



LAURA CURRAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Nassau County

State of the County 2020

COVID-19 and the Road to Recovery

May 27, 2020

Dear Presiding Officer Nicoletto, Minority Leader Abrahams and Members of the Nassau County Legislature:

As we continue to manage and persevere through a historic health crisis, we have prepared this State of the County report to provide a comprehensive overview of Nassau County as this unprecedented pandemic continues to unfold, as well as new developments relating to the impact of COVID-19 on our recovery efforts.

This report follows my televised State of County address on April 23, 2020 that focused primarily on the impact of COVID-19 and the County's response efforts. While you could not join me for the address, I want to thank you again for your ongoing support for our funding requests throughout the pandemic, and I look forward to continuing to work together in a bipartisan manner. Please be advised that I am also filing this report with the Clerk of the Legislature Under Charter Section 202.

During these challenging times, it is extremely important that we do what we can to keep the wheels of County government moving to position us to recover and allow us to forge ahead safely and efficiently through each phase of our reopening and beyond.

Under my Administration, we have been cautious about expanding County government. Before this crisis hit, I submitted a fiscally responsible budget and for the second consecutive year, and I've held the line on property taxes. The County continues to operate under a financial control board known as NIFA, and we were improving each year.

This crisis will be a serious setback for our financial progress. A difficult road lies ahead. Moving forward, my Administration will commit to three objectives:

- we will maintain fiscal responsibility,
- we will not raise property taxes,
- and we will ensure our law enforcement and first responders have the resources they need to keep us safe and healthy.

As we navigate through uncharted territories, and many questions remain unanswered, we will continue to rely on COVID-19 data, federal and state guidance. To make the best and most informed decisions as we restart our economy, we will coordinate with our towns and cities. Just as New York State is coordinating with northeast states, we will coordinate within our region.

As a member of the Governor's new Regional Control Board to ensure Long Island continues to hit the marks through each phase of the reopening, I am committed to taking an aggressive role in our collaborative, methodical reopening strategy. We are making strides – and have reached the milestones required to reopen under Phase One. We are working with the state to help our businesses prepare and implement new protocols to protect the health of workers and customers alike, allowing us to kickstart business. We will do the same as we progress through Phase Two, Three and Four.

This report will help guide us on our road to recovery with each investment prioritized to stimulate our economy and get people back to work – a crucial need for our County. As always, we will work collaboratively with labor, developers and municipal leaders to re-start our key initiatives and economic drivers that are cornerstones of my Administration – including the HUB, transit-oriented development and efforts to promote the creation of affordable housing.

We have built a strong foundation over the past two years. Let's work together with bipartisan support to make sure Nassau County comes back healthier and more resilient than ever before.

All the best,



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May 27, 2020

A Message from County Executive Laura Curran:

Today is a historic moment for Nassau County. After 67 days of quarantine under Governor Cuomo's "New York State on PAUSE" executive order, Nassau County is reopen under Phase One. We can finally begin our economic revival and get a significant portion of our residents back to work with construction, curbside retail, manufacturing and wholesale trade allowed to open. We look forward to progressing through Phases Two, Three and Four.

Thanks to the proactive action we've all taken and with the help of Nassau County's residents, we have successfully controlled the spread of the virus. This wasn't easy, and it's come at a high cost. The price we've paid in precious lives has been most painful. I want to share my condolences with the families and loved ones of those we've lost. We mourn and grieve together. Let's commit to recovering from this war and come back more united than ever, in the memory of the ones we've lost.

I want to express my gratitude to our County workers: our amazing team at the Health Department; our Nassau County Police medics, officers, detectives, and supervisors; our public safety officers and 911 operators; our corrections officers, deputy sheriffs, and food and maintenance staff at the jail; fire marshals, fire commission, and FireCom; our Office of Emergency Management and the Medical Examiner; our probation officers. I want to thank our dedicated staff at the Department of Public Works, and Parks who have diligently strategized for the summer months.

I want to thank the professionals at the Department of Social Services, Human Resources, I.T., and Consumer Affairs for showing up and getting the job done. We kept the wheels of County government moving. I also want to thank all our telecommuting workers, serving our residents in new ways. The Offices of Minority Affairs, Hispanic Affairs and Asian affairs are making sure we continue to reach every community. Thank you to the County employees, volunteer firefighters and EMT's, who've tested positive for the virus, or were in precautionary quarantine, and are now cleared and back to work.

I thank Presiding Officers Rich Nicolello and Kevan Abrahams Minority Leader and their delegations for their support throughout the pandemic, and I look forward to working together to revitalize our economy.

To those who are fighting for us on the front-line in a public environment - whether you're staffing public transit facilities, or waiting on call in our firehouses, or a janitor at a healthcare facility – thank you.

To our business owners who have taken a hard hit: these are uncertain times but one thing I am certain of is that our business owners are innovative, and they are resilient. I will continue to do everything I can to help our businesses recover, from mom and pop shops to real estate developers, and ensure the revival of our downtowns and business districts.

We've seen everyday residents step up. So many have done their part by staying home, limiting the spread of the virus to keep others safe — even when it means cancelling trips, weddings, bar mitzvahs, or celebrating a holiday without loved ones. Although we've had to stay apart, this crisis has brought us closer together. I'm proud that our residents not only hunkered down to fight this battle together, they went above and beyond.

The grit, perseverance, ingenuity, and love we've seen on display in our communities has shown the world what we're made of. This crisis has not created heroes. It has revealed the heroes already among us. I want every Nassau County resident to know that we will recalibrate, we will recover, and Nassau County will emerge stronger than ever.

Sincerely,



COVID-19 FRONTLINE RESPONSE

- ***Controlling the Spread***

Nassau County is fortunate to have a health department that is a national leader in the field of public health. From the moment the County received word from the CDC and WHO of a viral respiratory infection in Wuhan, China, we began preparing for the inevitable. On February 2, our Department of Health swiftly implemented mandatory isolation and quarantine procedures for all travelers returning from China – where the virus originated. From the day the virus arrived in Nassau, our health department's trained disease investigators were on the ground issuing isolation and quarantine orders, contact tracing, laboriously finding close contacts of people who test positive and then isolating them to help reduce the virus' spread. We quickly tapped into the County's medical reserve core of up to 1,000 medical professionals to assist in the response, activated our emergency response headquarters to marshal resources, and engaged our hospitals. Working in close coordination with the state, following the data and advice of experts, we took charge on the COVID-19 response.

- ***Activating Emergency Response Headquarters***

- **Sourcing & Distributing Vital Supplies:** The County's battle against COVID-19 is centrally coordinated out of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). OEM has been at the helm of collecting and distributing vital Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to our first responders, healthcare workers, nursing homes and other essential employees and vulnerable populations. When the virus arrived, OEM immediately engaged our hospitals to track and marshal the resources necessary to prevent the collapse we feared. In addition to distributing the County's stock of supplies and resources from the state, OEM is working diligently to source PPE elsewhere to ensure first responders are protected.
- To date, the County has purchased over \$3 million of supplies and equipment to mitigate the virus. This includes costs affiliated with setting up testing sites, necessary technology, cleaning contracts and more.
- To date, OEM has fulfilled 2,440 requests for Personal Protective Equipment. This includes requests from: 11 hospitals, 37 nursing homes, 35 adult care facilities, 71 fire departments, 5 volunteer ambulance corps, 20 village/city police departments, Nassau County Police Department, NCPD Emergency Ambulance Bureau, County agencies as well as town, city and village government.

Distributions to Date:

N95 Masks	Surgical Masks	Face Shields	Gowns	Gloves	Hand Sanitizer
468,862	2,324,321	229,211	488,532	2,885,360	115,275

- **Maintaining Crucial Data:** OEM continue to provide critical daily reports to the Administration giving a comprehensive, up-to-date snapshot of cases, supplies, and other pertinent data to assess the status of the pandemic.

- ***Communicating the Facts***

As our health officials learned more about the emerging virus, we immediately began promoting necessary precautions and protocols to prevent the spread. We pursued a multimedia campaign to reach as many residents as possible, including daily televised briefings, robust social media communication, virtual Town Halls and more. We set up an SMS text message service, available in six languages, so that residents can receive the latest news and resources directly on their cellphones. We engaged faith leaders to communicate with their constituents on changing the way they worship to ensure social distancing through Easter, Passover, and Ramadan and beyond. We remain committed to keeping residents informed to continue to control the spread of the virus through each phase of the reopening.

- ***Data-Driven Approach to School Closures***

Our County was among the first to deal with COVID-19 on the frontlines in America and we helped lead the way for the nation. Our evidence-based approach led us to shut down schools with the support of the Governor before anyone else statewide. We quickly addressed the potential of food insecurity for students, a significant concern, by partnering with Nassau BOCES and our School Districts to provide grab-and-go meals to kids no longer able to get them at school. As Governor Cuomo has decided to keep all schools and college facilities closed for the remainder of the academic year, we are working closely with our school administrators, parents, health officials and other stakeholders to develop new protocols for the future. Significant challenges must be addressed, and many logistics must be coordinated before the reopening of schools, including securing cleaning supplies and PPE, methods to continue social distancing, transportation issues and cleaning procedures, ensuring food services are up and running and much more.

