HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

RE:

REGULAR MEETING OF THE HUDSON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

OPEN SESSION

Hudson County Administration Building,
Freeholders Chambers
567 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
Thursday, May 8, 2014
6:00 p.m.

BEFORE:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

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
THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli.
FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Here.
THE CLERK: DiDomenico.
FREEHOLDER DI DOMENICO: 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.
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 the March 13th, 2014 regular meeting, and the March 27th, 2014 regular meeting.

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


   FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

   THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli, the minutes.

   FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.

   THE CLERK: Dublin.

   FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.

   THE CLERK: Liggio.

   FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

   THE CLERK: O'Dea.

   FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

   THE CLERK: Rivas.

   FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

   THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

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

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

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


FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Dublin.

FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.

THE CLERK: Liggio.

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

THE CLERK: O'Dea.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

THE CLERK: Rivas.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

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

THE CLERK: So we'll proceed with the motion to take the three ordinances for introduction out of order and take them now. We should proceed
with the ordinance listed on the agenda?

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

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

Freeholder Cifelli.

FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.

THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Dublin. Liggio.

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Maldonado, not present.

O'Dea.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes, for first reading.

THE CLERK: Rivas.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.
THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

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

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

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

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

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: I'll second it.

THE CLERK: Ordinance No. 2 is entitled, an ordinance amending the Hudson County District Solid Waste Management Plan, IWS Transfer
Systems of New Jersey, Inc., transfer station materials recovery facilities and Class A Recycling Center, 375 Route 1 & 9, Jersey City, New Jersey. And the changes include the last whereas clause.

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

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

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

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

THE CLERK: That's correct.

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: O'Dea.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

THE CLERK: Rivas.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

THE CLERK: And on introduction of No. 2 as amended, an ordinance amending the Hudson County District Solid Waste Management Plan, IWS Transfer Systems of New Jersey, Inc., transfer station materials recovery facilities and Class A Recycling Center, 375 Route 1 & 9, Jersey City, New Jersey.

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: O'Dea.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes, for introduction.

THE CLERK: Rivas.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

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

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: O'Dea.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

THE CLERK: Rivas.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas, Susan Mearns began her
distinguished career with the County of Hudson as a planner in 1989; she was instrumental in the design and implementation of the Hudson County Affordable Housing Trust Fund, for which she served as manager, generating $36 million in loans and creating 770 affordable housing units; under her leadership, the County's Affordable Housing Trust Fund received awards from the National Association of Counties, the New Jersey Association of Counties and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, Best Practice Blue Ribbon Award; and

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

Whereas, as Division Chief of Housing and Community Development, Susan Mearns, was responsible
for the administration of the County's HOME Program Continuum of Care, Homeless Prevention, Initiative, and its Community Development Block Grant, CDBG, Program, which provides for funds for activities or initiatives that revitalize neighborhoods, promote economic development, expand the provision of community facilities and services, and aid in the prevention of blight in the communities of East Newark, Guttenberg, Harrison, Hoboken, Kearny, Secaucus, Weehawken and West New York; under her leadership as Division Chief, the County has administered $54 million in CDBG funding that has been used for the development of public facilities, social service programs and affordable housing; and

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

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

    Whereas, Susan Mearns is married to Ron Shaer; she is the sister of David, Gina and Robert, and the proud daughter of Carolina Mearns.
Now, therefor be it resolved by the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders as follows:

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

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

Freeholder Cifelli.

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

You are a consummate professional. Your knowledge was unsurpassed. You had to be obeyed. I wish you much, much health and happiness in your
well-deserved retirement. We're all going to miss
you and hope that you're not a stranger. I proudly
vote aye.

THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

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

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

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

THE CLERK: Freeholder Liggio.

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

THE CLERK: Freeholder O'Dea.

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

But despite those brief moments, I think
especially in the later years of your work with the County, we became close. Either you wore me down, I wore you down, we wore each other down. We came to that ultimate level of mutual respect, which I certainly have for you. You've done a fantastic job in your performance at the County.

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

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

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

THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

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

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

(Applause.)

MS. MEARNS: I don't have to give my name. I have to take a picture first, picture time.
You've been saying goodbye to me for about fifteen months, now I'm finally gone. I have spent a lot of very interesting evenings in these chambers, some more interesting evenings than others because of a Freeholders or two or one. But I always recognized the fact that came here to do a job, I thought I did it well, and you were here to do a job too. The people asked you to come here and do a job for them, and at the end of those days, if we both did our jobs well, then Hudson would be better for it.

