

## 18th Middlesex District State Representative Debate Script

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By Daniel Uk, KhmerPost USA

CAMERAMAN: you're on.

SCOTT: Good evening, everyone. I'm Chris Scott, the Sun Enterprise Editor, and with me tonight is Jim Campanini, the editor of the newspaper. Thanks for tuning in to this debate for the Eighteenth Middlesex District State Representative seat. In back of me is Kamara Kay, the challenger. He ran for school committee in 2014, now he's back running for State Rep. as a Republican. And right here is Rady Mom, he's the incumbent. He's a Democrat, he has served one term. These two are doing battle for the 18th Middlesex District, the Highlands, and Acre, and Downtown. The vote is November 8th, be sure to get out and vote. So without further ado, we'll just get right to the questions. Each candidate is going to be given about two minutes to respond. There will be no opening statements, but we will give the candidates a two-minute closing statement opportunity. We'll go about forty-five, fifty minutes, and before you know it, it'll almost be Seven o'clock. So we'll get right into the questions. Kamara, we're going to start with you, okay?

KAY: Sure.

SCOTT: Some people, I think it's fairly well-known in the city that it's remarkable what the incumbent has accomplished. He came to this country as an eight year-old boy, he didn't speak any English. He's now opened a business, he's run and he's gotten elected. Now, it's not unreasonable to think that the Cambodian community would rally around him. Yet there are divisions in the community that have been, quite evident over the course of the last few months, what's your take on those divisions? And And what do you think is at the root cause of those divisions?

KAY: First and foremost, thank you for having me here, Jim, The Lowell Sun, Chris, and everyone else, the audience, and Rady good to see you again. In terms of the community divisions, I don't believe there is a division among the community at all. It's more or less it is a difference in philosophical differences,

ideology, and so forth. The community concern is the same thing as everyone else's concern. You're talking about education, you're talking about economic development, you're talking about the wellbeing, the happiness of every opportunity that is equal to everyone else here. When people are talking about divisions, I think that's what's gonna be focusing on. But in terms of the community that you're talking about, in the divisions in terms like when Hun Manet was here and all of that, that is more of a - it's a Cambodian politics, okay? For anyone to say there's a division here, No. We just wanted to -what we did, what I did, way back in March is that we just asked our elected officials not to have a welcoming, official welcoming party, for the Hun Manet visit, and that's all. Anything else is just, we have a different ideology. We just believe that the Hun Sen Administration's regime in Cambodia have done nothing but oppressions to the Cambodian people there. And so by having his son over here, we just believe it is a wrong ideology just to have him here. So, that's why I said I don't think there is any division of Cambodians here at all.

SCOTT: Okay, Rady?

MOM: Chris, thank you. Thank you for the Lowell Sun, and thank you everyone. I think -let me start off by saying, I've been doing all my work. Being a freshman Rep., I have to say is an experience, truly an honor to serve for the Eighteenth District, the Highlands, the Acre. It's wonderful when you have great delegation and working to make changes, and moving along with that. And when you talk about education, I asked the Speaker of the House to be on the Education committee. When we talk about public safety, when I ran way back then, we did have a problem with that. We had people come and [INAUDIBLE] and shooting and driveby. We're not talking about just intend to do like the harmless: intend to threaten to kill, to scare tactics. That's something that I have concern of. And I mention this before: I don't want to see my children living in a great country like ours, facing the detrimental of being feared to go out, let alone having a drive-by. So I step up, and I've worked with David Ryan [INAUDIBLE], I worked on that. I have to say, for a freshman, to do anything at that level, to have it pass the House, that is kind of pretty good under my belt. And it is right now at the Senator, and I'm working with Senator Donahue on that, so I would think it would work. And just in the recent month, I know that the entire delegation back then was our represent -Kevin Murphy, Senator Steve Panagiotakos, they've been working on the court house for fifteen years. Now I'm honored to be at the [INAUDIBLE] that help push the delegation, make that come through. And the Governor says it himself. It's nice when you have the Governor, who is a Republican governor, and the groundbreaking in naming you directly for being a part of that, I'm honored by

that. And that is the work of the entire delegation, and I'm honored to see that take place. And there's many more. When you talked about projects [BELL TOLL] that's still going on.

[05:44]

SCOTT: I'll give you another little crack at this, but could you address the question? The question is do you feel that there are those divisions in the Cambodian community that may have contributed to Cheth Khim running against you? And to him (Kay) running against you? Can you address that? We'll give you another minute or so to address that.

MOM: Thank you, Chris.

SCOTT: Yeah.

