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HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

RE:

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

O P E N S E S S I O N

Hudson County
Administration Building,
Freeholders Chambers
567 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
Thursday, January 10, 2013
6:00 p.m.

B E F O R E:

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
ELIU RIVERA, Freeholder

A L S O P R E S E N T:

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

Job No. NJ1585880

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1 THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli.
 2 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Present.
 3 THE CLERK: DiDomenico.
 4 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Hi. You're
 5 doing the role. Here.
 6 THE CLERK: Dublin. Liggio.
 7 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Here.
 8 THE CLERK: Munoz.
 9 FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Here.
 10 THE CLERK: O'Dea.
 11 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Here.
 12 THE CLERK: Rivas.
 13 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Absent.
 14 THE CLERK: Rivera.
 15 FREEHOLDER RIVERA: Here.
 16 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.
 17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.
 18 THE CLERK: Please stand for the
 19 Pledge of Allegiance.
 20 (Flag Salute.)
 21 THE CLERK: Freeholder Rivas is also
 22 present. Adequate notice of this meeting has been
 23 provided as follows:
 24 1. Posting notice of Resolution No.
 25 12-1-2012 on the Freeholder's Bulletin Board, Third

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1 Floor, Administration Building Annex, Jersey City,
 2 New Jersey.
 3 2. Copies of the above mentioned
 4 resolution have been sent to the County Clerk and
 5 the editors of the Jersey Journal and the Star
 6 Ledger.
 7 Mr. Chair, may I have a motion to approve
 8 the Minutes of the November 15th, 2012 Regular
 9 Meeting and the November 20th, 2012 Regular Meeting.
 10 Who was the motion by?
 11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Motion by
 12 Freeholder Dublin. Seconded by Freeholder Liggio.
 13 Freeholder Cifelli.
 14 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.
 15 THE CLERK: DiDomenico.
 16 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.
 17 THE CLERK: Dublin.
 18 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.
 19 THE CLERK: Liggio.
 20 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.
 21 THE CLERK: Munoz.
 22 FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Yes.
 23 THE CLERK: O'Dea.
 24 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.
 25 THE CLERK: Rivas.

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1 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Abstained.
 2 THE CLERK: Rivera.
 3 FREEHOLDER RIVERA: Yes.
 4 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.
 5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.
 6 THE CLERK: The next order of
 7 business is additional discussion on today's agenda.
 8 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman.
 9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, please.
 10 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, the first
 11 item that I have is a recommendation from the Law
 12 Department to enter into a -- actually to amend a
 13 resolution that was issued to Jardim, Messner &
 14 Susser, \$149,750, in connection with the litigation
 15 regarding Sinatra Drive.
 16 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, this will
 17 be No. 12, resolution amending Resolution No.
 18 273-5-2012 as amended by Resolution No. 544-2-2012,
 19 professional services, non-fair and open-ended
 20 services, Jardim, Messner & Susser \$149,750,
 21 sponsored by Freeholder Cifelli.
 22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Seconded by
 23 Freeholder Rivera. Freeholder O'Dea.
 24 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: We had a
 25 committee meeting at this Tuesday's Caucus. The

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1 principal of the law firm was here and gave his
 2 presentation as to the status of the litigation to
 3 date. He also gave us a timeline as to the several
 4 phases, for explanation purposes, broken up into
 5 three or four component parts, one of which is what
 6 have they done to date. Next phase as far as the
 7 discovery is concerned, taking expert's reports and
 8 whittling down the production into three phases
 9 where the documents are exchanged.
 10 Essentially, this kind of litigation is a
 11 structured litigation. It's a very heavily
 12 documented, documented type of case so there is
 13 going to be thousands of pages, literally thousands
 14 of pages of documents exchanged which has to be
 15 reviewed. Based upon what he had told us, the
 16 original allocation budgeted item preliminarily was
 17 about \$25,000. It is broken up into phases, so that
 18 the balance of 149 should carry us through most of
 19 the phases up to pretrial.
 20 So based on the synapses of the case to
 21 date, the committee, I'll speak for Freeholder O'Dea
 22 and Freeholder Liggio was that the consensus of the
 23 committee was to move forward with the firm as well
 24 the litigation. That's why I moved the resolution.
 25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman, what

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1 I would add is that based on the -- based on the
 2 information that's been provided and the work and
 3 research done to date, I think that there is a
 4 strong compelling argument for us to aggressively
 5 pursue a number of parties from the developer to the
 6 people that did the work, to people who did whatever
 7 inspections were done back when this work was
 8 originally done.