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

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

MS. COTTER: I have here a letter from the vice president of Field Station Dinosaurs
discussing their employment policy.

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

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

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

Please note that the resolution being distributed includes a new Whereas clause, that is the last Whereas clause in the item, and it reads, Whereas, the specifics regarding implementation of this project are subject to the review and the consent of the County Executive.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I make a motion to add that -- it was never on, it wasn't on the agenda?

THE CLERK: Right.

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

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

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Second.

THE CLERK: Proceed with roll call?

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

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

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

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

FREEHOLDER CIFElli: And there was a
meeting with the County Executive?

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

MR. BATTISTA: Mr. Chairman, on
behalf of the Administration, initially, I see the
resolution has been somewhat modified from the
previous one. It's the position of the
Administration that the manner which this has
presented doesn't comply with how the contracts are
supposed to be presented by the County Executive for
the advice and consent of the Freeholder Board.

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Like who?

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

FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: I'll second that.

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

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Could we put it on and carry it? Originally, at the last meeting we said we were going to have it on this one. Let's put it on, and then we'll just carry it.
THE CLERK: There was never a vote, 
Mr. Chairman, to add Item 22 and then to table Item 22. There is a motion on the table to add this item to the agenda. It would be No. 22. Motion by O'Dea, seconded by Munoz.

Freeholder Cifelli.

FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Motion to add, yes.

THE CLERK: DiDomenico.
FREEHOLDER DIDOMENICO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Dublin.
FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: To add, yes.

THE CLERK: Liggio.
FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

THE CLERK: O'Dea.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

THE CLERK: Rivas.
FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

THE CLERK: This is now item No. 22 on the consent agenda, unless there is a motion.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I make a motion to carry the item.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Motion by Freeholder
O'Dea. Second by Freeholder DiDomenico.

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

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: O'Dea.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

THE CLERK: Rivas.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

THE CLERK: The item is carried.

There is an additional item from the request of the
Board that is being distributed now entitled
Resolution by the Hudson County Board of Chosen
Freeholders urging the County Administration to
adopt a County-wide policy staying the hiring of
nonessential employees and/or unclassified
positions.
Moved by Chairman Munoz. Freeholder O'Dea is second. On the motion to add this item to the consent agenda, roll call, Mr. Chairman?

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

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

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: What are the consequences?

FREEHOLDER CIFElli: Well, when you're have a retiring older person, excuse the expression, there may be issues. There may be
specific issues with it. For this resolution we haven't even gotten to the bottom of that issue with respect to a specific hiring. There may be other instances where the County Executive says, It's my discretion we need to hire somebody.

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

That's my thought.

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

MR. BATTISTA: He's talking about my department. The department that's involved is the Office of Consumer Affairs. In 2012, the Office of Consumer Affairs had four employees working. One employee retired and we did not fill the position. The head of the Office of Consumer Affairs retired, I believe, in May of 2013, and we did not fill the position. One of the other employees was
transferred to another office and is working in our office. So that left us now to one employee.

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

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

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: How much was the previous employee making?

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

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

MR. BATTISTA: The ones in my office.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: We were discussing that we have to pay the prosecutors. We have how much is the starting salary of the person there right now, how much is it?

MR. BATTISTA: I don’t know.

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

THE CLERK: For the record Freeholder Romano is present.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: We don't have a problem if you say, Look, Freeholder, we need someone here, and we're going to fill out the position, and this position is a position that the starting level is 35 or $40,000. Then you have an argument. But when your starting position of someone that comes in, you start that position at $65,000, and when I asked at the last meeting, and I was told very broad, and every question that I
asked, I got a generalized answer that was very
broad, it's very, you know, I see that as a waste of
taxpayer's money.

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

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

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

MR. BATTISTA: No. I don't believe
this position was posted. I reviewed the resume.
Without getting into details, I'm comfortable that what I've identified as the need for that office, the person that we've selected for the position can fulfill.

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

MS. COTTER: I don't know.

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

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

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

MR. BATTISTA: I said to my knowledge.

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

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

MR. BATTISTA: Freeholder, with all due respect to you, you know that people are hired in this County without posting, and it's not
required by civil service. It's not breaking the
law by doing that. So to infer that somehow because
it wasn't posted, something inappropriate was done,
because you know that people have been hired without
some sort of a posting for some positions.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: That position that
you've referring to could been assistants.

