

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF FLORAL PARK

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2016

P R E S E N T

MAYOR THOMAS J. TWEEDY

TRUSTEE KEVIN M. FITZGERALD

TRUSTEE DOMINICK A. LONGOBARDI

TRUSTEE LYNN POMBONYO

TRUSTEE ARCHIE T. CHENG

GERARD M. BAMBRICK, ESQ.

JOHN RYAN, ESQ., VILLAGE ATTORNEY

STEPHEN McALLISTER, Police Commissioner

STEVEN SIWINSKI, BUILDING

SUSAN E. WALSH, VILLAGE CLERK

Application of: Local law No. 5 of 2016,

Appointment of the Commissioner of Police

Reported By: MARY ANNE COPPINS, Court Reporter

1 MAYOR TWEEDY: Ladies and
2 gentlemen, thank you very much for
3 coming in this evening. We have a
4 continuance of our Local Law Number 5
5 that we will be continuing this evening,
6 after which, we will have an agenda
7 Board meeting. After that, we will open
8 our meeting up to Board reports and then
9 we will open up the podium to anyone who
10 has any concerns or issues as it relates
11 to our Village at that time.

12 So, without further adieu, I will
13 ask our Village Clerk, Susan Walsh, to
14 kindly read the Legal Notice.

15 MS. WALSH: Thank you, Mayor
16 Tweedy.

17 Notice of continuance of a Public
18 Hearing of the Village of Floral Park,
19 proposed Local Law Number 5 of 2016.

20 Please take notice that pursuant to
21 Article 9 of the New York State
22 Constitution the provisions of the Code
23 of the Village of Floral Park and the
24 Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of
25 New York, a continuance of the Public

1 Hearing will be held in the Incorporated
2 Village of Floral Park at Village Hall,
3 One Floral Boulevard, Floral Park, New
4 York on Tuesday, the 6th day of
5 December, 2016, at 8:00 in the evening
6 of that date to consider the enactment
7 of a local law entitled: A Local Law
8 amending Section 25.4.A of the Code of
9 the Incorporated Village of Floral Park
10 regarding the appointment of the
11 Commissioner of Police.

12 This local law shall take effect
13 immediately upon its filing with the
14 Secretary of State.

15 By Order of the Board of Trustees,
16 Village of Floral Park, New York, Susan
17 E. Walsh, Village Clerk.

18 This legal notice was published in
19 the official newspaper in the
20 Incorporated Village of Floral Park, New
21 York, for two consecutive dates, on
22 November 23rd and November 30th and
23 posted according to law.

24 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you, very
25 much, Ms. Walsh.

1 Before we open up the podium for
2 any residents who would like to -- or
3 concerns who would like to speak to the
4 issue, I have a comment I would like to
5 present first.

6 Tonight we consider a local law
7 updating the language of Section 25.4.A
8 of the Code of the Incorporated Village
9 of Floral Park which was adopted in 1984
10 so as to codify the Board of Trustees
11 discretionary authority to appoint the
12 Commissioner of Police.

13 For those attending tonight's
14 hearing who were not present last time
15 we met, I offer the following as a way
16 of historical background.

17 Now, for those who heard this at
18 the last meeting, indulge me for just a
19 few moments.

20 In 1984, the position of
21 Commissioner was adopted by the Village
22 Board where the pool of eligible
23 candidates was limited within the ranks
24 of the Floral Park Police Department.

25 In 2000, former Mayor Steve Corbett

1 expanded that pool of eligible
2 candidates by adopting wording that
3 permitted the Village Board to consider
4 the qualifications of those meeting
5 eligibility requirements from beyond the
6 Village Police Department. That sage
7 decision by that Mayor and Village Board
8 was in response to the expanding and new
9 complexities of criminal behaviors that
10 all police agencies faced. That
11 decision, mirroring the changing demands
12 and needs of law enforcement, expanded
13 the pool of eligible candidates and
14 Floral Park's residents would receive
15 the best from the pool of the best,
16 including the ranks of the Floral Park
17 Police Department.

18 As we adjourned our public hearing
19 on November 1st, I stated that the Board
20 would review comments from the
21 transcript that were presented that
22 evening, and in a more deliberate
23 fashion, with respect to the concerns
24 raised by our residents.

25 The prior version of this local law

1 considered at the last hearing
2 envisioned incorporating, by way of a
3 Board resolution, the criteria that this
4 Board has used for the past six years in
5 selecting the Village Police
6 Commissioner. Some of the concerns
7 raised were that that change would
8 remove from the Village Code the
9 requirements that the Police
10 Commissioner have significant police
11 experience. Although it was envisioned
12 that the requirement of significant
13 police experience would be incorporated
14 in the Board resolution, and the
15 proposed Board resolution provided for
16 15 years of progressively responsible
17 police experience, we believe the
18 critique that that should be
19 specifically stated in the Code was a
20 fair one.

21 What this version of the local law
22 under consideration tonight accomplishes
23 is that it takes requirements that were
24 to be incorporated into the resolution
25 and specifically incorporates these

1 requirements into the Code.

2 The exception to this is that we
3 have removed as a requirement completion
4 of the FBI Academy or similar advanced
5 training school. That criteria will
6 remain as it has been preferred, but not
7 required, and will be incorporated into
8 the resolution that this local law
9 provides for. The requirement of a
10 Master's degree or higher degree as
11 described in the local law responds to
12 the ever changing needs of today's law
13 enforcement environment and presents the
14 candidates we believe with the
15 experience and exposure that many others
16 beyond -- from many others beyond our
17 Village law enforcement community and
18 will broaden their horizons and
19 perspectives.

20 With the advent of online
21 university matriculation, coupled with
22 the present day work rules, we do not
23 believe this is an onerous high
24 threshold to attain and is a fair
25 measure of the importance the candidate

1 places upon his or her desire to serve
2 as Commissioner of Floral Park.

3 The Village has always sought
4 police leaders who can provide
5 management skills and exceptional
6 leadership ability while building trust
7 in the community and modeling ethical
8 behavior both on and off the job, while
9 identifying and developing upcoming
10 leaders and provide guidance for their
11 internal change.

12 The criteria that the Village Board
13 is adopting are based on the guidelines
14 established by the International
15 Association of Chiefs of Police and the
16 Police Executive Research Forum. The
17 Village Board believes that any
18 individual in the position of Village
19 Police Commissioner must possess
20 requisite police command experience,
21 education and executive training so that
22 the Commissioner can ensure the proper
23 training of the entire department in
24 order to protect and serve the residents
25 of this Village. These changes are to

1 increase the level of qualifications
2 necessary, not reduce them.

3 The safety and security of the
4 Village of Floral Park should be
5 entrusted to the leadership of a person
6 with the highest qualifications. We do
7 enjoy a wonderful sense of safety and
8 security; but that comes at a great
9 price by our residents' treasure and by
10 the administration of expanded training
11 in response to today's changing law
12 enforcement environment. Expanding the
13 requirements and qualifications for the
14 position of Commissioner is a natural
15 progression of the requirements last
16 amended in 2000 and reasonably addresses
17 the demands placed upon today's law
18 enforcement executives. We require the
19 best, most experienced and qualified
20 leadership to hold the position of
21 Police Commissioner and this proposed
22 local law speaks to that need.

