

HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RE:

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

O P E N S E S S I O N

Hudson County
Administration Building,
County Commissioners Chambers
567 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
Tuesday, April 22, 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. Commissioner Baselice.

3 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

5 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

9 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

13 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

15 Chairman Romano.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

17 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 1.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Before we start,

19 Commissioner Cifelli underwent a surgery. We hope

20 it went well, and you're in all our prayers.

21 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: The surgery

22 went well, but the patient didn't. I had a setback

23 last week, so I'm told I have to stay off my feet

24 for the next month.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: How good is that?

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Feel better.

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: My wife is
3 ready to shoot the doctor and then me.

4 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Keep you in
5 our prayers.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Keep you in our
7 prayers. Okay, Madam Clerk.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Hey, who's the
9 guy driving the car and who's the guy losing his
10 hearing now, Al?

11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: What?

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Exactly,
13 exactly, exactly. It's an old joke. Is it our
14 favorite doctor? No, it's one of our favorite.

15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: No, no, no.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's an old Al
17 Cifelli story, which I still tell. Forget him.

18 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 1.
19 Confirmation of appointment of Mark W. Kataryniak,
20 P.E as the Hudson County Engineer.

21 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Question.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Question, Billy.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So this

1 individual currently doesn't work for the County,
2 correct?

3 MR. ANTUN: Correct.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Was there anyone
5 within the county that would meet the qualifications
6 of this, and were they considered before you went
7 out to find somebody from another, from Mercer
8 County or whatever county, out of Judson County?

9 MR. ANTUN: I can't address that. I
10 don't think so. I wasn't part of the interview
11 process.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Were other
13 people interviewed?

14 MR. ANTUN: Again, I can't answer
15 that. I wasn't part of the --

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Who can answer.
17 Can anyone answer?

18 MR. ANTUN: I know Denise was here.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: She's on
20 vacation.

21 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, okay. Oh, Tom?
22 Okay. By the way, Mr. Chairman, the gentleman's
23 here in the audience if you need him.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm trying to go
25 through the process.

1 MR. ANTUN: No, no, no. I'm just
2 letting you know that he's here.

3 MR. MALAVASI: Good afternoon,
4 Commissioners. Yes, the position was advertised.
5 We received six or seven applications. We decided
6 to interview three. One interviewee was the
7 Assistant County Engineer. We did interview Joe
8 Glembocki. Out of the seven, we probably had three
9 that were qualified.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Was the
11 assistant interviewed? Was that one of the three?

12 MR. MALAVASI: He was interviewed,
13 yes. Wasn't fully interested in the job. Wasn't
14 fully interested in the job. Did it as kind of a
15 safety valve if nobody else applied.

16 MR. BATTISTA: I don't know if we
17 should discuss them.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, I'm
19 uncomfortable with it.

20 MR. MALAVASI: But you asked the
21 question.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, but it
23 doesn't mean it should be answered. Is it true?
24 You could say we interviewed three people. This
25 person was one of them. To then speculate on the

1 mindset of an individual that was interviewed, I
2 think is beyond the scope of my question.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Commissioner Walker
4 on board.

5 MR. MALAVASI: We interviewed three.
6 We interviewed Joe Glembocki, Mark Kataryniak, who's
7 currently in East Brunswick. He's here tonight if
8 you have any questions.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because, I mean,
10 your question -- your answer that you should have
11 given begs the question, which is, so if that
12 individual really wanted the position, would the
13 recommendation have been different? You kind of
14 opened up -- you opened the door. I'm not telling
15 you to answer it now, but, you know, you opened the
16 door up.

17 You know, we interviewed three people.
18 One was the assistant. The assistant really didn't
19 want the job. So, ergo, that's why we came to where
20 we are. So what if the assistant really wanted the
21 job now? I -- yeah, you went down a rabbit hole.

22 MR. MALAVASI: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And the third
24 individual that was interviewed, where were they
25 from?

1 MR. MALAVASI: He was an engineer and
2 architect who owned a private firm.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So he was not
4 currently in government employment.

5 MR. MALAVASI: He was not in
6 government.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. So the
8 gentleman that is on this resolution, how many, if
9 you can answer or you can answer, how many years in
10 public service does that individual currently have?

