

HUDSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RE:

REGULAR MEETING : TRANSCRIPT OF  
OF THE :  
HUDSON COUNTY BOARD OF : PROCEEDINGS  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS :  
:

O P E N S E S S I O N

Hudson County  
Administration Building,  
Commissioners Chambers  
567 Pavonia Avenue  
Jersey City, New Jersey  
Thursday, February 13, 2025  
4:30 p.m.

B E F O R E:

ANTHONY ROMANO, Chairman  
YRAIDA APONTE-LIPSKI, Commissioner  
ROBERT BASELICE, Commissioner  
FANNY CEDEÑO, Commissioner  
ALBERT CIFELLI, Commissioner  
KENNETH KOPACZ, Commissioner  
WILLIAM O'DEA, Commissioner  
CARIDAD RODRIGUEZ, Commissioner  
JERRY WALKER, Commissioner

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

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ., Board Counsel  
DONATO J. BATTISTA, Hudson County Counsel  
ABRAHAM ANTUN, County Administrator  
CAROL JEAN DOYLE, County Commissioner Clerk  
CRAIG GUY, County Executive

Reported by: Shari Cathey, CCR, RPR

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Madam Clerk, call  
2 the meeting to order, please.

3 THE CLERK: Good afternoon.  
4 Commissioner Aponte- Lipski.

5 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

7 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

9 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

13 Commissioner O'Dea.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

16 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

17 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

18 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Here.

19 THE CLERK: And Chairman Romano.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

21 THE CLERK: Please stand for the  
22 Pledge of Allegiance.

23 (Flag Salute.)

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Can we have a  
25 moment of silence, please? Someone who did so much

1 for the youth of our County passed away. He was  
2 involved with the Boys and Girls Club for over four  
3 decades and many other endeavors, and that's Gary  
4 Greenberg.

5 (Moment of Silence.)

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you all.

7 THE CLERK: Adequate notice of this  
8 meeting has been provided as follows: Posting  
9 notice of Resolution 8-01-2025 on the County  
10 Commissioner's Bulletin Board, First Floor  
11 Administration Building, Annex, Jersey City, New  
12 Jersey.

13 Copies of the above-mentioned resolution  
14 have been sent to the County Clerk and the editors  
15 of the Jersey Journal and Star Ledger.

16 Mr. Chairman, I turn this over to you.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, at this time,  
18 the Board of County Commissioners welcomes our  
19 County Executive to give his Annual State of the  
20 County Address. Please welcome County Executive  
21 Craig Guy.

22 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Thank you.  
23 Thank you. Thank you, everybody, and thank you for  
24 everybody who took the time to come here tonight.  
25 Yeah, it's been a busy '25, Commissioners, right?

1 And I'm sure it'll get a little busier along the  
2 way. But thank you for allowing me to change this  
3 and allowing me to address the legislative body and  
4 the folks that are in this room.

5 Good evening. I want to begin by thanking  
6 everyone assembled here and our Commissioners, to  
7 our elected officials, our mayors, State and Federal  
8 partners, and other municipal leaders. I see a lot  
9 of folks here from different -- elected officials  
10 from different parts of the county, and I would be  
11 remiss and I would forget somebody. So I appreciate  
12 the support and for your attending this event.

13 Hudson County stands in the shadow of the  
14 Statute of Liberty. For decades, millions of  
15 immigrants saw their tribute to freedom and  
16 opportunity as they entered through Ellis Island.  
17 As government officials, our role is to serve the  
18 public and to protect their freedom and to provide  
19 the opportunities for these folks.

20 From my early days as a cop on the streets  
21 of Jersey City to my term as the County Executive, I  
22 never shied away from the opportunity to serve. We  
23 will need to work together, now more than ever, to  
24 ensure we protect and serve our community. We owe  
25 Hudson County residents nothing less. The role of

1 government is to serve the public, and I take that  
2 role very serious. The services we offer are vital  
3 to people's everyday needs, touching upon numerous  
4 basic needs of folks.

5 Here's just some of what we accomplished  
6 in the past year: We helped more than 4,000  
7 families across the County. We disbursed more than  
8 \$41 million to help those in need of rental  
9 assistance. We provided emergency housing dollars  
10 to 420 individuals, the most provided in the state  
11 of New Jersey. We helped almost 2,000 adults and  
12 over 3,000 children via the Temporary Assistance for  
13 Needy Families program. The largest number of  
14 clients within the state. And Hudson County is the  
15 only county in the state that has built programming  
16 for 3,000 children on welfare to ensure that they  
17 will not need assistance as adults.

