

HUDSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RE:

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

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O P E N S E S S I O N

Hudson County  
Administration Building,  
County Commissioners Chambers  
567 Pavonia Avenue  
Jersey City, New Jersey  
Tuesday, March 25, 2025  
4:30 p.m.

B E F O R E:

CERTIFIED COPY

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:

CARMEN E. MENDIOLA, ESQ., Board Counsel  
DONATO J. BATTISTA, Hudson County Counsel  
ABRAHAM ANTUN, County Administrator  
WILLIE ORTIZ, County Commissioner Clerk  
Reported By: Shari Cathey, CCR, RPR

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner  
2 Aponte-Lipski.

3 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

7 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: He's here.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

11 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

15 Commissioner Walker.

16 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Here.

17 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

19 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 1.

20 Resolution of the County of Hudson canceling the  
21 outstanding balances in Ordinance Nos. 276-6-2006,  
22 100-3-2008, 137-3-2008, 088-2-2010, 457-10-2010.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Lipski.

24 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 2. 2024

25 Budget Transfer Appropriation Reserves.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Lipski.

2 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 3. 2025  
3 Emergency Temporary Appropriations N.J.S.A 40A:4-20.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Walker.

5 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 4.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Are we still on  
7 the April budget introduction timeline?

8 MR. ANTUN: It'll either be April or  
9 May. Early first meeting in May.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.  
11 Clerk.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Willie, go  
13 ahead.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 4.  
15 Resolution authorizing application and acceptance of  
16 funds, if awarded, from the New Jersey Governor's  
17 Council on substance use Disorder for FY2026, July  
18 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, \$270,478.00.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz, Sponsor.  
20 Second.

21 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 5.  
22 Resolution authorizing the submission of a Grant  
23 Application to the New Jersey Division of Travel and  
24 Tourism for a Destination Marketing Organization  
25 Grant for a Three-Year Grant Cycle and accepting

1 these grant funds if awarded, July 1, 2025 to June  
2 30, 2028.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sponsor.

4 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Second.

5 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 6.

6 Resolution authorizing the application for and  
7 acceptance of funds, if awarded, for the New Jersey  
8 Historic Commission Project Grants FY26 to Mount a  
9 Rotunda Exhibit for the Semi-Quincentennial, July 1,  
10 2025 to June 30, 2026.

11 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Sponsor.

12 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Second.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What is it  
14 again? The what?

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Semi-  
16 Quincentennial.

17 THE CLERK: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I can't spell it  
19 though.

20 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 7.

21 Resolution authorizing payment to Fever Labs, Inc.  
22 for Advertising Opportunities on Secret NYC  
23 Platforms, April 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025, \$15,000.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sponsor.

25 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Second.

1                   COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Question.  
2 Question. What is this secret? What is this? I'm  
3 sorry.

4                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Gina.

5                   COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: She can tell  
6 us. That's just the name or?

7                   MR. ANTUN: Yes, that's the name of  
8 the company.

9                   MS. HULINGS: Yeah, the company is --  
10 hi, good afternoon, Commissioners. The name is  
11 Fever Media, but it's also going through Secret NYC,  
12 so essentially it's for advertising for tourism for  
13 Hudson County tourism through Instagram platforms.

14                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Do you hear that,  
15 Al?

16                   COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I've dealt  
17 with -- I've dealt with an entertainment agency  
18 called Fever, but they're out of Massachusetts, so  
19 I'm wondering. I'm just it's not the same, right?

20                   MS. HULINGS: No, this is out of New  
21 York.

22                   COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right.  
23 All right. Thank you.

24                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Okay.  
25 Continue, Mr. Clerk.

1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 8.  
2 Resolution approving Professional Services Contract  
3 Non-Fair and Open One Water Consulting, LLC  
4 Professional Environmental Engineering Services for  
5 a Feasibility Study for Wastewater Management  
6 Alternatives at Meadowview, \$132,500.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cifelli, sponsor.  
8 Kopacz, second.

9 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 9.  
10 Resolution awarding Professional Services Contract  
11 Non-Fair and Open to North Hudson Community Action  
12 Corporation, a Federally Qualified Health Care  
13 Center to provide an infectious Disease Specialist  
14 to Diagnose, Prescribe, and Coordinate the  
15 Dispensation of Medication for Hudson County  
16 Correctional Center Inmates, April 1, 2025 to March  
17 31, 2026, \$550,000.