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

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

MR. BATTISTA: That's not what I
said, Freeholder. What I said was in 2012, there
were four individuals in my office. As a result of one person retiring in late 2012, as a result of someone retiring in May of 2013, we reduced the number of people working in that office. What I've done in order to try to assist the office is one of the investigators has assumed some of the duties of that office, but we still have a need for other functions.

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

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

MR. BATTISTA: Somewhere around 15 and 18.

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

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

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Jersey City, how much is tax increasing in Jersey City? Those are the people that pay the taxes. Freeholder O'Dea wanted to say something. We should vote on it.
Whichever the vote on this item. This is something
that I do it myself as a Freeholder and elected
official to see something being done wrong is being
done well, and I see the way the Board is going.
You say that we should have oversight when this
position is given. It's because we can't do it
right now, and the position is $65,000, that it
wasn't discussed with us. This came out of the
blue. Someone is getting a position for $65,000.
If you want to allow that type of activity, go
ahead.

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

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

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

MR. BATTISTA: That's correct.

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: The Chairman and
the Board didn't know about it because it's not really our responsibility to know about every employee that's being hired. That's the County Executive's responsibility. But as far as the budget goes, Freeholders keeps talking about the budget. He just introduced a resolution prior to this asking for a grant of $125,000 for an organization that we have no knowledge about, that's why we tabled it. That's an additional 125,000 that people of the County has to pay that we haven't paid in the past. That's a new expenditure that you're asking us for --

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

I'm not in a position to vote for this particular resolution. Perhaps if it was reworded to a way that, you know, I could accept, but the way
this is worded, I think we're interfering with the
County Executive's authority, and I don't feel
comfortable with that.

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

I think that prior to assessing that, I
would have done an analysis of what the case load of
that division is and whether or not the staffing as
it was in each of those years was substantial or
substantive enough to be able to handle this because
of the loss of staff, complaints weren't processed,
complaints weren't evaluated or investigated, et
cetera. If I find out that that did occur and that
occurred two years going, I'm going to be a little
upset that the Administration waited so long to fill
the position or hire someone because that meant the
resident of Hudson County were not being dealt with
when it came to consumer protection issues for two
years.

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

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

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

As it relates particularly to this resolution, I'm kind of comfortable with it. I think that I would add a small thing to it that would say that any consideration for hiring under section one should be weighed against critical budget challenges and open for discussion and review as to the necessity of the hire because the way it reads now, if we want to hire a replacement for the sheriff or a correction officer or sheriff officer, they should weigh that in. In weighing that, some
of us know that if we don't hire a level in the
table of organization in those departments, the
overtime costs may exceed the savings on that
positions.

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

I think the issue is that didn't occur,
and we are in a position of trying to find a way to
not create unnecessary positions in order to be able
to control budgetary spending long term, not short
term, and that's a good policy. I would only seek
to say that any consideration for hiring pursuant to
Item No. 1 or to the previous Therefore clause should be weighed against the critical budget challenges and review as to the necessity of hiring. I just think that's good policy, and I think that that makes it more transparent. I think that provides us to get more information.

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

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I think Al is first.

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

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

But to go forward 48 hours on that kind of an issue on one particular appointment, and try to carry it through a wide-spread policy, I think it is -- what's that expression, a hard cases make bad law. That's what I think this is. I'm not saying that there isn't a need for a policy. Freeholder O'Dea is right, freeholder Munoz is right that there should be a policy. But I'm here 18 years. In 48 hours we're going to jump into that policy? Freeholder Liggio's comments are well-taken as well. This is something that I think begs to have some more consideration. Again, I
don't think there is anything nefarious to it on either side. I just think to jump in 48 hours to something that has such widespread implication without even getting any input from the person who is to be giving it. It's seems common sense to me that the County Executive is across the street. Let's have a meeting with the County Executive, whatever committee it is in County government, and let them sit down with the County Executive and brainstorm this.

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

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

MR. FLORIO: Statutorily, yes.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: And the second question, Tom, what wording just for my edification, I'm trying to listen to everybody, what wording?

You said "wording."

