

HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

ORIGINAL

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, May 8, 2014
6:00 p.m.

B E F O R E:

JOSE C. MUNOZ, Chairman
ALBERT CIFELLI, Freeholder
DOREEN DiDOMENICO, Freeholder
JEFFREY DUBLIN, Freeholder
THOMAS LIGGIO, 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:

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ., Board Counsel
DONATO J. BATTISTA, Hudson County Counsel
LAURIE COTTER, Deputy County Administrator
ALBERTO G. SANTOS, County Clerk

Job No. NJ1798436

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THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli.
FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Here.
THE CLERK: DiDomenico.
FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Here.
THE CLERK: Dublin. Liggio.
FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Here.
THE CLERK: Maldonado, not present.

O'Dea.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Here.
THE CLERK: Rivas.
FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Here.

THE CLERK: Freeholder Dublin is now present. Freeholder Romano.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Absent.
THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Here.

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. 8-1-2014 on the Freeholder's Bulletin Board, Third Floor, Administration Building Annex, Jersey City, New Jersey.

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 Mr. Chairman, may I have a motion to
6 approve the minutes of the March 13th, 2014 regular
7 meeting, and the March 27th, 2014 regular meeting.

8 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Motion by Freeholder
9 Rivas. Second by Freeholder Liggio.

10 THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli, he's
11 not present. DiDomenico.

12 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli, the
14 minutes.

15 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Dublin.

17 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Liggio.

19 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: O'Dea.

21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Rivas.

23 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

25 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, the next
2 order of business is proposed Laudatory L-1. Do you
3 want to do first reading ordinance?

4 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I'm going to make
5 a motion to we defer to first reading ordinances.

6 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Motion by Freeholder
7 O'Dea. Second by Freeholder Dublin. Roll call.

8 THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli, not
9 present. DiDomenico.

10 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Dublin.

12 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Liggio.

14 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: O'Dea.

16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: Rivas.

18 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

20 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Al is here. We're
22 going to defer to first reading, first reading.

23 THE CLERK: So we'll proceed with the
24 motion to take the three ordinances for introduction
25 out of order and take them now. We should proceed

1 with the ordinance listed on the agenda?

2 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: The first ordinance for
4 introduction is entitled Bond Ordinance providing
5 for various 2014 through '15 Capital Improvements at
6 and the acquisition and installation of as
7 applicable equipment and buses for the Hudson County
8 Schools of Technology, located within the County of
9 Hudson, State of New Jersey, appropriating
10 10,100,000, therefor, and authorizing the issuance
11 of 10,100,000 bonds or notes of the County of
12 Hudson, State of New Jersey, for financing such
13 appropriation.

14 Freeholder Cifelli.

15 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

17 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Dublin. Liggio.

19 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Maldonado, not present.

21 O'Dea.

22 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes, for first
23 reading.

24 THE CLERK: Rivas.

25 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

2 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

3 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman and
4 the Deputy Administrator, can we just make sure at
5 second reading that someone from the Schools of
6 Technology isn't only at the caucus but at the
7 meeting?

8 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, the next
9 ordinance for introduction, I received a replacement
10 ordinance for your consideration from the
11 Administration earlier today, and that is a being
12 handed out. The replacement if it is the desire of
13 the Board, to introduce the replacement --

14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: We have to make a
15 motion, and then we have to make a motion to amend.
16 I believe the replacement ordinance includes both
17 the body and the backup; is that correct?

18 So I'm going to make a motion that we --
19 I'm making a motion to amend Ordinance No. 2 to
20 reflect that change as distributed to the Members of
21 the Board.

22 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: I'll second it.

23 THE CLERK: Ordinance No. 2 is
24 entitled, an ordinance amending the Hudson County
25 District Solid Waste Management Plan, IWS Transfer

1 Systems of New Jersey, Inc., transfer station
2 materials recovery facilities and Class A Recycling
3 Center, 375 Route 1 & 9, Jersey City, New Jersey.
4 And the changes include the last whereas clause.

5 There is additional language for which
6 provides -- which provides as defined in the plan
7 cannot be open for operation unless written notice
8 of said operation is given to both the Hudson County
9 Improvement Authority and the Board at least one
10 year prior to the commencement of said operation,
11 and Paragraph No. 4 of the resolution includes the
12 language as amended by this ordinance.

13 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: The ordinance.
14 You said "resolution."

15 THE CLERK: Paragraph 4 of this
16 ordinance states as amended by this ordinance,
17 correct.

18 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So the motion is
19 to amend it to add the additional language?

20 THE CLERK: That's correct.
21 Freeholder Cifelli.

22 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

24 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Dublin.

1 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.
2 THE CLERK: Liggio.
3 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.
4 THE CLERK: O'Dea.
5 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.
6 THE CLERK: Rivas.
7 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.
8 THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.
9 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.
10 THE CLERK: And on introduction of
11 No. 2 as amended, an ordinance amending the Hudson
12 County District Solid Waste Management Plan, IWS
13 Transfer Systems of New Jersey, Inc., transfer
14 station materials recovery facilities and Class A
15 Recycling Center, 375 Route 1 & 9, Jersey City, New
16 Jersey.
17 Freeholder Cifelli.
18 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.
19 THE CLERK: DiDomenico.
20 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.
21 THE CLERK: Dublin.
22 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.
23 THE CLERK: Liggio.
24 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.
25 THE CLERK: O'Dea.

1 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes, for
2 introduction.

3 THE CLERK: Rivas.

4 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

6 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: And the third ordinance
8 for introduction is entitled An Ordinance rescinding
9 Ordinance No. 288-5-2013, and eliminating the
10 reserved handicapped parking space at 725 John F.
11 Kennedy Boulevard, Bayonne, for Donna M. Cestari.

12 Freeholder Cifelli.

13 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

15 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Dublin.

17 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Liggio.

19 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: O'Dea.

21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Rivas.

23 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

25 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Those are the three
2 ordinances for introduction, Mr. Chairman. Should I
3 with the now proceed with the handout? We'll now
4 proceed with laudatory, Mr. Chairman, and the
5 laudatory that is being distributed is entitled To
6 Honor and commend Susan Mearns on the occasion of
7 her retirement after 26 years of dedicated service
8 with the County of Hudson.

9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: It's only one
10 page?

11 THE CLERK: I edited it. Board as a
12 whole, Mr. Chair? Should I read it into the record?

13 Whereas, Susan Mearns, the Hudson County
14 Division Chief of Housing and Community Development,
15 and Acting Director of Health and Human Services
16 recently retired after a distinguished 26-year
17 career with the County of Hudson; she is a dedicated
18 public servant whose integrity, professionalism and
19 commitment to the residents of Hudson County has
20 contributed enormously to the success of County
21 government; and

22 Whereas, Susan Mearns is a proud daughter
23 of Weehawken, who attended Weehawken High School and
24 Montclair University; and

25 Whereas, Susan Mearns began her

1 distinguished career with the County of Hudson as a
2 planner in 1989; she was instrumental in the design
3 and implementation of the Hudson County Affordable
4 Housing Trust Fund, for which she served as manager,
5 generating \$36 million in loans and creating 770
6 affordable housing units; under her leadership, the
7 County's Affordable Housing Trust Fund received
8 awards from the National Association of Counties,
9 the New Jersey Association of Counties and the U.S.
10 Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD,
11 Best Practice Blue Ribbon Award; and

12 Whereas, Susan Mearns served as manager of
13 Hudson County's HOME Investment Partnerships Act
14 Program, a housing initiative implemented by HUD in
15 2002; in that capacity she was responsible for the
16 oversight of numerous HOME funded initiatives
17 undertaken by the County, and was highly acclaimed
18 for her expertise in the development of multifamily
19 rental housing through the program. Since its
20 creation, the highly successful HOME program has
21 provided over \$66 million for the production of over
22 2,550 units of affordable housing for the residents
23 of Hudson County; and

24 Whereas, as Division Chief of Housing and
25 Community Development, Susan Mearns, was responsible

1 for the administration of the County's HOME Program
2 Continuum of Care, Homeless Prevention, Initiative,
3 and its Community Development Block Grant, CDBG,
4 Program, which provides for funds for activities or
5 initiatives that revitalize neighborhoods, promote
6 economic development, expand the provision of
7 community facilities and services, and aid in the
8 prevention of blight in the communities of East
9 Newark, Guttenberg, Harrison, Hoboken, Kearny,
10 Secaucus, Weehawken and West New York; under her
11 leadership as Division Chief, the County has
12 administered \$54 million in CDBG funding that has
13 been used for the development of public facilities,
14 social service programs and affordable housing; and

15 Whereas, Susan Mearns served with
16 distinction as Acting Director of the County's
17 Department of Health and Human Services from
18 December 2013, until her retirement; and

19 Whereas, Susan Mearns is an active and
20 involved citizen who has volunteered countless hours
21 from numerous charitable causes and community
22 initiatives; and

23 Whereas, Susan Mearns is married to Ron
24 Shaer; she is the sister of David, Gina and Robert,
25 and the proud daughter of Carolina Mearns.