23 For nearly 100 years, the Floral
24 Park Police Department has proudly
25 provided our Village and her residents

1 with faithful service and vigilant
2 protection.

3 This local law enables this
4 department to continue on that mission
5 and its great tradition, a commitment to
6 excellence.

7 Now, I have asked, as you came in,
8 we ask that if you desired to speak this
9 evening if you would fill out one of
10 these forms. If you would still like to
11 do so, outside, you can still fill one
12 out. I have a number of them to go
13 through. What we find is this is an
14 effective way to provide us the
15 opportunity to listen.

16 If you've written one, your name
17 will be called, you will be called upon
18 to speak. They were presented to me in
19 the order in which they were filled out.
20 If you would like to speak, again, we
21 have them in the back if you would like
22 to fill one out. At the end, we will
23 let anyone who would like to comment at
24 that time, we would ask you at that time
25 to come up.

1 We will begin first with Bob
2 Pedley, President of the Floral Park
3 PBA.

4 MR. PEDLEY: Thank you, Mayor,
5 Board of Trustees.

6 MAYOR TWEEDY: Good evening.

7 MR. PEDLEY: I would like to take
8 this opportunity to thank our friends of
9 the Police Department who came down in
10 opposition of this law again. It's
11 raining out. We all have busy lives, I
12 appreciate you all coming down.

13 I believe it's important to speak
14 about the current law as it stands right
15 now, I didn't hear you speak on that at
16 all. In Floral Park, you need to be a
17 sergeant or lieutenant with 10 years of
18 service, you need to be a Nassau County
19 resident, and you're allowed a leave of
20 absence from a rank and return to rank,
21 should the Village Board decide not to
22 reappoint, and there is a two-year term.

23 Outside the Police Department of
24 Floral Park you need to be a lieutenant
25 or better with 10 years of service, a

1 Nassau County resident and a two-year
2 term.

3 Under the new law, and if I am
4 mistaken I apologize, Mayor, I didn't
5 hear you mention, you need to be a
6 lieutenant or higher with at least five
7 years as a lieutenant.

8 MAYOR TWEEDY: That presently is
9 the law as it.

10 MR. PEDLEY: The proposed law. I
11 didn't hear you say that. Also, you
12 need to have a Bachelor's Degree, a
13 Master's Degree, you mentioned, and
14 further qualifications and experience as
15 the Mayor and Board may specify, via
16 resolution to increase.

17 MAYOR TWEEDY: The resolution will
18 speak to, at that time, whatever that
19 Board may speak to; however, it would
20 speak to those, to that issue and any
21 additional requirements that may be
22 required by --

23 MR. PEDLEY: Additional
24 requirements as opposed to what is
25 already there.

1 In the new law, there is no leave
2 of absence from rank or return to duty,
3 should you not reappoint, and there is
4 no residency requirement.

5 MAYOR TWEEDY: Well, the residency
6 requirement is a function of Nassau
7 County.

8 MR. BAMBRICK: Residency
9 requirement is set forth in Section
10 25.4.B. this is 25.4.A, residency
11 requirement.

12 MR. PEDLEY: So there still is a
13 Nassau County residency requirement.

14 MR. BAMBRICK: Absolutely.

15 MR. PEDLEY: Just as a point of
16 order, if you can explain to me if this
17 law passes, what is the resolution
18 process, as opposed to an open Board
19 meeting, what is the resolution process,
20 should you decide to increase.

21 MAYOR TWEEDY: If I may, I will
22 ask our Village attorney.

23 MR. RYAN: What do you mean, Bob,
24 the resolution process?

25 MR. PEDLEY: I am reading it from

1 the law. It says by resolution, the
2 Village may increase --

3 MR. RYAN: As it's been done since
4 the beginning of time.

5 MR. PEDLEY: I'm not a politician.
6 Can you please explain to me how the
7 resolution process works?

8 MR. RYAN: Nor am I.

9 A resolution is proposed and
10 passed, and they appoint someone, like
11 they appointed every Village official,
12 like they appointed me.

13 MR. PEDLEY: So it doesn't happen
14 in open Board meetings, it happens in a
15 back room, it's not subject to
16 challenge?

17 MR. RYAN: It happens at Board
18 meetings.

19 MR. PEDLEY: It does, resolutions
20 in open Board meetings, okay.

21 MR. RYAN: Yes.

22 MR. PEDLEY: Okay, thank you.

23 Does Commissioner McAllister meet
24 the new requirements, the new change if
25 it passes?

1 MAYOR TWEEDY: Again, we're
2 speaking to a new local law. I believe
3 my comments spoke to what it is that we
4 are looking for as the future of this
5 Village and the future of this
6 department.

7 Does Commissioner McAllister comply
8 with those?

9 I would ask Commissioner
10 McAllister, and I am fairly certain he
11 does and exceeds them in fact.

12 MR. PEDLEY: Okay, I didn't know.
13 I've never seen his resume. So, since
14 he has been appointed to 2018, he --

15 MR. RYAN: Bob, this is not a
16 free-for-all. Do you have any comments?

17 MR. PEDLEY: Okay, John. Yes, I
18 do. I'm responding to the Mayor.

19 MAYOR TWEEDY: If I may, sir, we
20 have many, many people who would like to
21 make comments. I would ask that you
22 make your comments and then they will be
23 part of the transcript.

24 MR. PEDLEY: Absolutely, and maybe
25 I'll be covering a lot of ground so

1 people won't have to.

2 MAYOR TWEEDY: That would be great.

3 MR. PEDLEY: So we know he meets
4 the current requirements.

5 MAYOR TWEEDY: Exceeds them.

6 MR. PEDLEY: Okay, exceeds them.
7 We know he meets the current ones, too.

8 So the leave of absence from rank
9 is no longer going to be in the law. So
10 does that mean if a member is hired from
11 within, he would then have to retire
12 before taking the position of Police
13 Commissioner?

14 MR. RYAN: The law speaks for
15 itself. Any other comments?

16 MR. PEDLEY: I don't understand it,
17 John, I'm asking a question.

18 MR. RYAN: Keep commenting.

19 MR. PEDLEY: Does that mean --

20 MR. RYAN: That means if
21 somebody --

22 MR. PEDLEY: I'll assume he has to
23 retire.

24 MR. RYAN: If somebody becomes a
25 Police Commissioner, they don't fall

1 back to their union position or their
2 civil service position.

3 MR. PEDLEY: They would have to
4 retire.

5 MR. RYAN: They can do whatever
6 they want.

7 MR. PEDLEY: Suppose they decide
8 not to retire?

9 MR. RYAN: This is not a
10 free-for-all.

11 MR. PEDLEY: John, you're
12 commenting, I am answering you, John. I
13 am asking. We're looking for clarity on
14 this.

