

HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

IN RE:)
SPECIAL MEETING) TRANSCRIPT OF:
) PROCEEDINGS
)

Hoboken Council Chambers
94 Washington Street
Hoboken, New Jersey
Wednesday, April 30, 2014
6:00 p.m.

B E F O R E:

- JOSE C. MUNOZ - Chairman
- E. JUNIOR MALDONADO - Freeholder
- WILLIAM O'DEA - Freeholder
- ALBERT J. CIFELLI - Freeholder
- ANTHONY L. ROMANO - Freeholder

ALSO PRESENT:

- CHERYL FULLER - Finance Director
- MICHAEL BLEICH - Assistant Budget Examiner
- JOHN INAGAKI - Budget Director
- ABRAHAM ANTUN - County Administrator
- ALBERTO G. SANTOS - County Clerk

Job No.1855565

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1 MR. SANTOS: Freeholder Cifelli?
 2 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Absent.
 3 MR. SANTOS: DiDomenico?
 4 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Absent.
 5 MR. SANTOS: Dublin?
 6 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Absent.
 7 MR. SANTOS: Liggio?
 8 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Absent.
 9 MR. SANTOS: Maldonado?
 10 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Here.
 11 MR. SANTOS: O'Dea?
 12 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Here.
 13 MR. SANTOS: Rivas?
 14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Absent.
 15 MR. SANTOS: Romano?
 16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Absent.
 17 MR. SANTOS: Chairman Munoz?
 18 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Here.
 19 MR. SANTOS: Three freeholders present.
 20 We do not have a quorum.
 21 Please stand for the Pledge of
 22 Allegiance.
 23 (Pledge of Allegiance.)
 24 MR. SANTOS: There is no quorum. This
 25 will be viewed as a committee meeting.

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1 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: At some point we
 2 might have a quorum.
 3 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yeah. We're gonna have
 4 the different department heads come in and talk about
 5 budget. Then afterward, we're gonna have five
 6 minutes for the person that wants to talk about the
 7 budget, in addition to any other business.
 8 MR. SANTOS: Mr. Chairman, the
 9 departments that are scheduled for this evening's
 10 session are the Sheriff's Department, Emergency
 11 Management, the Prosecutor, and Superintendent of
 12 Elections, Board of Elections. So your pleasure
 13 which order to proceed.
 14 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.
 15 (Freeholder Romano enters.)
 16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Freeholder Romano is
 17 now here, Mr. Chairman.
 18 MR. SANTOS: For the record, Freeholder
 19 Romano is now present.
 20 There are four Freeholders present now.
 21 Still no quorum.
 22 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Okay. So we're gonna
 23 have the Prosecutor come first.
 24 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman, in an
 25 effort to, you know, try to move it as quickly as

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1 possible, I would suggest that if they want to do a
 2 brief overview, very brief, fine. Otherwise, I think
 3 that -- I -- for instance, I had spoke to Gene and
 4 told him one of the amendments that -- that I would
 5 be proposing as it related to vacant positions.
 6 MR. RUBINO: Members of the Board,
 7 Gennaro Rubino. I am the chief of staff and an
 8 Assistant Prosecutor with the Hudson County
 9 Prosecutor's Office, on behalf of Acting Prosecutor
 10 Gregory, who sends his apologies. We had discussed
 11 this at the Public Safety Meeting. He had a prior
 12 commitment with a retiring judge who was a former
 13 prosecutor, and the prosecutor did offer to come in
 14 on another night, and it was agreeable to the
 15 Freeholders that I appeared in lieu of him. So he
 16 does send his apologies.
 17 As you're aware, we prepared this in
 18 October of 2013. One of the areas that we looked at
 19 was some of our service contracts and we did request
 20 an increase in some of our recurring costs for the
 21 service contracts, mostly computer-related items and
 22 other equipment and so forth. But the full request
 23 was not -- was not granted or included in the budget,
 24 and the office will absorb that cost out of our Law
 25 Enforcement Trust Fund. Not the full amount. In

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1 fairness, the administration did increase the cost;
 2 however, it wasn't our full -- our full cost.
 3 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: You'll absorb the
 4 amount that they did not absorb in the proposed
 5 budget?
 6 MR. RUBINO: Yes. Yes. Out of our Law
 7 Enforcement Trust Fund.
 8 We have several capital projects this
 9 year that include some office furniture that we
 10 partially purchased, along with 12 vehicles, at this
 11 point, that we are purchasing out of our trust fund
 12 in excess of 200,000. There's some specialized
 13 equipment that we do have that is near the end of its
 14 life that is vital to us as a law enforcement agency,
 15 and as the chief law enforcement agency. So we also
 16 are proposing -- and this -- and again, we plan to
 17 purchase this with our trust fund, a crime scene
 18 vehicle, so that primarily our homicide detectives
 19 who serve the citizens can conduct their crime scene
 20 forensics with the proper equipment.
 21 Again, all of that we intend to purchase
 22 with our trust funds. And the reason I'm bringing
 23 this up -- those are just some of the major projects
 24 that are coming up that we're factoring in. These
 25 costs will be a sizable drain on our trust funds, and

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1 the trust fund is supposed to be a rainy day fund.
 2 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: What is the balance
 3 in your trust fund?
 4 MR. RUBINO: The balance -- the
 5 available balance in our trust fund -- in our federal
 6 fund, is approximately 700,000 available balance,
 7 and -- it's approximately 275,000 available balance,
 8 but there -- it is a couple million in CDs.
 9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So --
 10 MR. RUBINO: I don't have the exact
 11 amount.
 12 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: -- you got over \$2
 13 million sitting in CDs in the bank.
 14 MR. RUBINO: Through the accounts.
 15 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: But you have two
 16 million you're gaining interest on, and then you have
 17 how much that is readily available?
 18 MR. RUBINO: The balance -- I don't have
 19 the exact amount, but it appears the readily
 20 available balance as of the last time I looked, is
 21 about 275. And sometimes we do -- we do break the
 22 CDs or -- it's -- it's to be funded.
 23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So how long-term are
 24 the CDs?
 25 MR. RUBINO: I don't know. I don't

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1 know. That we have --
 2 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Would you know that,
 3 Director Fuller?
 4 MS. FULLER: We can -- we generally do
 5 them through the state or through the -- where we can
 6 roll them over maybe every month, if necessary.
 7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So you don't have,
 8 like, CDs that are five-year CDs --
 9 MS. FULLER: Oh, no.
 10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: -- or three-year CDs.
 11 MS. FULLER: No. No. We don't.
 12 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So would six months
 13 or less be safe?
 14 MS. FULLER: Absolutely.
 15 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So none of the \$2
 16 million is tied up.
 17 MR. RUBINO: I don't -- I don't believe
 18 so. I don't know the mechanics of --
 19 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Two million's a lot
 20 of rain. You've done a good job of building that
 21 fund up.
 22 MR. RUBINO: But the reason I bring that
 23 up is, those funds are continually depleting, and we
 24 build those funds through seized funds. And the way
 25 that works is through detectives that go out and are

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1 able to do investigations and seize these funds.
 2 The reason I'm bringing that up is, with
 3 the depletion in our detective staff, that's going to
 4 become a lot more difficult to do. The Board is
 5 aware of the number of vacancies that we have, and I
 6 bring that issue up as a concern because the more
 7 detectives we have, the more capable and the better
 8 off we are in terms of making sure that we keep those
 9 funds at a stable level.
 10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So your vacancies as
 11 I have in front of me, don't list any detectives.
 12 They list investigators --
 13 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: That's the same
 14 thing.
 15 MR. RUBINO: It's the same --
 16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So you -- so you
 17 define a "detective" and an "investigator"
 18 interchangeably. Is that --
 19 MR. RUBINO: Yes.
 20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: -- is that accurate?
 21 MR. RUBINO: Yes, that's accurate.
 22 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: You have currently 35
 23 vacant positions as of today in your department, and
 24 what I -- what I was proposing is -- I suggested a
 25 formula. And the formula would be as such: Any

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1 vacancy -- we actually have vacancies in our budget
 2 that are more than six months. Well, obviously,
 3 guess what, we're already in May. We're not adopting
 4 a budget till probably June. So if you're more than
 5 six months, you should get cut for six months. You
 6 have a 12-month, nine-month, ten-month.
 7 If you've got a six-month -- you may be
 8 only funded six months of salaries for vacant
 9 positions. I'm proposing that we cut that to four
 10 months, and if you're at four months, you cut it to
 11 three months, and those that are only three months,
 12 would remain the same. I estimate that that in and
 13 of itself will cut in excess of a million dollars.
 14 As I spoke to you earlier, Mr. Rubino,
 15 I'm less concerned -- I'm not looking to impose
 16 that -- that means you can't do any hiring until
 17 there's four months left in the year, I'm clearly
 18 open to you saying, I'm gonna take 25 percent of
 19 these and I'm not gonna fill them at all, but I'm
 20 gonna fill the other 75 percent at the six-month
 21 mark. I'm comfortable with that, too.
 22 'Cause Mr. Administrator, that would
 23 achieve the same -- as long as it achieves the same
 24 savings. So what we would just do, in essence, is
 25 reduce proportionately, per each one of these

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1 departments, the amount of money we have allocated
 2 for vacant positions. And then once we do that, you
 3 could work with the department in determining, We
 4 need -- you know, We need to hire so many now. So
 5 either we can't hire the rest until the year's over,
 6 or instead of hiring the rest with four months left,
 7 we can only hire with two months left. Obviously
 8 that's an executive -- an administrative decision, as
 9 opposed to a legislative thing that we do.
 10 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Gene, just a few
 11 things, too. The promotions that were made, salaries
 12 were waived; correct?
 13 MR. RUBINO: Salaries were waived for
 14 one year. Every single one of the promotions that
 15 were made, they will not see that increase for one
 16 year.
 17 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: And with regard
 18 to -- I know, for example, with Operation Seize and
 19 Surrender, you kept overtime to a minimum or none;
 20 correct?
 21 MR. RUBINO: That's correct. With Seize
 22 and Surrender, which was a 2013 event, we were able
 23 to make appropriate shift changes that had a
 24 minimal -- a relatively minimal impact on overtime.
 25 We had a couple of special events in

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1 2014 that we were concerned with. Particularly the
 2 Super Bowl as one, and potentially Formula 1. We had
 3 incorporated into our budget, special projects for
 4 special events. But not withstanding that, we're not
 5 concerned at this point because with the Super Bowl,
 6 it was relatively reasonable in terms of the
 7 overtime. And for at least 2014, we don't anticipate
 8 Formula 1 is going to occur. So that was our
 9 concern. But I think we're okay in our first quarter
 10 with overtime.
 11 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Now, the vehicles,
 12 the vehicle replacement, that was replacement of
 13 vehicles that were destroyed in Sandy; correct?
 14 MR. RUBINO: Freeholder, most of those
 15 vehicles were replaced. And I can't say that those
 16 were directly impacted --
 17 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: But due to age.
 18 They're obsolete.
 19 MR. RUBINO: It's an aging fleet.
 20 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yeah.
 21 MR. RUBINO: It's an aging fleet and we
 22 don't have -- we don't have a lot of -- you know, a
 23 lot of mileage or years left on our existing
 24 vehicles.
 25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I would have hoped --

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1 I would have hoped that if you had vehicles since
 2 Sandy, you would have replaced them by now.
 3 Otherwise, you would have been at a serious
 4 disadvantage in operating your investigations.
 5 MR. RUBINO: And on top of -- in
 6 addition to that, Freeholder, the ones that we did
 7 replace as a result of Sandy, were all purchased from
 8 the trust funds. It did not come out of the county
 9 budget, it came out of monies that were forfeited and
 10 seized by detectives.
 11 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Did we get any FEMA
 12 money for any of those vehicles? If you don't know,
 13 just say, I'll get you the answer.
 14 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, Freeholder, I don't
 15 recall.
 16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Could you get that
 17 answer for our meeting?
 18 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I think what
 19 Freeholder O'Dea alluded to is the way to go as far
 20 as with regard to hiring and the actual savings that
 21 will be achieved and obtained.
 22 MR. RUBINO: On the waivers alone, the
 23 waivers of the detectives, the approximate savings is
 24 \$161,000 to the county, just by waiving their
 25 salaries for one year as a result of the promotions.

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1 Freeholder, just to give you an
 2 accurate -- and I was paying attention, I was just
 3 trying to look up something on my email in terms of
 4 balances. The last time we had checked, on the
 5 federal side, we had approximately 765,000 and change
 6 as a balance.
 7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Is that 765 readily
 8 available?
 9 MR. RUBINO: That's readily available.
 10 That's not tied up in CDs. However, remember,
 11 these -- these trust funds have to be for law
 12 enforcement purposes, so there are -- there are very
 13 strict conditions. They're subject to audit. We
 14 also, at times, need approval from the Attorney
 15 General's office. I will tell you in terms of with
 16 the Attorney General's office, there is a consistent
 17 dialogue where I'm asked, Why are you using the trust
 18 funds? Why is this not in the budget? So we've
 19 managed to use them as much as we can within the
 20 parameters, because there are SOPs on what you can
 21 and can't spend.
 22 For example, brick and mortar is not an
 23 item that I would be able to spend trust funds on,
 24 and there are certainly many more limitations, and
 25 they are subject to public bidding laws.

