HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

RE:

REGULAR MEETING : TRANSCRIPT OF
OF THE :
HUDSON COUNTY BOARD OF : PROCEEDINGS
CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS :

OPEN SESSION

Hudson County
Administration Building,
Freeholders Chambers
567 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
Thursday, February 14, 2013
6:00 p.m.

BEFORE:
ANTHONY ROMANO, CHAIRMAN
ALBERT CIFELLI, Freeholder
DOREEN DiDOMENICO, Freeholder
JEFFREY DUBLIN, Freeholder
THOMAS LIGGIO, Freeholder
JOSE C. MUNOZ, Freeholder
WILLIAM O'DEA, Freeholder
TILO RIVAS, Freeholder

ALSO PRESENT:
EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ., Board Counsel
DONATO J. BATTISTA, Hudson County Counsel
ABRAHAM ANTUN, County Administrator
ALBERTO G. SANTOS, County Clerk

Job No. NJ1588719
THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli.
FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Here.
THE CLERK: DiDomenico.
FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Here.
THE CLERK: Dublin. Liggio.
FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Here.
THE CLERK: Munoz.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Here.
THE CLERK: O'Dea.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Here.
THE CLERK: Rivas.
FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Here.
THE CLERK: Rivera, absent. Chairman Romano.
CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.
THE CLERK: Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
(Flag Salute.)
CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I just want to make one comment before the County Exec leaves. On behalf of the Freeholder Board, I think that the County Exec showed the cooperation and willingness that all branches of government are supposed to have with one another in these tough economic times that we all have to work together, and we appreciate that comment and the attitude of the Executive branch. We are also forming a good relationship also with the judicial branch and justice. I think that it's for our organization that we continue this relationship and nurture it and work through the tough times together.
Freeholder O'Dea.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I just have one comment before the County Exec leaves. On behalf of the Freeholder Board, I think that the County Exec showed the cooperation and willingness that all branches of government are supposed to have with one another in these tough economic times that we all have to work together, and we appreciate that.
/freeholder dublin is present.
CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided as follows:
1. Posting notice of Resolution No. 12-1-2012 on the Freeholder's Bulletin Board. This resolution has been modified. The resolution that was adopted is on the Freeholder's Bulletin Board Third Floor, Administration Building Annex, Jersey City, New Jersey, is where that resolution has been posted.
2. Copies of the above mentioned resolution have been sent to the County Clerk and the editors of the Jersey Journal and the Star Ledger.
Mr. Chairman, the first order of business today is Laudatory L-1, to honor and commend Maureen Burns on the occasion of her retirement as executive assistant to County Executive, Thomas A. DeGise.
CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.
FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Here.
THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli.
FREEHOLDER Cifelli: Yes.
THE CLERK: DiDomenico.
FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Dublin.
FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Liggio.
FREEHOLDER Munoz.
THE CLERK: Munoz.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Yes.
THE CLERK: O'Dea.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.
THE CLERK: Rivas.
FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.
THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.
THE CLERK: Rivas.
FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.
THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.
THE CLERK: Rivas.
FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.
FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.
MS. PARK: Hello, everyone. On behalf of Maureen Burns, Mr. Chairman and Freeholders and everyone, thank you very much. She
CHAIRMAN ROMANO: One comment, we want to express our gratitude for Maureen for always being there to facilitate any action between the two branches. We wish her well. She was one classy lady, and I'm sure she'll succeed in whatever she decides to do. Thank you.

FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Welcome, Victoria, to this position. I wish her well. She's a great lady as well, and I know she'll do a great job.

THE CLERK: The next item is L-2, celebrating February as Black History Month.

FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

FREEHOLDER GLIGIO: Yes.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Yes.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Yes.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Welcome, Victoria, to this position. I wish her well. She's a great lady as well, and I know she'll do a great job.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Why not do Board as a whole? I'm the one that asked for it, but I have no problem.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman, I think what we're going to do is have Jersey City try to set up a joint ceremony to present that proclamation.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Councilman Lavarro will sponsor it.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: The next order of business is additional discussion on today's agenda.

MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, may I proceed?

FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes. I would like to say experiencing it firsthand with neo, what they do, I'm grateful to that unit. It's my pleasure to vote aye.

FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Aye.

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Aye.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

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FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman, I think what we're going to do is have Jersey City try to set up a joint ceremony to present that proclamation.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: We'll have the Clerk, yeah.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Councilman Lavaro will sponsor it.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: The next order of
fact that the single largest number of incidences
occur in the west district which is predominantly
07304. I received this letter today, I appreciate
it, from Director Lopez. This letter and document
shows that the incidences are first 06, then 04,
then 05.
I would tell you that because I thought of
this since you gave this to me a little earlier,
Ben, the incidences or the crime rate indexes are
rates based on population not based on the number of
instances. As you recognized, 07306 is this area,
the Journal Square area. It's the area where you've
got all your offices, et cetera, et cetera, with a
much smaller population. So I think when you
actually look at the number of instances that occur
in the actual ZIP codes, it would bear out that 04
is the higher number of incidences. Then after that
I still think it would be 05, then it would be 06.
When you take, and the captain from
Hoboken will bear out, when you take a central
business district, certain crimes by nature are
always robberies, things like that occur in
areas because there are so many people that don't,
24 in fact, live there, but it's where they travel to
and from. It's also an area where somebody can grab
something, rob it, hop on a train, hop on a bus, et
cetera, et cetera.

I don't have a problem including the three
areas, but for the record, and obviously in the
incidences of murder, you know, it bears out that 04
is the highest. But I think when you look at the
number of people that live in those other areas
which are poorer areas of the City, more densely
populated areas of the City, the real numbers are
going to be much higher. What's happening here,
you're taking an area where few people live. Then
you're jumping in based on how many people live
there, how many crimes within those that occur.
That's what skews the numbers.
I'm happy with the inclusion of 07304 in
it, and I would tell you that I think if we're
successful in getting this, we need to do a proper
community-based task force in order to implement the
grant effectively if we get it. You know, there is
a lot of things about existing programs and
strategies, but you know, I don't see a lot of the
community involvement component that I think, quite
frankly, is integral in this either if you're
putting in the application, but certainly, it's
going to be integral in implementing it if we're