9 And when you look at the scope and
 10 magnitude of the additional financial liability for
 11 the repair of the remainder of the area of Sinatra
 12 Drive that is under the County's current control,
 13 which we're looking at another 5 to \$10 million of
 14 cost, we have an obligation to the taxpayers of
 15 Hudson County to aggressively pursue litigation
 16 against any and all parties that were involved back
 17 when this road was constructed for their negligence
 18 and/or failure to do certain things that should have
 19 been done at the time that the original construction
 20 occurred.

21 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Mr. Chair, just
 22 along the lines of the extent and exposure of this,
 23 my understanding is that to date for the repair that
 24 the County has performed, that bill is about \$3
 25 million, right, Mr. Administrator?

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1 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

2 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: And that there's
 3 further exposure on the risk to the remaining
 4 portion of Sinatra Drive, just within the County's
 5 purview and jurisdiction could be another 5 to 8
 6 million, so obviously, we're in the big leagues. I
 7 wholeheartedly agree that we have to actively and
 8 aggressively pursue this to found out if someone
 9 else can share the burden.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: A comment I would
 11 like to as a resident and as someone who uses that
 12 roadway both as the driver of a vehicle and as a
 13 runner, I think it's essential that we find who is
 14 responsible for that.

15 Next, Mr. Administrator.

16 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, the next
 17 item that I have is a resolution awarding dollars to
 18 various agencies for the three-month period for the
 19 Office on Aging while we undertake a new RFP for new
 20 providers.

21 FREEHOLDER RIVERA: No. 13,
 22 Mr. Clerk?

23 THE CLERK: Yes, Mr. Chair, entitled
 24 authorizing three-month extension to some agreements
 25 relative to the Division of Health and Human

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1 Services Program, Hudson County Office on Aging,
 2 January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013, \$1,642,729.

3 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Sponsor.
 4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Seconded by
 5 Freeholder Rivera.

6 FREEHOLDER RIVERA: I can't.
 7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I'll second it.
 8 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Can we explain why
 9 we have to do this? You're extending something even
 10 though you're in the process?

11 MR. ANTUN: Freeholder, I don't know
 12 what the delay was. I do know there was some
 13 staffing issues in the Office on Aging, and that
 14 delayed the process, but I signed off on the new
 15 process today, and it will probably be on the portal
 16 by next week, so we will hopefully have a
 17 recommendation to the Board.

18 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Did you ever see
 19 the movie Ground Hog Day?

20 MR. ANTUN: I may have seen it a
 21 while back. I know it's Bill Murry and Andie
 22 McDowell.

23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I mean it's --
 24 Director Wilson is not here. So we're into January,
 25 we asked, if we asked one time, we probably have

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1 asked over one hundred times since I've been on this
 2 Board that if there were going to be cases like
 3 this, we should be told before and not after. So if
 4 somebody knew in September, October, November, that
 5 for whatever reason, lack of staff, some
 6 administrative issue on a State level, that these
 7 contracts were not going to be able to be put out
 8 for RFP in a timely manner, we set a policy that is
 9 this Board should be informed.

10 Unless Freeholder DiDomenico wants to tell
 11 us that she was informed a number of months ago as
 12 chair of that committee and didn't tell us? I'm
 13 very upset over the fact that this is being walked
 14 on as a late starter, didn't even tell us about it
 15 on Tuesday, right, Mr. Administrator?

16 MR. ANTUN: I did not tell you,
 17 Freeholder, because we received it late on Friday,
 18 and Finance was reviewing the recommendation with
 19 Director Wilson's staff, and it took them a few days
 20 to sort everything out, and I wasn't sure if I was
 21 going to be able to bring it to the meeting today.
 22 That's why I did not mention it on Tuesday.