- **Securing Childcare for Essential Workers:** Working with the state and the Child Care Council of Nassau, applications for childcare scholarships are available online to essential workers. Essential workers, including first responders such as firefighters, food delivery workers, grocery store employees, health care providers, law enforcement, pharmaceutical staff and others, who are necessary to the County's response to the COVID-19 and earn less than \$78,600 for a family of four – are eligible to apply. Scholarships cover market rate childcare costs on Long Island, utilizing \$30 million in federal CARES Act funding through New York State. Essential workers can use the funding to pay for their existing care arrangement, or if they need childcare, they can contact their local childcare resource and referral agency to find openings.

- ***Securing Reliable Mass Testing***

- **Ramping up Viral Testing:** Early on, we took an aggressive approach on testing to help contain the spread of the virus and identify those at risk. Working with the state, Nassau County has successfully ramped up viral testing with drive-through testing at Jones Beach, erecting outdoor community testing clinics, and more. In conjunction with the state, as of today approximately **154,441** Nassau County residents have been tested since March 5. Tests have been distributed to pharmacies throughout the County, following Governor Cuomo's Executive Order authorizing all of the state's roughly 5,000 pharmacies to conduct viral testing.
- **Increasing Stock of Validated Anti-Body Testing:** Large-scale viral and anti-body testing is vital, and a CDC requirement to reopen. Anti-body tests indicate whether an individual had exposure and if their immune system developed anti-bodies to the virus - crucial to maintaining our frontlines and to better understand herd immunity levels in our communities. Anti-body tests are becoming more available at walk-in clinics and urgent care facilities throughout Long Island. Anti-body testing is now also available Long Island Federally Qualified Health Centers throughout hard hit communities.
- **Prioritizing First Responders:** Nassau University Medical Center has been actively administering COVID-19 viral tests for the County's first responders including police, medics and sheriff's correction officers, who are symptomatic or have had outbreaks in their ranks. After working to secure reliable and validated anti-body tests, in partnership with Northwell Health, the County is now providing COVID-19 anti-body testing for all of the County's first responders and essential personnel. The testing is available by appointment to police officers, police medics, correction officers, deputy sheriffs, fire service and other essential government workers from the County, Cities, Towns, and Villages within Nassau County who directly interact with the public while working. The County aims to test 500 emergency and essential personnel a day. The test is also open for essential County employees who interact with the public, such as employees at the Department of Health and Department Social Services. Testing has been expanded for other nonessential employees. The testing is voluntary and there is no copay.

- **Combatting Price Gouging**

With hand sanitizers, face masks and other products that could help ward off coronavirus in short supply, we've seen a dramatic rise in the price of sanitizing products and PPE both locally and online. Not only are these products grossly overpriced, there is question whether they are authentic and safe. The County acted quickly, partnering with federal and state officials to put an end to this unsavory practice and called on the public to report any instances of price gouging. To date, over 300 violations to businesses were issued by the County's Department of Consumer Affairs, totaling in a maximum of \$1,150,000.00 in fines, as a result of our proactive crackdown dubbed "Operation Sticker Shock." In addition, Nassau County's early action and collaboration with federal authorities helped lead to the nation's first charge of violating the Defense Production Act of 1950 against Amardeep "Bobby" Singh, charged with hoarding personal protective equipment and price-gouging customers.



- **Stabilizing EMS & Enforcing State Mandated Closures**

Our Fire Commission has been essential to enforcing state mandated closures and social distancing during the COVID-19 outbreak, responding to over a thousand complaints on noncompliance including businesses, public gatherings and more. Pivotal in ensuring the stability of our Emergency Medical Service (EMS), the Fire Marshal has also been coordinating and communicating with the 71 volunteer fire departments throughout the County as well as equipping firefighters and ambulances corps with PPE. Working together with our police medics and FEMA ambulances, response times have not increased dramatically, even in the face of elevated calls for help. To date, the Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office has received, investigated and responded to 2,013 complaints via telephone and email. Of the complaints: 776 were found in compliance, 493 were issued violation orders (warnings), and 25 were issued appearance tickets.



- As our Phase One of reopening is underway, the Fire Marshal's office will be responding to complaints and concerns about a businesses failing to comply with the new safety guidelines. Following these state and CDC guidelines is imperative to the health and safety of our community and will allow us to continue to the next phase.

- **Prioritizing Police Protection**

Nassau County Police Department (NCPD) has been on the frontlines of this outbreak since the virus arrived in Nassau County and the County made it a top priority to protect all of our first responders. Upon the County Executive declaring a State of Emergency, the NCPD immediately collaborated with OEM to get PPE supplies to all its members including sworn officers, police medics, correction officers, deputy sheriffs, and fire marshals, and 9-1-1 operators. Members were notified about new guidelines from the CDC and Department of Health to protect themselves from potential exposure when responding to calls.



NCPD COVID-19 Response Initiatives

- **Responding to Scams:** The County Executive and Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder continue to alert residents about the rise in Coronavirus phone and email scams and are working diligently to track down the scammers who have been impersonating health and banking officials to gather personal information.
- **PPE Drive:** NCPD continues to host and promote a supply drive for PPE and has collected and distributed thousands of donated PPE to first responders, healthcare workers, nursing homes and other essential employees and vulnerable populations throughout the County.
- **Domestic Violence:** NCPD raised the alarm early about a disturbing uptick in domestic violence calls, citing a 10% increase since the beginning of the year. Nassau County has partnered with Safe Center LI to offer more help for victims including a 24-hour hotline, shelter and child advocacy services.
- **Shutdown Enforcement:** In conjunction with the Fire Marshal's office, NCPD has also been enforcing the state's mandated closures and social distancing orders.

● ***Proactive Protection at County's Correctional Center & Sheriff's Department***

Under the direction of new Sheriff, James Dzurenda appointed by the County Executive in early March after a broad search, the Nassau County Sheriff's Department is meeting the challenges presented by the COVID 19 pandemic and has adapted its policies and procedures to ensure the staff and the County jail population is protected. The first case of COVID-19 in an inmate at the correctional facility was confirmed on March 15. Since then, aggressive measures were taken and continue, to prevent, contain or reduce the spread of COVID-19, some of which include:

- Testing newly admitted inmates upon intake and placing them in a separate housing area away from the general population for at least 14 days.
- Limiting to a maximum of 10 inmates to congregate inside or outside for recreational activities. These same 10 inmates are grouped together to limit interactions.
- Installing sanitizing stations and implementing aggressive twice daily cleaning of the entire facility.
- Providing N95 masks for all inmates and full PPE for all staff.
- Suspending in-person visitation but allowing inmates free phone time each week to communicate with loved ones.
- Coordinating daily visits from mental health staff with each inmate in the quarantine unit to ensure they understand why they are there and what the next steps are and much more.
- **Next Steps:** The Nassau County Correctional Center is now drafting a return to normal operations plan. The plan will be developed to ensure ongoing staff and inmate protection, with coordination through a three-county team process. The Nassau County Sheriff's Office which consists of the Sheriff and members of the Corrections Division are constantly meeting and discussing current operating plans and return to normal operations with staff from Suffolk County and Westchester County. Beginning this week, the number of inmates permitted to congregate will be expanded.

● ***Commitment to Health Equity: Increasing Testing & Access to Resources in Minority Communities***

The healthcare industry in Nassau County is booming and continuing to grow with 13 major hospitals and some of the best medical care on earth. However, health inequities remain prevalent among our minority communities as COVID-19 has confirmed – with deaths due to the virus disproportionately high among African Americans compared with the population overall. The Administration has been taking a serious look at health outcome disparities, appointing of Dr. Andrea Ault-Brutus as Nassau County's Director of Health Equity at the end of 2019, prior to the pandemic. To increase critical healthcare access, COVID-19 testing and resources for minority communities hit hardest by the virus, Nassau County has taken action, including:

- Partnering with Long Island Federally Qualified Health Centers to set up new coronavirus testing sites in communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The new outdoor testing facilities in

Hempstead, Freeport, Elmont and Westbury are open for testing hundreds of patients per day regardless of insurance, immigration status or ability to pay.

- Allocating \$1 million in federal HUD funds for community food distributions in areas experiencing the greatest need. Utilizing these funds, the County has partnered with Island Harvest to set up food distribution sites in Hempstead, Uniondale, Roosevelt, Levittown, Westbury, Hicksville and others with plans to add more locations within the next couple of weeks. So far, with this partnership, the County has provided food for more than 8,000 local families in need.
- In addition, Nassau County has announced a partnership with the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association to connect Spanish speaking residents in need of legal information with bilingual attorney volunteers.



