



# Sullivan County

## Executive Committee

### Meeting Minutes - Final

Chair Nadia Rajsz  
Vice Chair Luis Alvarez  
Committee Member Matt McPhillips  
Committee Member Brian McPhillips  
Committee Member Nicholas Salomone Jr.  
Committee Member Catherine Scott  
Committee Member Joseph Perrello  
Committee Member Amanda Ward  
Committee Member Terry Blosser-Bernardo

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**Thursday, June 18, 2026**

**9:00 AM**

**Government Center**

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#### **Call To Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Rajsz called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 9:09am.

#### **Roll Call**

**Present:** Nadia Rajsz, Luis Alvarez, Matt McPhillips, Brian McPhillips, Nicholas Salomone Jr., Catherine Scott, Joseph Perrello and Amanda Ward

**Absent:** Terry Blosser-Bernardo

**Disability Pride Month Presentation - Catherine Scott**

Catherine Scott read and presented the Disability Pride Month Proclamation.

Lee Kurasik thanked the Legislature for recognizing Disability Pride Month.

Sidney Curry, DEI Resource Coordinator made a public comment..

Catherine Scott made a comment at this time.

Nicholas Salomone made a comment at this time.

Eve made a public comment and thanked the Legislature.

Brian McPhillips made a comment at this time.

A woman from the Hudson Valley made a public comment and thanked the Legislature.

Lise Kennedy made a public comment.

At this point, Luis Alvarez left the meeting at 9:33am and returned at 9:33am.

Gabrielle Scott made a public comment.

Amanda Ward stated that on June 24th 10:00am to 3:00pm at SDTC in where they are partnering with Sullivan County Workforce Development and SUNY Sullivan who is offering that micro credentialing program with tables and someone can learn about what each department is doing, learn more about our incredible benefits and also a great opportunity to learn about the pathways, opportunities and trainings.

Lise Kennedy public comment

[ID-8458](#)

**Comments by Ramone Wilson, Human Rights Executive Director**

Executive Director of Human Rights, Ramone Wilson spoke about Disability Pride Month and disability rights which are human rights and shared his experience in the disability field.

**Corporate Compliance Quarterly Report - Christine Panos**

Corporate Compliance Officer Christine Panos gave her 2nd Quarter report.

**Presentation - Single Bite**

Community Resources Commissioner Laura Quigley introduced Audrey Garro, Executive Director of Single Bite and Sims Foster, Co-Founder and Chairman of Single Bite who gave a presentation on Single Bite which is attached.

Audrey Garro stated this morning has been inspirational to her because food is a basic human right. We believe that teaching students to understand the difference between real food and processed food and where it comes from will help them make decisions for a life time. We are very proud that we work with every single seventh grader in the county to help them understand the value of nutrition.

Single Bite Presentation

[ID-8464](#)

**Attachments:** [Single Bite Presentation](#)

**Public Comment**

There was no other public comment.

**Resolutions:**

1. To create 3 positions within DSS to form a Domestic Violence Unit [ID-8374](#)

A motion was made by District 4 Legislator Nicholas Salomone Jr., seconded by District 5 Legislator Catherine Scott, that this Resolution be carried at Committee to the County Legislature meeting on 6/18/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairwoman Rajs, Vice Chairman Alvarez, District 1 Legislator McPhillips, District 3 Legislator McPhillips, District 4 Legislator Salomone, District 5 Legislator Scott, District 7 Legislator Perrello and District 8 Legislator Ward

**Absent:** District 9 Legislator Blosser-Bernardo  
Enactment No: 216-26

2. To Adjust the Salary of the Sullivan County District Attorney [ID-8421](#)

A motion was made by District 5 Legislator Catherine Scott, seconded by District 8 Legislator Amanda Ward, that this Resolution be carried at Committee to the County Legislature meeting on 6/18/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairwoman Rajs, Vice Chairman Alvarez, District 1 Legislator McPhillips, District 3 Legislator McPhillips, District 4 Legislator Salomone, District 5 Legislator Scott, District 7 Legislator Perrello and District 8 Legislator Ward

