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HUDSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

RE:

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

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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 23, 2014  
6:00 p.m.

B E F O R E:

- JOSE C. MUNOZ, Chairman
- ALBERT CIFELLI, Freeholder
- DOREEN DiDOMENICO, Freeholder
- JEFFREY DUBLIN, Freeholder
- E. JUNIOR MALDONADO, Freeholder
- JOSE C. MUNOZ, Freeholder
- WILLIAM O'DEA, Freeholder
- TILO RIVAS, Freeholder
- ANTHONY ROMANO, Freeholder

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

- CARMEN E. MENDIOLA, ESQ., Board Counsel
- DONATO J. BATTISTA, Hudson County Counsel
- ABRAHAM ANTUN, County Administrator
- WILLIE ORTIZ, County Clerk

Job No. NJ1798421

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1 THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli.  
 2 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Here.  
 3 THE CLERK: Freeholder DiDomenico.  
 4 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Here.  
 5 THE CLERK: Freeholder Dublin.  
 6 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Here.  
 7 THE CLERK: Freeholder Liggio.  
 8 Freeholder Maldonado.  
 9 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Here.  
 10 THE CLERK: Freeholder O'Dea.  
 11 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Here.  
 12 THE CLERK: Freeholder Rivas.  
 13 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Here.  
 14 THE CLERK: Freeholder Romano.  
 15 Freeholder Romano stepped away. Chairman Munoz.  
 16 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Here.  
 17 THE CLERK: Please stand for the  
 18 Pledge of Allegiance.  
 19 (Flag Salute.)  
 20 THE CLERK: Adequate notice of this  
 21 meeting has been provided as follows:  
 22 1. Posting notice of Resolution No.  
 23 8-1-2014 on the Freeholder's Bulletin Board, Third  
 24 Floor, Administration Building Annex, Jersey City,  
 25 New Jersey.

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1 2. Copies of the above mentioned  
 2 resolution have been sent to the County Clerk and  
 3 the editors of the Jersey Journal and the Star  
 4 Ledger.  
 5 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Members of the  
 6 public, we're going into closed session for about  
 7 ten or fifteen minutes.  
 8 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I make a motion to  
 9 go into closed session.  
 10 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Second.  
 11 THE CLERK: On the motion to go into  
 12 closed session, Freeholder Cifelli.  
 13 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.  
 14 THE CLERK: Freeholder DiDomenico.  
 15 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.  
 16 THE CLERK: Freeholder Dublin.  
 17 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.  
 18 THE CLERK: Freeholder Liggio.  
 19 Freeholder Maldonado.  
 20 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Yes.  
 21 THE CLERK: Freeholder O'Dea.  
 22 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.  
 23 THE CLERK: Freeholder Rivas.  
 24 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.  
 25 THE CLERK: Freeholder Romano.

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1 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes.  
 2 THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.  
 3 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.  
 4 THE CLERK: We are in closed session.  
 5 (Whereupon the Freeholder Board moves  
 6 to its Executive Session.)  
 7 THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli.  
 8 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Here.  
 9 THE CLERK: Freeholder DiDomenico.  
 10 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Here.  
 11 THE CLERK: Freeholder Dublin.  
 12 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Here.  
 13 THE CLERK: Freeholder Liggio.  
 14 Freeholder Maldonado.  
 15 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Here.  
 16 THE CLERK: Freeholder O'Dea.  
 17 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Here.  
 18 THE CLERK: Freeholder Rivas.  
 19 Freeholder Romano. Chairman Munoz.  
 20 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Here.  
 21 THE CLERK: First order of business,  
 22 is there any additional discussion by the  
 23 Freeholder's on today's agenda?  
 24 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Freeholder.  
 25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Administrator,

