

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, April 8, 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:

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 Commissioner Kopacz.

10 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Here.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

14 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

16 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Here.

17 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

19 THE CLERK: L-1, which is a  
20 replacement, Commissioners. Resolution recognizing  
21 the month of April as Sikh Awareness and  
22 Appreciation Month in the County of Hudson.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

24 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 1.

25 Resolution reappointing two members to the Hudson

1 County Insurance Fund Commission David Drumler and  
2 Cheryl Fuller N.J.S.A 40A:10-6 et.seq.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

4 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 2.

5 Resolution confirming of the Re-Appointment of  
6 Cheryl G. Fuller as the County Treasurer and Chief  
7 Financial Officer of the County of Hudson, January  
8 1, 2025 to December 31, 2027.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Question. Why  
11 did it take four months to reappoint somebody that's  
12 been there for so long? Anyone answer that the  
13 question?

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: The question is why  
15 did it take --

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Why was your --  
17 why was your appointment four months late? I guess  
18 that would be my question.

19 DIRECTOR FULLER: Cheryl Fuller.  
20 Commissioners, I just believe because it's a  
21 three-year appointment, I think it just fell through  
22 the cracks.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. And if  
24 you -- and while you're not confirmed, do you stay  
25 in a holdover with status? Like I don't know

1 because then I would argue that you -- you have not  
2 had a CFO or treasurer since January 1st, right?

3 DIRECTOR FULLER: I would defer to  
4 counsel on that.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm just  
6 curious.

7 MR. BATTISTA: My initial reaction is  
8 that it does not say it's not holdover status. It  
9 would be, but I'll check the statute by Thursday.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But then other  
11 instances the -- the County Executive just names  
12 people acting. So this person is the Acting CFO,  
13 which is usually some document when a term expires  
14 for that individual to stay there. To retroactively  
15 make someone that that position makes me just wonder  
16 who was in that position? Who was in that position  
17 from January 1st, to this week when we vote on the  
18 item.

19 I mean I'm just curious and if Craig had  
20 done a letter naming her acting, and now we're just  
21 formalizing it then that's fine, but it's just maybe  
22 you just guys have trouble with dates, right? Get  
23 dates, stuff, it takes a while, but it would just  
24 make sense to me that you automatically would  
25 reappoint them or as the term expired, if you

1 weren't sure you wanted to reappoint them you would  
2 name them acting until you determined that you  
3 wanted them to again have a three-year term. But  
4 yeah, look up to a statute. I'm very curious.

5 Well, that's my question. My question is  
6 legally, legally, do you know legally can you sign  
7 checks for a term for which you have not been  
8 appointed either for a three-year term or for an  
9 acting period of time?

10 DIRECTOR FULLER: So Commissioner,  
11 this resolution is to say that the Director of  
12 Finance for which I was appointed also serves as the  
13 County Treasurer and the CFO. As the Director of  
14 Finance I can sign checks and sign documents and  
15 that appointment has been made.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The resolution  
17 doesn't say -- the document that the public would  
18 read says resolution confirming the reappointment of  
19 you, not of the Director of Finance as the County  
20 Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of the County  
21 of Hudson dated back to January 1st.

22 DIRECTOR FULLER: I understand that,  
23 and again, I defer to counsel. Maybe we --

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: If the statute  
25 says or our ordinance says that the Director of the

1 Department of Finance serves as though in those  
2 positions that you've addressed the question. If it  
3 doesn't say that in the ordinance, then I my  
4 question stands.

5 DIRECTOR FULLER: Okay. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.  
7 Clerk.

8 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 3.  
9 Resolution authorizing an application for an  
10 acceptance of funds, if awarded, from New Jersey  
11 Department of Health Division of HIV STD and TB  
12 services for the Hudson County Ambulatory  
13 Tuberculosis Care Program, January 1st, 2025 to June  
14 30, 2026, \$318,116.

15 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Sponsor.

16 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Second.

17 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 4.  
18 Resolution authorizing for submission of Grant  
19 Application and Accepting Grant Funds from the New  
20 Jersey Historic Trust for the Heritage Tourism  
21 Planning Grant on behalf of the Office of Cultural  
22 and Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development, \$93,750,  
23 Total; Grant \$75,000; County Match \$18,750.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Romano.

25 THE CLERK: Resolution No 5.

1 Resolution approving the award of Community  
2 Development Block Grant CDBG Funding to various  
3 providers for Program Year 2024, July 1, 2024 to  
4 September 1, 2031, \$2,093,084.

5 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Sponsor. I've  
6 just got a quick question.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Well, Walker and  
8 Carrie. Question, Jerry.

9 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Do these funds  
10 come from the federal government?

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So they take  
12 them away.

13 MS. HARRIS-GARCIA: Good afternoon.  
14 Nicole Harrison Garcia, Deputy Director. Yes, these  
15 funds come from the federal government.

16 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Thank you.

17 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 6.  
18 Resolution amending Resolution Nos. 405-7-2022 and  
19 218-4-2023 to provide a No Cost Extension to CDBG  
20 contract with North Hudson Community Action  
21 Corporation, August 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Rodriguez.

23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 7.  
24 Resolution authorizing an Extraordinary  
25 Unspecifiable Services Agreement Non-Fair and Open

1 with Public Strategies Impact, LLC, for Governmental  
2 Relations Services, March 1, 2025 to February 28,  
3 2026, \$66,000.

4 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.

5 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Oh, question.

7 Question. So this agency's job is to be what? Our  
8 lobbyists in Trenton?

9 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So can we just  
11 like extend them for a few months and see if they  
12 could get us the grant to start the mental health  
13 court before we give them another year? Since  
14 everyone seems to want to start it and then finds  
15 another excuse. Like I don't know why we can't  
16 start it now. There's a grant coming up, apply for  
17 the grant. The grant takes effect in July, and then  
18 you can expand what the court is.