18 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Sponsor.

19 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Question.  
21 Question. So the North Hudson CAC will provide us  
22 with an individual who will do prescriptions,  
23 diagnosis, and dispensing medication for infectious  
24 diseases, and that individual is going to get paid  
25 over half a million dollars a year?

1 MR. ANTUN: No, Commissioner. This  
2 also includes the medications. This is the  
3 federally qualified prescription plan, the 340B.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So shouldn't we  
5 get reimbursements for those individuals at the  
6 facility on Medicaid?

7 MR. ANTUN: Well, we don't get  
8 reimbursements. What we do is we pay a reduced,  
9 since this doctor prescribes it, it's a reduced  
10 rate. So what we are achieving is the savings  
11 between what we would have paid versus the 340B  
12 program.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What if an  
14 individual has medical coverage and what happens?

15 MR. ANTUN: If they have what?

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Medical  
17 coverage. Oscar's shaking his head. We should let  
18 him answer.

19 MR. ANTUN: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: He's hiding  
21 behind somebody.

22 THE CLERK: Willie, you got the  
23 sponsor in a second?

24 MR. AVILES: Commissioner, if the  
25 inmate's confined in a correctional facility, the

1 Medicaid health benefits does not cover it. If he  
2 goes to the hospital over 24 hours, then that's  
3 covered.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So there's no  
5 medical coverage from Medicaid while individuals are  
6 in the facility?

7 MR. AVILES: That's correct. There's  
8 federal legislation right now, but that's just been  
9 introduced. It's been sitting there for a long  
10 time, but they're not covered while they're  
11 incarcerated.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So when they're  
13 in the hospital, even if they're still under our  
14 custody, then they pay?

15 MR. AVILES: Correct.

16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I don't think  
17 we can expect much from the federal government.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I agree. I  
19 agree, at least for four years.

20 Okay. So you get a reduced rate. What  
21 does the doctor himself get paid?

22 MR. ANTUN: He gets paid per visit,  
23 Commissioner. I'd have to look it up and get back  
24 to you.

25 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But that's on

1 our direct contract with the medical provider,  
2 right?

3 MR. ANTUN: No, no, it's not, no.

4 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So that's not  
5 covered?

6 MR. ANTUN: It is covered. I just  
7 don't recall what the -- he gets paid per visit.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Wow. Because  
9 there was a time you were looking to hire someone as  
10 like almost an employee that would be like an  
11 infectious disease doctor years ago.

12 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Right after the  
14 one guy passed away or whatever.

15 MR. ANTUN: But the reason we went  
16 with this route is because for the 340B program,  
17 that doctor has to be the one to prescribe the  
18 medication. They have to be tied together, I guess  
19 you see. Yeah. So that's why we went.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: How do you pick  
21 this qualified federal health center over the other  
22 three that are in the County?

23 MR. ANTUN: Well, we contacted -- as  
24 you know, we used to have with Alliance, but  
25 Alliance wasn't able to do it. And Metropolitan has

1 never been expressed an interest in those, so we  
2 just continued.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So you contacted  
4 all of them, and the only one interested was  
5 Northwestern?

6 MR. ANTUN: That's correct.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. You got the  
8 sponsors on that, right?

9 THE CLERK: Yes. Resolution No. 10.  
10 Resolution authorizing a Non-Fair and Open Contract  
11 with Accses New Jersey as a Sheltered Workshop under  
12 the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law for Linen  
13 Rental and Laundering Services at Meadowview  
14 Psychiatric Hospital, March 27, 2025 through March  
15 26, 2026 \$392,000.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Lipski.

17 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 11.  
18 Resolution awarding and authorizing a 90-Day  
19 Professional Services Contract Non-Fair and Open to  
20 Wellpath, LLC for the Medical Health Care Management  
21 and Mental Health Care Management at the Hudson  
22 County Correctional Center, April 1, 2025 to June  
23 30, 2025, \$3,600,000.

24 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.  
25 Kopacz.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Which one is this?  
2 I'll second it. Kopacz-Romano. Question, Billy, go  
3 ahead.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. So this  
5 is 90 days because you're going through a process?

6 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, Commissioner, we  
7 just --

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's not an  
9 extension of an existing contract?

10 MR. ANTUN: Well, we're extending it  
11 for 90 days.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It doesn't say  
13 that. Does it say extending a contract? It says  
14 awarding and authorizing.

