HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

RE:

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

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OPEN SESSION
Hudson County
Administration Building,
Freeholders Chambers
567 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
Thursday, March 27, 2014
6:00 p.m.

BEFORE:
JOSE C. MUNOZ, Chairman
ALBERT CIFELLI, Freeholder
DOREEN DiDOMENICO, Freeholder
JEFFREY DUBLIN, Freeholder
THOMAS LIGGIO, Freeholder
E. JUNIOR MALDONADO, Freeholder
JOSE C. MUNOZ, Freeholder
WILLIAM O'DEA, Freeholder
TILO RIVAS, Freeholder
ANTHONY ROMANO, 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. NJ1798432
THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli.
FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Here.
THE CLERK: DiDomenico.
FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Here.
THE CLERK: Dublin.
FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Here.
THE CLERK: Liggio.
FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Here.
THE CLERK: Maldonado.
FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Here.
THE CLERK: O'Dea.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Here.
THE CLERK: Rivas.
FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Here.
THE CLERK: Romano.
FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Here.
THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.
THE CLERK: The next order of business are the laudatories for today. L-1 was acted on at the Caucus meeting. L-2 on the agenda is a resolution declaring April 6 through April 12, 2014 Crime Victims' Rights Week: 30 years Restoring the Balance of Justice.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Motion by Freeholder Maldonado. Second by Freeholder Liggio.
FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Yes.
FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.
FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.
FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
(Flag Salute.)
THE CLERK: Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided as follows:
1. Posting notice of Resolution No. 8-1-2013 on the Freeholder's Bulletin Board, Third Floor, Administration Building Annex, Jersey City, New Jersey.
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, may I have a motion to approve the minutes of following meetings:
2014 regular meeting; February 27th regular meeting; and February 27, 2014 special meeting for the State of the County address by the County Executive.
Is there a motion?
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Motion by Freeholder Maldonado. Second by Freeholder Liggio.
FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Yes.
FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.
FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.
FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Dublin.
FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Yes.
THE CLERK: The next laudatory presented for your consideration is going to be distributed, Mr. Chairman. It's entitled to honor and commend Suzanne T. Mack for 18 years and six months of dedicated service on the Jersey City Board of Education, and over three decades of local government service in urban planning and economic development.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Sponsor by Freeholder O'Dea. Second by Freeholder Maldonado.
FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Yes.
FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.
FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Yes.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.
FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.
FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.
THE CLERK: The next laudatory is L-3. 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: Maldonado.
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FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes.
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CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.
FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.
THE CLERK: Liggio.
FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Maldonado.
FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Yes.
THE CLERK: O'Dea.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.
THE CLERK: Rivas.
FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.
THE CLERK: Romano.
FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, Ms. Mack is present.
MS. MACK: I just want to thank everyone. I just really want to thank my Hudson County family. This was such a great honor for to you do this for me. I think -- I don't know if you saw the resolution or not. I'm retired from the Board of Education in Jersey City after 18 years, and for some reason you thought that was significant.
But what I want to tell you, I think many of you know, I've worked with many of you in different capacities, some of my proudest moments were not only my Board of Education service, but my service with Hudson County. What many people don't know is I worked with Thomas Callan to set up the TRANSCEND program before I was an employee of the County, when I was deputy director of the Improvement Authority.
All of those things were really wonderful things that I did, but people keep saying, you can't retire. Well, I ran in six election and won six times and not many people do that in Hudson County for a school board. But it's really time for me to do this. I don't think many of you would know this, but the Center for Disease Control today announced that the new autism statistics are one in 68; one in 500,000 individuals who will develop autism in the next few years. When you think about that, in Jersey City, we have 680 students in our school system, growing out of the school system, and we don't have programs for them. We have programs for the little kids, but children become adults with autism.
I really want to thank you for your thanking me for my service to the Jersey City Board of Ed. I hope I'll be able to help you for all autistic students as they becomes adults in Hudson County. Thank you so much.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Seldom in all of ahead of the game in doing wonderful things.
It was my intent as I go off the Jersey City Board of Education, I went on to help my son, I stayed to help some other kids. I think I was successful. I think that's what you're acknowledging tonight, successful in other areas, not just Special Ed. I want to thank you, my Hudson County family, who are always ahead of the game, the County of Hudson, the dedicated Freeholder Board, the County Exec, who always care about their residents.
And so I hope we'll come before you again so that as we move forward to help many, 500,000; 500,000 individuals who will develop autism in the next few years. When you think about that, in 19973-410-4040
1 impact tens of thousands of students, young people,
2 in the City of Jersey City, and this is just a very
3 small way for this Board to say thank you to her,
4 and I don't think ever she'll really be retired.
5 She just turns from one crusade onto another
6 crusade, and every crusade that she turns on is one
7 I'm always ready to enlist her to help out.
8 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: I want to
9 take the opportunity to congratulate thank you for
10 your years on the Board of Education, which myself
11 was very near and dear to my heart, serving as many
12 years as you did, and helping the thousands of
13 children in the Jersey City school system, and all
14 your years of planning and helping the County in so
15 many different ways.
16 I really thank you for your service, and I
17 know it's been a lifelong one so far, but now that
18 you've retired from the Board of Education, you'll
19 have more time to devote other endeavors. Thank you
20 so much.
21 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I thank you for
22 being a board member, and thank you for your
23 dedication. When I heard about you on the Board, I
24 heard about your knowledge and experience and
25 honesty, which did not go unnoticed, and again, your