19 You need a court now. A couple of people  
20 that have died in that facility this year that --  
21 that waiting for the Prosecutor to weigh in on the  
22 second individual, but we know about the first  
23 individual, that had -- that have mental  
24 health-related issues. County Executive wants to do  
25 it. The Prosecutor wants to do it. The public

1 defender wants to do it. Frank Mazza identified all  
2 the services that we that were needed. The only  
3 issue that was related is who did the -- who does  
4 the evaluations.

5 I provided if not one, two options related  
6 to that. I don't care what option to use. One  
7 option would be \$2,000 per individual. The second  
8 option would -- would probably would be more  
9 expensive because they're already doing it, but  
10 maybe you can get a cheaper cost per person if you  
11 negotiate with them because they already do it when  
12 there are cases where individuals assert not guilty  
13 by reason of insanity. So I don't know, but I'm  
14 going to bring it up every week, every meeting until  
15 somebody announces that they're -- that they're  
16 going to have a mental health court and it's going  
17 to start on a certain date.

18 MS. DAVIS: So I don't disagree with  
19 you, Commissioner, but I don't think that PSI is the  
20 lobby, and I think the AOC is the final judge and  
21 jury on this. Just so you know we're preparing a  
22 statement to request strongly and urge the State to  
23 help us here in the most densely populated area with  
24 the most need. But again, I don't think PSI has the  
25 ability to actually lobby the AOC. Maybe the grant

1 per se, but the AOC is what actually as I understand  
2 it decides that. So I'm not opposing what you say I  
3 just don't think it actually is possible for them to  
4 determine the final standing on it.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm talking  
6 about replying for a grant.

7 MS. DAVIS: No, I understand that.  
8 But the -- but the grant versus the actual money  
9 from the AOC which is the really -- the real crux of  
10 the mental health court comes from the AOC, and I  
11 don't think they have the ability to lobby the AOC.  
12 The grant may be one part.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But I was told  
14 two weeks ago to stand down. Remember that?  
15 Representative from the Prosecutor's office?

16 MS. DAVIS: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's two weeks  
18 later.

19 MS. DAVIS: And we talked to the  
20 judge today, and we talked to judge today,  
21 Commissioner. Let me respond. We talked to the  
22 judge today. We have a statement. We're putting it  
23 out. We just wanted to run it by our new judge here  
24 so we don't ruffle any feathers because we don't  
25 need to ruffle feathers in the judiciary right now

1 in order to make sure we don't piss anyone off so  
2 that we can get what we want. So we were going  
3 about it by process. Today Craig actually showed  
4 the statement to the assignment judge to Judge Katz.  
5 We are phrasing a very nice way, in a very We Need  
6 It way. It is true. We need it. It is true we  
7 want it. So we're doing that and we're trying to do  
8 it in an appropriate manner so no one gets ruffled  
9 and because Judge Katz is so new and because the AOC  
10 judge is new also. We're just trying to gently  
11 approach it but we are working on it.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I understand was  
13 that Judge Katz is supportive and signed on. You  
14 were only waiting for a new AOC person to come on  
15 board which is now the case and --

16 MS. DAVIS: And he's getting this  
17 okayed tomorrow. So as soon as Judge Katz gives the  
18 okay, we'll send out the statement. We'll go make  
19 the calls, and we'll follow.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The Mental  
21 Health Diversion Program Grant Award documents  
22 notice of availability of funding program guidelines  
23 and related documents have been posted on the  
24 Attorney General's web site. Please note that NOFA  
25 requires the County Prosecutor's Office provide a

1 letter of intent or similar representation  
2 indicating consultation with an approval of the plan  
3 from the vicinities assignment judge from the  
4 regional office. Prosecutor Office must submit the  
5 application by May 21st, of this year.

6 MS. DAVIS: I'm all in agreement.  
7 I'm all in agreement. The Attorney General's office  
8 told me the final say is the AOC, and that is  
9 somebody I cannot lobby. That is somebody that PSI  
10 can't lobby. That's all I'm saying. But I'm all  
11 agreement, and I'm all on it.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: If your County  
13 Prosecutor is applying for the grant, please note  
14 that there is an application webinar to assist  
15 candidates in applying for these funds on April  
16 16th, 2025, at 11 a.m. RSVP by April 15. So have  
17 you RSVPed to participate in the webinar.

18 MS. DAVIS: Yeah. It's not April  
19 15th.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What it says is  
21 by April --

22 MS. DAVIS: Right. But it gives me  
23 another whole week to her CP correct.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Why do you wait  
25 till the last day?

1 MS. DAVIS: Commissioner, I'm not.  
2 I'm trying.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's why I  
4 pointed to the representative of Prosecutor's  
5 office. I said --

6 MS. DAVIS: I will personally call  
7 tomorrow and make sure they have RSVP'd. I do know  
8 they've already had a personal call tomorrow. I  
9 will call Esther personally. I will call personally  
10 and have the answer.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But here is a  
12 quote from a famous movie, right? So what we have  
13 here is a failure to communicate, because I have to  
14 find all these things out on my own. You didn't  
15 share this information with me. You didn't share  
16 this information. You didn't share this  
17 information. I've got to go out on my own and find  
18 out all the information. I don't mind doing it. I  
19 don't mind doing it, and I'll continue to do it, but  
20 if I didn't say a word today, I wouldn't know  
21 whether there's a grant you're going to apply for.

22 But I'm the one who raised the issue of  
23 mental health court first and foremost. I'm the one  
24 who had the County Prosecutor come here at last  
25 year's budget meeting which is almost one year ago

1 and say, Yeah, I'm committed to it now. Because I  
2 was told by the County Administrator that the County  
3 Prosecutor had a problem with it, and I'm not going  
4 to put you on the spot, but we've had conversations  
5 and that was resolved. But everybody continues to  
6 be for it, but they all continue to find one other  
7 reason not to do it. So commit to apply for the  
8 grant. Don't wait till the 15th.