15 MR. BATTISTA: Because under the  
16 Public Contracts Law, you can't, a professional  
17 service contract cannot exceed one year.  
18 Consequently, in all of our specs, we have a  
19 provision which says that if for some reason the  
20 contract is not completed at the end of the year,  
21 and while we're doing a procurement process, they  
22 will extend the rates for up to 90 days. So  
23 technically, it's a professional services contract  
24 for 90 days. As a practical matter, is it any  
25 different than an extension? No.

1                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So obviously,  
2 the contract they have that's now getting 90 days is  
3 for medical health care management and mental health  
4 care management; is that correct? The current  
5 contract they have. All right? So I got problems.  
6 So I may not vote for this, but I'll defer comment  
7 for two weeks, a week.

8                   THE CLERK: Resolution No. 12.

9                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hold on. Bobby had  
10 a question on that. Bobby.

11                   COMMISSIONER BASELICE: No, my  
12 question was to the -- whether it's extending. So  
13 from January through March, WellPath had it. We're  
14 just extending it now until June?

15                   MR. BATTISTA: Their contract we  
16 awarded last year was on April 1 through March 31st.  
17 In the specifications that we use as the basis for  
18 that contract, it said that for any reason at the  
19 end of the contract term, we were doing another  
20 process, that they would agree to keep the contract  
21 terms the same for up to 90 days. So we're now  
22 doing this to the end of June. Hopefully by that  
23 point in time, we'll have a recommendation for two  
24 weeks.

25                   COMMISSIONER BASELICE: But was

1 WellPath the one, one of the companies having some  
2 problems?

3 MR. BATTISTA: Excuse me?

4 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Was WellPath  
5 one of the problems?

6 MR. BATTISTA: Yeah, WellPath had  
7 some bankruptcy issues. Based on my discussions and  
8 our review of it, it appears that all those issues  
9 have been resolved. My understanding that it did  
10 not in any way impact performance on this contract.

11 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.  
13 Clerk.

14 THE CLERK: Thank you. Resolution  
15 No. 12. Approve Purchasing Agent's Award purchases  
16 made under State Contracts.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I got a question  
18 to go back on 11.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walker and Cedeño.  
20 Go back to 11.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So under this  
22 90-day contract, are there any additional services  
23 that they're going to be able to provide that they  
24 did not previously provide?

25 MR. ANTUN: I believe, mental health

1 assessment.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What are the,  
3 can you, if you don't know now, let me know for  
4 Thursday. What, what and how do they bill for  
5 those? What's the amount they bill?

6 MR. BATTISTA: I think it's built  
7 into the entire -- I think what we did is we took  
8 the contract yearly amount and we divided it by 12.  
9 That's my understanding. I don't believe -- I'll  
10 double check. I don't believe there's any  
11 additional charges that they will.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: We pay them  
13 three, 300. Don't pay them more than that. We pay  
14 \$1.2 million to them every month. Is that what  
15 you're saying?

16 MR. BATTISTA: That's what they're  
17 eligible to receive, but some months they don't get  
18 paid that because it's driven by whether or not  
19 there are any staffing vacancies or any other  
20 issues.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All right.  
22 So -- so you're not paying them anymore, but they're  
23 going to provide an additional service for the same  
24 price. Is that utilizing an existing staff member?  
25 Can you find out for Thursday?

1 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, sure.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And then your  
3 RFP will now require that that also be done for the  
4 next contract, correct?

5 MR. ANTUN: Yes. The new RFP that  
6 whoever the -- whoever the provider may be that --  
7 that the services will include the mental health  
8 assessments.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And do you  
10 define mental health assessments as one, as would be  
11 required by a court to make a determination as to  
12 the, as to what happens to that, an individual that  
13 may be incarcerated?

14 MR. ANTUN: Correct.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's defined  
16 that way?

17 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. And the  
19 worst thing in the world would be to do an  
20 assessment that a judge then says, doesn't meet the  
21 requirements that they feel are necessary for them  
22 to determine the lack of better explanation, whether  
23 or not an individual should be placed or housed in a  
24 different location than a correctional facility. So  
25 let's just make sure about that.

1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 13.  
2 Purchases made under the Educational Services  
3 Commission of New Jersey Pricing System, formally  
4 known as "The Middlesex Regional Educational  
5 Services Commission."