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: One of the things is the word or use of "stay," I would like to get an
interpretation what "stay" means, the hiring of
nonessential and unclassified. What does that mean?
Is that term permanent, you know, is that a
permanent action, or it is a temporary action? It's
possibly a temporary action. You stay until you
decide to do it. I don't know. That's unclear to
me. I'm having a problem. That creates a problem
with me when we're using the word "stay." I'm not
going to vote for something and I don't know what it
means. Maybe our County Counsel.

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

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I'll make a
suggestion. I'm going to make a suggestion. I make
a suggestion that we change the language as follows,
and then you can figure how to change the language
above what mine are. One, it's really the crux of it, instead of using the word "stay," I would say the County adopt a policy limiting the hiring of County employees which are nonessential and/or unclassified of the position under these, do we want to say "hardship," hardship and troubling times, and that any consideration of hiring of nonessential and/or unclassified positions is weighed against the critical budget challenges and open for discussion and review.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Can't we just table it?

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: I think we should vote.

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

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, there is a
motion on the table already to add the item as it was distributed to the consent agenda.

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

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

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

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

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

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Take the vote to get it on the agenda, and I'm going to make a motion
to change the language, and let's see what we do
after that, one step at a time. Right now there is
a motion to just put it on the agenda that's been
seconded. Take that vote first.

THE CLERK: Proceed to roll call.

This is to add the item that was distributed to the
consent agenda. If it is approved, it will be No.
23.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Proceed.

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

FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: No.

THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Dublin.

FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: No.

THE CLERK: Liggio.

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: No.

THE CLERK: O'Dea.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.

THE CLERK: Rivas.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: No.

THE CLERK: Romano.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: No.

THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

THE CLERK: Five nos and three yeses.

The item is not added to the consent agenda.

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

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Basically, the question, the question to attorney, I know the Freeholders' specific position but I just want to know, if a position is given in the County, if it's for a political favor, that's illegal, right?

That's a question I need you to answer.

MR. FLORIO: You're asking me --

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

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

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes.

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

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Continue.

THE CLERK: The next item on the agenda is public participation on agenda items.

Proceed, Mr. Chair?
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?

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

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

MS. COTTER: Mr. Chair, I could
answer that question. The extension of time on No. 17 is an extension for the current bond counsel to complete items that are in progress. There is no additional money being added to the contract.

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

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

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

MS. COTTER: 19?

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: 9C.

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

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

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

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

DIRECTOR FULLER: Cheryl Fuller, Director of Finance and Administration. The bond
counsel fees from the bond ordinances that we
approve. When the bonds are sold, there is
something called the cost of issuance in bonds, and
the fees for the bond counsel are paid out those
costs of issuance. When we approve a bond ordinance
we basically are establishing an appropriation
authorizing them to sell bonds, and included in the
bond ordinance are what we call Section 20
extensions, and those for the most part, among other
things, pay for bond counsel.

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

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: We had a discussion
that we had on the agenda, and what I recommended
was to try to see if we could get companies to
donate money for the seniors, and Freeholder O'Dea
brought some recommendations, for example, whether
it be some hospitals or drug companies that would
willingly sponsor with no cost to the taxpayers.
But I agree with your concern.

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

MS. WIDNER: Good evening. Ester
Widner. Item No. 3, I understand how counsel gets
paid, that's built into the bond, but I would like
to know how this particular law firm was chosen,
what is the process for that?

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

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

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

MS. WIDNER: So that decision is
subjective somewhat?

MR. BATTISTA: Within certain
parameters.

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

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

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

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

MS. WIDNER: The cost is identical.

You just chose.

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

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

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

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

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

MS. WIDNER: The other two firms?

MR. BATTISTA: I'm not going to
disparage either of the firms. They were equally
capable of doing the work. I just made the
determination and the recommendation that the firm
being recommended would be the most advantageous for
us.

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

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

MS. WIDNER: So it's good reasons.

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

MS. WIDNER: Thank you.

THE CLERK: Additional speakers on
agenda items. There appear to be none, Mr.
Chairman. Since Freeholder Maldonado is not here, he sponsored a number of items. We need replacements. I'll begin with the items that he sponsored. No. 8, the second was Rivas.

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: I'll sponsor it.

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

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I'll sponsor it.

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

FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: I'll sponsor it.

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

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

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: I'll take it.

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

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I'll sponsor.

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

FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: I'll second.

THE CLERK: The consent agenda now --
consent agenda does not include any additional
items, 22 was added and then carried. May I have a
motion to approve all items listed on the consent
agenda?

FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Sponsor.

THE CLERK: Cifelli and Liggio.