18 On food security issues, which  
19 unfortunately are far too common in Hudson County,  
20 we have made some important strides. We assisted  
21 over 55,000 clients with the SNAP benefits program,  
22 the second largest in the state. We hosted over 300  
23 food distribution events supporting thousands of  
24 people within the County. We provided a \$1.8  
25 million grant to the Hoboken Community Center to

1 build a permanent home for its pantry. Thank you,  
2 Toni Tamarazzo, for all you do.

3 We secured funding to create a permanent  
4 food pantry in the city of Bayonne. Thank you,  
5 Governor Murphy and Mayor Davis. And we are  
6 currently purchasing land to create an agricultural  
7 hub in Kearny, allowing for storage of produce,  
8 meat, and other commodities for distribution to food  
9 pantries throughout the County. Mayor Doyle and  
10 your team, I give a big, heartfelt thanks.

11 I am proud that Hudson County stands apart  
12 from the rest of the state in our delivery of  
13 services. Of course, all the services we offer and  
14 provide do no good to a resident who cannot afford  
15 decent quality of life. To me, quality of life  
16 includes the ability to afford to live here in  
17 Hudson County and to feel safe and secure with the  
18 opportunity to enjoy open space with friends and  
19 family.

20 I think we all know that there is an  
21 affordable housing crisis, and my administration has  
22 made affordable housing a top priority since day  
23 one. We are working together to get our most  
24 vulnerable residents into housing. Today, Irving  
25 Peoples is here with us. Mr. Peoples is a former

1 Ranger who proudly served his country in the U.S.  
2 Army from 1979 to 1984. Through our Department of  
3 Aging and Veteran Affairs, we were able to find him  
4 and other veterans affordable housing right here in  
5 Jersey City. Let's all give Mr. Peoples and all our  
6 veterans a nice round of applause.

7 MR. PEOPLES: Thank you.

8 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: It's important  
9 to increase the supply of affordable housing here in  
10 Hudson County, and I'm excited to announce we have  
11 identified five sites which we can develop  
12 affordable housing. I'm happy to say we will have  
13 more news to come very soon. I'm also very proud to  
14 announce the Hudson County Teachers Village Project.  
15 Along with myself and our Board of Commissioners, a  
16 plan that will provide affordable housing for  
17 working teachers and their families. This  
18 initiative will allow for educators to live near  
19 schools, giving them the opportunity to live in the  
20 communities that they serve.

21 In addition, in November I announced  
22 Hudson County's first ever Affordable Housing Task  
23 Force. This task force purposely brings together a  
24 diverse group from advocates to developers to folks  
25 in the labor movement to find policy recommendations

1 we can implement in Hudson County. The task force,  
2 I'm proud to say, is already hard at work, meeting  
3 multiple times over the past few months to map out  
4 strategies for the year. The task force has already  
5 been engaging with the public and will continue to  
6 do so, so the residents can express their thoughts  
7 and challenges for this affordable housing project.

8 To ensure our residents remain safe in our  
9 communities, I've implemented numerous public safety  
10 initiatives to crack down on illegal motorized  
11 bicycle usage. I established new signage in our  
12 County parks to keep them as safe places for our  
13 seniors and for our youth. And we've worked to  
14 increase visibility on County roads by replacing  
15 streetlights with LED lighting for motorists,  
16 cyclists, and pedestrians alike.

17 And of course, after listening to the  
18 public, I've launched Hudson County's first ever  
19 Vision Zero Action Plan in January of this year,  
20 committing to attaining zero roadway deaths by 2034.  
21 There is no doubt that this is ambitious, but we  
22 already have 34 action plans proposed for this year,  
23 and we've already implemented several curb  
24 extensions, high-friction pavement, and striping  
25 upgrades to many of our roads.

1           During the safety plan process, we heard  
2 from our residents loud and clear. They want to  
3 walk more. They want more access to public  
4 transportation, and in response, the plan includes  
5 actions to enhance transit and active  
6 transportation. You know, I believe the key to  
7 success for all our government officials is to stop  
8 treating our transit agencies as opponents. We will  
9 work together with them, and I commit to advocating  
10 for additional funding sources for all our transit  
11 partners, including additional resources for New  
12 Jersey Transit and the PATH.