[06:04]

MOM: So, if I were to look back and like what to kind of give clarity in terms of the politics at home in Cambodia. Now we all went through that, and yes we all have the many pain and suffering that still exists right now, which is only thirty past years ago. Now, my concern has always been about the Eighteenth District and this is why I don't, per se, focus on the politics that is in Cambodia. Now I happen to be Cambodian-American, but my focus is still here, Chris. That is job, education, economic. Those are my priority. Now, my opponent who step up and talked about, and bringing the division of community to focus on the Cambodian politic, well that's not my draw. I'm running for the issue at hand, which is right here. And so, when you have individual who still don't understand, this is why I'm honored at which you've met, the ambassador of the United State, to Cambodia. I personally brought him and ask him when I flew over to Washington D.C., -and this is my administration, my office- to have that connection. It was truly an honor to meet him and see him -witness the ambassador swearing- and I asked for the invitation to visit Lowell. And on that, he took me up on it, and he came here. The purpose of that was to give clarity. Don't just hear it from me. You met the ambassador, and he came here. He gave a fifty-five minute interview. I brought him to a thirty-six hour whirlwind tour, which was, he really had an amazing team - an amazing to say about our city. Here's what his expression is: "Rady, I'm honored to see your community, as a whole, how hard you are working, together." Notice the word 'together'. I brought him here and he even went so far as to meet our seventh and eighth graders. [BELL TOLL]

[08:17]

SCOTT: Kamara, you wanna take that?

KAY: Of course, I'd like to.

SCOTT: You got a minute.

KAY: Yeah I'd like to respond to that. Chris, I'm glad you asked your Representative to address your questions, the answer. It's very typical of the Representative to answer your question with no answer at all. He went on for two minutes -

MOM: No answer -

SCOTT: Hold on, hold on. You'll have your chance. Go ahead.

KAY: He went on for two minutes about the greatness of the delegation, and an honor, then he working with a lot of delegations from the City of Lowell, which is the answer of no answer. Well we're looking at here, what he said, he's focusing on education. He's on the Education Committee, there's nothing has been done. There's no laws been passed. There's nothing has been passed to enhance the school what we're looking at here. And he's talking about the delegations and about the economic development here. He just attached his name to it. All of that, we all know has been in progress for the past fifteen years. That's what the Governor. I was there. The Governor did not mention Rady Mom's name, he mentioned everyone else's name that was part of it, including Steve Panagiotakos who was part of the delegation that worked very due diligently to have the courthouse over here. So for him to stake claim in any of those, it's just preposterous at best. So, it's not surprising that the Representative always love to attach his name to the things that he has never done in the last few years. He attached his name to the Acre when they were letting his group have led the revitalizations of the Acre. He attach his name to the Cupples Square, where Kevin Murphy who happen to be our City Manager right now. He attach his name and said he's the one that brought the money in. Come on, that is preposterous. So we need to focus, and what we need to focus on is the core values and the core visions of how we can improve the City as a whole, not to take the credit of someone else that's been doing it.

[10:24]

SCOTT: You got a minute, then we'll move onto another topic. Okay, Rady?

RADY: So it's nice how we can have an individual who's -how long have you been living in Lowell, Massachusetts, Kam? That's [INAUDIBLE] I've been here since '83. My family, I've been involved in my community ever since I landed here. I never left. My kids go to Daley School, I went to Daley School. I'm a small business owner, right in the Square. So, when we're talking about no substance now, mind you, as I said again as a Freshman, so Mr. Kam is so amazing that he can enter into any job field within one day, he's an expert. So, we're talking about legislation here. We're talking about legislature that takes place and also affect the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts. So therefore, you need to have relationships. It's wonderful when you have the ability to go and sit with the Governor and have a conversation. That, you care about the community when you have a member of the community asking you such as, "Representative, I want to know what is the [INAUDIBLE] of [INAUDIBLE]", and I told Mr. Richard Howe, I said "Richard I'll be more than happy to bring that comment direct to the Governor", which I did. And in doing so, it come to working with the entire city, the City Councilors, our City Manager. Again this is the relationship that you need to make stuff happen. And I'm gonna go back again, it's all about relationship that require the working ethic -we can talk about policy all day long [BELL TOLL]

[12:09]

SCOTT: Okay, we're gonna sorta keep this up a little bit. This question goes to you (Mom) this time. What do you feel is the role of the State Representative for the Eighteenth Middlesex District? And try to be specific. We touched a little bit on home, Cambodian -Lowell is your home- we touched a little bit on Cambodian politics. But what do you feel is the role of the State Representative from the Eighteenth Middlesex District? Are you a cheerleader? What are you, gonna try to get stuff done?

RADY: Chris, a role as a State Representative first and foremost to go to the [INAUDIBLE] to bring back resource. Most important. And secondly is to serve the constituent. So you have candidate doing thing. You cannot do one without the other. At the same time, you have to have a relationship to work with the entire House members, which is 160 of them. So for a freshman to even immense to that level, to get notoriety, to have the connection, to working with that relationship, to have the support of the House. Remember, your bills don't get passed if you don't have the majority that vote to support your bill. Mind

that. Imagine, as a Republican trying to do something you have zero chance, and that's a reality. For the Eighteenth district? Your job is to bring back resource. If you cannot even amount to think and do those kind of work, what are you hoping to accomplish? So you mean to tell me that by working with the [IN-AUDIBLE] district, by working and receiving 4.7 billion to start the phase, that's nothing? That's no substance? I think my opponent is out of touch here in terms of knowing what it takes to be a representative, to work with the delegation, to work with the council. It is a community that comes together to work and produce anything. It takes the entire community. At the end of the day, it's about serving the people. It is about working with the people. That is what is more important. Yes, to pass a law , that is great. But does it affect people? Do you affect them personally? When I have a man that call me directly and says "Rady, I have a problem with licensing. It's expired and for some reason-"

SCOTT: A Drivers' License?