23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So I'm going to
 24 fault you for two days. I'm going to fault someone
 25 else. I'm waiting to hear the reasoning for the

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1 rest of the period of time.
 2 Director Wilson, Director, why are we now
 3 being given this extension for three months to do an
 4 RFP? Why were we not informed at any time by anyone
 5 in your department or in the Administration that we
 6 would not be able -- that we would not be able to do
 7 the RFP in a timely fashion?
 8 DIRECTOR WILSON: Carol Ann Wilson,
 9 Director of the Department of Health and Human
 10 Services.
 11 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Just speak at this
 12 mic. I used that before.
 13 DIRECTOR WILSON: Carol Ann Wilson,
 14 Director of the Department of Health and Human
 15 Services. With regard to the office on --
 16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Move it lower.
 17 DIRECTOR WILSON: With regard to the
 18 Office on Aging request for extending the 2012
 19 contracts for additional three months for 2013, for
 20 the completion of the RFP process, there were two
 21 things that came into play.
 22 One, when the first draft of the RFP was
 23 forwarded to the State for review and approval,
 24 there was an issue that was raised by the State
 25 regarding the right of the County to put in as a

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1 requirement for compliance eligibility for
 2 applications to be part of the First Source
 3 agreement, which is one of the required documents
 4 that were adopted by the Board of Chosen
 5 Freeholders, a requirement of people who receive
 6 money for a grant in the County of Hudson, that they
 7 be in compliance with the living wage ordinance and
 8 also in compliance with a First Source agreement.
 9 The First Source agreement requires that
 10 anyone who receives money from the County, when they
 11 have a hiring, that they should make an effort to
 12 hire individuals in Hudson County, who meet the
 13 requirements of the position. That process or that
 14 program had to be reviewed. The First Source
 15 agreement had to be reviewed at the request of the
 16 State, who questioned whether or not we could
 17 include that as a condition for awarding our
 18 funding.
 19 The matter was reviewed by our Law
 20 Department, and we were advised that the First
 21 Source agreement stands as adopted by the Board of
 22 Chosen Freeholders, and that we would include that
 23 and continue to include that on our First Source
 24 agreement.
 25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: When did that

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1 occur?
 2 DIRECTOR WILSON: That occurred in
 3 October.
 4 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Okay.
 5 DIRECTOR WILSON: Okay. And then as
 6 a result of the -- then you had Sandy, who came
 7 along, Superstorm Sandy, and that delayed the
 8 responses back and forth between the County Office
 9 on Aging and the State. There was an elimination of
 10 time. As a result of that, by the time they were
 11 able to then get ready to revise the RFP with any of
 12 the corrections that the State had indicated to
 13 them, there wasn't sufficient time for them to
 14 complete the process before the close of the current
 15 year.
 16 The solution to the problem, so that we
 17 would not have a cessation of services because a
 18 number of the services provided for the seniors
 19 include nutrition, home health care service and a
 20 variety of other programs, that would have come to
 21 an end at the end of December 31st. The request was
 22 made from the State, could we award the first
 23 quarter for the first three months of January,
 24 February and March of 2013, the existing contracts,
 25 and that would give us sufficient time for the

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1 completion of the RFP program.
 2 The State agreed that they would allow for
 3 the Office on Aging to do the extension for three
 4 months and to provide the services based on the
 5 contracts of 2012, to give sufficient time that an
 6 open and competitive process could be completed, and
 7 they did their calculations, and when they had to
 8 wait for the State to issue the amount of money that
 9 they could project in their first installment of
 10 their money for 2013, the Office on Aging then went
 11 through each one of their contracts, and they made
 12 the allocations that would be possible for the first
 13 three months of service to continue.
 14 They also then called a meeting and met
 15 with all of the providers and explained the
 16 situation to the providers and the providers agreed
 17 that they would continue the services for the first
 18 quarter of the year, where a full RFP process --
 19 excuse me, full RFP would be issued. I believe that
 20 it has been submitted to the Purchasing Department
 21 for review, and I believe it is getting ready to be
 22 put on the portal.
 23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Administrator,
 24 Director Wilson, I want copies of every memo, every
 25 e-mail, every correspondence reflected as to what