Freeholder Cifelli.

FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes.

THE CLERK: DiDomenico.

FREEHOLDER DiDOMENICO: No on 22.

Aye on the rest.

THE CLERK: 22 was not added.


THE CLERK: Dublin.

FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.

THE CLERK: Liggio.

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Yes.

THE CLERK: O'Dea.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Abstain on 6. Aye

on the rest.

THE CLERK: Rivas.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Yes.

THE CLERK: Romano.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes.

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

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

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

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

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, proceed
with ordinances for second reading? We have one
ordinance for second reading entitled Ordinance No.
4, amending Chapter 200, Article 8.11, of the
Administrative Code to establish a reserved handicap
parking space on John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Bayonne,
for Violette A. Hannalla.

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

Are there any speakers on this ordinance?
DiDomenico and Liggio. All in favor?
(The Board votes unanimously to close
the Hearing.)

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

FREEHOLDER DIDOMENICO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Dublin.
FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Yes.
THE CLERK: Liggio.
FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: Aye.
THE CLERK: O'Dea.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Aye.

THE CLERK: Rivas.

FREEHOLDER RIVAS: Aye.

THE CLERK: Romano.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Aye.

THE CLERK: Chairman Munoz.

CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Aye.

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

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

MR. FLORIO: It's yours.

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

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: That would be my question. In Jersey City on poles that are on
Kennedy Boulevard, which belong to the County, very
blatantly out there, one of the ward leaders of the
Heights was posting posters on the poles on the
Kennedy Boulevard.

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

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

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

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Freedom of
expression?

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

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

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

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

MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Freeholder.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I think that policy is, you know, if you're going to take that position, you've got to take it universally. I wouldn't want find out that three elections cycles ago, a candidate might have ran on the party line,
and that party line they put their signs with their
names on it, and they didn't say a word, and now
three election cycles later, they say, We want to
get the government to the tear the signs down.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Never on a pole.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Proceed.
THE CLERK: Are there any comments
from the Chief of Staff for the County Executive?
MR. GAUGHAN: No, thank you.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: On 9B, I
appreciate the comments of Riaz concerning the
senior boat rides. We did have a significant
discussion about how if not all of this, much of
this can be underwritten by private sponsorships.
It's the number of people we have, 6,000 or more
seniors each year or 8,000 seniors for $40 each.
That could be a lot more.

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Definitely, a lot
more.

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Based on the
number of trips that go out and the number of
individuals, that number seems to be low. Put that
aside for now, I hope at the next caucus meeting, we
get a proposal based on some of the recommendations
of the type of vendors, medical institutions,
pharmaceutical companies, et cetera, that would be interested in promoting, sponsoring, I would make an aggressive effort to try to do that.

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

MR. GAUGHAN: No, thank you.

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

Mr. Steve Pickney.

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

I have here pictures of Jeff Dublin and his County car campaigning on Martin Luther King Drive, right next to McDonald's. He's clearly standing outside the County vehicle, and clearly, he's got campaign workers and County workers. This
is on I think the 24th at 8:50 in the morning, and
here he's got that big sign. He's using tax dollars
to run his campaign, and there have been complaints
of doing such things.

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

THE CLERK: Ms. Yvonne Balcer.

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

The students at Hudson County Community
College are adults, like the County workers, and
they should find a space by the college for prayer.
It is the responsibility of every religion to support this activity. I attend St. Ann's on Tonnelle Avenue, and ironically last Sunday, the priest announced that the collection was for Catholic Universities of America, and as a member, it is my responsibility to support this activity. I believe the activities belong to all religious groups.

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

My tax dollars are being used to subsidize a religion in a way they can save money so they don't have to purchase a building near the college so students can come out and worship. I don't have
a problem with prayer. I pray all the time. I always have my rosaries in my bag. I have no problem with that at all. I firmly believe in separation of the church. I really believe that, and we never had a problem in this country because we always had separation of church and state so we can't go around saying because one you require more prayers, they have some consideration. Well, you know what? I pray all the time. I don't want to see this happening.

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

FREEHOLDER DUBLIN: Thank you.

THE CLERK: Mathis Sharpless.