9 I guess you wait till the 15th, of that's  
10 up to you. If you've got to pay money, that's  
11 always good to do because you got to write a check  
12 out. Don't wait till the day before the file that  
13 you're all going to RSVP. Don't not share  
14 information with us on an issue that's important to  
15 us. And whether you get the grant, or don't wait to  
16 find out if you get the grant funded to start the  
17 program. Once the Office of Administrative Courts  
18 is okay with us doing one, just do it. You already  
19 have a judge willing to do it from an existing court  
20 so you can start the program.

21 What are we waiting for? I don't know  
22 what's so funny. I don't really know what's so  
23 funny. You don't have a relative with mental health  
24 issues that winds up in that County Correctional  
25 Facility and dies.

1 MS. DAVIS: I don't think I deserve  
2 that. I don't think I deserve that at all. I don't  
3 think I deserve that. I think that I can tell  
4 you --

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I think I can  
6 tell you something.

7 MS. DAVIS: And I think I can say to  
8 you that we have not stopped communicating with you.  
9 We haven't said anything. I will tell you as soon  
10 as we do, we were doing it the way we needed to do  
11 not to ruffle feathers. We will tell you things as  
12 we can. So we will tell you tomorrow. That's it.  
13 But I don't think I deserve that outburst I really  
14 don't, and I do have a relative --

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You thought it  
16 was funny. I was offended by that well. I  
17 apologize if you were offended, but I was offended  
18 by what appeared to be you thinking this whole thing  
19 was funny because it's not funny. People are dying.  
20 People are dying that should not be in a  
21 correctional facility, should be in a facility to  
22 deal with their mental health issues.

23 There are individuals that are in jail on  
24 shoplifting charges, shoplifting charges because  
25 under the law if you get arrested so many times for

1 shoplifting charges, you get sentenced to a minimum  
2 sentence. The director of the Department of  
3 Corrections has spoken on record about her own  
4 concerns on the facility's capability to deal with  
5 individuals with mental health issues. I don't know  
6 what else you need. Maybe you need somebody to file  
7 a hundred million dollar lawsuit against the County.  
8 I don't know what else is needed to start something  
9 where all the pieces of the puzzle are in place.

10 You got a new head of the Office of  
11 Administrative Courts. Whatever, get it done  
12 tomorrow. Come here Thursday and say we're good to  
13 go and the court's going to start May 1st. Then  
14 I'll be happy.

15 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 8.  
16 Resolution approving a Non-Fair and Open Contract  
17 with Election Systems & Software, LLC, for Election  
18 Site Support, January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025,  
19 \$229,218.80.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Lipski.

21 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 9.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Timeout. Again,  
23 here's another contract January 1st, 2025.

24 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, the  
25 superintendent spoke to me about this, and she

1 apologized. She realized that this came late, but  
2 you know, she's just trying to get her handle on  
3 some things.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: The  
5 Superintendent's here. Madam Superintendent, please  
6 come to the podium.

7 MS. KELLERHER: Thank you. Thank  
8 you.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Someone new to  
10 the position, first time, I'm fine. You know, you  
11 don't need to say --

12 MS. KELLERHER: Thank you. Okay.  
13 That's it?

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's a reason.  
15 That's a reasonable explanation.

16 MS. KELLERHER: Thank you. If you  
17 don't mind I will just share one thing. I did reach  
18 out to Abe, and I am very grateful for his  
19 assistance. In the last Commissioners meeting,  
20 Commissioner Romano asked me about some bills that  
21 were a little bit late. So I committed to this body  
22 that we would work really hard to get bills paid.  
23 So this represents the rest of our bills for the  
24 entire machine company, and I just want to alert you  
25 that you're going to have a few other. What we're

1 doing is bundling them.

2 So I reached out to every one of the  
3 elections providers, whether it be the whole book,  
4 e-poll books, and I said, Look, don't send us bills  
5 and quotes all year long. You may have done this in  
6 a rolling way in the past, but going forward we want  
7 to encumber it. I did that for many years in the  
8 city, but you know, the County just has a little bit  
9 of a different way of speaking the language. So I  
10 checked with Abe, and I just want to let you know  
11 you'll be seeing a few more of these.

12 So our hope is to have a more efficient  
13 way of paying bills. So you'll get everything up  
14 front early part of the year, and I've told all of  
15 our vendors, Please, think about September being  
16 your deadline to get us your quotes for next year.  
17 So thank you for your time.

18 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 9.  
19 Resolution authorizing payment to Northpointe, Inc.  
20 d/b/a Equivant to upgrade the proprietary software  
21 utilized by the Division of Reintegration, \$39,210.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Lipski.

23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 10.  
24 Resolution authorizing payment to Cellebrite, USA  
25 Corp., d/b/a Cellebrite, Inc. for two online

1 re-certification training classes for the Hudson  
2 County Prosecutor's Office, March 11, 2025 to March  
3 10, 2026, \$660.00.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sponsor.

5 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.

6 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 11.

7 Approved Purchasing Agent's awards. Purchases made  
8 under State contracts.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walker-Rodriguez.

10 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 12.

11 Purchasing made under Union County Cooperative  
12 Pricing System.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 13.

15 Purchasing made under Bergen County Cooperative  
16 Pricing System.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

18 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 14.

19 Approved Purchasing Agent's Awards.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

21 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 15.

22 Resolution awarding Professional Services Contract  
23 Fair and Open to French & Parrello Associates  
24 Professional Engineering Services for the Design and  
25 Construction Management for the rehabilitation of

1 the Bergen Avenue Bridge over the Hudson-Bergen  
2 Light Rail, Jersey City, \$686,160.