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1 what we were supposed to have, we forgot. What we  
 2 were supposed to do, remember we postponed the  
 3 Koppers, and the County never even met? We were  
 4 supposed to have a meeting, a meeting on Koppers.  
 5 The County Exec requested that we postpone it. It  
 6 was never rescheduled.  
 7 MR. ANTUN: I think we postponed it,  
 8 Freeholder. I apologize. I forgot about it,  
 9 Freeholder. I'm sorry.  
 10 THE CLERK: According to the policy  
 11 set by the Board of Freeholders, members of the  
 12 public are asked to limit their comments to 15  
 13 minutes when discussing agenda items and five  
 14 minutes at the conclusion of the meeting when  
 15 discussing matters of public interest.  
 16 At this time the public may address the  
 17 Board on any item on the agenda only. Please keep  
 18 your comments limited to 15 minutes. Are there any  
 19 speakers on agenda items only?  
 20 MS. WAITERS: Patricia Waiters.  
 21 There was two additional items on the agenda, No. 14  
 22 and 15.  
 23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: We carried 15; 15  
 24 we carried to the next meeting. That's the economic  
 25 index. That was off. Director Mearns needs to just

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1 clarify one point on the differential between the  
 2 index used here and what the currently is the ages  
 3 that we deal with at the County. There is only one  
 4 additional item.  
 5 MS. WAITERS: That's 14?  
 6 MR. ANTUN: That's just a resolution  
 7 to support an application filed by the Washington  
 8 Park Association.  
 9 MS. WAITERS: The 15, that was the  
 10 one on Super Bowl, the 5,000?  
 11 MR. ANTUN: Ms. Waiters, that was not  
 12 an agenda item. I announced that. That's  
 13 informational. That's not an agenda item. The  
 14 County is providing financial support to the City of  
 15 Hoboken and the Town of Secaucus.  
 16 MS. WAITERS: I'll hold off until the  
 17 public portion. I wanted to offer an opinion.  
 18 THE CLERK: Are there any other  
 19 speakers on agenda items only?  
 20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Is there any  
 21 contractual relationship that requires us to have a  
 22 vote?  
 23 MR. ANTUN: Not that I'm aware of.  
 24 I'll defer to County Counsel.  
 25 MR. BATTISTA: My opinion is under

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1 the contract law, that any contract that exceeds the  
 2 bid threshold, which is \$17,500, that the County  
 3 bids, that's not required to have a motion. If we  
 4 purchase items by votes, it's over the 17,500.  
 5 Because of the fact that the amounts are 5,000,  
 6 there is no requirement to vote.  
 7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So the fact that  
 8 we profit, what if during the year, we provide --  
 9 the County does more than 15 or 17,500?  
 10 MR. BATTISTA: In my view the terms  
 11 of this issue, it is driven by the commodity. At  
 12 the point in time that the commodity exceeds  
 13 \$17,500, it required the resolution. The commodity  
 14 does not exceed \$17,500. Your issue, I believe, is  
 15 stacking. Your issue would be about entering into  
 16 the contract with 5,000 for chairs and then tables  
 17 for five and something else for ten, then because it  
 18 exceeded the Pay To Pay threshold, it's more than  
 19 17,500.  
 20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Theoretically  
 21 under your -- what you just stated, it's irrelevant  
 22 because Bayonne could get \$15,000 for January 1st;  
 23 \$15,000 for February 1st; \$15,000 for March 1st,  
 24 April, May, June, all the way to the end of the  
 25 year, it's okay?

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1 MR. BATTISTA: I view it based upon  
 2 the commodity. In this case the commodity is, in  
 3 your example with Bayonne, if next month I gave you  
 4 five and the following month I gave it to you for  
 5 ten, my opinion may change. In this case we're  
 6 talking about \$5,000.  
 7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: That's what I'm  
 8 saying. What if one the County had a 300th Hoboken  
 9 anniversary, we give them 11,500, and it's still  
 10 below. We already gave them five. Is it at that  
 11 point that you're about to exceed the 17.5, you  
 12 would have to come?  
 13 MR. BATTISTA: I would be driven by  
 14 what the commodity is.  
 15 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Why is it a  
 16 different commodity?  
 17 MR. ANTUN: Because it's a 300th  
 18 anniversary. This is for the Super Bowl activity.  
 19 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So like I just  
 20 said, if you wanted to January Fest in a town, you  
 21 give them 15. January Fest was --  
 22 MR. BATTISTA: That's the same  
 23 commodity, so now I would require. January Fest in  
 24 January is the same thing.  
 25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: What about