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1 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Can we --
 2 Mr. Administrator, can we -- can you research for the
 3 Board what the current trust fund balances are?
 4 (Mr. Cifelli enters.)
 5 MR. SANTOS: Freeholder, we have a
 6 quorum now.
 7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Can you -- we're
 8 already taping this.
 9 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes. Let him read
 10 the Public Meetings Act.
 11 MR. SANTOS: In accordance with the
 12 provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice
 13 was given that the Hudson County Board of Freeholders
 14 will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, April 30th,
 15 2014, at 6:00 p.m., in the council chamber at Hoboken
 16 City Hall, 94 Washington Street, Hoboken, New Jersey.
 17 The agenda of this special meeting is to
 18 review the 2014 Hudson County Budget by department.
 19 No official action will be taken at this special
 20 meeting. Copies of this notice have been posted on
 21 the Freeholders' bulletin board, filed in the office
 22 of the Hudson County Clerk, and faxed and mailed to
 23 the editors of the Jersey Journal and the
 24 Star-Ledger.
 25 Freeholder Cifelli is now present and we

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1 have a quorum.
 2 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Administrator, I
 3 would just like to know, based on the -- based on the
 4 statement that Gene said about depleting the trust
 5 fund, what are the balances of the other 20 county
 6 trust funds throughout the state of New Jersey? I'd
 7 like to see where we -- what we have vis-a-vis other
 8 counties.
 9 MR. ANTUN: You want me to find out what
 10 the other counties have?
 11 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Correct.
 12 MR. ANTUN: I'll try to get that, but I
 13 don't know if...
 14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I mean, it may take a
 15 couple of weeks. We're not gonna adopt a budget for
 16 a couple of weeks. But obviously, you know, when a
 17 statement is made raising a concern over how much of
 18 that funding they're using, I want to see what other
 19 counties are doing to see where we rank vis-a-vis how
 20 much -- you know, how much do other counties have?
 21 Do other counties have \$10 million and we only have
 22 2.7? Or do other counties have a million dollars and
 23 we have 2.7? I just think it's -- from a
 24 fact-finding process, it's important to me in my
 25 deliberative process, how much we should put a demand

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1 on you to be using some of your trust fund money.
 2 MR. RUBINO: Freeholder, just -- and
 3 this needs to be verified. The last time we checked
 4 the balance, I'm just looking at this email, it looks
 5 like our balance, our CD balance is 3,333,000 and
 6 change.
 7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So you got --
 8 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Three plus seven.
 9 You have 4 million.
 10 MR. RUBINO: No, actually --
 11 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: No, wait. You got
 12 3.3 million in CDs --
 13 MR. RUBINO: Correct.
 14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: -- and you got
 15 700,000 that's not in CDs which is available today.
 16 MR. RUBINO: That is cash.
 17 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Is that correct?
 18 MR. RUBINO: That's the federal side.
 19 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Correct.
 20 MR. RUBINO: That's the Federal Law
 21 Enforcement Trust Fund.
 22 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So that's four
 23 million. So that's four million. So we already
 24 found a million -- 1.3 million just by having you
 25 research.

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1 MR. RUBINO: Freeholder, I think the
 2 point is that this is supposed to be -- this is not
 3 supposed to be a supplement. This is supposed to be
 4 a rainy day fund and it can't be a supplement or --
 5 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I don't -- we don't
 6 want it to be a supplement. What it should be used
 7 for is a one-time eligible expense. That's how I
 8 look at it. A supplement would be, so I'm gonna take
 9 two million of your salaries and try to fund it out
 10 of that fund because -- that doesn't make sense
 11 because where am I gettin' the two million from to
 12 fund it next year?
 13 MR. RUBINO: Well, that's --
 14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I know you can't,
 15 that's what I'm saying. So you know, rather than
 16 belabor the point -- and like I said -- first of all,
 17 it's not often we find money in the midst of some
 18 questioning, but what I would like to do,
 19 Mr. Administrator, find me the balances for the other
 20 counties. I want to see where we rank and stand as
 21 it relates to other counties. And then I would like
 22 to get a list, Gene, of what items and expenses are
 23 eligible pursuant to the law, that you could spend
 24 those monies on, just so we know and understand. I
 25 didn't know we had that much money. I thought it was

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1 maybe a million or \$2 million.
 2 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: When we look at the
 3 other counties, we have to look at the counties that
 4 are comparable to ours to see the level of their
 5 trust fund. It really should be apples to apples.
 6 We have to look at counties similar in caseload
 7 demographics to our county: Essex, Union. I don't
 8 know if it's --
 9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Bergen, Middlesex,
 10 Passaic.
 11 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: I don't know that
 12 it's helpful, but it should be --
 13 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Can't use Hunterdon
 14 or Sussex, that's for sure.
 15 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: The other point would
 16 be, once you find out what is in the trust fund, you
 17 could also determine how much, over the last two
 18 years, they've spent of that. So if Warren only has
 19 a million dollars, but they spent 60 percent of what
 20 they had over the last two years, then we'll know
 21 that there's a pattern, a spending pattern. And
 22 that's probably even more important as to what
 23 percentage of the dollars they generated they are
 24 spending. Or are some counties just building up a
 25 rainy day fund for, I don't know, you know, waiting

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1 for a day like today where it's really raining very
 2 hard?
 3 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: I don't think it's
 4 really the intention of the trust fund to build up a
 5 chest of money. I mean, I think it's there for
 6 capital expenditures, one-time expenditures. And I
 7 think probably more apropos now since this would be
 8 in our budget, in particular in the Prosecutor's
 9 Office, what line items do we have that are available
 10 for that, and then see, you know, the list of -- go
 11 to the list and see what items are eligible to spend,
 12 and then make a comparison with what line items are
 13 existing in our budget, and we can see how
 14 appropriate it would be to go into the trust fund.
 15 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Just a quick
 16 question, Gene. Originally you mentioned 270,000.
 17 Is that number now replaced by the 760?
 18 MR. RUBINO: No, there's two --
 19 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Two different --
 20 MR. RUBINO: -- trust funds. There's a
 21 state trust fund --
 22 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Okay.
 23 MR. RUBINO: -- and then there's a
 24 federal trust fund.
 25 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: The 270 is the

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1 state?
 2 MR. RUBINO: The 270 is the state.
 3 That's the available balance.
 4 Again, and I mentioned this to the
 5 Board, these numbers need to be verified. I'm going
 6 off of an old email because these numbers deplete
 7 rapidly; okay? So it is subject to confirmation. I
 8 don't want to commit to a number, but I just tried to
 9 do some quick research on my phone, like the last
 10 email, and we need to verify to see what our
 11 available balances are on a periodic basis.
 12 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: But I just want
 13 to be clear on the numbers. In total, that's
 14 approximately 4.35, in total.
 15 MR. RUBINO: But Freeholders, there's
 16 one point I want to emphasize. If I'm not able to
 17 retain an investigative staff, a quality
 18 investigative staff, I can't keep this budget -- I
 19 can't keep that level on the trust fund and I need to
 20 be able to retain that investigatively and on the
 21 legal side. If I can't retain quality investigators,
 22 that means we can't do quality investigations, that
 23 means we can't do quality seizures. And if I don't
 24 have the prosecutors able to seize these funds in
 25 court, it's a trickle effect. There's a direct

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1 connection that you should be aware of. And
 2 that's --
 3 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Can you provide how
 4 much annually you've generated to that fund over --
 5 each, over the last four years? Not right now,
 6 obviously, unless you know it now.
 7 MR. RUBINO: I think that should be
 8 available through the finance department.
 9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Do you know that?
 10 MS. FULLER: I don't know it right now,
 11 but I do have that information in our finance
 12 department.
 13 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: That would be useful
 14 when we're discussing this department to have that
 15 information available.
 16 MR. ANTUN: Freeholder, I have last
 17 year's receipts here. And the prosecutor has
 18 different accounts, so I'll just tell you how they've
 19 been identified in the statements.
 20 In terms of receipts, Prosecutor Escrow
 21 Account No. 1, the receipts were 467,000. Prosecutor
 22 Escrow Account No. 2, it was 334,000. Account No. 3
 23 was 29,000, and then what I believe is the general
 24 account, it's 469,000. Those were the receipts.
 25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: If I take those

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1 numbers, you're at about 1.2 million. So you have
 2 about three and a half years of accumulated trust
 3 fund money if I use your --
 4 MR. ANTUN: Those are --
 5 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: -- if I calculate
 6 your numbers versus his balance.
 7 MR. ANTUN: Freeholder, those were the
 8 receipts for 2013.
 9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: But what I'm saying
 10 is, if the receipts are 1.2 million and he has 4.3
 11 million, that's three and a half times -- that's
 12 three and a half years of receipts, if those receipts
 13 were relatively consistent. Again, that's why I
 14 wanted multiple years. So I mean, you've still got a
 15 fund that's got three and a half years of revenue or
 16 receipts sitting there. That's -- that's not --
 17 that's not shabby.
 18 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: What I'd like to
 19 be able to look at, if possible, is those receipts on
 20 a yearly basis and the manpower that you had during
 21 the course of that particular year. What was the
 22 manpower, if you're saying the needs of the
 23 investigative staff and the prosecutors, to be able
 24 to get those numbers to stay up, I'd like to see how
 25 that compares to the manpower in past years, if

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1 possible.
 2 MR. RUBINO: I can tell you, Freeholder,
 3 in this year alone, in the calendar 2013, through the
 4 first quarter of 2014, we lost 16 investigators.
 5 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: And how much less
 6 have you taken in that quarter than you did
 7 previously?
 8 MR. RUBINO: I think the impact is yet
 9 to be seen.
 10 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Okay. But I'm
 11 trying to get an analysis of that so we can take a
 12 more -- a statistical look at how that impacted.
 13 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: And just following
 14 on those lines, Gene, is there a pattern that there's
 15 a certain consistency with the seizures over the last
 16 five, seven years, or do you see that there may be
 17 one or two major prosecutions that just impacted
 18 greatly on you? So that there was maybe one
 19 prosecution where you had, you know, \$500,000 worth
 20 of seizures.
 21 MR. RUBINO: Freeholder, there are no
 22 patterns. They're difficult patterns to follow and
 23 whether there's any rhyme or reason to them. There
 24 are certain quality long-term investigations that we
 25 invest a lot of money in and the return is minimal.

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1 There are some investigations, quite frankly, we
 2 stumbled upon. We stumbled upon. And that's just
 3 the nature of the business, and that's why it's so
 4 difficult to predict what's gonna happen around the
 5 corner. So it's a difficult question to answer.
 6 We've done, you know, certain
 7 investigations and the seizure's been, you know,
 8 100-plus thousand. We've done others where we've
 9 spent significant months doing certain investigations
 10 and it's minimal. It could be less than a few
 11 thousand dollars. Nonetheless, we still have to
 12 pursue the investigation.
 13 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Unlike, I'll make
 14 the analogy to the registered voters. There's
 15 a nexus between the real estate economy and the
 16 revenues from those. But in your business, I don't
 17 know that crime takes that kind of pattern that you
 18 could track.
 19 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Gene, a quick question.
 20 When you were talking about quality investigation, a
 21 question came to my mind. Do we have a public
 22 corruption unit in the Prosecutor's Office?
 23 MR. RUBINO: No, we do not have a public
 24 corruption unit.
 25 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Has there ever been a

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1 public corruption unit in the Prosecutor's Office?
 2 MR. RUBINO: I don't believe there's
 3 been a specific -- one specifically called the
 4 "public corruption unit." Our Special Investigations
 5 currently handle the nature of those investigations.
 6 So while we may not have, per se, a unit that's
 7 called that, I can tell you that most of those types
 8 of investigations are handled in our Special
 9 Investigations Unit.
 10 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Now, when was the last
 11 time that you prosecuted Hudson County public
 12 corruption through the Prosecutor's Office?
 13 MR. RUBINO: Freeholder, you'd have to
 14 define the term of "public corruption." If you're
 15 defining it as official misconduct, then you're --
 16 you know, what's your definition of it? But I'd
 17 rather defer on that because quite frankly, I wasn't
 18 prepared for that question and I'd like to --
 19 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Well, no, because --
 20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I think that's a good
 21 question. I'm not sure it's a budget question, but
 22 it's a good question.
 23 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Well, he's talking
 24 about keeping good investigators. I mean, I want to
 25 know, you don't see an issue to public corruption?