15 MR. RYAN: The clarity is this:
16 It's the law.

17 MR. PEDLEY: You're not answering
18 the question.

19 MR. RYAN: I'm not here to answer
20 questions, you're here to comment.

21 MR. PEDLEY: Okay. The problem
22 began in 2010, which brought us to this
23 moment, when the Village filed a 211
24 waiver for Commissioner McAllister to
25 receive his pension. He deserves his

1 pension, he should get it. But we also
2 have one lieutenant and five sergeants
3 who did not possess, who did possess the
4 requirements. The case analysis that I
5 received from New York State Civil
6 Service, there are some questionable
7 things.

8 It basically says, and this is
9 coming from Civil Service, the Village
10 Board of Trustees anticipates the
11 prospective appointee will develop and
12 train an individual within the current
13 ranks of the Floral Park Police
14 Department to replace Mr. McAllister.
15 And it further goes on to say, the
16 Village administrator indicates that
17 this will take two to three years for
18 someone within the department to assume
19 the title of Commissioner of Police.

20 Apparently, that never happened.
21 I'm not asking a question, John, please
22 don't go bananas on me.

23 The upgraded training you asked for
24 requirements, are you aware that New
25 York City gives tuition reimbursement?

1 Don't answer if you don't want to
2 answer.

3 Are you aware that New York State
4 gives time off to go to college? Are
5 you aware that three of the six
6 sergeants scored over 100 percent on the
7 last lieutenant's test, three of the
8 highest in all of Nassau County.

9 Is it a coincidence none of the
10 Floral Park supervisors meet all of the
11 qualifications of the proposed change?
12 Yet, my supervisors total 220 years of
13 police experience and over 120 years of
14 local supervisory experience.

15 It seems, Mayor, that you're
16 convinced that a Floral Park police
17 sergeant can't perform the job as Police
18 Commissioner. Yet, Mike Green was
19 appointed Police Commissioner as a
20 sergeant. He was reappointed eight
21 times to a total of 17 years. That's a
22 pretty good run for a sergeant.

23 MAYOR TWEEDY: He was appointed as
24 a lieutenant.

25 MR. PEDLEY: He was a sergeant, you

1 are mistaken, I'm sorry, sir.

2 Lieutenant Kilochowski, he did
3 eight years as commissioner, and
4 Lieutenant Wederall, he did a year
5 and-a-half. As a sergeant, Mike Green
6 did pretty good.

7 The reality is, the majority of the
8 time it is the sergeant who is running
9 the minute-by-minute operations of the
10 police department. He acts as patrol
11 supervisor and desk officer and it would
12 be unfair to exclude them from any new
13 law.

14 In 168 hours in a week, 96 hours of
15 the week there is only a sergeant. The
16 other 72 hours are doubled up with a
17 lieutenant, so they've got to do double
18 duty. They make decisions not sitting
19 behind the desk. They make the
20 minute-to-minute, second-to-second where
21 lives count.

22 You helped create the situation in
23 2010 when you did not treat the past
24 Commissioner with due respect that he
25 deserved. You basically fired him,

1 giving him nowhere to go, causing the
2 Village to pay three lieutenants for
3 over a year.

4 What this is really about,
5 Mr. Mayor, is you are using local
6 legislation to circumvent New York State
7 Civil Service Law, the 211 waiver law.
8 And you are doing everything in your
9 power to make this a second career for a
10 retired person, whether it be
11 Commissioner McAllister or any future
12 retiree. That's not what the 211 waiver
13 law is all about.

14 I was contacted by them. They told
15 me you have contacted them and you are
16 planning on going up and reapplying for
17 the waiver in January. No Police
18 Department on Long Island has minimum
19 standards as high as what you propose.
20 None, I couldn't find any.

21 The Floral Park PBA stands opposed
22 to this. It denies earned opportunity
23 to the men and women of the Floral Park
24 Police Department who deserve now and
25 generations, generations to come. You

1 are doing this. The other four Trustees
2 are going to be stuck with this in
3 April. There is going to be nothing but
4 problems for a very, very long time.

5 Thank you, Mayor, Board of
6 Trustees.

7 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you.

8 Now, Nadia Ortiz.

9 If you would please just give your
10 name and address.

11 MS. ORTIZ: Nadia Ortiz, 64 Orchid
12 Street.

13 I actually do, before I make my
14 statement, I have a question.

15 The point of a public hearing is to
16 hear comments. And if you don't answer
17 questions from the public, then how are
18 we supposed to get our answers?

19 MAYOR TWEEDY: It is a transcribed
20 event, and it is not to be done, as Mr.
21 Ryan alluded to, as a give and take.
22 You give your comments. We will look at
23 them. We do not limit the time you may
24 speak. If there is a clarification, we
25 will do so, but it is not a public

1 debate.

2 MS. ORTIZ: Not a debate, but for
3 information purposes. Because then at
4 the end, it's feasibly -- let me finish,
5 feasibly, you can go and now vote on
6 this when there might be questions that
7 follow up, that might either help us to
8 understand the law better, or understand
9 your stance. But if we are not
10 permitted to have a dialogue, how are we
11 supposed to get these answers in a
12 public forum for everyone to hear?

13 MAYOR TWEEDY: You're certainly
14 welcome to say whatever and ask
15 questions.

16 In the meantime, what is your
17 comment?

18 MS. ORTIZ: I would like to preface
19 my statement by acknowledging the good
20 work of Commissioner McAllister and the
21 Floral Park Police Department that has
22 been accomplished over the course of the
23 last seven years. I have complete faith
24 and trust in our law enforcement and
25 have great respect for the work they do.

1 Thank you to you all.

2 But tonight I come to speak out
3 against Local Law 5 as it is currently
4 proposed, even in its second revision.
5 Proper management in any organization
6 ensures that the employees are motivated
7 to succeed. Each employee should feel
8 secure in their position and have the
9 encouragement to learn new skills, take
10 on new responsibilities, take on new or
11 additional roads with additional
12 promotions from within. Each employee
13 should have a goal.

14 The proposed law, as it is
15 constructed, has essentially created a
16 dead-end job for our police officers.
17 We have individuals on the force with
18 years of experience from both previous
19 law enforcement employment and from
20 within the Floral Park Police
21 Department. We have individuals with
22 higher education degrees, yet no one on
23 the force can meet the standards as it
24 is proposed.

25 What is the motive for these

1 officers to stay on the Floral Park
2 Police Department? Why would they want
3 to stay to be commanded by someone from
4 the outside who has no experience living
5 in Floral Park or working in the Floral
6 Park police force?

7 The law seems to be constructed to
8 exclude our own officers, yet, perhaps
9 it is tailored for a specific individual
10 already identified, or maybe it's
11 fashioned to support the
12 administration's argument to Albany that
13 no one else can fill the position, other
14 than Commissioner McAllister. Whatever
15 the reason decided upon behind closed
16 doors, you are shutting out our finest.

17 Finally, the language in Section
18 25.4 part 4 states that qualifications
19 and experience of the Commissioner of
20 Police shall have, quote, such other and
21 further qualifications and experience
22 that the Mayor and Board of Trustees may
23 specify via resolution.

