminate fossil fuel use.

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1 But I also became aware that we have a
2 lot of methane leaks in the city, which
3 is, I think we should advocate with
4 utilities to fix those leaks.

5 We also need to protect our open
6 space, wetlands, and forest, because it
7 helps buffer against some of the climate
8 change impacts. But we need to prepare
9 for changes that we know about, but we
10 also need to prepare for the unknowable.
11 We're gonna have a constantly shifting
12 future for decades.

13 So every tone of CO2 matters and
14 other emissions too. The whole world
15 needs to get to net zero. I just wanna
16 point out that that's the world economic
17 forum. Believe me, governments,
18 business leaders all over the world know
19 it, and they're talking about it.

20 They're worried that 2050 will be
21 too late, that we need to hit there
22 sooner. So what are the sources of
23 greenhouse emissions in Saratoga? We
24 know transportation is Number 1,
25 followed closely by buildings.

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1 The fossil fuel uses -- that we use
2 to heat them and move them. The third
3 is plug loads. That means anything we
4 plug into an outlet like outlet -- like
5 appliances, refrigerators, computers,
6 and then waste.

7 As waste degrades, it creates
8 methane. So that sort proposes this
9 high impact I -- items, which we have --
10 most of which we've done at least some
11 of. The one we'd really like to do is
12 the achieve as the community choice
13 aggregation, which would be to buy bulk,
14 renewable power for the city.

15 But we've encountered some hurdles,
16 but we're working on it. So -- but the
17 idea is -- electrify everything and then
18 green the grid. We're -- need to
19 electrify heating, which is a challenge,
20 but we have the technology.

21 Electric vehicles, and then again,
22 meet the city's needs with electric
23 power, green power. This just came out
24 of the IPCC released yesterday. You can
25 see that they're expecting wind and

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1 solar to be a big part of the mix. But
2 look at the bottom.

3 Also, reducing methane is the third
4 critical thing to do. So New York State
5 is actually compelling us to electrify
6 vehicles because they -- we will no
7 longer be able to sell internal
8 combustion engines by 2035, newer heavy
9 duty trucks by 2045.

10 And of course, it will require a
11 charging infrastructure, which we
12 started that at the city center, but
13 there's a new innovation that I think
14 will be -- will help us, which is that
15 we can now start to use cars as storage
16 batteries for buildings.

17 You could -- the car can use, take
18 the energy out of the charger and then
19 send it back to the building. That has
20 some promise. We have options now to
21 electrify city fleets.

22 Saratoga's done a good job of
23 promoting non-motorized transport and we
24 need to foster public transportation.
25 It's hard in a small community, but it's

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1 important for people who can't afford
2 cars. Again, methane, we have to
3 concentrate on that by reducing natural
4 gas use, stop leaks, shift to all
5 electric cooking, compost organic
6 matter, and protect wetlands.

7 But there are other reasons to
8 reduce methane, to reduce natural gas.
9 Methane is explosive and toxic. In 2018
10 in Massachusetts in one incident, 39
11 houses blew up or burned from a natural
12 gas leak. And also on the right are gas
13 stoves. It turns out a study to show
14 that they leak methane in your house,
15 even when they're not on.

16 And also, other toxins that are bad
17 for you to breathe. Energy efficiency
18 is the largest, cheapest, safest,
19 cleanest way to address the crisis as
20 this famous Amory Lovins talks about
21 from the Rocky Mountain Institute.
22 However, it's just, most people don't
23 know much about it, and it's not all
24 that glamorous, but it is the smartest
25 thing we could do. Why do we waste

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1 energy heating a build -- you know,
2 sending our heat into the outdoors?

3 It's the equivalent of burning our
4 money. So we could improve the
5 efficiency of city owned buildings,
6 adopt stricter building codes, and
7 create energy efficiency outreach
8 programs so the whole community can
9 help. Also, we now are compelled to
10 benchmark our energy data, which Tina
11 Carton has done.

12 And so if you glance at it, you can
13 tell at one glance what our least
14 efficient buildings are, and you can
15 provide directions that we can -- in --
16 which we can go to improve our energy
17 efficiency. Saratoga's done a wonderful
18 job of supporting local a agriculture.

19 It reduces greenhouse gas emissions
20 if you don't have to transport food over
21 long distances, and also large
22 industrial farming creates greenhouse
23 gases. So we can plant and maintain
24 trees. In downtown Saratoga, one
25 analysis showed that the trees probably

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2 save a half a million dollars in energy
3 costs by providing shade when air
4 conditioning is used.

5 Also, trees capture polluted storm
6 water, don't foul our waters, but also
7 prevents it from going into the sewer
8 system where then it has to be
9 processed. This is the coming thing,
10 green infrastructure. UI think
11 Saratoga's challenge in the future in
12 hot periods will be water.

13 So green infrastructure helps keep
14 water clean. It sort of -- natural
15 processes clean the water without our
16 having to pay for it. It prevents
17 pollution from reaching our water
18 bodies, and also there's less cement,
19 which is very polluting. And community
20 we admire and want to emulate is Ithaca.

21 They have a very impressive green
22 new deal. They're gonna have a hundred
23 percent renewable electric energy by
24 2030 and reduce emissions from city
25 fleets. There are many benefits from
 addressing climate change, energy

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efficiency, saves money.

2 Why are we spending money that we
3 send to the national grid, which is not
4 even an American company when it could
5 stay in the local economy and circulate.
6 There are lots of jobs in the new
7 industries and also local air quality
8 would improve hugely when we get rid of
9 tailpipe emissions.

10 Plus, sustainable communities are
11 appealing to young people with talent.
12 So what is our --- we can ask ourselves,
13 what is our capacity as a city to
14 address climate change? Do we have, or
15 where can we find financing resources,
16 knowledge and expertise, staff and time.
17 Political will is a problem all over the
18 world, especially with, as you see many
19 competing agendas and needs, but I would
20 suggest that we -- it's time for us to
21 develop a climate action plan.

22 I agree with the Mayor Kim, we
23 agree that it shouldn't be a fancy plan
24 that sits on a shelf, but it'd be
25 something useful and actionable. Here's

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 a good example. We can set goals,
3 develop strategies and know what our
4 action items are.

5 So I'm just tonight asking that the
6 City Council collaborate with this
7 climate smart task force and other
8 people in the community, use our skills
9 and abilities to develop a workable
10 action plan. But I would also maintain,
11 we can't do it alone.

12 We need the policies and financial
13 support of the federal government, State
14 government and we also need the
15 technical support. So thank you very
16 much. And I look forward to working
17 with you.

18 MAYOR KIM: Thank you, Miss
19 Caldwell.

20 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Mayor, may I
21 just take a minute?

22 MAYOR KIM: Yeah, sure. I was
23 gonna say, anyone have any comments?

24 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: So the
25 climate action and resiliency plan is
26 definitely one of our goals too, and we

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1 definitely wanna work on it in the
2 coming months and -- and find monies for
3 it. If not through State and federal
4 grants, then through our -- our budget.
5 So I'm very committed to it and -- and
6 we will get to -- Thank you very much.

7 MAYOR KIM: Anyone else wish to
8 comment on the presentation?

9 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: I just
10 had a quick question. You made the
11 comment that we have excessive methane
12 leaks. So we have a cab landfill. We
13 understand that that is constantly
14 venting methane to the environment. Is
15 there -- is that the prime source or are
16 there other?

17 MS. CALDWELL: No, I was walking
18 that street the other day and I walked
19 in a huge pocket of natural gas. I can
20 smell it.

21 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: So you're
22 saying natural ---

23 MS. CALDWELL: It was leaking from
24 the infrastructure around the city.

25 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Really?

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1 MS. CALDWELL: There's a natural
2 grid team that's been in (indiscernible)
3 for six years every day (indiscernible)
4 That's how much is how much there is
5 (indiscernible).

6 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: I would
7 really like to learn more about that
8 from you.

9 MS. CALDWELL: Thank you for
10 (indiscernible).

11 MAYOR KIM: Can you go to the mic,
12 please? It just -- because we do have
13 people listening to us over the
14 internet.

15 MS. LISA: I'm just -- just -- I'm
16 Lisa. I live here in Saratoga. I'm a
17 renter and like 40 percent of the
18 citizens of Saratoga. And one of the
19 things -- I follow this very, very
20 closely as a teacher and as a citizen.
21 And one of the things that happens when
22 you have a lot of renters is that
23 landlords are not really incentivized to
24 make the improvements that needs to be
25 made because the renter pays the heating

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and the energy.

2 And so that happens in New York
3 city and it happens here. And so -- and
4 I've had some kind of personal
5 experience with that. But one of the
6 things New York City and the federal
7 government and State governments is
8 talking about, and we certainly can do
9 it a local level is to incentivize our -
10 - our -- our property owners to replace
11 furnaces and methane and to have, you
12 know, to -- to have stricter codes.

13 Again, it's a problem because they
14 don't necessarily pay the energy bill.
15 And so they're not always, you know,
16 home are incentivized to keep their --
17 their heating bills and their energy
18 costs low. And so something that can be
19 done at a local level.

20 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
21 have any comments on the climate task
22 force presentation by Rayna Caldwell?

23 MS. CALDWELL:

24 Can just say I want to say thank
25 you (indiscernible).

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1 MAYOR KIM: Okay.