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1 MR. RUBINO: What I can tell you is if
 2 public corruption involves financial analysis, you're
 3 going to need experienced prosecutors that -- not
 4 only experienced prosecutors, you're gonna need
 5 experienced prosecutors and you're going to need
 6 experienced detectives, and you're gonna have to be
 7 able to retain those that have the ability to do
 8 that. And we keep losing detectives and prosecutors
 9 that leave for more lucrative positions because we
 10 can't pay the salaries, you know. And that -- that
 11 could impact in terms of what you're asking.
 12 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Well, that would be
 13 something that I would be happy to find out,
 14 hopefully, if we had a good meeting that showed
 15 results throughout the years, you know. We see other
 16 law enforcement agencies coming in to the county
 17 doing investigations, but nothing comes out of the
 18 Prosecutor's Office. Every time that a --
 19 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: That could be at
 20 the request of the Prosecutor's Office that they came
 21 in.
 22 MR. RUBINO: That could be referrals.
 23 With all due respect to your question -- I get what
 24 you're asking. What you don't see is referrals to
 25 other agencies as well, which I'm not at liberty to

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1 discuss. So if we don't have the resources, you
 2 know, we do reach out to other agencies to see if
 3 they can assist us both on the federal and state
 4 levels.
 5 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: We have an Ethics board
 6 in Hudson County; is that correct?
 7 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: What?
 8 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: But we don't have a
 9 public corruption unit. I think that's something
 10 that we should look into.
 11 Now, do we have a white collar crime
 12 unit?
 13 MR. RUBINO: That's handled by Special
 14 Investigations. So they do -- they do financial
 15 fraud, they handle credit card fraud, mortgage fraud.
 16 And incidentally, that unit has done significant,
 17 significant investigations that other agencies, quite
 18 frankly, didn't -- you know, passed upon. And they
 19 took it upon themselves and they did the
 20 investigations and they were lengthy investigations,
 21 because they were worthy investigations.
 22 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Now, from these special
 23 security, the top -- the most qualified people,
 24 investigators, without saying names or anything, what
 25 is the top salary?

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1 MR. RUBINO: I don't have those -- I
 2 don't have those figures here with me. I think
 3 possibly 90,000.
 4 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: What does the national
 5 average for an investigator at this capacity make?
 6 MR. RUBINO: The national average?
 7 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yeah. Or state.
 8 MR. RUBINO: Freeholder, I can tell
 9 you -- I can't tell you the national average. I
 10 could tell you in terms of where we rank within the
 11 state and out of the 21 counties which, I think, you
 12 know, matters, that -- if you'd just give me one
 13 second.
 14 Our investigators rank last in median
 15 salary in the state.
 16 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: In the state of New
 17 Jersey.
 18 MR. RUBINO: In the state of New Jersey.
 19 I think that kind of speaks for itself.
 20 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Mr. Administrator, do
 21 we have exact, an answer why?
 22 MR. ANTUN: I didn't understand your
 23 question.
 24 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Why we have allow -- I
 25 mean, if we can't retain top investigators, then how

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1 can the Prosecutor's Office do their job correctly if
 2 they don't have good investigators to perform the
 3 investigations? If you're saying that we're last,
 4 that means that -- what's the -- right now, what's
 5 the turn -- how many people are coming and leaving?
 6 What's the -- do you know the period of time these
 7 people are staying? The retention level?
 8 MR. RUBINO: I don't have that for the
 9 detectives. Hold on a second.
 10 The average for Hudson County is 12.1
 11 years.
 12 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: So how we have the --
 13 why do we have -- we are the last one in salary, but
 14 then the retention level is that?
 15 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: I'm not sure I
 16 understand that.
 17 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Means that we -- if we
 18 have a retention level of 12.5 years, 12 years and a
 19 half, and we are the last, the only thing that can
 20 come to my mind is that we really don't have the best
 21 investigators in the state of New Jersey, if the best
 22 investigators are going someplace else.
 23 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Well, I
 24 wouldn't -- I have to defend the Prosecutor's Office.
 25 They have excellent investigators. I don't think

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1 it's --
 2 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Well, we're talking
 3 about money issues here.
 4 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Right, we're
 5 talking about money issues, but that doesn't parlay
 6 into --
 7 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Well, I'm saying as to
 8 the statistics.
 9 MR. RUBINO: Yeah, Freeholder, and I
 10 think your question --
 11 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: I mean, we don't have
 12 to analyze what investigations you have done, how
 13 well they have done it, because that information, it
 14 cannot be provided to us. But the financial
 15 information that I'm looking at, the first question
 16 that I asked is: What is the retention level? It's
 17 12 years. Then in salary, salarywise, we're the last
 18 in the state of New Jersey. So if we're the last,
 19 how we can keep people for that long?
 20 MR. RUBINO: We're the last in retention
 21 as well. We're the last -- we rank last in
 22 retention. We have some -- we have an excellent
 23 investigative staff that does quality investigations.
 24 So I don't think that was -- and Freeholder, with all
 25 due respect, I don't think you meant that, you know,

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1 we don't have quality investigators. We have
 2 excellent investigators and we have dedicated
 3 investigators, that are still hoping for a better
 4 day, and they're still sticking around. But my point
 5 is, it's becoming more and more difficult to retain
 6 them, because when you come to Hudson County and you
 7 work here as an investigator, you're going to walk
 8 out an experienced detective, and that's going to
 9 make you marketable and competitive for other
 10 counties who want our investigators.
 11 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: You know, one thing I
 12 have to say, because this is -- this is thrown at us
 13 all the time. I would hope that not everybody in the
 14 world is a free agent, you know. There are many
 15 great individuals in sports and fields that love what
 16 they do, love where they do it and dedicate their
 17 careers doing it, and I would hope and pray that our
 18 lives aren't built on free agency, where we've always
 19 gotta worry about what we pay versus what everyone
 20 else pays.
 21 You know, at the point in time that your
 22 office can't function affectively, at the point in
 23 time that criminals that should be prosecuted are
 24 walking the streets because you don't have competent
 25 attorneys and investigators to investigate and

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1 prosecute crimes, then we have to have a really,
 2 really serious conversation about that. Otherwise, I
 3 think we need to look at how we incrementally deal
 4 with some of these things. How we deal with the
 5 ability to create another rank, potentially, to give
 6 a step-up to someone. But I don't know how we can
 7 live within our means and somehow say, Well, this
 8 county pays "X" and this county pays "Y," so we've
 9 now gotta give \$30,000 more to 100 employees. We
 10 can't. We just can't afford to do that. And I think
 11 that, you know, we have to live -- we've gotta live
 12 within our means.
 13 And until the point that you tell me, No
 14 one wants the job, anyone that I hire -- anyone that
 15 I hired -- I hired 30 investigators five years ago;
 16 28 of them have left. Until I get hit with that kind
 17 of a level of turnover, you know, we've gotta amble
 18 along and take small steps to try to improve what the
 19 salary -- you know, the salary base.
 20 MR. RUBINO: And I agree with you.
 21 These generational gaps, Freeholder, you're
 22 absolutely right, and in fairness to the
 23 administration, they have worked with us where, you
 24 know, we've asked for certain retention incentives
 25 and they've come through, they provided that to us

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1 and the Board has approved that on certain levels.
 2 So I don't want to give the impression -- the sky is
 3 not falling. The sky is not falling. The point of
 4 this is that it's a trickle effect starting with our
 5 trust funds, and we want to be able to round the
 6 corner and be in a safe spot. Be in a safe spot in
 7 terms of our ability to retain not only our legal,
 8 but our investigative detectives and assistant
 9 prosecutors. That's the point.
 10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: But, again, and I
 11 don't want to belabor it because we have a lot of
 12 other divisions and departments, but your number of
 13 what you're spending from the trust fund this year is
 14 how much?
 15 MR. RUBINO: How much I spent?
 16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: How much are you
 17 proposing to spend from your trust fund?
 18 MR. RUBINO: In terms of the capital?
 19 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Correct.
 20 MR. RUBINO: The projects?
 21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Correct.
 22 MR. RUBINO: What we have in line is --
 23 we're arriving at an agreement for approximately
 24 \$300,000 in furniture for our 5th floor, which has
 25 been renovated. It's empty space. We're ready to

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1 put the furniture in there and working very closely
 2 with the administrator in sharing that cost. And
 3 we're asking the Attorney General for permission to
 4 use our trust fund. So that's 300,000 right there
 5 that's coming out of our trust fund.
 6 The 206,000 for 12 vehicles into our
 7 fleet, that's -- you know, that will replace our
 8 aging fleet, gets the detectives cars so they can
 9 drive around. Some of these vehicles have over
 10 100,000 miles on them. We don't -- we have not
 11 budgeted this year, the year before, and -- and I
 12 believe for a few years, vehicles. So we take that
 13 all out of the trust fund. That's major.
 14 The crime scene van, which I think is
 15 something that the people of Hudson County deserve,
 16 to have the proper forensics. And we have great
 17 crime scene investigators, whether it's a homicide or
 18 whether it's a Special Victim's case or an assault or
 19 whether it's assisting other municipalities. That's
 20 going to come out of the trust fund. We have to
 21 replace some depleting equipment that's, again,
 22 sensitive, I can't speak about it. But that's
 23 something that we're gonna be looking at which are
 24 major costs.
 25 The only major cost we haven't discussed

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1 yet is at some point, we're going to move out of
 2 Duncan Avenue to the Meadowview Complex, and I would
 3 imagine that that is going to be a cost that may tap
 4 into our trust funds as well. We have not gotten to
 5 that discussion, but we have to move a lab, we have
 6 to move investigative staff, we have to move
 7 equipment. So that may factor in and these are some
 8 sizable drains on our trust funds. So when you say,
 9 Hey, that seems like a large balance, they go down
 10 very quickly.
 11 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: If I take everything
 12 you gave me, all your numbers, at the high number,
 13 you may be using 20 percent of what you presented to
 14 us was your balance and you're using less than --
 15 you're using less than 70 percent of what you just
 16 generated last year. So at the end of the year, if
 17 you generate as much this year as you generated last
 18 year, your starting balance on January of 2014 will
 19 be higher than your starting balance was on -- I'm
 20 sorry. January 2015 will be higher than your balance
 21 was in January '14. It's a lot of dollars; they're
 22 costs that need to be spent. But it's not like
 23 you're going out and you're proposing to spend twice
 24 as much money from the fund as you generated last
 25 year.

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1 The administrator gave us the numbers
 2 for last year, approximately \$1.2 million. You're
 3 numbers were maybe seven to \$800,000. You know, if
 4 you generate \$1.2 million again this year, you'll
 5 have a few \$100,000 more. I think it's good and
 6 admirable that you're assisting us, we appreciate
 7 that, but I think, you know -- let's leave it at
 8 that. Let's not make it seem like we're asking you
 9 to empty out -- you know, empty those coffers.
 10 I think each and every year we have to
 11 look at what your needs are, we have to look at what
 12 we can pay for, we have to look at how much you
 13 generated in the last year or two within that month,
 14 and then make rational decisions. And I think
 15 everything that's been laid out here are rational
 16 decisions.
 17 MR. RUBINO: Freeholder, I have to
 18 double-check one thing. I think those receipts were
 19 escrows. I have to check. I'm not sure if that's
 20 the equivalent from our trust fund on --
 21 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, they are escrows.
 22 Some of them are escrows. I -- I -- Gene, I read all
 23 of the different accounts. I didn't distinguish. I
 24 know some are escrow accounts --
 25 MR. RUBINO: Some are escrows, some are

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1 not necessarily the trust fund, so --
 2 MR. ANTUN: That's correct.
 3 MR. RUBINO: -- so that's -- there's a
 4 distinction.
 5 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Look, one of two
 6 things. Come to a meeting with all the information
 7 so when you lay a fact on the table we can have a
 8 question and have real numbers and not guess. Maybe
 9 we gotta find out or wait until we have all that
 10 information to have a discussion. You opened the
 11 door, we've gone through the door. We've tried to
 12 ascertain what's reasonable, and, obviously, we need
 13 to continue this conversation because we don't have
 14 all the facts.
 15 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Just real quick, a
 16 question for the administration. In comparison with
 17 the other law enforcement agency that we have in the
 18 county, the Sheriff's Department, what's the level
 19 of -- I mean, what would be the comparable position
 20 to an investigator in the Sheriff's Department?
 21 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: A Sheriff's officer.
 22 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, they don't really -- I
 23 mean, they have a Sheriff's detective, but I'm not
 24 sure what role the detective has.
 25 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: He doesn't have

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1 different pay. He doesn't have different pay.
 2 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: What's the --
 3 MR. ANTUN: It's a different -- it's a
 4 different category all together.
 5 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: They're apples
 6 and oranges.
 7 MR. ANTUN: Yes, exactly.
 8 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: If we were gonna do a
 9 comparable, what would be the comparison?
 10 MR. ANTUN: I'm sorry. Repeat the
 11 question.
 12 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: If I took the two law
 13 enforcement agencies and I asked you to compare these
 14 positions of investigators, which we have been told
 15 today that is the funding, with the Sheriff's
 16 Department, do we have the same situation at the
 17 Sheriff's Department, where we have to fund their
 18 position there?
 19 MR. ANTUN: I don't think you can
 20 compare them, Freeholder -- Mr. Chairman. They
 21 perform different functions.
 22 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: They're in different
 23 funding.
 24 MR. ANTUN: Yeah.
 25 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: The Sheriff's office