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1 February Fest?  
 2 MR. ANTUN: Same thing. It's the  
 3 same commodity.  
 4 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Why is it the same  
 5 commodity, January Fest, and the second one is  
 6 President Fest? Come on.  
 7 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Our focus is not  
 8 what you call it, it's whether it's a circus and a  
 9 street fair and then a June Fest. That's somewhat  
 10 subjective to us, but there are some clear-cut  
 11 issues where it's a clear violation of the code.  
 12 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So i would ask our  
 13 attorney to research and weigh in on this because  
 14 hypothetically, you could give any municipality over  
 15 \$100,000 a year and never had to go to come to us.  
 16 We could do summer concerts and give them fifteen.  
 17 You can do Winter Fest, which would be renting a  
 18 portable ice rink, it's not a concert, and give them  
 19 15,000 for that.  
 20 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: You can look at  
 21 that as being recreational, but, right.  
 22 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I'm just curious  
 23 to see what the limits of that are because we're  
 24 taking it to its extreme the ability for the  
 25 executive branch of government to be able to

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1 allocate those dollars. Quite frankly, Mr.  
 2 Administrator, absent your telling us that, you  
 3 don't know. One would argue you don't have to tell  
 4 us, and if we find out and it turns out you're  
 5 wrong, you've got a bigger problem, but absent that,  
 6 you don't have a legal obligation to even tell us.  
 7 MR. ANTUN: First of all, I am  
 8 compelled to tell the Board when we come up with  
 9 these activities.  
 10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: And I understand.  
 11 MR. ANTUN: Let me finish. Number  
 12 two, this item was conveyed to me on Friday when I  
 13 was not here, and I asked that this be placed on the  
 14 agenda, and I was advised by counsel that the reason  
 15 that he gave, that it did not require, but I still  
 16 felt compelled to tell you about the matter because  
 17 of the activities that's involved, the dollar amount  
 18 that's involved, and the fact that it affected two  
 19 municipalities, et cetera.  
 20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Do we know of  
 21 other municipalities that have had events, and we  
 22 have afforded them to opportunity to request the  
 23 funding? Jersey City I know has an event.  
 24 MR. ANTUN: I cannot address that  
 25 because I was not directly involved in that. Ask

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1 Meredith if she knows. I can't address that because  
 2 it didn't come up, and she is no longer here. I  
 3 can't address that because this item came up at the  
 4 last minute. I was not here when it came up, and I  
 5 was not involved in that decision or discussion.  
 6 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Mr. Clerk.  
 7 THE CLERK: Are there any other  
 8 speakers on the agenda items only? Do we have a  
 9 motion to approve all items listed on the consent  
 10 agenda?  
 11 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Moved by Freeholder  
 12 Maldonado. Second by Freeholder Dublin.  
 13 THE CLERK: On the agenda, Freeholder  
 14 Cifelli.  
 15 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.  
 16 THE CLERK: Freeholder DiDomenico.  
 17 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.  
 18 THE CLERK: Freeholder Dublin.  
 19 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: No on 8. Aye on  
 20 the rest.  
 21 THE CLERK: Freeholder Liggio.  
 22 Freeholder Maldonado.  
 23 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Yes.  
 24 THE CLERK: Freeholder O'Dea.  
 25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: No on 8. Aye on

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1 the rest.  
 2 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: I want to  
 3 amend mine to no on 8.  
 4 THE CLERK: Freeholder Rivas.  
 5 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.  
 6 THE CLERK: Freeholder Romano.  
 7 Chairman Munoz.  
 8 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.  
 9 THE CLERK: That concludes the items  
 10 of business on today's agenda. Are there any  
 11 comments from the Freeholders on the business of the  
 12 board?  
 13 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman, on  
 14 the items related to the Sandy funding, again, I  
 15 want to reiterate how extremely troubled I am by the  
 16 failure of the responsible agencies, the biggest  
 17 responsibility is the Hudson County Welfare, to  
 18 properly identify and outreach to the appropriate  
 19 elected officials, financial institutions and other  
 20 entities to better try to identify eligible  
 21 individuals for the funding. That could include  
 22 individuals that either have their property  
 23 foreclosed and/or are being evicted from their from  
 24 their apartment due to Hurrican Sandy.  
 25 When I look at an item that shows