2 MS. CALDWELL: I just want to say
3 thank you very much for your
4 (indiscernible). Thank you.

5 MAYOR KIM: Great. Thank you.
6 Seeing no other comments, we're gonna --
7 we don't have an executive session
8 tonight so I'm gonna, as we have done in
9 the past, ask the supervisors to report
10 to us. I don't know who's going first
11 but step up to the mic and we can get
12 started.

13 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Thank you,
14 mayor. Supervisor Veitch, giving my
15 report. I just have one item for my
16 agenda tonight and it's just really an
17 announcement. One of the things that
18 the county has been working on over the
19 past couple of years is upgrading our
20 technology and our boardroom and in our
21 committee room.

22 I'm pleased to announce that we
23 have finished the upgrades of the
24 technology, which includes a couple of
25 different things. Today we had three

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committee meetings at the county, and it
2 was the first time we've ever live
3 streamed meeting from Saratoga County.

4 So we did that today and we're
5 gonna continue to do that for our
6 committee meetings going forward. Glad
7 we're finally doing, it's been a long
8 time coming. And so eat -- for today in
9 the next three days, we have committee
10 meetings, so there will be livestream
11 meetings.

12 They start in the afternoon around
13 two o'clock or so. So if you wanna
14 check out our meetings, you can do that
15 after each day's meeting, we will then
16 post the meetings on the YouTube page to
17 allow members of the public to see --
18 continue to see the meetings, and they
19 will be saved on that page.

20 And also at our, our April 19th
21 board of supervisors meeting will be the
22 first full board meeting that will be
23 livestream from Saratoga County. So you
24 can visit our website. It's
25 saratogasscountyny.gov.

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1 And then it's a sub folder with --
2 of meetings. And then the 2022 meetings
3 are in there. And going forward from
4 here on out, we will be doing that. So
5 I -- I do appreciate the county for
6 putting the budget in for that. It's
7 been a long time coming. I've been
8 there for 15 years and it's the first
9 time that we're -- we're doing that.

10 So I -- I really think it's a great
11 step forward for us for openness and
12 transparency to the public. So that's
13 my agenda. Thank you.

14 MAYOR KIM: Thanks. Thank you,
15 Supervisor Veitch. We'll have
16 Supervisor Tara Gaston to come up.

17 SUPERVISOR GASTON: I'm gonna
18 switch my agenda quickly because Rain is
19 walking away, and I think she's an
20 important part of -- part of it if you
21 don't mind. So the third item I was
22 gonna discuss some upcoming public
23 forums, and one of the really important
24 things is that New York State has
25 released the climate action draft

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scoping plan.

2 And this is incredibly important
3 because it's really going to help devise
4 the -- the plan and the steps that we're
5 going to take to ideally do better about
6 all of this, but it's also really
7 important because they did not get a lot
8 of commentary or engagement from the
9 county level, which we fought for, but
10 also they really need to start hearing
11 our public comments.

12 They're available until June 10th.
13 And they're gonna be some upcoming
14 public forums on that. I'll mention
15 that in a second, but I wanted to make
16 sure that this work is important and
17 it's very timely. If you've read the
18 IPCC reports, you probably cry yourself
19 to sleep like I do, but the scoping plan
20 is the -- one of the most aggressive and
21 most advanced plans in the State -- in
22 the country and we need to make sure
23 that it gets moving.

24 So thank you, Rayna, for this.
25 Hopefully one day the county will get

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1 there. I'll kind of scoot back up.

2 Thank you. I just wanna make sure that
3 I had that chance to say that.

4 MAYOR KIM: Thanks.

5 SUPERVISOR GASTON: The first real
6 item on the agenda is a COVID 19 update.
7 We continue to do better than we were
8 before, but unfortunately, we are seeing
9 a rise. Many parts of New York State
10 have had a new increase of up to 50
11 percent of cases in the past few weeks.

12 Right now, our rolling average is
13 4.0. This is a lot higher than it was a
14 bit back. And right now we're at 13.7
15 cases per 100,000. This is significant
16 increase from where we were before.
17 Fortunately, our hospitalizations and
18 deaths are saying relatively stable, but
19 we also know that those are lagging
20 indicators.

21 The most important thing to realize
22 is that right now, about 60 percent of
23 the cases in New York State are
24 classified as variant BA2, which if you
25 watch the news a lot, you will hear as

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1 stealth Omicron. This means that you
2 may take several rapid test and be
3 negative, have symptoms, but you're
4 testing negative, and it will take a
5 while for you to test positive. This is
6 the importance of making sure that if
7 you are ill at all, you stay home, you
8 test, you please do not go share your
9 germs with other people.

10 We don't want them. And it's very
11 important, especially with, you know,
12 this variant that is -- that's spreading
13 because people think that they're doing
14 their due diligence. But as we know,
15 this disease is changing as I said,
16 hospitalizations and death rates remain
17 steady.

18 So our hospitals are still doing
19 well. Unfortunately, they have been
20 stressed over the course of COVID, and
21 so they're still running on fumes, I
22 imagine. So please be nice to your
23 medical staff as well.

24 The second item on my agenda is,
25 April is national county government

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month. So I'll be posting about things
2 that the county does. I think
3 everybody's learned a little bit more
4 about it over the past two years, about
5 what the county does for our community,
6 but there's also an art contest.

7 And I gotta say the national
8 association of counties creates a
9 calendar with the art that students send
10 in. The winning -- and last year North
11 Carolina had a lot of the months in the
12 calendar. So I would like to see some
13 of our kids in the area. You can go to
14 NACO, naco.org or check on my Facebook
15 page to see how you can enter. I would
16 love to see one of our local kids get
17 some art in that calendar cause it's
18 fun. We have one in our office, and
19 it'd be nice to see not -- North
20 Carolina, respectfully to my colleagues.

21 It is also national public health
22 week this week. And I've been posting
23 and sharing. The theme is Public Health
24 is Where you are. And much like there's
25 a lot of discussion earlier about

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disparities and differences, the idea is
2 that public health has to be brought to
3 people and not make people show up for
4 it.

5 And so, yesterday's theme was about
6 racism and health disparities. Today's
7 about our public health workforce, which
8 is amazing. And there's also
9 discussions about how to support public
10 health in a community and how to make it
11 accessible because obviously, if
12 everyone in our community can't reach
13 public health, we're not actually making
14 our community healthy.

15 And someone mentioned earlier about
16 forging. That is actually right before
17 COVID hit. I discussed with some
18 members of our public health team, the
19 idea of public forging planting trees
20 and berries that are open to the public.

21 And they were very interested in
22 it. And perhaps one day when public
23 health can take a nap and think about
24 things other than COVID, we will get
25 back to that. But if the city's

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1 interested in it, I'd love for you guys
2 to be involved in it as well.

3 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: So would
4 that be like including edible forests or
5 edible (indiscernible) and stuff like
6 that to --

7 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Yes. Right.
8 We are -- it could be something sort of
9 like an orchard or forest in like a
10 State park type area, or it could just
11 be a simple as, you know, planting more
12 blueberry, blackberry bushes. There are
13 para trees that are self-pollinating, so
14 you wouldn't have to have a whole lot of
15 them. Please do not plant Bradford para
16 trees. They stink. But - sorry. Some
17 people are laughing. But, you know,
18 there -- there are trees and -- and
19 bushes that are self-pollinating or that
20 you can plant kind of together like
21 along downtown connectors, Greenways,
22 that sort of thing that would both be
23 attractive, enhance the idea that
24 Saratoga Springs contains a lot of, you
25 know, plants that are -- are Public

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2 Works Department in the Arbor. They've
3 all been working very hard to keep going
4 and kind of enhance that, but also allow
5 some extra food for individuals in our
6 community who may not have access to it.

6 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Fresh food
7 (indiscernible). Fresh food.

8 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Yes. So the
9 third item was just in addition to the
10 scoping plant. So on April the 14th at
11 Empire State Plaza, there is a public
12 forum for the climate scoping plan. And
13 on May 7th, there is a virtual forum for
14 the climate scoping plan. You can also
15 submit comments via e-mail or snail
16 mail.

17 I don't know that they'll get there
18 by June 10th at this, right?

19 Additionally, the State is holding some
20 education around cannabis conversations
21 and what things might look like to come
22 as adult use -- it's legal, but then as
23 storefronts home grow, all these things
24 come to me.

25 So one of the things I'm also going

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1 to do is have a public forum of my own.

2 On April the 13th, it will be a virtual
3 livestream event. It will be at 06:00
4 PM and we'll discuss both the climate
5 scoping plan because our counties are
6 working hard on trying to make sure that
7 we have some representation there as
8 well as municipalities.

9 And also discuss some of the
10 things, some of the council members and
11 staff. We went and had some discussions
12 with dispensaries, personal, former
13 mayors, mayor, law enforcement in
14 Massachusetts about what cannabis coming
15 to our area might mean.

16 And so I'd like to discuss some of
17 that with the public as well, get input
18 and thoughts that might influence any
19 policy and ideas. If there aren't any
20 questions, that will conclude my agenda.