1 successful.
2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Freeholder Munoz.
3 FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Yeah, when they
4 selected the ZIP codes, how were they selected?
5 MR. MAZZA: Frank Mazza, the Hudson
6 County Department of Corrections, Community
7 Reintegration Program. The question is how were the
8 area codes selected? The solicitation for a unified
9 approach to a community-based intervention, taking a
disjointed system and bringing it together; exactly
10 what the Freeholder was talking about, in a task
11 force, data base, where all vendors can talk, there
12 is no duplication of services, and the single
13 standard is held by all of the vendors.
14 FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: This $600,000,
15 what is it going to do?
16 MR. MAZZA: Well, initially, it's for
17 planning, and it's just an initial allocation for a
18 plan.
19 FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: This resolution is
20 600,000.
21 MR. MAZZA: Yes, that's after we
22 submit our plan. There is a planning period for the
23 grant. That's where we are right now. They ask for
24 statistics based on unified crime reports and crime
indexes, and that's how we pulled our data. Then
the idea has to get flushed out. We're asking for
the ability to propose to start the planning
process.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: When you do the
analysis, you used the whole County?
MR. MAZZA: Yes.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: When you were
picking. Initially, you had it under two ZIP codes
where the most crime is in the County.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Their own letter
shows that it wasn't where the most crime was.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: That's what I'm
trying to get to because if you only use two ZIP
codes in the whole County, if we look at the whole
County as if there was a need in other parts of the
County when we pick up these two ZIP codes out of
all the ZIP codes in Hudson County.
MR. MAZZA: That's one piece of the
proposal. The other is the grant, the funding
source would be like a network of providers within
the community that the service is being provided.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: One ZIP code is
the ZIP code where the wife of the Director of
Welfare is running for election, right?
DIRECTOR LOPEZ: Yes.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: But she represents?
MR. MAZZA: Oh, I didn't know.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: So you're going to be using vendors in this district. Would that be a conflict of interest because the wife of the Director representing this district, that director is bringing grants into that district that is going to benefit her indirectly?
MR. MAZZA: I don't think I'm the person.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: No, no. What I'm trying to get to is, I think we should put something in the resolution that none of these vendors should be able to donate money to any person that's in relation to this district. That will kind of -- because there could be a conflict of interest if any of these vendors want to donate money to the person who is representing the district, who is the wife of a Director in the Freeholder districts are going to be within -- I don't know if I'm making myself completely understood.
MR. MAZZA: Like I said we're asking for the ability to plan this project.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Yeah, but it's very peculiar that you specifically chose these areas. You didn't look at the whole County. There is other areas of the County that could benefit from this grant.
MR. MAZZA: We have the ability to expand the focus out.
CHAIRMAN ROMANO: If I may, Director Antun.
MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, if I may address a brief question, the Freeholder's concern. The initial allocated and Mr. Mazza indicated is a $90,000 planning grant that will be used by County staff. That plan will then be submitted to the federal government for approval. If that plan is approved, when it comes back to us, the remaining dollars of the $10,000, that more likely would have to be RFPed and go through a process, a procurement process, so that anyone will have the opportunity to apply. If a not-for-profit is being considered, I believe not-for-profits are eligible to donate money.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: That's what I wanted to make sure because I don't want to see any contradiction. Like Freeholder O'Dea said at the last meeting, with all the districts that we know that may need this grant, only these two ZIP codes came with it. I just want to make sure there is no conflict of interest for anyone. I don't want anyone to accuse the Board we're benefiting one district because a director, his wife is representing that district. We have to make sure we create an idea that we don't cross any ethical.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman, let me clarify what I stated the other day, and I will stand by that, is that the two ZIP in codes Jersey City that were presented did not represent the two ZIP codes in the County for which the highest number of index crimes occur in and I stand by that, and in fact, the data provided us today bears that out.
In fact, it bears out if you use the ratio index, which is based on population, not number of incidents that occur, the two highest would be 07306, which is where the Director lives, and 07304, which was the one that I argued should be included. Again, until I have the actual number of incidences, I can't with certainty verify that the two districts that the most incidences in it are really 304 and 305. I would be curious to see that. I know that both of those districts have a conflicting interest because the wife of the director, the Freeholder is going to be putting money.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: So you're going to address a brief question, the Freeholder's concern. The initial allocated and Mr. Mazza indicated is a $90,000 planning grant that will be used by County staff. That plan will then be submitted to the federal government for approval. If that plan is approved, when it comes back to us, the remaining dollars of the $10,000, that more likely would have to be RFPed and go through a process, a procurement process, so that anyone will have the opportunity to apply. If a not-for-profit is being considered, I believe not-for-profits are eligible to donate money.
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My concern, I'm less concerned about 306. What I'm more concerned about is that 04 and 05, from a community-based program, have much more community-based organizations that I think should be an integral part of the task force and developing priorities. That doesn't mean there is not areas of 06 that fall into it. I'll give you two areas that have high incidences, in and around Van Wagenen and Dales Avenue.
I mean there are areas within 06 that have high incidences of crime. If you took it as a whole and Captain Martinez is going to get us the raw data, not the index based on population, I think the raw data is going to show 04 definitively number one, and 05 and I'm guessing 05 is going to be two, and 06 is
going to be three, and then seven is four, and two
is five. Do one of those game shows where you have
to get them all in the right order, if I had to,
that's probably the order.

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Before the Director
speaks, Captain Martinez and I are going to show
Freeholder Munoz how to work the UCR. Correct me if
I'm wrong, the south and the west are the two
highest crime districts in the County.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Why didn't we look
at the other parts of the County? We only looked at
the two specific districts. That's what I want to
goto. I mean there are other parts of the County
that this probably can benefit too. You have two
codes.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I'm going to guess
your rates are much lower. I think it's a valid
question. Two things are easy to do, getting you
the crime rate based on Zip code is easy to do.
They should be able to get that for you in a day.
I'm going to guess, I'm going to guess that these
are the highest, these are the highest ones will
bear that out on the indexes for a lot of reasons,
but you should know that.

And the real valid point that you're

making which we should look at, I don't know whether
it's the next phase of this grant or a similar grant
is, and I hate to say it, you're going to have to
break down some of the North Hudson towns into
smaller subsections and ZIP codes to make this work.
There are areas within ZIP codes, we call them
census tracks, census track blocks, that somebody in
order to do it properly for areas of North Hudson,
would really probably look at breaking down area
census track blocks in order to design the area in
North Hudson, where there would be a lot of
instances.

As silly -- I don't think this is silly.
Again, I'm not a -- I'm just proffering this. The
area close to Bergenline Avenue, which a number of
cities will probably show similarly on pure -- on an
index definitely. Again, you've got areas where
there's not as many people. You also have
burglaries, robberies. They occur in areas where a
lot of people grab, robberies, grab somebody, push
them to the ground, take their purse, take their
wallet.

So in order for somebody to properly do
something similar up there, if they have to break
that into smaller, you know, sub-areas census
tracts, census block areas. They should. That's a
reasonable request for you to have somebody from
whether it's Ben Lopez's department and/or the
Public Safety to try to gather that data for either
a second phase of this or another grant application.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: With all due
respect to Director Lopez, someone from the outside
could be looking at this. When I asked the
question, did we look at other parts of the County,
and we only look at these two ZIP codes, and at the
beginning, I think you asked another ZIP code to be
included. We only looked at these two, anybody from
the outside could infer that we're doing this to
benefit one specific district for political reasons.
I don't want anyone to infer that.