11 MR. MALAVASI: I will let him answer
12 it. Of course, if I don't have his resume.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: There's a resume
14 here. It's so many pages long that, in some worlds,
15 we think a five-page resume is impressive. In other
16 worlds, we wonder why anyone would put a resume
17 that's five pages long.

18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Well, it says
19 that he got his B.S. in 1990, so just extrapolate up
20 to now.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: A lot of B.S.,
22 right? I mean, that's a long time ago.

23 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: 35 years. And
24 it looks like most of the time he's in 35 years,
25 he's been in public governmental service.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. So is
2 that --

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: He actually
4 worked for a firm named O'Dea, but I wouldn't hold
5 that against him.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I wouldn't hold
7 that -- well, good. That gives me a reason to
8 abstain. Mark, so do you have 35 years in the
9 pension system?

10 MR. KATARYNIAK: No, I do not. I
11 have most -- about 25 years at that time was in
12 private consulting, working for government
13 contracts. I have about 10 years in the government
14 system.

15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah, looking
16 at the resume, that's -- I'm corrected in that it
17 was governmental service in the sense that it looks
18 like he worked for many of the firms that we do
19 business with as contract vendors. Birdsall was one
20 of them that we did business with. French and
21 Parrello. So there was a lot of -- a lot of the
22 firms, the private firms, were ones that I'm sure
23 have ample experience in governmental contracts.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Al.
25 Billy, anything else?

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, I mean, I
2 guess I would have a question again for Tom
3 Malavasi. Did those that were interviewed
4 provide -- what reference checks were done on those
5 that you interviewed? Obviously, the one who worked
6 here probably didn't need to do a reference check
7 because --

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Be careful how
9 we -- yeah, please, time out a second. Where is our
10 attorney? What questions are allowed to be asked?

11 MR. BATTISTA: I don't -- we're not
12 talking about the job.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Well, just let us
14 know because commissioners are looking.

15 MR. BATTISTA: Okay. We're not
16 talking about job performance of County employees.
17 I think what we're talking about is a legitimate
18 question.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. Thank
20 you.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.

22 MR. MALAVASI: Mark provided a number
23 of references. John Delutis and I, he knew some
24 people, I knew some. I checked three of them that
25 were on his list. John checked two. All spoke

1 highly. I asked someone else who I know who worked
2 with Mark, also spoke highly. So everything we
3 spoke, we spoke very highly of Mark.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And the
5 interviews were conducted by?

6 MR. MALAVASI: There were two
7 interviews. It was myself and John Delutis the
8 first time. Second time, it was John, Denise, Craig
9 Guy. And Abe managed to -- Abe was there as well.
10 Jenny Davis was there as well.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It was the
12 second interview. So all three had two interviews?
13 All three of those individuals?

14 MR. MALAVASI: No, just Mark.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So you and John
16 Delutis interviewed three people?

17 MR. MALAVASI: Correct.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And then the
19 group of five interviewed Mark.

20 MR. MALAVASI: Right.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. Mark, I
22 just have a question. So in your current -- well,
23 two questions. When, for the last 10 years, have
24 you been working on the governmental side?

25 MR. KATARYNIAK: The most recent 10

1 years?

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes. Yes.

3 MR. KATARYNIAK: I worked for Edison
4 Township, and I worked for Hopewell Township. I
5 stepped out of government --

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Hopewell is kind
7 of barely a township.

8 MR. KATARYNIAK: It's a fairly large
9 township. It's 50 square miles, but it's very
10 large.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: How much?
12 What's their annual capital budget?

13 MR. KATARYNIAK: Their annual capital
14 budget was about \$10 million.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What was
16 Edison's annual capital budget?

17 MR. KATARYNIAK: It was about, at
18 that time, at least \$75 million, \$80 million.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So, like I said,
20 Edison's much bigger than Hopewell.

21 MR. KATARYNIAK: Edison was much
22 bigger. Hopewell is doubling their size, thanks to
23 the third round of the Affordable Housing Service.
24 Quite an intense town. And I'm currently with the
25 Township of East Brunswick.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What's their
2 annual capital?

3 MR. KATARYNIAK: Their annual capital
4 budget is about \$30 million.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: My last question
6 is, so what caused you to transition out of the
7 private world into the public world?