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1 you just explained to us. I want from the Law
 2 Department, I want any e-mails and correspondence
 3 concerning the issues and timing on First Source. I
 4 want any e-mail, I want any memos between your
 5 department, the Law Department and the State related
 6 to the timing and getting them to sign off on
 7 changes or changes not needed to be made to the RFP.
 8 The Administrator, before you came in here
 9 said that there was a staffing issue. You've now
 10 totally refuted that, never once mentioned that you
 11 had some staffing problem.
 12 DIRECTOR WILSON: We do. We do have
 13 a staffing problem.
 14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Director, with all
 15 due respect, that's not what you said. You said two
 16 things that caused it, you had a First Source issue,
 17 whether or not it could be included in the RFP, and
 18 nobody ever told this Board that such an issue was
 19 out there. The Law Department, who you just said
 20 was engaged in this process, never informed this
 21 Board there was an issue or dispute related to the
 22 inclusion of a First Source requirement in the RFP.
 23 They could have done that. They didn't do that. No
 24 one notified us of that.
 25 Don't know what the issue with Hurricane

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1 Sandy was and how it put down how many weeks you
 2 weren't able to communicate with the State. I want
 3 to see the whole paper trail. This is not the first
 4 time something like that has happened in this
 5 County. I don't know if it's going to be the last,
 6 but I'm going to tell you what, I'm going to make it
 7 harder and harder for any department to do it this
 8 way because I'm going to demand any time this
 9 happens from any department in this County that I
 10 get the entire paper trail, that I want to document
 11 the entire paper trail as it relates why these
 12 things are delayed, why we're not able to get our
 13 RFPs out on time.
 14 Quite frankly, I would have accepted the
 15 fact that there was a staffing issue, and we needed
 16 hire somebody a lot better than the fact that you've
 17 got the Law Department in this never letting us
 18 know. I want to review all these memos and e-mails
 19 to see if the County Administrator was ever copied
 20 on these, to find whether or not when he knew about
 21 it, why he didn't notify us of it.
 22 I'm sick and tired of this Board being
 23 handed items to extend contracts after the fact,
 24 after January 1st, why we weren't here in December,
 25 why the proper committee wasn't called and this

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1 wasn't revealed to that proper committee. It's been
 2 going on for too, too long. It's gotten a little
 3 bit better, but some in particular areas, it
 4 continues to be a chronic problem, and we've got to
 5 take step to either, A, make sure it doesn't happen;
 6 or B, which I thought we had in place, if it's going
 7 to happen for reasons beyond anyone's control, this
 8 Board needs to know about it before the fact, not
 9 after the fact.
 10 DIRECTOR WILSON: Freeholder, with
 11 all due courtesy, one, this is the Department, my
 12 Department has always notified the Board prior to
 13 any kind of a delay. If you recall when the
 14 occurrence with the federal government and the Ryan
 15 White Act, I've always come before you and let you
 16 know there has been a delay, and we've had to extend
 17 contracts and the information for it. Obviously,
 18 this was not done at this time, so I am accepting
 19 that fact, but at every other instance as far as my
 20 department goes, you were notified.
 21 Second, with regard to your statement you
 22 indicated was made by the County Administrator prior
 23 to my coming here -- I apologize for being late.
 24 There was a traffic jam coming over on Manhattan
 25 Avenue, and I just had to sit. I couldn't get

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1 through, but I apologize for being late. But there
 2 has also been a staffing shortage problem, so he was
 3 correct in making that statement. That contributed
 4 to, you know, the delay in pulling together a very,
 5 voluminous project and a large document that had to
 6 be processed and put together. You had to have
 7 public input. You had to have approval on it. They
 8 had to transmit this down to the State, and they are
 9 working shorthanded, and they did have several
 10 people out due to illnesses that required them to be
 11 out for a period of time. That was a valid
 12 statement, if that is what was said, that
 13 contributed to the issue.
 14 The Sandy situation, there was a breakdown
 15 for a period of time in things being transmitted
 16 back and forth from the State office, also from the
 17 County office, in order for the staff up there to
 18 get the clarifications that they needed. It was
 19 entirely appropriate for the Office on Aging staff
 20 as well as my office to refer back to our Law
 21 Department a clarification on the First Source
 22 agreement. It was appropriate.
 23 Neither one of us in the Office on Aging
 24 or my office have expertise. It was a matter that
 25 was adopted by our Board, and out of respect for the

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1 Board of Freeholders for the strong position they
 2 took to ensure employment of people in Hudson
 3 County, we would not alter a document or make a
 4 change based on a recommendation unless it was
 5 cleared through our Law Department, and we continue
 6 to respect the prerogative of the Board of
 7 Freeholders to make that a requirement of any
 8 contract, and our department had always abided by
 9 it.