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walker and Fannie.

7 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 14.  
8 Purchases made under the Union County Cooperative  
9 Pricing System.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walker and Fannie.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I have a  
12 general -- I have just a general question on co-ops.  
13 So there are like a multiplicity of co-ops, right?  
14 We use one co-op for this, another co-op for that.  
15 In looking at co-ops, do we ever assess or evaluate  
16 whether or not a service provided by one co-op is  
17 provided at a cheaper cost than another co-op, even  
18 if it may be a different vendor, hypothetically?

19 MR. ANTUN: You know, Commissioner, I  
20 don't know if that is conducted by the -- by the  
21 department. Typically though, from what I've seen,  
22 the same service may not be in -- in different  
23 co-ops so, you know.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, that's  
25 fine. If that's the case, then, then the answer is,

1 yes, we do. And we determine that only this co-op  
2 offers that service. But if we don't do that  
3 assessment, we don't know whether or not. Is there  
4 somebody from Purchasing here?

5 MR. ANTUN: I believe Mr. Showers.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Maybe that  
7 gentleman. Okay. I would like to ask Mr. Shower's  
8 question. You sure he loves that too.

9 MR. ANTUN: He has his hand raised,  
10 so somebody needs to let him speak.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can you let Mr.  
12 Showers in?

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Let Harold in,  
14 please. Harold, we see. Go ahead, Harold.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Hello, Harold.  
16 So, my question is, in assessing certain work to be  
17 done or purchases to be made through any of the --  
18 like, three or four co-ops I always see, do you go  
19 and look if other co-ops may offer the same vendor  
20 for the same service or same product and whether or  
21 not that vendor from another co-op may be at a lower  
22 price or cost?

23 MR. SHOWER: If I may, Commissioner.  
24 Not every vendor is on every co-op. For instance,  
25 you have SHI, which is on Union, and J -- Johnston,

1 which is on Bergen. What happens is the  
2 departments, they are the experts. They're the ones  
3 who know what they want, what they need, what works  
4 for them, and they will ask us to check with the  
5 co-op to see if they have a vendor that provides  
6 that service. And the length of time that we've  
7 been doing this, these departments, Roads,  
8 Engineering, the hospital, Corrections, they know  
9 what co-op the vendor is in that they need to get  
10 the product that they want from, and they will  
11 request it.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Are you saying  
13 they tell you the vendor they want to use?

14 MR. SHOWER: Yes. They know what  
15 product. They are the experts. They know what they  
16 need. They know what the product does.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Who they need,  
18 not what or who, right?

19 MR. SHOWER: Right. No, it has to do  
20 with the product.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So let's say,  
22 let's say I want to buy automobile parts, right?  
23 I'll pick up 13A, Parts Authority, LLC, Lake  
24 Success, New Jersey. So you're saying that they  
25 know that only that Middlesex Regional Education

1 Service Commission has a vendor that provides those  
2 automobile parts?

3 MR. SHOWER: No, Commissioner. We  
4 have multiple contracts that we buy from for  
5 automobile parts.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Right.

7 MR. SHOWER: We go from the State.  
8 We go locally. We have vendors in, I'm sorry, North  
9 Bergen, in Bayonne. We utilize multiple automobile  
10 parts from different co-ops. Some are State, some  
11 are Middlesex. But we do have a variety so. And  
12 it's not me. It's the department that is  
13 requesting.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Oh, no, I know  
15 who you're throwing under the bus. I got that. I  
16 got that much already. But all I'm asking is, so I  
17 come in and go, I want to buy the X, Y, and Z  
18 automobile parts, right? Do you then go and say,  
19 let me see which co-ops have vendors that sell the  
20 X, Y, and Z automobile parts? Or do they just, or  
21 does the department say, Hey, I know Parts Authority  
22 sells X, Y, and Z. So, no, we're keeping parts.

23 MR. SHOWER: No, Commissioner. We  
24 usually are told that by the motor pool. They're  
25 the ones that have the mechanics that know what

1 parts are needed and what parts they need, and we in  
2 Purchasing don't have the expertise of knowing what  
3 vehicle parts they need.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, but they  
5 tell you, I got it. I got it. I need certain  
6 radiators. I need certain motor parts. I give you  
7 a list of them. Do you then say, All right, let me  
8 check all these co-ops, see which co-ops sell these  
9 parts, and then compare the prices to see that we  
10 buy it from the co-op that might have the lowest  
11 price for it? Or it's just the motor pool or  
12 whoever it is says, Hey, I need these three parts.  
13 I know this group is in the co-op. And then you  
14 say, okay, and then you process the paperwork. I'm  
15 just using that. There's a multiplicity of examples  
16 here.