MOM: No, it's a business license. Here's why it's so important. For us who know how to use the system, it's great. But when you have a man who rely on this license to continue his business by the law, and he has a driving school by the way, I won't mention him. And I said, you know what? I'm leaving the State House, which was that day was about 7:45. I didn't get to his house until like 8:30-plus. I was lucky [IN-AUDIBLE] I met him. Of course I made a phonecall right away. The very next day, it got resolved, and he appreciated it. And of course, a month later he called me again. There's one more licensing. [BELL TOLL]

[15:17]

SCOTT: Kamara, the incumbent says you're out of touch. You have two minutes to respond. It's a little longer, he needs to.

KAY: You know it's funny how Rady Mom say that I'm out of touch with the community. He said he's been here since 1987 -I'm sorry '83. I came here in 1987. I graduated from Lowell High, okay. He said he's involved in the community for 30 years, and the damage that has been done in the last two years for the public, and for the districts, and the voters of the 18 no longer trust him. So they came to me and asked me to run against him right away. Until this day, if you're looking at the record that he's been doing for small businesses, for the voters here, especially when you're taking a look at his finance reports, -his finance campaign reports- when he starts running out here, you had a flu of community donated to him to

make sure he succeeded in what he's doing. Two years later, 90% of that donations is coming from special interest groups. And the rest of the people that used to donate the money to him, from the constituents from the 18th District and so forth, are no longer there. And the only people that donated to his campaign are the people outside of the district. When I came here, the community drafted me to run for the position, so I'm honored for that. And for him to say that he's a freshman to accomplish what he accomplished, I highly doubted that. He just love to talk about the process, he's talking about, again, answer of no answer, in terms of how he knows the Governor, how he knows Senator Donahue, how he knows the rest of the delegation, how he knows all the elected officials in here, what it takes, he's talking so much about the process. Anyone who talks about the process of getting things done, the question is: what is the executional level that he has been doing lately? The answer is none. All talks in the last two years, which is nothing has been accomplished. He's talking about the O'Rourke bridge. Two years later, he's still talking about it. I remember when I was watching the video that [INAUDIBLE] said the minute he gets elected, he's gonna roll up his sleeves and get the O'Rourke bridge done. Nothing has been conversed about it whatsoever, until the last couple of months ago when he brought the Speaker of the House to come in to get 1.2 million dollars, saying we're gonna do this environmental study. But one thing we forgot to talk about is that the feasibility study of the O'Rourke Bridge is expiring really soon. And from that point on, there's nothing what you can do in terms of the environmental study can move forward, without another feasibility study for that. And that's gonna take another couple more years. Why do we not concentrate focus heavily on the traffic management for the City of Lowell? Why can't we not go to the Secretary of Transportation and say, "I want to talk about the traffic transportations in here, in the city itself?" As you and I know, that this city itself was built on a horse carriage/horse buggies on all those roads, and now that so many cars are coming in that bigger than the size of it, and you have a two-way streets of those, it's a complication. And especially when the snow's coming in, that's even much more complicated [INAUDIBLE] and so, [BELL TOLL]

[18:54]

SCOTT: Rady, he talked about damage being done in your first two years. He wasn't specific, but do you want to respond to that before we move onto some other questions?

MOM: Well it's nice when you have someone who leave the community and not knowing nothing about it and come back and challenge. It's great to have a challenger, and this is what Democracy's all about. But let's get one thing straight. There's a big difference between putting stuff out and just expressing it and

when you have the ability to ask the ambassador of the United States to come down. And by the way, Kam, I didn't see you to meet the Ambassador. He was there at the public forum, which can answer all of your question in regards to the policy, the politics in Cambodia. Obviously, it wasn't important enough for Mr. Kay to be there. So, in that response, when you're talking about working with, and again it is the relationship, how are you going to get anything done if you don't have the relationship? That's my final in doing every work. It takes the relationship. It doesn't take one and, I can stress in this way, as much as I love to help people, to be in my position right now, I have so many people, Chris, that help me to be where I'm at right now. And some of them are sitting in my room. And that is my lovely wife, my kids, my mother, my late father, who said "Son, do the best you can". And that's what you have to do. Now, does that mean that you snap a finger and stuff happens? Not really, it takes a lot more time. In terms of the process, you're talking about a courthouse that took fifteen and a half years to come forward. Now, the O'Rourke bridge? Yes, since day one I went in and I remember meeting the Secretary and I ask her "How can you help me [INAUDIBLE] the bridge?" And again it's process, and I realize that I need to have more relationship to make that possible. Then, I absolutely went forward with that, and doing the work diligently as I can to make sure that those take place. So I asked the Speaker of the House, to come down for, which was one of the biggest meetings took place in the City of Lowell. Again when you have a support of not just the delegation, but from the Chief of Police, the Fire Department, the City Manager who went there to present, the whole project. It's a bigger picture. It's not just saying, Oh do this and hope it works. It takes all of them. [BELL TOLL]