**Absent:** District 9 Legislator Blosser-Bernardo  
Enactment No: 217-26

3. Set Public Hearing on a proposed Local Law regarding Flow Control for 7/23/26 at 8:45am [ID-8426](#)

A motion was made by District 1 Legislator Matt McPhillips, seconded by District 4 Legislator Nicholas Salomone Jr., that this Resolution be carried at Committee to the County Legislature meeting on 6/18/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairwoman Rajsz, Vice Chairman Alvarez, District 1 Legislator McPhillips, District 3 Legislator McPhillips, District 4 Legislator Salomone, District 5 Legislator Scott, District 7 Legislator Perrello and District 8 Legislator Ward

**Absent:** District 9 Legislator Blosser-Bernardo  
Enactment No: 218-26

4. The Legislative Discretionary Funding program is designed to assist Sullivan County and County-oriented entities with achieving such goals as public safety, public health, youth services, community development, and economic development [ID-8434](#)

A motion was made by District 4 Legislator Nicholas Salomone Jr., seconded by District 1 Legislator Matt McPhillips, that this Resolution be carried at Committee to the County Legislature meeting on 6/18/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairwoman Rajsz, Vice Chairman Alvarez, District 1 Legislator McPhillips, District 3 Legislator McPhillips, District 4 Legislator Salomone, District 5 Legislator Scott, District 7 Legislator Perrello and District 8 Legislator Ward

**Absent:** District 9 Legislator Blosser-Bernardo  
Enactment No: 219-26

5. Enter into a contract with LAMAR Advertising for billboard advertising (Airport) [ID-8438](#)

A motion was made by District 3 Legislator Brian McPhillips, seconded by District 5 Legislator Catherine Scott, that this Resolution be carried at Committee to the County Legislature meeting on 6/18/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairwoman Rajsz, Vice Chairman Alvarez, District 1 Legislator McPhillips, District 3 Legislator McPhillips, District 4 Legislator Salomone, District 5 Legislator Scott, District 7 Legislator Perrello and District 8 Legislator Ward

**Absent:** District 9 Legislator Blosser-Bernardo  
Enactment No: 220-26

6. Permit former owners to repurchase parcels acquired by County of Sullivan [ID-8445](#)

**Attachments:** [Schedule A 1st repo for 2026](#)

A motion was made by District 3 Legislator Brian McPhillips, seconded by District 7 Legislator Joseph Perrello, that this Resolution be carried at Committee to the County Legislature meeting on 6/18/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairwoman Rajsz, Vice Chairman Alvarez, District 1 Legislator McPhillips, District 3 Legislator McPhillips, District 4 Legislator Salomone, District 5 Legislator Scott, District 7 Legislator Perrello and District 8 Legislator Ward

**Absent:** District 9 Legislator Blosser-Bernardo  
Enactment No: 221-26

7. To amend the Whistleblower Policy for Sullivan County.

[ID-8446](#)

**Attachments:** [SullivanNYWhistleblowerPolicy\\_Final](#)  
[SullivanNYWhistleblowerPolicy\\_Redlined](#)

A motion was made by District 3 Legislator Brian McPhillips, seconded by District 1 Legislator Matt McPhillips, that this Resolution be carried at Committee to the County Legislature meeting on 6/18/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairwoman Rajs, Vice Chairman Alvarez, District 1 Legislator McPhillips, District 3 Legislator McPhillips, District 4 Legislator Salomone, District 5 Legislator Scott, District 7 Legislator Perrello and District 8 Legislator Ward

**Absent:** District 9 Legislator Blosser-Bernardo  
Enactment No: 222-26

9. TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE FY2025 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT PROGRAM AWARD

[ID-8448](#)

A motion was made by District 4 Legislator Nicholas Salomone Jr., seconded by District 3 Legislator Brian McPhillips, that this Resolution be carried at Committee to the County Legislature meeting on 6/18/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairwoman Rajs, Vice Chairman Alvarez, District 1 Legislator McPhillips, District 3 Legislator McPhillips, District 4 Legislator Salomone, District 5 Legislator Scott, District 7 Legislator Perrello and District 8 Legislator Ward

**Absent:** District 9 Legislator Blosser-Bernardo  
Enactment No: 223-26

10. RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO ACCEPT NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY

[ID-8449](#)