I want to make sure if you're -- I'm not
saying that it is happening, but it could be
inferred. You can look at this and say this is
being done to benefit the Councilman that represents
that district, and I don't want that happening. I
think that we should look at the whole County.
That's why I asked at the last meeting why we were
doing it by ZIP code. Because that's areas within
the County, I can tell you West New York, there's
areas that are very good, and there are areas that
have an issue with crime. That happens in every
town.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: How many ZIP codes
does West New York have?

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: That's the
problem. Why are we doing this by ZIP code? I
didn't understand that at the beginning. We should
do these by specific areas within a ZIP code, and
then we could benefit the whole County, nothing to a
specific ZIP code, and the ZIP code benefits the
wife of a director that represents the department
where the grant is coming from.

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Freeholder Dublin.

FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Abe, what do the
grants state?

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: First let me be
clear. This is an application to get some planning
money so that we can develop a continuation program
based on the programs that we have available right
now. The three things that we did, one was to get
the process of the application. The second thing
is, what areas can we pick which are based on high
crime statistics, based on geographic location,
which the ZIP codes do.
The third thing we did is, what
organizations can we bring into the process to begin
during the planning stage to begin the formal plan
for additional monies that we're going to be
gaining, which is the $510,000. Right now we have a
very good program going on, and a majority all of
the providers within that program exist within those
ZIP codes.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Do they have to
include that on their form?

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: Absolutely, and we
corrected that. Now, so that's what we're doing.
We're applying for a planning grant. If they do not
accept our application for the planning grant, it's
moor, but I also want you to know that besides my
wife and I residing in that area, so does my
Freeholder, Bill O'Dea. We also have the other
district, which is represented by --
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: You give one more
reason because at the beginning you excluded the
Freeholder's district. It's when O'Dea came and
brought that to your attention.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: That was before.
That's most of mine; 07304 is almost totally in
mine.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: So anyone could
look at this and say this grant is to benefit
Freeholder O'Dea and yourself. Politically, you
have to look at the whole County. You're telling
me, Munoz, we look at the whole County, and these
were the areas that we found the most crime? You
bring me the data to justify that and to back up
that. We have something in Hudson County that's
going to benefit us, and you're putting this grant
in those areas that, again, you infer that.

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: Freeholder, if you
read the memo, it says that we can include other
districts during the planning process. We can have
additional. It's in the memo.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: What areas that it
don't include? This is incomplete.
DIRECTOR LOPEZ: It's part of the
planning process.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: This is
incomplete. You go into the whole process. We
should go back and look into other parts of the
County that could benefit from this grant, and we
will make this grant more strong if we have all the
parts of the County on this application, not to have
two ZIP codes, three ZIP codes now because
FREEHOLDER O'Dea asked to add another ZIP code last
time.
FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Freeholder Munoz,
just like Ben said, this is only to get the money to
get to the planning stage. In the planning stage,
we can all sit down and plan it, every city, every
ZIP code, that we feel that this grant should cover.
I would just, you know, say sit down with the
Captain over there and develop the crime numbers for
West New York, Guttenberg and the areas you cover,
and other Freeholders, and then when we get to the
planning stage, we make sure whether the grant can
include other cities in the County.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: What about Union
City?
FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: If we don't put
in the grant, we won't get to the table. Just like
Ben Lopez said, if we don't put in that application
and get an approval, this is moot. Let's get to
that stage where we can get to the planning stage.
We can get to the planning stage, and we'll make
sure that you're at the planning stage, and make
sure that your district, you know, is included.
CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Director Lopez,
quick question, does the grant specify how many
jurisdictions that can be affected by the financial?

FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: We need a much
more challenging process, a much more challenging
process. We should approve this, move this forward.
I think I laid out the complexities of how that
process can be done with those towns. I have to put
on the record that I never thought that I would hear
a colleague say that something was being proposed
for the benefit of my district. I mean that in a
nice way, I didn't say -- I didn't say -- you know.
Hold on. I can't apologize for being a
strong advocate for my district and for pointing out
what I felt was a glaring omission that quite
readily their analysis bore out, which is two parts
which I think is part of what I don't think they've
articulated well. One part is where the crime,
where the incidences are. Two, which Frank Mazza

7 (Pages 22 - 25)
1 did a poor job of kind of explaining, where are the
2 providers, where are the -- where are the Second
3 Chance programs, where are they reporting certain,
4 you know, places. That I believe, I hate to start
5 making their argument for them, I think is also part
6 of what that process is.
7 Do I think the process was done perfectly?
8 No. Do I think that Director Lopez included 306
9 because he lives in the district? No. I think that
10 naturally, that naturally, so many of the programs
11 generally occur in the central business area because
12 people don't live there. It's harder to put a lot
13 of these programs in neighborhoods. Jeff and I will
14 bear out we had something from Pacific Avenue. We
15 spent six months last year because someone opened up
16 a halfway house, and we had zoning officers and
17 everyone else there. I think part of that is that
18 simple reality.
19 That being said, I'm happy that they
20 corrected their omission and included 07304. I'm
21 willing to work, Jose, with you, and I think
22 Freeholder Chair Romano is an important part because
23 of his experience in law enforcement, in figuring
24 out how we define an area in North Hudson. I agree
25 with you. There is an area in North Hudson, and

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<td>Tilo, Tom, yourself, are much better at identifying</td>
<td>1 and Dublin. Thank you, Mr. Antun, for working on</td>
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<td>that than I would be. That quite frankly is</td>
<td>that.</td>
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<td>probably a group of not even census tracts, probably</td>
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<td>blocks, sets of blocks, not full tracts, that</td>
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<td>probably take up three different cities. That's</td>
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<td>challenging, but it's a good challenge.</td>
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<td>CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We'll have, Abe, if</td>
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<td>we could for the next meeting with myself, you and</td>
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<td>Captain Martinez, we can look at the figures and get</td>
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<td>an idea.</td>
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<td>FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Do those cities</td>
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<td>gather statistics? We should try to gather.</td>
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<td>I thank you for the compromise. I would like to say</td>
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<td>that as much you defend your district, I want to</td>
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<td>learn from you. I'm not offending you.</td>
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<td>FREEHOLDER O'DEA: You're learning</td>
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<td>well, young Jedi.</td>
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<td>THE CLERK: Is there a motion to</td>
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<td>amend No. 7 to add 07304?</td>
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<td>FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So moved.</td>
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<td>FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Second.</td>
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<td>CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Freeholders O'Dea</td>
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<td>and Dublin.</td>
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<td>THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli.</td>
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no, the dollar amount isn't changing. The
resolution had to be changed because we had to
correct the name of the person that prepared the
recommendation.

THE CLERK: That would be No. 20.

There is motion to amend No. 20.

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Motion by
Freeholder Dublin. Second by Freeholder O'Dea.
Freeholder Cifelli.
FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.
THE CLERK: DiDomenico.
FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Dublin.
FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.
THE CLERK: Liggio.
FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Munoz.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Yes.
THE CLERK: O'Dea.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.
THE CLERK: Rivas.
FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, that's all the items that I have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mr. Clerk.
THE CLERK: We will proceed with public participation. According to the policy set by the Board of Freeholders, members of the public are asked to limit their comments to fifteen minutes when discussing agenda items, and five minute at the conclusion of the meeting when discussing matters of public interest.