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1 \$888,958, three months, only \$200,805 has been  
 2 allocated, I find that to be a travesty. I think  
 3 there were so many individuals in the cities that  
 4 desperately could use this funding that the County  
 5 dropped the ball. I look at the job that the  
 6 Bayonne Economic Opportunity Fund did, when they  
 7 were able to identify 31 individuals or households  
 8 to get that funding, and at the same time, in the  
 9 entire rest of the County, only 23 individuals were  
 10 identified, only nine in the City of Jersey City.  
 11 Out of the 23, nine were outside the County, and no  
 12 one has identified anyone.  
 13 I think that the issues that I raised  
 14 earlier, again, this is not only rental or mortgage,  
 15 it's assistance with utilities. It can also be  
 16 assistance in the purchasing of household items, air  
 17 conditioning, beds, washers, dryers, dressers,  
 18 furniture, hot water heater, et cetera.  
 19 We read in the course of the last ten days  
 20 about the problems raised by the mayor of one  
 21 municipality concerning Sandy money flowing to a  
 22 City that needs it. Here, all we need to do is look  
 23 in our own mirror to realize that though we have  
 24 over a million and a half, \$1.9 million potentially  
 25 available to be spent, and we've spent only a

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1 pittance of it. We have only spent \$138,000, out of  
 2 \$1.8 million, which is less than ten percent of the  
 3 money that was allocated.  
 4 We need to get on top of this issue  
 5 immediately. People within the government that have  
 6 failed to do their job need to be held accountable.  
 7 There are four what I think are simple steps that  
 8 need to be taken. I said immediately notify Mayor  
 9 Fulop, of Jersey City and Mayor Zimmer in Hoboken.  
 10 Tomorrow, phone calls should be made to every one of  
 11 the mayors, maybe with the exception of Mayor Smith  
 12 because obviously the EOF has done their job. But  
 13 I'm sure that if Mayor Stack of Union City knows of  
 14 that program, he'll identify in short order each and  
 15 every eligible resident of the City of Union City  
 16 that would be eligible for rental assistance,  
 17 utilities assistance, mortgage assistance, et  
 18 cetera. I am sure that's true with many of the  
 19 other cities.  
 20 The other thing that needs to immediately  
 21 be done, which is things that we stated back in  
 22 October when the presentation was made to us. We  
 23 said to reach out to the banking institutions. We  
 24 have contacted all the banks. We should contact  
 25 those banks to find out who within this County is

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1 currently facing a foreclosure. Reach out, send a  
 2 letter to each of them, and tell them and advise  
 3 them what the program is and ask them to come in and  
 4 see if they meet the requirement of eligibility to  
 5 get assistance to frankly save people from staying  
 6 in their homes, whether they're homeowner or  
 7 tenants.  
 8 As it relates to tenants, what cases are  
 9 there people pending eviction from the County Court  
 10 because of failure of back rent? Again, identify  
 11 those individuals, reach out to them. The County  
 12 Welfare Department should immediately either assign  
 13 existing staff or if they can't use existing staff,  
 14 go out and hire temporary staff to be able to go do  
 15 a more detailed outreach to be able to assist  
 16 people in filling out the application and expediting  
 17 the approval for the money.  
 18 This issue if it is not addressed now  
 19 would be a very, very serious black eye for Hudson  
 20 County, and after what we've read from the paper in  
 21 the last ten days where there's finger pointing  
 22 about cities that need money not getting money, we  
 23 need to be more diligent than ever before in making  
 24 sure that the almost \$2 million sitting in an  
 25 account that could go directly in the hands of

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1 individuals, needy individuals who had their  
 2 property damage or their lives.  
 3 I remember the presentation the individual  
 4 made. This not only related to individuals that  
 5 were impacted physically with the place that they  
 6 live in, but it could have been an individuals who  
 7 were impacted because their job, because they worked  
 8 somewhere in the County, and their job was closed  
 9 for two months and that created a financial hardship  
 10 on them. I have to tell you all the years that I've  
 11 been on this Board, this is one of the things that I  
 12 find most bothersome.  
 13 And what really bothers me about this,  
 14 Mr. Administrator, is we demanded the before we  
 15 approved this money in October, we demanded that you  
 16 bring someone before us to tell us what the program  
 17 was about, to tell us how the dollars would be spent  
 18 and what the eligibility was, and as a result of it,  
 19 we made recommendations at that time to that  
 20 individual, and based on the memo that I received  
 21 today, none of those, none of those were carried  
 22 out.  
 23 And the last recommendation I had made  
 24 earlier I wanted relates to the Bayonne Economic  
 25 Opportunity Fund. They seem to have it. They seem