24 We all know such language is too
25 vague. It allows the Village Trustees

1 and the Mayor, both current and future,
2 too much latitude in designing the
3 qualifications for the position of
4 Police Commissioner without review and
5 input from residents. The law requires
6 a public hearing, but resolutions do
7 not. Yet, the important aspects
8 regarding the qualifications and
9 experience of Police Commissioner will
10 be contained in a resolution that can be
11 changed extemporaneously.

12 The bottom line is that this law is
13 artificial in its purpose. The timing
14 is suspicious, the language is ambiguous;
15 yet, such conditions shut out our own.
16 This law is destructive. You are
17 elected officials, for whatever that is
18 worth. The majority of your
19 constituents, the very people that you
20 work for, are declaring that this law be
21 reconsidered once again.

22 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you very much.

23 Ed White.

24 Again, please give your name and
25 address.

1 MR. WHITE: Edward White, 275
2 Carnation Avenue, Floral Park.

3 Mr. Mayor, Village Trustees, thank
4 you for allowing me the time to speak
5 with you.

6 First of all, I am going to start
7 with an apology, because I am sure some
8 of my comments may offend somebody and
9 may be taken out of context. That is
10 not my intent. Some of you people up
11 there know me, some of you don't. But I
12 will admit, some of these officers
13 sitting behind me will admit I have a
14 big mouth, okay. My father, God rest
15 his soul, some of you know him, if it's
16 right, it's right, and if it's wrong,
17 speak your mind.

18 Now, I keep hearing the comment
19 nobody is qualified, nobody is
20 qualified, nobody is qualified. With
21 all due respect, I'm getting really
22 tired of hearing it. Nobody -- correct
23 me if I'm wrong, nobody has worked with
24 any of these individuals here, okay. I
25 have for 20 years. I am a retired

1 member of the Floral Park Police
2 Department and proud of it.

3 I don't how you can sit up there,
4 or whatever. I don't know if one person
5 or all of you, I don't know, how you can
6 say somebody in a particular field is
7 not qualified. I certainly would not go
8 into whatever field you people are in.
9 Dr. Pombonyo is an educator. Whatever
10 your fields are, I would not go into
11 there and say these people are not
12 qualified.

13 Some of these people sitting behind
14 me I trained as a field training
15 officer. And I can tell you, and you're
16 getting this firsthand, you're getting
17 this firsthand, they are qualified.
18 They are qualified. Now, if you're
19 saying they are not qualified, then I
20 failed, and I take that as a personal
21 affront. Okay, trust me, I don't
22 believe any of you have ever worked with
23 any of these people, okay. To walk into
24 an area that you have no idea or no
25 experience to say nobody is qualified,

1 it's not fair. I wouldn't go into
2 anybody's field up there and say they
3 are not qualified.

4 MAYOR TWEEDY: This local law
5 speaks to qualifications, not to whether
6 anyone is qualified, just an
7 appointment.

8 MR. WHITE: I understand that.

9 MAYOR TWEEDY: It's not the intent
10 of this Board to say people are not
11 qualified. The qualifications are being
12 clearly codified, what we have been
13 living with now for six years.

14 MR. WHITE: And if I am in error --

15 MAYOR TWEEDY: Just qualifying the
16 point.

17 MR. WHITE: I apologize, I
18 appreciate that.

19 MAYOR TWEEDY: And I appreciate
20 your comments.

21 MR. WHITE: When I was in Nassau
22 Community College I had a professor who
23 some people may know, former Nassau
24 County Police Commissioner Samuel Rozzi,
25 who said there is no replacement for

1 experience. He also said in a police
2 management course, that once you tamper
3 with morale, you tamper with management.

4 You had a man up here -- I'm not
5 going to mention names, but you had a
6 man up here, basically say his career is
7 over. That doesn't sound like a
8 motivated employee to me.

9 My other comment would be
10 somewhere, for some reason or another, I
11 don't know if the Village Board shares
12 the whole concept of having somebody
13 outside the commissioner, no disrespect
14 to Commissioner McAllister, I never got
15 the privilege to serve with him. But I
16 wonder, my question is, I don't see any
17 other outsiders running any other
18 departments in the Village.

19 For instance, you have an engineer
20 running the public works.

21 MAYOR TWEEDY: Who lives in
22 Mineola.

23 MR. WHITE: He is a commissioned
24 certified engineer?

25 MAYOR TWEEDY: Architect.

1 MR. WHITE: Engineer. Architect is
2 different, sir.

3 MAYOR TWEEDY: He is an architect.

4 MR. WHITE: In the accounting
5 department, you have a CPA.

6 MAYOR TWEEDY: No.

7 MR. WHITE: Okay. In the taxation
8 department, doing the tax bills, you
9 have somebody that is a finance major.
10 All of these people are promoted from
11 within, with the exception of the
12 library director.

13 MAYOR TWEEDY: Your facts are
14 wrong, that's not the case. You
15 specifically asked about the building
16 commissioner who serves as a -- doesn't
17 live in town, he is a registered
18 architect, he is not an engineer. But I
19 would ask that you hold your comments as
20 it relates to this public hearing.

21 MR. WHITE: I apologize.

22 MAYOR TWEEDY: I have an awful lot
23 of papers here.

24 MR. WHITE: The bottom line is you
25 say that none of these gentlemen sitting

1 back here that I served with and worked
2 with and trained some of them, one
3 happens to have a law degree, I don't
4 know how many others have Master's
5 degrees. To say they are not qualified
6 never had any work --

7 MAYOR TWEEDY: I never said they
8 are not qualified, Ed, so if you can
9 speak to the local law as they exist,
10 please.

11 MR. WHITE: I thank you for your
12 time, I think I made my point.

13 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you,
14 appreciate it.

15 David Fernandez of 39 Cunningham
16 Avenue.

17 MR. FERNANDEZ: Good evening, thank
18 you Board members for allowing me to
19 come back today.

20 I'm going to read a little bit so I
21 don't ramble.

22 I come back here tonight to
23 continue our dialogue about the proposed
24 change to Article 25 of the Village
25 Code.

1 First, I want to thank you for
2 taking some time to reconsider the
3 provisions of the prior draft and
4 commend you for making changes.

5 However, while this newer version of the
6 law is different, I have some serious
7 questions as to why certain parts of the
8 old law are being deleted. This has
9 come up, but I am going to state it for
10 the record.

11 For example, the old law contains
12 the following provision: The
13 Commissioner of Police shall be
14 appointed by the Mayor of the Village,
15 which appointment shall be approved by
16 the Board of Trustees, all in a manner
17 consistent with the provisions of the
18 Village law, provided, however, that
19 such an appointee shall be an active
20 member of a municipal Police Department
21 and hold, at the time of appointment,
22 the rank of lieutenant or higher, or to
23 have been a member of such municipal
24 police department having held the rank
25 of lieutenant or higher at the time of

1 separation and have been a member of
2 such municipal police department for 10
3 years prior to separation.

4 Now, the new law removes the active
5 member requirement and adds five more
6 years of experience as lieutenant or
7 higher. And, honestly, the new law
8 should expand, allow for people who are
9 current civilians who have requisite
10 experience, but also allows for active
11 police members to be in there. You've
12 taken that capacity out.

