

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020  
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Paul Ruszkiewicz, Chairman  
Joseph J. Minuta, Rob Sassi, Kathy Stegenga, Laurie R. Tautel

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman  
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader  
John S. Vero, Legislator  
Peter Tuohy, Legislator  
Harold Porr III, Deputy County Executive  
Bill Fioravanti, Director, Economic Development (via teleconference)  
Deanna Crawford, Budget Analyst  
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst  
Deborah Slesinski, Budget Director

Chairman Ruszkiewicz opened the committee meeting at 4:46 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislators Cheney, O'Donnell and Sierra who participated via teleconference.

Chairman Ruszkiewicz announced that due to the current situation with the Coronavirus, the Industrial Development Agency will not be providing their quarterly update. They plan to suspend all updates until they return to a normal schedule. However, Mr. Fioravanti did call in and wanted to provide an update on the impact of the virus on the economy thus far.

Mr. Fioravanti provided a monthly update on Economic Development in Orange County (see original minutes). He wanted to address the impact related to the Coronavirus outbreak and the impact it is having on the economy. LEGOLAND is continuing with construction as of now, they still plan on July 4, 2020 opening but the reality of that may change. The construction site is clean and trailers and offices are being sterilized. Project Sailfish is clearing lots and excavation work began. They will continue as long as the workforce and supplies are still available, but that can change. He has been on the phone with many different business people, they are trying to provide answers and they want to provide updates for them but the questions are coming in faster than they are getting answers. There has been discussion on reduction of workforce but it is still unclear. Catering companies are in limbo, they do not know if they can host events or do they need to refund customers. He added that New York State waived the seven day waiting period for unemployment benefits. He had a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce today and discussed take-out food and curbside pick-up for local eateries. There was question on delaying sales tax. There are low interest loans that will be offered to businesses impacted.

Chairman Brescia announced that the committee meetings for the rest of the week will be canceled. They may have Ways and Means Committee meeting next week, pending decision from President Trump regarding more than ten people congregating. Announcement to follow.

On the motion of Ms. Tautel, seconded by Ms. Stegenga, the meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.