21 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: I want to
22 thank you for your efforts in getting us
23 involved and helping us understand
24 better about the cannabis business. We
25 did a delegation, Deputy Mayor, Angela

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1 Rella, Deputy Commissioner of Finance,
2 Heather Crocker, Matt -- Matt,
3 Supervisor (indiscernible), Supervisor
4 (indiscernible) and me. And we -- we
5 went through businesses that make and
6 process cannabis --

7 SUPERVISOR GASTON: One day I hope
8 that my bag will no longer smell like
9 it.

10 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: But -- but
11 it was a very insightful trip. And --
12 and I think we learned a lot about some
13 of the opportunities as well as
14 challenges of the whole piece and -- and
15 I'm hoping that will help us get more
16 informed as we go through the process
17 here at Saratoga Springs.

18 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Absolutely.
19 Don't wanna recreate the will if we
20 don't have to.

21 MAYOR KIM: Yeah. Great.

22 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Anything else?

23 MAYOR KIM: Anyone else?

24 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Thank you.

25 MAYOR KIM: Thank you, supervisor.

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1 We are gonna move on to the consent
2 agenda. I'll entertain a motion to
3 approve the consent agenda.

4 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: So moved.

5 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

6 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Second.

7 MAYOR KIM: Is there any changes or
8 additions to the consent agenda? Hearing
9 none, all in favor, Aye. Opposed?
10 Motion carries. I'm gonna move on to my
11 agenda. Our first -- our first item is
12 a little bit bittersweet.

13 We are saying goodbye to Keith
14 Kaplan if he could come forward. So
15 Keith Kaplan has been on the Zoning
16 Board for 14 years, which is remarkable.
17 I -- I was on it myself and it is an
18 intense board. It -- it meets more now
19 than it did when I was on it. I think
20 it's once a week -- once a month, right?
21 Oh, no, every week, correct?

22 MR. KAPLAN: We -- we meet twice a
23 month, and we have workshops on some of
24 the off weeks.

25 MAYOR KIM: Yeah. So he's been --

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1 he's served in every capacity since.

2 He's secretary vice chair, and in 2019,

3 he became the chair of the committee.

4 He -- and everyone who I spoke to about

5 his service, mentioned how competent,

6 reasonable, and effective he's been as

7 the leader of this important land use

8 for it.

9 So I -- I want to congratulate him.

10 I want to read our proclamation.

11 Whereas for many years, Keith has been

12 an outstanding example of a Saratogan

13 who gives generously and unselfishly of

14 his time and talent in civic and

15 government service.

16 He has served with distinction for

17 many years as a member and later as

18 chairman of our city's Zoning Board of

19 Appeals, bringing his knowledge of our

20 city, his skills for details and

21 procedures, and his compassion for

22 understanding to an often difficult and

23 demanding job.

24 And whereas he recently announced

25 his intention to retire from active

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2 service to the Zoning Board of Appeals,
3 Iran Kim, with the other members of the
4 City Council and pleased to join in with
5 Keith colleagues. I know that one is
6 here on the board and with his family
7 and many friends expressing our thanks
8 and appreciation for his invaluable
9 service to Saratoga Springs and to --
10 and to extend our very best wishes for
11 your good health, happiness, and success
12 in all your future endeavors. So I
13 wanna just come over and give you this
14 and congratulations.

14 MR. KAPLAN: Thank you very much.
15 It has been my extreme pleasure to have
16 served on the zoning board since 2008.
17 My -- my predecessor on the board is
18 sitting right here, Matt Veitch. His
19 election as supervisor that opened up
20 the spot that I was then appointed to.

21 So it's -- it's wonderful to
22 bookend the experience with him here.
23 But I really wanted to spend the moment
24 to just thank the -- thank these staff
25 who are incredibly capable and are

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1 incredibly response -- responsive and
2 knowledgeable.

3 So I really want to call out Anisha
4 Samuels, Amanda Tucker, Susan Barden in
5 particular, but also Diane Bosinaky
6 (phonetic), Susan Holmes, Patrick Hogan
7 and Tony Izzo, for -- for the fantastic
8 support that they give our board. And I
9 also want to thank my fellow volunteers,
10 Sherry's right here. You know, one to
11 just really -- it's a great team and we
12 really do our best for the city and just
13 very much appreciate Mr. Mayor this
14 moment you know.

15 And I'm moving across the border to
16 Wilton, but I won't be -- so I won't be
17 going far, but I will very much miss my
18 time in Saratoga.

19 MAYOR KIM: Well, thank you.

20 MR. KAPLAN: Thank you.

21 MAYOR KIM: So my next item is
22 closely tied to by first. I'm
23 announcing the appointment of -- of Gage
24 Simpson as the chair of the ZBA to
25 replace Keith. Since 2013, Gage has

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2 been an advanced manufacturing
3 instructor with Washington Saratoga,
4 Warren Hamilton, Essex Bosses. Prior to
5 this position, he was a senior project
6 engineer with Bechtel and was a
7 materials engineer with Knolls Atomic
8 Power Laboratory.

9 Gage has a BS from Purdue
10 university and material science and an
11 MS in technical management from Embry-
12 Riddle Aeronautical University. Gage's
13 got big shoes to fill, but with a
14 departure of Keith Kaplan, but I know
15 he'll do a great job.

16 I want to congratulate him and
17 thank him for stepping up. And on that
18 -- and I -- you know, this is of course
19 true about Keith. These are very
20 difficult jobs, long -- long hours and
21 it's all volunteer. So these people do
22 an awful lot of work for this city. And
23 here's the other thing.

24 They make some decisions that do
25 impact our city. Chris Matson was on
the zoning board. He knows this. Matt

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1 Veitch. It's -- it's a -- and so when
2 people step up, it is to be commended
3 that they do this. So I wanna thank
4 Gage and of course, Keith, thank you
5 very much for serving our city.

6 Unrelated to that, we had a -- I'm
7 making as my third item, an appointment
8 to the ethics board. The -- the city
9 has an internal ethics board that
10 oversees, questions relating to ethics,
11 mor all employees. And we do have one
12 employee, member of that that's -- and -
13 - and, that was Keith Cling.

14 He did retire, from service to this
15 city. And so I'm appointing today,
16 Susan Barden. Susan Barden is a senior
17 planner. She was -- she's been that
18 since 2019 and she's been with the city
19 for almost 15 years in the Planning
20 Department. She earned her AICP
21 certification from the mayor, from
22 planning association in 2015, and she
23 holds an MA in applied geography for the
24 university of North Carolina.

25 I want to thank Susan for being

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
willing to step up to - to serve on the
2 ethics board. And, it's my third item.
3 My -- my fourth item is, announce a
4 preliminary request for congressionally
5 directed spending and community project
6 funding. The mayor's office is working
7 with Senator Schumer, Gillbrand, and
8 Congressman Tonko to request funding for
9 community based projects within the
10 city.

11 Are -- we have focused on three
12 projects and -- and part of this is the
13 timeliness of -- of these applications.
14 We're literally being asked to present
15 proposals to this -- to the -- to the --
16 these offices in the next day or so.
17 They're -- they're shovel ready. This
18 is part but not a complete -- it's part
19 of the infrastructure bill, it's been a
20 that have been -- that have flown out of
21 the infrastructure bill, but it -- but
22 it -- because of the timeliness we had
23 to move forward with this.

24 Commissioner Montagnino has been --
25 and his office has been helpful in

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 putting together some proposals for the
3 fire station Number 3. This will go to
4 Senator Schumer's office. The other
5 project that we'll be proposing are to
6 the Saratoga Arts Center has some
7 upgrades that are currently in the
8 budget.

9 We're gonna be presenting that in
10 the next few days, and also potential
11 upgrades to our water infrastructure.
12 And then finally, a fourth project is a
13 potential public private partnership
14 with rise to build a social center for
15 the homeless.

16 So those -- I'm announcing that
17 today we will come back to the City
18 Council of course, to give more updates
19 on that. But we -- we did need to move
20 on that fairly quickly because the
21 deadlines are April 10th and April 15th
22 for -- for the Senator and congressman's
23 offices.

24 So I -- I wanted to advise the City
25 Council. Are there any questions about
 that by the way?

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1 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Will there

2 be any matching funds required?

3 MAYOR KIM: We don't believe so,
4 but the -- these are -- right now -- in
5 the proposal stage, if for some reason
6 we were provided a grant or whatever
7 that did require that we'd come of
8 course, back to the City Council for any
9 approvals, et cetera. But at this
10 point, we don't believe there are any
11 matching funds.

12 COMMISSIONER MORAN: This is the --
13 this is just the -- the federal
14 earmarking process?

15 MAYOR KIM: Yeah. It seems like I
16 -- yeah, I -- I wouldn't -- yeah. It's
17 like almost member items. It seems
18 like, yeah, like that they have this
19 discretion and they've reached out to
20 our offices to -- to sort of do some --
21 give them some information about some
22 shovel ready projects.

23 So any other questions? My 5th item
24 is a proclamation. April is fair
25 housing month. Whereas this April marks

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
the 54th anniversary of the passage of
2 the fair housing act of 1968, which
3 sought to eliminate discrimination in
4 housing opportunities and to
5 affirmatively further housing choices
6 for all Americans regardless of race,
7 colored, national, origin, religion,
8 sex, or disability, and whereas since
9 then, New York State law has added
10 further protections based on religion,
11 marital status, sexual orientation, age,
12 and military status, and whereas the
13 violence against women reauthorization
14 act of 2013 added protections for
15 victims of domestic violence, dating
16 violence, sexual assault, and stalking,
17 and whereas the ongoing struggle for
18 dignity and housing opportunity is not
19 the exclusive province of the federal
20 government and vigorous local efforts to
21 combat discrimination can be as
22 effective or even more effective than
23 federal efforts, and whereas illegal
24 barriers to equal opportunities in
25 housing, no matter how subtle diminish

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1 the rights and freedoms of every
2 American, and whereas it is our
3 obligation as free citizens to do our
4 part in providing equal housing
5 opportunities to all men and women, and
6 to support both the letter and spirit of
7 State and federal fair housing laws.