**Attachments:** [Jeffersonville EAF Part 3](#)

A motion was made by District 5 Legislator Catherine Scott, seconded by District 1 Legislator Matt McPhillips, that this Resolution be carried at Committee to the County Legislature meeting on 6/18/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairwoman Rajs, Vice Chairman Alvarez, District 1 Legislator McPhillips, District 3 Legislator McPhillips, District 4 Legislator Salomone, District 5 Legislator Scott, District 7 Legislator Perrello and District 8 Legislator Ward

**Absent:** District 9 Legislator Blosser-Bernardo  
Enactment No: 224-26

**11. TO ACCEPT CASH DONATIONS FOR THE 2026 EMERGENCY SERVICES YOUTH ACADEMY HOSTED BY THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

[ID-8450](#)

A motion was made by District 3 Legislator Brian McPhillips, seconded by District 7 Legislator Joseph Perrello, that this Resolution be carried at Committee to the County Legislature meeting on 6/18/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairwoman Rajsz, Vice Chairman Alvarez, District 1 Legislator McPhillips, District 3 Legislator McPhillips, District 4 Legislator Salomone, District 5 Legislator Scott, District 7 Legislator Perrello and District 8 Legislator Ward

**Absent:** District 9 Legislator Blosser-Bernardo

Enactment No: 225-26

**Executive Session**

Joseph Perrello moved to go into Executive Session at 10:01 to discuss Collective Bargaining Agreements (PBA and LIU), seconded by Luis Alvarez, all in favor 8-0.

Matt McPhillips moved to come out of Executive Session at 11:16am, seconded by Amanda Ward, all in favor 8-0.

The Executive Committee reconvened at 11:22am.

Chair Rajsz stated she has a hand out resolution To Amend Resolution No. 85-26 Authorizing Additional Funding of \$1,500,000.00 for the Annual Contract with the Sullivan County Visitor's Association for Fiscal Year 2026

Moved by Matt McPhillips, seconded by Joseph Perrello for discussion. Joseph Perrello asked that this was for the year 2026 only. Chair Rajsz stated that is correct.

Catherine Scott stated she would like to raise an objection to the meeting we just had. She does not believe we were in a legal Executive Session according to Public Officer Law. She understands that there is a contract and this was "negotiation". When I sought a legal opinion and the Attorney came back into the room, even he thought it was a very weak justification to have a private meeting with a public vendor we have a contract with. She has questions about whether or not they are in compliance with their own By-Laws, how often they meet, how their members have been reappointed since they no longer have a membership to vote on members. The Bed Tax is down \$30,000 compared to the same time last year but we keep getting presentations on how things are doing much better than previously. She does not see justification for another \$1.5 million of tax money, public money going to an organization that has not proven how they are going to improve the situation here in Sullivan County. During the time of leadership change, it is her understanding that multiple bridges have been burned in this community, that the programs put into effect and the website are not user friendly, so she whole heartedly objects to giving \$1.5 million more to this organization and she thinks that we need a legal opinion as to whether or not this public non profit that uses public funds can claim proprietary information for a public meeting with elected officials. She would encourage to pause the vote to answer some of these very important questions and get some and get some more input from our Audit Department from a previous audit and see if any of those recommendations were complied with.

Chair Rajsz stated that all of Catherine Scott's objections are duly noted. The \$1.5 million that we are allocating them is from their money---Catherine Scott stated no, it is bed tax money and it is outside of the parameters of their contract. Chair Rajsz stated that this is money that we are retaining and cannot use that money for anything other than tourism. She doesn't have the expertise in tourism, where the SCVA does. This additional \$1.5 million will further their initiative so we can regain some revenue from their initiative. Catherine Scott asked what are the deliverables that were agreed upon and when will we see those deliverables? Chair Rajsz stated that was being discussed when you left. Catherine Scott this is the problem that I have, we don't have a date and we don't have deliverables but we have \$1.5 million dollars leaving our hands.

Joseph Perrello stated he understands what Catherine Scott is saying and he agrees with her.