[21:42]

SCOTT: Kamara do you understand [INAUDIBLE]

KAY: Yes, he asked me where was I when the ambassador was here. I had other obligations already. I told my staff that I can only be there up until 6:30, and the ambassador was late. He was supposed to be there at 6:00. And Rady asks me where was I at a public forum. It's funny how he ask me that when the people and the voters asked him where was he when we had a rally asking the City Council to rescind the invitation. This is what he said three times on the radio. He said he was busy, he was not invited, he has some other family obligation. [VIDEO FEED CUTS]

KAY: ...that would not and shall not be infringed upon others. And when there's a need of resources that is bringing back to the City and so forth, that's when you need to step into the state legislature and work among the peers in order to accommodate those resources that are coming back to this city. Mind you,



Rady Mom voted against all the excess of fund coming back into the city, when there is excess fund that is supposed to be for the state and the Governor wanted to have those money to go back to the city, he voted against that. So, that's why when we're looking at the state legislature, the first and foremost you legislate. You make law, you ensure that every law that you make, any law that you pass, it has to be within the values of what American, what the First Amendment is, and so forth. The second one, bring resources. The third one, you're working among others to ensure what we do as a state legislature is for the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth.

[23:35]

SCOTT: We're gonna move on to the battle questions. We have four battle questions. I'm going to ask you to say yes or no to each one and then we're going to go back and elaborate on questions 2 and 4. They're the two questions that seems to be getting a lot of traction. So, why don't we just start with you, Rady. Question 1 would allow the Gaming Commission to issue an additional slots license.

MOM: It's a no.

SCOTT: That's a no.

KAY: It's a no.

SCOTT: Question 2, would authorize the approval of up to twelve new charter schools, lifting the charter cap.

MOM: It's a no.

KAY: Yes.

SCOTT: Okay we'll come back to that one. Question 3 would prohibit certain types of containment methods for farm animals.

MOM: That's a yes.

KAY: I would not constrain any animal, the answer is no I would not allow that to happen.

SCOTT: I think you guys, agree on that one. Question 4, would you legalize marijuana for people 21 years and older?

MOM: It is a no, however, it is in support of the medical marijuana. As of right now, in terms of what I've been seeing,-

SCOTT: Okay, we'll come back to it.

KAY: The answer is no.

SCOTT: Let's go back to lifting the charter cap. Tell us why you feel that way about expanding the charter schools. You have two minutes, then Kamara has two minutes.

[24:55]

MOM: So Chris, this is what happen when you ask the Committee member and you speak to the school committee [INAUDIBLE]. When we talk about, in terms of the public school education, we're very very fortunate to have a very very good school system, which is public. Now, I'm not against the charter schools, I have three in my district. And quite honestly, it's doing quite well. Matter of fact, my son, my oldest son, [INAUDIBLE] Matter of fact, the one on Jackson Street was ready to be taken back by the state because it was rated so bad. My sole reason is the funding. We don't have the structure as of right now in place yet, to give the funding. And just last week, the entire Council body had vote to not lift the cap. The entire council that was in the meeting in City Hall. So as of right now, the funding, we don't have the actual funding. And if we were to give the full funding, and this is why our public school is lacking in the arts, science, and so on, technology, it's not there because we don't have enough funding, the resources to give to our public schools. Now the original plan of the charter school is, it was a trial, like an incubator to give the best ideas and share that idea to our public schools. Unfortunately, that did not happen. That's an admission. And charter schools don't answer to our elected officials, the school committee, or the City Councilors. I have a question with that. Why not? So those are a couple of my reasons.

SCOTT: Kamara?

[26:54]

KAY: First and foremost, Chris, I didn't know we can be able to bring our notes to answer the questions. So had I known I would have brought my notes so I was not been dictated to that so respectfully-

SCOTT: Well just for the record, Rady didn't ask us if he could bring notes either so [INAUDIBLE] typically a candidate brings notes, but do your best.

KAY: I will do my best, not that I do my best, I know through my materials rather than sitting here cheating on a note that I brought to taking a test. So obviously that's what we're looking at here. In regarding to charter schools, this is the beauty of being in education. Of course the reason why I'm favoring the charter school, Monica is a junior at Lowell High School. I firmly believe that she's best fit where she is right now, because I believe that my daughter is good for the public school. That does not necessarily mean that other parents in the Commonwealth believe that their children is best for public school. So I have to give them that choice, the opportunity for other parents to make that decision what is best for their children. It is not up to me. I can only suggest what is good for the community, what is good as an educational system and why, but I cannot be able to go in and dictate what is good and what is bad. This is probably the reason why that we have private school. Private school is not competing against anybody because parents send their kids to private school because they believe those kids are good and the best for those private schools. On top of that, my proposal, not just for the charter school, my proposal is that I want, as a state legislature, to have at least one-third expence as a school vouchers, given back to those parents that send their kids to those private schools. And if need be, or can use that as a tax-deductible. Keep in mind, both of those proposals will not be a taxable income. So when you're talking about the school issues here, Representative Rady Mom is sitting at the education committee at the state legislature. What has he done so far for him to ask, what type of resources are being allocated for the public school and the charter school? That is preposterous. That means he is not sitting in there, doing his due diligence homework of what is going on with the school system. Why would he ask such a question to you, Chris, that is that, why is a school committee does not oversee the charter school? Why is this school allocation from a public to the charter school being done by the government? The answer: it's not, because he has not looked at all the laws that is being governed in the state legislature. Why is he keep pounding himself

that, as a freshman, he's sitting in a full committee but does not know what is going on in the school system?