At this time the public may address the Board on any item on the agenda only. Please keep your comments limited to fifteen minutes. Are there any speakers on agenda items only? Please state your name.

MR. McCORMACK: Good evening. Richard McCormack. Just a quick comment on 7 with the Family Services reentry-type of program. I'm glad that 07304 was brought into this. As people from Jersey City are well aware that with the crime and also in 07305 and 6, they're basically all in an area where mass transit or freedom of expressways to get out of the City are available.

I living in the 04 area. I'm not saying it's beneficial for me, but for the whole area of the City, you have to start off somewhere. I'm glad that the 07304 was put in there, basically because it is my area where I live. Listening to the police radio, a lot of crimes that occur are within the area where mass transit or freedom of expressways to get out of the City are available.

I'm not saying it's beneficial for me, but for the whole area of the City, you have to start off somewhere. I'm glad that the 07304 was put in there, basically because it is my area where I live. Listening to the police radio, a lot of crimes that occur are within the City, you have to start off somewhere. I'm glad that the 07304 was put in there, basically because it is my area where I live. Listening to the police radio, a lot of crimes that occur are within the area where mass transit or freedom of expressways to get out of the City are available.

either jump on the light rail on Westside Avenue, or they can drive their cars right over Communipaw Avenue which represents 04, drive right back into Newark, West Orange and East Orange to get away, 06, Journal Square, able to jump on any numerous buses when they're running or run downstairs and jump on a PATH train to make a quick exit from the City, never
1 to be found again.
2 I'm so glad that these are initial steps
3 that are being brought about because we need a pilot
4 program basically to start it off. Mr. Munoz, no
5 disrespect, we have to start off somewhere. This is
6 an area where we start to get people to write the
7 grants and later on when it's been brought up, the
8 ZIP code areas are very tough, but these are major
9 crime issues, and later on, hopefully if they get
10 the grant initiated, it's one big step, but step one
11 is to start off somewhere. Later on you look at the
12 Comstat, and you can see where the numbers in the
13 districts are available. This is a stepping point.
14 I'm glad that 07304, 07305 and 07306 and Jersey City
15 is part of this initial program. Thank you.
16 FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Just for the
17 comment, I agree with you one hundred percent. We
18 also have to see that we're representing the whole
19 County and not representing one city. We have to
20 make sure that we look at the program throughout the
21 whole County and make sure those other districts, we
22 don't disenfranchise those people in those districts
23 that we represent and other Freeholders represent.
24 We have to look at the whole County, not one
25 specific City. That I was my issue.

1 I don't disagree. I think it's a good
2 grant. I'm not sure if I will vote for it today. I
3 make sure that the people that I represent and the
4 reason that I'm here is to defend my district.
5 That's the reason I brought that up. There are
6 other parts of the County that we should include in
7 this grant, and there is money granted which should
8 benefit other areas that also need this type of
9 program. That was my argument. I don't disagree
10 with the grant. I want the whole County to be taken
11 seriously.
12 THE CLERK: Any additional speakers
13 on agenda items only?
14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman, on
15 27, I mean, wasn't this voted on before? It was
16 voted on last meeting. Jeff, did you
17 committee review these huge transfers of funds? You
18 have two vendors here that are in one case tripling
19 the amount of money they're getting, in the other
20 case, quadrupling the amount of money they're
21 getting.
22 That's a huge, those are huge allocations
23 changes to go from 37,000 to 153,000, to go from
24 66,000 to 107,000 in a contract period that quite
25 frankly is eight months old. So it bears the

1 question are there any individuals enrolled in these
2 programs where now somebody is playing catch up, or
3 are there lines outside the door waiting to sign up
4 tomorrow for these?
5 DIRECTOR LOPEZ: Freeholder, this was
6 passed at the last meeting. What occurred was that
7 there was some of the figures were not -- they were
8 originally reviewed by Finance, and they approved
9 the application that you approved at the last
10 meeting. Unfortunately, what was submitted for
11 approval did not coincide with the fact sheet. When
12 that item was brought to my attention last week by
13 the person who oversees our grants and finance, they
14 had approved -- that you had approved the wrong
15 resolution. No figures were changed.
16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Hold on. Two
17 wrongs don't make a right. If we were wrong to let
18 it slip through the last meeting these changes. Now
19 you're back again and need us to do it again. If we
20 need to take pause and get a better understanding as
21 to why two vendors are literally gobbling up huge,
22 huge amounts of dollars, quite frankly. What is
23 Dux? I mean what is Dux, D-u-x. I never heard of
24 them. I never heard them make a presentation before
25 us.
great.

I don't know whether that's necessarily not true, but didn't it go from like 66 to a hundred or 37 to 70. We went from 66 to 173, and from 37 to 153. I just think that I need to understand based on what analysis seven months into the year. I'll credit that this was voted on at the last meeting.

You had data that justified that these entities who obviously had to exhaust this money, okay, you can't have people in there now because you would be violating the rules to allow those individuals without authorization to fund. Based on what data do you have that an entity that in seven months spent $37,000, is going to be able to spend 119 in what is going to be four?

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman, you told me that Dux is where, is this West New York?

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: Yes, it's on Kennedy Boulevard.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: What do they do?

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: I have to e-mail you that information, Freeholder. They've been there a year.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: They've been there a year. Who runs that? I don't even know.

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: I'll provide you with that information in writing.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: What is your empirical data that shows that Garden State is going to be able to spend, in one case, three times as much money in 50 percent of the time and in another case spend twice as much money in 50 percent of the time?

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: In Dux's case we gave them an initial allocation, and they in the first two quarters of the year, they spent it all, and they were over-enrolled over a hundred percent. The Garden State, Garden State has been there quite a while. They have every year, they have over-enrolled over all of the slots that we've given them, they've produced and over-enrolled because they provide a good program. That's part of the information that we use in order to recommend, and we also look at the ones who are underperforming.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I get calls. I got one today. I didn't get a chance to answer the call.

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: But this again, we consulted with these vendors when we take this action. We actually have a meeting every month to review their performance, and they're aware if they're underperforming, we're going to move money around. But most of this money is from all the other vendors. It's from money that I set aside for this program in July.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: That's not true.

Workforce Advantage, who has been around for a long time, right, 135, reduction by $88,000, which is a 60 -- two-thirds or more reduction.

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: Take a look at the Department of Family Services for the amount that I had reserved, and then I used 131,000 of that money.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: You're at 136 and the others are 15, 31, 17 is 48, you're less than half.

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: I still have 185 to give to all the vendors.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Why can't we increase Garden State and Dux by half of what you're asking for, and then you come back to us two or three months and get the other half assuming they continue on their numbers? What once we approve this, you've got a blank check. Once we approve this, you've got a blank -- they have a blank check.