1 cause was a noble one, and it has caught the
2 attention of this Board. Thank you.
3 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: I just want to
4 thank Sue for her years of dedication to the Jersey
5 City children and school system. I too was proud to
6 go on dates with the kids, with Kerry and Bill's
7 godson when they were growing up, and I saw the
8 impact that Susan's crusade had on her son and had
9 on all the children in our school system.
10 So I thank you for your years of dedicated
11 service. I know that you're not going anywhere. I
12 know that you will be there, and like Bill said, any
13 endeavors that you partake in and that I can be of
14 service, you know that I'm always here.
15 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: I also want to
16 thank you, Sue. I served with Sue Mack when I was
17 on the school board from 2004 to 2008, and also,
18 when my son was diagnosed with diabetes, she made
19 sure that he had the necessary services. I think
20 that this is a well-deserved retirement from the
21 board, but I know your work is not finished yet.
22 You're going to continue working and anything that I
23 can do to help you in the future, please give me a
24 call.
25 MS. MACK: Thank you.

1 we met in committee today to discuss this issue of
2 the extra duty officers that we are required to pay
3 for under that grant. We had asked for someone from
4 the Sheriff's office to be there. No one from
5 Sheriff's Office came. Is anyone from the Sheriff's
6 Department here now? For the record no one from the
7 Sheriff's Department was at the meeting.
8 I mean we raised the issue. We understand
9 that we're required to pay for those extra-duty
10 officers. The issue of concern that we have was in
11 reviewing the time assignments. We had identified
12 that there is a seven a.m. to nine a.m. shift
13 assignment for extra-duty officers. We asked what
14 is the minimum amount of hours that an extra-duty
15 officers is paid for. We were told four hours. We
16 don't know why they only have a two-hour shift. We
17 pay for a four-hour shift.
18 We were told potentially officers will
19 take the four-hour shift, which raises more
20 questions in our mind, so while we don't want to at
21 this point in time delay the job, we want to reduce
22 this amount, compel the Sheriff come to the next
23 caucus meeting personally, not with a
24 representative, he's the elected constitutional
25 officer, and resolve this issue. Our concern is
we're spending taxpayer dollars to pay someone four
hours, we want them to work four hours, and if we
don't have within our department individuals that
are willing to work four-hour shifts as we're
mandated they get paid for, we have the ability to
go into municipalities and let the municipalities
find the extra-duty officers to provide the traffic
control and traffic directions at the location.
So I make a motion that we amend the
amount from three hundred to one hundred, and that
we do three things, one, that; two, that we send a
letter to the Sheriff immediately asking him that
any of these extra-duty shifts that are less than
four hours that we're paying for four hours be
extended to four hours; and the last thing, that he
come to the next Freeholder meeting -- caucus
meeting, excuse me, to explain to us this entire
situation.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: The motion is by
Freeholder O'Dea. Second by Freeholder Dublin. I
have to say as the Chairman of the Board, and as a
representative of the people of District 7, I am
highly offended that we had a meeting today, and we
asked the Sheriff's department to come here to
answer some questions we had, valid questions about

money that we're spending, and the Sheriff decided
to not even come to the meeting to give us the
decision. I feel that it's offensive.
We're really trying to cover a community
with his office, and we're trying to find solutions,
and we have a budget this year, which is going to
have increases, and in some municipalities it's a
large amount of increases. He was elected by the
people of Hudson County, and he being elected by the
people of Hudson County and not being able to come
here, I feel that it's wrong, and I feel that he
owes this Board an apology.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Mr. Chairman, I
think he's going to extend the shift to fulfill the
four hours, right?

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Currently, based
on the documents that we have, officers have been
working seven a.m. to nine p.m., and based on what
we were told, the minimum amount of extra duty is
21 four hours, so we are paying them for four hours, we
expect that they get -- that they physically are
there for four hours, since that's what they get
paid for.
I would defer it to the mayor of the city.

who initially requested it and the Sheriff to
determine whether seven to nine should be six to
ten, or seven to eleven based on what the traffic
flow of that area is, but in my mind, it's a
misappropriation of public money to pay officers for
four hours, and they're only working two hours. I
think that the failure of the department to have
someone here today to explain and answer those
questions speaks for itself.