10 The fourth issue is they are dealing with
 11 this is that it did occur, and there should have
 12 been a notification, and I accept responsibility for
 13 that, but they have not made the notification
 14 because they did not think that they were going to
 15 have to asked for the extension. The extension was
 16 required because you have to have a certain number
 17 of days when you do an open competitive process.

18 I wanted to be absolutely sure when the
 19 holiday season occurred that was not when the
 20 process was going because a number of agencies in
 21 that field, if they don't have equal opportunity to
 22 access the services, and we wanted to be absolutely
 23 sure that there was a level playing field and that
 24 all people, all programs, that have a potential of
 25 being able to apply for these dollars have the

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1 opportunity to do so, and that we make it a truly an
 2 open competitive process.

3 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Thank you,
 4 Director. All I have in this document provided to
 5 me today is none of what you just said. I asked two
 6 things. I have a document from the State of New
 7 Jersey Department of Human Services dated
 8 September 10th, 2012 concerning the area plan
 9 contract policy application shall be prepared as per
 10 guideline, and this policy memorandum is attached as
 11 well as documents on the same, which I'm very
 12 familiar.

13 This is basically the State notification.
 14 The only other thing I have, I have no memos about
 15 disputes over First Source or inclusion or not
 16 inclusion in this document. I have no backup here
 17 about the down time of communication from Hurricane
 18 Sandy. I have no explanation of the fact this
 19 couldn't get put out during the holiday season
 20 because you may not get the response.

21 I have the next document after September
 22 10th, is a document dated January 9th, from the
 23 director of the program. It is as short as could
 24 possibly be. The following is to notify the Hudson
 25 County Law Department that the Office on Aging will

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1 be authorizing a three-month extension of expiring
 2 subcontracts previously awarded through a fair and
 3 open process for the period of January 1, 2013 to
 4 March 31st, 2013, should you need any further do not
 5 hesitate to call me directly.

6 First of all if I read it, I almost wonder
 7 if this individual doesn't know it needed our
 8 approval because it says -- it doesn't say that the
 9 Office on Aging will be recommending that the
 10 governing body authorize the extension. This
 11 memorandum, it's here, it's in back and white, says
 12 the Office of Aging will be authorizing three-month
 13 extensions of ascribed subcontracts agreements.

14 Look, I asked for the documents I asked
 15 for, Director. Mr. Battista, Mr. Administrator. I
 16 want to get those documents. I want them before the
 17 next caucus. I want the director of this program at
 18 the next caucus. I want to find out why this was
 19 this way, why couldn't we have done one month, why
 20 are we doing three months, and quite frankly, if
 21 nothing else, the more we take to task whatever
 22 department, whoever it is, that delays and causes
 23 us to just after the fact have to do extensions, the
 24 less and less hopefully with all departments, I'm
 25 not singling out one department. Trust me, I've

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1 taken others, Director Lopez, to task on many, many
 2 occasions.

3 To get this to stop or have someone
 4 realize the day that it happens, if they're sitting
 5 in their office on November 1st, and they're like,
 6 uh-oh, there is no way we're going to get this one
 7 done. We don't know if we're going to need a
 8 one-month extension, a two-month extension, a
 9 three-month extension, I'm going to cover myself,
 10 I'm going to send an e-mail to the director of the
 11 department, to the Law Department, to the
 12 Administrator, putting them on notice, I do not
 13 believe we'll be able to get this process completed
 14 and these are the reasons why, please forward to the
 15 County.