What prevents us from saying we take Garden State and instead of increasing them by 107, we increase them by 58, take 60 -- two-thirds or more reduction.

I still have 185 to increase Garden State and Dux by half of what you're asking for, and then you come back to us two or three months and get the other half assuming they continue on their numbers? What once we approve this, you've got a blank check. Once we approve this, you've got a blank -- they have a blank check.

What prevents us from saying we take Garden State and in the first two quarters those groups spent all their money, and I don't mean you personally, Ben, you know, I consider you a friend on a personal level, why you weren't here in November to get the first five, 58,000 or the first whatever is problematic to me.

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: Because we do it on a six-month basis.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Maybe you need to change that. Obviously, if you're asking for a radical change eight months into a year, I think you need to go back and consider whether you need to do it quarterly or on four-month chunks. All I'm suggesting is that we take just two of the vendors, reduce those amounts by half, you come back to us in April, right, April or the end of March, give us an update, and if you find that they are still bursting at the seams at a rate double of what they spent in the first six months, then that would then justify
our spending that additional allocation.

And it also gives the other vendors the
ability to be able to know that they need to get
their act together because there are still dollars
there that may be available to them. I don't know
what the date of this meeting is, but we can make
that message clear to all of them. Is that
reasonable and acceptable?

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: I don't have a
problem with it.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Based on that, I'm
going to make a motion to amend Resolution No. 27,
to make the following changes: To change the
increase from Garden State Science and Technology to
change the increase amount from $107,100 to $53,550,
and to change the increase of Dux from 116,120, to
58,060, and I'm going to then let someone else do
the rest of the math.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Mr. Chairman,
before we do that, I'm a little bit concerned about
it. I've been working trying to get some training
programs in my district. This is something I've
been doing since I've been a Freeholder. Someone
comes in I don't know anything about, and no one
comes, and we have e-mails, we have so many ways of
communicating nowadays, and no one sends me a little
memo saying, there is someone that is located in
your district now that wants to work with the
County. No one did that. No one tells me what is
going to be serving now within your district. No
one did that.

I feel concerned because I talked about
within the two things they don't tell us. They only
expect us to guess. Mr. Administrator, I don't
think that -- before we do that, Mr. Administrator.

MR. ANTUN: Freeholder, just so you
know, I heard part of what you were saying. First
of all, I was given this resolution this afternoon.
That's number one. That's after they discovered the
error. I wasn't aware of this.

Let me also state that this was initially
presented a while back. I don't mean this last
time. I'm talking about when we first did the
original allocation. This was presented sometime
back when this was done through a procurement
process. When it's done through a procurement
process, we don't know who is going to respond. At
the time we receive those responses, that was
provided to you, and that indicated where these
entities were from. So you know it's not like we
picked them.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Abe, I receive
that whole package, sometimes I receive it on a
Friday. Sometimes it doesn't get to me because now
the courier has to deliver it and hand it to me so
they don't leave it in the door. Before, they used
to leave it in the door. Now they have to hand it
to me. Sometimes it takes all the way for Monday
for me to get it.

Now, when I get it on Monday, you want me
to read this whole thing? Some of the stuff here
are like books. I don't have the time to read.

Some of the stuff I have to read through it when
we're discussing in the caucus and now through the
meeting. So I mean if you do something in small
letters, we have 20 different things, you have to
specify sometimes, especially in this case. There's
something new coming to your district. This is
going to be serving the district now. They should
let you know about that.

One of the things that Freeholder O'Dea
recommended, I think we table until the next
meeting, and between now and the next meeting, we
should have all the vendors come in and give the
presentation that we requested.

FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: That's already
been set up.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Jose, they're
going to do that. Meet me halfway. I'm cutting
their increases in half. So there is still going to
be 111,600 more that's going to be unreserved. If
you want, we haven't done the amendment, I'll make
the change so that changes the amount of the total
for Garden State to now 119,550 from 173,100. It
changes the total amount for Dux 95,060 from
157,120.

To make this simple, I guess, Mr. Lopez,
because we can always give money back to whoever
you're taking it away from, we'll just reduce your
reserve instead by 136,120, we only reduce it by
24,510.

MR. ANTUN: That's the allocated
because what happens is that the Garden State went
from TA to Dux. So what happens is -- that's what I
was trying to do.

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hold on. Here's
what we're going to do before this gets out of hand.

MR. ANTUN: We have all this. All of
the numbers Freeholder O'Dea stated are correct.
It's just that in the reserve account, it's now the
reserve TA will now be 53,550, and we just have to
add 58,060 to the 185.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: My next question
is how is my district going to be now because this
is one of the only provider within my district?

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: There are two
providers.

MR. ANTUN: We'll give this 58
increase now, we're going to come back in two
months.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Jose, they got
37,000, and they spent that in six months. He
wanted to give them 160,000 and we're now in the
eighth month. All I'm saying is let's give them
58,000 of 116. Let's bring them in. Let's find
out. Let's do what we should do, keep our hands on
this. Let's monitor it, and let's have him come
back at the end of March and justify whether they
need 58 more, 40 more, whatever that may be, and
let's also go to these other vendors and give them a
fair chance. This one guy is getting cut by
$88,000. This isn't somebody new. That's somebody
that's been around for a long, long time.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Mr. Administrator,
why did we allow something to come up at the last
minute like this?

MR. ANTUN: I don't remember. This
wasn't -- Freeholder, this resolution was acted upon
by this Board at the last meeting. What happened
was resolution that you enacted was incorrect. So
this was discovered by the Finance and Ben's
department, and they brought it to my attention. So
we came back with it.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: What was the
mistake?

MR. ANTUN: I have never seen it
before. The amounts for Workforce Advantage were
incorrect in the first resolution. You'll see it in
the backup that we gave you. You'll see the
resolution from the last meeting versus this
meeting, the amounts for Workforce Advantage and
Worldwide Entertaining Service were incorrectly
stated in the first resolution that this Board
approved at the last meet. This is now the
corrected one, but now it's being amended by
Freeholder O'Dea.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: It's a mistake in
Ben Lopez's department?

MR. ANTUN: You know, Freeholder, to
be fair, I'm not sure where the mistake occurred. I
don't know if the mistake occurred within Ben,
Finance or it was typed incorrectly. I'm not sure,
Freeholder. I just know that this mistake was
brought to my attention. We didn't have time to
review whose mistake it was. We wanted to make sure
we had the correction done.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Have you figured
out the number?

MR. ANTUN: Yes.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Read the numbers
into the records.

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: Just before you do
that, I want to put a statement on the record. As
the Administrator said, this is the result of a
procurement process. It was placed on the portal,
not only the RFP, but all of the results of the RFP.
All of that was on the portal for the allotted time
that it's supposed to be there.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Ben, I appreciate
that, but also appreciate -- I also appreciate
Freeholder Munoz's position. We get volumes and
volumes of paperwork. I spend a good amount of time
reviewing it. If there is a new facility opening in
a Freeholder's district, the ability to afford a
Freeholder of that district a courtesy, a courtesy
for the backup that we gave you. You'll see the
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approved at the last meet. This is now the
corrected one, but now it's being amended by
Freeholder O'Dea.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: It's a mistake in
Ben Lopez's department?