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1 have figured this out. One thing I learned a long  
 2 time ago, if somebody is doing something the right  
 3 way, don't reinvent the wheel, go ask them. So the  
 4 last thing I would ask before we have a special  
 5 meeting on Monday is that Susan, Susan Mearns, Ben  
 6 Lopez and even yourself, I think that this rises to  
 7 a level that you need to personally be involved in  
 8 this, tomorrow meet with EBOF, find out what process  
 9 or procedure they utilized to identify the  
 10 individuals within their town that should be  
 11 eligible for it, and let's try to replicate that.  
 12 THE CLERK: Any other comments from  
 13 Members of the Board?  
 14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: There is no Chief  
 15 of Staff or Deputy Chief of Staff here. Usually  
 16 Bill Gaughan here. Obviously, he's allowed time off  
 17 or vacation. In his absence we usually have Mr.  
 18 Craig Guy here. We have nobody here representing  
 19 the County besides the Administrator, especially in  
 20 light of that issue that I raised. It would have  
 21 been good if they were here.  
 22 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Mr. Chairman,  
 23 just to piggyback off of Freeholder O'Dea's  
 24 statement, I would recommend also aside from the  
 25 bank that can give you information on foreclosure,

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1 Hudson County Realtors Association, they have the  
 2 multiple listing and know just about every house in  
 3 the market that's on a short sale, and that that  
 4 information can be gotten from them.  
 5 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Anything else?  
 6 THE CLERK: This is the time for  
 7 anyone present to address the Board on any matter of  
 8 public interest. Please remember to limit your  
 9 comments to five minutes. Are there any speakers?  
 10 MS. WAITERS: Hi. Welcome,  
 11 Mr. Chair. Congratulations. Patricia Waiters, 1083  
 12 Park Avenue. I'm going to talk for five minutes and  
 13 give you the condensed version. You know I stand  
 14 here tonight very upset. I've been coming to the  
 15 podium for seven years, and telling you how somebody  
 16 is not being transparent what it comes to impacting  
 17 the people, but you just identified the man in the  
 18 past seven days. It was related to my incident with  
 19 the deputy director at the jail. It's a report.  
 20 I made a notation because I didn't want to  
 21 lose track of what I wanted to get across here.  
 22 Just some questions I raised, concerns as a member  
 23 of the public, opening up a can of worms sometimes  
 24 wakes you up, and recently in Hudson County, what's  
 25 been happening just like Mr. O'Dea said when he's

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1 talking about the Sandy funds and individuals. If  
 2 this individual is receiving the money, it's one  
 3 thing, but what the County is using Sandy is a  
 4 free-for-all.  
 5 I was here when one of them guys was  
 6 standing here at the podium and said, Sandy is being  
 7 used as a free-for-all. Somebody that really needs  
 8 it is going to suffer an impact because nobody feels  
 9 that the government knows nobody else. What I'm  
 10 upset about is omission. If you know what's going,  
 11 whether it's my brother, whether it's my sister,  
 12 whether it's my colleagues, it's still somebody.  
 13 Don't wait until the issue gets hot because it makes  
 14 you look just as guilty.  
 15 I mean at this point we've got to stick  
 16 together and see what we could do to clear the name of  
 17 Hudson County. I beg you every time I come to this  
 18 microphone, let's clear the name of Hudson County.  
 19 I stood here as a victim, okay? I suffered a real  
 20 impact like I just told, and Mr. Lopez, the head of  
 21 Welfare, this man is like Jesus Christ to me with  
 22 the TRAs that's given, and in my district, I sent  
 23 plenty of people there, and Mr. Lopez, you know that  
 24 you have been very cooperative. You know I'm there  
 25 all the time.