We have to pay for four hours anyway,
let's have an extra law enforcement officer and
eyes and ears out in that location directing
traffic and potentially thwarting crime, being
proactive. Washington Park is literally on the
other side.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Washington Park
is down below.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Right. I just
think that this is a no-brainer, and it's sad to me
that we've got to always delve and dig into things
to get to the facts, and the facts aren't readily
presented to us, and then when people think that we
give people a hard time, we don't give people a hard
time, we're trying to do our job. This is a glaring
issue that was brought to our attention, backed up

by documents provided to us that show that two-hour
shift. I don't know whether or not officers are
refusing to do more than two hours.
FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I find that hard
to believe.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yeah, that's kind
of hard to believe. I do have a concern. I am,
Mr. Administrator, I'm requested that we receive the
log of all of the extra-duty officers that work the
seven to nine a.m. shift, and I'm asking that your
department check whether or not those officers that
worked the seven a.m. to nine a.m. shift also work a
regular patrol shift and whether or not there was
any overlap between that extra-duty shift and what
their regular assignments or patrol shift is.
MR. ANTUN: Freeholder, we don't have
access to that data so we don't know what the shifts
are. That's done by the Sheriff's office.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Florio, I'm
asking that you request the Sheriff to provide that
information to the Board and the Administration, and
if that information is not provided to the Board and
the Administration by the next caucus meeting, I
will seek a resolution authorizing us to conduct a
hearing or investigation to compel and get access to

5 (Pages 14 - 17)
1 that.
2 I have no reason at this point to believe
3 the Sheriff won't provide it, but if the Sheriff
4 doesn't provide it, Mr. Administrator, at your
5 request, then obviously, we have the grounds to take
6 a further action to get access to that information.
7 It just seems bizarre to me that someone wouldn't
8 want to work a four-hour shift unless they have
9 another shift that conflicts with their ability to
10 work a four-hour shift beyond nine a.m.
11 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ:  You're not taking
12 benefits, about how much has been requested to have?
13 FREEHOLDER O'DEA:  It's 300,000 more.
14 Apart from to date, how much is it, Mr. Engineer?
15 MR. ARENCIBIA: About 750,000.
16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So to date we've
17 spent 750,000. This is reflecting an additional
18 300,000 just for that, and there are other shifts,
19 you know, that there are other questions that we had
20 today which we wanted to understand, which may be
21 very legitimate reasons why two-person patrols are
22 now four-person patrols, and two people at one end
23 of the viaduct and two people at the other end of
24 the viaduct. The problem is by not having someone
25 here to answer our questions, we can't get an

| 1 | THE CLERK: Maldonado. |
| 2 | FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Yes. |
| 3 | THE CLERK: O'Dea. |
| 4 | FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes. |
| 5 | THE CLERK: Rivas. |
| 6 | FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes. |
| 7 | THE CLERK: Romano. |
| 8 | FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes. |
| 9 | THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz. |
| 10 | CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes. |
| 11 | FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes. |
| 12 | THE CLERK: DiDomenico. |
| 13 | FREEHOLDER DIDDOMINICO: Yes. |
| 14 | THE CLERK: Dublin. |
| 15 | FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes. |
| 16 | THE CLERK: Liggio. |
| 17 | FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes. |
| 18 | MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I have no |
| 19 | additional information. I would like to provide the |
| 20 | Board with a memo from Director Fuller regarding the |
| 21 | questions that were raised by the Board regarding |
| 22 | the grants, specifically the Council on the Arts, |
| 23 | the Homeless and Families Shelter, and the Municipal |
| 24 | Alliance. |
| 25 | FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman, |
| 26 | while Director Fuller comes to the podium, I'm glad |
| 27 | to see that Item 5 was withdrawn. What I'm glad is |
| 28 | that had Item 5 not been withdrawn, you ran this |
| 29 | contract April 1st to December 31st, and the |
| 30 | question that I was going to have for you today was |
1 whether or not had this resolution gone forward how you would have addressed that by an amendment that we previously had as it related to a 90-day period when we switched contracts.

MR. ANTUN: This contract, the original contract that was awarded was awarded prior to the change, it was awarded in December. What happened was that I was told that the vendor would not concede, and that's what prompted this is new process with the new requirement, but the contractor has since contacted us and said it was a misunderstanding up.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So the contractor started in January.

MR. ANTUN: Yes, January.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: When did that other law get passed?

MR. BATTISTA: We have the 90-day transition. I'm not positive, but I think that that was only applicable to contracts where the services are provided with County oversight.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Can you find that out for the next caucus?

MR. ANTUN: No problem.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I think we need to be consciously looking at it, and I hope since they're a company that I believe is owned by a minority and a woman and based in this County that they can comply and we keep using her. I think this Board shares it. I know County Executive Tom DeGise shares that. So if there are ways to do that, we should.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: And it's located in my district. I would like to add for minority business, we should put some kind of program explaining to minority vendors about the resolution that we passed relating to information that vendors have to pay employees. The reason is, a lot of vendors don't have attorneys on their staff. These are start-up businesses. We have to kind of explain to them how that applies to them and why they have to be better informed. I think there is a lot of miscommunication what they have to do and how they have to do it.

MR. ANTUN: Understood, Mr. Chairman.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I agree. I think, Mr. Administrator, any contract that we put out that has the living wage and benefit requirement, there needs to be a pre-responders or bidder conference, and that the provisions of that law needs to be walked through in great detail so every vendor understands, and we don't run into a case where somebody said, I thought I had to pay this rate, I didn't know I had to pay X for a benefit.

THE CLERK: There are additional items for the Board of Freeholders. Mr. Chairman, there is a representative from Prosecutor's office here for L-2. I wasn't aware of that earlier.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I had asked a question to you about representation in the Prosecutor's office at the committee meeting. I can't get an answer. Would you like me to ask you now or after the presentation?