1 Now, therefor be it resolved by the Hudson
2 County Board of Chosen Freeholders as follows:

3 1. The Board does hereby extend its
4 highest commendations and appreciation to Susan
5 Mearns for her tireless dedication and tremendous
6 contributions to affordable house and community
7 development in the County of Hudson; and

8 2. The Board does hereby congratulate
9 Susan Mearns on her retirement after 26 years of
10 service and wish her much health, happiness and
11 enjoyment on the years to come.

12 Freeholder Cifelli.

13 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Susan Mearns,
14 I'm being myself now. There was a PBS show fifteen
15 or twenty years ago, Rumpole of the Bailey, kind of
16 a sit-com, one of the greats. Rumpole was a
17 barrister, and he was an expert on everything, and
18 there was only one person he would never challenge,
19 and that was his wife. He never called her named.
20 He always referred to her by the words "she who must
21 be obeyed." That's when I think of you, I think of
22 "she who must be obeyed."

23 You are a consummate professional. Your
24 knowledge was unsurpassed. You had to be obeyed. I
25 wish you much, much health and happiness in your

1 well-deserved retirement. We're all going to miss
2 you and hope that you're not a stranger. I proudly
3 vote aye.

4 THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

5 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Susan, I wish
6 I had some esoteric reference. Twenty years ago, I
7 was just stuck on PBS watching Barney. I watched
8 Barney with my children. There are no words of
9 wisdom I can generate from that, but it's been an
10 honor and a privilege working with you during my
11 tenure here.

12 Your encyclopedic knowledge has always
13 been incredibly impressive, but that coupled with
14 your warm nature and accessibility, the fact that
15 you were always available and quickly, not only to
16 myself and my colleagues, but your willingness to
17 speak to anyone in the community to answer
18 questions, to speak to organizations, your
19 accessibility has just been wonderful and so, so
20 much appreciated. I can go on and on just to say
21 thank you for everything you've done for the County
22 to help me personally and my colleagues. We wish
23 you all the best. Please stay in touch. I vote
24 aye.

25 THE CLERK: Freeholder Dublin.

1 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: I also just want
2 to thank you for your leadership and helping out all
3 of the constituents in the County; not only that,
4 but the way you showed your leadership in your
5 office. We want to enjoy your retirement, and like
6 I said a couple weeks ago, that seat is welcome for
7 you to come back. We love you. I proudly vote aye.

8 THE CLERK: Freeholder Liggio.

9 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Susan, I also
10 would like to thank for you service, all the
11 assistance you've given to the Board and myself over
12 the years. You were an outstanding employee. I
13 just want to wish you all the happiness in your
14 retirement, and regardless of what anybody says,
15 stay the course. Don't every change your mind and
16 decide you wanted to come back. I vote aye.

17 THE CLERK: Freeholder O'Dea.

18 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Susan, there were
19 brief moments where our relationship was rocky,
20 brief ones. Once when I remember that a mutual
21 friends we had used terminology you used to describe
22 me. I consider it endearing. Not many people would
23 consider it endearing. Maybe in my weird sense of
24 humor, I consider it endearing.

25 But despite those brief moments, I think

1 especially in the later years of your work with the
2 County, we became close. Either you wore me down, I
3 wore you down, we wore each other down. We came to
4 that ultimate level of mutual respect, which I
5 certainly have for you. You've done a fantastic job
6 in your performance at the County.

7 I at some point realized that from time to
8 time I needed your help and assistance even outside
9 the County, so I couldn't fight you anymore. I had
10 to surrender in that particular regard. So in that
11 sense, you probably earned a rare award because
12 seldom would I do that. You certainly proved
13 yourself. You did a great job in Community
14 Development, even in recent months or recent years
15 when you helped us with the banking committee and
16 some of the great things we've gotten done with
17 that.

18 This year, just to think about the insight
19 and assistance as we continue to develop and approve
20 our program for the homeless population. From time
21 to time -- from one time after another, you've
22 always risen to the occasion, and we're going to
23 miss you, and maybe you'll find your way back in
24 some diminutive role. That would be a good thing,
25 not a bad thing. But I vote aye.

1 THE CLERK: Freeholder Rivas.

2 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Susan,
3 congratulations on a tremendous job done. I'm going
4 to miss you. Thank you very much. I proudly vote
5 aye.

6 THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

7 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes. Susan, this is
8 a true story. I get elected in 2007. The next day,
9 I get a phone call from Mayor Turner, and he tells
10 me, whatever you do in the County, do not piss off
11 Susan Mearns. I didn't even know who you were. So
12 he tells me, you can piss everybody off in there, I
13 don't care; Susan Mearns, no. So I want to know why
14 that man is afraid of you so you can tell me the
15 secret.

16 But congratulations. You did a great job
17 for the County. You definitely left a mark on this
18 County, a mark that's going to stay there for years
19 to come. Like Freeholder O'Dea said, you're welcome
20 to come back in any capacity because you bring the
21 knowledge that we in the County need. So
22 congratulations. I vote yes.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. MEARNS: I don't have to give my
25 name. I have to take a picture first, picture time.

1 (Photo.)

2 You've been saying goodbye to me for about
3 fifteen months, now I'm finally gone. I have spent
4 a lot of very interesting evenings in these
5 chambers, some more interesting evenings than others
6 because of a Freeholders or two or one. But I
7 always recognized the fact that came here to do a
8 job, I thought I did it well, and you were here to
9 do a job too. The people asked you to come here and
10 do a job for them, and at the end of those days, if
11 we both did our jobs well, then Hudson would be
12 better for it.

13 I'm very proud that I've had my entire
14 career here. I was born here, I was raised here,
15 and I was able give something to the people of
16 Hudson. I couldn't do it without my colleagues, my
17 friends, my family. I couldn't do it without you.
18 So I thank you so much, and know that it's been
19 really my privilege to serve you all of you. So
20 thank you.

21 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, the next
22 order of business is additional discussion on
23 today's agenda.

24 MS. COTTER: I have here a letter
25 from the vice president of Field Station Dinosaurs

1 discussing their employment policy.

2 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman, the
3 letter, the percentage are down a little from what
4 the actual numbers are. What I would like to do is
5 get an inventory of all the job titles and what jobs
6 titles are being held by Hudson County residents. I
7 would like to see a breakdown by job title and
8 whether that job title was a Hudson County resident
9 or not. That doesn't seem unreasonable.

10 MS. COTTER: Mr. Chairman, I will
11 forward that request. No additional items from the
12 Administration.

13 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, I have two
14 items from the Board for your consideration. One is
15 the resolution that was tabled at the last regular
16 meeting of the Board of Freeholders, entitled A
17 Resolution authorizing a grant in the amount of
18 \$125,000, to We Are One New Jersey, Inc., for the
19 creation of Working Families United Centers.

20 Please note that the resolution being
21 distributed includes a new Whereas clause, that is
22 the last Whereas clause in the item, and it reads,
23 Whereas, the specifics regarding implementation of
24 this project are subject to the review and the
25 consent of the County Executive.

1 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I make a motion to
2 add that -- it was never on, it wasn't on the
3 agenda?

4 THE CLERK: Right.

5 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: And I just ask to
6 included that Whereas. I know there was a meeting
7 that was going to be held yesterday.

8 THE CLERK: So the motion is by
9 Freeholder O'Dea to add that item that was just
10 distributed to the agenda. Is there a second,
11 Mr. Chairman?

12 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Second.

13 THE CLERK: Proceed with roll call?

14 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: When we tabled
15 this the last time, what was your understanding what
16 was discussed by the Members?

17 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: They explained to us
18 what they were going to do, the issue with location.
19 They did at the end of the caucus. We discussed
20 some issues that have come up before.

21 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: I thought there
22 was some, I'm not against this. I just thought that
23 when we talked the last time that there was some
24 discussion as to whether or not there were any
25 personnel or contractors that did the same kind of

1 thing.

2 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: There is only one
3 that does the same in New Jersey, and the need for
4 this type of service in Hudson County is so great.
5 I don't think they have enough implementation, and
6 especially when it causes problems. People need it
7 right here. The residents, people need this type of
8 help to get citizenship. This service was
9 established in Chicago, and it has a great result in
10 the Hispanic community and other communities. It
11 will help our community, and you know, I think it's
12 a great idea. I think that it will help the
13 community. I think the only thing I would like to
14 add, Ms. Administrator, when we see how successful
15 they are in the first year, we can add to it.

16 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: And there was a
17 meeting with the County Executive?

18 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: There was supposed
19 to be a meeting yesterday. They weren't able to
20 hold the meeting, which is why we added the
21 additional language. We feel that before anything
22 was moved forward, that the County Executive would
23 deal with issues and review it specifically.