- ***Combating Food Insecurity for Veterans & Seniors***

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our Veterans Service Agency (VSA) continues to deliver the critical services to the tens of thousands of Veterans who call Nassau County home. Nassau's Veterans food pantry, VetMart, is open with modified drive up and delivery services. Transportation services continue for necessary medical appointments and counseling is still available over the telephone. In addition, the County has partnered with Meals on Wheels and Catholic charities to help feed more seniors isolated at home.

- ***Responding to Other Developing Healthcare Issues***

- **Mental Health/Crisis Counseling Services:** This crisis has been especially difficult for those struggling with depression or addiction. The County has made available a 24/7 tele-health counseling service for residents in need throughout the pandemic.
- **Domestic Violence PSA:** Given the increase in domestic violence reports, Nassau County launched a multi-agency PSA message with County Executive Curran, District Attorney Singas, Police Commissioner Ryder and representatives from the Safe Center regarding resources available during this time, also imploring community engagement in assisting victims of familial violence during COVID-19. Victim of domestic violence are a top priority to Nassau County, and we are providing continuing services and unwavering support.
- **Pregnancy Information:** The County partnered with Northwell Heath to set up a free pregnancy hotline for expectant mothers, so they could get answers about how COVID-19 affects labor and delivery, and the health of mother and baby.

- ***Providing Financial Relief for Residents & Businesses***

Early on, we identified the incoming economic calamity — and acted.

- **Suspended Eviction Enforcement:** Nassau was among the very first in the nation to suspend eviction enforcement, because we knew that it would be both wrong and dangerous to kick people out of their homes during a public health emergency.

- **Extended Licenses for Private Businesses:** The County Executive indefinitely extended the expiration dates for County licenses and registrations. This will provide some breathing room for Nassau's 10,000 home improvement contractors, gym owners, barbershops for-hire vehicle drivers and many others who shouldn't have to pay for a license they can't use.
- **Delayed the Deadline for School Taxes:** Despite the fiscal strains of this unprecedented crisis, the County Executive remains committed to delivering the tax fairness and tax relief that our property owners deserve. At the County Executive's request, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo has issued an executive order that allows the County Executive to delay the deadline for second-half school district taxes without interest or penalties until June 1, 2020. This effort will provide some temporary relief for Nassau's taxpayers, while we wait for possible assistance from the federal government. The County Executive will continue to work within the confines of the law and the budget to provide relief whenever and wherever possible.
 - In addition, the County Executive signed legislation that waives a \$210 administrative fee associated with late payments of school and general property taxes.

"In this uncharted territory, Nassau County led the way – we followed the data and listened to the experts and with the help of all Nassau's residents, we successfully controlled the spread of the virus. This wasn't easy, and it's come at a high cost. We now find ourselves in an extraordinary situation with mounting challenges."

– County Executive Laura Curran

Laying the Groundwork for Business Recovery

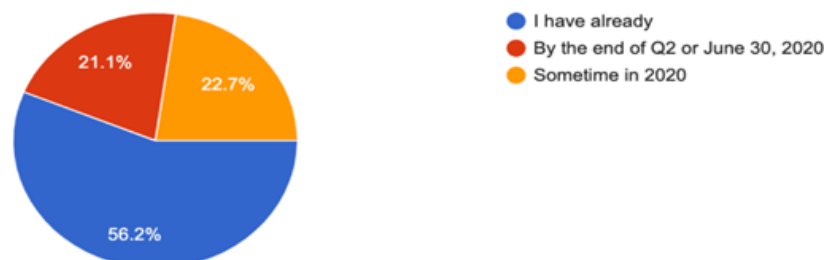
• **Laying the Groundwork for Business Recovery**

Economic Advisory Council: Following our frontline response efforts, the COVID-19 crisis has logically shifted the Administration's focus to understanding the impacts of this crisis on our businesses and residents. For this reason, the County Executive convened the Economic Advisory Council including some of Long Island's top business and non-profit leaders and led by co-chairs - Hofstra University President, Stuart Rabinowitz and Nassau County IDA Chairman, Richard Kessel – to assist our effort to track and assess the business impacts and inform recovery strategies.

- A survey, created and conducted by Hofstra, offered useful initial data on business impacts and helped with the County's on-going advocacy efforts in Albany and Washington.
- The Council, through the Nassau County IDA, engaged consulting firm HR&A to measure how each industry sector on Long Island and their workforce are faring – retail, hospitality, construction/development, healthcare, commercial real estate, manufacturers, higher education, non-profits and others.

When do you anticipate laying off your employees?

1,039 responses



- The County recently launched a second economic impact survey, to get an update on how businesses are faring as they prepare to reopen. It will ask some of the same questions as the first survey in March, to see any worsening of their predicament and will also take a deeper dive with questions about the use of federal aid including the Payroll Protection Program. The new survey also includes questions specific to the non-profit community which has been hard hit by the crisis and plays a critical in addressing the many human struggles that our residents are facing. The results will once again be used to ensure advocacy, programmatic initiatives based on real data.
- The Council is working collaboratively with Suffolk County in the study effort and expects to use the findings to better inform a regional recovery strategy. The Administration also expects to actively engage with New York State Empire State Development regarding regional recovery and growth strategies.

- ***Economic Council Recommends Additional Low-Risk Businesses to State***

The County Executive's Economic Advisory Council also prepared an interim report for the Long Island members of Governor Cuomo's NY Forward Reopening Advisory Board, tasked with guiding New York's reopening strategy. As the focus of state and local officials, business leaders and the public turned to reopening, the report provided:

- A summary of the Council's activities, including dozens of conversations with a wide-range of business and non-profit leaders, a countywide survey of more than 1,400 businesses, an ongoing analysis of economic impacts and more.
- Key take-aways from Council meetings including important feedback from businesses and non-profits from every sector of the economy - and what they will need to get moving in the short and longer term.
- Suggestions of additional low-risk businesses and activities which could be deemed essential in the near term, while Long Island works to meet the State's health metrics for phased re-opening - including residential construction, medically necessary elective care and surgeries, curbside retail, as well as additional outdoor activities.
- Ongoing Council activities including spreading the word about the new State-directed re-opening protocols, best practices and relevant governmental requirements.

- ***Reinstating Elective Surgeries in Nassau County***

With hospitals prohibited from pursuing elective surgeries to create capacity for COVID-19 patients, our healthcare networks are facing mounting financial challenges. At the County Executive's request, Governor Cuomo has reinstated elective surgeries and urgent non-COVID medical procedures in Nassau County. This change comes as a result of the County Executive's letter to the Governor making the case that hospitals are ready and that vital procedures such mammograms and biopsies cannot be delayed.

- ***Launching NY Forward: "Boost Nassau" Small Business Loan Program***

The County has launched the "Boost Nassau" Loan Program, a new business recovery loan program aimed at supporting Nassau County's small businesses, Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) and nonprofits as they reopen after the COVID-19 outbreak. The new "Boost Nassau" program secures up to \$10 million loan capacity for the County's businesses as part of the state's "NY Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF)" announced by Governor Andrew Cuomo. The funding program is made possible with an investment of \$500,000 by Nassau County and the Nassau County Local Economic Assistance Corporation (LEAC), in partnership with National Development Council (NDC). With this new loan program, we are securing a pool of funding and "boosting" the chances of Nassau's small businesses and nonprofits getting the loans made possible through the state. The program is available to businesses impacted by COVID-19 that haven't accessed federally-backed programs like PPP. We will pursue a robust outreach strategy through our

minority outreach offices, local chambers and partners to ensure businesses in hard-hit communities can finally get the relief they need.

Implementing NY Forward Reopening Strategy

- **Meeting & Monitoring the Metrics to Reopen Safely**

Under NY State Governor Andrew Cuomo's NY Forward Reopening Plan, Long Island can begin reopening industries in phases when our region meets the state's seven health metrics outlined below. Governor Cuomo has selected County Executive Curran and other regional leaders as members of the regional control rooms that will monitor metrics in their region during the reopening process. These regional control rooms will alert the state if their region's metrics are no longer being met and adjust the reopening plan for that region accordingly. Long Island is being evaluated as a whole on the seven metrics which are based on guidelines from the CDC and include the following:

✓ **At least 14 days of decline in total hospitalizations on a three-day rolling average**

We've now had 43 straight days of declining COVID-19 hospitalizations. At the peak of the pandemic in mid-April, we were at 2,477 hospitalizations, and today we have approximately 410 hospitalized COVID-19 patients - an 83% decrease.