[29:58]

MOM: So I guess apparently it's cheating when you talk to a school committee member for-

SCOTT: No no no, I think he accused you of cheating because you had notes, I believe.

MOM: So I guess because when you are a State Representative, and you are able to talk to anyone from the Mayor to the City Manager, to the City Councilors, and again this is what we're talking about. We're building relationships. Now when you talk about, just this year alone the charter school diverted 450 million from public schools. That's real money. So again, we're talking about working relationships. It takes a mechanism [INAUDIBLE], it's not just the fact that you know the laws, all the ins-and-out. Yes, it's great. But still, remember the relationship that it takes to be a representative is to work with the entire body, and that is to know the school. That is why you talk to the local school, that's why you talk to the superintendent of the school. That's why I really have a good work relationship, because I do pay attention. I ask them, I said "So what is the biggest issue we're facing here in my district"? And that's how I get my answer. When they tell me, "Rady, I need this help". Okay, let me go and find that out, and let me bring it back to you. When the Chief call me up-

SCOTT: Kamara, elaborate your view on Question 4, legalizing marijuana use for folks over 21.

[31:33]

KAY: First and foremost, before I answer that. Once again, the Representative answered your question with no answer in terms of Charter Schools. He's talking about working relationships and everything. Yes, it's great. I don't know how to perform my job, my duty, working with everybody else, that's what he's trying to tell everybody here: that I'm a mean guy, that I don't know how to work with anybody. But obviously he doesn't understand the charter school, he doesn't understand the public school. Here's the reason what you're talking about, the marijuana issue. I have no problem with medical marijuana. I spent an hour while I was doorknocking, to one of the gentleman, the reason why the need of medical marijuana. But recreational? I have to say no to that, because we have enough issues in terms of opiate addictions and

other gateway drugs in the cities, in the nation, in the states and so forth. The last thing I wanted to do is to have another added responsibility to our police officers here, trying to enforce something that is very difficult, when they should have a better resource somewhere to concentrate upon, such as community policing and so forth. So, thank you for asking me that question.

[33:08]

SCOTT: [INAUDIBLE]

MOM: Thank you, Chris. The medical Marijuana is definitely one of things that I do support, and in terms of saying no for the recreational, there's a couple of things. [INAUDIBLE] as I've mentioned in the opening. One, we have the report of the Senate actually travelling to Ohio to see what is Taking place. As of right now, we don't have any way of testing. As of right now, we have a Breathalyzer for alcohol. But how do you test when somebody is under the influence of marijuana? And better yet, don't tell me that you have a six year-old that knows the difference between a brownie that is marijuana, and one that is not. Which gummy bear is marijuana, what is not. Those are the problems that I have. So as of right now, I have to say no to that.

[34:07]

SCOTT: Okay, you're all set with that? Let's just stick on a couple of state issues. Governor Baker announced this week that he's gonna cut the state budget by 250 million dollars halfway into the fiscal year. And then there's a story from the statehouse news story today that we posted online at [lowellsun.com](http://lowellsun.com) where he is going to avoid making any cuts to higher ed and the courts. So, if you were the governor and you had to cut the budget by 250 million dollars, where would you cut the budget?

KAY: I have to go ahead and take a look at all the entire budget of where the necessary overhead. That's gonna take a lot of money out of it. First and foremost, we have to take a look at the MBTA. If you noticed that the last time the MBTA has been doing their performance on their bookkeeping, they lost 100 million dollars. How in the world did they lose 100 million dollars? I think that's where the budget need to be cut first. And because we need to go ahead and figure out why is that department, it's their job to handle the money, and they lost 100 million dollars. We need to replace those folks in order to revitalize what we can do as a robust together and say, "These are the people that are not effective at their job."

They're losing the state money, they're losing the peoples' money. So we need to concentrate on getting rid of those people to bring in more people who know how to handle the money. And so therefore, let alone, we're gonna save some money from that. The second one we need to look at is the state university system. We've been pumping a lot of money into the university and so forth, what have you gotten so forth? Except those money, they're going directly into all the professors' pay raises and so forth, but not to anywhere else. We need to take away from that. We need to take away from the increase on [INAUDIBLE] salary on a yearly basis. We need to stop that right away, we can automatically save at least 100 million dollars from that point on. So those are the stuff that we need to take a look at. And we need to take a look at some other state agencies that may have overextended themselves in terms of monetary spending. So by doing so, we can be able to reallocate those budgets right away.