24 MR. BATTISTA: Mr. Chairman, on
25 behalf of the Administration, initially, I see the

1 resolution has been somewhat modified from the
2 previous one. It's the position of the
3 Administration that the manner which this has
4 presented doesn't comply with how the contracts are
5 supposed to be presented by the County Executive for
6 the advice and consent of the Freeholder Board.

7 And secondarily, the Administration's
8 position is that given the budgetary issues that
9 we're now dealing, I think it's premature to
10 consider this at this time. Secondly, the County
11 Executive had not had an opportunity to vet this,
12 meet with the group who is proposing this because
13 there was a concern how this is going to be
14 implemented. There is also a concern that there may
15 be other groups within the County who provided those
16 services.

17 So before we jump into this, it's the
18 recommendation or request of the Administration for
19 the matter to be tabled until it can be fully
20 vetted, until we've gotten through the budget
21 process, and then we can reexamine it. But I can
22 speak for the County Executive, it's not his
23 intention at this point, given the little
24 information we have and the manner which it's been
25 presented, that we're going to ask that this item be

1 tabled.

2 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: What other groups do
3 we have in the County? I only gave you one that I
4 know of.

5 MR. BATTISTA: Freeholder, what I'm
6 saying is we haven't had a full opportunity to
7 review that. There may be other not-for-profits or
8 other community groups who provide similar services.

9 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Like who?

10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Don, I don't have
11 a problem carrying it to another meeting. I was
12 trying to move it forward, but I certainly -- I'm
13 not sure I want to wait until the budget process is
14 over, but I certainly don't have a problem with at
15 least carrying it until they met with the County
16 Executive. I move to carry it for one more meeting.

17 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: I'll second
18 that.

19 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, it's not on
20 the agenda yet. There was a motion to add it to the
21 agenda; if you want to withdraw the motion.

22 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Could we put it on
23 and carry it? Originally, at the last meeting we
24 said we were going to have it on this one. Let's
25 put it on, and then we'll just carry it.

1 THE CLERK: There was never a vote,
2 Mr. Chairman, to add Item 22 and then to table Item
3 22. There is a motion on the table to add this item
4 to the agenda. It would be No. 22. Motion by
5 O'Dea, seconded by Munoz.

6 Freeholder Cifelli.

7 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Motion to add,
8 yes.

9 THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

10 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Dublin.

12 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: To add, yes.

13 THE CLERK: Liggio.

14 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: O'Dea.

16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: Rivas.

18 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

20 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: This is now item No. 22
22 on the consent agenda, unless there is a motion.

23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I make a motion to
24 carry the item.

25 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Motion by Freeholder

1 O'Dea. Second by Freeholder DiDomenico.

2 THE CLERK: On the motion to carry to
3 next regular meeting.

4 Freeholder Cifelli.

5 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

7 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: Dublin.

9 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Liggio.

11 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: O'Dea.

13 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Rivas.

15 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

17 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: The item is carried.

19 There is an additional item from the request of the
20 Board that is being distributed now entitled
21 Resolution by the Hudson County Board of Chosen
22 Freeholders urging the County Administration to
23 adopt a County-wide policy staying the hiring of
24 nonessential employees and/or unclassified
25 positions.

1 Moved by Chairman Munoz. Freeholder O'Dea
2 is second. On the motion to add this item to the
3 consent agenda, roll call, Mr. Chairman?

4 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Discussion. I
5 know we talked about this at the caucus meeting, but
6 it's sweeping positions. It's obviously an urging.
7 It's not a policy. We can't compel and demand it.
8 You know, there's several steps. Budgetary-wise, it
9 is a prudent step, but there are also other
10 consequences.

11 Sitting here 48 hours where we go from
12 concept to introduction and the possibility of
13 adoption of this resolution, to me, I would have
14 rather had a substantial, before we just take a vote
15 on this, I think we ought to step back and consider
16 it. It has to be from the Executive as well as from
17 ourselves. That's my only comment about it. It's
18 on the agenda, but again, we have to have more than
19 a concept. That's my observation. I don't know if
20 any of my colleagues object.

21 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: What are the
22 consequences?

23 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Well, when
24 you're have a retiring older person, excuse the
25 expression, there may be issues. There may be

1 specific issues with it. For this resolution we
2 haven't even gotten to the bottom of that issue with
3 respect to a specific hiring. There may be other
4 instances where the County Executive says, It's my
5 discretion we need to hire somebody.

6 I just don't know. To me, it's a
7 substantial sweeping resolution to just do for the
8 sake of doing it I think is ill-advised. Again, I
9 certainly I am not against it. I would like an
10 opportunity to consider it from the Administration
11 and someone from my fellow Members. The first time
12 I'm seeing this resolution is 30 seconds ago.
13 That's my thought.

14 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: This is a way that I
15 think that County made a decision, and I'm asking if
16 this position is necessary right now that you need
17 that position and why?

18 MR. BATTISTA: He's talking about my
19 department. The department that's involved is the
20 Office of Consumer Affairs. In 2012, the Office of
21 Consumer Affairs had four employees working. One
22 employee retired and we did not fill the position.
23 The head of the Office of Consumer Affairs retired,
24 I believe, in May of 2013, and we did not fill the
25 position. One of the other employees was

1 transferred to another office and is working in our
2 office. So that left us now to one employee.

3 One of my senior investigators assumed the
4 duties as head of the office. He's performing other
5 duties in my office. So we feel there is a need in
6 the office to have someone pick up the slack from
7 two people, who we certainly have not filled the
8 position. That's one justification.

9 Additionally, we feel there is a lacking
10 outreach to the Hispanic community as to what the
11 office does, programs to educate consumers on what's
12 out there, what protections it is they have. So
13 it's my belief that there is a need for it. The
14 reasons it's in the Law Department is because the
15 Office of Consumer Affairs is housed out of my
16 budget.

17 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: How much was the
18 previous employee making?

19 MR. BATTISTA: I believe the person
20 who was the director, when that person retired, I'm
21 not positive, I believe it was in the low 80s.

22 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: So what other
23 position in this County, you start out the person at
24 \$65,000?

25 MR. BATTISTA: The ones in my office.

1 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: We were discussing
2 that we have to pay the prosecutors. We have how
3 much is the starting salary of the person there
4 right now, how much is it?

5 MR. BATTISTA: I don't know.

6 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: What do we give the
7 prosecutors here in the County? We talked about
8 this in the budget meetings. We are the lowest
9 paying county in state of New Jersey when it comes
10 to prosecutors. So you're telling me that a person
11 in Consumer Affairs, the starting salary is \$65,000?
12 That position for a prosecutor is much less than
13 that to start. So you're telling me that one
14 position is more than important than the other?

15 THE CLERK: For the record Freeholder
16 Romano is present.

17 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: We don't have a
18 problem if you say, Look, Freeholder, we need
19 someone here, and we're going to fill out the
20 position, and this position is a position that the
21 starting level is 35 or \$40,000. Then you have an
22 argument. But when your starting position of
23 someone that comes in, you start that position at
24 \$65,000, and when I asked at the last meeting, and I
25 was told very broad, and every question that I

1 asked, I got a generalized answer that was very
2 broad, it's very, you know, I see that as a waste of
3 taxpayer's money.

4 MR. BATTISTA: Freeholder, I
5 respectfully disagree. I outline to you that the
6 office was functioning in 2012, with four
7 individuals. It now will be functioning with
8 approximately two and a half individuals. I think
9 there has been a savings in taxpayers' funds. There
10 was a decision made some point in time by this
11 County to have an Office of Consumer Affairs. We're
12 trying to fulfill that function, but doing it in the
13 most economical way.

14 I respectfully disagree with you. In
15 2012, if you look at what the constitution of that
16 office was, there were four individuals. As a
17 result of what has happened over the past two years,
18 we are now down I would say overall, I would say two
19 and a half people performing the duties.

20 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: When you opened this
21 position up, did you interviewed other people in the
22 community? Did you post this position? Did you
23 look at resumes? Did you do all of that?

24 MR. BATTISTA: No. I don't believe
25 this position was posted. I reviewed the resume.

1 Without getting into details, I'm comfortable that
2 what I've identified as the need for that office,
3 the person that we've selected for the position can
4 fulfill.

5 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: You didn't post it?
6 You didn't -- it came out of a group, you decided --

7 MS. COTTER: I don't know.

8 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: There was already a
9 specific person? That's how we do things in the
10 County now?

11 MS. COTTER: I'm not familiar with
12 the process that was going forward on this position.
13 I can't say whether it has or has not been posted.

14 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: The attorney is
15 saying it wasn't posted.

16 MR. BATTISTA: I said to my
17 knowledge.

18 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: The Administrator
19 said at the last meeting it wasn't posted; is that
20 correct?