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1 is a civil service position, also.
 2 I think the general statement that
 3 Chairman Munoz was trying to ascertain, for example,
 4 the Sheriff's department in the state, where does the
 5 Sheriff's Department rank? Is that what you mean?
 6 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: No, I'm trying to look
 7 for a comparable. Let me explain the reason that I
 8 want to give you. I want to make sure that if we do
 9 all the funding to one law enforcement agency and we
 10 don't have money for another... so I think we should
 11 have a level here. Do you understand my question?
 12 MR. ANTUN: Freeholder, each department
 13 comes to us with their needs and we evaluate their
 14 needs. We don't -- we don't pit one against the
 15 other.
 16 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: No. No. No. I'm not
 17 saying that. But are we doing the funding for the
 18 Sheriff's Department, too, when it comes to...
 19 MR. ANTUN: I don't think we are, but
 20 let the Sheriff speak -- let the Sheriff address that
 21 when he comes before you.
 22 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Again, my only point
 23 is -- and I'm gonna be consistent with every
 24 department. My position will be two-fold. One, to
 25 rollback vacancies as I laid out, and leave it to the

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1 department to work with the administrator how that's
 2 accomplished. I think that will save over a million
 3 dollars. The second is to effectuate a countywide 5
 4 percent cut in other expenses. I asked for ten and
 5 20. Ten was three and a half million, 20 was seven
 6 million. The year's gonna be half over, so as much
 7 as I'd like to do ten or 20, I recognize the reality
 8 of what happens when you spend half the money before
 9 you get a chance to save any of it.
 10 I do think five is a reasonable,
 11 equitable way to do it. I'm gonna request that that
 12 be done as a 5 percent across-the-board for everyone.
 13 But as I met with the administrator yesterday, I
 14 certainly would be reasonable and open to effectuate
 15 a comparable cut. Maybe some are cut by ten or 20,
 16 and some are not cut at all. Recognizing the need
 17 you may have, and understanding that you may have,
 18 within certain departments, contractual obligations
 19 within that department that exist, that make -- that
 20 make 5 percent cuts -- Meaning, you automatically are
 21 gonna have to do budget transfers come November, just
 22 because you know the contracts for that department
 23 already equal whatever.
 24 But I think within that, the ability to
 25 cut a -- the ability to achieve a 5 percent overall

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1 cut in other expenses, which is 1.75 million, a cut
 2 here of rollbacks of the mandated positions that are
 3 not filled, and then the elimination of a few
 4 positions as -- as I outlined to the administration,
 5 which will be permanent savings, those two, I
 6 believe, will be able to get us about \$3 million in
 7 cuts.
 8 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Mr. Chairman, I have
 9 a question.
 10 Gene, quick question. Right now there's
 11 a vacancy. There's no first assistant; right?
 12 MR. RUBINO: There's no first assistant.
 13 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: In Duncan Avenue,
 14 what's the time frame of closing there?
 15 MR. RUBINO: I don't know. That's
 16 something that --
 17 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Will that be -- will
 18 there be a savings by the move, Mr. Administrator?
 19 MR. ANTUN: It would save in the sense
 20 that we wouldn't need that building and it would be a
 21 better utilization. That facility that the
 22 investigators are in, it's not adequate; however, at
 23 Meadowview, where they would be occupying, we may
 24 have to make some modifications to address their
 25 particular needs. As Gene indicated, there's labs

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1 and other types of things, the Special Victim's Unit
 2 and things like that that we would have to consult
 3 with them.
 4 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: The reason that we
 5 couldn't bring it back to 595, there's not enough
 6 room?
 7 MR. RUBINO: There's no room. Quite
 8 frankly, it's very tight on the 5th and 6th floors
 9 already. And for investigative purposes, we need an
 10 off-site facility. That just would not be conducive
 11 in the building.
 12 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Thank you.
 13 And 830 Bergen, we have nothing going
 14 there; right?
 15 MR. ANTUN: No, they're not going in
 16 there.
 17 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Any other questions for
 18 the Prosecutor's Office?
 19 So we're finished with the Prosecutor's
 20 Office. We're going to call the Sheriff's
 21 Department.
 22 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Introduce
 23 yourself.
 24 MR. TAINO: Robert Taino, secretary to
 25 the Sheriff.

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1 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Can we first verify
 2 that no one here is on overtime from any of these
 3 departments. That we're not paying anyone overtime
 4 that are at the budget hearing.
 5 My position clearly is, you have 20-some
 6 odd positions all funded for six months with
 7 approximately \$400,000 in salaries for vacant
 8 positions. My position is gonna be to cut that
 9 amount by approximately a third. So instead of
 10 400,000, in round numbers, you'd be left with 270,000
 11 to do whatever you want. So if you're putting all
 12 academy recruits in and you can't fill any security
 13 guards or part-time security guards or management,
 14 specialists, you know, at the end of the day -- or a
 15 supervisor, safety operator, you would still have the
 16 flexibility to determine how to do it. But that's
 17 what my proposal is gonna be.
 18 And of those 27 positions, one, two,
 19 three, four, five -- nine are at academy -- listed as
 20 academy recruits out of the 27. So I think you would
 21 be able -- I don't know whether or not you're
 22 proposing to put a class in July 1. But if you were,
 23 I think you could easily do that and still live
 24 within the means of what -- of those cuts. And in a
 25 shocking way, in my opinion, the cost for an academy

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1 recruit for six months is actually less than the cost
 2 of a security guard. So if you put more academy
 3 recruits and less security guards, you actually save
 4 money. For every six months of an academy recruit,
 5 it would cost us \$10,000. A security guard is
 6 \$13,000. So I think nothing of what I'm proposing
 7 will preclude you from being able to put those nine
 8 recruits into the academy.
 9 My only other question would be: How
 10 are your current overtime numbers vis-a-vis what is
 11 budgeted for?
 12 MR. TAINO: We seem to be doing -- we
 13 were doing a lot better for the first six pays. But
 14 with the advent of the closure of the Pulaski Skyway
 15 and court-mandated court hour changes, our overtime
 16 is going to escalate somewhat.
 17 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: And why is that?
 18 MR. TAINO: Well, they changed their
 19 hours, and we were getting an awful lot of court
 20 people coming in earlier and it requires a longer
 21 length of more officers on duty, as opposed to 4:00
 22 or 4:30, when the courts would normally close.
 23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So we need to have a
 24 meeting, Mr. Administrator. This is the unintended
 25 consequence of, quite frankly, the skyway closing,

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1 that has proven, to date, to be a myth. It has
 2 proven to be a myth from the beginning to today. And
 3 today was one of the big days, 'cause rain would
 4 flood highways and people couldn't travel, and
 5 traveling was as smooth as it's ever been. But we
 6 need to sit down and revisit it 'cause one, we need
 7 to understand from the assignment judge why we're now
 8 going to have all this additional overtime.
 9 We were told, Mr. Administrator, you
 10 were just simply switching the shift of officers from
 11 whatever it was, 8:30 to 4:30, to 10:00 to 6:00. So
 12 now we're finding out it's creating a recurring
 13 overtime issue. We need to sit down and understand
 14 exactly what that is.
 15 MR. ANTUN: I don't disagree. When we
 16 met with the assignment judge and the Sheriff, I
 17 thought that's what was gonna happen. But I can't
 18 address why that hasn't happened.
 19 In terms of the Pulaski issue and the
 20 court hours, the judge indicated to me that he would
 21 be flexible with that so that if there's a situation
 22 where if it doesn't become an issue, that I think
 23 he would -- he's willing to revisit that issue.
 24 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: You said that
 25 because of the Pulaski revision and the court hours

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1 that the Sheriff's officers that are on court duty
 2 have to come in earlier?
 3 A SPEAKER: You want me to explain that?
 4 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Sure.
 5 A SPEAKER: The county administrator is
 6 correct that the judge said that he would revisit the
 7 whole situation after a few weeks. We're gonna see
 8 how it affects the court. But number one, they
 9 changed the court hours. Number two, we still have
 10 to pick the prisoners up at the same time in the
 11 morning, 6:30, because we get back by 9:30. If they
 12 go any later, we won't get the prisoners back in time
 13 for court. But Undersheriff Lamparello, who's in
 14 charge of the court roll, could explain to you what
 15 all these additional posts are and where the overtime
 16 is.
 17 MR. LAMPARELLO: Bruce Lamparello.
 18 I talked to the assignment judge today.
 19 The county administrator is right. He is gonna
 20 reevaluate it. It's been uneventful to notice of
 21 traffic. Unfortunately, we had a delay from the 1st
 22 to the 12th, so that puts it again two weeks in the
 23 hole. Because we had to notify Judge Grant, who runs
 24 all the courthouses in the state of New Jersey, and
 25 Judge Bariso, who runs the courthouse in Hudson

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1 County, permission to open later.
 2 It automatically sounds -- when you say
 3 we open later, instead of opening at 8:00, we're
 4 opening... well, there's still employees coming in,
 5 we still have prisoners. So in essence, although we
 6 open later, or when the delayed opening came, our day
 7 got longer. We wish it actually got longer for four
 8 more hours, 'cause then we could have a split shift.
 9 We could have an a.m. shift and a p.m. shift. All
 10 we're doing now is really extending everyone's hours
 11 for the coverage.
 12 I could entertain specific questions on
 13 the operation of services.
 14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So you're saying that
 15 Judge Bariso's decision has incurred how much per pay
 16 period in additional overtime?
 17 MR. LAMPARELLO: For the first six-week
 18 period of this year, and then the six-week period we
 19 just looked at, starting on 3/3, almost \$100,000 for
 20 a month just on Newark Avenue.
 21 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: A month?
 22 MR. LAMPARELLO: Yes, sir.
 23 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Mr. Administrator,
 24 this is the first I've heard of it.
 25 MR. LAMPARELLO: I understand from Judge

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1 Bariso, he appeared before all you gentlemen at a
 2 Freeholders meeting and said that there'd be
 3 additional charges.
 4 Once again, this is not up to Judge
 5 Bariso's call. Judge Bariso defends it because this
 6 is security mandated by the state. We have to have
 7 three officers in every courtroom. We have to have
 8 only 88 prisoners in the building due to the fire
 9 code. On Mondays and Fridays, we have 175 prisoners
 10 in the building. That requires multiple trips on a
 11 bus that only takes 31 people.
 12 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Hold on. You had
 13 that before the skyway closed.
 14 MR. LAMPARELLO: Correct.
 15 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So you're saying the
 16 skyway closing is resulting in a \$50,000 per pay
 17 period additional overtime?
 18 MR. LAMPARELLO: No, about 25,000 in a
 19 two-week period.
 20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: You said 100,000 a
 21 month.
 22 MR. LAMPARELLO: Six weeks. A six-week
 23 period.
 24 A SPEAKER: Mr. Taino will give you the
 25 exact figure.

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1 MR. LAMPARELLO: We have exact figures.
 2 We have additional posts, too, just
 3 because of the skyway. Talking about specifics, on
 4 Five Corners in front of Pavonia Avenue, we now have
 5 a detail there from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at night.
 6 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Why?
 7 MR. LAMPARELLO: To help with the
 8 traffic conditions --
 9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: What traffic
 10 conditions?
 11 MR. LAMPARELLO: -- of the pedestrians
 12 crossing the streets.
 13 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: What traffic
 14 conditions?
 15 MR. LAMPARELLO: The judge insisted that
 16 because of the delayed opening, and people -- the
 17 employees of Hudson County, as well as the people who
 18 come to the courthouse, the civilians, the
 19 defendants, the attorneys, other litigants who leave
 20 the building at 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, have a right to
 21 security in the crosswalks during bad weather,
 22 delayed hours.
 23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Well, why didn't they
 24 have right to security before? What has changed?
 25 MR. LAMPARELLO: It was the delayed

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1 hours.

2 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: What does the delayed

3 hours mean?

4 MR. LAMPARELLO: That people would be on

5 the street later at night, especially in the winter

6 months where it would be darker.

7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Well, right now it's

8 not dark.

9 MR. LAMPARELLO: Right.

10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So right now it's

11 not -- it's not dark until 8:00 at night. So that

12 position by the assignment judge is ridiculous.

13 MR. LAMPARELLO: Well, with the

14 exception of --

15 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: If it was winter --

16 MR. LAMPARELLO: No. No. It's not,

17 Freeholder. I take exception to that. First, you're

18 not a security expert. Second of all, you're a

19 Monday Morning Quarterback.

20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Well, first of all --

21 MR. LAMPARELLO: And third of all --

22 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Excuse me. Excuse

23 me.