Michael brought to us a different scenario and he is willing to give it a one year shot to see if it works because it does give a snowball effect. He is in the auto industry, they get into accidents and they call me---Catherine Scott asked what is the deliverable and when? Joseph Perrello stated it is a one year deal and if there isn't a difference in the numbers, and we will be able to tell by his charts that he gives us---Catherine Scott stated we do not get consistent reporting, we cannot tell if things are going up or down because we get a different presentation. Joseph Perrello stated we can see if there a large difference in hospitality and sales tax. County Manager Potosek stated we can see what the room tax is Joseph Perrello stated that Brian McPhillips was talking about the one week visitor and then we were talking about 3 and 4 day visitors because that is what families can afford here in Sullivan County and we were also talking going forward about having events next year in all different fashions. Ms Ward was talking about a Jazz Festival, we could have helium balloons, have an air show with the planes and he (Michael) was willing to work with us in putting these programs together. You need activities for people when they come here. If you go to Lake George, they are packed every weekend now. Why? Because they have events going on. They got bike racing, Snowmobiling on the ice. Catherine Scott asked are you getting those events for the \$1.5 million? Joseph Perrello stated he explained how it works and it was kind of interesting. Catherine Scott asked what about the compliance issues? Don't we hold our vendor to a certain standard? We are not going to have the numbers from SCVA in December because it is going to take time and then we are going to have to give more money in 2027 and we are going to be chasing this outcome. If Michael thinks he is getting \$1.5 million for six months, that is not happening. What is the date and what is the deliverable? Joseph Perrello stated he thinks that should be changed to June 2027. Catherine Scott stated now we are not going to get information until 2028 if this is effective. We will know if the room tax goes up within the next six months. Matt McPhillips stated that he doesn't need more time, he is ready to go.

Chair Rajsz called the question on the resolution, resolution carried 7-1 with Catherine Scott opposed.

Brian McPhillips stated it is not giving our money away. There is a tax code that the money raised by bed tax can specifically only be used for tourism and promotion. We cannot use it in any other facets. We are not just giving money away. There was also an argument when there was a preferred vendor maybe one that is not preferred today, there is only one vendor possible. When that was challenged, that was also disregarded because at the time, maybe that particular vendor was approved. But there is contention over how many providers we can have for tourism. This is strictly that caveat We are not giving the money away. There is faith in the vendor that is selected by this body that they are going to provide a deliverable with the money that is extended to them through bed tax money. Catherine Scott stated that we have not identified what that deliverable is or what the deadline is for that. Brian McPhillips stated it is a revolving number. You are actively trying to market your community to get people outside from your community here. That is the whole intention. To provide a hard fast number in a change of vendor is a difficult task. Catherine Scott stated we didn't have a change in vendor, they had a change in leadership which happened a year ago. Brian McPhillips stated it is basically a change Catherine Scott stated we are setting a standard now for anyone else that we deal with that deliverables are open. There is no consistency and no logic to this. Brian McPhillips stated if you would have stayed for the meeting-----  
-Catherine Scott stated she doesn't need someone to keep telling her that she doesn't understand something. Brian McPhillips stated he doesn't say he doesn't understand when he doesn't participate. Joseph Perrello stated that the presentation that Michael gave was kind of interesting.

Catherine Scott stated she bets that the public would have loved to see it. Joseph Perrello stated that he said he is going to show the public. Catherine Scott stated I am sure that he is not. Amanda Ward stated that she wouldn't be part of an illegal meeting so if our County Attorney can just touch on that as he shared only the first part of the statement that he made. So, if the County Attorney could share the whole The County Attorney stated that it was weak but there was a second part of the statement. She wants to be very clear that she would not sit in an illegal meeting. Chair Rajszt stated ditto. County Attorney Robert Freehill stated that the meeting was not illegal. The proprietary interest that was discussed for the most part prior to Legislator Scott leaving the meeting were, he guesses he did say it was weak, but as the meeting went on, he could see that the sources that he was reflecting on, should not necessarily be public knowledge in a meeting out here. He thought it was appropriate. Catherine Scott requested a legal opinion on whether or not a non profit who uses public funds, to proclaim proprietary information and she doesn't expect it off the top of their head but she thinks that the public needs further information whether or not, this was a legal meeting. County Attorney Freehill asked Catherine Scott to phrase that and submit it to his office, we will work on that.

Chair Rajszt stated that the County Manager wants to go into another Executive Session to discuss another union update so we are adjourning again at 11:37am.

## **Adjourn**