17 MR. SHOWER: We do check to see if  
18 the State contract is cheaper, yes, or the Middlesex  
19 co-op.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But you don't  
21 check all the co-ops, right? We don't check all the  
22 co-ops.

23 MR. SHOWER: No, sir.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You don't go to  
25 Bergen County or the educational one.

1 MR. SHOWER: So we check with Bergen  
2 County. Yes, we check.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So you check all  
4 of them. So you're saying that whenever something's  
5 requested, you check to see if other co-ops provide  
6 that same material or service, even if it's a  
7 different vendor, and then go with whatever the  
8 lowest price of those are?

9 MR. SHOWER: Yes. What we usually do  
10 is we go to the Office of Business Opportunity, and  
11 we'll ask them to search for us for a local vendor  
12 that has the product, and they'll come back and let  
13 us know what they do or don't. And then we'll go to  
14 the co-ops.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All right. So  
16 you go to the local vendor. You don't have a local  
17 vendor. So with Johnston Communication, you ask them  
18 first, do they have a local vendor that does what  
19 Johnston does?

20 MR. SHOWER: Johnston is local, sir.  
21 They're in Kearny.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Sometimes. If  
23 you go to Bergen County, you have to be in North  
24 Arlington, I think.

25 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: They're on the

1 Belleville Turnpike.

2                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, they're on  
3 two sides. I think they're on both sides of the  
4 road or whatever. Literally, they work on both  
5 sides of the street. Oh, yeah. That's a bad  
6 example, but that's what we see a lot of times.

7                   But so first, you go to the local office  
8 you have here to see if there's a Hudson County  
9 business that provides the service.

10                  MR. SHOWER: Yes, sir.

11                  COMMISSIONER O'DEA: If there isn't,  
12 well, and if there is, they got to be in a co-op or  
13 you can't just give it to them without a co-op  
14 anyway, correct? Depending on the contract, right?

15                  MR. SHOWER: No, they don't have to  
16 be in a co-op if they're local, and we haven't  
17 exceeded \$17,500.

18                  COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's what I'm  
19 saying. How much is it? If we haven't exceeded  
20 \$17,500. Well, Johnston is \$1 million. There's  
21 about four or five extra zeros.

22                  MR. SHOWER: Yes, but that's the  
23 reason why we're using the co-op. So we don't have  
24 to go out to bid for it.

25                  COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, that part of

1 it, I learned that a while ago. All I'm saying is  
2 here, here's one gasoline for the motor pool, right?  
3 This is a dollar amount --

4 MR. SHOWER: That we use a State  
5 contract.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's a State  
7 contract. When there's a State contract, you don't  
8 ever check to see if one of the other co-ops have a  
9 cheaper one than the State one.

10 MR. SHOWER: Not for that dollar  
11 amount, no.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Not for \$50,000?

13 MR. SHOWER: For gasoline, no.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. When do  
15 you? Give me an example of when you do, when you go  
16 and check all the different co-ops to see which one  
17 might offer the same price.

18 MR. SHOWER: They don't offer  
19 gasoline. The co-ops don't. The gasoline is under  
20 the State co-op. They are State contracts.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. So back  
22 to automobile parts. Are you telling me that only  
23 the Middlesex Regional Education Service Commission  
24 has a vendor that offers automobile parts?

25 MR. SHOWER: No. The State contracts

1 has them as well.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And do any other  
3 co-ops, does Bergen, does Middlesex, don't they all?

4 MR. SHOWER: Not to my knowledge, not  
5 to my knowledge.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm going to  
7 check on that between now and Thursday.

8 MR. SHOWER: Between -- I will get  
9 back with you on that then on Thursday.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm going to  
11 check on my own. I have a staffer who's been  
12 researching co-ops lately.

13 MR. SHOWER: As I said before, I  
14 don't select the automobile parts vendors. It's the  
15 motor pool that tells us who they need.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Oh, so they tell  
17 you what you're saying. So they tell you the  
18 vendor. That's what you're telling me.