MR. ANTUN: Ask me.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: See if you can give me an answer. It's involving up and coming promotions.

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, this is Item L-2, that was previously voted on entitled, 2014 Crime Victims' Rights Week: 30 years Restoring the Balance of Justice.

MS. ATKINS: Just want to thank the Board of Freeholders?

THE CLERK: Please state your name for the record.

MS. ATKINS: My name is Amy Atkins, coordinator at the Prosecutor's Office. I wanted to take this moment to thank the Board of Freeholders for declaring April 6 through 12 National Crime Victims Rights Week. I am very honored to accept
this on behalf the Prosecutor's Office and victims
of Hudson County. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Congratulations.
FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Congratulations
on a job well-done by the Prosecutor's office, and
Mr. Administrator, we had a question and we asked
for a representative for the Public Safety
Committee, and we wanted to talk about the proposed
promotions, and I asked for an expanded span of
to officers, because I was informed about who
was retiring, and I would like to know that detail.

 Didn't we just make promotions?

MR. ANTUN: The prosecutor's office
did make promotions.
FREEHOLDER ROMANO: This is the
second batch, correct?
MR. ANTUN: I don't know what you
mean by "second batch."
FREEHOLDER ROMANO: We're supposed to
have a meeting.

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, is
done?

MR. ANTUN: Yes, I am. Thank you.

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, from the
Board of Freeholders, there are four items for your
consideration. The first is a resolution
recommending that the New Jersey Legislature require
all municipal and county and state elected official
to complete ethics training. If there is a sponsor,
the statute, which authorizes this Board to take
action that it's taking in voting on this
resolution. That's the enabling legislation
language.

FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: I agree with
you.

MR. FLORIO: Thank you. That made me
very happy. Thank you.

THE CLERK: That item regarding the
ethics training is No. 23. The items being distributed
now for your consideration will be No. 24, is a
resolution urging the promotion of telecommuting and
flexible work scheduling during the period of the
Pulaski Skyway closure and urging the State of New
Jersey to expand employer-based incentives to induce
the increased use of telecommuting, mass transit,
carpooling and vanpooling.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Sponsor by
Freeholder O'Dea, and second by Freeholder
Maldonado.

THE CLERK: That is No. 24. The next
item is entitled Resolution awarding professional
service contract, fair and open, outside legal
services, general counsel to the Board of
Freeholders, Edward J. Florio, Esq., of Florio &
Kenny, $86,400.

Sponsored by DiDomenico and Romano. That's No. 25.

And for the record, Mr. Chairman, attached
to your agenda was a replacement for 22, to show

training within a certain time of being elected.
That's basically what this is.
FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: I have a
question. I think the first Whereas, where the
Board of Chosen Freeholders may pass a resolution,
shouldn't it be "has passed" a resolution?
MR. FLORIO: It's acceptable in the
syntax in which it's presented because the word "may"
suggests that the authority to do so is within the
Board, and thereby voting on it, it has happened.
So it doesn't have to be modified. If you prefer
it, say, take out that paragraph, and we're citing
to the statute, which authorizes this Board to take
the action that it's taking in voting on this
resolution. That's the enabling legislation
language.

FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: I agree with
you.

MR. FLORIO: Thank you. That made me
very happy. Thank you.
that the County Executive Thomas A. DeGise is included in the paragraph, and that is a replacement. It should be attached to your original.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yep, it's on here.

THE CLERK: I have no additional items, Mr. Chair. Call for the public portion?

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman, just before you started the public session, I just wanted to hand out to the Board copies of the proposed action against the State of New Jersey to compel them under the Affordable Care Act to provide and pay for medical care for the pre-adjudicated inmates at the Hudson County correctional facility.

The only thing I would add, Mr. Florio, after having read it is I would add is, you tell them to promulgate the rules and regulations. I would also add that they appropriate -- that they appropriate the funds to effectuate that. You have, directing the State of New Jersey to promulgate the rules and regulations pertaining to the screening, and I would just add, appropriate any and all necessary funding to carry, to carry this out. They can't start doing if they don't appropriate the money to pay for it. That's the goal we're trying to achieve. That's the goal that we're trying to achieve related to the funding.

THE CLERK: According to the policy set by the Board of Freeholders, members of the public are asked to limit their comments to 15 minutes when discussing agenda items and five minutes 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 15 minutes. Are there any speakers on agenda items only?

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: This is basically any agenda item the public wants to make a comment on. Say what number you want to talk about.