8 Now, therefore Ron Kim, mayor of
9 the City of Saratoga Springs with the
10 City Council hereby joined in the
11 national celebration by recognizing and
12 proclaiming April 20 -- 2022 as fair
13 housing month. That's in a form of
14 proclamation.

15 My final item is to seek -- to add
16 something a 6th item to the calendar and
17 I'd ask, this is in a form of a motion.
18 The -- the, what I want to add is to add
19 a public hearing under Ukraine, Russian
20 war, and request to stop or suspend
21 Saratoga Springs, a city sister,
22 relationship with checkoff Russia by the
23 consulate of general of Ukraine. That's
24 a form of motion to add that and then
25 I'll explain it.

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1 COMMISSIONER MORAN: I'll second.

2 MAYOR KIM: Second. All in favor?

3 Aye. Opposed? Motion carries. So I'm

4 adding -- I -- I'd like to add a public

5 hearing for our next City Council

6 meeting, which I believe is the

7 (indiscernible).

8 COMMISSIONER MORAN: 19th.

9 MAYOR KIM: 19Th. I this is to

10 essentially solicit public opinion about

11 a letter that we received just recently,

12 the council general of -- from New York

13 city from Ukraine, asked us to stop or

14 suspend our relationship with the sister

15 city checkoff. For those of you who are

16 not aware of this sometime in 2000 the

17 City Council then established a

18 relationship with checkoff Russia.

19 I believe actually there were some

20 -- some visits back and forth. There

21 had been some other cultural exchanges

22 the we've -- we've had this relationship

23 for several years. I -- I don't -- I

24 don't know recently what we've -- what

25 we've been involved with but did receive

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1 this letter. I'll post it, we'll be
2 posting it on the website from the count
3 general asking us to reconsider that
4 relationship.

5 And I rather than just, you know,
6 take that step as a City Council, I
7 thought we would ask the -- the public
8 to -- to weigh in and we'll do that next
9 week -- next City Council meeting. Any
10 questions on that? -- Nope. So that --
11 that con includes my agenda, and I'll
12 ask the Commissioner of Accounts, Dylan
13 Moran to move the Accounts Department
14 forward.

15 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Thank you, Mr.
16 Mayor. I appreciate that. The first
17 item on my agenda is the award of a bid
18 for EMS equipment and service to striker
19 corporation. Upon the recommendation of
20 Department of Public Safety. I moved to
21 award the bid for EMS equipment and
22 service to the striker corporation in
23 the amount not to exceed \$124,637 and 40
24 cents.

25 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

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1 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Second. Can
2 you guys hear me?

3 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Yes -- yes.

4 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in
5 favor? Aye -- aye. Opposed. Motion
6 carries.

7 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Thank you.
8 Second item on my agenda is an
9 announcement, the relaunch of special
10 events. As we've known, it's been
11 pretty long and lonely last couple
12 years. So many of the things that --
13 that bring us together as a community
14 had to be stopped.

15 Obviously, the interaction that
16 we've had between each other has been --
17 sparse and -- and in my perspective --
18 certainly too few and too far between.
19 I'd like to specifically recognize the
20 efforts of my deputy Stacy Connors.
21 She's done a -- She's just, she's done a
22 tremendous job revamping our -- our
23 special events process and what I'm
24 proud to say is moving forward, we've
25 got a process that elaborate within the

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government.

1
2 It's one that does -- does some
3 very, very significant or has
4 significantly changed and -- and one of
5 the main things is in the past when
6 folks would have -- have an little mic
7 problem here. In the past, when we
8 would have a special event, we wouldn't
9 be able to, or the holder themselves
10 wouldn't know until after the fact what
11 type of fees they may have from the
12 city, from the Department of Public
13 Works or from the

14 Department of Public Safety. So
15 you'd go and run your event and weeks
16 later, you'd get a bill for thousands of
17 dollars you never anticipated.

18 Obviously, as a host venue, that's
19 really not a business model that creates
20 good relationships good will and
21 encourages others to want to come to our
22 city. And I -- and I'm very, very proud
23 of the work that we've done in
24 conjunction with the

25 Department of Public Works. I'd

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1 like to thank Joe O'Neal specifically.

2 Thank you, Joe. I'd really like to
3 thank Commissioner Scirocco because
4 obvious none of this would be happening
5 had he not given them the instruction to
6 -- to be collaborative and cooperative.

7 I'd also like to thank Commissioner
8 Monte Nino and the -- and the
9 Department of Public Safety. They're
10 incredibly important for our -- our
11 special event process. Boy, this mic is
12 rough. But with that be said a couple
13 weeks ago, you may have noticed we threw
14 a party in town and -- in spite of the -
15 - the harboring or rather the Haring of
16 -- of -- of -- of Holocaust or -- or
17 some type of strife that would set the
18 community, if we were to close down
19 roads,-- it's actually something that
20 we've been doing for decades.

21 You know, so the criticisms that
22 have been directed towards the City
23 Council towards our efforts it's -- it's
24 really sad that -- that -- the press has
25 gotten to the point where they have to

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1 invent issues to attack you over. But
2 the fact of the matter is the men and
3 women in this government and in the
4 Depart Public Safety and Department of
5 Public Works have been doing this work
6 for decades.

7 We've been having these events
8 since my childhood and two Saturdays
9 ago, we closed every street in the
10 downtown area. We brought 30,000 of our
11 closest friends out, and we had an
12 incredible party and anybody who was
13 there knows how refreshing it was, how
14 invigorating it felt to be around others
15 again, and how safe it was.

16 I'm gonna say that again, we
17 brought 30,000 people to our downtown
18 area from out of town, and it was
19 incredibly safe. And I just want to
20 thank everybody who came out, who made
21 the day possible.

22 There's gonna be a lot more of that
23 coming. And again, just to -- just to
24 give you a -- a -- a brief idea of
25 upcoming events on April 15th, we have a

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1 spring Easter event sponsored by our
2 PBA, that will be held in Congress Park.
3 The Easter bunny will be there.

4 So of this is a family event would
5 be great if everybody could come out for
6 that, and on April 30th one of my
7 favorite events of all time Tree Toga
8 will be occurring. And again, this is
9 another event where Commissioner
10 Scirocco has provided tremendous
11 leadership to the community.

12 We're gonna be planting 53 trees
13 this year, which I think is the most
14 that's ever been done during the event.
15 Yeah, absolutely. Absolutely. And
16 again, I'd like to thank sustainable
17 Saratoga for hosting this tremendous
18 event. It's a great unifying event.

19 I've been participating in it for
20 years and I'm just excited to be able to
21 get back to it. So with that, I'll move
22 on to my third item. Again, another
23 announcement (indiscernible). Oh, I'm
24 sorry. Go right ahead.

25 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: I -- I just

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1 wanna say that -- everybody here at City
2 Hall, but especially your department,
3 public safety, public works, did a great
4 job at child Fest. It was a huge
5 success. Lots of people came into town,
6 enjoyed child and alcohol who did all
7 the stuff Sarah Springs has to offer.

8 And -- and there were a lot of
9 happy faces overall, so great job,
10 everybody.

11 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Thank you. So
12 on my third announcement just given you
13 a brief update on outdoor dining. So we
14 have previously authorized the
15 continuation of our outdoor dining
16 program and couple events have taken
17 place over the last few weeks. First
18 and foremost, coming into office, I
19 recognized that we needed to shift this
20 project or this -- this -- this process,
21 if you will.

22 From one that was -- was really
23 supported through the -- the best
24 efforts of the best in our community.
25 People who stepped overstepped forward,

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volunteered their time, their services,
2 their materials, to help us develop this
3 outdoor dining program.

4 It was supported over two years
5 through that voluntary effort. And it's
6 clear that's not something that could be
7 sustainable going forward. I got
8 together with our supervisor, -- Matt
9 Veitch.

10 I talked to him about gaining
11 support from the -- from the county to
12 help us move the box around. They get
13 half of every dollar of sales tax that
14 we recoup. Over the last year, we saw a
15 year over year gain of about 8 million.
16 So they saw a gain of about 8 million, I
17 thought, hey, maybe you want to do
18 something to help continue to earn that
19 money.

20 Matt and I had a great
21 conversation. We were able to get the
22 support of the -- the county public
23 works director. All of this is
24 documented in e-mail and awfully went.
25 I thought it was a great ex -- example

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2 of -- of bipartisanship, which is
3 something that does not happen enough
4 these days, and I thank Matt for his
5 help with this, unfortunately, about a
6 week and a half ago, the county
7 completely without any announcement or
8 fanfare or rationale just said, they
9 weren't gonna do it anymore, said no,
10 we're not doing it.

11 I made several in treaties to try
12 and understand why that may be and was
13 provided none. You know, the
14 envisionment of how to roll this program
15 out includes a fee structure, which
16 we'll be talking about momentarily, but
17 those fees were intended to be brought
18 forward as a means of bringing for more
19 decorative barriers, starting to bring
20 this program in line with the look, the
21 feel, the branding that is Saratoga
22 Springs.