MR. SHARPLESS: Good evening. My name is Mathis Sharpless, and I am a City and County resident. Jersey City, I work for the Jersey City Incinerator Authority, that is right. I want to
question or actually poll the Freeholders, and I
want to know, do any of you campaign out of your car
and carry campaign literature?
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Yes. I don't have a
car from the County.
MR. SHARPLESS: You don't have a
County car.
CHAIRMAN MUNOZ: Two years ago or a
year ago.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I haven't had a
County car in 17 years.
MR. SHARPLESS: Any other Freeholders
in here have any County car?
MR. FLORIO: To the speaker, I don't
mean to cut into your time, but there is no
requirement for any Members of the Board to respond
in any manner affirmatively or negatively to the
speaker.
FREEHOLDER O'DEA: We can if we
chose.
MR. FLORIO: You can. There is no
such requirement.
MR. SHARPLESS: I would think it
would be respectful for me being a taxpayer coming
to the County and asking what County Freeholders has
a car, and do you campaign and do you carry campaign
literature out of your car. All due respect to you,
Mr. Romano, do you?

FREEHOLDER ROMANO: No.

MR. SHARPLESS: You sir?

FREEHOLDER LIGGIO: No.

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

MR. FLORIO: I am Freeholder Counsel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. SHARPLESS: In your opinion.

Well, then you gentleman have a nice night. My question is moot since counsel said that.

THE CLERK: Mario Fernandez.

MR. FERNANDEZ: Good evening. My name is Mario Fernandez, and I work for the Hudson County Correction, and at this moment I have come here before the Freeholder Board. I've always been proud to work at the jail and do my job until this moment. For the last two years, I was given an employee evaluation, and for the years 2012 and 2013, I asked my lieutenant and my captain for a
copy of that evaluation that I signed. They did not provide me with a copy.

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

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

MR. BATTISTA: I'll look at this tomorrow. It's the first time I'm hearing about it. It's your file. I wouldn't know offhand why you would not be entitled to what is contained in your file. Maybe there are things within your file which may be in there because it involves you personally.
like an outside investigation. I'm just using that as an example. Say somebody complained about you and we sent that to outside counsel for investigation. That may be in your file, but you may not necessarily be entitled to see it. I have to review what the speaker say. What I'm saying is I'll look at it tomorrow what the speaker is complaining about. I'm sure we will resolve it.

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

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

MR. FERNANDEZ: Thank you.
THE CLERK: R.L. Williams.
REVEREND WILLIAMS: R.L. Williams, senior pastor and organizer of the Real Love
Missionary Baptist Church here in Jersey City, New Jersey. I come before this Freeholder Board with the words of commendation. You have budget woes, and there are many voices that clamor to be heard. Some of them will tell you that these are the best of times. Others will claim these are the worst of times. Some of them will tell you that they don't have enough time, but I want this Board to realize that this Administration under Tom DeGise and this Freeholder Board should be commended and why anyone would want any changes is beyond me.

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

Now, just another quick word. I was at an association meeting held in Greenville, and Freeholder Dublin was there, hardly given any recognition, and at the so-called job fair, you and
the Board of Freeholders knows that those 800 jobs
would not have even come to Jersey City were it not
your hands into in the workings of it. You were one
of the components. Jeff Dublin helped to bring
those jobs. They wouldn't even recognize that he
was there, and I'm getting a little bit tired of
this new protocol that we now have in City Hall.
You can't even go to see this guy without first
stopping to see the police, go to the response room,
tell them what you want, and then maybe, maybe
Little Caesar will grant you an interview.

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

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

MR. WAHID: Riaz Wahid. I have been
going back and forth about the people. I do have
one big issue. We don't have your e-mail. We don't
have any idea of how we can reach out to you
individually. I hope you will fix that. Also, the minute of this meeting, I would appreciate if you could --

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

THE CLERK: The County e-mails are posted.

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

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

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

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

MR. WAHID: Yes, I understand. Also, the minutes of this meeting because people look at the agenda all the time, but there's a gap between what happens here, and if you have the minutes of the meeting on the web site. The people who cannot come, they will be able to look at the minutes and see what is going on around.
THE CLERK: If it's the wish of the
Board.

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

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

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

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

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

THE CLERK: Additional speakers on
any matter of public interest. There appear to be
none.

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

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

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

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

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

FREEHOLDER O'DEA: A little late.

MR. FLORIO: I admit it.

THE CLERK: A motion to adjourn is in order.
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.)
CERTIFICATION

I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No. 30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein are from the notes taken by me of a Regular Meeting of the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders, held on Thursday, May 8, 2014; and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

[Signature]

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