16 I'd probably sent it to the County
 17 Executive to send to the appropriate official. That
 18 way we'd know we're on notice. If we disagree, it
 19 may be there is a way to get it done. We can at
 20 least bring the person before this Board and have a
 21 dialogue and discussion before the fact, not where
 22 we're sitting now after the fact. Because we're in
 23 a Catch-22. Of course, we can't not vote for this.
 24 If we don't vote for this, all these services to
 25 seniors won't occur. We don't want that to happen.

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1 What we can do is, we can bring the
2 individuals within the department who are
3 responsible for this to the Board. We can do a full
4 gathering of all the documents associated with it
5 and do a full fact-finding and make sure that it
6 doesn't happen again unless there is something no
7 one could have a possibility of having control over.
8 As to whether or not that could have been the case
9 here, Director, I will reserve judgment until I get
10 all the documents about what was said to the State,
11 what was the issue with First Source. Was there a
12 delay and lapses in documents during the period
13 prior to the storm, how soon after the storm? I'm
14 going to reserve judgment until I have all the
15 information in front of me.
16 I want that director here, and I want
17 those documents here because we've got better at
18 this in 15 years, but we're certainly not where we
19 should be. It's not just your department. You are
20 correct with the Ryan White funding. We've had
21 several occasions because of the federal government,
22 we couldn't do the full year. We had to do
23 short-term extensions. So someone could have just
24 as easily given us the heads-up on this and they
25 didn't.

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1 DIRECTOR WILSON: I have no
2 disagreement on having given you forewarning on it,
3 but I think the effort and in fairness of the staff,
4 I think they wanted to be absolutely sure that they
5 did an open competitive process, and we want to make
6 sure that anyone who is providing service for the
7 seniors in Hudson County have an opportunity to have
8 equal access to the resources. I think if they
9 erred, they erred on the side of making sure that
10 that process was there, and that came on an interim
11 level.
12 I have no dispute on your concern. I have
13 no dispute. It is not a happy process when you have
14 to do an extension of contracts. It's a management
15 nightmare, but they also, I have to add one more
16 piece, that when they were making their changes,
17 they also have to have a public hearing in which
18 they have to publicize, and they have to have a
19 certain amount of time in which they made that
20 public notification, and they had that public
21 hearing in October to go over all of the issues that
22 were related to publishing of the RFP.
23 And I think they may have put in mind that
24 when they did it through the public process and the
25 public hearing to which they notified everyone of

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1 the public hearing, it was held right here in the
2 Freeholder's Chambers. It was attended by providers
3 and from the consumer groups of Hudson County to
4 have input of what was to go into the RFP, and
5 identify the service priorities, and they did go
6 through the public process and were conscientious to
7 see that that was done.
8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mr. Administrator,
9 just make sure we have all the paperwork.
10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Including that, I
11 want the minutes of that meeting.
12 DIRECTOR WILSON: There is a public
13 transcript. There is a public transcript.
14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Committee Chair
15 DiDomenico, would you call a meeting for that,
16 please. Mr. Clerk.
17 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Mr. Chairman,
18 if I can comment further since I am the Chair of
19 that Committee, just to reiterate what Director
20 Wilson had said that she and members of her
21 department do typically keep the Board apprised
22 when they are lagging hearing from the State on
23 funding formulas and other issues like that when
24 they're going to need to ask for an extension.
25 Bill, I don't know if it's reasonable to ask that

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1 every time there's a time delay to have all the
2 backup documentation. We have a lot of paper to
3 begin with.
4 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Freeholder,
5 Freeholder, there is nothing here. If I didn't ask
6 these questions and I asked you why this delay was,
7 and all you had were these documents, you couldn't
8 tell me anything because there's nothing here that
9 provides any information, not even this memo. Look,
10 if this memo laid out what was articulated today, I
11 may review that memo, find it reasonable and not
12 need any documents, or I may as a result of it ask
13 for the documents. There is nothing here.
14 This is -- this one-liner rushed on the
15 9th to the Law Department saying they were going to
16 extend it, in my mind, raises more questions than it
17 answers, and it even raises more questions than some
18 of the answers that the Director gave today, and
19 this memo is not from Director Wilson. This memo is
20 from someone else, but it makes me kind of wonder
21 that all of a sudden on January 9th, which was how
22 many days ago? Yesterday; that now there is this
23 memo that says this is what we're going to do.
24 Forget about -- not forget about the
25 November area, what happened in December? What