23 And unfortunately, now we have to
24 use those funds to pay people, to move
25 these blocks around, because again,
 Saratoga County and the Republicans that

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1 run it, don't care about small business.

2 There's no other rational answer for the
3 position that they have taken. They're
4 more than happy to take your money.
5 They are absolutely not interested in
6 supporting your efforts. I'm disgusted
7 by it.

8 In addition, unfortunately, members
9 of the previous council also directed
10 that blocks that were donated to us by
11 da Collins, would never be needed again
12 and they were thrown out. So again, the
13 shortsightedness of pre -- prior
14 counsels is rearing its head. So
15 unfortunately we're going to be moving
16 back and we're gonna be starting from
17 scratch, and we will be soon placing the
18 rudimentary blocks that -- that we
19 started out the first couple years with
20 we're gonna make due and going into year
21 two, we'll start to look to make that
22 improvement in terms of the look and
23 feel and -- and the texture and the --
24 and the -- the contextual architectural
25 or street scape elements that they're

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
introducing to our downtown area, such
2 that we'll get to a point where there'll
3 be a strong tie in between how these
4 look and -- and -- and -- and how we
5 look as -- as a -- as a community from
6 the standpoint of a consistent look and
7 feel to our Victorian heritage.

8 That being said very excited to
9 start this program and the next couple
10 of day, we should be starting to get
11 some blocks out. Certainly, within the
12 next two weeks, they'll all be out in
13 place. And I can't wait to see all of
14 you out dining at your favorite
15 restaurants in a safe way because that's
16 truly what this is still about.

17 It's about giving folks the
18 opportunity. I feel like I'm eating
19 this. Given opportunity to experience
20 Saratoga in a way that they feel safe.
21 And you know, the -- the information
22 shared by -- by Supervisor Gaston, is
23 very prescient because there still are
24 risks out there.

25 We're a long way from home, and

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1 we're gonna continue to need these
2 programs to support our community and
3 the visitors that we have to our
4 community. And again, thank you, Matt.
5 So with that, the fourth item on my
6 agenda is a discussion and vote,
7 temporary outdoor dining fee schedule.
8 I'm gonna just discuss what those are.
9 We're gonna have three levels. So, and
10 I will cite a couple local businesses.
11 So folks can get a handle on exactly how
12 this will -- will play itself out. But
13 -- the first levels is at a hundred
14 dollars.

15 This is gonna be for a business
16 that is utilizing their own -- their own
17 property. EEFTs would be a good example
18 of that. They use their side yard, they
19 created a dining area out there where
20 one didn't PO -- one didn't exist
21 before, the outdoor dining allows them
22 to bring the full complement of food and
23 -- and -- and drink that they have at
24 their business out into that side yard,
25 that's gonna be priced at as a fee of a

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1 \$100. The next level is at \$500. This
2 is going to be for individuals, for
3 instance, who had -- set up things on
4 the west side of Broadway and use the --
5 kind of the area between -- the curb and
6 what the formed sidewalk is.

7 So businesses like whole harvest
8 pine size pallet a couple other folks in
9 there, I think put market. And so
10 people who fit into that category will -
11 - will be at that level. The last would
12 be the full expression of -- of this
13 outdoor dining, where you do have the
14 outdoor parklets. We are starting to
15 use space on the streets and that's
16 priced at a thousand dollars. The
17 intent of these fees is to turn the
18 money back to support the program.

19 As I said, this first,
20 unfortunately, we're gonna be restarting
21 the program, but moving forward year
22 two, year three is when we're gonna look
23 to convert those concrete blocks into
24 something much more ornamental and
25 decorative while still providing the

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safety that -- that's really demanded by
2 those locations. Any questions on that?

3 MAYOR KIM: So let, why don't we
4 move the -- can you move it and then
5 we'll put it on the -- the --the fees.

6 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Yeah,
7 absolutely. So I move to adopt the
8 temporary outdoor dining fee schedule as
9 included with the agenda.

10 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

11 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

12 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Second.

13 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion on the
14 motion? Any other question? Oh.

15 MR. IZZO: Very minor
16 clarification. This is a resolution of
17 the council as required -- that --
18 that's the council established, he used
19 by resolution. So that's what this is.

20 MAYOR KIM: Thanks.

21 COMMISSIONER MORAN: You. Thank
22 you, Tony. And thank you for the help
23 with the drafting.

24 MAYOR KIM: Any other comments or
25 questions on the resolution? All in

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1 favor? -- I. Opposed motion carries.

2 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Thank you.

3 MAYOR KIM: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER MORAN: The last
5 update I have Number 5 just a couple
6 things. I was just gonna touch on the
7 topic that -- that supervisor gin did.
8 I'm glad that she did, because it is
9 very important. A lot of folks may not
10 understand that we're not out of the
11 woods. There are new -- there are new
12 variants that are on the horizon. We
13 can see them coming our way.

14 Central New York has three
15 counties, (indiscernible), Oswego, and -
16 - gosh, I can't remember the other one
17 off the top of my head. They're all
18 having mask mandates brought back.
19 Okay. This is still going to be with us
20 for a while. And so what does that
21 mean? Means we should still continue to
22 be aware. We, as a city have -- have
23 been provided through the State
24 (indiscernible) rapid tests. We have
25 them available, anybody who's having any

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1 kind of event, we certainly would be
2 happy to share them with you to make
3 sure that your -- that your guests could
4 use that as -- as a means of just making
5 sure they're safe. I would also ask
6 everyone who has these tests at home
7 check them.

8 There is a -- there is a --
9 expiration date on them these -- these
10 carry reagents -- and as such, they will
11 age out. We've provided ones over time
12 that have expired in March. We have
13 ones that are expiring in May, and we
14 have ones that are expiring in June. So
15 check your stocks, see what you have on
16 hand and make sure these aren't spare
17 tires, these are supposed to be used
18 every day.

19 So for instance, we had the -- the
20 chatter Fest week and a half ago, three
21 days after that, I started taking tests
22 every other day, because that's how
23 we're supposed to start to use these.
24 It's empowering. You can go bring
25 yourself out into an environment where

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1 maybe you were unsure of, and you can
2 test yourself to make sure you're safe
3 afterwards.

4 And with that, you can start to
5 build that self-confidence up, to start
6 to reenter society and start to reenter
7 these communal gatherings in a way that
8 you feel safe. So I strongly encourage
9 everybody to use rapid testing, and also
10 there's been an authorization for
11 everyone over the age of 50 to get their
12 booster.

13 We know that simply the best tools
14 we have are vaccination and booster
15 shots to prevent the worst outcomes from
16 COVID. I've been boosted. I plan on
17 getting the additional boost and I
18 strongly recommend and -- and ask
19 everyone to do so. That's the end of my
20 agenda. I appreciate that. Thank you,
21 sir.

22 MAYOR KIM: Thank you, Commissioner
23 Moran. Before we move on to the Finance
24 Department, we're gonna take a ten-
25 minute break, 'cause we've gotta do

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1 something with the mic. Okay.

2 MAYOR KIM: Okay. I'm gonna call
3 the meeting back to order it's 9:00
4 o'clock and -- and -- I'm gonna ask --
5 Commissioner Sanghvi to move forward her
6 Finance Department agenda.

7 COMMISSIONER SANGVHI: Okay. I
8 hope you can hear me. I am truly sad
9 that I am so excited to present and
10 there was a full room. I was like, oh
11 my God. So many people are gonna listen
12 about participatory budgeting, and
13 there's only one person. Thank you,
14 Nora.

15 All right. So -- I am really
16 excited because this is an innovative
17 finance tool that we are introducing in
18 Saratoga Springs. One of the key things
19 that, you know, I wanted to do, and --
20 and one of the big reasons why I wanted
21 to run for office is I wanted to make
22 Saratoga Springs a more inclusive place
23 and participatory budgeting helps us do
24 that.

25 It's something that -- we have

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adapted for our city, and by we, I mean
2 the advisory committee, which includes
3 and -- and three -- I mean, well, two
4 incredible awesome people who have been
5 helping put this together from the get-
6 go, our budget director, the very
7 capable Lynn Bochner, our Deputy
8 Commissioner of Finance, our incredibly
9 hardworking Heather Crocker, and -- and,
10 you know, I was along for the ride, I
11 guess.

12 But -- but we constitute the
13 advisory committee for participatory
14 budgeting. And the idea, the definition
15 of participatory budgeting is it's a
16 democratic process, which community
17 members decide how to spend a part of
18 the public budget. The New York times
19 calls participatory budgeting
20 revolutionary civics in action. It
21 truly deepens democracy, it builds
22 stronger communities, and it creates
23 more equitable distribution of public
24 resources. This is your or taxpayer
25 money, and you should decide, you know,

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1 how to spend it.

2 So our goals are to expand and --
3 diversify participation in our city's
4 budget process, listen to the needs of
5 our community members and utilize
6 participatory budget -- budgeting to
7 affect meaningful change, promotes
8 sustainable public good that promotes
9 long term future and wellbeing of the
10 residents of Saratoga Springs, and
11 create easy and seamless civic
12 engagement.