21 MS. COTTER: I don't know if it was
22 or was not.

23 MR. BATTISTA: Freeholder, with all
24 due respect to you, you know that people are hired
25 in this County without posting, and it's not

1 required by civil service. It's not breaking the
2 law by doing that. So to infer that somehow because
3 it wasn't posted, something inappropriate was done,
4 because you know that people have been hired without
5 some sort of a posting for some positions.

6 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: That position that
7 you've referring to could be assistants.

8 MR. BATTISTA: To be honest with you,
9 the person who was formerly the director of that
10 office, I don't believe received the position as a
11 result of the posting. It was a decision made by
12 the County Executive. It's within his discretion.
13 We hired some positions. The law gives him the
14 authority to select individuals to perform certain
15 duties, and civil service doesn't require posting,
16 we don't have to comply. Based upon the position
17 that we've now identified as being done, it falls
18 within the same general guidelines.

19 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: You said before that
20 you guys don't help the community because we have a
21 budgetary crisis, and we need the funds, but at the
22 other times, you've been doing all of this over the
23 years --

24 MR. BATTISTA: That's not what I
25 said, Freeholder. What I said was in 2012, there

1 were four individuals in my office. As a result of
2 one person retiring in late 2012, as a result of
3 someone retiring in May of 2013, we reduced the
4 number of people working in that office. What I've
5 done in order to try to assist the office is one of
6 the investigators has assumed some of the duties of
7 that office, but we still have a need for other
8 functions.

9 The County Code has established that
10 office. All I'm trying to do is meet the
11 requirements of the code by staffing the office and
12 having the office perform the functions it's
13 supposed to be performing.

14 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: How much is Hoboken
15 getting an increase in taxes?

16 MR. BATTISTA: Somewhere around 15
17 and 18.

18 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: You think they want
19 to pay that amount in Hoboken?

20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: They just had a
21 revaluation done by the City.

22 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Jersey City, how
23 much is tax increasing in Jersey City? These are
24 the people that pay the taxes. Freeholder O'Dea
25 wanted to say something. We should vote on it.

1 Whatever the vote on this item. This is something
2 that I do it myself as a Freeholder and elected
3 official to see something being done wrong is being
4 done well, and I see the way the Board is going.
5 You say that we should have oversight when this
6 position is given. It's because we can't do it
7 right now, and the position is \$65,000, that it
8 wasn't discussed with us. This came out of the
9 blue. Someone is getting a position for \$65,000.
10 If you want to allow that type of activity, go
11 ahead.

12 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Mr. Chairman, I
13 thought I understood the counsel office has been in
14 existence for years, and two years ago, there were
15 four people in the program; is that correct?

16 MR. BATTISTA: Not in that exact
17 format, but you're correct, Freeholder. The office
18 has an executive director, division head, and an
19 assistant -- three assistants, and as of two weeks
20 ago, it was one assistant and a partial office aide.

21 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: So we're not
22 talking about a brand new position that came out of
23 blue?

24 MR. BATTISTA: That's correct.

25 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: The Chairman and

1 the Board didn't know about it because it's not
2 really our responsibility to know about every
3 employee that's being hired. That's the County
4 Executive's responsibility. But as far as the
5 budget goes, Freeholders keeps talking about the
6 budget. He just introduced a resolution prior to
7 this asking for a grant of \$125,000 for an
8 organization that we have no knowledge about, that's
9 why we tabled it. That's an additional 125,000 that
10 people of the County has to pay that we haven't paid
11 in the past. That's a new expenditure that you're
12 asking us for --

13 Wait, I'm still speaking, and so, you
14 know, in one hand you're saying we're spending too
15 much, the other side we have a need to spend more
16 money. It maybe legitimate. It may not be. I
17 don't know because I'm not familiar with the
18 situation at all. I just saw that a few minutes
19 ago. But as far as this resolution goes, in reading
20 it, I'm not comfortable with the wording of the
21 resolution, the way it sounds. I don't, you know, I
22 wouldn't want to vote something like that.

23 I'm not in a position to vote for this
24 particular resolution. Perhaps if it was reworded
25 to a way that, you know, I could accept, but the way

1 this is worded, I think we're interfering with the
2 County Executive's authority, and I don't feel
3 comfortable with that.

4 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Just for
5 clarifications purposes, of course, we have separate
6 the different issues with this. This resolution
7 should be evaluated on its merits exclusive of the
8 points that were raised by the Chairman. I would
9 note that I would like to find out what is the
10 caseload that has been handled by the Division of
11 Consumer Affairs during the years I'll go 2011,
12 2012, and 2013, because obviously, I wouldn't to
13 determine whether or not we needed to hire someone
14 for that position.

15 I think that prior to assessing that, I
16 would have done an analysis of what the case load of
17 that division is and whether or not the staffing as
18 it was in each of those years was substantial or
19 substantive enough to be able to handle this because
20 of the loss of staff, complaints weren't processed,
21 complaints weren't evaluated or investigated, et
22 cetera. If I find out that that did occur and that
23 occurred two years going, I'm going to be a little
24 upset that the Administration waited so long to fill
25 the position or hire someone because that meant the

1 resident of Hudson County were not being dealt with
2 when it came to consumer protection issues for two
3 years.

4 So I would like to see that report and
5 analyze that report, and again, that's exclusive of
6 an action that's taking place, but I don't know
7 whether there were enough people before and we
8 needed to hire somebody. I don't know whether
9 there's still not enough people. But I think the
10 way that I would like to at least give my thoughts
11 on that position would be to get some empirical data
12 to understand it.

13 As it relates to the other resolution that
14 we carried for two weeks, at least I as one Member
15 of this Board have already met with the
16 Administrator and tend to propose two resolutions as
17 a budget amendment, which should result in a
18 reduction of approximately \$3 million, and that \$3
19 million would come from a reduction of five percent
20 of other expenses, which as we saw when I asked for
21 ten to twenty, five gets us 700 and change, it's
22 little less, and a scaling back of vacant positions
23 within the budget, and I created a matrix that if
24 they were funded for six months, we cut them to four
25 months; if they were funded for four months, we cut

1 them to three months.

2 There are some in the budget that are
3 funded for ten months that haven't been filled yet,
4 so obviously, why that money is there still there,
5 that will be cut to six months, and that in itself
6 would save close to \$2 million. I mean I think
7 there is a way that we save dollars to offset
8 something that I think is a worthy, worthy issue to
9 deal with, which is, long-term permanent residents,
10 and their need to get assistance to be able to get
11 their citizenship and be able to pass the test. I
12 mean, we have 93,000 residents that fall into that
13 category. I would like to see them gain citizenship
14 and be a part of the electoral and governmental
15 process.

16 As it relates particularly to this
17 resolution, I'm kind of comfortable with it. I
18 think that I would add a small thing to it that
19 would say that any consideration for hiring under
20 section one should be weighed against critical
21 budget challenges and open for discussion and review
22 as to the necessity of the hire because the way it
23 reads now, if we want to hire a replacement for the
24 sheriff or a correction officer or sheriff officer,
25 they should weigh that in. In weighing that, some

1 of us know that if we don't hire a level in the
2 table of organization in those departments, the
3 overtime costs may exceed the savings on that
4 positions.

5 I'm comfortable. I'm comfortable in a
6 resolution that urges, urges the County to adopt a
7 policy that seeks not to hire individuals in
8 nonessential and/or unclassified positions; if they
9 do, go through a process and a discussion before
10 that occurs. I quite frankly think that's damned
11 good public policy. I don't think it hamstringing or
12 stops the County Executive from doing it. I think
13 it expresses our position on it, and if all the
14 facts are presented to us from the County Counsel as
15 it realities to Consumer Affairs, and how that
16 staffing was -- and how that staffing was reduced
17 and what the caseload is and how their caseload has
18 been handled, it's quite possible we may come to the
19 conclusion that that perfectly made sense.

20 I think the issue is that didn't occur,
21 and we are in a position of trying to find a way to
22 not create unnecessary positions in order to be able
23 to control budgetary spending long term, not short
24 term, and that's a good policy. I would only seek
25 to say that any consideration for hiring pursuant to

1 Item No. 1 or to the previous Therefore clause
2 should be weighed against the critical budget
3 challenges and review as to the necessity of hiring.
4 I just think that's good policy, and I think that
5 that makes it more transparent. I think that
6 provides us to get more information.

7 And again, we don't have as I discussed
8 with the Administrator the other day, we don't have
9 the ability to stop this. This is really an urging
10 of our position. I think if this is adopted and
11 then it's ignored, then I explained within the
12 budget process of each year, there are ways for us
13 to take our legislative powers and take actions to
14 address that. But with that one change, I don't
15 think it's that bad of a resolution. It's just my
16 particular view.

17 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I think Al is
18 first.

19 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: I'm just
20 following up, and I don't have any dismissal about
21 it yet. What I mentioned earlier when it comes to
22 the consequences, Freeholder O'Dea put his finger
23 right on it. What are the consequences, as an
24 example, sure, if you declined to fill a position,
25 that may have a small effect on overtime. That's

1 one hypothetical. That is a very good one.