MR. COUGHLIN: No. 10, Joseph Coughlin, Corrections Officer, Hudson County Corrections. Tomorrow we're meeting with the State PBA to discuss some of the issues that we have.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: We discussed the issue in the Public Safety Committee today. By us approving this today, it doesn't mean that it's going to be a signed contract. Your union has to sign it even if we vote on it. Counsel, interrupt me if I'm getting out.
1 understanding is that the recommendation is the
2 contract was satisfactory to our meeting, and that
3 it's incumbent upon us in essence to vote on the
4 merits, and not on the substance of it.
5 What the speaker alluded to, he's got a
6 meeting tomorrow with someone from the State. I
7 don't know what is going on with that. That's an
8 internal issue among the membership. That's not for
9 us to consider. They have that right. All they are
10 asking is for us to vote yes or no. If the union
11 internally has problems, maybe that's unfortunate.
12 We can't get ourselves involved in those problems.
13 Again, if we vote yes, as I understand it,
14 it's not a done deal. The contract still has to be
15 signed anyway. Beyond that, I understand that there
16 are other procedures where it can be voided, for
17 example, for the internal issues. So you're asking
18 us to make a judgment. That's really not our
19 function.
20 MR. BATTISTA: Freeholder, I couldn't
21 say it better.
22 MR. COUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you.
23 THE CLERK: Additional speakers on
24 agenda items only? State your name.
25 MR. DIXON: My name is Arthur Dixon,
1 can you tell us what the budgetary impact of this
2 agreement is on a percentage for January 13 of 2013
3 budget that we've already begun with, and then the
4 2014 budget that's yet to be introduced?
5 MR. ANTUN: 2013, with the step
6 movement, it's about 3.9 percent, in that range.
7 It's total of three, but on top of that, there is a
8 1.5-percent payment, and that is outlined in the
9 summary for this year.
10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: That payment is a
11 one-time payment?
12 MR. ANTUN: It's a one-time payment,
13 that's correct, a one-time payment. This year,
14 there is no step movement and no additional increase
15 except for the top step, which would be 1.5 percent.
16 Again, that is outlined in the summary.
17 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So the percentile
18 increase over two years is 3.9 percent, plus 1.5
19 available to the top step, something like that.
20 Obviously, the increase from last year is rolled
21 over to this year, right, is that a fair
22 representation?
23 MR. ANTUN: The increase for last
24 year will be charged to next year.
25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: And carried over
1 Hudson County Department of Corrections. I'm pretty
2 much just wondering about pretty much what you said.
3 The issues that we have are internal. That process
4 is put in place for grievances and beyond. There's
5 isn't any way around it. We'll do what our State
6 PBA says. They have a meeting. I implore you all
7 to vote on the memorandum and let it be decided.
8 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Thank you.
9 THE CLERK: Additional speakers on
10 agenda items.
11 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I have a question
12 for the director. Have we ascertained what the
13 total membership that was eligible on March 7th to
14 vote on the contract? I asked that question on
15 Tuesday.
16 MR. ANTUN: It's about 385.
17 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Does anyone know
18 for sure? They asked at the committee meeting,
19 Director Aviles.
20 DIRECTOR AVILES: Oscar Aviles,
21 Department of Corrections. Freeholder, we have 371
22 active members.
23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So out of 371?
24 DIRECTOR AVILES: That's correct.
25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Administrator,
1 to this year?
2 MR. ANTUN: Yes, yeah, the impact of
3 the movement is reflected in this year's budget.
4 That's correct.
5 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: To give you
6 hypothetical, if the amount, if the amount of the
7 salaries is $10 million, and you've got 3.9 percent,
8 then the amount of salaries for last year would be
9 $10,390,000, and then amount would 10,390,000 for
10 this year?
11 MR. ANTUN: That's right.
12 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: And then you add
13 onto that, which I believe, how many, Director
14 Aviles, how many officers are at the top step?
15 DIRECTOR AVILES: Oscar Aviles,
16 Department of Corrections. Freeholder, I don't have
17 that number, but I would say roughly about 30,
18 40 percent.
19 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So then in
20 additional to that, 50 percent approximately of the
21 officers would get a 1.5 percent one-time amount,
22 last year and this year, not 1.5 and 1.5. Their
23 base, so the salary at the top step is, and anybody
24 can shout out the top salary?
25 DIRECTOR AVILES: About 86,000.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So 180 officers at $86,000 will get an additional one and a half percent added onto that, which is $1,230. So that would be consistent with both years added into the budget?

MR. ANTUN: That's correct.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: In that particular instance, you would get an overall amount of 5.4 percent -- not 5.4. With only half of the officers impacted, you probably get an overall impact of about 4.6 or 7 percent for last year, and it would be the same for this year. It would be 4.6 or 7, and the same 4.6 or 7. Is that an accurate representation?

MR. ANTUN: It's over the two-year period.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Oh, it's not 4.6 plus 4.6, it's 4.6 paid out in year one, carried over into year two?

MR. ANTUN: That's correct.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Which is higher than what's under the current interest arbitration award an arbitrator would be allowed to award, would that be an accurate representation?

MR. ANTUN: Not quite. If this was to go to interest arbitration, the interest arbitrator would not award for the two percent, but it depends on the span or period that you're talking about. If it's a five-year contract, he would be bound to ten percent over five years. If it's a three-year deal, it would be bound for two percent, for the six percent.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So an arbitrator could theoretically argue a three-to-five-year arbitrations.

MR. ANTUN: From what I have seen, it would be three.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Let's use three.

The arbitrator would be bound to award no more than six percent for the three-year period of the contract. That six percent could be awarded all over the first year. Have you seen that in any of your awards?