✓ **Hospitals can't be filled to more than 70% capacity – including ICU beds – leaving 30% available in the event of a surge**

✓ **Conducting 30 tests per 1,000 residents monthly**

✓ **Securing a 90-day stockpile of PPE in all hospitals**

✓ **Fewer than two new COVID-19 patients per 100,000 residents per day**

✓ **A minimum of 30 contact tracers for every 100,000 residents, with additional tracers available based on the projected number of cases in the region**

Containment not only includes very wide scale testing but aggressive contact tracing and isolation for exposed individuals. Nassau County began controlling the virus with 30 "disease detectives" that, during normal activities, work to track E. coli, hepatitis, foodborne and other types of diseases. Through the state's partnership with the Bloomberg Foundation, the County is working to add hundreds of new contact tracers as well as train County employees and we're successfully ramping up our army. In addition, this week the County will be installing state-of-the-art software programs provided by the state that will assist with this effort.

At least 14 days of declines in deaths on a three-day rolling average

Although the number of COVID-19 patients on ventilators continues to drop, some patients on ventilators are not able to recover, and our number of deaths may continue to rise every few days. It's important to note that the number of deaths does not adequately reflect the current status of the pandemic as many deaths result after a patient has been sick and on a ventilator for weeks.

Phase One of Reopening Underway

Nassau County and its hospital systems worked tirelessly to meet the state's seven health metrics required to begin the phased reopening. As a result, Phase One businesses can reopen as of May 27, 2020 following NY State protocols and guidelines that will help ensure a safe reopening for employees and customers. Following the state's guidelines, businesses that are most essential and pose the lowest risk will be the first

to open and we will proceed in phases. Although subject to change, it is expected there will be a two-week period between each phase of reopening.

- **Phase 1: OPEN as of 5.27.20:** Manufacturing, construction, curbside pickup, etc.
- **Phase 2: NOT OPEN:** Professional services, retail, real estate, administrative support
- **Phase 3: NOT OPEN:** Restaurants, food services, etc.
- **Phase 4: NOT OPEN:** Arts, entertainment, sports, education.

"I am committed to supporting our businesses as we enter this next chapter. These are uncertain times but one thing I am certain of is that our business owners are innovative, and they are resilient. I will continue to do everything I can to help our businesses recover, from mom and pop shops to real estate developers, and ensure the revival of our downtowns and business districts."— County Executive Laura Curran

- **Preparing Businesses to Reopen**

The Administration is committed to supporting the revival our businesses districts and downtowns across the County. As Long Island presses forward with reopening, we are working hard to ensure employers in Nassau County stay up-to-date with the latest news, changes, guidelines and requirements. We are actively encouraging all businesses to visit the NY Forward website for information about the different phases, summary of guidelines, business affirmation link, and a printable safety template. A detailed industry outline of Phase One is available at this link. As detailed information is made available on the next phases, it will also be posted on the website. We are utilizing PSAs, social media, websites, FAQs, Chambers of Commerce and more to reach our business community.

- **Implementing Protocols:** County officials continue to engage with members of the Governor's New York Forward Re-Opening Advisory Board, including local industry leaders like Scott Rechler, CEO & Chairman; RXR Realty, Kevin Law, President & CEO, Long Island Association, Inc.; and Jon Ledecy, Co-Owner, NY Islanders. This group has helped the state develop criteria and new protocols unique to each sector for the reopening. County officials continue communication with Island Builders Institute, Long Island Association, Long Island Federation of Labor, leaders in hospitality and many other industries to identify their needs and gather feedback throughout this process.

- **Making it Easier for Businesses to Utilize Street Space - Open Streets Pilot Program**

With Nassau County's new Open Streets Pilot Program, we are making it easier for villages, towns and cities to temporarily close down County roads to vehicles to allow businesses to utilize sidewalk and/or street space fronting their business to increase their capacity while maintaining social distancing. This will help address reduced indoor capacity requirements under the NY Forward phase-in reopening, which limits the number of customers indoors and may impact revenue. Continuing the County's efforts to support the revival of our downtowns and business districts, the County will be fast tracking permitting approvals for temporary road closures, with a decision within a week of receiving an application.

- **Enforcement of Guidelines and Reopening**

As businesses are eager to reopen, following NY State and CDC guidelines is imperative to the health and safety of our community and will allow us to continue to the next phase. Residents can report a complaint or concern about a business failing to comply with the new safety guidelines by emailing Reopensafe@nassaucountyny.gov. The Fire Marshal's office will continue to respond to and investigate these complaints and issue violations for continued non-compliance.

- **Protecting Beachgoers**

- **Limiting Access to Nassau Residents Only:** There is no summer on Long Island without the beach, and now more than ever our shores will serve as much-needed relief for residents looking to beat the heat. Continuing to prioritize the health and safety of our residents, the County Executive signed legislation restricting access to Nickerson Beach to Nassau residents only while New York City beaches remain closed. This will help ensure Nassau residents can enjoy our only County-operated beach especially as capacity is limited to 50% under state guidance.
- **Implementing State Guidelines:** Nassau County has been in active communication with state and regional officials regarding new protocols for beaches and solutions to issues such as over-crowding as residents are eager to enjoy the summer after months of isolation. In anticipation of the state protocols, the County has developed a plan to address staffing and enforcement needed to support social distancing requirements including cashless toll booths, signage and more. Following state guidelines, the County will be limiting the number of visitors to Nickerson Beach, the only County-owned beach, by reducing the number of cars allowed in the parking lot by 50%. Just as New York State is coordinating with northeast states, we will continue to coordinate with our towns and cities on safety measures.



- **Preparing the Frontline for the Future**

Unfortunately, the threat of new and re-emerging diseases existed before COVID-19 and will continue once the pandemic ends. As we respond to and emerge from this public health crisis, it is crucial that we prepare for possible flares in cases and a potential second wave of infections. We must analyze our response efforts for areas of improvement, recalibrate and strategize for the future. We'll aggressively re-embrace some of the mitigation strategies that we have determined had impact, particularly social distancing. As we prepare for and gauge the extent of another outbreak, a crucial piece of missing information remains: what portion of people have actually been infected and does that result in immunity? And we rely on our healthcare industries for effective treatments/vaccines to blunt the impact of future outbreaks. In the meantime, we continue to: increase contact tracing, increase access to testing, promote Telehealth to preserve hospital capacity, source and distribute PPE, and more.

COVID-19 Fiscal Impact

- **Previously Balanced FY2020 Budget Now in Devastating Deficit**

Prior to COVID-19, Nassau County had a balanced budget for fiscal year ending on December 31, 2020. We exercised spending discipline while providing County residents with the quality services they demanded and deserved. We planned for carefully targeted new investments to improve and expand the services we deliver to residents and businesses in the upcoming year, while holding down expenses and focusing our efforts on efficiency and sharing services.

- In light of the pandemic, the County is now forecasting a shortfall of more than \$384 million, with a 20% sales tax reduction.
- The County is tracking the decline in sales tax collections, as well as significant reductions in other revenues from the ongoing lack of economic activity.

- These revenues pay for the salaries and wages of Nassau County's first responders and all other employees as well as the purchase of goods and services to keep the County's government running.
- As part of our work, we will be finalizing an overall gap closing program for FY2020 and FY2021 later this spring which we will publish with the County's Midyear Report due on June 30, 2020.

- **Financial Recovery Initiatives**

The County is currently assembling all resources available to stabilize its fiscal condition, including:

- Applying resources in 2020 that the County had saved with tough fiscal discipline throughout 2019;
- Leveraging NIFA's AAA credit rating in credit markets for debt restructuring. With the approval of the State Legislature and Governor Cuomo, the County succeeded in increasing NIFA's bonding capacity during the closing days of the state's budget deliberations. NIFA will have greater access to the public capital markets at a lower cost of funds to the County, reducing our overall debt costs over the next few years.
- Pressing our congressional representatives to pass revenue recovery measures for state and local governments based on how widespread the pandemic was to the specific region and to pass an economic stimulus bill for infrastructure.
- Taking our own cost saving measures to address the dramatic loss of County revenue. The County Executive has sent a memo to all agency and department heads, including independently elected officials, across the County requesting proposed expense savings ideas in their workstreams in 2020 and beyond. Expense reductions are best identified by each department. In her memo, the County Executive ordered an immediate freeze on hiring and nonessential purchases as well as a review of all service contracts.
- Evaluating the Municipal Liquidity Fund, a new federal lending program for municipalities that will allow the County to borrow funds for cash flow needs at low interest rates.

"I want to make clear that as our County employees have stood by us in this difficult time, I will now stand by them. Our team has done an incredible job of responding to this crisis, and we will continue to have their back. We will do all we can to bounce back, but we need state and federal support to replace lost revenue. I will continue to do all in my power to advocate for robust recovery aid, and I won't rest until Nassau County gets the federal funds we need." - County Executive Laura Curran

- **Maximizing Federal CARES Act Funding**

The Act provides \$150 billion for state and local governments to cover costs incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020 due to COVID-19. Nassau County's allocation is \$237 million. But that funding was divided between two geographic areas: Nassau County Local Government and Town of Hempstead. Nassau County received \$103 million and Town of Hempstead received \$134 million for the total of \$237. The County will be identifying costs associated with our response to the COVID health crisis – that means first responders, department of health, law enforcement and other essential personnel costs and supply costs. In the meantime, the County is engaging local police departments and villages to get a sense of their specific funding needs, as well as fire departments and others. We will coordinate with the Town of Hempstead for a share of their funds for appropriate shared expenses. We are also putting together a factsheet to share with our covered municipalities on both CARES and FEMA reimbursement.