2 My point is the more you talk about this,
3 the more it becomes apparent to me it bears further
4 discussion. We don't have input from the County
5 Executive, and he's the person that would have to
6 implement what our recommendations are. So, again,
7 I'm not against this, but when I think back to
8 Tuesday, I think no one this room is naive. We know
9 where the germ of this came from. It came from a
10 political issue. God forbid in these hallowed
11 chambers, it came as a political fight or political
12 controversy. That's the nature of this game. No
13 one is a child here.

14 But to go forward 48 hours on that kind of
15 an issue on one particular appointment, and try to
16 carry it through a wide-spread policy, I think it
17 is -- what's that expression, a hard cases make bad
18 law. That's what I think this is. I'm not saying
19 that there isn't a need for a policy. Freeholder
20 O'Dea is right, freeholder Munoz is right that there
21 should be a policy. But I'm here 18 years. In 48
22 hours we're going to jump into that policy?

23 Freeholder Liggio's comments are
24 well-taken as well. This is something that I think
25 begs to have some more consideration. Again, I

1 don't think there is anything nefarious to it on
2 either side. I just think to jump in 48 hours to
3 something that has such widespread implication
4 without even getting any input from the person who
5 is to be giving it. It's seems common sense to me
6 that the County Executive is across the street.
7 Let's have a meeting with the County Executive,
8 whatever committee it is in County government, and
9 let them sit down with the County Executive and
10 brainstorm this.

11 Again, I don't see that it's paramount in
12 our thoughts and on our agenda. I don't know why we
13 have to jump into this. But let's have a vote.
14 It's not going to kill anybody. You're right.

15 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Just a question
16 as to constitution, it is the purview in the form of
17 the government for the County Executive to appoint a
18 nonclassified position, correct?

19 MR. FLORIO: Statutorily, yes.

20 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: And the second
21 question, Tom, what wording just for my edification,
22 I'm trying to listen to everybody, what wording?
23 You said "wording."

24 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: One of the things
25 is the word or use of "stay," I would like to get an

1 interpretation what "stay" means, the hiring of
2 nonessential and unclassified. What does that mean?
3 Is that term permanent, you know, is that a
4 permanent action, or it is a temporary action? It's
5 possibly a temporary action. You stay until you
6 decide to do it. I don't know. That's unclear to
7 me. I'm having a problem. That creates a problem
8 with me when we're using the word "stay." I'm not
9 going to vote for something and I don't know what it
10 means. Maybe our County Counsel.

11 MR. FLORIO: The affect of a stay is
12 effectively a freeze on any additional hiring and
13 calls for the maintenance of a status quo for the
14 time being until such time as they stay is lifted,
15 but as already has been mentioned, the
16 implementation of the stay is subject to the
17 discretion of the County Executive. This resolution
18 by operation of the option of County Charter Law is
19 effectively nonbinding on the Administration. It is
20 an expression of the view of the Freeholders who
21 vote in favor of it.

22 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I'll make a
23 suggestion. I'm going to make a suggestion. I make
24 a suggestion that we change the language as follows,
25 and then you can figure how to change the language

1 above what mine are. One, it's really the crux of
2 it, instead of using the word "stay," I would say
3 the County adopt a policy limiting the hiring of
4 County employees which are nonessential and/or
5 unclassified of the position under these, do we want
6 to say "hardship," hardship and troubling times, and
7 that any consideration of hiring of nonessential
8 and/or unclassified positions is weighed against the
9 critical budget challenges and open for discussion
10 and review.

11 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Can't we just
12 table it?

13 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: I think we should
14 vote.

15 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I'm going to move
16 that as an amendment because, one, it's asking
17 someone to limit and it's not an overall freeze, and
18 secondly, in limiting it, if he finds that the
19 criteria we think should be in considering whether
20 or not to fill a position that falls under that
21 category which says weigh against the budget and
22 open for a discussion and review as to the necessity
23 of the hiring. I'm going to -- I guess I've got to
24 get it on the agenda before I can change it.

25 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, there is a

1 motion on the table already to add the item as it
2 was distributed to the consent agenda.

3 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So I would ask my
4 colleagues to let it get on the agenda, vote on my
5 amendment, and if a majority chooses, carry it and
6 they let a committee review. That's what I would
7 recommend to my colleagues. Right now the motion is
8 just to put it on the agenda. I can't make a motion
9 beyond getting it on the agenda. Once it's on the
10 agenda, it's my position to make that proposed
11 amendment, and it may be the will of the majority of
12 the Board to carry it and let a committee, you know,
13 give a little further discussion.

14 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: This is -- this
15 resolution is not binding. The County Executive can
16 do whatever he wants to do, right?

17 MR. FLORIO: Within the limitations
18 of the law, yes.

19 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: This resolution, all
20 that it says is, there is something being done right
21 or something being done wrong.

22 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: The wording is
23 the problem, might change, may change.

24 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Take the vote to
25 get it on the agenda, and I'm going to make a motion

1 to change the language, and let's see what we do
2 after that, one step at a time. Right now there is
3 a motion to just put it on the agenda that's been
4 seconded. Take that vote first.

5 THE CLERK: Proceed to roll call.
6 This is to add the item that was distributed to the
7 consent agenda. If it is approved, it will be No.
8 23.

9 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Proceed.

10 THE CLERK: Proceed with the roll
11 call. Freeholder Cifelli.

12 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: No.

13 THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

14 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Dublin.

16 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: No.

17 THE CLERK: Liggio.

18 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: No.

19 THE CLERK: O'Dea.

20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Rivas.

22 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: No.

23 THE CLERK: Romano.

24 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: No.

25 THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

1 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Five nos and three yeses.

3 The item is not added to the consent agenda.

4 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Then you can
5 refer it back to committee, right?

6 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Basically, the
7 question, the question to attorney, I know the
8 Freeholders' specific position but I just want to
9 know, if a position is given in the County, if it's
10 for a political favor, that's illegal, right?
11 That's a question I need you to answer.

12 MR. FLORIO: You're asking me --

13 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: The position is a
14 political favor, is that illegal?

15 MR. FLORIO: I have to characterize,
16 bear with me, you're asking me if the exchange of a
17 job for a political favor in a quid pro quo
18 circumstance?

19 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

20 MR. FLORIO: That would not be an
21 appropriate action.

22 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Continue.

23 THE CLERK: The next item on the
24 agenda is public participation on agenda items.
25 Proceed, Mr. Chair?

1 According to the policy set by the Board
2 of Freeholders, members of the public are asked to
3 limit their comments to 15 minutes when discussing
4 agenda items and five minutes at the conclusion of
5 the meeting when discussing matters of public
6 interest.

7 At this time the public may address the
8 Board on any item on the agenda only. Please keep
9 your comments limited to 15 minutes. Are there any
10 speakers on agenda items only?

11 MR. WAHID: Riaz Wahid. Okay. I do
12 want to thank you for voting on the budget. The
13 community appreciates you working for them. Now, on
14 Resolution No. 3, I don't see a dollar value on
15 this. How are you going to vote on something when
16 you're giving a second contract, and the dollar
17 amount isn't prorated? Where is the money coming
18 from? Is there a way that we can find out what
19 exactly is the dollar value spent on the contract,
20 number one?

21 Number two is another question on
22 Resolution No. 3. It goes from the period May 15,
23 2014 to May 14, 2015. Resolution No. 17 is also at
24 bond counsel from May 15 to June 30th of this year.

25 MS. COTTER: Mr. Chair, I could

1 answer that question. The extension of time on No.
2 17 is an extension for the current bond counsel to
3 complete items that are in progress. There is no
4 additional money being added to the contract.

5 MR. WAHID: There is no cost. It's
6 just a time-frame extension.

7 MS. COTTER: It's just a time frame
8 extension because they're in the middle of some
9 bonds activities for us, and so they need to finish
10 that up. So they're finishing up. There is no
11 additional money.

12 MR. WAHID: The same thing on 9C
13 also?

14 MS. COTTER: 19?

15 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: 9C.

16 MS. COTTER: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes.

17 MR. WAHID: What was the contract on
18 No. 3? And that is fair and open. That means
19 that's a bid contract or no-bid contract?

20 MS. COTTER: No. There was a process
21 that was done to solicit the proposals.

22 MR. WAHID: What is the value on that
23 one?

24 DIRECTOR FULLER: Cheryl Fuller,
25 Director of Finance and Administration. The bond

1 counsel fees from the bond ordinances that we
2 approve. When the bonds are sold, there is
3 something called the cost of issuance in bonds, and
4 the fees for the bond counsel are paid out those
5 costs of issuance. When we approve a bond ordinance
6 we basically are establishing an appropriation
7 authorizing them to sell bonds, and included in the
8 bond ordinance are what we call Section 20
9 extensions, and those for the most part, among other
10 things, pay for bond counsel.