MR. ANTUN: You know, Freeholder, to
be fair, I'm not sure where the mistake occurred. I
come by, I would like to give you the tour of the facility and let you know what we're doing. If at that point Freeholder Munoz or whoever chooses not to go or forgets or ignores it, then it's shame on us. To just say it's on portal, do all the research, you know, investigate it, track it down, I think that's disingenuous.

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I didn't call your name. Freeholder Munoz.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: One of the examples of that, I had to commend him, Director Demellier reached out at the last meeting. We had that argument of the left turn on the condo association. I didn't know that he was actually an ex-Freeholder. He contacted me and the other director contacted me and not only gave me the issues that they had, but they gave me new issues that they have within the road, something that I will be talking to the Director about. So it was good for me to have a communication with him. Otherwise I wouldn't have known all these other issues that they brought to my attention. He didn't even know who to go to with these issues. I mean we should be advised of these things, a simple e-mail. Look into the portal, there should be new more information in the portal. Something like that would go a long way to help us.

MR. BATTISTA: So I understand the resolution, Garden State Science and Technology, we increase by $53,550, which would result in a total, $119,550. Dux will increase by $58,060, which would result in a total, $95,000.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I believe it's 89,060.

MR. BATTISTA: The reserve for TANF will bring that total to $243,129, and the reserve for TA will now read a total $53,550. That is my calculation of the amendment that is being -- results in the amendment that is being proposed in this resolution.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I make a motion.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Second.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I don't know if your last number is right. We both concur on the numbers on the bottom. All right. All right.

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, was there a motion to amended 27?

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Motion by Freeholder O'Dea. Seconded by Freeholder Dublin.
4, but due to the day of the year, I'll vote for it.
2 I'll punish myself and vote yes.
3 THE CLERK: On all items that's a yes, okay. We have three ordinances for introduction. The first is entitled Ordinance Amending Chapter 200, Article 15, of the Administrative Code to provide for the installation of No Left Turn signs in and out of the Riviera Tower's parking garage at its intersection with Anthony M. DeFino Way in West New York, a County-owed roadway.

FREEHOLDER CIFElli: Yes.
FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.
FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.
FREEHOLDER Liggio: Yes.
FREEHOLDER Munoz: Yes.
FREEHOLDER O'Dea: Yes.
FREEHOLDER Rivas: Yes.

THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.
CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.
FREEHOLDER Munoz: Mr. Chairman, like I said before I spoke to the condo association president, and one of the things I had to correct for the record, I was told that it was an exit only. They told me now this is an entrance and an exit into these. It's another issue that we have with this road, this exit and entrance has a door that opens and closes, and they open and close with a remote control.
Before this entrance and exit, there is a curve. People are come through that curve, and if they stop on the beginning of the curve, anyone that comes from behind is not going to see them. Now, the left turn is going to help with the people making that left turn, but it's not going help with the people coming from River Road into West New York. So what we have to look into is what else can we do make that area more secure.
I know that Director Demellier sent me e-mails today, I have to check because I haven't seen it, with pictures. We have a signage before we come into that entrance saying that there is a hidden driveway coming up through, but I don't think that helps much. I don't know what else can we do to try to make that area there more secure or something that we should look into. That is going to help, but it's going help the people coming from West New York and Boulevard East going into that parking space. It's not going to help people coming from Edgewater into West New York. I think that we should look at this, and before that, I spoke with Demellier to see if there was a way to put a light here. He told me I had to go through DOT, and it's very tough to do. I don't know if there's some type of mirror system. I don't know what else can we do here, but we should do something.
I asked the Administrator to see if I could provide the department an incident report how many accidents that happened here because -- can we get that?

UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: Let me try to explain something to you. Undersheriff Andrew Conti, from being around since '82, I would have to think that the only issue and danger is exiting that driveway onto 60th Street and making the left to go to River Road. That's the dangerous part because coming out, you can't see the curve. Coming down and making a left into the driveway, they can definitely see you. Making a right into that driveway from the curve is also not as dangerous as the left turn.
FREEHOLDER Munoz: The other day I was driving through a lot to go to the theater. I was coming at night to the theater, and the Police Department used to rent the space inside there. I almost hit a police car from behind.

UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: Coming out?
FREEHOLDER Munoz: He was entering and he opened the door, and he had the lights on. I was coming through the curve. I almost hit him.
CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Slow down.
FREEHOLDER O'Dea: They may have to give you a reckless driving summons.
FREEHOLDER Munoz: The problem with that curve, when you're coming around that curve, you cannot see anything around that curb. That turn right there.

UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: There is a lot of things. We have to meet the DOT regulations.
They can stop on the driveway before they can come in.

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Demetrio, why not after the meeting you, Undersheriff and Freeholder meet and maybe come up with an idea.

MR. ARENCIBIA: Demetrio Arenobia, County Engineer. This resolution is really just for the left turns going in and out of the driveway. The right turn situation that you're talking about is a preexisting condition. I understand your concern. There's about three signs, Hidden Driveway signs. From what I understand with the property manager, people that open the door have a remote control that can operate up to 300 feet away, but I will talk to you, Freeholder, and the property manager to see what other things can be done to make it safe.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Can we first get the accident reports to see how many accidents we had, and then we should sit down with the Public Resource Committee perhaps, and bring them to the committee, and you know start discussing what can we do and what can they do to make this entrance more secure. We have to look at how many accidents first to see what was really an issue putting this left turn. We don't know. When I left, I hung up with him yesterday, they still had concern from people and told me that's the only entrance and exit in that you're going to have there.

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK: The third ordinance for introduction is entitled Ordinance amending Chapter 200, Article 111 of the Administrative Code to establish a reserved handicapped parking space on John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Bayonne, for Richard Zbyszynski.

Freeholder Cifelli.

FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.

THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Dublin.

FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.

THE CLERK: Liggio.

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Munoz.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Yes.

THE CLERK: O'Dea.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

THE CLERK: Freeholder Rivas is absent. Chairman Romano.

Chairman Romano.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Can we first get the accident reports to see how many accidents we had, and then we should sit down with the Public Resource Committee perhaps, and bring them to the committee, and you know start discussing what can we do and what can they do to make this entrance more secure. We have to look at how many accidents first to see what was really an issue putting this left turn. We don't know. When I left, I hung up with him yesterday, they still had concern from people and told me that's the only entrance and exit in that you're going to have there.

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FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Can we first get the accident reports to see how many accidents we had, and then we should sit down with the Public Resource Committee perhaps, and bring them to the committee, and you know start discussing what can we do and what can they do to make this entrance more secure. We have to look at how many accidents first to see what was really an issue putting this left turn. We don't know. When I left, I hung up with him yesterday, they still had concern from people and told me that's the only entrance and exit in that you're going to have there.
FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Yes.