13 Also, the new law removes the
14 following language: In the event that
15 such appointee is, or shall have been
16 for the required 10-year period, a
17 member of the Police Department of the
18 Village at the time of appointment as
19 Commissioner, then such appointee shall
20 only need, hold or have held the rank of
21 sergeant or higher.

22 Now our hope is that we're not
23 inclined by removing this language,
24 that the training and experience of our
25 sergeants obtain working in this

1 department is insufficient. And I
2 doubt, at least I hope the implication
3 is not that they are incompetent.
4 Because as we know, they are not,
5 they're excellent police officers. And
6 the rationale for dropping it doesn't
7 seem to be there. You would think you'd
8 want to bait the hook, to allow these
9 folks to put in their time and get
10 promoted.

11 The more troubling change, however,
12 is the removal of the following
13 language: In the event such an
14 appointment shall be a member of the
15 Police Department of the Village at the
16 time of the appointment of Commissioner,
17 hence, such appointee shall be
18 considered as being on leave of absence
19 without pay from the competitive police
20 rank which he held at the time of such
21 appointment. And in the event that his
22 term of office as Commissioner of Police
23 should be terminated for any reason, or
24 he resigns such position, he shall
25 automatically revert to the rank he held

1 at the time of appointment as
2 Commissioner of Police, and shall,
3 thereupon, receive the pay and
4 allowances of such rank computed as if
5 he had been continuously employed.

6 Now, why are we removing this?

7 Do we not want our Police
8 Commissioner to possibly still be an
9 active duty police officer within the
10 department, rather than a civilian with
11 no police powers. I would think in due
12 course we want our commissioner to be an
13 extension of our Village Police
14 Department and our policing capacity and
15 not simply an administrator.

16 Finally, I believe that adding
17 subparagraph 4 to the new law which
18 states that such other and further
19 qualifications and experience as the
20 Mayor and Board of Trustees may specify
21 via resolution is short-sighted on a
22 couple of fronts.

23 First, with the current proposed
24 law, there is no requirement that any
25 Board Member can make decisions about

1 proper policing and set standards
2 without having served as a law
3 enforcement officer. How can you
4 adequately say, sitting up there, that
5 you have the capacity to know what
6 should be done by law enforcement if you
7 guys are not law enforcement, or have
8 that experience, and that could be
9 different from Board to Board. We may
10 have police officers in the future, that
11 would be a good thing, but we don't, or
12 we may not, that's a bad thing.

13 Now, leaving those decisions to a
14 Board's favor in the future is
15 problematic and short-sighted given the
16 ability to change them rather quickly
17 without public input as stated before.
18 Rather than have changes tied to Board
19 resolution, I believe the law should be
20 better suited to tie changes to
21 something more solid, like changes to
22 Federal and State Law Regulation. At
23 least then, there will be little to no
24 debate over why the changes were needed.

25 Now, I hope the Board recognizes

1 the shortcomings to this proposal and
2 takes the appropriate steps to ensure
3 that whatever is finally codified, and
4 we know something will, will allow our
5 people outside of the department, or
6 more importantly, our current police
7 officers to rise to the ranks, retain
8 their police status, comply with
9 whatever laws are enacted in connection
10 with these positions, while still
11 allowing the Village to seek hires from
12 outside the ranks or within the ranks
13 that will serve in the best interest of
14 our Village as the circumstances
15 require.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you very much.

18 Bill Lauria and he will be followed
19 by Tom DeMaria.

20 MR. LAURIA: Good evening, Members
21 of the Board, I will be quick.

22 My name is Bill Lauria, I'm from
23 Floral Park. I am a 50-year resident.
24 I am second vice-president of the PBA.
25 I want to say I think this a bad law

1 change and I am opposed to it. Thank
2 you.

3 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you.

4 Tom DeMaria, Thomas DeMaria, 200
5 West Poplar Street, and he will be
6 followed by Ken Fairben.

7 MR. DeMARIA: Thank you, Mayor,
8 members of the Board. My name is Tom
9 DeMaria, 200 West Poplar Street, Floral
10 Park.

11 I am a 36-year resident of Floral
12 Park, former Trustee. I am very happy
13 to be here tonight. And I appreciate
14 the fact that the Board, since our last
15 meeting, has reconsidered; however, I
16 must say I am disheartened with the new
17 law that came out, the new local law,
18 that's proposed. In fact, in my
19 estimation, it seems worse than it was
20 before.

21 I say that for several reasons.
22 Mainly, I don't want to reiterate what
23 has been said already, but the
24 requirements being so stringent. I
25 heard you say, Mayor, the last time, and

1 you reiterated tonight, the reason for
2 this law is you want to increase the
3 pool, or get the best and the brightest.

4 I agree with that. I don't think
5 there is a person in this room that
6 would disagree with that; however, what
7 you're doing when you make the
8 requirements of the college degree, the
9 Master's degree, you're shrinking that
10 pool, you're making it more difficult;
11 whereas, if you left it open, again, you
12 and the Trustees, the people that would
13 interview and select, if it was me, I
14 would want to see all the resumes.

15 I don't want to exclude the people
16 that are in this room. I want to see
17 their resumes first. I would want to
18 see the interest they have when they
19 first join this force, as I said the
20 last time, and aspire to go up to the
21 rank of Commissioner.

22 I want to interview those people.
23 I want to see what they have to say. I
24 want to see what their ideas are to run
25 this Police Department. And to pass

1 this, a lieutenant for five years, there
2 is not one person on the force that
3 could put a resume in for this job.
4 You're excluding them all when you
5 should want to see as much as possible
6 from here and outside the department, I
7 choose to stay within, but the law is
8 written so the Board can go outside the
9 department. I want to see all the
10 resumes. I want to see and choose the
11 best and the brightest.

12 Ultimately, you will make that
13 choice. But to limit the pool, I think,
14 is a major mistake, especially when it
15 excludes some of the finest officers in
16 Nassau County.

17 Who knows -- and I said it the last
18 time, I don't want to repeat myself, who
19 knows Floral Park better than the men
20 and women. They serve here every day,
21 they put their lives on the line. And
22 to turn around and say we want to pass
23 this resolution, this local law that
24 will essentially not allow them to apply
25 for the job.

1 So, I strongly oppose this local
2 law and I would urge you, and implore
3 you to reconsider once again. Please
4 don't pass it in this condition, in this
5 current configuration. Go back to the
6 drawing board. This is something that
7 requires more consideration, more
8 thought, more consultation, more
9 dialogue between the Board and the
10 Police Department, the PBA, to do the
11 right thing.

12 Eddie said it before and it's true,
13 my father used to tell me the same
14 thing, he was a World War II veteran, a
15 retired detective with the New York City
16 Transit Police. He said also do the
17 right thing. And I am begging you to do
18 the right thing.

19 Thank you very much.

20 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you very much.

21 Ken Fairben who will then be
22 followed by Kevin Berkowitz.

23 MR. FAIRBEN: Good evening, Mr.
24 Mayor, Trustees, I apologize for my
25 attire, doing the Wounded Warrior this

1 evening.