- **2020 Census Important for Recovery**

The COVID-19 pandemic underscores the need for everyone to be counted in this year's census. In this public health emergency, Census data helps first responders and disaster recovery personnel identify where and how much resources are needed. Data from the census determines the distribution of aid from the state and federal government for our hospital systems, essential services, local governments and more. In addition, responses could lead to more jobs and new businesses opportunities for Nassau County as we recover. Businesses use population statistics to help decide where to add jobs or open new stores, offices or other businesses.

- **Establishing the Complete Count Committee** - County Executive Curran formed the Nassau Complete Count Committee in order to ensure that every resident is counted in the 2020 Census. Through the Complete Count Committee and in partnership with non-profit groups, Nassau has pursued an aggressive outreach campaign to assure and motivate all residents about the importance of filling out the Census. County efforts have included info panels, multi-lingual workshops, Census job fairs, and a multi-media public awareness campaign.
- **Nassau Leads the State** – As a result of this effort, Nassau County leads New York State in self-responses to the Census online, by phone, or mail. According to data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau as of May 22, 2020, 65.7% of Nassau residents have responded, the highest percentage collected statewide to date. Although the County has demonstrated significant progress compared to a decade ago, the Administration is focusing on disparities in response rates in predominantly black and brown communities. The Village of Hempstead had a 47% response rate, a figure which can still be improved before the new October 31st deadline for self-responses. Pointing to COVID-19's devastating impact on communities of color and Nassau's urgent need for federal funding, Curran announced a renewed, multi-lingual public awareness campaign urging residents to respond to the Census.

Looming Fiscal Challenges

- **Stabilizing NUMC**

The County's only public safety net hospital continues to play a crucial role in the battle against COVID-19, serving uninsured patients and neediest populations hit hardest by the pandemic. In addition, the hospital is responsible for administering viral tests to County first responders. NUMC's fiscal crisis that has been worsened by the pandemic with NUMC authorizing \$10 million in unanticipated COVID-19 spending and plans to spend an additional \$19 million over the next three months to treat patients. For decades, NUMC has served as a critical link to health care for underserved communities, and its vital role in our response to the pandemic further illustrates the importance of its survival. NUMC and A. Holly Patterson Extended Care Facility currently employ more than 3,000 employees.

- **NUMC Forward Task Force:** To help shape and guide the future of the hospital as its looming fiscal crisis worsens, the County Executive has convened the NUMC Forward Task Force including a diverse group of community stakeholders and local leaders. The task force will advise on steps various stakeholders would like to see as long-term planning decisions are made regarding the hospital's future, including the A. Holly Patterson Extended Care Facility. These planned efforts will include future pandemic needs for the surrounding communities.
- The Nassau Interim Finance Authority recently extended its coverage to NUMC and plans to retain a consultant to assist in mapping out a future for NUMC and A. Holly Patterson Extended Care Facility.

- **Collective Bargaining with County Unions Amid Fiscal Crisis**

After months of tough negotiations, we closed 2019 with an agreement with the Nassau County Police Department Detective's Association - the County's first labor contract agreement of Curran's Administration. The agreement shows that hard work at the bargaining table can produce fair wage increases that don't overburden Nassau's taxpayers. This new 8.5-year contract has immediately begun to remedy the chronic shortage of Detectives which has challenged the dedicated members of the department over the last several years. The new contract approved by the Detectives Association, the Nassau County Legislature and NIFA provides a pathway for restoring our Detective ranks. With five more contracts to go, securing responsible contracts is vital to restoring the County's fiscal footing and one of County Executive Curran's highest priorities.

- **Court Closures Impact Property Assessment Proceedings (SCAR Filings)**

The Administration has made substantial progress in the challenge of restoring fairness and accuracy to the County's broken and corrupted property assessment system, while providing relief for taxpayers. We are now in our second year of producing more accurate, up-to-date property values utilizing the most current real estate data and technology available. With a record low number of grievance reductions after the reassessment, we now have even more data that shows we are on the right path. With that, we face a new challenge. With the Assessment Review Commission (ARC) denying a reduction to a majority of grievors, since we no longer have a ratio issue, we anticipate a large number of homeowners filing appeals with Small Claims Assessment Review (SCAR) – and we prepared. We hired and trained employees to handle the increase in case load. In March, the Dept. of Assessment made it clear to the legislature and the court that they're prepared to hear 100,000 SCAR cases if necessary, before August to guarantee no refunds would be issued.

- With New York State limiting court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and suspending SCAR filings, the Administration has proposed a mediation program under to begin reviewing claims. However, the state has just announced that courts can now accept new filings in Nassau County, including SCAR filings, and the filing period will not end until July 6, 2020. While we're pleased to begin addressing filings, after almost two months of the courts being close, the County will have a very narrow window to have valid proceedings on each SCAR case before the refund liability deadline in August.

"This crisis will be a serious setback for our financial progress. A difficult road lies ahead. Moving forward, my Administration will commit to three objectives: we will maintain fiscal responsibility, we will not raise taxes, and we will ensure our law enforcement and first responders have the resources they need to keep us safe and healthy." - County Executive Laura Curran

Economic Stimulus Strategy & Reimagining NY

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a near total shutdown of social and economic activity in our region – projected to result in a larger economic downturn than in the 2008–2009 financial crisis, with over 260,000 Long Island residents having applied for unemployment. While we're only on the cusp of reopening, plans to launch our economic revival have been underway.

Reimagine New York

County Executive Curran was appointed to Governor Cuomo's **Task Force to Reimagine New York**, a partnership with Suffolk, New York City, and Westchester, to take a regional approach to restoring our economy while preventing another outbreak. Working with the Task Force, the County Executive will help shape rules to guide the economy - reimagining workplaces and protocols – establishing methods for ramping up commerce **while** supporting the health of workers and customers. This is an opportunity for us not to just to re-open, but to re-open smarter. To build better transportation systems, better housing, better public health, better social equity, and better use of technology. To start, following state guidelines and protocols, we've been able to reopen marinas, boat ramps, golf courses, and outdoor construction. Additional low-risk industries were also added to the Governor's list including landscaping, drive-in movie theaters and tennis. With Phase One now underway, we are working to build back a significant portion of our workforce with construction, manufacturing, and wholesale trade making up 17% of total jobs on Long Island.



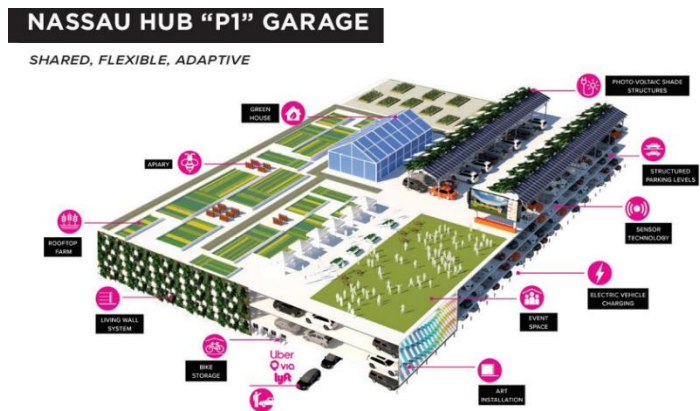
Prioritizing Economic Drivers & Capitalizing on Phase One Reopening

The Administration is committed to immediately launching our economic revival. Investments will be prioritized to stimulate our economy and get people back to work – a crucial need for our County. County projects will serve as an economic stimulus and offer needed jobs. We are working collaboratively with labor, developers and municipal leaders to re-start our key initiatives this week and get economic drivers back on track. Below is a summary of some of the status of the Administration's key economic development initiatives:

- **NASSAU HUB**

Our cornerstone redevelopment project and our vision for a reimagined Nassau, where everyone can live, work, and play remains a priority.

- **Project Status:** Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, the development team of RXR and Onexim was meeting all project milestones contained in the Development Plan Agreement (DPA) including helping the County to secure \$85M from New York State for the construction of vertical parking garages at the HUB, a big step towards shovels in the ground. They also submitted the Conceptual Master Plan to the Town of Hempstead for review and engaged in a robust community outreach effort to inform a community benefits agreement. Given the COVID-19 crisis, there may be a need to re-visit the timelines contained in the DPA, and we fully expect to work cooperatively with the development team in this regard.



- **Belmont Arena**

The Administration will continue to champion this project to bring the Islanders home to Long Island for good while providing a significant boost for our economy during construction and after its completion. We are thrilled that construction of this symbolic project can resume this week. The development team has indicated that the arena could still be ready for the 2021-22 NHL season.