8 MR. KATARYNIAK: Back in 2015, at
9 that time, I was an owner with the firm I had been
10 employed with. And the ownership was going into
11 compression. There was a transition of ownership.
12 And I decided that I would step back out of
13 consulting and go back to where I started in
14 government. When I was an intern, I worked for the
15 city of Bayonne. And I decided to go back to
16 government with the opportunity of Edison.

17 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: I liked you,
18 Mark.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That was better to
20 get out of Bayonne, right?

21 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Was Dennis
22 Collins the mayor?

23 MR. KATARYNIAK: Dennis Collins was
24 mayor when I worked for Cameron Kowalski.

25 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: There you go.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So what was that
2 firm that you were with in 2015?

3 MR. KATARYNIAK: That was French and
4 Parrello.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All right.
6 Those are all my questions at this time.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

8 MR. KATARYNIAK: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We're going to
10 assume that Tom Malavasi is stepping into retirement
11 soon, correct?

12 MR. MALAVASI: We'll talk about it
13 when the time comes.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead. Next.

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

17 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.
18 Kopacz.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Yraida.

20 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 3.
21 Resolution authorizing for submission of grant
22 application and accepting grant funds, if awarded,
23 from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic
24 Safety for the FY2026 Hudson County Safe Communities
25 Grant and authorization to subcontract with the

1 Jersey City Medical Center to administer said grant,
2 if awarded, \$81,040.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and
4 Rodriguez.

5 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 4.
6 Resolution amending Resolution No. 482-8-2021 to
7 Reprogram PY2021 Community Development Block Grant
8 Funding awarded to the Waterfront Project, Inc.,
9 July 1, 2021 through September 1, 2028, \$13,997.59.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.
11 Board as a whole.

12 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 5.
13 Approve Purchasing Agent's Award purchases made
14 under State Contracts.

15 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Sponsor.

16 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second.

17 THE CLERK: Who was that?

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: It was Rodriguez
19 and Walker.

20 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 6.
21 Purchases made under the Educational Service
22 Commission of New Jersey Pricing System, formerly
23 known as the Middlesex Regional Educational Service
24 Commission.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 7?
2 Purchase made under the Union County Cooperative
3 Pricing System.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

5 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 8.
6 Purchasing made under Bergen County Cooperative
7 Pricing System.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Question.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Question.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I know this is
12 the -- these are the trucks. So what would they do?
13 What would we -- did you confirm the age of the
14 trucks that these are replacing. So it says '92 and
15 '94, justification need to replace two dump trucks
16 1992, 1994, no longer roadworthy due to obsolete
17 parts and components as result. So they're both out
18 of service.

19 MR. SAX: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. So I
21 answered my own question.

22 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 9.
23 Purchases made under the Pascack (sic.) Valley
24 Sewerage Commission North Jersey Wastewater
25 Cooperative Pricing System.

1 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Sponsor.

2 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Just go back to No.
4 9 or No. 8 rather. Volvo? No American trucks
5 equitable like GMC and stuff with those dump trucks?
6 Was it -- was the pricing the reason? I just
7 wondered. If you can get me and answer for Thursday
8 whether it could be GMC or Ford?

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Probably, the
10 truck is probably fabricated in the U.S. even though
11 it's a Swedish company. I mean we'll have to
12 consult the White House about what the tariffs are,
13 right?

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Right. Just give
15 me that answer for Thursday, Ron. I mean obviously
16 if it's a better price, then I understand but just
17 curious. Usually all the trucks that we have are
18 GM, GM or Ford, to see a Volvo truck is like if that
19 doesn't stick out like a sore thumb, so Thursday?
20 Thank you. Continue.

21 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 10.
22 Approved Purchasing Agent's awards.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Question.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Question, Billy.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So we discussed
2 this a little bit in committee. So this is called a
3 set-aside so --

4 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Which one,
5 Bill?

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No.10. So
7 various. So these are set-asides. As set-asides,
8 what is your -- what is the process for determining
9 who you seek prices from? Who's from Purchasing?

10 DIRECTOR WALKER: Hi, Commissioner.
11 I just want to state for my department, the Office
12 of Business Opportunity, when we deem a bid eligible
13 for set-aside, we do identify at least two local
14 businesses, and in this case we identify three, and
15 two of them did bid, and Purchasing can take it from
16 there.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So -- so, okay.
18 So as a set-aside you identified three Hudson County
19 vendors to -- to seek bids from?