3 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Sponsor.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second.

5 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 16.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm just curious  
7 to know how many bridges do we have in Hudson  
8 County?

9 MR. MALAVASI: Thirty-three. That's  
10 not including the three joint bridges with Essex.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What are the  
12 three bridges?

13 MR. MALAVASI: Clay Street. Bridge  
14 Street and Jackson.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I have a question  
16 Tom while you're up there does anybody know when the  
17 Baldwin Avenue mess is going to be fixed?

18 MR. MALAVASI: The State is going  
19 working to replace the bridge, so it'll be a few  
20 years. Let me dig it up. They just had a public  
21 information session.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue Mr. Clerk.

23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 16.  
24 Resolution awarding Professional Service Contract  
25 Fair and Open to French & Parrello Associates

1 Professional Engineering Services for the Design and  
2 Construction Management for "Intersection  
3 Improvements Package AA at various locations  
4 throughout Hudson County," \$178,472.29.

5 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Sponsor.

6 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Second.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Question. So  
8 all qualification statements were received and two  
9 firms were deemed qualified. Which were the two  
10 firms that were not being qualified? Don't know  
11 who. So when we receive a memorandum on something  
12 like this from a transparency perspective, I think  
13 that you should list who you receive qualification  
14 statements from, why those were not deemed  
15 qualified, right? Because it says two were deemed  
16 qualified.

17 Because anyone reading it would say they  
18 but they're not qualified, meaning they don't have  
19 the ability to do it. Generally, you -- don't you  
20 still pre-qualify people?

21 MR. ANTUN: Yes, we do.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So anyone that  
23 this was sent to should have been pre-qualified.

24 MR. ANTUN: Typically on these  
25 situations, they fail to provide something.

1                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Like we should  
2 know that.

3                   MR. ANTUN: I don't disagree with  
4 you. I usually catch those things because I'm --  
5 I'm very particular about that but --

6                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I know you are.  
7 That's why I was surprised.

8                   THE CLERK: Resolution No. 17.  
9 Resolution awarding Professional Service Contract  
10 Fair and Open between the County of Hudson and DE  
11 Block Environmental Services, LLC "For a Licensed  
12 Sewage Plant and Collection System Operator," May  
13 15, 2025 to May 14, 2026, \$80,000.

14                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Lipski.

15                  THE CLERK: Resolution No. 18.  
16 Resolution authorizing a One Year Shared Services  
17 Agreement with the County of Essex to House Hudson  
18 County Juveniles in Essex County Juvenile Detention  
19 Center, May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026,  
20 \$3,396,253.

21                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

22                  COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Question.  
23 Question.

24                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go Bobby.

25                  COMMISSIONER BASELICE: How many kids

1 are we looking at? That was my question.

2 MR. ANTUN: Less than a hundred. It  
3 was a guaranteed 20.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So the rate has  
5 gone up substantively, correct?

6 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Like, 25  
8 percent? Is that a fair?

9 MR. ANTUN: I can't do the percent,  
10 but it's high.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, 80? Yeah,  
12 I would say -- how about 30 percent?

13 MR. ANTUN: I can just take your  
14 math.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Thirty percent.  
16 I stand corrected; 80 over 240 would be 33 percent;  
17 80 over 235. So, what is the explanation behind  
18 such a huge increase? I don't know. I think you're  
19 answering the question.

20 MR. ANTUN: Yeah. I was like, you  
21 know, Commissioner, they enacted an ordinance on  
22 this. And, you know, there's been some difficult  
23 decisions. I will tell you that they even, in their  
24 eyes, they're giving us a break because other  
25 counties that are not within the geographic area,

1 they're charging them more money. They're really  
2 trying to get out of the business.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, if  
4 everybody's trying to get out of the business, then  
5 somebody, maybe even on a State level, or someone  
6 who's going to be on a State level, should start  
7 looking into how do we create a new model?

8 MR. ANTUN: And we've been trying to  
9 do that, Commissioner.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because we don't  
11 get a lot -- look, I don't get a lot of warm and  
12 fuzzies from Essex County. I get a lot of negative  
13 feedback from service providers who interact and  
14 deal with individuals that find themselves housed in  
15 Essex County. And then, in addition to the fees we  
16 pay here, we, as we rightfully should do, provide  
17 additional programs because we've raised issues  
18 about lack of programs that are provided for people  
19 that are juveniles.

20 And then I have another issue, which I've  
21 been in discussions with someone about filing a  
22 suit, maybe against these counties, because they  
23 don't provide thorough and efficient education to  
24 those individuals that are housed there. So you had  
25 Robinson vs. Cahill in 1973. You might have

1 Robinson Green vs, DiVincenzo and Murphy in 2025.  
2 But we're going to pay \$80 more a day, and I'm being  
3 told that they don't even provide a thorough and  
4 efficient education to our 20 juveniles that are  
5 being housed in those facilities. So you might have  
6 some speakers about this on Thursday.

7 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: And Jack  
8 right now is looking at this Juvenile Justice  
9 Commission. There have been hearings, Senate  
10 hearings, in which they're discussing this because a  
11 lot of the Atlantic counties are leading the charge.  
12 Some of the counties are trying to get out of the  
13 business. Those that are in the business are  
14 charging the fee that's warranted. I mean, supply  
15 and demand.

16 But at the same time, are the services  
17 that we used to provide being provided to our kids?  
18 No. So there are conversations. They're looking to  
19 see if the State's looking at opening regional  
20 facilities to try and deal with the lack of bed  
21 space and services being provided. I've been in  
22 some of those discussions.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: If you go, if  
24 you're an adult in Hudson County, you go to a  
25 correctional and rehabilitation center. If you're

1 16 years old, you go to a detention facility, and  
2 we're paying \$325 a day. What do we charge at the  
3 adult facility? What are our contracts for inmates?