MR. ANTUN: I've seen it I think in the Sheriff's case it was three. It was front-loaded for the first year, and then in the subsequent years, it was less.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So if the cost of the first year was six, the arbitrator would have no choice but to do zeros under the law, which is set to expire next week, correct?

MR. ANTUN: April 1st.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Can the Legislature enact it today?

MR. ANTUN: Yes, I think it was conditionally vetoed.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So the legislature had enacted it.

MR. ANTUN: Yes.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: The Governor conditionally vetoed it?

MR. ANTUN: Yes.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So either the Legislature will do one of three things: Override the conditional veto, they have that authority, correct? I believe they have the ability uphold the conditional veto, correct?

MR. ANTUN: Yes.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Or they can do absolutely nothing, in which case on March 31st, the law expires, and that's the third option.

MR. ANTUN: They can also enact the recommendations of the Governor.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: That's what I said, they uphold. They would uphold the Governor's conditional veto, that's one of the three options.

MR. ANTUN: I think one of the Houses, I memory is I think one of the Houses did. The Senate, I believe, enacted the recommendations of the Governor's conditional veto. I don't think the Assembly has.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: If the Assembly failed to do that by March 31st, then the interest arbitration cap would be done away with.

MR. ANTUN: Going forward but I understand --

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Absolutely, going forward. But as it relates to this contract, it was a period of time prior to April 1st of 2014.

MR. ANTUN: That's correct.

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, the consent agenda now reflects the following: No. 5 is withdrawn; No. 17 amended; Nos. 23, 24, 25 and 26 were added. Is there a motion to approve all items?

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Is there no more people who wish to speak?

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So anymore members of the public who wishes to address any item on the agenda?

THE CLERK: Motion by Freeholder Maldonado. Second by Freeholder Liggio.
Freeholder Cifelli.

FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.

THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

FREEHOLDER DI DOMENICO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Dublin.

FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.

THE CLERK: Liggio.

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Maldonado.

FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Yes.

THE CLERK: O’Dea.

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: No on 15. Aye on the rest.

THE CLERK: Rivas.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Romano.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

THE CLERK: All items are approved.

We have one ordinance for introduction. It's entitled An ordinance amending Chapter 200, Article 27, of the Administrative Code to establish traffic calming devices, delineators and edge lines, on a portion of John F. Kennedy Boulevard in Jersey City, a County-owned roadway.

Freeholder Cifelli.

FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.

THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

FREEHOLDER DI DOMENICO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Dublin.

FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.

THE CLERK: Liggio.

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Maldonado.

FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Yes.

THE CLERK: O’Dea.

FREEHOLDER O’DEA: No on 15. Aye on the rest.

THE CLERK: Rivas.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Romano.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: 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: Just quickly on Item No. 10, I have to say that I walked into the meeting with an open mind of looking to carry this item to the next agenda. However, I was anticipating and expecting a number of officers were going to speak with specific issues that they raised or may have had in relationship to how the vote was conducted or that the individuals were not afforded a right to vote.

And having not been provided any compelling information on that, I felt that, you know, I at that point concurred with what Freeholder Cifelli had presented. This item was presented to us as negotiated in good faith. If ultimately subsequent to this, evidence is presented to the
State PBA, that results in an invalidation of the vote, we were told in committee that the contract will not be executed first by us. It will have to be executed first by the PBA local side.

I just wanted for the record to note that I kind walked in here not hoping, but wondering whether some information that I had received, that there may have been more of a record created as it related to issues related to the election. That was not presented.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes, and I would like to thank counsel for explaining that to us. Freeholder Cifelli said that one line. As a PBA member, I've called my PBA representative. The one important thing here is that the Administration explained, that two people have to sign that contract. That if there is bound to be internal discussions and consequences, that would void the contract. So that gave some understanding to where our jurisdiction lies.

In reference to the other issues, Mr. Administrator, you're going to call about my question. I would like to know what's the organization and the hierarchy chart that we're asked as to Freeholders to ponder. What is the span of control?

MR. ANTUN: You're speaking of the Prosecutor's office?

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Right. The span of control with regard to up and coming promotions that we just want to get an idea what the span of control is, and if promotions are necessary, then explain to us what that's about. Obviously, if a position needs to be filled, they have to be filled. If there is a controlling ratio, but there is no organizational boundaries of supervisors, just explain to us why. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Freeholder Maldonado.

FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: To go back to the request by Freeholder Romano to be able to get a chart as to the demographics and to supervisory positions, I would like to be able to see that.

MR. ANTUN: Freeholder, is that the entire or just the investigators?

FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: You know, the entire office. And if can, I wanted to make an announcement about the middle school program for Hudson County and the School of Technology. They yesterday had a health fair that the eighth graders presented. The students did a muscular presentation, skeletal presentation, digestive presentation, and they did a great job. I was really impressed with the quality of their work they did, and to top it off, it was conducted in a health fair atmosphere, and I think a lot of times we don't expect kids of that age doing that kind of quality of work. We should recognize that because they did an excellent job. Thank you.

FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Thank you, Freeholder. Any other comments? I would to congratulate Freeholder DiDomenico for the presentation for Women's History Month. You did a tremendous job and Congratulations.

FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Thank you.

FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: There was a study doe by Robert Wood Johnson that ranked counties throughout the country and the state of New Jersey. Hudson County ranked in the state of New Jersey out of 21 counties was ranked No. 16 in terms of health issues. So I think that shows as a state that we just want to get an idea what the span of control with regard to up and coming promotions. It was a well-done presentation.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman, I asked the Administration on Tuesday for two lists. Mr. ANTUN: Freeholder, I didn't forget. You should have it by the next meeting.

FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: To go back to the request by Freeholder Romano to be able to get a chart as to the demographics and to supervisory positions, I would like to be able to see that.

MR. ANTUN: Freeholder, is that the entire or just the investigators?

FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: You know, the entire office. And if can, I wanted to make an announcement about the middle school program for Hudson County and the School of Technology. They yesterday had a health fair that the eighth graders...
1 is located in between North Bergen and Union City 
2 and West New York. So that kind of brings in North 
3 Hudson. The only issue that we have is parking. We 
4 asked the question. We haven’t got any answers 
5 back; is that correct? 
6 THE CLERK: Only four municipalities 
7 have responded. 
8 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: So can we also send 
9 e-mails to the community college seeing if we could 
10 do. One responded no. One of the municipalities 
11 responded no. The community college works. 
12 Okay. So now continue the meeting. 
13 THE CLERK: Any comments from the 
14 Chief of Staff to the County Executive? 
15 MR. GAUGHAN: No, thank you. 
16 THE CLERK: This is the time for 
17 anyone present to address the Board on any matter of 
18 public interest. Please remember to limit your 
19 comments to five minutes. 
20 Mr. John Hallanan. 
21 MR. HALLANAN: Good evening. John 
22 Hallanan, vice president of the Lincoln Association. 
23 I just want to bring everybody up to speed with some 
24 of the things that we’re starting of historical 
25 interest. First would be the Lincoln Association 

1 will celebrate its 150th years of existence next 
2 year. That’s the first organization that honors 
3 Abraham Lincoln in the country and in the world. We 
4 do have communication from Lincoln groups from 
5 Bangladesh of all places. It’s worldwide. The 
6 Jersey City Lincoln Association, it’s more or less 
7 local now, but we will be expanding it. Hopefully, 
8 they’ll have a gala in the year 2015. 
9 Second of all is the Lincoln Highway 
10 Association. Last year, we had the centennial 
11 celebration from Pershing Road up to the Boulevard, 
12 left turn at Lincoln Park, out to San Francisco, and 
13 through the efforts of Bill LaRosa and the County 
14 Freeholders, that route was marked with Lincoln 
15 Highway signs. I have seen them on different 
16 streets along the boulevard, and Journal Square, 
17 you’ll see them, and at Lincoln Park, you’ll see 
18 one. 
19 So the Lincoln Highway Association has 
20 sort of like a lull in its activities through the 
21 year 2016. We thought we may get a conference. 
22 They have one every year. It seems New Jersey is 
23 really the starting point. It starts in New York, 
24 and it starts in New Jersey. We’re trying to get a 
25 conference of the people who belong to the Lincoln 

1 Highway Association. 
2 We’re also going to try to market the 
3 Lincoln Highway, highlighting some businesses on its 
4 route, including the turn onto Lincoln Highway, such 
5 as the Loew’s, which is on the Lincoln Highway; St. 
6 Peter's University, which is on the Lincoln Highway; 
7 advertising brochures on the Lincoln Highway. It 
8 may generate some interest. Who knows where that 
9 would go?

10 Number three is the Morris Canal, and we 
11 had a group last year go through Morris Canal, where 
12 it was located in Jersey City. I was at a 
13 conference today out in Morris County. Pieces and 
14 bits of it are being opened up and backfilled with 
15 water, and they’re reconstructing. Nothing happened 
16 or has happened yet in Jersey City. It is possible 
17 to walk on the Morris Canal bed near Danforth 
18 Avenue. That bed is still there. It's been filled 
19 in, but you can walk on it. Some people have an 
20 interest in doing that. 
21 Now, at that conference, somebody from the 
22 State said something about tourism. People come to 
23 visit New Jersey, and most of the time, they go to 
24 stay with friends and relatives. If they have no 
25 place in Jersey City or anywhere in the County, they 

1 will take them to New York. The real reason is that 
2 people in this area do not know what we have as far 
3 as historical interest. We are going to try to use 
4 the print media, maybe Facebook, to generate some 
5 interest in the local community. For instance, the 
6 statue of Jackie Robinson in the Square would be of 
7 interest, and that’s not publicized anywhere, the 
8 Apple Tree House, and there are a few other things 
9 that we would like to publicize. 
10 Let me see. Number four would be the 
11 350th anniversary of the State of New Jersey, 
12 October 18th. There would be, I guess, a 
13 demonstration or presentation NJCU at the student 
14 union building. Bill LaRosa himself started it. In 
15 fact, he even gave us a name, Hudson County History 
16 Advocates. That is a committee that is putting this 
17 stuff together at this time. 
18 That will be October 18th, NJCU. We are 
19 working on speakers, for some people to be keynote 
20 speakers. Other organizations will be invited to 
21 set up a table and tell everybody that’s coming 
22 through what their particular specialty is. There 
23 will be free parking. There will be a cafeteria. 
24 We will keep you apprized of anything else happening 
25 on that. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: We are running now with Bill LaRosa's office a tourist web site.
MR. HALLANAN: Yeah, they have it.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Perhaps some of these historic places can be highlighted on the web site.
MR. LaROSA: Bill LaRosa, the Office of Heritage and Cultural Affairs. We do have a link that services the community and works the way it's supposed to represent Union City. I don't even know if he's aware of that.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Do we have any documents for repairs from the elevator?