THE CLERK: O’Dea.

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: Yes.

THE CLERK: Rivas is absent.

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: Whoa, whoa. I vote yes. Just for the record, we've been a trailblazer when it comes to living wage, and this is another step to strengthen the living wage law that we have, and I would hope that Jersey City and other entities that have adopted them in New Jersey will follow suit.

THE CLERK: And Chairman Romano.

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

THE CLERK: That concludes the items of business on today’s agenda. Are there any comments from the Freeholders on the business of the Board?

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: Mr. Chairman, one question. Mr. Administrator, Mr. Florio, Mr. Battista, there was an ordinance introduced last night in Jersey City concerning I think the licenses for food vendors in the area by New Jersey City University, basically changing the requirements as it relates how many feet one vendor can be from another and also waiving the requirement under the law that they have to move the vehicle after so much period of time.

The area that they primarily will, primarily though not exclusively, but the primary area that are going to affected by this is the area of the university on Kennedy Boulevard, which a County road. Can the City of Jersey City make such a change unilaterally, or will they require our approval in order for that law, in fact, for that area to go into effect.

I specifically note that because we in our wisdom at some point in time installed parking meters in some of the areas where I would anticipate these vendors, food vendors, will be located. There is not awful lot of open spaces there for vendors to park. There is a bus stop. There are areas that have yellow or red curbs. There are a few parking areas that have meters on them.

So first of all, have they even contacted us, our Engineering Department, related to it? If not, we need to have that dialogue even before they have their Second Reading, and secondly, what legal authority do they have to make this change as it relates to what is a County road. Will you research that and let us know for the next meeting?

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: On behalf of the Board, I want to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

THE CLERK: Are there any comments from the Chief of Staff of the County Executive?

MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening. I just wanted to go on the record and let everybody know that the County Executive and I live in 07307.

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: Just to point that out.

MR. GAUGHAN: I would to take the opportunity on behalf of the County Executive to thank you the Board for extending the time for the County Exec to get his remarks off, and also to offer the members of the Board and their families a happy and great evening if they are going to out to dinner tonight for Valentine's Day.

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: Just for the record, Freeholder O'Dea lives in a high-crime census tract, and Councilman Gaughan lives in a low-crime census tract.

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: He does a good job as a Councilman.

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: You're going to get your vote for Chairman.

THE CLERK: This is the time for anyone present to address the Board on any matter of public interest. Please limit your comments to five minutes. Are there any speakers on any matter of public interest?

MR. MCCORMACK: Good evening. Richard McCormack. First, let me congratulate Freeholder Dublin in his swearing in as the President of the New Jersey Council. One quick thing, as a member of Local 2306, that's me, the Welfare and Food Stamp, I was asked to bring a few, quick items to the Board. They gave me a small so-called speech to the Freeholders. I'm going to read part of it.

Ladies and gentlemen, since and after Hurricane Sandy, we as a union have been attempting to contact Hudson County officials to obtain a date for us to sit down and discuss contract negotiations. We have not had such dates and no response to our request. We have been without a contract since June of 2011. It's getting too long waiting on a contract.

There are many issues facing our agency that need to be discussed as soon as possible, so it is imperative that we are given the attention we
1 deserve to resolve these situations and settle our
2 contract once and for all. As a member of the
3 executive board -- a couple of items I left out
4 because I didn't think they were appropriate.
5 We are trying to sit down with Pat Shields
6 and negotiate in a fair and sensible manner, and ask
7 for a reasonable offer from the County, which we're
8 not getting. I believe the last one was zero, one,
9 1.5. We all know the other County unions have
10 settled for at least 2.2, in that area. We're only
11 asking for negotiations to sit down and be heard and
12 give us the respect.
13 Welfare and Food Stamp workers and social
14 workers, we are backbone of the largest County.
15 Hurricane Sandy as the County Executive mentioned,
16 Mr. Lopez, under his direction, we were open and we
17 served a lot of their constituents that needed help
18 at that time. We deal with over 300 people in my
19 office per day. We just want to sit down and
20 negotiate fairly. I was asked it bring this to your
21 attention.
22 We haven't had negotiation sit-down since
23 September of last year. I understand that Sandy
24 brought up some delays. You know what? It's almost
25 five or six months. We need to go back into

1 negotiations, sit down, with respect to that
2 meeting, and once again set forth. Get in touch
3 with our president and set up a meeting. Thank you.
4 FREEHOLDER O' DEA: I mean,
5 Mr. Administrator, that's totally unacceptable. We
6 would expect that by the next caucus meeting that
7 that session should be held. There is no reason why
8 this shouldn't be heard. Someone comes here from
9 the union saying they're reaching out to have a
10 negotiation session, they can't get in touch.
11 MR. BATTISTA: May I speak?
12 Considering Mr. Shields works in my department, he's
13 answerable to me. I've made it clear to every union
14 I've spoken to. If at any point in time they are
15 not getting what they feel is response, my door is
16 open. I'm there every day. I answer my messages.
17 If someone is having a problem, I invite them to
18 contact me as opposed to coming to a meeting to
19 appear we were not responsive. I'll find out from
20 Mr. Shields what the issue is.
21 MR. MCCORMACK: Mr. Battista, I will
22 bring that back to my president and make him aware.
23 Sometimes people don't follow the right ways of
24 doing things.
25 Real quick because I know my time is

1 limited. As many of you know that, I believe at the
2 last meeting or meeting before, I mentioned that I
3 had been chosen to represent New Jersey, basically
4 over 40,000 people in Hudson County, that suffer
5 from diabetes; 40,000 known diabetics, all ZIP
6 codes, all towns, in County of Hudson. I'm honored
7 to be chosen to do this next March 5th, 6th and 7th,
8 but as an aside, I received an e-mail from the
9 American Diabetes Association, that I have been
10 chosen to sit in on a special conference at the
11 Eisenhower Building right next to the Capitol with
12 members of the Obama Administration, to sit down and
13 discuss health issues.
14 I just thought I'd bring this little bit
15 further information to the Board to let them know in
16 about two weeks, I'll be down in Washington, and you
17 all know how expensive that can be, but I'm not
18 looking for anything major right now, but maybe at a
19 future meeting, maybe you can help out with a
20 donation. I know you do it with a lot of
21 organizations, but to be one person representing
22 over 40,000 of your fellow constituents, trying to
23 help better people with diabetes.
24 Freeholder Dublin might have brought this
25 up. Many of you have it or have family or friends

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MR. McCORMACK: Right, in March, hopefully, with the Obama Administration, I know Michelle Obama is very up on health issues. If I can get an ear or a minute of her time, maybe she will be there, and I can represent Hudson County, the mayor of my hometown, our Freeholders and maybe even our Council who all suffer from this inconvenience.

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: Richie, let me ask you a question. Are you representing yourself, or are you there representing an organization?

MR. McCORMACK: I'm representing the American Diabetes Association, which has chosen 300 people throughout the country.

