



Curran announces lineup for transition

BY PAUL LAROCO
paul.larocco@newsday.com

Nassau County Executive-elect Laura Curran rolled out her transition team on Monday, naming a prominent Democratic Party official as chairman even as she said her administration will keep its promise to prioritize qualifications over political affiliations.

Curran's team to recommend candidates for top county posts consists of 35 people, including Republican and Democratic elected officials, developers, philanthropists, union presidents, and leaders of local universities, hospitals, religious institutions and nonprofits.

Thomas Garry, a managing partner at the Uniondale law firm of Harris Beach and vice chairman of the Nassau County Democratic Committee, will lead the group — which launched website nassautransition2017.com to accept applications for appointed jobs in the Curran administration.

Curran, a Democratic county legislator who often railed against patronage during her campaign, has pledged to base hiring on “what you know, not who you know.”

Her campaign declined to make her available for an interview on Monday, but released a statement in which Curran said the team would help “rebuild our government with qualified and talented individuals who are going to help end the culture of corruption and bring a fresh start to Nassau County.”

Garry said he understood why some might question if his role in the transition suggests the party will have outside influence over Curran. But he added: “I disagree with the premise” and said he will not be taking a government job.

“I know what it means to run a large organization and to try to get various people with various opinions to work together,” said Garry, whose law firm has more than 225 attorneys in 12 offices.

The transition team also in-



Curran



BARRY SLOAN

deal' for fishermen

“New York is getting a raw deal and there needs to be equity,” Seggos said, noting his efforts will start with the commercial sector. Recreational fishers have similar complaints.

Federal fishing regulators haven't yet responded to a letter from Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo last month threatening to make good on a four-year threat to sue. Fishing interests have been calling for the suit for years.

“Without the lawsuit we have no stick,” said Bonnie Brady, director of the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association. Riverhead fisherman Phil Karlin expressed impatience that the state would wait until next year to sue.

The meeting, with around three dozen invited fishermen

and state lawmakers, was largely a listening session.

Fishing advocates expressed concerns beyond the federal quotas. Southampton attorney Daniel Rodgers, who heads the industry group New York Fish, said New York's fishery was “an industry on life support,” and charged it has been “devastated by the actions of the DEC.”

Rodgers called management of state fishing permits “unlawful,” and said the state has “refused to do anything about it.”

Seggos said he sought to pivot from “adversarial” relationships that characterized the agency's past ties to the fishing community, and said he wanted to be a “resource” for them. “I want action,” he told fishermen. “We expect to have action.”

TRANSITION TEAM MEMBERS

Thomas J. Garry - Chair, managing partner of Harris Beach PLLC Long Island Office

Siela A. Bynoe - Nassau County Legislator, Second Legislative District

Anthony Cancellieri - Vice chairman, South Nassau Communities Hospital

Peter I. Cavallaro - Mayor, Village of Westbury

Milton Cooper - Executive chairman, Kimco Realty

David DeCerbo - General counsel, Catholic Health Services of Long Island

Robert E. Detor Jr. - Health care consultant/trainer and former president and CEO of the Long Island Home/Northwell Health System

Kimberly Dey - President, Renaissance Property Associates

Patrick Dolan - President, Steamfitters Local 638

John Donnelly - Former chief operating officer and current chief talent officer for Jackson Lewis PC.

Randi Shubin Dresner - President and CEO of Island Harvest Food Bank

Rev. Sedgwick Easley - Pastor, Union Baptist Church of Hempstead

Karli Hagedorn - Board chair of Friends of the Sands Point Preserve

Dr. Tochi Iroku-Malize - Chair of the Family Medicine Department at the Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine and Northwell Health

Jorge A. Martinez - Deputy mayor, Village of Freeport

Andrew Lauer - Vice president and general counsel of Yeshiva University

Kevin Law - President and CEO,

Long Island Association

Todd Kaminsky - New York State Senator

David Mack - First assistant commissioner of the Nassau County Police Department

Victoria Manes - President, Triad Group LLC

Mike Matauro - President, RXR Realty

Patricia McDonald - Mayor, Village of Malverne

Stuart Rabinowitz - President, Hofstra University

Scott Rechler - Chairman and CEO, RXR Realty

Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds - President and CEO, Family and Children's Association

Thomas Stokes - Chief operating officer and chief financial officer, Weill Cornell Imaging at New York-Presbyterian

Kyle Strober - Executive director, Association for a Better Long Island

Erin King Sweeney - Town of Hempstead Council Member, Fifth Councilmanic District

George Tsunis - Chairman and CEO, Chartwell Hotels

Paul Vista - Deputy director of the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency

Helena Williams - Chief development officer for RATP Dev America and former president of the Long Island Rail Road

Peter Florey - Principal, D&F Development Group

Kathleen Deegan - Dickson Forchelli Curto Deegan Schwartz Mineo Cohen & Terrana

Patricia Reilly - Former director of TPVA

Dr. Isma Chaudry - President, Islamic Center of Long Island

SOURCE: CURRAN CAMPAIGN

cludes some Curran campaign contributors as well as several former aides to Thomas Suozzi, the last Democratic county executive.

Curran has pledged to ban her government appointees from holding active leadership positions in a political party committee or club, and from contributing to her campaign.

In acknowledging those promises, Nassau Democratic chairman Jay Jacobs said Curran should ultimately be judged upon who she actually hires,

not who advises her transition.

“Tom is not taking a role in the government, so I think that's the critical piece,” Jacobs said of Garry.

Republicans on Curran's transition team include Westbury Village Mayor Peter Cavallaro and Hempstead Town Councilwoman Erin King Sweeney, who has worked with Curran on Baldwin redevelopment efforts.

“She doesn't come to the table with any biases — it's just ‘what are we going to do,’” King Sweeney said of Curran.