19 MR. ANTUN: That's not what he said.  
20 No, no. What is it?

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. Hold  
22 on.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: They tell you  
24 the part.

25 MR. ANTUN: What he said was is that

1 they tell him the parts.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Right.

3 MR. SHOWER: And then he goes to find  
4 out which vendor on the State co-op, on the co-op  
5 has the parts. That's what he said.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What if more  
7 than one vendor under one of the co-ops has them?  
8 Do you then go and see, is this one cheaper than  
9 that one? Yes. Are they the same? Yes. How do you  
10 do that?

11 MR. SHOWER: You would contact the  
12 vendor to ask them what this price is.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But what if  
14 there's multiple vendors? Bergen County's got Parts  
15 Ultimate and Middlesex has Parts of Foreign. You  
16 contact all of them individually?

17 MR. SHOWER: Not all the time, sir.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: When do you?

19 MR. SHOWER: Whenever the vendor,  
20 whenever the department is reaching out to us to  
21 purchase parts, okay, we will pursue the vendors  
22 that we know have the part and seek the lowest  
23 price. But generally it's because of the dollar  
24 amount in which they're purchasing the parts is that  
25 we need to use the co-ops. So we don't have to

1 continually bid. We don't have to go out to bid for  
2 the item.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And why do you?

4 MR. SHOWER: The matter of  
5 convenience.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So it's  
7 convenience versus price, you're saying?

8 MR. SHOWER: It's convenient for,  
9 that's why co-ops were set up.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I understand  
11 why.

12 MR. SHOWER: Their convenience of not  
13 having to bid because we're piggybacking off of  
14 their contract.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So I understand  
16 that, but in some purchasing departments in the  
17 state of New Jersey, they do an analysis of  
18 convenience versus price. Is the convenience of  
19 using the co-op worth the potential savings from  
20 bidding? Do you do that in any instances?

21 MR. SHOWER: We have done that.  
22 Yes. Not all the time, but I assure you, we will be  
23 checking every co-op for every part to make sure  
24 that we are getting the lowest price.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All right. So

1 I'm going to, I don't want to delay, go on too long.  
2 Please provide to the Administrator so you can  
3 provide to us two or three examples in the last year  
4 where you did the analysis of convenience versus  
5 price, where you went out and looked at what the  
6 cost is or the additional cost may be versus if you  
7 tried to bid it, where you erred on the side of  
8 bidding it, and then where you erred on the side of  
9 using the co-op. Just if you could provide, no  
10 rush. You can provide that in a week or so. I  
11 don't need it by Thursday. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Harold, I just have  
13 a quick question. When it says Middlesex  
14 Commission, that means any of those stores in that  
15 area are Middlesex, right? Is Lake Success in  
16 Middlesex?

17 MR. SHOWER: No, that is not. The  
18 rules of the co-op are individual to the co-op as to  
19 who they allow to join. And there are some that we  
20 are not members of because we can't be. For  
21 instance, Morris County Cooperative, you have to be  
22 a county that borders Morris County in order to be a  
23 member of the Morris County Cooperative. Hudson  
24 County does not border Morris County, so therefore  
25 we cannot be a member of that co-op. But we are

1 members of Bergen, Union, Somerset, Hunterdon,  
2 Middlesex, as I said, and the State, of course.  
3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Is Morris the  
5 only one we're not a member of?

6 MR. SHOWER: Yes, that's the only one  
7 that I know that we're not a member of as far as  
8 State cooperatives. State-authorized cooperatives.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So can I say  
10 something that it just succinctly sets it in my  
11 head? So we purchase items through these individual  
12 county co-ops. And that's our, whether it's through  
13 the State or these county co-ops. But if we do it  
14 through those conduits, we have a safe harbor with  
15 respect to our obligations under the bidding  
16 statutes.

17 However, with that said, that doesn't  
18 mean, I think Bill's point, is that doesn't mean  
19 that the prices that we're getting through those  
20 co-ops or the State are the best possible prices we  
21 could get if we went out to individual bids as the  
22 County; is that right?

23 MR. SHOWER: Yes, that's correct.

24 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right.  
25 But so that's where I think, I mean, to just put

1 this in a context, to simplify it, that's the  
2 question.

3 MR. SHOWER: We do have the  
4 authorization from the State to not use the co-ops  
5 if we choose not to.

6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I get it, but  
7 then we have to go out and bid on our own. But that  
8 kind of defeats the idea of the co-op, doesn't it?