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1 happened in the beginning of January? When did
 2 somebody suddenly realize that they've got to be
 3 extended? By getting all those documents, I'm
 4 pretty good at this, I'll piece it together and find
 5 out what was happening and if and when there were
 6 lapses in communication. That's all I want to do.
 7 I'll tell you, had the proper memo been done, I
 8 probably would have been just as satisfied with
 9 that. I wouldn't need all these documents.
 10 I would say, okay, this occurred then on
 11 October such and such, after we had the Public
 12 Hearing. It, was determined we had an issue with
 13 First Source and then communicated to the Law
 14 Department. The Law Department got back to us two
 15 weeks later. Then the storm occurred, which
 16 basically shut us down from October 29th, to the
 17 middle of November. If they lay out a very simple
 18 memo, there is nothing here.
 19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Got it.
 20 DIRECTOR WILSON: Please let me go on
 21 record that you usually do get very comprehensive
 22 memos from my department.
 23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Director, I'm only
 24 dealing with the issue at hand. You should have,
 25 quite frankly, someone in your department with same

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1 concern that I have as it relates to this issue.
 2 DIRECTOR WILSON: I probably have the
 3 background information so you know.
 4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We'll get to it.
 5 Mr. Administrator, next.
 6 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I have no
 7 further items for the agenda, but I do have one
 8 piece of information that was requested regarding
 9 Resolution No. 11, for the Musial Group, the letter
 10 that was requested by the Board regarding their fee
 11 on the applicable flooding regulations. That's all
 12 the items that I have, Mr. Chair.
 13 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yeah, I had
 14 requested this. As I said at the Caucus on Tuesday,
 15 I just wanted to make sure that knowing now that the
 16 building is going to raised several feet higher,
 17 this originally had to be raised and that wasn't the
 18 case when they began the process of soliciting or
 19 qualifying architects and getting prices that we're
 20 not going to get a bill from this architect four or
 21 five months from now saying, Oh, now we have to
 22 raise the building seven or eight feet, my \$98,000
 23 is going to be 120,000. I think this person knows
 24 if they try to do it, we're just going to reject it,
 25 take them to court and compel them to do the job for

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1 the price that we had. We have it in writing.
 2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next.
 3 THE CLERK: According to the policy
 4 set by the Board of Freeholders, members of the
 5 public are asked to limit their comments to fifteen
 6 minutes when discussing agenda items and five
 7 minutes at the conclusion of the meeting when
 8 discussing matters of public interest. At this time
 9 the public may address the Board on any item on the
 10 agenda only. Please keep your comments limited to
 11 fifteen minutes.
 12 Are there any speakers on agenda items
 13 only? There appear to be none Mr. Chair.
 14 The Consent Agenda now includes Items 12
 15 and 13. May I have a motion to approve all items on
 16 the Consent Agent?
 17 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Motion.
 18 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Second.
 19 Freeholder Cifelli.
 20 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.
 21 THE CLERK: DiDomenico.
 22 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.
 23 THE CLERK: Dublin.
 24 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.
 25 THE CLERK: Liggio.

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1 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.
 2 THE CLERK: Munoz.
 3 FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Yes.
 4 THE CLERK: O'Dea.
 5 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.
 6 THE CLERK: Rivas.
 7 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.
 8 THE CLERK: Rivera.
 9 FREEHOLDER RIVERA: Abstained on 13,
 10 aye on the rest.
 11 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.
 12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.
 13 THE CLERK: We have no ordinances for
 14 introduction. We have no ordinances for Second
 15 Reading. That concludes the items of business on
 16 today's agenda. Are there any comments from the
 17 Freeholders on the business of the Board?
 18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: One comment, I know
 19 North Bergen Waterfront and Guttenberg Park received
 20 \$24,000 each from the State for the recreational
 21 draft program.
 22 THE CLERK: Are there any comments
 23 from the Chief of Staff to the County Executive?
 24 MR. GAUGHAN: No, thank you.
 25 THE CLERK: This is the time for