- **Streamlining Development Approvals**

As a County government we are working to deliver better service for businesses that want to relocate and grow here. Now more than ever, we must find ways to get shovels in the ground quickly. In an effort to cut the red tape restraining growth, the Administration is implementing many of the recommendations of the County Executive's Blue-Ribbon Panel on the 239F Process and 239F approvals are still progressing with staff working remotely.

- **Expediting Safety Approvals** - This year, Nassau County also increased staffing at our Fire Marshal's Office and has successfully reduced the review time for plans by 50%.

- **Fostering Economic Development & Opportunities**

As we work to recover, it is vital that we support new opportunities coming to Nassau.

- **IDA Incentives & Pending Projects** – The IDA Board met earlier this month via virtual conference, ensuring that even through the crisis we keep our governmental processes moving, to support businesses and position future job creation and retention during these challenging times. Several important economic development projects received preliminary inducements, kicking off the IDA's consideration on these items. They include a retention initiative for long-time Nassau based company 1-800-Flowers.com, the Long Beach "Super Block" development proposal by Engel Burman and a hotel project in Jericho.
- The Nassau County IDA continues to lead the way with transparency and accountability in the use of tax incentives to attract and grow businesses in Nassau. 2019 was a strong year for mixed-use development projects as well as some industrial projects such as biopharma and manufacturing. 2020 started very strong, with important workforce housing developments approved in Farmingdale and Lynbrook.
- **Growing Film Industry:** Now that construction can resume, Nassau will soon be home to a new HBO set, filming its new series, The Gilded Age, behind the Armor Museum at Old Bethpage Restoration Village. This production joins Apple TV's Dickenson, already filming at Bethpage Village. HBO and Apple TV's decision to film in Nassau underscores the industry's keen interest in our County as a location of choice and positions us for continued growth - beyond the \$170M in economic activity already generated by the industry.

- **Downtown Developments & Housing**

- **Transit Oriented Development ("TOD") Funding Initiative:** Many villages throughout the County are bringing to life our vision of Nassau, with revitalized, walkable downtowns and investments in mixed-use housing near transit. This year, the County awarded seven qualified municipalities a total of \$1 million in grants following a first-ever competitive process to select the most impactful TOD projects.
- **Efforts to Add Affordable & Mixed-Use Housing in Nassau County:** The Millennial Generation is currently the largest single adult group in our country, and they're struggling to afford the cost of living on Long Island. As for our seniors, they want affordable options that allow them to stay in Nassau County without the burdens of a single-family house. Our goal is to continue pushing forward with affordable housing initiatives in 2020.
 - **Master Plan:** Nassau County had planned to embark on updating its five-year master plan to help us scale our vision for housing opportunity in Nassau. While our current economic downturn will delay this effort, when we restart, the Nassau County Planning Commission will take the lead with input from localities, developers and other stakeholders. Together we will be able to develop a toolbox that promotes zoning options and greater housing choices.

- **Housing Partnerships:** We've forged important partnerships with the Long Island Housing Partnership, CDC-LI, and the Nassau County Land Bank - which is constructing its first home on formerly County-owned land in Hempstead – to increase housing options.
- **Fair Housing Initiatives:** Nassau County has taken historic, bipartisan action to combat housing discrimination - brought to the forefront with Newsday's investigation on discrimination in our real estate industry. In addition to naming Deputy County Attorney Errol Williams as Special Counsel to coordinate our efforts, the Administration has:
 - Updated the Human Rights Commission ("HRC") website to include more information about housing rights and how to file a complaint and established a fair housing hotline that goes directly to HRC staff.
 - Ensured additional training for HRC staff on fair housing laws and is Pursuing new ways to step up enforcement
 - Kicked off fair housing workshops and other educational initiatives, re-engaging with the community through trusted stakeholders
 - Convened a Nassau County Fair Housing Advisory Board, comprised of community stakeholders and advocates who will be in the community, listening, reporting back, and keeping us on track on our commitment to fair and equal housing opportunity.



- ***Transit is Crucial Component***

Alongside MTA and LIRR leadership, the County Executive has been fiercely advocating for Federal emergency funding to keep service running throughout the pandemic to ensure essential workers can get to the frontline. As the MTA plays a major role in the revival of our region's economy and the LIRR is vital to the lifeblood of Long Island's economy, the County Executive commits to doing everything she can to support these agencies which are crucial to our battle and recovery.

Amid plunging ridership, waiving fares and performing daily deep-cleanings, the coronavirus pandemic is having a significant negative effect on the County's NICE Bus revenue. The County has received an award of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds through the CARES Act in the amount of \$33.1 million to continue to support NICE Bus operations during the pandemic. The average weekday ridership in 2019 was 81,000. Current ridership is 20,000 - down 75% from 2019 ridership. While ridership is down similar to all other public transportation on Long Island, it's noteworthy that 20,000 daily customers continue to rely on NICE Bus service during the pandemic - a testament that the service is critical for many essential employees. We will continue to utilize all available resources to stabilize this essential service as lasting impacts of the pandemic continue.



- ***Embracing Growing Diversity & Providing Targeted Services***

Nassau County is growing more diverse, and we are engaging with each community providing resources, learning opportunities, employment opportunities, info sessions and much more. The Office of Minority

Affairs, Office of Hispanic Affairs and the Office of Asian American Affairs work to support delivery of essential services, prioritize economic empowerment and promote inclusion for all our residents.

- One priority has been the Curran Administration's on-going effort to include businesses owned by minorities, women and service-disabled veterans in County procurements. We have increased registrations by 400% to date. The outreach offices have also worked collaboratively on workshops to help businesses secure financing, and to help residents learn about County employment opportunities.
- **Pursuing Disparity Study** - Nassau County had planned to pursue a disparity study concerning the availability of minority, women and service-disabled own businesses to better inform our on-going push to increase participation in County procurements. We are currently reviewing with Suffolk County, which joined Nassau in a shared services initiative. The two Counties intend to finalize the vendor selection process but will hold off on awarding the bid and beginning the study until the economy has restarted.

County Capital Projects to Serve as Economic Stimulus

Federal Infrastructure Funding is Crucial

The County Executive is pushing for infrastructure investment as part of the next phase of the federal COVID-19 response. While federal infrastructure assistance may not be forthcoming, the County endeavors to get projects "shovel ready," lining up the necessary approvals and completing other predevelopment activities to jumpstart ongoing and new project construction in the event that federal support becomes available.

- **New Family Courts**

The 240,000 square foot Nassau County Family and Matrimonial Center was earmarked to become the new court building soon after the previous tenant of the building, Department of Social Services, moved to Uniondale in 2004. The project, stalled by the previous administration for over a decade, has been fast tracked by County Executive Curran. The new location will improve the court system as well improve the parking and congestion issues of the current locations. The court will also include components of Long Island's first Family Justice Center, a location offering legal and other services for domestic violence victims.



- We're proud to share that the first phase of the renovation which includes the exterior envelope of the building is nearly complete. The contract with E & A Restoration, Inc. for the second phase of the project has been approved by the County Legislature and we are poised and ready to continue construction with NIFA's approval. We will commence phase two with the availability of federal infrastructure aid.

- **Bayville Bridge**

The Bayville Bridge serves as the most convenient and desirable route for the residents and travelers to and from communities such as the Villages of Bayville, Mill Neck and Centre Island to access the mainland of the north shore of Nassau County. The Bayville Bridge has been in need of a full rehabilitation of the structure and its components for several years. The construction approach to this bridge rehabilitation was informed by consultation with local communities. The project is currently on hold and will restart when funding becomes available.

- **Revitalizing Museum Row**

Attracting new business and residents requires investment in our cultural capital. Museum Row is a one-stop destination for some of Long Island's best museums, like the Cradle of Aviation or Children's Museum – walking distance from the Coliseum and HUB development. Currently on hold, this year, we planned to establish a funding program to support the critical capital improvements necessary to preserve and promote our cultural gems.

- **Unprecedented Road Resurfacing**

Maintaining safe roads is critical to our economy, the safety of our residents and is a basic function of government. Under the County Executive's directive, DPW took an aggressive approach to roadway infrastructure investment, maintenance and improvement. In the last two years, we have set new records. Last year, DPW repaved an unprecedented 200 lane miles of County roads which more than doubles the number of roads paved in 2018 and is triple the amount paved in 2017. With over 1,500 lane miles in Nassau, there is still a lot of work to do. Considered essential construction, road paving has progressed during the pandemic and so far we've filled over 12,000 potholes this year. For 2020, the County planned on investing \$70 million dollars for another aggressive roadway improvement campaign with the goal of repaving another 200 lane miles in all corners of our County, but we will need federal support to hit our mark.