9 MR. SHOWER: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. SHOWER: It's, as I said, it's a  
13 matter of convenience.

14 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I got it. You  
15 said enough. Don't say any more.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.  
17 Clerk.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Stop being his  
19 lawyer.

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Don't say  
21 anything more. You're ahead of the game.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.

23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 15.  
24 Purchases made under the Bergen County Cooperative  
25 Pricing System.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walker-Cifelli.

2 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 16.

3 Approved Purchasing Agents Awards.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walker and Lipski.

5 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 17.

6 Approved Purchasing Agents Awards, Construction  
7 Contract.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walker-Lipski.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And just for the  
10 record, two questions. A and B. One which is \$6.7  
11 million, the other \$5.7 million, are both done with  
12 Project Labor Agreements?

13 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 18.

15 Resolution approving Addition No. 1 to a fair and  
16 open professional service contract, French and  
17 Parrello Associates, Construction Management  
18 Inspection Services for intersection improvements  
19 Package Z \$40,580.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Lipski.

21 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 19.

22 Resolution authorizing shared service agreement  
23 between the County of Hudson and the City of Jersey  
24 City relative the administration and delivery of  
25 Rental Assistance services to residential re-enters

1 under the Affordable House Trust Fund.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea-Kopacz.

3 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 20.

4 Resolution to adopt the Hudson County Vision Zero  
5 Safety Action Plan and Target Year for Zero Deaths  
6 on the County Roads as of 2030.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole?

8 THE CLERK: The next one is a  
9 replacement which is on the dais, Commissioners.  
10 Resolution qualifying 10 Professional engineering  
11 consulting firms open-ended for the provision of  
12 on-call engineering services for 2025-2026.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Lipski.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 22.

15 Resolution accepting one 2017 Jeep Patriot donated  
16 by the Hudson County Schools of Technology to  
17 replace a County vehicle deemed obsolete and added  
18 to the County's insurance roster.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Romano.

20 THE CLERK: I-1. Ordinance amending  
21 Park Rules and Regulations of the Administrative  
22 Code regarding the rules and regulations governing  
23 the use, care and protection of County parks.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Lipski.

25 THE CLERK: Resolution I-2 -- I mean,

1 excuse me, I-2. Ordinance amending Hudson County  
2 Administrative Code pursuant to the applicant --  
3 applicable provisions of the Optional County Chapter  
4 Law N.J.S.A. 40:41A-1.

5 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.  
6 Kopacz.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Second. Back to  
8 I-1 quickly. Question. Just on I-1, Don, I talked  
9 to Jonathan during the committee meeting. I just  
10 want to check one of the lots near 10 and 11. I  
11 don't know whether we really need to --

12 MR. BATTISTA: I think the ordinance  
13 identifies, if I'm not mistaken, four lots.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: One of the lots  
15 which is -- which is adjacent to 10 and 11, I just  
16 want to check it. It's so remote from where anyone  
17 lives that I don't know whether people would park  
18 there, and I know we talked, and my concern is that  
19 um during times of the year, like summertime, people  
20 may go practice on their field at like 7:30, eight,  
21 like eight o'clock in the morning, and they're going  
22 to park right by the field, like they can go to a  
23 lot far away it's just going -- it may just create a  
24 problem for me. No, no, Jon, we spoke about I'm  
25 going to just look at it now and just see nobody's

1 right by there between first reading and second  
2 reading to just see if there's any real cars there.  
3 Jonathan's thought is that well that people will.

4 It's really a far walk. It's three or  
5 four block distance from where -- from where the  
6 almost either one of them equivalent walk would be  
7 like three blocks from Duncan, and say two and a  
8 half to three blocks from where the tennis court is.  
9 That would be the comfortable place. I just want to  
10 put that on the record a little bit.

11 THE CLERK: I will now turn it over  
12 to the Administration.

13 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I have  
14 several items for the Board to consider.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.

16 MR. ANTUN: First item that I have  
17 from the prosecutor's office is to accept funds from  
18 the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant, Assistance  
19 Grant the amount of \$252,406, and those monies will  
20 be allocated to.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Finish. Finish  
23 with it. Finish with it, Abe.