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Maybe in front of your headquarters.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: John, what was the first capitol of New Jersey?
MR. HALLANAN: Perth Amboy.
FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: That's a disgrace and embarrassment that shows ineptitude of the County to rectify that. The only other thing, there's that piece of the Berlin Wall sitting there somewhere for seven years. We haven't found anywhere to put the Berlin Wall for seven years. Those are two thing that show ineptness when you can't do simple things like that.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Maybe in front of your headquarters.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: John, what was the first capitol of New Jersey?
MR. HALLANAN: Perth Amboy.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I think it may be Elizabeth. There is big event this Saturday reenacting a lot of events from 350 years.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Continue, Mr. Clerk.
MR. FLORIO: Any additional speakers or any matter of public interest. Please state your name at the microphone.
MR. PABLO: Jose Pablo of Union City, Central Avenue. I have a question, Mr. Chairman. I know the County spent a lot of money putting the bridge on Kennedy Boulevard and 32nd Street, and one of the problems with residents in the area is, while it was a nice job, there's a continuous problem with the elevator. You have to go up the stairs because the elevator isn't working. It's something that concerns everyone in that area because that bridge was put up as a safety reason. It was almost impossible for the seniors to cross Kennedy Boulevard with all traffic there. We need to address that issue. I don't know what Freeholder Rivas is doing about that because he's supposed to represent Union City. I don't even know if he's aware of that.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I'll find out for you, but believe there is someone going out daily to clean the trash. They can check the elevator.
FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Perhaps some of that job has been closed out. There have been issues with the elevator. It's been reported to the contractor, and perhaps the County Engineer may address it, and whenever we're informed that the elevator is down, we do respond to it, but sometimes we're not always there. Someone needs to from the County Engineer.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Demetrio, can you respond to what level of frequency you have gotten complaints concerning that elevator not functioning, and then next question is, if you haven't closed out the project, do you have issues with the contract?
MR. ARENCIBIA: Demetrio Arencibia, County Engineer. The project is still not closed out, and all the work is finished. We are in the process of closing it out with the State DOT. They have to do the final inspection. We have had complaints about the elevators, and for a time, the contractor was repairing it, and now we've, the County, has accepted the project, we have our own vendor, who is the County's elevator vendor, who would be ordered to repair it. There has to be a trouble report generated for that.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So Mr. Barry, speaking to Freeholder Rivas, you need to get this Board a report at the next meeting from the vendor, who has got the contract for the maintenance and
1 repairs of all the elevators telling us exactly why
2 there is a chronic problem with operation of the
3 elevator. It's not enough to go fix it every time
4 there is a problem. You have to find out what is
5 wrong with it and correct whatever it is so we don't
6 have to go fix it every a couple of days or every
7 week. So have them provide a written report to the
8 Board and to the Public Resources Committee so we
9 understand what that magnitude of this issue is.
10 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: We had some issues
11 with construction and cars taking down the fence,
12 correct?
13 MR. ARENCIBIA: Right. We installed
14 bollards in the corners to prevent them from hitting
15 the fence. They still hit the bollards.
16 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, five
17 minutes have elapsed.
18 MR. PABLO: My five minutes was
19 obviously taken up by the discussion. That is the
20 main concern. My aunt crosses there. She's 74
21 years old, and it's difficult because once in a
22 while she wants to go down to the ShopRite, and
23 she's not able to do it because the elevator is not
24 working, and it's more than one time. It's an
25 ongoing problem. I appreciate Freeholder O'Dea's
1 concluded at 7:49 p.m.)
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1 Chairman.
2 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Well, we're going to
3 get more answers. We have the question coming to
4 the committee. Then we get those answers, we will
5 make sure when we get those answers, someone will
6 contact you.
7 MR. PABLO: I would like to get a
8 copy from the committee. There obviously is a
9 problem, and with all due respect, Mr. Chairman,
10 it's something that's not politics. It's a reality.
11 Why wait until someone gets hurt because they can't
12 cross with the elevator, and a 74-year-old woman
13 cannot go up the stairs?
14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Leave your address
15 with the Clerk. When I receive a copy of the
16 report, I consider it a public document, I'll ask
17 that the Clerk send a copy of that.
18 MR. PABLO: I'll be glad to do that.
19 THE CLERK: Additional speakers on
20 any matter of public interest?
21 FREEHOLDER MALDONADO: Motion to
22 adjourn.
23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Second. All in
24 favor.
25 (Whereupon the proceeding is then
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 the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders, held on Thursday, March 27, 2014; 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
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