- Although construction contracts to complete 2020's roadway projects were approved by the County Legislature and NIFA, the County relies on bonding for the full costs of most major infrastructure projects. Through the County's multi-year capital plan, there is currently \$42 million available to spend on this program which will cover approximately 75% of 2020 paving plans or up to 150 lane miles. We are hopeful that the next round of federal coronavirus relief will contain significant aid for state and local governments that can be utilized for infrastructure projects and serve as a critical boost for our local economy.
- **Transparency & Interactive Websites** - We've modernized how we inform residents of roadwork with interactive websites to see which County roads were resurfaced in 2018 and 2019 and which roads will be paved in the 2020 construction season. www.nassaucountyny.gov/roadwork
- Because it's difficult to know which town, village or County is responsible for maintaining each road, we launched a tool to tell residents exactly that: www.nassaucountyny.gov/myroads.

- **Increasing Park Revenues**

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve our public green spaces and County's ability to generate revenue through quality food and beverage services, we've released RFPs for new concession services at our park facilities. The County has successfully negotiated two new catering contracts with a guaranteed annual fee, percentage of sales and capital improvements. Pending approval by the Nassau County Legislature, a five-year catering contract for venues at Chelsea Mansion in Muttontown will be awarded to Culinar Inc. and a 10-year contract for the "Barn" at Old Bethpage Village Restoration will be awarded to Lessings Inc. We are presently finalizing our vending machine contract as well as our Parks Ice Cream Vendor.

- The County has also released an RFP for naming rights and advertising at County park facilities.
- In addition, the County extended the RFP deadline for the County-owned Carltun on the Park, to maximize revenue-producing opportunities for not just the County, but also the successful proposer who ultimately operates the restaurant and catering facility, and their subcontractors who assist them.

- **Enhancing County Parks**

By continuing to modernize our parks, we create viable destinations for entertainment and community, increasing tourism and spurring local economic activity.

- While our current economic downturn will delay these efforts, we planned on restoring and transforming three major County parks in 2020 including Centennial Park in Roosevelt, Christopher

Morley Park in Roslyn, and Wantagh Park. We planned for upgraded amenities at Eisenhower Park, Inwood Park, Cedar Creek Park in Wantagh, Bay Park in East Rockaway, Cantiague Park in Hicksville, Cow Meadow Park in Freeport, and Nickerson Beach Park in Lido Beach.

- Last year we installed cricket pitches in County parks, catering to a new market and our rapidly growing South Asian community. With a relatively small investment and with the fields booked up every Saturday and Sunday, there has been tremendous interest and a revenue boost for the park.

Environmental Investments to Boost Economy

While we'll have to revise some of our project timelines, we remain committed to ensuring the resilience of our coastal communities and remaining a Climate Smart Community. Our key environmental investments and partnerships outlined below will translate into a tremendous economic boost for the region with apprenticeship programs and jobs.

- **Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Ensuring the resilience of our County, Nassau County's Office of Emergency Management has commenced its Hazard Mitigation Plan 5-Year Update in early 2020. Through the Plan Updating process, OEM is working directly with 69 participating jurisdictions and regional stakeholders to increase community resilience to natural hazards, such as severe storms, flooding and earthquakes.

- **Climate Smart Initiatives**

Nassau County has been recognized by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as a Climate Smart Community. As a part of our commitment, we are working with PSEG-LI to inventory GHG emissions from County facilities to establish a baseline and new reduction goals for County government operations. We are striving for clean, renewable energy generation and procurement. We are protecting open space, biodiversity and water quality throughout the County. We are also looking at installing solar generation on County properties, installing publicly accessible EV charging stations at key County facilities and converting several County fleets to electric vehicles.



- **Western Bays Water Quality Improvement**

This project is the most significant environmental investment we will make in many decades, and it will translate into a tremendous economic boost for the region with apprenticeship programs and jobs. We are currently working with our State Partners to complete the largest design-build sewer project happening anywhere in NYS. The project will divert treated water from the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant to an existing ocean outfall and will do more than just strengthen coastal resiliency. It will clean our waterways, restore marshland, improve shell-fishing, and provide a better, more sustainable ecosystem. Improved water quality will mean a better quality of life for residents. The project continues to move forward, and in early 2021 the three-year construction plan kicks into gear.

- **Bethpage Plume**

As highlighted by Newsday's investigative coverage, Grumman's illegal dumping of toxic waste has helped create a 4.3-mile-long, 2.1-mile groundwater contamination plume with high concentrations of toxic chemicals, now threatening the drinking water of 250,000 residents of Nassau County. The County Executive is demanding a

comprehensive and restorative clean-up efforts, and new steps to protect our groundwater. This will require a historic investment, and the Administration fully supports Governor Cuomo's Restore Mother Nature Environmental Bond to get it done.

- **NYS State Commitment to Renewable Energy**

Governor Cuomo has made a historic commitment to transition New York's electricity generation to come from 100% renewable sources by 2040 and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. New York will lead the way in developing the largest source of offshore wind power in the Country. Long Island is strategically placed to be at the epicenter of this developing industry. With two historic Offshore wind agreements and the two offshore wind farms, being built off the coast of Long Island, we will be generating 1,700 megawatts of clean energy. This is enough energy to power more than 1 million homes. There is real economic potential in this new industry, both for our local businesses and our workforce. The County will also be installing EV charging stations to and installing renewable energy generation (solar) at County facilities reduce our utilization of fossil fuel-generated energy.

Building a Strong Foundation for First Responders & Public Safety

Amidst this historic pandemic, as we work to rebuild, we are proud of the strong foundation we've built for public safety in our County and the substantial progress we've made over the past year. After years of falling behind, we're moving forward. We said we would enhance our community policing model, and we've done just that. In 2019, working together with the County Legislature and unions, we reopened precincts with state-of-the-art renovations worthy of our Department. We've doubled down on our commitment to building strong relationships between police and the communities they serve, and the results are paying off. Nassau County is experiencing record low major crime rates, even as our County jail population continues to drop to lower levels. Compared to a decade ago, major crime has dipped by a third.

- **Broke Ground on a State-of-the-Art Police Academy**

Since 1982, Nassau County law enforcement have been shuffled through temporary training facilities, undermining critical training and intelligence procedures and breaking the bank for our taxpayers. Last May, thanks to private and public support gathered through the Nassau County Police Department Foundation, we broke ground on the 89,000 square foot Nassau County Training and Intelligence Center. Our DPW team has been hard at work and we're slated to open in 2021.



- **Expanded Mental Health Care Access for Police Officers**

County Executive Curran signed bi-partisan legislation expanding access to mental health care for our Police Officers and Corrections Officers who may be in crisis. The enhanced assistance includes confidential peer support, training, and other resources, including a smartphone app and website that provides information for officers on the signs of depression and suicidal behavior.

- Curran also signed into law a piece of legislation that outlaws the throwing or spraying of water or similar liquids at police officers and first responders.

- **Re-Opened Police Precincts - Strengthening Community Policing**

With the previous Administration shutting down two of the eight police precincts in 2011 – the 6th in Manhasset and the 8th in Levittown - County Executive Curran made a commitment to enhancing the County's community policing model and reopening those precincts. In 2019, working together with the

County Legislature and unions, we re-opened those precincts with state-of-the-art renovations worthy of the department.

- **Modernized and Re-Opened High-Tech Crime Lab**

Last year, we officially opened a state-of-the-art crime lab that is in full compliance and an accredited agency. Having the new lab operational, after eight years of construction, is especially important in today's technologically advanced world. There is an increasing reliance on scientific methodologies. This modernized facility represents a new beginning for the County to meet those needs.

- **Fierce Advocacy Results in NY State Scaling Back on Bail Reform**

New York State overhauled its bail law in April 2019. The new law that went into effect in January, required defendants who would have been remanded to County jails on bail for misdemeanors and some felony charges to be released on their own recognizance from court.

Committed to keeping crime at record lows but also recognizing that criminal justice reform is long overdue, County Executive Curran took the lead in pursuing common sense adjustments for the extensive new law. Going against the grain, her fierce advocacy and productive discussions with members of the State Legislature resulted in a significant rollback on the law in this year's state budget - passed by the state Senate and Assembly and signed by Governor Cuomo in early April.

The biggest change is expanding the list of crimes in which judges can set bail on a defendant or send them straight to jail. There are 15 new bail eligible felony offenses added to the list, some of which include: sex trafficking, and sex trafficking of a child; aggravated assault on a child younger than 11; endangering the welfare of a child when committed by a level 3 sex offender; and burglary in the 2nd degree (only when an individual is charged with entering the living space of another).

- **Formed Common Sense Coalition** – As part of her efforts, the County Executive Curran convened the Common Sense Coalition with fellow elected officials and law enforcement on Long Island to help advocate for changes to last year's criminal justice reform legislation. The coalition advocated for additional discretion for judges with regard to the release of defendants, revisiting the list of crimes for which cash bail was removed, and a loosening of discovery rules. Although no reform of a system so complex can be perfect, Long Island's successful pursuit in Albany will now make every community safer. County Executive Curran will continue to work with law enforcement and all stakeholders in the process to assess and advocate for any necessary adjustments as new changes takes effect. We will continue to work towards a criminal justice system that is smarter, safer, and fairer.
- **Established Office of Crime Victims Advocacy** – The County has appointed Jeanine Diehl as Executive Director of new office of Crime Victims' Advocates, established to protect victims and witnesses of violent crimes, and also help them navigate justice reforms.