2 You all know me, I am the emotional
3 one. I don't have anything prepared. I
4 speak from the heart and I would like to
5 reiterate what Mr. DeMaria stated. You
6 have to give these men and women the
7 opportunity to lead this department. To
8 shut the door on them is just
9 unconscionable. Whether it be a new
10 patrolman or senior lieutenant, they
11 should be afforded the opportunity to
12 sit with you gentlemen, interview for
13 that position. Please don't eliminate
14 them. Many of them have given 20, 30
15 years to the department, to the
16 residents, it's just not fair to do that
17 to them. That's a slap in the face.
18 You're good enough to get in a patrol
19 car every day. You're good enough to be
20 a sergeant or supervisor every day, but
21 we don't want you to lead the
22 department. You would not do that in
23 your own job. Please give it some
24 thought, don't act hastily. I ask you
25 from my heart. Thank you.

1 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you.

2 Kevin Berkowitz. He will be
3 followed by Scott Lambert.

4 MR. BERKOWITZ: Kevin Berkowitz, 19
5 Aspen.

6 I am going to be very quick. A lot
7 of points I wanted to bring out were
8 brought out by Mr. Fernandez and Mr.
9 DeMaria who, I believe, are our
10 long-term residents of the Village.

11 I am a new resident of the Village.
12 It's worth noting that the reason I was
13 attracted to this Village is the extreme
14 dedication of a Board such as yours and
15 the extreme dedication of residents like
16 the ones behind me.

17 I think the discourse is very
18 valuable and that the Board should give
19 serious consideration to the experienced
20 residents' comments on the proposed
21 changes to the current version of the
22 proposal, if that makes sense.

23 A couple of main points. It sounds
24 as if there are some very responsible,
25 experienced and qualified individuals

1 from within the Village's ranks that
2 could be considered for this job. I
3 don't think you should exclude or limit
4 your ability to consider those people.
5 If, in your good judgment, a better
6 candidate is found from outside, then
7 that is certainly something that could
8 happen. But excluding the people that
9 are here, that obviously have a great
10 deal of backing from the community,
11 which I found to be an extremely good
12 one, I think would be a mistake.

13 I also think you should consider
14 the loss of incentive that it would
15 cause. Any business or corporation,
16 sports team, et cetera, I think
17 functions better when you have members
18 that don't have any barriers in front of
19 them that can prevent them from reaching
20 the highest level of excellence they
21 would like to aspire to.

22 Officially, I would like to say I
23 am opposed to the law in its current
24 form, but encouraged by the discourse
25 and hope that further consideration is

1 given so that a happy medium can be
2 arrived at.

3 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you very much.
4 Scott Lambert?

5 MR. LAMBERT: No comment, a
6 mistake.

7 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you very much.
8 Joseph Pepe.

9 MR. PEPE: Joseph Pepe. I live at
10 100 Hawthorne Avenue, Floral Park.

11 I am a retired detective. I've
12 worked in almost every squad in the New
13 York City Police Department,
14 intelligence, homicide, robbery, in the
15 Manhattan DA's office. I worked under
16 Hogan, I worked under Mr. Morgenthau.
17 I was appointed as the investigations
18 investigator. I have them all. I'm
19 sorry, the coordinator of investigations
20 for the Manhattan District Attorney's
21 Office.

22 When you deprive people of the
23 opportunity to move up, you're going to
24 have a tremendous negative effect on the
25 Police Department, tremendous. Only one.

1 of these men can be a Police
2 Commissioner. Not all of them want to
3 be a Police Commissioner, but some of
4 them are going to strive for that job.

5 I have worked with men that meet
6 the qualifications you are asking for.
7 They were not always good commanders.
8 Some of them with those qualifications
9 on papers looked great, but they were
10 horrible commanders. I'll take a guy
11 with common sense and a high school
12 diploma before I take somebody with a
13 Doctorate degree. Thank you.

14 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you.

15 Scott Strong?

16 MR. STRONG: No comment.

17 MAYOR TWEEDY: Barbara Cunningham?

18 MS. CUNNINGHAM: No.

19 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you.

20 Paul Semanski?

21 Thank you, Paul.

22 Michael Karp?

23 (No response.)

24 Frank Chiarra, okay, Michael

25 Vickery?

1 MR. VICKERY: No comment.

2 MAYOR TWEEDY: Dr. Frank Proscia?

3 DR. PROSCIA: No comment.

4 MAYOR TWEEDY: James A. Kalbe?

5 MR. KALBE: Nothing further, thank
6 you.

7 MAYOR TWEEDY: I have just Justin
8 Cunningham, 88 Orchid.

9 (No response.)

10 Okay, Arthur T. Walsh, 347
11 Plainfield. That will be followed by
12 Tom Holtz.

13 MR. WALSH: Good evening, Mr.
14 Mayor and Members of the Board.

15 I spoke at the November 1st
16 meeting. I think if I stayed silent
17 there might be some implication that I
18 concur to the changes. I don't. I'm
19 not sure why this whole thing was
20 changed around where you had a
21 resolution. Now, you incorporate
22 certain terms and now you put in sub 4,
23 and you do whatever you want.

24 I really believe there can't be a
25 local law that excludes the current rank

1 and file. I think each of those
2 gentlemen and woman in the department
3 should aspire to be the Police
4 Commissioner one day. I think to pass
5 legislation now that would exclude that,
6 and the icing on the cake to remove the
7 ability to have a leave of absence,
8 which Brookville has, Rockville Centre
9 has, all the Villages have that leave of
10 absence is another slap in their face.

11 I don't think it's fair, I don't
12 think you should pass the local law.

13 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you, very
14 much.

15 Tom Holtz, 367 Whittier, followed
16 by Susan Berkowitz.

17 MR. HOLTZ: Tom Holtz, I live at
18 267 Whittier Avenue.

19 I am standing here listening to
20 everybody speak. We've got five Board
21 members up here, Mayor, all have their
22 opinions, people have their opinions. I
23 think we should make this a resolution
24 on March, the day of vote for the Mayor,
25 put it up to the Village of Floral Park

1 residents to decide whether the law
2 should be passed. That's all I have to
3 say.

4 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you very much.
5 Susan Berkowitz.

6 MS. BERKOWITZ: No tonight.

7 MAYOR TWEEDY: Patrick Kennelley?

8 MR. KENNELLEY: No comment.

9 MAYOR TWEEDY: John Miccio, 126
10 Oak.

11 MR. MICCIO: Mr. Mayor, Board,
12 thank you very much.

13 So in your opening remarks, I was
14 here on November 1st. In your opening
15 remarks there, and again today, you laid
16 out the case for the changes. You had
17 stated that it was meant to ensure the
18 Floral Park residents would benefit from
19 a more qualified candidate pool because
20 the Floral Park residents deserve the
21 best, which I think we can all
22 appreciate.

23 I'd like to run some names by you,
24 see if you recognize any of them:
25 Charles Ramsey, Silvester Johnson, Willy

1 Williams, Charlie Beck, Tony Chaplain,
2 no? Howard Safir, maybe these two names
3 you'll recognize, Bernie Kerrick, Bill
4 Bratton, those names?