24 MR. LAMPARELLO: I'm talking now.

25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Excuse me. Excuse

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1 me. Excuse me. I don't know what your expertise in

2 security is. I have a degree in criminal justice.

3 So with all deference --

4 MR. LAMPARELLO: Okay.

5 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: -- I have a very

6 good, extensive background in security,

7 Mr. Lamparello. So I take -- so I take deference --

8 I take deference with you telling me what background

9 I may have in security. I often question your

10 background in security as it relates to the amount of

11 money you spend in that court, but that will be a

12 discussion for a different day. And I also take

13 deference to the fact that we had to wait till a

14 budget hearing to find out that we're spending so

15 much money every pay period, and that you were

16 derelict in your duty in not notifying us as soon as

17 that occurred.

18 Now you can continue.

19 MR. LAMPARELLO: The security of the

20 courthouse is mandated by the state. By law, no one

21 at this table, including the Sheriff, has the control

22 of security. He is appointed by the assignment judge

23 by statute as the chief law enforcement officer for

24 the county, other than the prosecutor, of course,

25 which is appointed by the governor.

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1 Judge Bariso entertained a delayed

2 opening. He asked several hundred employees. I know

3 he entertained almost 550 confidential hearings with

4 employees, who explained to him concerns of child

5 care, of carpooling, of parking around Newark Avenue.

6 And lo and behold, safety and security: How they

7 feel walking around the streets, in the parking lot

8 during dark hours, late at night. This was written

9 down on multiple hard copies and expressed to us as

10 something that came out of his hearings of all these

11 employees.

12 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: But by your own

13 admission, it doesn't get dark now till 8:00 at night

14 and those individuals should all be gone by then.

15 But you still have vans stuck on Pavonia Avenue and

16 on Five Corners and Cook Street up till 6:30 at

17 night.

18 MR. LAMPARELLO: With the caveat being,

19 as we all started off, he promised to reevaluate it.

20 We had discussions just this week about reevaluating

21 it, and he said, Listen, two to three weeks more.

22 And I can't see us going with this uneventful skyway

23 closing, as you noted. He really is of the opinion

24 of changing it. We're already looking at cutting

25 back the outside shift from 8:00 to 7:00 because of

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1 the demands and -- or lack thereof. So he's very

2 sensitive of those concerns. But he has to weigh it

3 between the ideas of what the people are saying to

4 him.

5 And how do we handle the liability when

6 you have 2-, 3-, 400 employees saying, We're worried

7 to walk outside. We're worried about security. It's

8 in writing. It's given to him. Where's our due

9 diligence?

10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: They're probably

11 worried if it's 4:30, if it's 6:00, or if it's 6:30.

12 I guarantee you. I want to see those surveys and I

13 guarantee you their concern didn't start because they

14 got out at 6:15 instead of 5:15.

15 MR. LAMPARELLO: No, it was a common

16 theme that they were working later.

17 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: It's a common theme.

18 They're always worried about it. And you know what,

19 we're there many days at those hours. I think

20 it's -- I think it's -- unless it's backed up by

21 crime statistics --

22 MR. LAMPARELLO: Right.

23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: -- we shouldn't be

24 reacting to people's senses, we should react to the

25 reality. And if the reality of the assignment judge,

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1 with his background, and with a security expert like
 2 yourself, I think it would behoove you to investigate
 3 and gather from the Jersey City Police Department,
 4 the incidence of crime that may occur differently
 5 between the hours of 4:30 and 6:30, vis-a-vis the
 6 hours from 2:30 to 4:30, before we decide to stick
 7 overtime units on four or five different street
 8 corners. 'Cause that's, when I went to school, was
 9 the way we would look at something. Not look at what
 10 people's sense was and to create a sense of
 11 security -- or a false sense of security.
 12 What we would do, and I think you would
 13 probably agree, Mr. Lamparello, that you would
 14 analyze and look at the statistics of when those
 15 incidences (sic) occur and if those incidences (sic)
 16 show that crime occurs during that 4:30 to 6:30 hour.
 17 And I have to tell you, there are still thousands and
 18 thousands of individuals returning home from New York
 19 and other parts of this county, walking home from
 20 Journal Square, past that area until 7:30, 8:00 at
 21 night, while it's still light. We never had those
 22 units stuck on those corners before.
 23 What I would ask you is, what -- in the
 24 weeks they've been there, what have they done? How
 25 many arrests have they made? How many incidents have

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1 occurred? What was the incidences (sic) of crime on
 2 those corners for the -- for the months before, at
 3 that period of hours in the day, and what are those
 4 incidences (sic) in a six-week period? I wanna look
 5 at statistics+
 6 . I don't wanna react to somebody saying -- you know
 7 what, if I asked -- if I asked people, If you live
 8 seven blocks away, would you like to have a policeman
 9 on every street corner? You know what they're gonna
 10 say? Yes. Yes. I would love to have one. But we
 11 can't afford to do it and the reality is that the
 12 incidence of offenses that occur during that period
 13 of time in no way, shape or form, justify that type
 14 of an expenditure.
 15 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Mr. Sheriff, just a
 16 couple of things. Is there traffic control devices
 17 at each of the locations that we're speaking about?
 18 A SPEAKER: With all due respect to all
 19 the members of the Board, by state statute, the
 20 Sheriff is under the control of the assignment judge.
 21 We make recommendations. You should have this
 22 meeting with the assignment judge. We've made
 23 recommendations, what we think should happen. By law
 24 and statute, I have to take direction from the
 25 assignment judge.

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1 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: And you provided
 2 us --
 3 A SPEAKER: So don't blame us --
 4 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: -- recommendations?
 5 A SPEAKER: Don't blame us for the
 6 overtime.
 7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: And all I want you to
 8 do is provide me your recommendations in the way you
 9 disagree with him.
 10 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: We never heard about
 11 this. Since January, nobody came and tell us, Look,
 12 we're gonna have to spend so much money.
 13 A SPEAKER: We've all had meetings with
 14 the judge.
 15 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I wasn't at any
 16 meeting. I wasn't.
 17 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: This is the place where
 18 we should have --
 19 A SPEAKER: We all had meetings.
 20 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: My question isn't
 21 about the authority. My question is, for example,
 22 like with Edgar Martinez's deal. Pavonia Avenue, in
 23 those locations, Jersey City Street to Academy
 24 Street, wouldn't the Jersey City PD be the one, then,
 25 that's gotta pay the overtime?

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1 MR. LAMPARELLO: It is city streets, but
 2 we prefer that we stay continuous to the Hudson
 3 County Courthouse on our curbs.
 4 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Five Corners?
 5 MR. LAMPARELLO: We're on at five -- no,
 6 not the Five Corners, on Pavonia. On Sip and Summit.
 7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: You said Five
 8 Corners.
 9 MR. LAMPARELLO: One block the other
 10 way. The other Five Corners. But it's not the real
 11 Five Corners like we all know.
 12 A SPEAKER: We're all gonna meet with
 13 the assignment judge again and we're gonna give him
 14 our recommendations since this started, and I think
 15 changes can be made.
 16 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: But we're spending
 17 money for this.
 18 A SPEAKER: Excuse me?
 19 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Didn't we spend the
 20 money for this?
 21 A SPEAKER: Yeah, but it's out of my
 22 control.
 23 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yeah, but we will have
 24 known before. Then we will have talked to the judge
 25 and come to a conclusion and we don't have a

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1 discussion tonight. This is what I get so angry
 2 with, you know. We are the Board of Freeholders. We
 3 get elected to do our job. But if we don't get the
 4 right information, nobody let us know everything,
 5 then how can we do our job? And then we get blamed.
 6 We have to go on a budget? That raises taxes in your
 7 community. So how do you expect us to do our job --
 8 A SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman --
 9 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: How do you expect us to
 10 do our job if you don't give us the information?
 11 A SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, I don't work
 12 for the Freeholders; okay.
 13 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yeah, but you expect to
 14 be funded through the budget of the Freeholders.
 15 A SPEAKER: The county administrator has
 16 been at the meetings. We've had meetings. And the
 17 county administrator, with all due respect, should
 18 inform the Freeholders what's going on.
 19 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: You may not work for
 20 us, but right now, we control the budget and right
 21 now, we have the right to make cuts to a budget, and
 22 those cuts --
 23 A SPEAKER: I understand that. But you
 24 gotta understand where we get our direction from
 25 also.

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1 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I think,
 2 Mr. Administrator, the first thing, it should return
 3 to a regular 8:00 to 4:00 hour day. I think that's
 4 the crux of the problem. That gets -- and then it
 5 gets everyone off the hook. I think that should be
 6 immediate. There's no traffic nightmare occurring.
 7 There's already 52 Jersey City police officers on
 8 overtime outside --
 9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: No. No. They're not
 10 on overtime. Get your facts straight. They're on
 11 extra duty assignment.
 12 And here's what's interesting about
 13 this. In all the discussions that took place, some
 14 of which I was involved in, I've met -- I've met on
 15 more than one occasion with Commissioner Simpson;
 16 okay? I was in a meeting with Commissioner Simpson
 17 when I pushed for some of those officers to be
 18 assigned, and was able to get them in my -- within
 19 areas of my district to assist with traffic flow. I
 20 was able to get a street repaved in five days by
 21 Commissioner Simpson.
 22 Where the hell was the assignment judge?
 23 Where the hell was the county administrator? Where
 24 the hell was Mr. Lamparello, in getting a seat at
 25 that table, to point out why these intersections also

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1 were gonna be impacted by what was occurring with the
 2 skyway closing? Where we could have got extra duty
 3 officers, Sheriff's officers, paid by the Department
 4 of Transportation the way the City of Jersey City has
 5 52 officers, 52 officers being paid not only in the
 6 afternoon. They're paid from 6:00 to 10:00, they're
 7 paid from 3:00 to 7:00. Where were you?
 8 Why weren't you at the meeting? Why
 9 wasn't the county executive, who sits on the North
 10 Jersey Transportation Authority, demanding at those
 11 meetings that these posts be covered and paid and
 12 reimbursed, the same way that Mayor Fulop was able to
 13 sit down at that meeting, and myself, and others, and
 14 demand that our areas be covered? Shame. Shame.
 15 Shame.
 16 A SPEAKER: Freeholder, nobody invited
 17 the Sheriff's office to any meetings. Otherwise, we
 18 would have gave our input.
 19 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I invited myself.
 20 A SPEAKER: Oh.
 21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I invited myself.
 22 Don't be shy, Sheriff. You've never been shy. I'll
 23 give you right now the cell number of the DOT
 24 commissioner and you, the county executive
 25 representative, and the assignment judge should call

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1 him tomorrow. Because I got 52 cops in Jersey City.
 2 I got 'em on Communipaw, I got 'em on Duncan, I got
 3 'em on Communipaw and 440, Communipaw and West Side.
 4 I got -- man, it's the safest -- talk about feelin'
 5 safe. You wanna come down and have a walk? Walk
 6 your dog? Come down along Communipaw Avenue. It's
 7 the safest area you could walk anywhere. We have a
 8 cop on every corner for eight hours a day. It's
 9 lovely, and we're not payin' for it.
 10 But it bothers me that we couldn't make
 11 the argument that those other intersections are
 12 equally as important to the flow of traffic. Traffic
 13 will flow through those areas. Cars that are coming
 14 through ways to get to the Holland Tunnel, clearly
 15 would come through the Five Corners area in order to
 16 avoid the backup along the highway there. Those
 17 intersections that you argue, those two intersections
 18 are clearly intersections that that argument could
 19 have been made for, and still can be made.
 20 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Someone made a
 21 point a few minutes ago about the courthouse hours
 22 changed, but the transportation to and from the jail,
 23 of prisoners, stayed the same. Why is that?
 24 MR. LAMPARELLO: Yeah, Mr. Freeholder,
 25 the jail goes down for a count so you can't move any

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1 prisoners. That last count, I think, is 6:00 or
 2 6:30.
 3 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: So the problem is
 4 on the back end.
 5 MR. LAMPARELLO: So first come, first
 6 served. We're their biggest customer. And if Bergen
 7 County gets in front of us...
 8 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: It's a domino
 9 effect. I get it.
 10 MR. LAMPARELLO: And I hate to say it,
 11 at 7:00 -- at 8:30, when they're coming back -- and I
 12 followed that routine because I had to do
 13 surveillance work. It takes them 45 minutes to an
 14 hour to come from Kearny to there.
 15 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: First of all, could I
 16 suggest that you start -- can I first suggest you
 17 start taking Fish House Road and see if you could cut
 18 your time? You come in off Communipaw to Duncan?
 19 MR. LAMPARELLO: Right.
 20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: You're going into the
 21 heart of where all that traffic is. Could I suggest
 22 that you at least -- you at least look at trying to
 23 go the Fish House Road way and beating some of that
 24 traffic, and then come straight up Newark Avenue?
 25 'Cause once you get over that one bridge, you should

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1 have clear sailing. 'Cause most of your traffic is
 2 bearing to the left to go to the Holland Tunnel.
 3 You're going straight up to Newark Avenue. Why don't
 4 you try that, 'cause I look at that all the time.
 5 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Yeah,
 6 Mr. Administrator, I would recommend that clearly,
 7 from what the testimony has been, that that 100,000
 8 has been incurred as a result of this overtime on
 9 intersections that obviously have been impacted with
 10 that traffic flow --
 11 MR. LAMPARELLO: And extended court
 12 hours. Not just -- I want to make sure --
 13 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: I would -- I
 14 would recommend that those -- and it may be too late.
 15 But that we at least try to see if we can get DOT to
 16 reimburse us for these costs. Make our case to them.
 17 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: And if we may, we
 18 have the district commander here, Captain Martinez.
 19 Are those intersections -- were they
 20 ID'd as overtime intersections originally, and nobody
 21 notified the Sheriff? How would we find that out,
 22 Captain?
 23 CAPTAIN MARTINEZ: You would have to
 24 contact the department -- the DOT, Mr. Simpson, and
 25 he'll give you the information.