11 MR. WAHID: Thank you. On 9B, there
12 Senior Citizen's Boat Ride Services. Why is this
13 money coming from tax money, out of the taxpayers'
14 money? I'm not against seniors, providing seniors
15 transportation to those who cannot pay. Why are we
16 doing this while we are having a tax increase, can
17 someone? I really would like you to reconsider
18 spending the dollars on a boat service. This money
19 can be used to buy gas. This only a few months in a
20 year.

21 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: We had a discussion
22 that we had on the agenda, and what I recommended
23 was to try to see if we could get companies to
24 donate money for the seniors, and Freeholder O'Dea
25 brought some recommendations, for example, whether

1 it be some hospitals or drug companies that would
2 willingly sponsor with no cost to the taxpayers.
3 But I agree with your concern.

4 On the other side, the boat ride for the
5 seniors is very popular. This year the cost is going
6 from \$38 on the \$40, I believe. The cost, perhaps
7 the Administration could, you know, explain. So
8 that is the price they gave.

9 MR. WAHID: I hope you will do the
10 right thing. On one hand we have the tax increases,
11 and we are adding things to it all year.

12 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: It's a popular
13 program. It's kind of difficult to cut a program
14 for senior. The seniors don't get much.

15 MR. WAHID: And I know. We should
16 use it for medical transportation and food and those
17 type of things. This is, you know, like an
18 entertainment, and taxpayers are going to pay high
19 taxes to this County. I hope you consider this.
20 Thank you.

21 THE CLERK: Additional speakers on
22 agenda items only. Please state your name.

23 MS. WIDNER: Good evening. Ester
24 Widner. Item No. 3, I understand how counsel gets
25 paid, that's built into the bond, but I would like

1 to know how this particular law firm was chosen,
2 what is the process for that?

3 MR. BATTISTA: Mr. Chairman, we did
4 an RFQ, a request for qualifications, and we in
5 conjunction with Director Fuller, we --

6 MS. WIDNER: You're in the Finance
7 Department?

8 MR. BATTISTA: No, I'm the County
9 Counsel. In conjunction with Director Fuller, we
10 establish what terms are going to be paid, what they
11 pay out of the bond, any hourly rate, we establish
12 that. We then do the request for qualifications,
13 and the firm submits their qualifications, and a
14 recommendation is made based on the firm we think
15 would be most qualified or in the best interest of
16 the County to select.

17 MS. WIDNER: So that decision is
18 subjective somewhat?

19 MR. BATTISTA: Within certain
20 parameters.

21 MS. WIDNER: What were the -- were
22 there other firms?

23 MR. BATTISTA: There were three
24 firms, Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, Archer & Greiner,
25 and the firm that's being recommended, DeCotiis

1 Fitzpatrick.

2 MS. WIDNER: And in terms of the
3 cost, what was the disparity between this one and
4 the next one, where did they rank?

5 MR. BATTISTA: Maybe I didn't make it
6 clear. Cost is not a factor. We establish the cost
7 as I said.

8 MS. WIDNER: The cost is identical.
9 You just chose.

10 MR. BATTISTA: The one we think is
11 the most advantageous.

12 MS. WIDNER: Have you ever used this
13 law firm before?

14 MR. BATTISTA: Not for this
15 particular one, but they have provided service to
16 the County, both directly to the County and also
17 through the Hudson County Improvement Authority.

18 MS. WIDNER: So you're familiar with
19 them.

20 MR. BATTISTA: They have done bond
21 work for a number of different agencies.

22 MS. WIDNER: The other two firms?

23 MR. BATTISTA: I'm not going to
24 disparage either of the firms. They were equally
25 capable of doing the work. I just made the

1 determination and the recommendation that the firm
2 being recommended would be the most advantageous for
3 us.

4 MS. WIDNER: And when was the last
5 time this firm did work for the County?

6 MR. BATTISTA: I believe the firm
7 was -- I know that the firm has done work for the
8 Hudson County Improvement Authority and is still
9 doing work for the Improvement Authority. I believe
10 the firm is also qualified in connection with the
11 RFQ the County did a number of months ago in
12 connection with acquisitions of property. This firm
13 came highly recommended.

14 MS. WIDNER: So it's good reasons.

15 MR. BATTISTA: As I've stated, they
16 are still working with the Hudson County Improvement
17 Authority, and I think they were involved, if I'm
18 not mistaken in the past year or two with a program
19 that the Hudson County Improvement Authority put
20 together within the County with energy and
21 conservation matters. The firm was intimately
22 involved with that.

23 MS. WIDNER: Thank you.

24 THE CLERK: Additional speakers on
25 agenda items. There appear to be none, Mr.

1 Chairman. Since Freeholder Maldonado is not here,
2 he sponsored a number of items. We need
3 replacements. I'll begin with the items that he
4 sponsored. No. 8, the second was Rivas.

5 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: I'll sponsor it.

6 THE CLERK: No. 9, the second was
7 Liggio.

8 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I'll sponsor it.

9 THE CLERK: No. 10, the second was
10 Liggio.

11 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: I'll sponsor it.

12 THE CLERK: No. 15, the second was
13 Liggio. Sponsor, Freeholder Rivas.

14 As for the seconds, Freeholder Maldonado
15 was second on No. 1, sponsored by DiDomenico.

16 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: I'll take it.

17 THE CLERK: No. 5, sponsored by
18 Romano. Second, Liggio. No. 11, sponsored by
19 Cifelli, second by Maldonado; Liggio. No. 12, Rivas
20 was the sponsor.

21 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I'll sponsor.

22 THE CLERK: No. 16, Dublin was the
23 sponsor.

24 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: I'll second.

25 THE CLERK: The consent agenda now --

1 consent agenda does not include any additional
2 items, 22 was added and then carried. May I have a
3 motion to approve all items listed on the consent
4 agenda?

5 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Sponsor.

6 THE CLERK: Cifelli and Liggio.

7 Freeholder Cifelli.

8 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

10 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: No on 22.

11 Aye on the rest.

12 THE CLERK: 22 was not added.

13 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Okay. Aye.

14 THE CLERK: Dublin.

15 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Liggio.

17 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: O'Dea.

19 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Abstain on 6. Aye

20 on the rest.

21 THE CLERK: Rivas.

22 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Romano.

24 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

1 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes. I'm going to
2 abstain on 9, and let me explain my abstention. I
3 actually, I tend to agree with the speaker that it's
4 not necessary right now, like the transportation for
5 the seniors. So I just ask the Administration to
6 take the recommendation of this Board and try to see
7 if we could find a sponsor so they can use that
8 money for better items.

9 THE CLERK: For the record, Mr.
10 Chairman, that was the 9B as in boy, abstain, and
11 aye on the rest. All items are approved.

12 Mr. Chairman, Freeholder Romano wishes to
13 be recorded on L-1. May I do that? How do you
14 vote, Freeholder?

15 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Aye. Susan
16 Mearns is a class act as a person. She was very, as
17 was said by one of the speakers, she had compassion
18 for people. She was competent. She was honest.
19 She showed a work ethic far above. She was a
20 shining example of what a County government employee
21 is, and it was a pleasure learning from her and also
22 earning her friendship, and I wish her the best in
23 future endeavors in a mentoring capacity. Thank
24 you, Susan.

25 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, proceed

1 with ordinances for second reading? We have one
2 ordinance for second reading entitled Ordinance No.
3 4, amending Chapter 200, Article 8.11, of the
4 Administrative Code to establish a reserved handicap
5 parking space on John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Bayonne,
6 for Violette A. Hannalla.

7 This is the time fixed for public hearing
8 on this Ordinance, which was introduced at the
9 meeting of April 24th, 2014, advertised as required
10 by law together with the notice of Hearing for this
11 time. It has been posted on the Freeholder's
12 Bulletin Board and made available to the general
13 public.

14 Are there any speakers on this ordinance?
15 DiDomenico and Liggio. All in favor?

16 (The Board votes unanimously to close
17 the Hearing.)

18 The Hearing is closed. On final adoption,
19 Freeholder Cifelli. He's absent from the chamber.
20 DiDomenico.

21 FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Dublin.

23 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Liggio.

25 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Aye.

1 THE CLERK: O'Dea.

2 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Rivas.

4 FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Aye.

5 THE CLERK: Romano.

6 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Aye.

7 THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

8 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Aye.

9 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, that
10 concludes the items of business on today's agenda.
11 Are there any comments from the Freeholders on the
12 business of the Board?

13 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I don't know if
14 this is Mr. Battista or Mr. Florio, are political
15 signs allowed to be posted or any kind of signage
16 are on pole on a County road or Kennedy Boulevard?

17 MR. FLORIO: It's yours.

18 MR. BATTISTA: I believe Jersey
19 City -- take that back. Some towns have no signs on
20 poles, depending where it is. I don't know. My
21 understanding, I'm not aware of the County having an
22 ordinance, I'll check that out for you, but I
23 believe it's the municipalities.