[36:27]

SCOTT: Okay. Rady.

MOM: Chris when it comes to the budget, and oh by the way, our job also is to balance the budget. And that's why during the budget time, we literally stay there for the course of three days. I remember on Sunday I didn't get home till 2:30 in the morning on Monday. That's what it takes. As we know, it is the information that we get, as representatives, from all of the best that we have to go by, and that's how we vote, and that's what's given to us. As of right now, Yes [INAUDIBLE] that's why the information is, we're still waiting. So not until next week, I'll have more information on the Governor's proposal to cut. So as of right now I don't have the answer for you right now, but once I get it I'll share it to you.

[37:22]

SCOTT: Okay, just a little push back on this. Your opponent gave a couple of specific places in the budget where he will try to make up that deficit. You sure you don't wanna take another, you know, higher ed? Courts? Environment?

MOM: We are talking about the budget that is coming from the tax that dues. Now when you take a cut from one entity from the next, one thing has to give. And this is why we have to look at everything so closely. And this is why when you have the House members, when you talk about the chairman of Ways and Means, Brian Dempsey, whom I have really good working relationships to find out. As of right now,

that's what I am going by, in knowing what is the information in front of me. Remember, I'm still going through a learning process here. I'm not an expert in 22 months and 19 minutes.

[38:25]

CAMPANINI: Well, maybe they shouldn't cut at all, would you be in favor of a tax increase to cover the (budget cut)

KAY: Jim, I thank you for that question. my philosophy has always been this for the longest time. The state of Massachusetts has never had any tax collection issue. The state of Massachusetts, like every government agency, is having a spending issue. the representative is saying its a working relationship, he's spent three days negotiating the budget and so forth. But out of that three days, if you look at his voting record, he voted no to any of the tax cuts everywhere? He voted no when the governor proposed some of the overspending in certain departments and all of that. You look at his voting records, it's always no, no, no, no, no. He's talking about balancing the budget, he doesn't want to balance the budget. He wants to increase the money from the people in the Commonwealth here. That's all he wants to do. He has never voted no with the tax increase, but he always voted to cut the spending.

[39:33]

SCOTT: You have a minute.

MOM: I guess it's nice when you can look at an individual who is an elected official. It's nice to see the flaws, when the actual work is being done. And that's different between being an elected official, you're a target, which is fine with that. That's why my job, again, is to learn in the best that I can and bring back [INAUDIBLE] resource. When you talking about 950,000 dollars in [INAUDIBLE] to bring back with the city, to re-amp Cupples Square, apparently that's not real funding according to Mr. Kam is accusing me of. When you're talking about 60 million, -60 thousand, excuse me- for the city to [INAUDIBLE] North Commons playground, [INAUDIBLE] basketball court. 85 thousand dollars with the city to completely revamp-

SCOTT: Okay I'm gonna cut you off. Do you wanna take a crack at Jim's question about-

CAMPANINI: When the House Speaker, when you people convene again, says 'well you know what? The heck with the Governor, we're gonna raise taxes to get this money rather than cut', would you be in favor voting for a tax increase?

[40:50]

MOM: Jim, ..., now remember we live in a society where we need firetrucks, we need police, to make sure that we keep our city/community safe. If there's no funding to make that possible, I believe the voters can understand that, oh, I'm gonna come back and tell them 'folks, we don't have enough funding for education, we don't have enough funding for our police to keep us safe. I need your vote'. I'm going to vote for the increase of tax because we need that to make sure we can continue to really keep our community safe and moving forward, and that would be the case. And that's what I'm gonna bring back to show my constituents.

[41:38]

SCOTT: We're gonna move onto a different topic. Staying on a state issue, earlier this year the state legislature and Governor Baker signed a much-publicized bill guaranteeing rights to those of us who are transgendered. There's been a repeal effort launched. Do you support that repeal effort or would you like to see that law stay in the books?

MOM: I'd like to see that law stay in the books [INAUDIBLE]

SCOTT: Do you want to use anymore of your time?

MOM: Well yes. I believe that all citizens, especially when we're living in a Democracy, that we all have rights. No one should be discriminated against, let alone if you are transgender, LGB Community. They all want the same thing, and that is could be free, safe, living in a democracy where they all have the respect of whether it is the law, and that should be the law of the land: that is to protect its citizens. That is what I believe.

[42:45]



SCOTT: Okay Rady, thank you. Kamara?

KAY: Well first and foremost, it's funny. Once again I have to go back to what I have always been consistent, is that the representative always answer with no answer to you. Again he said that he just a freshman, learn how to be a state legislator. The last time he campaigned, he said he's gonna learn when he gets the job. It's been two years, either you're gonna be graduating from the class, or get out from the classroom because you're no longer effective being a student. In regarding to the LGBT, I firmly believe that I have always been fighting for the freedom, for the liberty, of all individuals against anyone to infringe upon the liberties of those. And I have fought that and I have shown that to the community, and there is no way of getting around it because these individuals, I hate to say 'group', but the folks that are gays and lesbians, they are beautiful people like we are. It is fair that for us to treat them who they are, as a person, as an individual, not to look at them because of their classification. Give them the civil union, give them the marriage, give them any liberty that they want to. They deserve that. We as a whole United States, need to stop discriminating against those that have a different ideology than ours, especially when it comes to LGBT group.