5 So all of the people that I listed
6 have one thing in common, they don't
7 meet your qualifications. And what is
8 interesting about that is the first ones
9 I mentioned were commissioners for the
10 Philadelphia Police Department; the
11 second two were commissioners or chiefs
12 of police for the LAPD; the third two
13 were commissioners or chiefs of police,
14 heads of department for the San
15 Francisco Police Department. The final
16 three were with the NYPD. So, you know,
17 I just want to kind of make the point
18 here this isn't a major metropolitan
19 city, not to say it doesn't have its own
20 idiosyncrasies or that we don't want the
21 best for our residents. But
22 nonetheless, those names that I mention
23 there, some more recent than others,
24 Willie Williams was a post-Rodney King
25 era, '92 to '97. He was Police

1 Commissioner in '82, or '88 to '92.

2 In those municipalities, or in
3 those cities, they don't have those
4 requirements. You add on that layer of
5 requirement and it comes at a certain
6 cost. Those degrees cost more money.
7 In those municipalities, Philly, you're
8 looking at about 250 grand a year; LAPD,
9 you're looking at about 307 grand a
10 year, San Francisco PD is 309 grand a
11 year. NYPD is a little bit more
12 reasonable, it's not quite as high a
13 price of \$210,000.

14 My point is simply this. As you
15 layer on more of these requirements, you
16 increase the cost to taxpayers of what
17 you might potentially need to pay that
18 commissioner in order to entice them to
19 come into the Village.

20 So you start ruling out the folks
21 in the rank and file that are here
22 behind me at my back, you have some that
23 are well-qualified, that are internal.
24 Everybody has spoken to that so I'm not
25 going to beat that dead horse. But the

1 reality is not only are you limiting
2 your candidate pool, but the candidate
3 pool you're seeking may come at a higher
4 cost. Those Master's degrees, those
5 Doctorate degrees cost money.

6 We've heard them talk about how in
7 2010 we went outside the department.
8 Now everyone is congratulating the
9 Commissioner on the great job he has
10 done here.

11 That said, part of that period, as
12 I understand it, was that way we would
13 be able to train and develop officers
14 for the role, which I understand we're
15 certifying to the State that we have not
16 done that. So on its face, by the mere
17 suggestion of the passage of this law,
18 is it not an admission that the plan
19 that was put in place in 2010 and
20 renewed under the current contract
21 didn't work? If we didn't train these
22 men, these men and women, I apologize,
23 if we are certifying that no one here is
24 qualified, and did we get our money's
25 worth as taxpayers, that's my concern.

1 MAYOR TWEEDY: We need to clarify
2 that we are not saying they are not
3 qualified, what we are saying is that we
4 have qualifications --

5 MR. MICCIO: That they don't meet.

6 MAYOR TWEEDY: Two meet the
7 qualifications of Sergeant, but they're
8 not lieutenants.

9 MR. MICCIO: As it's proposed under
10 the new law that you rewrote, the
11 lieutenant's requirement, right, would
12 exclude most of the people that are
13 sitting behind me, if not all of them.

14 MAYOR TWEEDY: Perhaps, yes.

15 MR. MICCIO: Perhaps, yes.

16 That's kind of my point. From a
17 layman, from the outside looking in, for
18 anybody else who isn't blonde, it
19 appears as though, it's got the
20 appearance, I'm not saying that it's the
21 case, I certainly hope it is not the
22 case, it has the appearance it has less
23 to do with what is good for Floral Park
24 residents and more to do with what's
25 best for the friends of the Mayor.

1 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you, sir.

2 Sean Mulvey.

3 Sean, have you said you didn't want
4 to speak?

5 MR. MULVEY: No.

6 MAYOR TWEEDY: Michael Delacort,
7 283 Carnation.

8 MR. DELACORT: No comment.

9 MAYOR TWEEDY: Denise Delacort?
10 No comment, thank you, Denise.

11 Hernan Contreras?

12 MR. CONTRERAS: No comment.

13 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thomas Guillen.

14 MR. GUILLEN: No comment.

15 MAYOR TWEEDY: Janet Guillen.

16 MS. GUILLEN: No comment.

17 MAYOR TWEEDY: Frank Daniels,
18 followed by Brian Luger.

19 MR. DANIELS: Good evening, thank
20 you for bringing me up, Mr. Mayor.

21 Tough position for you. I want to
22 say it must be hard for Mr. McAllister
23 to sit here through this.

24 MAYOR TWEEDY: Frank, can you
25 address the Board.

1 MR. DANIELS: I don't like to turn
2 my back to people, I apologize, you have
3 to excuse my back.

4 Everything I heard tonight is a
5 reiteration and a repetition. They all
6 made such great points. But, Tom, we
7 can't take the opportunity away from the
8 ladies and gentlemen who serve us. I
9 think qualifications should be printed
10 out. They should be obtainable and
11 everybody should have a fair chance to
12 get to the head of the class.

13 So to do that to anyone stagnates
14 growth, stagnates motivation, stagnates
15 spirit, stagnates team work, it makes it
16 very difficult for leaders to lead, Tom.
17 I wouldn't want to be in your shoes
18 tonight. A lot of people have spoken.
19 I have not heard anyone in favor of the
20 new resolution. Thank you very much.

21 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you very
22 much.

23 Brian Hammerman?

24 MR. HAMMERMAN: No comment.

25 MAYOR TWEEDY: Okay, Richard

1 Villatello?

2 MR. VILLATELLO: No comment.

3 MAYOR TWEEDY: That's all the slips
4 I have. If there is anyone else who
5 would like to come up and give any
6 comments at this time.

7 Okay, sir, Mr. DeMore, Ex-Chief.

8 If you would be kind enough to give
9 your name and address to the
10 stenographer.

11 MR. DEMORE: First of all, I
12 apologize for not filling out a slip.
13 Lou DeMore, 5 Hanover Street.

14 As the Board knows, I was the chief
15 of the Fire Department 2013, 2014.
16 During my time, four years as the Chief,
17 I would average anywhere from 800 to 900
18 calls that I was on. During that time,
19 I had the pleasure of meeting the Police
20 Department.

21 The Police Department was there
22 before us. They took care of 90 percent
23 of the things that were going on before
24 we got there. They helped when they
25 could help, and I looked at that as a

1 big part of -- you're asking for
2 individuals that take care of the
3 Village of Floral Park. That is what I
4 see. 90 percent of what I see are these
5 individuals helping the community at all
6 times. I understand the position, but I
7 look at the people that are there, that
8 take the time and do every day, 24/7, to
9 take care of the people of Floral Park.

10 In my eyes they deserve everything,
11 they should get right up to the top.

12 Thank you.

13 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you very
14 much.

15 I saw a hand. Yes, sir please.

16 MR. LARSON: My name is Ron Larson.
17 I am a former resident of Floral Park.

18 MAYOR TWEEDY: Welcome.

19 MR. LARSON: My presence here is in
20 regard to you're not only moving the
21 goal posts, but you're taking them down.
22 Ladies and gentlemen raised their hands
23 and took an oath, as I stood here 48
24 years ago and I took the same oath. The
25 Village Board, in their wisdom,

1 eliminated 60 percent of the
2 lieutenants' ranks, the captain's rank
3 and the chief's rank and made them
4 political appointments. If you're going
5 to craft a position to fit one
6 individual, you're taking the
7 competitive opportunity from these
8 gentlemen and making it a political gift
9 to somebody else. I think that is
10 blatantly wrong.