13 This has been done in many cities
14 around the world and -- and around the
15 US, big cities like Chicago and New York
16 as well as smaller cities like Freehold,
17 New Jersey, Greensboro, North Carolina,
18 Hartford, Connecticut, and
19 (indiscernible) Rhode Island. But it is
20 not something that we see a lot. In
21 this area, I believe we are the first in
22 the capital region to do this.

23 So like I said, we've adapted this
24 budget process to fit our city charter
25 and budget process. And it will follow

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1 this way. We are creating a committee
2 of 11 people, that will solicit and
3 review project proposals from our
4 community. The committee shall include
5 members, which will be citizens. I
6 mean, sorry will be residents of
7 Saratoga Springs, will be 18 years of
8 age, they will serve for two years, they
9 shall commit to attending 80 percent of
10 the meetings as well community outreach
11 events, and shall work to find the best
12 projects for a community based on the
13 criteria set by the committee.

14 So let's talk about the projects.
15 The projects are divided into two
16 groups, individuals, and organizations.
17 We wanted to make sure that just because
18 a big organization can have a lot of
19 resources and pull together a PowerPoint
20 doesn't mean that they should get the
21 monies. So we wanted to make sure that
22 any individual felt empowered to -- to
23 provide solutions. And -- and this is
24 the best part, right?

25 Of participatory budgeting is that

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1 almost every single time people come to
2 City Hall with problems that they want
3 City Council to solve. And this is a
4 proactive turn where we are asking them
5 to come to City Hall with solutions.
6 Write things that they want to see our
7 city do and -- and, you know, improve
8 their quality of life. So the idea here
9 is that anybody can come up with the
10 project idea and -- and submit -- submit
11 it to us. Participatory budgeting is
12 online. You can find it on the finance
13 page.

14 You can submit the idea through
15 mail, through e-mail or online. There's
16 a form and basically there, like I said,
17 two sets of submissions, individual and
18 organizations, and a project is eligible
19 for funding. If it meets the following
20 criteria, it does not exceed the annual
21 amount allocated. It's a onetime
22 expenditure that can be completed with
23 funds from the years participatory
24 budgeting process.

25 It can be implemented the city of

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1 Saratoga Springs legally and on public
2 property, and it benefits the public.
3 So projects that only benefit private
4 individuals or groups are not eligible.
5 These projects will then be vetted by
6 the participatory Budgeting Committee,
7 and they will get help and advice from
8 folks in City Hall.

9 We've spoken to several people you
10 know, we've spoken to DPW, we've spoken
11 to DPS the mayor's office accounts to
12 make sure that everybody is on board and
13 -- and supportive of the idea, and we'll
14 be able to help -- help assess the
15 viability of some of these projects as
16 well as sort of the timeline. You know,
17 at the end of the day we want the
18 projects as well as our city to be
19 successful in this process.

20 So once the projects are figured
21 out in terms of availability and
22 timeliness they will be opened up to the
23 public for a vote, and once the public
24 votes, the committee will make that
25 recommendation to the Commissioner of

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1 Finance me and I will then take that
2 under consideration and -- and advice
3 and go to City Council for a vote. So
4 we will fund the participatory budgeting
5 by establishing an assignment which may
6 be used for project in project
7 administration based on a very
8 conservative amount of the general fund
9 budget up to 0.25 percent of the fund
10 balance. Okay?

11 That's quarter of a percent of the
12 fund balance. So if it was \$100, we are
13 using 25 cents. I am presenting this
14 assignments to the council for votes
15 this evening based on fiscal year 2022.
16 This initial amount can total up to
17 \$135,000, 487.82 cents. The assignment
18 may be used whenever we are ready to
19 finalize our projects. The assumption
20 is that we will add it in our 2023
21 budget and the assignment may be
22 replenished and or revised as the
23 program evolves.

24 So all this information, like I
25 said, is available on the city website.

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1 If you have any questions, please reach
2 out to our Deputy Commissioner of
3 Finance, Heather Crocker, or our Budget
4 Director or, you know, ideally both,
5 Lynn Bochner. Our Advisory Committee
6 and the members of the Finance
7 Department have put together a draft
8 budgeting guidebook -- participatory
9 budgeting guidebook, committee
10 application forms, they are right here
11 if you're interested. Nora already gave
12 you one since you're the only one here.
13 I'm so sad, people. But -- but please
14 be interested in the committee. We
15 strongly recommend people, you know,
16 submit their ideas as well as serve on
17 the committee.

18 We are looking for a diversity of
19 voices. We're looking for opportunities
20 of making Saratoga Springs more
21 inclusive, you know, more equitable have
22 -- giving people more access. Edible
23 forests, for example, would be a great
24 idea that could go into participatory
25 budgeting.

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1 Alright, so finally, participatory
2 budgeting has been well accepted and
3 successful in many municipalities of all
4 different sizes and different forms of
5 government and -- and we look forward to
6 seeing Saratoga Springs on that list.
7 And that brings me to Item Number 2
8 which is a discussion and vote on the
9 resolution to establish an assignment
10 for participatory budgeting. I'm ask -
11 - asking the council to vote on the use
12 of city funds for participatory
13 budgeting initiative.

14 The assignment is up to the amount
15 available based on the fund balance and
16 cash flow. It may be replenished or
17 revised as the program is developed. At
18 this time, I would -- the resolution is
19 on the agenda to -- and -- and I'm
20 hoping that we can make the motion and -
21 - and open it up for discussion.

22 MAYOR KIM: So you're moving to
23 establish the assignment for
24 participatory budgeting? Is there a
25 second?

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1 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

2 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in
3 favor?

4 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Just one --

5 MAYOR KIM: I'm sorry --

6 COMMISSIONER MORAN: -- one
7 question. I just wanted to make it
8 clear to everybody what was going on --
9 you --you shared a lot of information
10 Commissioner. This is simply creating a
11 line item within the budget that will
12 facilitate this process once the process
13 gets established.

14 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Right. At
15 this point, we are just starting a
16 committee. We are not in any ways using
17 any funds. And these funds eventually
18 will be a part of our 2023 budget.

19 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Perfect.
20 Great. I just wanted everybody to
21 understand that.

22 MAYOR KIM: Great.

23 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Thank you.

24 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. All in
25 favor?

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1 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye

2 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

4 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion

5 carries.

6 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Okay.

7 Chapter of -- sorry (indiscernible).

8 All right. Number 3 on my agenda is an
9 update on city finances. As you know
10 I've been doing this regularly. We just
11 have a couple of things. Finance is
12 working on several projects to
13 streamline payroll processing across
14 multiple departments and vendors.

15 This was completed. There's an
16 internal audit of utility bills which is
17 underway. Internal audits are the
18 preview of the Finance Department. Our
19 mortgage tax for 2022 was \$917,948.66
20 year-to-date, which is 5.2 percent
21 higher than 2021 year-to-date, so that's
22 good news.

23 We have a new interactive web
24 platform which promotes budget
25 transparency and that's soon going to be

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available to the public and the
2 employees. ClearGov, our vendor, will
3 be making a presentation at the next
4 City Council and the software will go
5 live shortly thereafter.

6 The fourth item on my agenda is a
7 discussion on vote on finance policy and
8 procedure manual updates specifically on
9 payroll preparation and distribution and
10 timesheets and paying invoices. So in
11 regards to payroll preparation,
12 distribution and timesheets, we're
13 adding City Council members to NOVAtime.

14 We are also adding consent forms so
15 W2s can be e-mailed rather than mailed
16 to city employees. With your approval
17 the 2022 W2s can be sent to employees
18 electronically upon the written consent.
19 This is a new functionality made
20 available in the city's payroll system
21 and will help reduce paper and speed up
22 distribution process. This has been
23 reviewed by human resources. And
24 timesheets, City Council members will
25 now be included in NOVAtime as

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1 participants. Paying invoices.

2 As a result of many months of
3 review of utility bills to address
4 accumulating solar credits, deals with
5 credit balances past due balances and
6 misapplied payments. We have revised
7 the paying invoice guideline. We have
8 added guidance on addressing previous
9 and credit balances, late fees and sales
10 tax charges.

11 We have also added a statement to
12 serve as guidance for approvers or
13 reminder to prove the warrant for
14 accuracy and to provide remit slips to
15 finance. These changes were reviewed by
16 purchasing.

17 FEMALE SPEAKER 1: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: So this is a
19 motion I move that City Council approve
20 the finance policy and procedure manual
21 updates, payroll preparation and
22 distribution, timesheets, paying
23 invoices as included with this agenda.
24 This is a motion.

25 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

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1 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second

2 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in
3 favor?

4 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

7 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion
8 carries.

9 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: The next two
10 are quick. I'm gonna go through them.
11 There's a discussion and vote approval
12 to pay voucher reimbursement to Kevin
13 Kline in the amount of \$52.98 for IT
14 costs requiring credit card. We've
15 changed this now we have a credit card
16 policy with purchasing and finance.

17 But our recently retired IT
18 director Kevin Kline provided this
19 request for reimburse -- reimbursement
20 subsequent to the 30-day time limit
21 required for these kinds of
22 reimbursements.

23 So I move that the City Council
24 approve the payment for reimbursement to
25 Kevin Kline in the amount of \$52.98 for

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1 IT costs requiring credit card as
2 included with the agenda. This is a
3 motion.

4 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

5 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

6 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in
7 favor?

8 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye

9 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye

10 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye

11 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion
12 carries.