4 MR. ANTUN: On average 125.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So we pay, on  
6 average, we charge \$125 a day. We pay \$325 a day.  
7 Almost triple.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Why don't we have a  
9 discussion on that offline? Why don't we have a  
10 discussion on that?

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm not on that  
12 committee. I was kicked off that committee because  
13 I took a stand against ICE. So you can discuss in  
14 your committee, come back, and then I'll discuss in  
15 a public forum. I'm in a bad mood today, yes. Or a  
16 good mood, depending on how you look at it. You're  
17 the people, I'm in a good mood.

18 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 19.  
19 Resolution awarding Grant Funds to the Boys and  
20 Girls Clubs of Hudson County for a Summer Basketball  
21 Program for Youths between the ages of 6 to 14, June  
22 30, 2025 to August 8, 2025, \$57,404.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.  
24 Also, with that, for the benefit of the  
25 Commissioners, Adam, who has taken the place of the

1 recently dearly departed Gary Greenberg, will be at  
2 the meeting Thursday to answer any questions.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And this is an  
4 increase of \$7,400, which is a 15-percent increase.  
5 I know that we're tightening our belt. I hear it  
6 every day. So what are we getting for \$7,400 more?  
7 I bet you if I pull out last year's resolution, it  
8 says 200 youth. Anybody want to bet me lunch that  
9 it's going to say 200 youth? But it says 200 youth,  
10 told there's more youth, but they want to pay \$7,400  
11 more.

12 So we need to know and understand what the  
13 program is. Gary Greenberg is a legend that we  
14 lost. I hope Adam can fill his shoes, but we have  
15 an obligation to make sure that these programs are  
16 done properly, run properly. It's called an  
17 instructional basketball program. What are the  
18 instructional sides of the program? Is the Boys and  
19 Girls Club applying for any of the money like Jersey  
20 City offers for their camps? They offer like  
21 \$10,000 grants. I need to know stuff like that. I  
22 need to know if they apply for that and if any of it  
23 for these sites.

24 MR. DEFILIPPO: Bill, I'll get you  
25 all the information. Adam will be here Thursday.

1 It's a recurring program. It's been successful  
2 every year, but I'll get you all those details.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I know.

4 MR. DEFILIPPO: Everything that was  
5 spent every summer.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But I also know  
7 that the PAL submitted some stuff to us. Maybe they  
8 could run a program in Lincoln Park.

9 MR. DEFILIPPO: We tried last year  
10 and they never showed up.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, but I think  
12 they submitted one now for money. They didn't ask  
13 you for any money last year.

14 MR. DEFILIPPO: No.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: They were doing  
16 it for free. They were going to do something for  
17 free.

18 MR. DEFILIPPO: They just never  
19 showed up.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because they  
21 didn't have the money. They couldn't raise the  
22 money on their own to run a program.

23 MR. DEFILIPPO: Right.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's a big  
25 difference.

1 MR. DEFILIPPO: It was there. What  
2 they needed from us, we provided.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, the County  
4 wasn't at fault. In order for them to run the  
5 program because they didn't know they had the option  
6 to ask us for money, they had to go raise money.  
7 And they weren't able to raise the money. Simple as  
8 that.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Jon, just tell them  
10 to continue Gary's policy of ensuring that the  
11 children are registered so we know for evaluation  
12 and feedback purposes and also prepare them that  
13 these questions are going to be asked.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And do they do  
15 like, to the County's credit, they do great end of  
16 the summer program for the soccer camp.

17 MR. DEFILIPPO: Right.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Great end of the  
19 summer cookout for the tennis program. I've never  
20 known about the end of the summer program for the  
21 basketball. Maybe it happens. Maybe it doesn't.

22 MR. DEFILIPPO: He did it. He just  
23 does a trophy.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But nobody ever  
25 tells us about it. Nobody ever. Where? What about

1 the other parks? So you have one in each park?

2 MR. DEFILIPPO: We can centralize it,  
3 sure.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, no. Maybe  
5 you have one for each park. I assume you have a  
6 champ in each park, right?

7 MR. DEFILIPPO: Yeah, no problem. Do  
8 you want us to incorporate it with the other ones or  
9 have their own?

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I think they  
11 should have their own. Yeah.

12 MR. DEFILIPPO: Not because we -- the  
13 tennis one we link up. That's all right. We'll  
14 figure it out. I'll give you all the information.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.  
16 Clerk.

17 THE CLERK: Resolution No, 20.  
18 Resolution awarding grant to New Jersey Coaches in  
19 the Community, Inc., July 7, 2025 to August 21,  
20 2025, \$40,000.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano-Walker.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And like how  
23 many students or how many youth are in this program?  
24 But this is bad news. This can't be good.

25 MR. DEFILIPPO: This is Mr. Gamble's

1 program, another one every year, Bill. I'll get you  
2 all the information. They come and they go. So  
3 some weeks you'll get, I don't know, 150. Some weeks  
4 you'll get 100.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But you should  
6 just provide backups, right?

7 MR. DEFILIPPO: He does.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Let me know.  
9 You should. And I'm not picking on you, Jonathan.

10 MR. DEFILIPPO: No, that's all right.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The government,  
12 the government.

13 MR. DEFILIPPO: It's all right.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's only been  
15 how many years?

16 MR. DEFILIPPO: It's all right.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Back to when you  
18 were a kid.

19 MR. DEFILIPPO: Yeah.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I still miss  
21 those Monday night wrestling.

22 MR. DEFILIPPO: I know, bro. Summer  
23 Slam.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But just attach  
25 them. They should be attached.

1 MR. DEFILIPPO: Okay. Yeah, that's  
2 easy enough. Ben does follow up with the paperwork.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What's that?

