NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

November 23, 2009

2:19 p.m.

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

SENATOR DAVID J. VALESKY, Acting President

ANGELO J. APONTE, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The Senate will please come to order.

I ask everyone present to please rise and recite with me the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the assemblage recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.)

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The invocation today will be delivered by the Reverend Anthony Mellace, of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, in Rome, New York.

REVEREND MELLACE: Heavenly Father, we call upon Your name today to bless these sons and daughters of Yours, the elected representatives of our people, gathered here in Albany to work for the common good of all those who live in New York State.

Fill their minds with Your wisdom, that they may elaborate just and prudent laws for the well-being of all our families, men, women, and children of this gracious State of New York, which you have blessed, adorned and made renowned with natural and breathtaking

beauty and whose technological marvels, advances and constructions have made their cities shine with pride and receive honor and admiration before the entire world.

Help them to preserve our beloved and timeless civic virtues and moral values, originating from the blend of many ethnic and religious groups whose mixture resulted in the deeply multiform cultural and enriched society we call our New York State.

Lord, grant them pure hearts and minds to work with earnestness for the betterment of the life of each New Yorker. Let truth, honesty, transparency, honor and humility be the virtues that inspire their words, actions and votes, and never party partisanship or personal interests put above the common good of all New Yorkers.

Let our national Constitution, Bill of Rights, our common religious belief and acknowledgment of one God in His will and laws, always be the guide and source of all our lawmaking and legislation. Fill their hearts with compassion, courage, and justice

so that the life of each and every New Yorker be protected and respected from the first to the last breath, from the womb to the tomb, from conception to succession, no matter what his physical, mental, emotional or moral condition may be.

Bless our beloved State of New York, Lord, for always having been a haven of refuge to all immigrants that came upon its shores and later spread to the rest of the nation. Enlighten the minds and hearts of our state legislators to enact laws that take into account the words written on one of our most cherished monuments in New York, the State of Liberty:

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the Golden Door."

It is these newcomers who now await a humble and human response from us. New York State is comparable to a mother's heart. It is big, loving, sensitive, and with plenty of

room for all.

Lord, grant that legislation in regard to our new foreign brothers and sisters be always just, yet compassionate and merciful, never motivated by arrogance, hate, prejudice or unjust discrimination.

Concede them, Lord, the light, strength, and courage to eradicate from all our midst all that would threaten the security and moral peace of our families and smear Your glory as a true, just, and provident God -- unemployment, violence, terrorism, drugs, child and adult pornography, financial corruption, dishonesty, and so forth.

We humbly acknowledge, Father, past faults, limitations, failings and mistakes. But with faith in Your power and wisdom, we can once again raise New York to the wonderful glory she has possessed throughout the decades.

Grant to all of us a spirit of wisdom, responsibility, optimism and maturity in all our decisions and political endeavors. Amen.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The reading of the Journal.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Sunday, November 22, the Senate, in Extraordinary Session, met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Friday, November 20, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Without objection, the Journal stands approved as read.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, can you please recognize Senator Sampson for a brief statement.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you very much, Senator Klein.

I just really want to just take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues. I know we all want to get this DRP done, and

we understand it's the responsibility of us as legislators to make sure that we live up to our commitment to our people.

But one thing I want to thank all my colleagues is that one thing we can stand for is we do have bipartisan commitment to oppose any new taxes, we do have a bipartisan commitment to protect homeowners from increasing property taxes. And I want to let you know we will continue to work together, across the aisle, with the Assembly and the Governor to close this DRP as soon as possible.

And I can understand the anxiety everyone has with respect to getting this done. But I want to make sure we get it done the right way. And I want to commend my colleague Senator Skelos across the aisle. We have been working together because we understand, at the end of the day, it's all of us who have to own this DRP. It's all of us to understand that we have to stand for the values that protect our citizens in the State of New York.

I know a lot of the newspapers may not get this right, but we are working together, because we understand that in order for us to get this done, we need to work together and we need to live up to our commitment to the people of the State of New York.

And we're not in the process of committing governmental malpractice, because we understand what our edict is and we understand how important it is to get this done. But at the same time, we cannot burden our constituencies with any more new taxes or any more new fees. We cannot afford to cut midyear school cuts or even do more harm than we have done to the hospitals and nursing homes.

But it's our commitment to get it done, and I just wanted to let all my colleagues know that.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Thank you, Senator Sampson.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this time I move we adjourn at the call of the Temporary President.

Just in the way of being able to keep schedules, we expect to come in tomorrow at around 11:00 a.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned subject to the call of the Temporary President of the Senate.

(Whereupon, at 2:27 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)