13 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: The sixth
14 item on my agenda is a discussion and
15 vote to approve to pay mileage
16 reimbursement to Jeff Cornick in the
17 amount of \$31.36 for city related
18 travel. This voucher was first
19 submitted within 30-day requirement but
20 was inadvertently placed on the 2021
21 from using 2021 reimbursements rather
22 than 2022 reimbursements and therefore
23 was not processed in the 30-day time
24 limit.

25 I moved that the City Council

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1 approve the payment of mileage
2 reimbursement to Jeff Cornick in the
3 amount of \$31.36 for city related travel
4 as included with the agenda. This is a
5 motion

6 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

7 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

8 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in
9 favor?

10 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

12 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion
13 carries.

14 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: The seventh
15 item is a discussion and vote for the
16 authorization for the mayor to sign
17 agreement with Keeper Security
18 incorporated for password security
19 services. This is an agreement with
20 Keeper Security Incorporated, a company
21 that provides internet password cloud-
22 based security. Keeper will allow the
23 city to have management control over
24 passwords used by city employees. This
25 control will allow the city to transfer

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the passwords for a particular city
2 employee to a different employee, will
3 allow audit of the quality of passwords
4 in use and will make it easy to create
5 and use long complex passwords.

6 This is just one example of new and
7 innovative measures for -- that our new
8 IT director is introducing to protect
9 and secure our city. The annual cost is
10 \$17,919. Funds are in the IT budget
11 line, that's a long line, A302169454720
12 and the agreement has been approved as
13 required by the city attorney, Risk and
14 Safety purchasing and finance.

15 I just want to say that I was a
16 little shocked to find some of these
17 issues and I'm really glad that we are
18 taking care of it so our passwords can
19 be better and -- and work for everybody.
20 Motion -- I move that the City Council
21 authorizes the mayor to sign agreement
22 with Keeper Security incorporated for
23 password security services as included
24 with the agenda. This is a motion.

25 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

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1 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Second.

2 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in

3 favor?

4 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

7 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion

8 carries.

9 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Chapter 8.

10 Messiah! Jesus! All right. Item 8 on

11 my agenda is discussion and vote budget

12 transfer benefits. Lines one to four

13 transfer funds from among various

14 hospitalization opt out and vision

15 insurance lines to cover recreation opt

16 out needs in the total of \$2,691.25, I

17 move that the City Council approve the

18 budget transfer benefits as included

19 with this agenda. This is a motion.

20 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

21 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

22 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in

23 favor?

24 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

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1 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion

2 carries.

3 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: A discussion
4 and vote for budget transfers for
5 payroll. Line 1 to 2 transfer funds to
6 water treatment plant, operator training
7 line from water treatment operator wage
8 line due to retirement in the amount of
9 \$47,000.

10 Lines 3 to 4 transfer funds to
11 police officers wage line from the
12 Assistant Chief wage line to reallocate
13 approved resources in the amount of
14 \$67,186.22. Lines 5 to 6 transfer funds
15 to street special events labor costs
16 from streets over time for a new way to
17 record its special events over time in
18 the amount of \$705 for Chowderfest.

19 Before I move that the City Council
20 approve this budget transfer, I had some
21 questions here for Commissioner
22 Montagnino. I was in Puerto Rico when
23 this happened and then I -- at that
24 point, I said we, you know, we need to
25 do a budget transfer. I've got a lot of

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1 questions from the public, I -- I just
2 was hoping you could shed a little more
3 light on this.

4 For example, one of the questions
5 that I've got is that you said 40
6 percent of our police force doesn't
7 leave their offices, can you -- can you
8 help explain that a little more for us,
9 please?

10 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Yes --
11 yes, only -- only 60 percent of the
12 force is actually out on patrol. We
13 have at this moment, the Chief and
14 Assistant Chief, we have four
15 lieutenants, we have 11 investigators,
16 and the -- the -- they are not assigned
17 to patrol.

18 Ten years ago, we had fewer
19 officers and yet we had more actual on
20 the ground police work being done. We
21 had a traffic division, we had
22 commercial vehicles that were being
23 stopped and inspected that kept our
24 streets safer, because we are the
25 confluence of three State highways.

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1 We also got \$300,000 a year in
2 revenue from fines from overweight
3 trucks and the like. And so at -- at
4 this point, the way things have
5 developed with previous administrations,
6 we have a significant amount of our
7 workforce, not doing actual policing.

8 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: And some of
9 the other concerns, obviously are, you
10 know, how is this going to impact
11 employee morale as well as, you know,
12 for example, will you be doing something
13 similar to the Assistant Chief in the
14 Fire Department?

15 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: That's an
16 excellent question, actually, because
17 the fire department does have a chief
18 and an Assistant Chief, but they have a
19 line for a battalion chief that is
20 currently unfilled.

21 And so while the assistant chief
22 and the chief's job descriptions are
23 very, very similar, the Assistant Chief,
24 Aaron Dyer, is actually performing two
25 functions. He is the nominative

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1 Assistant Chief, but in fact is doing
2 all the work that the battalion chief
3 would do.

4 And in addition, the synergy that
5 he and Chief Dolan have is such that
6 their jobs are not duplicative. The
7 Chief Dolan is doing the kinds of things
8 that the fire chief would do. Assistant
9 Chief Dyer, for example, is up to speed
10 with every aspect of Station 3 and
11 that's part of the work that he's doing.

12 So that kind of duplication of
13 effort that we see in the police
14 department does not exist in the fire
15 department.

16 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: And do you
17 believe that we will be safer come
18 summer with the actions that you're
19 taking with SSPD right now?

20 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: This is -
21 - this particular move is just one piece
22 of a much larger strategy. This is a
23 tactical move. There will be a number
24 of other changes that will be done in
25 the terms of reallocating resources

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without requiring the addition of
2 monetary funds from the city above and
3 beyond what's already been allocated.

4 The idea is to increase the number
5 of officers actually out on patrol to
6 have the officers safer on those late
7 nights on the summer weekends, the
8 Fridays and Saturdays, so that they're
9 not left out there outnumbered and
10 addition -- additionally to provide the
11 visitors to the city as well as the
12 residents of the city the kind of
13 security and -- and sense of security
14 that they would -- would feel knowing
15 that -- and seeing that there are
16 officers who are out there on the street
17 keeping things safe.

18 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Excellent.

19 Thank you so much.

20 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO:

21 (Indiscernible)

22 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: I move that
23 the City Council approve the budget
24 transfer payroll as included with the
25 agenda. This is a motion.

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1 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

2 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

3 MAYOR KIM: Is there any discussion
4 on the motion? Hearing none, all in
5 favor?

6 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

7 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

8 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion
9 carries.

10 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: This
11 concludes my agenda. Thank you.

12 MAYOR KIM: I'm going to move on to
13 the Public Works Department agenda.
14 Prior to -- to doing that, I'm sure I
15 speak for the rest of the City Council.
16 We're all thinking of Skip, his family
17 and hoping to -- to see him very soon
18 and looking forward to his return. The
19 first item is a discussion and vote
20 authorization for the mayor to sign a --
21 a contract with Palette Stone
22 Corporation for Asphalt. This is a
23 contract that piggybacks the contract of
24 the Saratoga County for asphalt and it's
25 in the amount not to exceed bid proposal

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unit prices.

2 The Saratoga County bid package has
3 been previously distributed with the
4 agenda. So I'm moving for the mayor to
5 sign a contract with Palette Stone for
6 Asphalt valid until December 31, 2022
7 in the amount of unit bid prices subject
8 to appropriation. Is there a second?

9 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Second.

10 MAYOR KIM: Is there any discussion
11 on the motion? All in favor?

12 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

14 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion
15 carries. The sixth item -- the second
16 item on the Public Works agenda is a
17 discussion and vote for the
18 authorization to sign -- for the mayor
19 to sign a change order Number 2 with
20 Jersen to provide bypass pumping and
21 miscellaneous sitework activities for
22 raw water intake project in the amount
23 of \$65,347. Jersen construction is
24 wrapping up the work on the raw water
25 intake project is 90 percent complete.

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1 This change order includes extra
2 work due to unforeseen conditions. It
3 is worth noting that the total change
4 order rate for the project is less than
5 the 6 percent of the original contract
6 bid, half of a typical change order rate
7 for a project of this complexity.

8 Task 11 includes bypass pumping
9 needed to keep their plants water supply
10 operational. It also includes coring
11 and overflow hole in the screen room
12 basin. Task 15 includes backfilling
13 with flowable fill in clay soils at the
14 intake piping as requested by the
15 Schnabel Engineering.

16 Exploratory test pits at the screen
17 room are also included. Task 17
18 includes abandonment of 18 dewatering
19 wells in order to save funds. DPW
20 performed vacuuming of these wells to
21 avoid the need for Jersen to completely
22 remove them therefore the cost includes
23 only flowable fill.

24 Task 18 includes removal of
25 unforeseen concrete -- concrete backfill

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2 at Manhole 3. This required an
3 excavator mounted hammer and handheld
4 clip chipping hammers due to the fragile
5 supply line. Task 19 includes the use
6 of flowable fill as backfill due to
7 unforeseen clay as requested by Schnabel
8 Engineering included as a credit for the
9 structural backfill not utilized.