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1 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: So that's how that's
 2 ascertained, when an intersection is deemed in need
 3 of an officer; correct? So that's strategic
 4 planning?
 5 CAPTAIN MARTINEZ: Locally, what the
 6 Jersey City Police Department did, was the district
 7 commanders did an analysis with community input and
 8 so forth. We put a package together and it was
 9 presented to the Department of Transportation, and
 10 that's how we came about this 51 locations.
 11 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Captain, the
 12 intersections they're referencing in the courthouse
 13 area, is that the north district or the east
 14 district?
 15 CAPTAIN MARTINEZ: That's the north.
 16 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: North. And in
 17 your evaluations and your recommendations of areas,
 18 were these covered?
 19 CAPTAIN MARTINEZ: We can only make a
 20 certain amount of recommendations, and we were
 21 concerned with the Heights area that was not even
 22 considered. So we focused on that area. Journal
 23 Square should have been part of it, but the DOT
 24 didn't allow us to have -- they only allowed us to
 25 have a certain amount of posts.

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1 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Captain, I'm not
 2 being critical, I'm just trying to see if the
 3 assignment judge and the Sheriff's office had
 4 discussions with you, as the district commander, with
 5 reference to a potential traffic impact?
 6 CAPTAIN MARTINEZ: No, they would
 7 have -- the DOT should have had a meeting with, not
 8 only Jersey City, but the county officials. I don't
 9 know whether or not they did that. They should have
 10 had that. They didn't, I assume. So that part of it
 11 should be taken up with the DOT.
 12 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Would there be a
 13 problem if you submit to the Freeholders an email on
 14 a monthly basis, the overtime for the Sheriff's
 15 Department and for the Hudson County Correctional
 16 Facility, so we could see how much is being spent on
 17 overtime in that pay period? Would that be an issue,
 18 that we could receive that every month?
 19 MR. ANTUN: Sure, I could send you what
 20 the total overtime is per pay period for both of
 21 those departments.
 22 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Okay. Then we will
 23 know when it's goes up or down, and we could have an
 24 idea.
 25 Any other questions for the Sheriff's

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1 Department?
 2 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Just so we -- did you
 3 prepare how to deal with the proposed rollback of
 4 vacancies?
 5 MR. BASELICE: With respect to -- Robert
 6 Baselice, chief of staff to the Sheriff.
 7 With respect to the overtime,
 8 Freeholder --
 9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: We'll deal with the
 10 overtime in a separate forum. The proposed rollback
 11 of your ability to fill vacancies that are laid out,
 12 can you just prepare a memo for how you would
 13 approach that?
 14 MR. BASELICE: We will. But in that
 15 number, Freeholder, I'd like you to take into
 16 consideration, when we lose an officer, whether they
 17 retire or they move out, it's at a much higher level
 18 than that 20,000. You're correct.
 19 For purposes of us trying to accommodate
 20 the overtime, it was suggested last year and with
 21 anticipation with right now we currently have 14
 22 officers that are out, whether it be injury, et
 23 cetera, and 13 that are vacant and reenlisted to come
 24 back. For purposes of that, we're gonna come under
 25 the number because, let's say they leave at 50,000,

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1 and there's 20 officers. And now we have to rehire
 2 some of those officers at that 20,000. There's gonna
 3 be a savings accrued in dollars in the amount from
 4 the officers that are leaving. So this is a
 5 substantial --
 6 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So if we cut
 7 \$130,000, it shouldn't be a big deal to you.
 8 MR. BASELICE: I'm hoping it isn't. We
 9 just want to be able to not come in with a high
 10 overtime number. And what I wanted to speak to, is
 11 what's occurring right now after the first pay
 12 period. We are at 9.33 percent. If we go the same
 13 way at the end of the year, we're gonna be under the
 14 budget by 9.33 percent for the overall overtime. And
 15 that's something you always asked us to do and we try
 16 to do that.
 17 There were discussions about revisiting,
 18 because the first two pay periods -- the first six
 19 pay periods was 14 percent. With the addition of the
 20 hours for the Pulaski Skyway, it increased. The
 21 Sheriff had a meeting with us and we were gonna bring
 22 this to everyone and say, Listen, traffic isn't what
 23 we thought it was gonna be and maybe we need to
 24 revisit it. And everybody had those discussions. So
 25 I want you to know that it hasn't -- we're not not

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1 looking at it. We've been looking at it. But I will
 2 prepare the report.
 3 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: No, I think that's a
 4 discussion for next week's caucus meeting, and I
 5 think we need to engage the assignment judge and have
 6 him come to a meeting to discuss that. I'll gladly
 7 share the DOT commissioner's cell number. He's very,
 8 very responsive. I give the gentleman a lot of
 9 credit. He responded.
 10 We had a traffic signal out, which is
 11 probably the worst traffic signal, which is 440 at
 12 the Hudson Mall, which is now where everybody -- you
 13 couldn't make a left, you had to come and make a
 14 U-turn. It's been out three times. He had a crew
 15 there within 20 minutes and they fixed it within 45
 16 minutes, and they stayed there through rush hour to
 17 make sure that it got done. So I would say that the
 18 DOT has been, you know, extremely supportive and
 19 responsive.
 20 What baffles me -- and I don't know
 21 whether it's the assignment judge, who to blame, but
 22 somebody missed the boat in not getting a seat at the
 23 table and demanding that these posts around the
 24 courthouse, that we're paying for with overtime,
 25 become part of either -- an off-duty (sic)

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1 assignment.
 2 And I'm sure that the Jersey City Police
 3 Department would have said, Hey, those are Jersey
 4 City streets, add them to our posts. And they would
 5 have put extra duty Jersey City police officers on
 6 those corners, which I think -- you know, which I
 7 think again -- which I think again, Mr. Lamparello,
 8 you know, one could argue from a pure law enforcement
 9 deterrent, et cetera, those Jersey City police
 10 officers, who are the ones that are empowered, and on
 11 a day-to-day basis patrol those areas, know those
 12 areas, would know, quite frankly, if somebody -- if
 13 somebody robbed somebody's purse there and ran, most
 14 of those officers would have more on-the-street
 15 experience in that area, knowing where they would run
 16 to, where they might go than the Sheriff's officers,
 17 who are assigned either to the court or assigned to,
 18 you know, park patrol or wherever they patrol.
 19 So from a security perspective, one
 20 would argue those officers may even be a better
 21 preventative and/or apprehensive tool, from what the
 22 concern of the assignment judge was, which is,
 23 Somebody's here and they get their purse snatched.
 24 Or somebody gets hit over the head or whatever.
 25 MR. BASELICE: Freeholder, it's possible

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1 that maybe we will engage the DOT again and maybe
 2 see. But again, if they chose to give us maybe some
 3 money, if they chose not to give us money and give it
 4 to Jersey City, however. But in the summer months
 5 where it's still light outside, that's fine. But in
 6 the winter months, some of the employees --
 7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I don't disagree with
 8 you. But in the winter months at 4:30 it's dark.
 9 And, you know, that should have been an issue we had
 10 for years. Right now, it doesn't get -- except when
 11 we got, you know, the monsoon comin' for 24 hours,
 12 it's light till 8:00. It's very light till 7:30 or
 13 8:00, and all of those individuals should be out of
 14 there by 7:30 at night.
 15 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: And if I may --
 16 MR. LAMPARELLO: Well, the courthouse
 17 doesn't close till 8:00 p.m.
 18 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: I recommend to
 19 the county administrator that those are the topics to
 20 the DOT in terms of possible reimbursement and
 21 possible usage of officers at those intersections.
 22 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: And also, I think
 23 the immediate request to return to a normal schedule.
 24 Instead of 10:00 to 6:00, 8:00 to 4:00. So it would
 25 be a big relief to everybody. And honestly,

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1 considering that you have a courthouse of such a
 2 large usage, that to be not considered -- the Sheriff
 3 being slighted, and not invited to sit at the table
 4 and figure out how it's gonna impact other court
 5 structures, is just wrong and that should have been
 6 addressed.
 7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: But listen, everyone
 8 knew these meetings were going on. Okay. Let's lay
 9 the reality of the facts on the table. There were
 10 multiple stories in the newspaper about what was
 11 occurring and what patrols the City of Jersey City
 12 was getting. If you want, I'll bring you those news
 13 stories.
 14 So if you were the assignment judge, or
 15 you ran the county government, or you ran the law
 16 enforcement agency, you can't say, Oh, we should have
 17 been invited to a meeting. You would have said, as
 18 soon as you read that in the paper, When's the next
 19 meeting? Mayor Fulop, when is the next meeting? I
 20 wanna be at that meeting. You would have went to the
 21 newspaper -- or I would have went to the newspaper
 22 and said, I wanna be at the next meeting. I wanna
 23 know why the DOT commissioner doesn't have us at that
 24 meeting, because we're incurring costs that we can't
 25 afford to pay. Nobody did it.

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1 Don't blame the DOT commissioner. He's
 2 been very accommodating as it relates to issues that
 3 were brought to his attention. Nobody bothered to
 4 bring it to his attention.
 5 A SPEAKER: Freeholder O'Dea, I just
 6 want to clarify one point in reference to the class
 7 of the Sheriff's office. All our patrol officers are
 8 very well-trained on the street. We do patrol all
 9 the county buildings outside, we have a post around
 10 the courthouse. We work hand-in-hand with Jersey
 11 City. We're on the phone and radio with them
 12 constantly. Somethin' goes on, they call us, we call
 13 them. We share information. So if there's a
 14 pocketbook snatched, we're all on the same page;
 15 okay? Not that my officers are not trained enough --
 16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I didn't say --
 17 A SPEAKER: -- or Jersey City's trained
 18 better. You could ask Captain --
 19 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I didn't say --
 20 A SPEAKER: 'Cause we work together
 21 constantly.
 22 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I didn't say -- okay.
 23 You should get the transcript and read it later
 24 instead of getting defensive. I didn't say you
 25 weren't trained. What I said is, on a day-to-day

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1 basis, your officers spend much less time in that
 2 area, patrolling that area, dealing with those
 3 incidence is because as you told me, as the
 4 administrator told me, your prime duty and
 5 responsibility is to provide security to the courts
 6 of the County of Hudson. That's all I said.
 7 I didn't say they're not trained. I
 8 didn't say they're not able. I'm just saying if I
 9 walk a beat every day for eight hours, I'm gonna
 10 better know, if somebody robs a purse, where they're
 11 gonna run to than an officer who is as equally
 12 well-trained as me and -- and went to the same
 13 academy that I did is gonna know, if they spend more
 14 of their time providing the security needed and
 15 required in the county courthouse. That's all I
 16 said.
 17 It wasn't an aspersion in any way, shape
 18 or form on the Sheriff's officers. And please, don't
 19 have yourself or anyone go back to your members
 20 and -- and spread some kind of rumors like I had to
 21 deal with one of your other undersheriff's from one
 22 of the other meetings that I had.
 23 A SPEAKER: Freeholder, alls I'm saying
 24 is, since I've been Sheriff, we've had the constant
 25 patrol around the courthouse, on the streets, Central

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1 Avenue, the parking lots, all county lots, and our
 2 guys are well-trained. They patrol the street. They
 3 don't work in the courthouse, they only patrol the
 4 streets. They work with Jersey City, they were
 5 assigned with the Jersey City Street Crimes Unit.
 6 They're very well-trained in where people go in that
 7 area. And the same anywhere in Jersey City. We work
 8 with them constantly.
 9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: That's good to know.
 10 But when I asked to have a unit assigned to
 11 St. Paul's at the Boulevard, you told me, I don't
 12 have anybody. They're all in the court.
 13 A SPEAKER: No --
 14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Last week,
 15 Mr. Administrator, did I have to notify you that
 16 there was no patrol in Lincoln Park --
 17 MR. ANTUN: Yes.
 18 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: -- isn't that
 19 correct?
 20 MR. ANTUN: Yes.
 21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: And didn't we have to
 22 find out and get an officer assigned to patrol
 23 Lincoln Park? 'Cause not a single Sheriff's officer
 24 was patrolling that park during the same hours of the
 25 day that we're so concerned about individuals being