4 MR. DEFILIPPO: Ben does the  
5 paperwork.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, but can he  
7 make sure he follows up with the paperwork?

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mr. Clerk, remove  
9 me as the sponsor. That should be Kopacz. And then  
10 Walker's there. But he's going to ensure that Ben  
11 does the paperwork. Ben does a good job.

12 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 21.

13 MR. DEFILIPPO: You're biasing him.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution approving a  
15 Memorandum of Understanding between the County of  
16 Hudson and the City of Jersey City for the  
17 enforcement of a Street Cleaning Ordinance in  
18 Lincoln Park.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, you can do  
20 it. I don't need to sponsor.

21 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.  
22 Kopacz.

23 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Second.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: People complain.  
25 I'll send them to you.

1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 22.  
2 Resolution of Memorandum Agreement between the  
3 Hudson County and PBA Local 232A, Prosecutor's  
4 Superior Investigators, January 1, 2023, through  
5 December 31, 2027.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.  
7 Comment. It's nice to see that the unions and the  
8 County are coming to agreements that they both deem  
9 fair. Obviously, I was involved with that. It's  
10 appreciated by the entire Board.

11 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 23.  
12 - Resolution providing authorization to the City of  
13 Hoboken to use a portion of the County Right-of-Way  
14 for the DC Fast Charging Stations.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah, I guess I  
16 have. I'll sponsor. It's all we need.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: To go back to  
18 22. Can somebody just give us a comparison as to  
19 what these same ranks and corrections and sheriffs  
20 get paid?

21 THE CLERK: Can I have a second on 23  
22 before we --

23 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second.

24 THE CLERK: Oh, sorry.

25 MR. ANTUN: You know, Commissioner, I

1 don't have that information in terms of what the  
2 superiors make. I can get it for you, yeah.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, no, I  
4 didn't. I didn't expect you to have it right now.  
5 You know, just get it for us. And I said, can  
6 somebody get me? I don't mean like right now. That  
7 I did not expect you to have with you. I thought by  
8 now, you know, the kind of questions I asked.

9 THE CLERK: I-1. Ordinance amending  
10 Chapter 200, Article 8.11 of the Administrative Code  
11 to establish a restricted parking space on John F.  
12 Kennedy Boulevard, City of Jersey City for Rose M.  
13 Davis.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and Walker.

15 THE CLERK: I-2.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm sorry. I  
17 mean, I have a question. So how does the world work  
18 in an apartment building where hypothetically there  
19 are four parking spaces in front of the building and  
20 there are potentially 10 people who qualify for a  
21 disabled parking spot?

22 MR. BATTISTA: You're asking me?

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

24 MR. BATTISTA: I would assume -- I  
25 would assume that the city or town would give it to

1 whomever comes in first and then, and then they  
2 would gradually progress down the street. I mean,  
3 that would be my guess. I mean, that's what I would  
4 do it, but I don't really not the one who makes that  
5 decision.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can we just send  
7 a letter to the city? How do they do that? If --  
8 if spaces exceed the amount of footage in front of  
9 an apartment building, does the City have the legal  
10 ability to then put restricted parking spaces in  
11 front of other people's properties? Because that's  
12 what would happen.

13 MR. BATTISTA: Yeah.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Just curious  
15 what their, what their policy is.

16 THE CLERK: I-2. Ordinance amending  
17 Chapter 200, Article 8.11 of the Administrative Code  
18 to establish a restricted Parking Space on Willow  
19 Avenue, City of Hoboken for Reina M. Ramirez.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sponsor.

21 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second.

22 THE CLERK: I-3. Ordinance amending  
23 Chapter 200, Article 27 of the Administrative Code  
24 to establish Traffic Calming Devices, delineators,  
25 on Passaic Avenue in the Borough of East Newark.

1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Sponsor.

2 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.

3 THE CLERK: I'll turn it over to the  
4 Administrator.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hold on. I think  
6 Al's here. Al, are you on?

7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I asked to  
8 sponsor.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: They could only  
10 put up with one of us today. So they can shut him  
11 down.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's it.

13 THE CLERK: I will now turn it over  
14 to the Administration.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So did we have,  
16 are we going to have an amendment to one of these?

17 MR. BATTISTA: Doesn't know what's  
18 going to happen. What's going to happen,  
19 Commissioner, after the public hearing on Thursday,  
20 if there's a motion made to remove one of the  
21 spaces, one of the lots from the consideration of  
22 the ordinance, it's my opinion. That's not a  
23 material change to the ordinance. And that, you  
24 know, if that passes, that would amend the  
25 ordinance. That's how I think it's going to be

1 handled.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That was not.  
3 All right. So -- but -- but I have to affirmatively  
4 make a motion to do it as opposed to the  
5 Administration was going to do it, right? Okay.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.  
7 Clerk.

8 MR. ANTUN: So Mr. Chairman, I have  
9 no additional.

10 THE CLERK: I have one. I will read  
11 it by title. This will be Resolution No. 24.  
12 Resolution by the Hudson County Board of  
13 Commissioners supporting New Jersey Senate Bill No.  
14 2241 extending Child Care.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Sponsor.

16 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second.

17 THE CLERK: That will be No. 24. And  
18 then I have one, Resolution No. 25. Resolution by  
19 the Hudson County Board of Commissioners supporting  
20 New Jersey Assembly Bill No. 1920 extending Child  
21 Care.

22 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Sponsor.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second.

24 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 26.

25 Resolution by the Hudson County Board of

1 Commissioners supporting New Jersey Senate Bill  
2 2239, extending the duration of law requiring  
3 subsidiary payments for childcare services.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Sponsor.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And Carrie  
6 Rodriguez. Anything else?

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No. I have one  
8 thing before you -- are you done?