24 MR. ANTUN: Those monies will be  
25 allocated to the City of Bayonne for 19,000. City

1 of Jersey City 157,000. City of Union City 32,000.  
2  
3 City of Hoboken 11,000. Township of North Bergen  
4 12,000.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Kopacz  
6 sponsored, O'Dea second. Can I have a number,  
7 please?

8 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 23.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: The next item is  
10 also from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice  
11 Assistance Grant, and it's allocating funds of  
12 \$170,852.

13 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.  
14 Kopacz.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue reading,  
16 Abe. I want to hear it.

17 MR. ANTUN: City of Bayonne, 20,272  
18 dollars. South Jersey City 99,000. Union City  
19 26,000. City of Hoboken 10,000. Town of West New  
20 York, 14,000.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Kopacz and  
22 who was seconded?

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I have questions  
24 now that you've read all that. How did they  
25 determine the amount of allocations to each of those

1 on this ballot?

2 MR. ANTUN: I'll defer it to the  
3 prosecutor.

4 MR. SALZER: Commissioner, I believe  
5 it's based on my -- my information, I don't know the  
6 specific like metrics of it but based on the needs  
7 and conditions of each municipality. I can find out  
8 the specific factors.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But some cities  
10 don't get anything and like. It's just --

11 MR. SALZER: I don't know exactly. I  
12 can find out exactly.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: We should have a  
14 backup and explain it.

15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can you tell  
16 us on Thursday?

17 MR. SALZER: Yeah, I'll get an  
18 answer.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Doesn't it go by  
20 the UCR? Doesn't it go by the UCR? Usually?

21 MR. SALZER: It's so certain --  
22 certain aspects of this relate to technology  
23 programs. Certain patrols that are requests that  
24 that each municipality wants to do. So I'll find  
25 out the specifics.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Give us a memo.

2 MR. SALZER: No problem.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue Abe.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because once I  
5 heard the towns and that was intriguing, if I may  
6 read the question. If I may inquire.

7 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 24 which  
8 is the one just the subject of the conversation.  
9 Who is second on that?

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I second.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second. Kopacz and  
12 Billy.

13 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman the last  
14 item that I have is a partial award for 2025 to the  
15 Waterfront Project and to Northeast Legal Services.  
16 The total amount is \$187,440.13.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Sponsor.

18 MR. ANTUN: With the allocation being  
19 150,000 for the Waterfront, and 37,440 13 for  
20 Northeast Legal.

21 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's 25. Where  
23 is 25?

24 THE CLERK: No, that's 24. No. 25.  
25 Excuse me. 25.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Question, go Bill.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Oh, no. I never  
3 said question.

4 MR. ANTUN: Okay. That's all I have.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I'd say we have one  
6 thing here.

7 THE CLERK: Resolution. Yes. I have  
8 one matter. I will read it by title. This is your  
9 Resolution No. 26. Resolution by the Hudson County  
10 Board of Commissioners supporting New Jersey Bill  
11 A5539, reducing the threshold cost for work projects  
12 which may include agreements.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second. Well,  
14 we're really all responsible. Board as a whole.

15 THE CLERK: I have nothing further.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: What number is  
17 that?

18 THE CLERK: That is No. 26.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Are there any  
20 representatives from the Schools of Technology on?  
21 Anybody? I don't see. Why are they not on our  
22 meetings? Just curious. Like for example I have a  
23 question. Who do you contact? Who's the  
24 representative? We know for the college it's Nick  
25 Chiaravalloti. Who's our representative for the

1 schools?

2 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Councilor  
3 Angelou.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: But no somebody  
5 that comes on to the meeting. For example we have a  
6 Board of Estimate meeting. You know, I want to know  
7 what -- you know, when we're going to get the agenda  
8 on it. Also what's the formula because I'm getting,  
9 you know, parents asking what's the formula so when  
10 kids are rejected. Is it going strict academics?  
11 So I'd like to have a representative. How does one  
12 get that? I'll have to make a request to the County  
13 Exec's office. I don't know who it is. I'm making  
14 a request. Continue.

15 MR. ANTUN: That's all I have.

16 THE CLERK: Okay. I have nothing  
17 further.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Motion to adjourn.

19 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Who was that?

21 THE CLERK: All in favor? We are  
22 adjourned.

23 (Whereupon the proceeding is then  
24 concluded at 5:24 p.m.)

25

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 Caucus Meeting  
of the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners,  
held on Tuesday, March 25, 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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