24 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: That would be my
25 question. In Jersey City on poles that are on

1 Kennedy Boulevard, which belong to the County, very
2 blatantly out there, one of the ward leaders of the
3 Heights was posting posters on the poles on the
4 Kennedy Boulevard.

5 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: In Jersey City,
6 you can't put the signage up. I would take a
7 pictures.

8 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I have a picture.
9 My constituents complained, and I notified the
10 Sheriffs Department and the County Roads Department.

11 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Isn't the issue
12 freedom of expression? The issue here was freedom
13 of expression.

14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Freedom of
15 expression?

16 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: There maybe an issue
17 in municipalities because after the election, the
18 signs are left there, and you know, the City has to
19 come and pick it up. What we should do is, if you
20 want a sign put up, you pay a certain amount of
21 money to leave it. If after the election the signs
22 are up, then the money, you could lose it. Some of
23 the municipalities show the signs, and that's how
24 it's done. It's part of the process. I don't think
25 we should stop anyone from advertising their

1 position.

2 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: It's illegal as
3 it stands. Therefore, it's breaking the law.
4 Therefore, I'm requesting a notification be made to
5 Jersey City. It's their ordinance that the sign be
6 taken down.

7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I just want to
8 note for the record, all of the elections I've had
9 in the past, I solved the problem. I sent my
10 workers out to tear those damn signs down.
11 Freeholder Romano, that's what I urge you to get
12 your soldiers out on the streets. Don't rely on the
13 government to do your work for you. All is fair in
14 love, war and politics, I guess. If you're going to
15 put your own sign, get a ladder and put them up real
16 high. Make it a challenge to take them down.

17 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I don't break
18 laws. Advertising for Florio & Kenny, if you're
19 interested.

20 MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Freeholder.

21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I think that
22 policy is, you know, if you're going to take that
23 position, you've got to take it universally. I
24 wouldn't want find out that three elections cycles
25 ago, a candidate might have ran on the party line,

1 and that party line they put their signs with their
2 names on it, and they didn't say a word, and now
3 three election cycles later, they say, We want to
4 get the government to the tear the signs down.

5 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Never on a pole.

6 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Proceed.

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

9 MR. GAUGHAN: No, thank you.

10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: On 9B, I
11 appreciate the comments of Riaz concerning the
12 senior boat rides. We did have a significant
13 discussion about how if not all of this, much of
14 this can be underwritten by private sponsorships.
15 It's the number of people we have, 6,000 or more
16 seniors each year or 8,000 seniors for \$40 each.
17 That could be a lot more.

18 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Definitely, a lot
19 more.

20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Based on the
21 number of trips that go out and the number of
22 individuals, that number seems to be low. Put that
23 aside for now, I hope at the next caucus meeting, we
24 get a proposal based on some of the recommendations
25 of the type of vendors, medical institutions,

1 pharmaceutical companies, et cetera, that would be
2 interested in promoting, sponsoring, I would make an
3 aggressive effort to try to do that.

4 THE CLERK: Any comments from the
5 Chief of Staff of the County Executive?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: No, thank you.

7 THE CLERK: Proceed to public
8 participation, Mr. Chairman? This is the time for
9 anyone present to address the Board on any matter of
10 public interest. Please remember to limit your
11 comments to five minutes.

12 Mr. Steve Pickney.

13 MR. PINKNEY: Good evening. Good to
14 see you all. Mr. Clerk, these are the Freeholders'.
15 I come before you, not with my organizations
16 although there are some things that we will be
17 giving to you in the future. But I came to you
18 folks to make a complaint, and it's on the same
19 subject that Mr. Romano raised, but it's a little
20 more serious.

21 I have here pictures of Jeff Dublin and
22 his County car campaigning on Martin Luther King
23 Drive, right next to McDonald's. He's clearly
24 standing outside the County vehicle, and clearly,
25 he's got campaign workers and County workers. This

1 is on I think the 24th at 8:50 in the morning, and
2 here he's got that big sign. He's using tax dollars
3 to run his campaign, and there have been complaints
4 of doing such things.

5 So I would like to make sure that I leave
6 a copy with counsel, for everybody. There's a copy
7 for you too, Mr. Clerk. We're going to be watching
8 because frankly, there are tactics that cause people
9 to get paid. So we're going to watch everything
10 this fellow does, and we're going to make sure we
11 report to you. Next he'll be using the Incinerator
12 Authority vehicles to do that too. Thank you.

13 THE CLERK: Ms. Yvonne Balcer.

14 MS. BALCER: Good evening. Okay. I
15 came here to give my opinion for creating a separate
16 space for a Muslim prayer room at Hudson County. I
17 am a practicing Catholic. I believe in separation
18 of church and state. Several years ago I read in
19 the Jersey Journal that a priest wanted to give
20 ashes to County workers at their workplace, and he
21 was asked to leave and to distribute on our parking
22 lot.

23 The students at Hudson County Community
24 College are adults, like the County workers, and
25 they should find a space by the college for prayer.

1 It is the responsibility of every religion to
2 support this activity. I attend St. Ann's on
3 Tonnelle Avenue, and ironically last Sunday, the
4 priest announced that the collection was for
5 Catholic Universities of America, and as a member,
6 it is my responsibility to support this activity. I
7 believe the activities belong to all religious
8 groups.

9 Some might say that we should have a room
10 set aside for all religions, but I believe it's a
11 way to sugarcoat the problem. When the synagogue on
12 Grove Street changed to an Islamic worship center,
13 the benches were removed because different religious
14 groups worship in a different fashion. As a child I
15 left public school every Wednesday, walked to the
16 local Catholic school to received my CCD training,
17 no room set aside for me or the Catholic kids. God
18 is not Muslim, Catholic, Protestant or Jewish, and I
19 respect all people who pray to God, but I also
20 believe in separation of church and state. I really
21 believe that.

22 My tax dollars are being used to subsidize
23 a religion in a way they can save money so they
24 don't have to purchase a building near the college
25 so students can come out and worship. I don't have

1 a problem with prayer. I pray all the time. I
2 always have my rosaries in my bag. I have no
3 problem with that at all. I firmly believe in
4 separation of the church. I really believe that,
5 and we never had a problem in this country because
6 we always had separation of church and state so we
7 can't go around saying because one you require more
8 prayers, they have some consideration. Well, you
9 know what? I pray all the time. I don't want to
10 see this happening.

11 And what I want to say, which is totally
12 different from this, I support the candidacy of
13 Dublin. Unfortunately, I don't live in the area
14 with him, and the others ones, thumbs up. I don't
15 see a problem right now. I have a very good
16 relationship with Mr. Pinkney. He's a very fine
17 human being. I wish you well. I just wish that I
18 could push that button for you. Thank you very
19 much.

20 FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Thank you.

21 THE CLERK: Mathis Sharpless.

22 MR. SHARPLESS: Good evening. My
23 name is Mathis Sharpless, and I am a City and County
24 resident. Jersey City, I work for the Jersey City
25 Incinerator Authority, that is right. I want to

1 question or actually poll the Freeholders, and I
2 want to know, do any of you campaign out of your car
3 and carry campaign literature?

4 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes. I don't have a
5 car from the County.

6 MR. SHARPLESS: You don't have a
7 County car.

8 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Two years ago or a
9 year ago.

10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I haven't had a
11 County car in 17 years.

12 MR. SHARPLESS: Any other Freeholders
13 in here have any County car?

14 MR. FLORIO: To the speaker, I don't
15 mean to cut into your time, but there is no
16 requirement for any Members of the Board to respond
17 in any manner affirmatively or negatively to the
18 speaker.

19 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: We can if we
20 chose.

21 MR. FLORIO: You can. There is no
22 such requirement.

23 MR. SHARPLESS: I would think it
24 would be respectful for me being a taxpayer coming
25 to the County and asking what County Freeholders has

1 a car, and do you campaign and do you carry campaign
2 literature out of your car. All due respect to you,
3 Mr. Romano, do you?

4 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: No.

5 MR. SHARPLESS: You sir?

6 FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: No.

7 MR. SHARPLESS: Since you're the
8 Corporation Counsel, I don't know your title.

9 MR. FLORIO: I am Freeholder Counsel.

10 MR. SHARPLESS: Can you tell me, sir,
11 in your legal knowledge is it illegal or legal for a
12 County Freeholder to use his car -- to use his car
13 to campaign?

14 MR. FLORIO: I'm not going to
15 respond. Maybe County Counsel will.

16 MR. BATTISTA: Sir, the County policy
17 is if you are given a County vehicle, I have a
18 County vehicle. I can use it for personal business,
19 as long as it's been assigned to me. So I'm not
20 going to comment beyond that. The County policy
21 doesn't prohibit you from using a County-issued
22 vehicle for noncounty work. That's part of you
23 received a vehicle.