9 THE CLERK: I have one more.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You have one  
11 more. Okay.

12 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 27.  
13 Resolution by the Hudson County Board of  
14 Commissioners supporting New Jersey Assembly Bill  
15 3888, extending the duration of law requiring  
16 subsidiary payments for the childcare services.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Sponsor.

18 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Second.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, that's  
20 Senate Bills and Assembly bills.

21 THE CLERK: We have 24. That's 27,  
22 Commissioner.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: 24 is the Senate.  
24 25 is the assembly.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: 26 is the

1 Senate. 27.

2 THE CLERK: And can I have those  
3 sponsors and second?

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I sponsored the  
5 last one. I only missed one. It was slow. I got  
6 it. It was I speak first.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Carrie.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I was first. No  
9 way. It wasn't even close. But play the tape back.  
10 I wasn't even close. I was definitely.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and  
12 Rodriguez.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I was the one  
14 who asked for all of them for the record.

15 THE CLERK: That's all I have.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I have one item.  
17 I just have one item that I need to put on the  
18 record. I appreciate that the Director of  
19 Corrections today sent me a text explaining her  
20 position on the issue. But I do have to put a  
21 concern in. I know 13 COs were sent for training  
22 for three weeks. Training starting yesterday.  
23 There's a tremendous shortage of COs. There's  
24 difficulty in getting COs. The dropout rate or the  
25 failure to complete is -- is significant. The

1 number of individuals who are leaving to go to other  
2 places is also growing, not only in corrections, but  
3 other law enforcement areas.

4 And I just want to put on my -- on the  
5 record that I have a concern about that. I respect  
6 the Director's position. But from my perspective, I  
7 believe they could have delayed that training until  
8 we got additional officers in there. And if while  
9 that training is going on, there are more lockdowns  
10 going on in units because of the lack of staff  
11 available, I think that that raises potential  
12 concerns as to things that may happen because of  
13 those lockdowns.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Director Scott.

15 DIRECTOR SCOTT: If I may,  
16 maintaining safety and control within the  
17 correctional facility is a non-negotiable,  
18 especially during times of critical staffing. The  
19 Special Operations Group training is essential to  
20 ensure our officers are equipped to respond  
21 immediately, effectively to emergencies, critical  
22 incidents and facility threats.

23 This specialized training provides  
24 enhanced skills and rapid response, containment,  
25 deescalation and tactical intervention, all vital in

1 protecting both staff and inmates and the public.  
2 During staffing shortages, it becomes even more  
3 critical that the personnel we have are highly  
4 trained and versatile and capable of managing high  
5 risk situations without delay. Without specialized  
6 tactical training, the risk of staff injury  
7 significantly increases during emergency incident.

8 Every staff injury not only endangers the  
9 individual officer, but also further compounds are  
10 already stretched vacancy count, creating a  
11 dangerous cycle that -- that threatens overall  
12 facility operations. There is no downside to  
13 providing specialized training. It strengthens  
14 safety, reduces risk, protect lives, preserve  
15 staffing resources and ensures that Hudson County  
16 Department of Correction and Rehabilitation  
17 maintains preparedness to meet emergency challenges  
18 head on.

19 I just want to add a few points,  
20 Commissioner, as you raise this issue and have  
21 repeatedly stated my position on mentally ill  
22 treatment and care and access to care. And I can  
23 assure you, sending staff to training does not  
24 impede on any access to care nor the mental health  
25 resources in our facility. Secondly, I want to add

1 when you have less staff to respond, it's critical  
2 that the staff that are responding are highly  
3 trained individuals. It is not to minimize that all  
4 staff are trained adequately, but there are  
5 occasions when within Corrections that the skill set  
6 that's necessary to maintain order and safety in the  
7 facility and in public, that training is essential.

8           Secondly, there are occasions where  
9 training or I should say lack thereof becomes a  
10 bigger problem in terms of just safety to protect my  
11 officers, to protect the family members that are  
12 housed within -- of the public. The public needs to  
13 know that our staff are there and ready to protect  
14 their loved ones that are in our custody. The  
15 family of correction officers deserve the best  
16 protection and training this County has to offer.

17           To delay the training, perhaps we will  
18 have an opportunity in the future that we're going  
19 to have a significant amount of resources, but until  
20 that time comes, I have to do with what I have. I  
21 can stand confident and say to everyone in this room  
22 and that's listening, if you don't have proper  
23 training, you're destined to fail, and you're not  
24 able to protect individuals that come into our  
25 facility and that includes the public.

1           Mind you, my staff also escort individuals  
2 out to public settings, hospitals, clinics. It's  
3 essential that I have staff trained to take high  
4 risk individuals that are going to be mixing in the  
5 public. As you stated, you went to visit someone in  
6 the hospital and corrections was there with a  
7 murderer. We want to make sure that when our staff  
8 are out in these places, they're qualified in real  
9 time. The resources may not return for years to the  
10 optimum number. I cannot wait years to train staff.

11           I stand by the decision. I'm ready to  
12 respond to any emergency that comes up during this  
13 two-week period. And all of my staff are aware that  
14 it's all hands on deck. I implore any union, any  
15 member of my staff to come in and work while this  
16 training is taking place or better yet, raise their  
17 hand and volunteer and become a part of the  
18 solution. That's all I have. Thank you, sir.

19           COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Training is  
20 never a substitute for proper staffing. Training is  
21 important, but in my strong opinion is not a  
22 substitute for proper staffing. The fact that that  
23 facility lacks proper staffing is a serious, serious  
24 issue. That facility is being turned into a  
25 warehouse, a warehouse to generate revenue for the

1 County of Hudson. The capacity of that facility is  
2 far greater than what the capacity of that facility  
3 was supposed to be. You've got more inmates. You've  
4 got less staff. You're doing more and more  
5 lockdowns.