SCOTT: Let's move to a couple of issues that are specific to the 18th Middlesex District. There's been alot written and a lot said about UMass Lowell's expansion in the Acre, and in Pawtucketville and some other places. If UMass Lowell proposed further expansion, or if they wanted to buy more buildings in the Acre, near University Crossing, to meet more students, more classes, is that something that you think is a good idea? Or do you think that UMass Lowell needs to kind of ratchet it back a little bit and live with what it has achieved over the past ten years? Which we all agree is quite remarkable.

[44:53]

KAY: I think UMass Lowell can expand to whatever the operations that they want to enhance in terms of purchasing more condominiums, more land to build and all that. I like Dave Mangle's ideas. At least give him the first four years to pay that tax up. And once that four years is done, they can go back to tax exempt. I think it's a novel idea that we as a state legislature, as a Commonwealth, need to go ahead and explore that, because when Representative Rady Mom always wanted to tax you, and tax you, and tax you as a people, we need to figure out a way how to raise revenue without taxing you, without taxing everybody. That's what we need to do. We need to get a community to foster how we can be able to generate the revenue without taxing somebody else's work. If Representative Rady Mom wants to tax your money,

your earned income money, he needs to give at least half of his money into that pot so that people will be so happy about it. So, in terms of what we're looking at? I think it's a novel idea to explore further from what Representative Dave Nangle had proposed in the State House.

SCOTT: Rady.

[46:15]

MOM: Well, I did vote with Representative Nangle on that. So in terms of working with the UMass of Lowell, we have a world-class which is right here in the City of Lowell, and what's so great about our City of Lowell is that you can continue education from kindergarten all the way to Doctors, right here. I believe in this city, you can go on a bike to class. In terms of putting forth any growth of the university, it is important to our city. That is the balance, check and balance, and it is why I met with Chancellor Moloney when we had the problem that's dealing with people. And mind you, we're talking about private sector. So there are some divisions, that if you own your own property which is private, that's your own business. Government don't interfere in your own private business. That's why we live in a free Democracy world. However, this is why when you have the decision-making of the City Councilors, the City Manager, that see the hindsight in bringing other collaboratives to put in such a [INAUDIBLE] there is 50 million right down the street here, to put housing which is withdraw some of the Perkin so they'll have a place to stay. And these are citizens that pay in tax, to help support the economic in our city. So those are the project I'm working on and looking at.

SCOTT: Lowell House has launched quite a lobbying effort to rebuild its facility on Merrimack street, past City Hall on the right. It has not been embraced by everyone, including some City Councilors. Would you like to see Lowell House stay there, or do you think Lowell House should be put someplace else?

[48:23]

KAY: I have not seen the proposal yet, but however, from what you've just described, I think any housing improvement in the infrastructure in this City is always a good thing to have. Even though that some Councilors may not approve of what's going on, I think the improvement the infrastructures in this city to make it look good, to look better, to make it much presentable so that other private companies can come into Lowell and look at it, the entire infrastructure and looks great, then they feel safe in terms of the in-

vestment in the City itself. I think it's good as long as we have some sort of idea to improve the infrastructures. Once again, I wanted to say that Representative Rady mom, answered no answers in terms of the budgetary issues with UMass Lowell and the City itself. So once again, it's a great idea to have an improvement in our infrastructures. Until we see more feasibility studies on that, then we should not vilify that project that is being proposed right now.

[49:34]

SCOTT: I think there was a shot in there, so you can respond to that if you'd like and you can talk about Lowell also. You have two minutes.

MOM: I met with Bill Garr from the Lowell House many times, and toured his facility. When we trying to help to cope where there is an addiction, and I think that Lowell House is working very very diligent on that. I know that Representative Tommy Golden and even before then was Chief [INAUDIBLE], they were working on that project as well. I am in support of Lowell House to fill that facility that help to combine room for the housing that is needed for these individuals for require assistance. And if we have that monetary fund and the support of the City Councilors, and again that's the job of the City Councilors, the City Manager to see what best fit our city. And so I would support [INAUDIBLE] in terms of how we as a city can move forward in that effort.

[50:46]

SCOTT: One last question, what can a State Representative do to help local authorities battle the opiate epidemic? It's been very well-publicized here in Lowell. There's been many deaths so far this year in 2016. What can be done, what have you done? This will be the last question, then we'll get into closing statements.

MOM: Chris, [INAUDIBLE]. It is an epidemic. We really do see the needs to put forth, it's not through legislation, that's going to curb this epidemic. Maryanne Ryan, the District Attorney, I met with her and working with her and of course, the entire delegation, it is about education and bringing that to the fore-front to our schools, and obviously all of our parents need to know about this crisis. The fact that [INAUDIBLE] you got even the Governor even talking about it, when he is worried that his son got injured and he called him to not take opiates. So we're talking about even the Governor, overtime we spoke about

it, we talked about it. And here we are in the City of Lowell, I'm working whether with the [INAUDIBLE]. Those are the people that I deal with day in, day out. When they're telling me the numbers, it is very very painful. When you meet the mother who just lost her child, what do you say to that? Of course I'm in support of everything that I'm positive we can do to make sure that this wouldn't happen to any family member. Having said all this, it is a requirement of all of us to be involved, to get involved, to tell and to share as much as we can, to combat this epidemic that is destroying family and lives.