24 MR. SHARPLESS: So you're saying that
25 it's legal?

1 MR. BATTISTA: Let me fully respond
2 and then you can ask a question. As the Deputy
3 Administrator just indicated, your tax department,
4 you may get a stipend for a vehicle, you're taxed on
5 that. Once that vehicle is given to you, you have
6 to adhere to County policy in terms of the operation
7 of it, but you're not precluded from engaging in
8 personal activities with a County vehicle.

9 MR. SHARPLESS: So you're saying he
10 was perfectly within his right to campaign with his
11 car and hand out campaign literature?

12 MR. BATTISTA: What I'm saying is he
13 did not violate policy in the use of his vehicle.

14 MR. SHARPLESS: In your opinion.
15 Well, then you gentleman have a nice night. My
16 question is moot since counsel said that.

17 THE CLERK: Mario Fernandez.

18 MR. FERNANDEZ: Good evening. My
19 name is Mario Fernandez, and I work for the Hudson
20 County Correction, and at this moment I have come
21 here before the Freeholder Board. I've always been
22 proud to work at the jail and do my job until this
23 moment. For the last two years, I was given an
24 employee evaluation, and for the years 2012 and
25 2013, I asked my lieutenant and my captain for a

1 copy of that evaluation that I signed. They did not
2 provide me with a copy.

3 I followed the procedure on my contract
4 that says that I have to put a grievance in. I did.
5 Nobody at the jail or the County responded to my
6 grievance. The union does not have the money to
7 spend on lawyer. They have the money, but right
8 now, they don't have it to assist. Another thing,
9 the County has -- the jail has a policy that it says
10 that I'm entitled to that copy of an evaluation, but
11 that policy has been hidden from the officers. If
12 you see on the first page of the policy, it says
13 that you can ratify it with a signature, every
14 officer.

15 That policy has any never been available
16 to any of us. I had to obtain that policy from a
17 third party, and I have sent it to my union managers
18 and my director, the County, Mrs. Gibney and nobody
19 answered. That's what I did. Thank you.

20 MR. BATTISTA: I'll look at this
21 tomorrow. It's the first time I'm hearing about it.
22 It's your file. I wouldn't know offhand why you
23 would not be entitled to what is contained in your
24 file. Maybe there are things within your file which
25 may be in there because it involves you personally

1 like an outside investigation. I'm just using that
2 as an example. Say somebody complained about you
3 and we sent that to outside counsel for
4 investigation. That may be in your file, but you
5 may not necessarily be entitled to see it. I have
6 to review what the speaker say. What I'm saying is
7 I'll look at it tomorrow what the speaker is
8 complaining about. I'm sure we will resolve it.

9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Director Aviles,
10 do you have a policy in place as to why would you
11 not provide a copy of an annual evaluation to an
12 employee?

13 DIRECTOR AVILES: Oscar Aviles,
14 Department of Corrections. Freeholder, I was aware
15 of the situation. There is no policy in the case
16 that he cannot get a copy of it, and I thought it
17 was handled. He can get a copy, not a problem. He
18 will get a copy, yes. There was an e-mail from
19 management to get him a copy. Unfortunately, it
20 must have gotten mis-communicated. He'll get a
21 copy.

22 MR. FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

23 THE CLERK: R.L. Williams.

24 REVEREND WILLIAMS: R.L. Williams,
25 senior pastor and organizer of the Real Love

1 Missionary Baptist Church here in Jersey City, New
2 Jersey. I come before this Freeholder Board with
3 the words of commendation. You have budget woes,
4 and there are many voices that clamor to be heard.
5 Some of them will tell you that these are the best
6 of times. Others will claim these are the worst of
7 times. Some of them will tell you that they don't
8 have enough time, but I want this Board to realize
9 that this Administration under Tom DeGise and this
10 Freeholder Board should be commended and why anyone
11 would want any changes is beyond me.

12 Romano, Munoz and Dublin don't dance to
13 the piper of the Little Caesar who sits in City
14 Hall. Well, they deserve their reelection on their
15 own merits. This Freeholder Board is great. Doreen
16 DiDomenico, thank you; two, Bill O'Dea, thank you;
17 three, Jeff Dublin, thank you; four, Tony Romano,
18 thank you; Tilo Rivas, six, thank you; Albert
19 Cifelli is none; Vice Chairman Thomas Liggio is
20 eight; and the Chair Pro Tempore is not here; and of
21 course, our Chairman, thank you.

22 Now, just another quick word. I was at an
23 association meeting held in Greenville, and
24 Freeholder Dublin was there, hardly given any
25 recognition, and at the so-called job fair, you and

1 the Board of Freeholders knows that those 800 jobs
2 would not have even come to Jersey City were it not
3 your hands into in the workings of it. You were one
4 of the components. Jeff Dublin helped to bring
5 those jobs. They wouldn't even recognize that he
6 was there, and I'm getting a little bit tired of
7 this new protocol that we now have in City Hall.
8 You can't even go to see this guy without first
9 stopping to see the police, go to the response room,
10 tell them what you want, and then maybe, maybe
11 Little Caesar will grant you an interview.

12 Well, enough. When this election is over
13 in June, Jeff Dublin will be reelected. I'm out
14 there 12 hours a day from seven to seven working
15 hard. I guarantee that. In July, I'm going to take
16 a little vacation, haven't done that in a while. In
17 August I'm going to go visit family in Philadelphia.
18 But come September, a recall drive to get Fulop out
19 of City Hall.

20 THE CLERK: Additional speakers on
21 any matter of public interest.

22 MR. WAHID: Riaz Wahid. I have been
23 going back and forth about the people. I do have
24 one big issue. We don't have your e-mail. We don't
25 have any idea of how we can reach out to you

1 individually. I hope you will fix that. Also, the
2 minute of this meeting, I would appreciate if you
3 could --

4 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Can we have the
5 e-mail of Freeholders put on the web site? Can we
6 add the e-mails, the public e-mail, all the e-mails?

7 THE CLERK: The County e-mails are
8 posted.

9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: No, they're not.

10 MR. WAHID: No, I saw only one or two
11 e-mails.

12 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Can you post the
13 e-mails? The County e-mail are provided with the
14 County, I'm just saying the public e-mail. The
15 Freeholders have no problem with the public e-mail.

16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: That's a simple,
17 that's a simple, reasonable request, and Riaz, I
18 prefer just everybody contact me directly.

19 MR. WAHID: Yes, I understand. Also,
20 the minutes of this meeting because people look at
21 the agenda all the time, but there's a gap between
22 what happens here, and if you have the minutes of
23 the meeting on the web site. The people who cannot
24 come, they will be able to look at the minutes and
25 see what is going on around.

1 THE CLERK: If it's the wish of the
2 Board.

3 CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: We wouldn't be able
4 put up the closed session minutes.

5 MR. WAHID: That's fine, the open
6 session meetings.

7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: And we should go
8 back last year, and put all the ones up for the last
9 year.

10 MR. WAHID: And the last one is the
11 data of the department directors, we don't see
12 their, and somebody's e-mail is mentioned over
13 there. What is the process or the policy? I asked
14 for the policy document. The policy document does
15 not exist. So why is there a policy for now open
16 for us, if you casually say it is from somebody,
17 other than some random e-mail. That's the thing
18 about e-mail, that's why the tax department should
19 shift to e-mails because there's no cost.

20 So I would really appreciate if you could
21 come up with a policy to deliver our e-mail and
22 display e-mails and phone contact numbers. Thank
23 you very much.

24 THE CLERK: Additional speakers on
25 any matter of public interest. There appear to be

1 none.

2 MR. FLORIO: Mr. Chairman, before a
3 motion to adjourn, I would just like to make it
4 clear for the record that at the time that Mr.
5 Pinkney was speaking and the photographs were being
6 distributed, I advised Freeholder Dublin not to make
7 any responses to any of the questions that might
8 have asked. So if there is any question about that,
9 that's based on the advice of counsel. Thank you.

10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I would say in the
11 future you should put it at the time on the record.
12 He can now leave here and say that he came and spoke
13 and Freeholder Dublin didn't say anything, when he
14 didn't say anything because you advised him not to.

15 MR. FLORIO: In all respect, I was
16 waiting until all the speakers were done. I didn't
17 know how many times that was going to be necessary.

18 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Usually you say it
19 right on the record.

20 MR. FLORIO: Which I tried to do just
21 now.

22 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: A little late.

23 MR. FLORIO: I admit it.

24 THE CLERK: A motion to adjourn is in
25 order.

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FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Motion.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Second.

THE CLERK: All in favor, opposed?

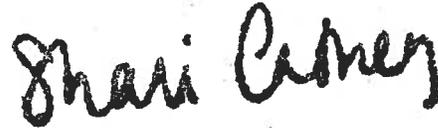
The meeting is adjourned.

(Whereupon the proceeding is then
concluded at 8:01 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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, May 8, 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
Commission Expires 2/4/17