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1 anyone present to address the Board on any matter of
 2 public interest. Please remember to limit your
 3 comments to five minutes.
 4 Ms. Catherine Grimm.
 5 MS. GRIMM: I hope everyone had a
 6 blessed Christmas and happy New Year. May 2013 be
 7 beautiful and healthy.
 8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you,
 9 Catherine.
 10 MS. GRIMM: I've been doing a little
 11 research since the incident up in Connecticut, also
 12 since one occurred in Colorado. There are several
 13 items in here of opinions, statistics and plans.
 14 The second item, third page is, Pravda Tells America
 15 to Keep your Guns. It's a report of the Pravda, and
 16 he goes through history of weapons in Russia under
 17 the Tzars. They wore them and carried them, but
 18 then when the Tzars were replaced and Stalin came
 19 on, confiscation, and they lost a lot of their
 20 freedom. Same things happened -- the same thing
 21 happened in Germany when Hitler took over. He
 22 disarmed people also.
 23 Now, Australia has just disarmed their
 24 people. Their crime rate is going up there on
 25 murders, robberies, burglaries, rape. England has

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1 the highest rate of vicious crime throughout the
 2 Euro. They have no gun. Even the police don't
 3 carry guns. When they had the riots a year or two
 4 ago in England, the police had to get permission to
 5 have guns and use rubber bullets, which delayed them
 6 being armed and getting out there to protect the
 7 civilians.
 8 What appears to be being talked with with
 9 the federal, Biden, Obama, and the people that
 10 they're having to the White House to discuss things,
 11 it is not about the problem at hand. The people
 12 that have the guns legally are not out there
 13 shooting everybody in the streets. It's the ones
 14 that are illegal guns, and they also have the magnum
 15 magazines with the multiple clips. There have been
 16 several instances since Connecticut.
 17 Two young girls home alone in their own
 18 homes, somebody breaking into their home. One calls
 19 her mother. She tells daughter to get her gun and
 20 hide. She does so. The other one is on the phone
 21 with a 911 operator. She also had her mother's gun
 22 and she hides. The one on the phone with the
 23 operator, as she heard the perpetrator enter the
 24 room where she is hiding is asking the operator can
 25 she shoot this person, and the operator is saying

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1 yes. The other girl does shoot the perpetrator as
 2 he tried to enter the closet where she is.
 3 Another incident, a mother home alone with
 4 two nine-year-old twins, the doorbell ringing
 5 incessantly. She doesn't answer. The door is quiet
 6 for a while, and then he starts breaking in the
 7 door. She takes the children and hides, and she's
 8 got a gun. When he finally gets through the house
 9 to where they are located and opens the doors, he is
 10 looking at a .38 magnum. All three individuals were
 11 shot by privately owned guns. The police were able
 12 to apprehend all three of them.
 13 There was an incident on the radio last
 14 month. A man and his mother were locking up their
 15 store. They had left the back door open for a
 16 customer that was late and had just left. Within a
 17 couple of minutes, two men armed with their gun,
 18 shooting as they came into the store, tried to kill
 19 him and his mother. He had a gun, self-defense, but
 20 he was up against two guns. I don't know how many
 21 bullets were in their clips. If he had only a
 22 single shot pistol, what could have happened?
 23 Civilians also need the multiple clips because the
 24 perpetrators are armed to the teeth. You don't have
 25 a chance.

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1 Now, in Washington they're discussing it
 2 but they're not discussing --
 3 THE CLERK: Time, Mr. Chair.
 4 MS. GRIMM: But they're not
 5 discussing the psychological conditions which lead
 6 to this. We've got to get the laws enforced that
 7 out there now. That means getting out there and
 8 getting the guns off the street. All this street
 9 gun buying to get the guns off the street, they're
 10 not getting any guns off the street. They're coming
 11 out of the people's homes. They're privately owned.
 12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.
 13 THE CLERK: Additional speakers on
 14 any matter of public interest? There appear to be
 15 none, Mr. Chairman.
 16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Motion to close.
 17 FREEHOLDER MUNOZ: Motion.
 18 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Second.
 19 THE CLERK: All in favor. Meeting is
 20 adjourned.
 21 (Whereupon the proceeding is then
 22 concluded at 6:55 p.m.)
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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, January 10, 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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