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1 able to walk from the court to the bus station in
 2 Journal Square.
 3 A SPEAKER: Let's get back to
 4 St. Paul's Avenue at the school where you requested a
 5 Sheriff's officer.
 6 I had a meeting with the Jersey City
 7 police chief and he told me the schools belong to
 8 Jersey City and he would take care of it. Not for us
 9 to get involved. That's why we weren't there.
 10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Did you ever tell me
 11 that?
 12 A SPEAKER: No, I didn't tell you that.
 13 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Why didn't you tell
 14 me?
 15 A SPEAKER: It must have slipped my
 16 mind.
 17 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: It slipped your mind.
 18 A SPEAKER: And there's a reason why
 19 nobody was in Lincoln Park, 'cause they were on
 20 calls; okay? We just don't leave the parks empty.
 21 A lot of demands are put on the
 22 Sheriff's office and we're very shorthanded right
 23 now. In the last month and a half, I had 13 officers
 24 resign to go to other departments. We're hiring 32
 25 people, we have 25 in the academy now. But as you

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1 know, the academy is six months. We're doin' the
 2 best we can do with the personnel we have.
 3 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Sheriff, all I'm --
 4 A SPEAKER: And more officers have been
 5 assigned to the courthouse than ever before. That's
 6 why we're short.
 7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I know that, and I
 8 share your frustration with that. But what I'm
 9 saying is, now my park, which I'm gonna -- I'm gonna
 10 venture has as many incidences (sic) in and around
 11 it, that area, as the area for a one-block walk from
 12 the bus to the building, where you've got thousands
 13 of people walking, as opposed to a park and the area
 14 around it.
 15 Now, look, Communipaw is pretty safe,
 16 like I said. I've gotta cop -- I got three or four
 17 cops on 440 and West Side, you know. I don't
 18 think -- people are afraid to jaywalk there now,
 19 there's so many policemen there. I got 'em on
 20 Mallory; I got 'em on West Side; I got 'em on the
 21 Boulevard. But none of them are gonna go in the
 22 park, they're stuck on that -- they're stuck on that
 23 extra duty thing unless there's a shooting or a
 24 serious violent crime. They're not leavin' those
 25 posts there.

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1 And when I get calls from
 2 constituents -- my constituents call me. They don't
 3 call your office. Somebody's jogging in that park
 4 and they don't see a patrol car the entire time they
 5 run that park, they call me. And to the credit of
 6 the administrator, he's there till 7:00 at night. I
 7 call him. I'm not saying -- I'm not saying there
 8 aren't instances where that occurs, but I gotta tell
 9 you, you know, there are a lot of times that they're
 10 not there.
 11 Now, sometimes -- sometimes they're
 12 great. One day -- I should have took the officer's
 13 name. He helped me move all of the wooden horses
 14 when the city decided to shut Communipaw, when they
 15 had no right to do it. And to his credit, I said,
 16 Come on, help me out. We just moved the wooden
 17 horses out of the way. He was right there, right in
 18 the area patrolling. He was very helpful. I'm not
 19 saying they're never there and not doing their job.
 20 A SPEAKER: I just want to let you know
 21 that at the end of this month, I'm getting a class
 22 graduating out of the academy, and more people will
 23 be transferred to patrol, and you'll see more
 24 officers in Lincoln Park and all the parks.
 25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Thank you very much.

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1 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Okay. Any other
2 questions for the Sheriff's Department?
3 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Thank you.
4 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Thank you.
5 Emergency Management.
6 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I have one simple
7 question. The position of County Emergency
8 Management Planning, is that funded out of a grant or
9 is that funded out of the general operations?
10 MR. WOODS: James Woods, Office of
11 Emergency Management Coordinator.
12 The position that's vacant, you're
13 speaking of?
14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yeah, Emergency
15 Management Planning. Is that funded out of a grant
16 or is that funded out of general operations?
17 MR. WOODS: That's funded out of the
18 general operations.
19 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: That's the only
20 question. Thank you.
21 And how long has that been vacant for?
22 MR. ANTUN: Freeholder, that was the
23 position that was held by Mr. Woods before he became
24 the coordinator. So it's been vacant since the point
25 that Mr. Woods became the coordinator.

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1 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: How long ago was
2 that?
3 MR. ANTUN: Probably a year now.
4 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: He's doing such a
5 good job, give him a few more dollars. He can save
6 for his retirement. Thank you.
7 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Is there a list
8 for that or --
9 MR. WOODS: It's not a civil service
10 position.
11 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Okay.
12 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Board of Elections.
13 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Harper, I don't
14 know if you have any vacant positions?
15 MR. HARPER: I do not.
16 Michael Harper, County Board of
17 Elections.
18 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: The question was:
19 Were there any vacant positions in your office?
20 MR. HARPER: No, there are not.
21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I don't have any
22 questions.
23 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Any questions?
24 Next.
25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I only have one

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1 question for Mr. Wazowski. Your office currently
2 shows five vacant positions. They are being proposed
3 to only be funded for three months. I am suggesting
4 that two of those five positions be eliminated, which
5 would be, out of the \$31,000 vacancy amount, reduced
6 by \$13,000.
7 Will the superintendent of elections'
8 office be able to function if we only fill three of
9 those five positions for the remaining three months?
10 That's my simple question.
11 MR. WAZOWSKI: John Wazowski, deputy
12 superintendent of elections, Hudson County.
13 Freeholder, you're saying that we have
14 five vacant positions --
15 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.
16 MR. WAZOWSKI: -- and you wish to cut
17 two of those five?
18 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.
19 MR. WAZOWSKI: And you want to save how
20 much in dollars?
21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Thirteen thousand out
22 of 31,000 in vacancy money you have in your account.
23 MR. WAZOWSKI: I will bring that back to
24 the superintendent. Anything else?
25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: No, that's all I had.

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1 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Are they critical
2 positions within those five?
3 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: As it is now, they're
4 only funded for three months. So I'm suggesting that
5 you eliminate two of the five for that three months
6 because the three-month period is not -- I'm not
7 proposing to roll three months back. So the only way
8 I can make cuts in those areas is eliminate the
9 potential for those positions.
10 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: And the question
11 to be asked is: How long have they been vacant?
12 MR. WAZOWSKI: Well, varying degrees.
13 For instance, we had two employees that were deceased
14 this year, unfortunately. John Higgins and Bob
15 Kennedy.
16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I don't think John
17 Higgins is reflected in this; right, Mr.
18 Administrator? I think John Higgins passed post to
19 this budget meeting.
20 MR. ANTUN: He should be in here.
21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: He's in your actual
22 budget, but he's not one of them.
23 MR. ANTUN: Right.
24 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: These are like entry
25 level, \$24,000 job titles.

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1 MR. WAZOWSKI: Oh, okay. The entry
 2 level, 24,000 --
 3 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Right.
 4 MR. WAZOWSKI: -- you're suggesting that
 5 we cut two of those five.
 6 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Two of the five.
 7 MR. WAZOWSKI: In other words, not fill
 8 two of those five vacancies.
 9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Correct. You'll be
 10 able to fill three out of five in September.
 11 MR. WAZOWSKI: I personally do not see a
 12 problem with that, Freeholder.
 13 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Okay.
 14 MR. WAZOWSKI: But, of course, I have to
 15 bring that back to the superintendent for her
 16 approval. But I personally will bring that back.
 17 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Thank you. That was
 18 my only question.
 19 MR. WAZOWSKI: Anything else?
 20 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Any other question?
 21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: No.
 22 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: No.
 23 MR. WAZOWSKI: Thank you.
 24 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Thank you.
 25 Oh, I have one quick question. How many

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1 inspectors are you gonna have throughout the calendar
 2 year for this election now in June?
 3 MR. WAZOWSKI: Unfortunately, due to the
 4 untimely deceasing of John Higgins and a little while
 5 back, Tom Kennedy, we're now down to 12
 6 investigators. And the mayoral election, which we
 7 have three municipalities involved, the 12 will be
 8 able to cover that.
 9 For the countywide primary and general
 10 election this year, we're gonna be a little bit tight
 11 for Election Day. And the investigators have to take
 12 on additional duties on a daily basis to pick up the
 13 slack for those two.
 14 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Now, do we have the --
 15 do we have the power to hire part-time...
 16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Special deputies?
 17 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Special deputies for
 18 that election?
 19 MR. WAZOWSKI: The superintendent does
 20 have that within her power. And what we have done in
 21 the past, just to let you know, Freeholders, we have
 22 taken people from the staff who we have cross-trained
 23 in that field. And we have done it almost on every
 24 other election basis. Whenever we are really busy.
 25 And we have two or three that we can take right from

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1 the office. So before we go down that road to hire
 2 other people, I think we could see how we could do
 3 within our own organization.
 4 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Can you train me? I
 5 was gonna volunteer.
 6 MR. WAZOWSKI: I think that's a conflict
 7 of interest for you, I believe.
 8 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: We've got a whole
 9 lot of contested elections from the primary, so you
 10 can concentrate your efforts in those districts that
 11 are contested.
 12 MR. WAZOWSKI: As always, Freeholder, we
 13 will do that, as been our plan. But sometimes things
 14 come up on Election Day, unanticipated things, where
 15 we have to send more people than we anticipated to a
 16 different area.
 17 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Okay. I
 18 understand.
 19 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Thank you.
 20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Chairman, I have to
 21 excuse myself.
 22 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Motion to close?
 23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: No. No. The public
 24 is speaking. But I have to excuse myself. I have
 25 two other meetings to attend.

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1 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: So we're gonna --
 2 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: But I will get a copy
 3 of the transcript and read all of the public
 4 comments.
 5 MR. SANTOS: The record will show that
 6 Freeholder O'Dea left at 7:43. And this portion of
 7 the meeting, the committee meeting, will be opened to
 8 the public.
 9 (Freeholder O'Dea exits.)
 10 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: We're gonna allow five
 11 minutes.
 12 MR. SANTOS: Any member of the public
 13 may address the Board on the 2014 county budget.
 14 Please remember to limit your comments to five
 15 minutes.
 16 MR. COHEN: Phil Cohen. First, I'd like
 17 to thank the Freeholders for holding this meeting in
 18 Hoboken. Something that you did last year as well.
 19 I hope this tradition will continue, going forward.
 20 It's critically important, both to give you an
 21 opportunity to directly hear the concerns of your
 22 constituents, and to give us, the members of the
 23 public, an opportunity to see our county government
 24 at work.
 25 When I received my tax bill this year, I

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1 noticed, as I'm sure my neighbors did, that the
 2 single largest item on my tax bill was my county
 3 taxes, and I started asking questions. And I learned
 4 that over the last few years, Hoboken's county taxes
 5 have been rising much faster than Hoboken's municipal
 6 or school taxes, and Hudson County's taxes are now
 7 the largest tax burden that Hoboken taxpayers face.
 8 I learned that in the last four years,
 9 when so many people in so many families and so many
 10 government bodies were tightening their belts, that
 11 Hudson County had increased its tax levy by nearly 20
 12 percent. Just look at the proposed budget that
 13 you're being asked to vote on now. The proposed
 14 increase in the county levy, while still a work in
 15 progress, looks like it will, once again, be almost 4
 16 percent. And for Hoboken and Jersey City residents,
 17 the increased burden will be even higher.
 18 Rising property values are increasing
 19 their proportion of the tax burden borne by Hoboken
 20 and Jersey City residents without increasing the
 21 county services that we receive. In the current
 22 budget, it looks like Jersey City's taxpayers will be
 23 required to pay about 7 percent more in county taxes
 24 than they did last year, and Hoboken's taxpayers will
 25 be required to pay about 15 percent more county taxes

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1 than they did last year. But despite being asked to
 2 shoulder an ever-growing share of the load, we are
 3 not receiving more county services in exchange.
 4 Now, I understand that cutting spending
 5 is hard, it requires difficult choices, and you're
 6 doing that work here tonight. Every year, things
 7 cost more than they did before, and we must pay for
 8 the services that we need, and deciding how to
 9 allocate the limited resources that we have is hard.
 10 Because there are never enough resources to go
 11 around. But if you don't have the right tools for
 12 the job, doing a hard job can be impossible. And I
 13 think I heard the Chairman express frustration
 14 tonight that he didn't have all the information that
 15 he needed to make the hard choices and get the
 16 information in a timely fashion so that you could do
 17 the job that you need to do through the budget
 18 process.
 19 We've seen how Hoboken and Jersey City
 20 and other Hudson County municipal administrations
 21 have taken a close look at their finances, evaluated
 22 their needs, eliminated inefficiencies and made the
 23 hard decisions necessary to stabilize their taxes. I
 24 believe the time has come for Hudson County to do the
 25 same. In order to help the Freeholders with the

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1 budget process in future years, I ask that the
 2 Freeholders' budget include funds for two important
 3 tasks that need to be performed promptly and that the
 4 results of those tasks be made available to the
 5 Freeholders and to the public.
 6 First, an independent performance audit
 7 to assess county operations. A performance audit
 8 will help provide the information you need to make
 9 sure that the staffing levels are appropriate and
 10 that county services are being delivered as
 11 efficiently as possible. Second, a study evaluating
 12 the distribution of county services among Hudson
 13 County municipalities. Such a study is necessary to
 14 make sure that Hoboken and Jersey City are receiving
 15 their fair share of county services.
 16 Now, we know that Hoboken and Jersey
 17 City are forced by the state-imposed equalization
 18 formula to bear a disproportionate share of our
 19 rising county taxes. We understand that. But we
 20 should not be asked to pay more in taxes year after
 21 year without receiving more services in return.
 22 Again, thank you for coming to Hoboken
 23 tonight, and thank you for giving me the opportunity
 24 to share my views.
 25 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Thank you.