13           And as we work to achieve greater  
14 affordability and safety, our residents will have  
15 the opportunity to enjoy all our County has to offer  
16 in heritage, culture, arts, and open space. In  
17 2024, we allocated over \$8.5 million for our Open  
18 Space Trust Fund to 24 different projects across the  
19 12 towns throughout Hudson County, the most ever  
20 funded by the program in a single year. These  
21 upgraded projects, like safety upgrades, green space  
22 enhancements, and playground enhancements.

23           We also provided \$95,000 in sports and  
24 education grants to 10 schools within Hudson County,  
25 providing sports opportunities for kids who are not

1 in organized leagues. And lastly, we provided  
2 \$225,000 in arts and education grants, allowing  
3 non-profits to bring arts introduction to 37  
4 different schools that would otherwise not have art  
5 in their curriculum. I'd like to recognize Hannah  
6 Weeks, the Managing Director of Nimbus Dance. Ms.  
7 Weeks, please stand.

8 Nimbus is one of our longtime grant  
9 recipients, bringing a dance to learn program that  
10 transforms classroom education through individual  
11 creativity. Thank you, Ms. Weeks, for all you do.  
12 In 2025, we will continue to prioritize these  
13 grants.

14 And yet, while everybody needs a quality  
15 of life, the government must ensure our residents  
16 have opportunities to pursue a good education and a  
17 good career. I am proud of the educational  
18 opportunity residents have in Hudson County, from  
19 grade school to their graduate degrees. Our County  
20 schools put our students first, often working in  
21 partnership with trades and labor to ensure our  
22 students graduate with the skills needed to  
23 establish careers.

24 Whether bound for college or not, our  
25 students have the opportunity to choose good career

1 paths. In fact, the brand new state-of-the-art  
2 Hudson County Schools of Technology Vocational  
3 School in Bayonne will be open later this year for  
4 high school students and post-secondary programs.  
5 This school will provide instruction in carpentry,  
6 welding, plumbing, electricity, and cosmetology,  
7 developing skilled workers for our community.

8 I'd like to thank, he's not here,  
9 Commissioner Ken Kopacz and the rest of the Board  
10 and Mayor Davis for pushing this project forward and  
11 soon to be completed. This special project aligns  
12 with my mission to not only make sure the residents  
13 in Hudson County are college ready, but career ready  
14 as well. So let me please recognize both the  
15 educators in the room and the members of labor who  
16 are here. Thank you for all you do to provide  
17 opportunities to our residents.

18 For those students bound for college,  
19 Hudson County Community College works to ensure  
20 students have affordable options to pursue advanced  
21 degrees. What we all know, finding a career is not  
22 easy, and this is why we have our Hudson County  
23 Workforce Development Board. The Workforce  
24 Development Board brings together leaders from the  
25 private sector, public agencies, education, labor

1 unions, and community-based organizations to ensure  
2 our efforts utilize the skilled workers of our  
3 community and are aligned with employee demands.

4 I'm delighted to announce that the  
5 Workforce Development Board has been reconstituted  
6 and a new Executive Director, Sharita Brown, has  
7 been on board. Ms. Brown, please stand.

8 Ms. Brown has over 24 years working in  
9 Workforce Development and over 9 years as a manager  
10 in our Hudson County One-Stop Career Center.  
11 Sharita, we expect a lot. There will be no  
12 pressure. Thank you.

13 And I'd be remiss not to mention our  
14 commitment to our small businesses in Hudson County.  
15 One such business I'd like to highlight is Hudson  
16 Kitchen in Kearny, owned by Djenaba Johnson Jones,  
17 who is here with us today. Ms. Jones, where are  
18 you? Please stand. I'd like to let you know,  
19 Hudson Kitchen was the Economic Development  
20 Corporation's first major loan to a start-up  
21 business. Thank you, Ms. Jones. And thank you, the  
22 Hudson County Economic Development Corp.

23 In fact, since 2016, the EDC has approved  
24 over \$28 million in loans. Businesses use these  
25 loans to create, and more importantly, retain over

1 800 jobs throughout the County. We have also  
2 completed a disparity study and provided  
3 recommendations to improve access to procurement for  
4 minority and women businesses, as well as veteran  
5 and disabled veteran-owned businesses in our County.

6 But everything I just said means nothing  
7 if we fail to communicate with you. My  
8 Administration has been working to increase efforts  
9 to both listen and to reach out to you. We launched  
10 a redesigned website, which you can all see behind  
11 me. I'm the guy. We also launched a monthly e-mail  
12 to update residents about our government services,  
13 events, and opportunities. You can sign up to  
14 receive right on our newly designed web site.