11 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you. Thank
12 you for making the trip in, sir, I
13 appreciate you're coming in.

14 I saw one other hand over here.
15 Yes, please, sir.

16 MR. COLLINS: Good evening. My
17 name is James Collins, 177 Violet,
18 42-year resident of this Village.

19 I am opposed to this law. We have
20 I think a number of officers that have
21 the institutional knowledge to do this
22 job. They know the Village better than
23 anybody, just by definition, by being
24 police officers. I think that if we
25 don't allow them to apply for the top

1 post, it is destructive to morale. As
2 many people have said, we are excluding
3 a pool of people that are very talented
4 who, I believe, should have an
5 opportunity to go for this post. Thank
6 you.

7 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you very much.

8 Former Trustee Lucille Guardala.

9 MS. GUARDALA: Good evening, Mr.
10 Mayor, Members of the Board. Lucille
11 Guardala, 95 Holland Avenue.

12 Imagine if a good percentage of
13 this room disappeared. I'm talking
14 about the members of the Police
15 Department. Would we feel safer? Would
16 we feel better this evening? Would we
17 sleep sounder? The answer is no. But
18 that is essentially what we are doing
19 when it comes to this position, that
20 they do not exist, and of course they do
21 exist. We appreciate their hard work
22 and we can't take away their drive and
23 their ambition to do better.

24 I was opposed to the law the last
25 time we had the hearing, and I am

1 opposed to it the way it's written now.

2 Thank you.

3 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you.

4 Is there anyone else who would like
5 to make a comment? Seeing no one, I
6 would ask our PBA president. Thank you.

7 MR. PEDLEY: Thank you.

8 I'll refrain from asking questions
9 to John so he doesn't yell at me.

10 MR. RYAN: I never yell at you.

11 MR. PEDLEY: If the -- you can nod,
12 maybe I won't get in trouble.

13 Has everybody on the Board seen the
14 resumes of our supervisors? Yes, no? I
15 am sure Mayor Tweedy has.

16 The one thing people haven't talked
17 about is the fact that when we hire an
18 outsider or somebody who is retired he
19 is no longer a police officer, he's a
20 civilian. There is nothing wrong with
21 being a civilian except he can't act as
22 police officer, as Mike Reed did for 17
23 years.

24 I do have our resumes with me.

25 John, I promise I'm not going to read

1 them line by line, I'm just going to
2 take a quick snapshot.

3 MR. RYAN: Why don't you introduce
4 them into the record.

5 MR. PEDLEY: I'm not going to do
6 that.

7 MR. RYAN: You're not going to read
8 them.

9 MR. PEDLEY: I'll pick a couple of
10 things, I promise.

11 We have one supervisor who has a
12 Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice,
13 he was awarded excellent police duty.
14 He also went to the U.S. Army Airborne
15 Ranger School, that's something to say.
16 Another supervisor was awarded the
17 distinguished service award and nine
18 excellent police duties. We have
19 another supervisor who has a Doctorate
20 and a Bachelor's Degree. He was awarded
21 an exceptional police duty, which means
22 he put himself in harm's way. He was
23 also awarded four excellent police
24 duties in his career. We have another
25 supervisor who has a Bachelor's Degree

1 in Criminal Justice. He went to the FBI
2 Law Enforcement Executive Development
3 School and the Chief Executive
4 Leadership Training. That's just a
5 snapshot of the supervisors.

6 My people deserve to be looked at a
7 lot more and not be discarded.

8 MR. RYAN: When you say "my
9 people," would you tell me what you
10 mean?

11 MR. PEDLEY: I mean the
12 supervisors, my supervisors.

13 MR. RYAN: "My people," meaning
14 your union members?

15 MR. PEDLEY: Yes, is that a
16 problem?

17 MR. RYAN: I just wanted to clarify
18 what my people means.

19 Look, I just wanted to the clarify
20 for the record.

21 MAYOR TWEEDY: If I may, I have one
22 question.

23 That gentleman who went to the FBI
24 you mentioned, how did he get there,
25 under what auspices?

1 MR. PEDLEY: It was in department
2 training school.

3 MAYOR TWEEDY: So he was
4 recommended by Commissioner McAllister.

5 MR. PEDLEY: I have no idea, it's
6 just listed on his resume.

7 MAYOR TWEEDY: Another issue of
8 fact.

9 MR. PEDLEY: But, unfortunately, he
10 couldn't reach the one color on the
11 Twister Board which was the Master's
12 Degree, unfortunately for him.

13 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you.

14 MR. PEDLEY: Again, we vehemently
15 oppose this.

16 MAYOR TWEEDY: Thank you very much.

17 Ladies and gentlemen, as you
18 recall, in a most unusual way, we will
19 be asking your indulgence for a moment.
20 We're going to take a short recess.
21 Much was said. We'll come back out in
22 10 minutes or so.

23 I ask for a motion to recess.

24 TRUSTEE FITZGERALD: So moved.

25 MAYOR TWEEDY: Okay.

1 (Whereupon, a recess was taken,
2 then hearing recommences.)

3 MAYOR TWEEDY: Once again, ladies
4 and gentlemen, thank you very much for
5 coming to order so quickly.

6 We have a significant amount of
7 information that would need to be
8 interpreted. We will again wait for the
9 transcript; however, I would ask for a
10 motion to reserve decision and close the
11 public hearing.

12 TRUSTEE FITZGERALD: So moved.

13 TRUSTEE CHENG: Second.

14 MAYOR TWEEDY: Would you please
15 poll the Board, Ms. Walsh.

16 MS. WALSH: Trustee Fitzgerald.

17 TRUSTEE FITZGERALD: Aye.

18 MS. WALSH: Trustee Longobardi.

19 TRUSTEE LONGOBARDI: Aye.

20 MS. WALSH: Trustee Pombonyo.

21 TRUSTEE POMBONYO: Aye.

22 MS. WALSH: Trustee Cheng.

23 TRUSTEE CHENG: Aye.

24 MS. WALSH: And Mayor Tweedy.

25 MAYOR TWEEDY: Votes aye.

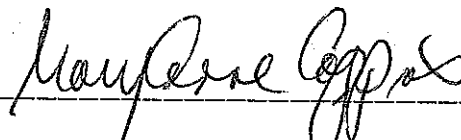
1 Ladies and gentlemen, thank you
2 very much. That will close the public
3 hearing. As we said, we will be doing
4 what has taken place in this room and we
5 will certainly keep you apprised of when
6 that will be taking place.

7 Thank you very much for coming out
8 on this difficult evening. Thank you
9 very much.

10 * * * * *

11 C E R T I F I C A T I O N :

12 I, Mary Anne Coppins, Court
13 Reporter, hereby certify that the above
14 transcript is a true and accurate copy
15 of the minutes taken by myself
16 stenographically in the within matter.

17
18
19 
20 _____
21 Mary Anne Coppins

22 Court Reporter
23
24
25