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1 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Mr. Administrator,
 2 how does the reevaluation of Hoboken, which is
 3 occurring now, impact the county tax rates?
 4 MR. ANTUN: Well, what's occurred over
 5 the years with Hoboken is that their property values
 6 have, for lack of a better term, outstripped the
 7 other municipalities. So a good portion of their
 8 increase is not so much attributable because county
 9 spending is going up, but because they're now
 10 absorbing taxes that were previously paid in other
 11 municipalities.
 12 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Right. So
 13 basically -- obviously the formula for success is
 14 more successful in cities such as Hoboken and Jersey
 15 City, but how has the upcoming reevaluation of the
 16 property, how does that impact the tax as far as for
 17 this year?
 18 MR. ANTUN: Well, it really doesn't,
 19 because county taxes are proportioned on an equalized
 20 value. So that the equalization is always factored
 21 into the calculation and reapportionment of county
 22 taxes. It's not based on the assessed value, it's
 23 based on the market ratios, on year-to-year, applied
 24 to that assessed value.
 25 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: And if we could

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1 possibly, to the benefit of our previous speaker and
 2 the other residents of Hoboken, if I could have a
 3 list of all the services that the county does provide
 4 to Hoboken, so at least the residents can see what is
 5 being done, I'd appreciate it.
 6 MR. BELFIORI: Peter Belfiori. I live
 7 in this town. If I have the facts correct, you spend
 8 a half a million dollars. You charge the communities
 9 around 300,000,000. Hoboken pays 60. There's no
 10 services you could provide this town, absent Stevens
 11 Institution and our school, that will make up for
 12 that. That's -- that's where we live. You're
 13 paid -- 50,000 people are paying \$60 million. That's
 14 unconscionable on its face.
 15 Yes, the reeval is a problem. And the
 16 reeval is a problem because our equalized value went
 17 from three billion to around 11. But you know what,
 18 the people who live in those homes don't eat them.
 19 They did not suffer immediately an instant -- instant
 20 of -- they didn't get any more equity. People bought
 21 homes in this town for millions of dollars and put
 22 millions of dollars in. They're leveraged to here.
 23 And now you're increasing their taxes by \$8 million.
 24 It wasn't part of the pro forma.
 25 When a young couple got married and

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1 said, You know what, I heard of this town. Let's go
 2 to this town. Let's save all our money. Let's buy
 3 this house. And they scrimped and they saved and
 4 they did everything, and, you know, If we do this and
 5 we get an apartment in the basement and if you take a
 6 second job, we could afford this brownstone. And
 7 then they put \$50,000 into it. They don't have
 8 equity. Equity does not exist in this town. And
 9 your equalized value, your formula looks at the
 10 totality and not the debt. Even the federal
 11 government knows enough to say, You know what, you
 12 make \$100,000 a year. What are your write-offs?
 13 You're not giving us write-offs.
 14 There are two things I ask this Board to
 15 do posthaste. Help every community reeval. It
 16 becomes incumbent upon this Board to set rules. Who
 17 didn't reeval, get them to reeval right away. Even
 18 if it becomes a function of this Board to get them to
 19 reeval. And how do we change the formula? It's a
 20 formula born in the '50s, and we live in 2014.
 21 That's what you need to do.
 22 We don't need anymore services. I swear
 23 to God, we don't need a police officer in Columbus
 24 Park. My mother, who lives on Clinton Street, sees
 25 all of Columbus Park in one view. We used to have a

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1 field. We bought the field from you 'cause you
 2 wouldn't AstroTurf. The city AstroTurf'd. So this
 3 is what you have to do. For \$60 million, you gotta
 4 do somethin'. Thank you.
 5 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Any other members of
 6 the public?
 7 MS. WILLIAMS: Patricia Williams.
 8 Hoboken resident. I'm just a little disappointed
 9 that you're here, you made an effort to come here,
 10 and none of our council people or the mayor is here
 11 present tonight. And that's a little mind boggling
 12 considering other things.
 13 I just sat out here and I'm laughing,
 14 because last year I sat on this very same chair,
 15 right here, with Councilman Bhalla, concerning the
 16 same issues. And everybody said, We're gonna be
 17 well-prepared next year. Look how fast 12 months
 18 went, and the same exact thing that we went through
 19 last year, sittin' in that very same chair, happened
 20 again. And it's not time to play, place the blame,
 21 and taking bad situations like Sandy, and the skyway
 22 bridge being rebuilt, to use as a cash money cow as
 23 an advantage to the taxpayers. I don't think that's
 24 fair.
 25 A few things I heard tonight is real

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1 mind boggling, and I'm just disappointed to see, not
 2 in the Freeholders because -- I mean, I'm not puttin'
 3 down those particular directors that didn't do their
 4 job, and now here it goes again. They have a big
 5 strain on their back and we gotta play rush and
 6 catch-up and money's poppin' out of places. And
 7 hide-and-see, like you said tonight, Mr. Chair, when
 8 he told you about the amount of money. All of this
 9 was supposed to be taken care of the last time we had
 10 this.
 11 I went to the one in Secaucus, I went to
 12 the other budget hearing, and we all vowed that this
 13 wasn't gonna happen. So after this time, maybe you
 14 should look at the directors that you hire and find
 15 another strategy that we could do or we could be
 16 prepared when it's time to vote for the budget, you
 17 guys won't be attacked and you're lookin' for money
 18 and all of that. Just be well prepared next time.
 19 Thank you.
 20 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Any other members of
 21 the public?
 22 MR. SANTOS: There appears to be no one
 23 else.
 24 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Mr. Administrator, let
 25 them know for the next meeting that they have to stay

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1 because if someone from the public has a question for
 2 a specific department, we have someone here.
 3 MR. ANTUN: I'll let them know.
 4 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Before we move to
 5 close, the previous -- the second to the last speaker
 6 raised a couple of issues. The issue of
 7 equalization, that's set by the county tax board,
 8 it's not set by the county itself; correct?
 9 MR. ANTUN: No, that's a function that
 10 occurs by the County Board of Taxation, not by the
 11 Freeholder board.
 12 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Right. I just
 13 wanted to be clear.
 14 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: And it's governed
 15 by statute; correct?
 16 MR. ANTUN: Right, it's governed by
 17 statute.
 18 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: And then the
 19 second point is with reference to the reeval. We
 20 don't have any legislative --
 21 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: No.
 22 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: -- governance
 23 over reevals.
 24 MR. ANTUN: No, you do not.
 25 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: The county tax

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1 board has the authority to order a reeval and get
 2 their direction from the director of taxation.
 3 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: So in order to
 4 attack those issues, it's best suited to try to get
 5 state legislation to change that.
 6 MR. BELFIORI: Well, do it if you have
 7 to do it. It's \$60 million.
 8 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: I'm just asking a
 9 question.
 10 MR. ANTUN: Freeholder, what would have
 11 to occur, it would have to be a constitutional
 12 amendment. Because right now, unfortunately, and the
 13 speaker makes a good point, you know, property taxes
 14 are based on the value of property. It's not -- it's
 15 not based on ability to pay.
 16 MR. BELFIORI: Right.
 17 MR. ANTUN: And, you know, you could
 18 live in a home that has a high value, but not
 19 necessarily the income to support that, which is what
 20 the speaker was alluding to. And if you're gonna
 21 change that, that's gonna require a constitutional
 22 amendment and a restructuring on how government is
 23 funded.
 24 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Property tax in the
 25 state of New Jersey is archaic. It's built on, as

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1 the administrator said, a nonliquid base. Your
 2 senior citizens, although they may be in their homes,
 3 you know, the only equitable tax really is the income
 4 tax.
 5 MR. ANTUN: Right.
 6 MR. BELFIORI: Freeholder, I learned a
 7 long time ago from my mother that --
 8 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: You have to come to the
 9 front, please.
 10 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: We're not arguing
 11 with you, we're agreeing with you.
 12 MR. BELFIORI: Thank you.
 13 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: We've had -- we've
 14 had this discussion. I've been here more than a
 15 decade. We've had this discussion on several
 16 occasions.
 17 I think it was about three or four years
 18 ago there was some kind of a move statewide to get
 19 some reform.
 20 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: And they killed it.
 21 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: But you're right.
 22 You're absolutely right. The property tax is an
 23 archaic tax. It goes back even before the '50s.
 24 When real estate was the gold standard of wealth in
 25 this country. It's not that anymore. You know that.

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1 I know that. But it just hasn't caught up. And
 2 we've said as a board -- you know, you're right, this
 3 is an archaic, outmoded system that is totally
 4 inadequate.
 5 MR. BELFIORI: Freeholder, I don't want
 6 to be here ten years from now having the same
 7 conversation. Give me a starting point and -- and I
 8 will start to mine the information. Because next
 9 year, the citizens of Hoboken can't pay \$62 million.
 10 That's \$30 million more than we pay for our school
 11 system.
 12 And I agree, our property is worth
 13 money. But the people living in those houses --
 14 myself. I cannot afford to buy my house now. I
 15 bought it when no one else would, and I'm being
 16 punished because I made the decision 30 years ago
 17 that no one else would make, to buy a brownstone in
 18 Hoboken. No one else did. My whole family, God love
 19 them, is in Hackensack. Because for the same amount
 20 of money, they got land. They got land.
 21 You have to look at what you're doing to
 22 the communities. You're talking about beautiful
 23 parks in other towns. We have a dearth of open
 24 space. And this tax that you're levying upon us
 25 contributes to that. It just contributes to that.

Special Meeting

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1 We can't buy land because we're sending you 30 -- 60
 2 million to maintain Lincoln Park.
 3 And I don't want to get divisive, we're
 4 all the same people. My people came from Jersey City
 5 originally. But when you take all our money out, you
 6 stop us from growing, and that's what you're doing.
 7 So whether it's a constitutional amendment, buy
 8 Steven's. Buy something. Give us \$60 million.
 9 Anthony's a great Freeholder. He ain't
 10 worth \$60 million. Lincoln Park is a great piece of
 11 property. You could buy it for 15; all right? So
 12 what are you giving us? A couple of county roads
 13 that are -- that are pothole ridden? I mean, is that
 14 what we got here, guys?
 15 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: One thing for the
 16 record, though, just so you know --
 17 MR. BELFIORI: I did say you were a nice
 18 guy.
 19 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: No. No. But just
 20 so you know, the federal highway, that money we
 21 have had for the city since 2010 or '11, we are
 22 waiting --
 23 MR. BELFIORI: All right. And you gave
 24 the two million or -- we all agree with that. But
 25 when you're givin' out mills and taking back

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1 billions, all right, thank you very much. It was a
 2 pleasurable night.
 3 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: They put the
 4 announcement in the newspaper. How many people you
 5 see around here?
 6 MR. BELFIORI: I understand that. But
 7 look at the night that it was. Only psychotic people
 8 are here. Look in the room. I mean, if you're
 9 looking at the people who are here, there is a
 10 certain mentality in this room also; all right?
 11 Get home safely. Hoboken floods because
 12 we can't by a flood pump, because I think we pay the
 13 county \$60 million.
 14 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Motion.
 15 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Second.
 16 MR. SANTOS: All in favor?
 17 The meeting is adjourned.
 18 (Meeting adjourned 8:02 p.m.)
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1 CERTIFICATE
 2
 3 I, LYDIA F. McDONNELL, a Certified
 4 Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public of the State of
 5 New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a
 6 true and accurate transcript of the proceedings as
 7 taken stenographically by and before me at the time,
 8 place and on the date hereinbefore set forth.
 9 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a
 10 relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of any
 11 of the parties to this action, and that I am neither
 12 a relative nor employee of such attorney or counsel,
 13 and that I am not financially interested in the
 14 action.
 15
 16 Notary Public of the State of New Jersey
 17 License No. 30XI00155900
 18 My Commission expires June 30, 2014
 19 Dated: May 14, 2013
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