- **Combatting Gun Violence**

Although it only shows up in headlines after the worst of tragedies, the scourge of gun violence is something the Administration has taken extremely seriously. The safety of children and all residents IS the top priority.

- **Implementing the Rave App** - As of the beginning of the school year, every single school building has received a security assessment from Nassau County PD to ensure administration, staff, and students are ready for any security emergency that may occur, including an active shooter situation. The RAVE app has been implemented successfully in all school districts. The Rave Panic Button instantly delivers data to 911 dispatchers and first responders, helping cut response time to security emergencies.
- **Equipping Police Vehicles** – Each PD vehicle has been equipped with breaching devices to ensure officers can get to anybody who's trapped behind a wall.

- **Protecting Houses of Worship** - County law enforcement has been and continue to work closely with faith leaders and houses of worship to ensure maximized safety.
- **Making an Impact with Gun Buybacks** – Continuing to host gun buybacks is helping to keep guns out of the hands of those who should not have them. Over the past decade, Nassau County’s gun buyback program has now bought back almost 5,000 guns.

- **Turning the Tide in Battle Against Opioids**

At the start of the Curran Administration, the opioid epidemic, was worsening each day, devastating families across Long Island. In 2018, Commissioner Ryder and County Executive Curran launched a war on the opioid crisis known as Operation Natalie, named in honor of Natalie Ciappa, who tragically died by overdose shortly after graduating from Plainedge High School. The operation has been relentless, using innovative technology to root out those who deal addiction and violence into our communities. The approach has been comprehensive, recognizing education and treatment is how we defeat this epidemic. Key Initiatives included:

- providing resources – from apps to hotlines to partnerships that help connect people with the care they need,
- making NARCAN training a priority, and now the Department of Health and Human Services has trained over 15,000 people to save a life,
- committing to treating the whole person – and working to understand and identify early life events that can lead not just to addiction, but also to depression, homelessness, or crime.
- **Results:** Opioid overdoses and fatalities were dropping in Nassau County faster than they are than in any other one of NY’s large counties. The County Executive and Police Commissioner are focused on putting a stop to the increase in substance abuse stemming from the Coronavirus quarantine and economic downturn of the pandemic. Nassau County is committed to ensuring its gains in combating opioid addiction are not reversed.
- **Fighting Big Pharma** - Nassau County’s vital litigation against Big Pharma continues. The Curran Administration is committed to holding them accountable for the devastation they caused in our communities and the price we are paying to heal the damage.

- **Standing Up to Hatred**

In response to rising hate crimes and anti-Semitic attacks or incidents in Monsey, Jersey City, Brooklyn, and at our Holocaust Museum and Tolerance Center, County Executive Curran formed a task force, Unified Long Island with Suffolk County Executive Bellone to identify and address hate crimes. The task force kicked off with a march against anti-Semitism that drew over 2,500 residents of all faiths to send a clear message: an attack on you is an attack on me. The County continues to work closely with schools, houses of worship, libraries, and other groups to enhance security capabilities.



Continued Commitment to Quality Services

- **Enhancing Language Access**

The Administration has made important strides in ensuring that the 128,000 residents in Nassau County in need of language access are able to get assistance and essential documents translated. As part of the County-wide Language Access Plan, we have established a protocol for all County departments to have competent translation services available to residents with limited English proficiency. When the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, we set up an SMS text message service, available in six languages, so that residents can receive the latest news and resources directly on their cellphones. In addition, the County debuted a new way for Spanish speaking residents to listen to the County Executive's daily press briefings in their language.

- **Improving Black Infant & Maternal Health Outcomes**

In addition to addressing the disparate COVID-19 impacts on minority communities outlined earlier, the Administration has been taking a serious look at health outcome disparities. For improving black infant and maternal health outcomes, we will undertake a data-driven and community-based initiative which has already engaged every major hospital in Nassau County. We have reviewed and made improvements to education for new moms, enhanced services for women and infants, and ensured that the color of your skin not decide the quality of care you receive. The County will be partnering with Adelphi University to convene the best and the brightest from across the country to raise the visibility of this issue and work towards a solution as we recover from the pandemic impacts.

- **Dedicated to Serving Veterans**

75 years after World War II, Nassau County is the proud home to one of the largest Veterans populations in the nation. Our Veterans Affairs office is ensuring dignity for our heroes with job fairs, counseling, a stocked food pantry, and helping Vets obtain more than \$8,600,000 million of dollars in benefits throughout 2019. In addition to kicking off a Veterans hiring initiative, this year we also created a veterans traffic court, where treatment is prioritized. We are the only County to hold our seasonal stand downs demonstrating Nassau's appreciation for our Vets.



- **Veterans Housing Initiatives** - One of the greatest challenges Veterans face nationwide is housing insecurity and the Administration continues to examine housing options for our veterans.
- **Honoring Fallen Military Heroes Amid COVID-19 Pandemic** - While we were not able to hold a traditional ceremony this year, in honor of Memorial Day, the County Executive hosted a car parade to recognize those who selflessly lost their lives while fighting for our freedom as well as pay homage to the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II. A parade of 200 cars led to the Veterans Memorial at Eisenhower Park where County Executive Curran was joined by the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency and local veterans' groups for a solemn ceremonial wreath laying in honor of those who lost their lives fighting for America. Nassau County veterans involved in the ceremony included Commanders from Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legions as well as members from Vietnam War Veterans Association, AmVets, United Veterans Organization of Nassau County, Disabled American Veterans, among many others.



Securing Property Tax Relief Remains Paramount

Delaying School Taxes:

During these unprecedented times, many homeowners are experiencing economic hardships due to the pandemic. Despite the fiscal strains of this unprecedented crisis, the County Executive remains committed to delivering the tax fairness and tax relief that our property owners deserve. At the County Executive's request, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo has issued an executive order that allows the County Executive to delay the deadline for second-half school district taxes without interest or penalties until June 1, 2020.

Holding the Line on Taxes – Securing Property Tax Relief – Restoring Accuracy to Assessment System

Everyone knows taxes on Long Island are too high. When our homeowners pay town, school, special district, and County taxes, they deserve some assurance that the amounts they are paying are based on fair and accurate property assessments. But our broken assessment system, frozen by the Mangano Administration for eight years, guaranteed the opposite.

County Executive Curran put a stop to this with the completion of the first countywide reassessment in nearly a decade. We are now in our second year of producing more accurate, up-to-date property values utilizing the most current real estate data and technology available. Validating our work, the foremost appraisal expert in the country, Robert J. Gloudemans, concluded that Nassau County is one of the most accurate large assessing jurisdictions in New York State with one of the most accurate assessment rolls in the country.

Since taking office, County Executive Curran has never raised taxes - putting forward two consecutive budgets without raising a dime in new taxes. But with the federal government's decision to cap the deductibility of state and local taxes from federal taxes at \$10,000, many local taxpayers are suffering, finding themselves paying more in combined taxes than ever. That is why the County Executive has prioritized and successfully carried out a three-step Taxpayer Protection Plan for property tax relief:

- Delivering much needed fairness, equity, and accuracy to an unfair and corrupted assessment system with the successful completion of the first countywide reassessment in a decade.
- Lowering taxes for over assessed property owners while still preserving everyone's rights to challenge the values of properties.
- Phasing in tax burden due to the reassessment, over a five-year period.

With a record low number of grievance reductions after the reassessment, we now have even more data that shows we are on the right path. With that, we face a new challenge. New York State limited court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and suspended SCAR filings for two months. The County will have a very narrow window to have valid proceedings on each SCAR case before the refund liability deadline in August but we are ramping up our mediation plan to help address this issue.

Continuing Anti-Corruption Agenda

Implementing Anti-Corruption Agenda

Nassau has turned the page on a culture of corruption by modernizing County government. County Executive Curran has increased transparency and oversight in the procurement process with new controls and audit trails to guard against waste, fraud, and abuse.

- Administration officials banned from accepting gifts of any kind from County vendors or holding party leadership positions
- Implemented electronic financial disclosure for County "policymakers", replacing paper-based system

- New business-friendly portal for vendors to submit claims and disclosure forms online and have them reviewed and approved electronically, strengthening oversight and audit trails
- First-ever Vendor Code of Ethics
- No anti-competitive fee for businesses seeking to do business with Nassau
- New transparency in County finances through Comptroller's Open Checkbook, Open Budget, and Open Payroll
- Nassau County's very first Chief Procurement Officer & Department Chief Contracting Officers
- New regular trainings for all Department Chief Contracting Officers

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