6 I strongly disagree with you that  
7 lockdowns do not have a serious adverse effect on  
8 individuals with even minor mental health issues. I  
9 challenge you to lock yourself down for 23 hours a  
10 day for a week or two weeks and see what the mental  
11 health impact would be on a person with perfect  
12 mental health. So I strongly disagree with some of  
13 the ramifications of it. We all want training. No  
14 one disagrees with training.

15 If this training was so, so critical, why  
16 is it taking so long to do it? Why did you initiate  
17 all this training when you first came on as a  
18 director? Did it just suddenly become a problem?  
19 Is it a problem created by the fact that we continue  
20 to put more and more people into the facility,  
21 creating more serious staffing problems? Those are  
22 a few questions that I have to ask.

23 DIRECTOR SCOTT: If I may answer in  
24 terms of my priority, I had several priorities upon  
25 my arrival. Assessments, identifying what the

1 issues are, identifying the proper solution. All of  
2 those processes took place from the moment I got  
3 this job, and I take it very seriously. And there  
4 was no procrastination on my part.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: When did you  
6 start? When did you begin as a Director?

7 DIRECTOR SCOTT: December of 2022.  
8 This is not the first training that has happened  
9 under my watch. So it's not as if I started today.  
10 This training is not going to stop. It didn't start  
11 this week. We have had a training session prior to  
12 this one.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: How many prior  
14 training sessions like this training session have  
15 occurred in your 17-month tenure?

16 DIRECTOR SCOTT: One.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: One other. A  
18 serious issue in 17 months, this is the second  
19 training. Okay.

20 DIRECTOR SCOTT: So let me emphasize  
21 what drives training and the scheduling of training.  
22 It's driven by the existing staff that you have on  
23 the team. As those members leave, that's when those  
24 members are replaced. And a part of that process is  
25 also recruitment to get everyone that's on this

1 training are volunteers. It's nothing that can  
2 compel anyone. We cannot mandate someone to become  
3 a part of this training. That process takes some  
4 months and planning. So at no time was this off my  
5 radar. At no time did I not understand the value of  
6 it. We did not delay it or deny it. This has been  
7 on the radar since I arrived here, sir.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Do the  
9 assignments of individuals that go through this  
10 training change when their training is completed?  
11 Or do they go right back where they were before?

12 DIRECTOR SCOTT: Both.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Both? So some  
14 individuals that go through this training will get  
15 different assignments that will take them  
16 potentially off of posts. Yes or no?

17 DIRECTOR SCOTT: Possibility.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'll take that  
19 as a yes.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: May I make a  
21 comment?

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: This could  
23 further create staffing issues.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Let me make a  
25 comment, please. Just for the benefit of the

1 Commissioners, you are in dialogue also with the  
2 unions, correct?

3 DIRECTOR SCOTT: Correct.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So in other words,  
5 they're not being blindsided?

6 DIRECTOR SCOTT: No, sir.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: How do you think  
8 the issue came -- look, how do you think the issue  
9 came to my attention?

10 MR. BATTISTA: You know,  
11 Commissioner, what Director Scott is addressing was  
12 raised last week by the union. After speaking to  
13 Director Scott, I responded to the union and at  
14 Director Scott's initiative. We invited the union  
15 to participate in a task force that the Director was  
16 intending to initiate in order to address some of  
17 the concerns that were raised by the union. So to  
18 inform --

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The union's not  
20 here. The way you tell me -- you always say don't  
21 talk about someone when they're not here.

22 MR. BATTISTA: I am speaking,  
23 Commissioner. I listened to you. I have an  
24 opportunity to respond.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'll respond to

1 what you say.

2 MR. BATTISTA: We've invited the  
3 union to engage in a dialogue. Why they've come to  
4 you and not responded to that?

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: They wanted to  
6 come here today.

7 MR. BATTISTA: Excuse me?

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: They wanted to  
9 come here today. I'll show you that they wanted to  
10 come here today.

11 MR. BATTISTA: And I'm prepared to  
12 state when they're here exactly what I say to you  
13 because I have it in writing.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It doesn't  
15 change the facts. You're short-staffed at the  
16 facility. During training, you become further  
17 short-staffed, and if individuals that are trained  
18 are no longer assigned back to tiers where they are,  
19 that could further exacerbate the shortage of  
20 staffing. You need to address your staffing issue.  
21 This facility is beginning to be run like a  
22 warehouse where you're generating revenue at the  
23 cost of properly even protecting your own men and  
24 women that work there.

25 MR. BATTISTA: Mr. Chairman, I don't

1 believe staffing discussions should be done in  
2 public. Those are matters --

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Just discuss the  
4 unions that ain't here.

5 MR. BATTISTA: That's all. Again, I  
6 listen to you, Commissioner.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I listen to you,  
8 too.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. Here's  
10 what we're going to do. Welcome to the union that  
11 can sign up to speak Thursday if they have an issue.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Are you going to  
13 let them know that, or are they going to find out on  
14 their own?

15 MR. BATTISTA: No, we'll let them  
16 know. I'll tell the union president myself.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Anything else from  
18 any Commissioners with that? Okay. A motion,  
19 fanny?

20 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Second.

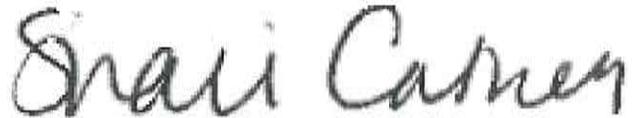
21 THE CLERK: All in favor?

22 (Whereupon the proceeding is then  
23 concluded at 5:40 p.m.)

24  
25

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

I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No.  
30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New  
Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein  
are from the notes taken by me of a Caucus Meeting  
of the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners,  
held on Tuesday, April 8, 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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