15 I've established two task forces. The  
16 previously mentioned Affordable Housing Task Force  
17 and the LGBTQ Plus Advisory Task Force, which just  
18 had its first meeting that I attended yesterday. I  
19 know that when some folks hear the term "task  
20 force," they roll their eyes because they think it's  
21 just another way to kick the can down the road and  
22 avoid dealing with a serious problem. Well, to me,  
23 task force means something, and as a way to engage  
24 members of the public directly with the County  
25 officials. Each task force will not be just

1 thought. I will work with these task forces to  
2 provide concrete consensus policy recommendations  
3 for our County.

4           You know, as I reflect on my first year in  
5 office, I think of a quote attributed to St. Francis  
6 of Assisi. Start by doing what's necessary. Then  
7 do what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the  
8 impossible. My Administration is focused on service  
9 and opportunity, and whether it's working to make  
10 Hudson County more affordable or Hudson County  
11 residents to meet their basic needs, I am working  
12 for you every single day.

13           As your County Executive, I'm ready to  
14 meet any challenge at all because I know we can  
15 accomplish the impossible with hard work and  
16 partnership. I'm excited for what we've  
17 accomplished and everything we will accomplish in  
18 the future together. Thank you very much,  
19 Commissioners, and thank you all for being here  
20 tonight.

21                           (Applause.)

22           CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We just want to  
23 recognize the elected officials that came today to  
24 support you. We have our County Registrar, Jeff  
25 Dublin. We have our Assemblyman, Will Samson. We

1 have our former governor, Jim McGreevey. Council  
2 people from Hoboken, Fisher, and Jabbour. From  
3 Jersey City, Councilwoman Ridley. Our County Clerk,  
4 Junior Maldonado. From Kearny, Marytrine DeCastro,  
5 councilwoman. Senator Raj Mukherji. Anybody I  
6 didn't mention? Sheriff Schillari.

7 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Most  
8 important, thank you to all our directors and our  
9 County workers staff. Because without them, none of  
10 us up here, and myself included, cannot be  
11 successful. So thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Former Mayor Garcia  
14 is here. And Sean Connor. All the directors from  
15 the Commissioner, thank you for attending. Thank  
16 you for the support. Thank you to you both.

17 THE CLERK: Chairman, we're going to  
18 have a five-minute recess.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Five-minute recess.

20 (At this point in the proceeding, a  
21 brief recess is taken.)

22 THE CLERK: Chairman, should I start?

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: May I have a motion to  
25 approve the minutes of the Caucus Meeting of January

1 7th, 2025; the Regular Meeting of January 9th, 2025;  
2 the Special Meeting of January 21st, 2025; the  
3 Caucus Meeting of January 21st, 2025; and the  
4 Regular Meeting of January 23rd, 2025.

5 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski. Commissioner  
6 Baselize.

7 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

9 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes, except  
12 the Special Meeting which I didn't attend.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner  
14 Aponte-Lipski for the minutes.

15 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes, on the  
18 minutes.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

20 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

22 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

1 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: The next order of  
3 business is additional discussion on today's agenda.

4 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I have no  
5 additional items.

6 THE CLERK: Just please note that  
7 there is a 29 is a replacement, and we have also a  
8 Resolution No. 30. It's a resolution in support of  
9 Assembly Bill No. 4872. I need a sponsor and a  
10 second.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Walker.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner  
13 Aponte-Lipski.

14 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

16 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

18 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

24 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

1 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

4 THE CLERK: According to the policy--

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can I just note  
6 on this bill, Assembly Bill 4872, which is about the  
7 issues with the algorithms and rent fixing that's  
8 going on. I know that I spoke to Assemblywoman  
9 D'Amato, and she signed on to the bill. I see  
10 Assemblyman Stanton here, I encourage him that he  
11 get a copy of this, and hopefully, we can get him to  
12 sign on to the bill.

13 THE CLERK: Okay, Commissioner.  
14 According to the policy set by the Board of County  
15 Commissioners, members of the public are asked to  
16 limit their comments to five minutes when discussing  
17 agenda items and three minutes at the conclusion of  
18 the meeting for persons who submitted a written  
19 request to discuss matters of public interest.

20 At this time the public may address the  
21 board on any item on the agenda only. Please keep  
22 your comments limited to five minutes.

23 Are there any speakers on the agenda items  
24 only? There being none --

25 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Motion to

1 close.