10 This change order in the amount of
11 \$65,347 brings the total construction
12 contract from 2.2 million -- \$2 million
13 to \$2.1 million. Therefore, I move for
14 the mayor to sign change order Number 2
15 with Jersen to provide bypass pumping
16 and miscellaneous site work activities
17 for raw water intake project in the
18 amount of \$65,347 and that's in the form
19 of a motion. Do I have a second?

20 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Second.

21 MAYOR KIM: Is there any discussion
22 on this motion?

23 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: I -- I
24 just have one brief question. Mr. Kim.
25 Are the bypass pumps positive
 displacement pumps or are they

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centrifugal pump?

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MAYOR KIM: I will let Deputy
Commissioner of Public -- Public Works -
-

MALE SPEAKER 1: (Indiscernible)
the same thing.

MR. IZZO: They're -- they're no
longer (indiscernible)

COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Thank
you.

COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: So this
money will come from the DPW budget?

MAYOR KIM: Yes. Any other
discussion or questions on the motion?
Hearing none, I'll ask all in favor, aye

COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion
carries.

COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Did you ask
for a second on the motion?

MAYOR KIM: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Okay. Just
--

MAYOR KIM: Did I -- did I ask for
a second?

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1 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Okay.

3 MAYOR KIM: The third item on the
4 Public Works Department agenda is a
5 discussion and vote for approval to pay
6 invoice 7202 -- 17202 to BPI Mechanical
7 Services in the amount of \$805.12. DPW
8 was contract -- contracted from Visitor
9 Center staff concerning an issue with --
10 I'm sorry.

11 DPW was contacted from Visitor
12 Center staff concerning an issue with
13 the heat. Unfortunately the DPW plumber
14 is out on medical leave of absence and
15 another employee contacted BPI, the
16 city's plumbing vendor. They dealt with
17 the emergency issue without obtaining a
18 purchase order first. Therefore, this
19 invoice requires council approval to be
20 paid.

21 I'm moving for approval to pay
22 invoice 17202 to BPI Mechanical Services
23 in the amount of \$805.12 and that's in
24 the form of a motion. Do we have a
25 second?

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1 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Second.

2 MAYOR KIM Is there any discussion
3 on the motion? Hearing none. All in
4 favor?

5 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

7 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye

8 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion
9 carries. The first -- the fourth item
10 is an announcement on debris pickup.
11 The Department of Public Works has begun
12 curbside leaf and lawn debris pickup.
13 Leaves lawn clippings must be in a
14 usable container or a paper bag and
15 placed at the curb from May 15 to
16 September 30.

17 From September 30 to the first
18 snowfall, let's not rush things here,
19 leaves can be raked to the curb in small
20 piles. Crews will not go on private
21 property retrieve or clean up leaves.
22 Small limbs no longer than three feet
23 can also be bundled and placed curbside.
24 Please be sure to keep containers and
25 limb piles to weight manageable by one

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1 person.

2 We do not take stumps, lot
3 cleaning, tree take down on private
4 property, dirt (indiscernible) or rocks,
5 no plastic bags, no chemical barrels.
6 For more -- more information from the
7 City of Saratoga Springs go to
8 www.saratoga-springs.org. Thank you for
9 your cooperation. A final announcement
10 for the Department of Public Works is a
11 flushing notice.

12 We're letting residents know that
13 the beginning -- that beginning on
14 Monday, April 11, the Department of
15 Public Works will be -- begin flushing
16 the water distribution system. To
17 deliver the highest quality of water for
18 the residents of Saratoga Springs, the
19 water distribution system is flushed
20 during springtime and once again in the
21 fall.

22 When flushing the distribution
23 system, our DPW employees also take the
24 opportunity for routine maintenance and
25 service of fire hydrants that are

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throughout the city. If you do notice
2 some discoloration of your tap water,
3 simply run the cold -- the cold tap
4 until the water runs clear.

5 For any residents that may have a
6 question, don't hesitate to call the
7 Department of Public Works dispatch
8 office at 518-584-3356. And that's the
9 end of the Public Works Department
10 agenda and I'll ask Public Safety
11 Commissioner Montagnino to move forward
12 the public safety agenda.

13 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Mayor Kim
14 before we --

15 MAYOR KIM: I'm sorry.

16 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: -- we
17 proceed, can I -- It seems unfair that
18 we don't need police presence here and
19 nobody else is here. So I was thinking
20 if we wanna not bore you unless you want
21 to stay here which is -- which is fine.
22 If -- if everybody's okay, maybe we can.

23 OFFICER: That's fine.

24 MAYOR KIM: Officer, you are free
25 to leave. Thank you very much for your

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1 service tonight.

2 OFFICER: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: May I
5 continue, Mr. Mayor?

6 MAYOR KIM: Yes, I'm sorry.

7 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Thank
8 you, sir. First item on the agenda, I'd
9 like to add a brief announcement. I'm
10 very pleased to say that the requests
11 for proposal on fire station Number 3
12 have gone out today and they're
13 available on the city's website.

14 We are anxiously and eagerly
15 awaiting the responses to the RFPs. The
16 project is definitely moving forward a
17 pace. Thanks in very large part to
18 Assistant Chief Dyer's work in the Fire
19 Department along with the work of a lot
20 of other people who have gotten together
21 to get this -- this shepherd into
22 completion as quickly as possible.

23 First -- first item on the agenda
24 discussion and vote authorization for
25 the mayor to sign a contract with

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Upstate Polygraph Services LLC.

Polygraph tests are an integral part of
the screening procedure used for new
police officers. The general fee is
\$500 if there's a single test being
administered. If there are multiple
candidates being tested on the same day,
the company provides a discount of \$400
per individual tested.

This is in line with industry
standards and is the same fee that was
charged in previous recent years. So I
make that in the form of a motion.

MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Second.

MAYOR KIM: Any discussion on the
motion? All in favor?

COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion
carries

COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second
item discussion and vote and
authorization for the mayor to sign a
contract with Saratoga County EMS

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Council. This does not involve any
2 expenditure of funds on the part of the
3 city, but rather the simply -- cements
4 and arrangement by which veterans who
5 are seeking through a county program
6 their EMT certificates can ride along
7 and assist our firefighters who are also
8 paramedics in the services that they
9 render.

10 The contract is necessary for such
11 protections for the city as liability
12 insurance. I put this in the form of a
13 motion.

14 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

15 Second?

16 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Second.

17 MAYOR KIM: All in -- any
18 discussion? All in favor?

19 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

21 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion
22 carries.

23 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Item
24 Number 3 discussion and vote
25 authorization for the mayor to sign a

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major contract with Saratoga County.

2 This involves compensation by the county
3 to the city for EMS services provided by
4 our EMTs in the fire department.

5 The dollar figures involved are
6 based upon the actual costs per hour of
7 the individuals whose services are being
8 provided and the cost of the equipment
9 that's being used. I put this in the
10 form of a motion.

11 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

12 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Second.

13 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion on the
14 motion? All in favor?

15 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

17 MAYOR KIM: Aye. Opposed? Motion
18 carries

19 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Item
20 Number 4 discussion and vote
21 authorization for the mayor to sign two
22 lease agreements with Ricoh. This is
23 for the servicing of copiers and related
24 equipment. We're talking about sums of
25 \$49 and change per copying machine in

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
the Department of Public Safety. I put
2 this in the form of a motion.

3 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

4 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Second.

5 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in
6 favor? Aye.

7 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

8 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

9 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

10 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion
11 carries.

12 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Item
13 Number 5 discussion and voting
14 authorization to use 2021 monies that
15 are available for purchases of equipment
16 through Stryker industries. Stryker
17 industries provides specialized
18 equipment to our fire department such
19 things as motorized gurneys, also known
20 as power lifts.

21 These are the kinds of items that
22 are capital investments and in -- in --
23 in large part and also represent the
24 equipment used da-to-day by our first
25 responders. So I put this in the form

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
of a motion.

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MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Second?

MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in
favor?

COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye

COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion
carries.

COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: And
finally discussion and voting
authorization for the mayor to sign an
agreement with Stryker industries. This
is on a going forward basis to provide
the same types of equipment, some of
which are capital expenditures, some of
which are day-to-day expenditures, such
things as air packs and battery packs,
fuel cells and the like for the
equipment that's used by our
firefighters and EMTs. I put this in
the form of a motion.

MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Second.

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting

1 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in
2 favor?

3 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

6 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Motion
7 carries.

8 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO That
9 completes the Public Safety Departments
10 agenda. Thank you very much.

11 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Is there
12 any other issues for the City Council to
13 consider at this time? If not, I'll
14 entertain a motion to adjourn.

15 COMMISSIONER MORAN: So moved.

16 MAYOR KIM: Second?

17 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

18 MAYOR KIM: All in favor? Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

22 MAYOR KIM: Meeting's adjourned.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Thank you,
25 sir.

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting

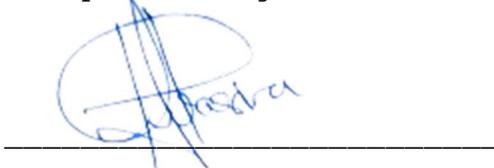
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COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Thank you

very much.

CERTIFICATION

I, Hector Solomon, certify that
the foregoing transcript is a
true and accurate record of the
proceedings.



Hector Solomon

ANP Transcriptions
405 WEST 7TH STREET #507
CHARLOTTE, NC 28202

Date: April 29, 2022

Approved 6-7-2022

Vote: 4 - 0

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