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: Can we -- it's just easier for us to do a $200 donation or $250 donation to them for you than to do it to you. I guess we can do it either way.

MR. McCORMACK: We probably can.

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: Just right, so can you maybe after the meeting I mean I'll gladly sponsor for the next meeting, which should be in time, but if you can talk to Al Santos after the meeting, figure out how we best work, who the dollars go to. Obviously, we're going to defray the cost of your trip there, and I'll reach out to the chairman of the South Hudson Civic Association.

I'll make sure they give you a donation also.

MR. McCORMACK: Thank you very much.

FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: I just want to say being a diabetic since the age of three and knowing Richie for a long time, he's always been a champion for the Diabetic Association, having a son at the age of eight who was diagnosed with diabetes, and now he'll be turning 20 in a couple weeks, we know that early prevention allows lives to be a lot longer. So to be a diabetic for 40 years and to have all the functional organs and feeling great every day is a plateau.

I just want to thank you for continuing your work to represent this County and the different things you do for the Diabetic Association, and anything that I can do to help you out on your trip, I will make a donation also.

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Congratulations.

THE CLERK: Are there any additional speakers on any matter of public interest. Please state your name.

MR. WAHID: Good evening, Reaz Wahid. Congratulations to the Chairman. Congratulations to you. I'm here to talk about the Spectrum issue. Spectrum is at the final stage of building the pipeline. Now, I just want to know whether the County is aware that in this process, I would like to know about that because the City doesn't not know, and I don't know about the County. One of the issues here is whether the pipeline is going to generate revenue taxes because property values go down, and there has to be some way we can offset this loss, and we are not trying to penalize Spectrum. That's not the idea here. The idea here is to request you, if you look at the Natural Gas Act of 1938, it allows in Section 2, 3A, a cost-sharing plan that shall include any direct cost reimbursement, and that the applicant needs to provide state and local agencies with at responsibility for the fifteen. There is a responsibility after the fifteen.

And the reason why, this particular act of 1938, it contemplates a lot of items like the Clear Air Act and the things like that. There are a lot of rules, and we can look into that. The whole idea I'm trying to ask you is, is there any way that you can get involved and see how we're going to compensate yourself and the taxpayer because if you go back and say that, the only thing we can do, we have all the functional organs and feeling great every day is a plateau. So to be a diabetic for 40 years and to have all the functional organs and feeling great every day is a plateau.

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: Can you have a resolution back a couple years ago opposing it. My guess is, I guess there is an ongoing court action. The thing is being built. I see it being built. There another portion which the company has been negotiating, for lack of a better term, in lieu of payment to municipalities that are impacted because of loss of a ratable. I know they did with Bayonne.

I think there is something in Jersey City.

One of the points raised here is, we don't see any percentage of that. The County, the ratables, if we get fifteen percent of what a
rateable is, we're losing those ratables. Do we have the authority, Mr. Administrator, go sit down and raise that same issue? Can we look into that and report back to us?

MR. ANTUN: Sure, we can look into it. If there is a payment being negotiated, there is a statute that requires that.

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: But see, I'm not sure of the structure of that payment because if they're a utility company, they are subject to a long term tax abatement law. Though payments in lieu is a broad term, obviously, the term payment in lieu here, I think that's a payment, it's almost a franchise assessment against them for the property they're using that otherwise would have been a rateable property. I don't think we get five percent.

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We can check into that, right?

MR. WAHID: Thank you very much.

THE CLERK: Additional speakers on any matter of public interest?

MS. POWELL: Tracy Powell, Family Services. We received two memos today from the personnel officer. There was a CC to Ben Lopez, CC to the union, and I'll read the first one. To all staff, from Roger Quintana, the personnel officer; personnel computers, February 14th, 2013, date. The use of personal computers during work hours at your desk is prohibited, and employees are to remove their personal laptops from their desks while on the clock. Use of your cell phones, text messages shall be limited to emergencies. Failure to follow policy may result in disciplinary action.

The second one is to all staff from Roger Quintana, Personnel Officer, dated February 14, 2013. The County is processing a digital notification system. Computerized notification software equipment will send text messages announcing County closures and emergencies. Employees may participate in this program by giving your cell phone to the Department of Personnel office. Madeleine Santiago is the contact person at Extension 2605. The Administration will collect from the supervisors a list of employees' cell phone numbers. Please return the list to Madeleine in Personnel by March 4th, 2013. As of this date additions or corrections to cell phones will be administered directly through Personnel or the Personnel Department.

Mr. Ben Lopez, did you know anything about this?

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: Yes, I did.

MS. POWELL: Your name is not on it.

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: But it was on my instructions that they were sent.

MS. POWELL: So now we get stuck with CC Ben Lopez.

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: Yes, I know.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: What is the problem, Mr. Chair? I don't understand the policy. Explain it.

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: Working on their personal laptops.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: You bring it. You cannot use the laptop within the working areas. Cell phone?

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: Their personal cell phone and their personal laptop.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Does that include iPods, you cannot use that?

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: No.

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: I would assume that.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: They cannot use an iPad. They cannot use a phone. They cannot use what else?

DIRECTOR LOPEZ: They are supposed to be working at their desks. They have breaks where they can use anything they want. FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: I understand that has to be done. If we're going to do with the people in the Department of Welfare, Mr. Administrator, we should include this policy for the whole County because I have come into different areas of this building, people are working with an iPad, and people are working with cell phones. So it's unfair that we create a policy for one group of the County, and it's unfair that other parts of County doesn't follow the same. So if you're going to create a policy like that, we should make it unanimously for the whole County.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: From the Administration, it should come from the Administrator.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Instead of the department, it should come from the Administrator for all the departments. Let me tell you something. The jail, I've been at the jail. I have never seen
so many cell phone inside the jail. I would be more worried about cell phones, bringing --

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: That guy was bringing cell phones in and doing other thing with them, and that guy got arrested.

FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: So if we're going to create a policy like that for one department, we should do it for all departments. We should also say what electronics. I think a cell phone shouldn't be put on this list. I don't think an employee should be talking on the cell phone, but if there is an emergency with employees, sometimes --

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: They say emergency.

MS. POWELL: Okay. The only thing that I have a problem with is he'll always on his laptop or cell phone. What's up with that?

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: You should use the camera on your cell phone, take a photo of it and bring it to a meeting. If they write you up for taking a photo, I'll be the first person to go to PERC with you.

THE CLERK: Additional speakers on any matter of public interest? There appear to be none. Is there a motion to adjourn?

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Motion to adjourn

THE CLERK: Seconded by Munoz. All in favor, opposed? The meeting is adjourned.

(Whereupon the proceeding is then concluded at 8:10 p.m.)

CERTIFICATION

I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No. 30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein are from the notes taken by me of a Regular Meeting of the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders, held on Thursday, February 14, 2013; and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

___________________________
SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR
A NOTARY PUBLIC of the State of New Jersey
I.D. No. 2283786
Commission Expires 2/4/17
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