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1 When I said answer the call, and you see  
 2 the line, this man's hands are full. He's trying  
 3 everything. He uses due diligence. He tried to  
 4 help to everybody. I mean I'm talking about people,  
 5 and keep all of my paperwork and my notes, but he  
 6 needs to have a director to work with him, and it's  
 7 kind of hard on the County. You know when you have  
 8 a job, you're in a minority, and this is what is  
 9 coming out now, and we suffer an impact, and that's  
 10 what happened with me, and I hope like I say, I  
 11 don't want to go into detail because I don't have  
 12 all the facts. You all know what took place with  
 13 the deputy director at the jail, and it impacted me.  
 14 I've been standing at this microphone,  
 15 meanwhile that very, very same individual that you  
 16 nine Freeholder told me to take it to the FBI, and I  
 17 did that. I complied with everything you said, and  
 18 the only thing I asked you is to comply with me, not  
 19 only as a resident, but I asked you now to look at  
 20 it. Do me a favor, do what's right as government  
 21 officials. I took the ethics board test today,  
 22 being an assistant to the assembly. This is exactly  
 23 the thing that I'm standing at this microphone that  
 24 you guys can entertain.  
 25 So I'm going to stay at this microphone

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1 because two weeks ago with his arrest and his  
 2 indictment, I'm going to say could anybody reach to  
 3 me because it's not too late. Reach out to me, and  
 4 I want some answers. I want to bring this to your  
 5 attention because I don't know how fair the Law  
 6 Department has been to you. I don't know whether  
 7 you understand what is going on. The whole story  
 8 about Eady and the website, please reach out to me.  
 9 Listen to the allegations because they impact me. I  
 10 am Patricia Waiters. I was named in the e-mails. I  
 11 was named in the phone calls, and this man took my  
 12 career and hurt me and my family.  
 13 I'm going to wrap it up, begging for you  
 14 to take those allegations very serious and look into  
 15 it for me and somebody get back in touch with me.  
 16 Work together with the governing body. Work with  
 17 the Law Department. Please don't let me wait 15  
 18 years worth of service it takes for the FBI to do  
 19 their job, what you guys can clearly do. Thank you.  
 20 THE CLERK: Are there any other  
 21 members of the public who would like to speak?  
 22 MR. McCORMACK: Good evening.  
 23 Richard McCormack. Mr. Chairman, Congratulations.  
 24 Glad to have you this year. Couple of things I'd  
 25 like to touch base on. Number one, I hope the

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1 County hasn't been affected in Christie Gate now in  
 2 any way, and I hope it hasn't. We're finding out  
 3 little by little how in Hoboken what the deal is, in  
 4 Jersey City what the deal is on a lot of things.  
 5 The County higher-ups basically though are  
 6 heavyweights in this show, which follows a tradition  
 7 of Jersey's politicians' corruption.  
 8 The other thing I would like to say is  
 9 although it affects Route 440 in Jersey City,  
 10 southbound coming back along the park and Communipaw  
 11 Avenue, I know that from a lot of people that there  
 12 is a sign posted No Left Turn onto Communipaw Avenue  
 13 in that area, and now we have to go all the way down  
 14 past the Burger King area, so you know what I'm  
 15 talking about, make a U-turn come back around.  
 16 I understand from some of my fellow  
 17 Facebook friends that this is an issue they're  
 18 reaching out to the State officials because I  
 19 believe the Communipaw Avenue highway is a State  
 20 road. It's a conflict of who made that decision for  
 21 a No Left Turn. Like a lot of people, I haven't  
 22 been down there because of the weather to see if  
 23 they actually put a No Left Turn insignia on the  
 24 street where it splits off to go straight or go to  
 25 the left.

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1 I think, Freeholders, that takes affect on  
 2 Ms. DiDomenico going into Bayonne, Mr. O'Dea,  
 3 Mr. Dublin, everybody in your district, Mr. Romano,  
 4 some of your Jersey City constituents travel that  
 5 road. I'm sure Mr. Maldonado several of your  
 6 constituents take these roads, and the public  
 7 knowledge is not out there yet if this turn is  
 8 implemented. I would like the Board to look into it  
 9 as much as you can. Correct me if I'm right or  
 10 wrong, it is a State road, and the State officials  
 11 must be notified.  
 12 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Richie, just so you  
 13 know, I was contacted by one of the committee people  
 14 from that district, and I have forwarded Freeholder  
 15 O'Dea, I had them e-mail to ask some of the  
 16 questions to the engineers.  
 17 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yeah, I would tell  
 18 you that as late as today, I finally -- first, I  
 19 got -- my biggest area of contention is that those  
 20 people in the County Engineer Department knew about  
 21 it and never told us everything. I was told there  
 22 was a meeting, and we were at the meeting, and we  
 23 knew what was being done. Part of it as a part that  
 24 was conveyed to me by the Hudson TMA, and the County  
 25 engineer was there, and the County Executive was at