2 THE CLERK: May I have a motion to  
3 approve all the items listed on the consent agenda.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walker and Romano.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner  
6 Aponte-Lipski.

7 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

9 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I'm  
10 abstaining on No. 1. I don't think it's our -- you  
11 know how much I care about you, but I have to vote  
12 no because we're still waiting to get a seat back.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Madam Clerk, I have  
14 a question. I want to tell the Clerk in the absence  
15 of Commissioner Kopacz, Commissioner Cifelli --

16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'd like to  
17 move Item No. 1 in the absence of Commissioner  
18 Kopacz.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: He's going to  
20 sponsor Item 1. Is there any other item?

21 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'll sponsor  
22 the rest of the items. I'll sponsor any items that  
23 he moved or seconded.

24 THE CLERK: Thank you. We'll fix  
25 that one. Commissioner Cedeño.

1 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Aye as to all.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Come back to me.

6 THE CLERK: Come back to you.

7 Commissioner Rodriguez.

8 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

10 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, and just in  
13 reference to the appointment of Sarah, I've worked  
14 with her on different projects. I think she's a  
15 wonderful addition to the Board. She brings a  
16 positive energy and a commitment to teamwork which  
17 is very important.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You know what?  
20 I'll vote aye. Abstain on 28. Aye on the rest.

21 THE CLERK: Thank you. We have two  
22 ordinances for introduction. Ordinance 1. It's  
23 Finance and Administration. It's a Bond Ordinance  
24 providing for various 2025 Road and Bridge  
25 Improvements by and in the County of Hudson, State

1 of New Jersey; Appropriating \$37,199,047; including  
2 Federal Grants received or expected to be received  
3 in the aggregate amount of \$12,670,000 and State  
4 Grants received or expected to be received in the  
5 aggregate amount of \$12,811,065; therefor and  
6 authorizing the issuance of \$10,556,649 Bonds or  
7 Notes to finance part of the cost thereof.

8 Roll call. Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

9 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

11 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

13 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

19 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

21 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Ordinance No. 2. It's a  
25 Law Ordinance amending park permit violations and

1 penalties.

2 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

3 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

7 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes, for

12 introduction.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

14 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

16 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: The ordinances have been

20 introduced.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You know, on No.

22 2, like, can we have somebody just research that if

23 there's going to be any additional, like, costs

24 borne by local groups and nonprofits.

25 MR. BATTISTA: I'll have that done

1 for you for next meeting, Commissioner. But my  
2 understanding is this is not going to impose any  
3 additional insurance costs or anything.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, I need  
5 something to write.

6 MR. BATTISTA: Okay.

7 THE CLERK: This concludes the items  
8 on the business on today's agenda. Are there any  
9 comments from the Commissioners on the business?

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I think it's  
11 acknowledged three important birthdays this month.  
12 Jerry Seton Hall Walker. Billy O'Dea.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Excuse me, St.  
14 John's, they're ranked in the top ten, right?

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And our own young  
16 Luz Feliciano. Happy birthday.

17 MS. DAVIS: Today is actually Mark  
18 Sagan's birthday, our communication director, and  
19 he's doing a big number. I won't tell you what it  
20 is, but when you see him, tell him happy birthday.  
21 It's his birthday today.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: By the way, we also  
23 have Assemblyman Will Sampson here. That's saying,  
24 Will, thank you very much, Assemblyman, for the work  
25 that you do for the County. Continue, Madam Clerk.

1 THE CLERK: Are there any other  
2 comments?

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes. So first,  
4 I want to thank my colleagues for letting us walk on  
5 No. 30, which is Assembly Bill 4872. Obviously,  
6 especially in Jersey City, we're having trouble with  
7 crazy rent increases by unscrupulous landlords who  
8 are gaming the system and rent fixing and getting  
9 that over the way to -- to try to address that.

10 And then, just on -- just on the State of  
11 the County, I don't know if Craig is going to  
12 deliver it anywhere else, but one thing I think when  
13 you spoke a lot about programs and schools and arts  
14 and crafts, you know, last year, the County funded,  
15 for the first time in my tenure here, a summer camp  
16 for kids. I think it probably would make sense,  
17 Jenny Davis, that she needs to deliver the speech  
18 again somewhere to note in there that the County had  
19 the -- had the foresight, to understand and create a  
20 free summer camp for kids.