[52:47]

KAY: Would you kindly repeat that question for me one more time please?

SCOTT: The question was pretty general. What can a State Representative, what would you do to help local authorities and state authorities battle the opiate epidemic?

KAY: First and foremost, once again, it's always funny to hear the Representative answer no answer [INAUDIBLE] to that. Recently, the federal government has [INAUDIBLE] the Commonwealth 53 million dollars to the state of Massachusetts. The question is, what has that money been doing so far? That money is supposed to come in to help fighting addiction for the state of Massachusetts. The federal government has been well-aware of it, that's why they've given the money to here. The State Representatives have not addressed how is this money going to be taken care of. Has the money been coming into here? The answer: I don't believe it's coming to the City of Lowell yet, because I spoke to the folks at Zack's foundation and said "how much money are you guys gonna get from that federal funding other than 53 million dollars?", they have no hope of getting it. That's why they're doing a lot of fundraising and [INAUDIBLE] for education and getting all the people that they have identified that are in addiction in order to get them treatment to help. So I think what we're looking at here, of the Meghan's House and the Zack's Foundations House and so forth, they are here in the city itself, have been helping those are in addiction to opiate or any other drugs right now, that they've been doing a great job of doing it. So what we need to do is to work with the State, we need to work with the police, we need to work with other civics, non-profit organizations, with the city in order to identify those individuals that need help. From that point on, then we need to go ahead and send it. And the last thing we need to do is that we need to go back to Governor Baker and say "where is that 53 Billion dollars that are being allocated? We need to know. We need help, and we need this help to get that money to treat for those who are in need in the City of Lowell.

[54:52]

SCOTT: ...So we'll start with a two-minute closing statement. We opened with Kamara, so Ray we'll start with you. You have two minutes and then Kamara, you can take it.

MOM: Thank you, Chris. Thank you, Jim, and all of the audience members. Kam, thank you for being here also. To all of the constituents and voters of the 18th District, the Acres, the Highlands, I have to say that it is definitely an honor to be your State Representative and work in the House to bring back resources and to hear your concern. It is a job that requires a lot of work, and some part of it not even my family are [INAUDIBLE] to see me, and that's because I care very very much and deeply about we, in terms of our children, our public safety, and this is why I so hardly work to do the best that I can to bring back resources to put forth that we will have in economic, and excited about where we are going as a city, what is taking place, what is being transformed. I am optimistic of all of that. When you talk about the courthouse that is 200 million dollars, that would been job right here to the Acre, to the Highlands, that people need. Job that can put food on the table, jobs that can give their parents the money to pay for their kids education. That's what I believe in, and there's many more coming. And this is because of the working relationship that we have with the City Councilors, with the elected officials, all the way from local, all the way to your state. And I believe that I'm a public, connected from the local all the way to the state. It's wonderful when I'm able to bring different representatives to meet individuals, the community, at the temple. And again, this is about giving access to the citizens. For the longest time, if the citizen want to meet, they'd have to go to the State House or to go to City Hall. But I brought those meetings to your place of where you worship. Thank you very much. Don't forget to vote.

[57:15]

SCOTT: Kamara.

KAY: Thank you, Chris. Jim, it is a pleasure meeting you again, and the rest of everyone else, the audience that's kindly spending the last 60 minutes here to watch us debate on the futures of the City of Lowell. What we're looking at here, the distinction between Rady Mom and I, is the visions. The visions that we're looking at, how we can improve the city. Rady Mom have talking about how good he's been done, he's talking about the past, what he's been done. But yet, he has not offered anything in relating to the

futures, the betterment, the improvement in terms of jobs, economics, development, job opportunities, educations, and the future of this City. So what I propose is really distinct between him and I. I see the future for this City. It's a great future that we can build upon each other. I don't seek divisiveness, where Rady brought a lot of divisiveness, lead into the city where he was not responsive to his constituents. He has not been really responsive as a State Representative, but always willing to take the credit for those who have done the job for him. He's talking about himself being the leader of the City, but have yet to have lead any project, have lead any organization at all, with the exception of taking the credits for those who have done. So tonight, I ask you to vote for the future for the City. The City of Lowell where we've seen that this is the City that has always been welcoming for the job opportunity, educational opportunity, and we must build upon that innovations for the future for our City. And thank you, Jim, Chris, and [IN-AUDIBLE] for being here tonight.

SCOTT: Thank you, both of you. Good luck on November 8th. Thank you for tuning in tonight. Hopefully, you learned something from Rady Mom, the Incumbent, and Kamara Kay, the Challenger. Be sure to get out and vote on November 8. Polls open at 7am and they close at 8. Good night.

[59:15]

[END]