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1 the meeting, and this is all part of the Skyway  
 2 closing.  
 3 In my mind that sounds ridiculous because  
 4 it literally -- the Skyway is north heading into a  
 5 north direction. This is a south lane. It's almost  
 6 like saying, we're going to prevent people from  
 7 coming on Communipaw Avenue. We're going to do what  
 8 you said, they're going to go jug-handle around,  
 9 create more traffic and delays trying to come. So  
 10 all the traffic, it already backs up there. It used  
 11 to be three lanes, two lanes straight and the third  
 12 lane to make a left. They just eliminated the third  
 13 lane, and now it's only two lanes.  
 14 I got a message from the County late  
 15 today, after four o'clock. I think it might be a  
 16 result of an e-mail that I sent to Senator Stack's  
 17 office, someone from DOT, and it was after four  
 18 o'clock. I wasn't able to read it. It just doesn't  
 19 make any sense to me. It bothers me that we were  
 20 not even told.  
 21 You know, one of the issues was there is a  
 22 red light camera there. I don't believe they can  
 23 give tickets for the left turns where the red light  
 24 is. It's limited under the scope of what the  
 25 statute allows. One of the biggest concerns people

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1 have, there's tons of people making left turns. On  
 2 Saturday night I didn't recognize it. There were  
 3 four cars making a left in front of me without any  
 4 thought, and then next day in daylight, wait, wait a  
 5 minute, what is this sign here?  
 6 You know, there was no notice when it was  
 7 going to happen, how was it was going to happen.  
 8 It's an example of --  
 9 MR. McCORMACK: A lack of  
 10 communication.  
 11 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: One, lack of  
 12 communications as we prepare potentially for the  
 13 Skyway closing. Those people in a decision-making  
 14 position may be making the situation worse rather  
 15 than better. Just to show you how, I don't want to  
 16 say paranoid, I have scheduled a meeting next  
 17 Wednesday, I'm still going to have it for the County  
 18 TMA and the HCIA to tell me what they know.  
 19 Originally, they have got to meet someone  
 20 from the DOT just for an information session to the  
 21 public about the Skyway closing. I was literally  
 22 told just before the meeting now that DOT is not  
 23 going to send anybody. They're going to have their  
 24 own briefing for elected officials, and Freeholder  
 25 O'Dea, we're going to make sure you know about it,

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1 and then we're going to have one for the public.  
 2 That means they want to control all the information.  
 3 They want to control the flow of information.  
 4 They're afraid to go to the public in a  
 5 non-controlled environment, and you know, for them  
 6 to agree come to a meeting, and then less than a  
 7 week before the meeting, bows out of it, it's not  
 8 some kind of a -- I'm not alleging some mad  
 9 conspiracy. It is still bad government and bad  
 10 politics.  
 11 MR. McCORMACK: Do we know who put  
 12 that sign up, was it the State, the City, or the  
 13 County?  
 14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I've been told it  
 15 was put up by the DOT. That's the State.  
 16 MR. McCORMACK: I want to make sure.  
 17 Thank you very much.  
 18 THE CLERK: Are there any members of  
 19 the public? Seeing none.  
 20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Can we get a date  
 21 to do a meeting, Mr. Administrator?  
 22 MR. ANTUN: We'll schedule that for  
 23 the next caucus meeting, 20 minutes before.  
 24 THE CLERK: Before I have to adjourn,  
 25 Freeholder Romano, would you like to cast your vote

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1 on the consent agenda?  
 2 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes.  
 3 THE CLERK: Thank you.  
 4 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Motion by Freeholder  
 5 Dublin. Second by Rivas.  
 6 THE CLERK: All in favor? We are  
 7 adjourned.  
 8 (Whereupon the proceeding is then  
 9 concluded at 7:30 p.m.)  
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1 CERTIFICATION  
 2  
 3 I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No.  
 4 30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New  
 5 Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein  
 6 are from the notes taken by me of a Regular Meeting  
 7 of the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholder,  
 8 held on Tuesday, January 23, 2014; and that this is  
 9 a correct transcript of the same.  
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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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