21 THE CLERK: Are there any additional  
22 comments from the County -- the Chief of Staff to  
23 the County Executive?

24 MS. DAVIS: No.

25 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I just wanted

1 this -- to this take, to wish everybody happy, happy  
2 Black History Month. You know, with all the  
3 rhetoric that's coming out of Washington about, you  
4 know, canceling this, canceling that, you can't do  
5 that. Because the African-American contribution to  
6 this country, you just can't take it away. I just  
7 like, the concept last night of the event was labor,  
8 and when you get 400 years of labor for free, I  
9 mean, Jesus, that's the fabric of this country, and  
10 it was built.

11 And I also wanted to recognize one of the  
12 honorees that the work that she's doing, Celeste  
13 Williams. She's doing a great job in the community.  
14 We also have my friends, my brothers here, Sean  
15 Boots and Iggy, that runs the Credible Messenger  
16 Program. And that's something that we want to talk  
17 to the Administration about, try to figure out how  
18 to get that back. Because although a lot of us as  
19 elected officials take credit for that, but it's the  
20 guys that's in the ground that really does the work.

21 And Jersey City last summer, which in the  
22 summer times get a little bit tough in District 3,  
23 and I'm proud to say that we had zero homicides this  
24 past summer, and I give a lot of credit to Sean  
25 Boots and Iggy and the Credible Messenger programs

1 for that. So I just wanna put that on the record.

2 THE CLERK: This is the time for  
3 persons who submitted a timely written request to  
4 address the Board on any matter of public interest,  
5 your comments will be limited to three minutes. I  
6 have two speakers, one is Leroy Truth.

7 My second speaker is Eve Taylor, is she  
8 here? Is Eve Taylor here?

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, she's  
10 here.

11 MS. TAYLOR: She's coming, yeah,  
12 she's coming. She's here. Sorry. Okay.

13 MR. FLORIO: Chairman, before the  
14 speaker begins, because of our technical issue, I  
15 will be keeping the time to let the speaker know  
16 when your three minutes has expired.

17 MS. TAYLOR: Good evening, Hudson  
18 County Commissioner Board. Thank you for your time  
19 and your service. Two months ago, I spoke about the  
20 state of emergency in Jersey City housing. Since  
21 then, this has escalated to humanitarian disaster  
22 with a record outbreak of building fires. The only  
23 saving grace has literally been Bill O'Dea and Cory  
24 Garriga, who have saved my life twice. They are the  
25 emergency no heat and disaster response, carrying

1 the entirety of Jersey City on their shoulders,  
2 saving buildings one by one.

3 The problems in the City where everything  
4 goes wrong stems back to the fact that Jersey City's  
5 audit firm, Donohue, Gironde, Doria & Tompkins, is a  
6 campaign donor to Mayor Fulop. Since the City audit  
7 is compromised, millions of dollars are being  
8 funneled away from citizens into pockets of big  
9 developers, landlords, and Stephen Fulop's campaign  
10 fund.

11 The municipal prosecutor is still refusing  
12 to enforce fire code, building code, and rent  
13 control, anti-tenant harassment statute. Rent price  
14 regulation laws are still not being enforced either.  
15 When laws aren't enforced, residents like me suffer.  
16 My situation is increasingly dire. I am legally  
17 disabled with vision impairment, so I am literally  
18 just being crushed. Jersey City officials  
19 responsible to hold bad actors accountable instead  
20 place the cost and burden of law enforcement on me.  
21 They put the burden of prosecution on me. They tell  
22 me to also pay a lawyer on top of paying double  
23 rent, on top of paying hospital bills, on top of  
24 paying repair costs.

25 So here I am again at the County level

1 asking you, please, for law enforcement, and asking  
2 you to put financial control back in place in Jersey  
3 City. Please advise what can be done immediately.  
4 How can we get a state of emergency formally  
5 declared so we can get necessary disaster relief?  
6 What options are there for the County, state, and  
7 our federal authority to take control of the Jersey  
8 City government to restore law and order? And can  
9 Bill O'Dea please lead the related housing emergency  
10 task force? Thank you.

11 THE CLERK: Thank you. There are no  
12 other speakers. There being no further business to  
13 come before the Board, may I have a motion to  
14 adjourn?

15 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Motion to  
16 adjourn.

17 THE CLERK: All in favor? Meeting  
18 adjourned.

19 (Whereupon the proceeding is then  
20 concluded at 5:26 p.m.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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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 County Commissioners, held on Thursday, February 13, 2025; 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 2/4/27

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