20 DIRECTOR WALKER: Total, we
21 identified eight businesses. Out of those
22 businesses, three of them were local businesses.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can you provide
24 us a list of the eight?

25 DIRECTOR WALKER: Yeah.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Is that you or
2 Purchasing? I would let Harold and Harold's up.

3 MR. ANTUN: So they provide a list,
4 then Harold can answer the rest.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So they provide
6 a list of eight. Then what happens? Do they reach
7 out to those eight, and who else do they reach out
8 to to get prices?

9 MR. ANTUN: No, no, no, Commissioner.
10 The bid -- the bid is advertised as a set-aside.
11 Anyone that meets the criteria can submit a bid.
12 It's not -- it's not limited to those eight or --

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So in my world a
14 set-aside is limited to people, as opposed to
15 limited -- as opposed to for the world. It's why
16 it's called a set-aside.

17 MR. ANTUN: Yes. But it's set-aside
18 for those that are eligible to submit.

19 MR. BATTISTA: It's not a geographic
20 set-aside.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So what kind of
22 set-aside? Is it -- is it a minority women business
23 enterprise? I don't know what it is. Which is it?
24 Because it doesn't -- doesn't say that here.

25 MR. ANTUN: Okay.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So I know that
2 gentleman had his hands up.

3 MR. SHOWERS: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So what type of
5 set-aside was this janitorial set-aside limited to?
6 What kind of company?

7 MR. SHOWERS: Hello, Commissioner.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes, how are you
9 doing?

10 MR. SHOWERS: Good. Yes. The
11 set-aside is set aside for State-certified small
12 minority, women-owned and veteran-owned businesses.
13 It is for anyone within the state. The -- in order
14 for us to declare it a set-aside bid, the Office of
15 Business Opportunity first has to see if there are
16 ample enough vendors within Hudson County who can
17 participate. We can't force them to participate.
18 We are notified that they are eligible, and we
19 advertise as such. And yes, the Office of business
20 Opportunity notifies them that the opportunity is
21 available for them to participate if they so wish.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So what -- so
23 what affirmative steps do we do? So after a bid
24 like this is done, right, in my world we would check
25 it what items did the local MWBEs or SBES or VBES

1 bid on, what was the result of those bids that they
2 went after? And those that didn't bid at all, we
3 would ascertain why they didn't bid. So four of
4 them or five of them didn't put a bid in. Is there
5 any reason why you didn't bid? I don't have the
6 items. As simple as that.

7 MR. SHOWERS: Sir, it's their
8 prerogative to bid if they wish to.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Sir, sir, we had
10 a prior speaker before you who manages an office
11 who's responsible to identify those businesses.
12 That office is the office that I would assume would
13 undertake the follow-up that I just outlined. I
14 didn't ask whether you did that.

15 MR. SHOWERS: Understood.
16 Understood.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That as a
18 general question.

19 MR. SHOWERS: My apologies.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'll let
21 ShaRonda come up.

22 DIRECTOR WALKER: Commissioner, we do
23 follow up with businesses that don't bid, and I can
24 get a reason as to why the ones that we identified
25 did not.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So you do that?
2 I mean we should have that. Like that should be
3 backup, and if we need to do things in order for
4 those entities to be able to -- to bid, then we
5 should take affirmative steps to do that. For
6 instance, if the amount required is so substantial
7 that they normally would not have the ability to do
8 it because they don't have that level of cash flow,
9 then we would figure out how does our EDC or banks
10 provide them with -- with working capital in order
11 to be able to bid.

12 So that's useful information that we
13 should -- we should get our hands on because when
14 we've got almost a half a million dollars of set
15 aside to MWBEs, SBEs and VBEs and less than 10
16 percent goes to Hudson County, I think we need to do
17 more work. I'm not -- I'm not impressed with
18 getting 10 percent of a set-aside. I like to get
19 50-percent of a set-aside not 10 percent of a
20 set-aside.

21 So I think that especially with
22 janitorial, right? These are -- these are
23 janitorial supplies. Maybe some of these vendors
24 should find a way to start carrying the items that
25 we need \$50,000, \$40,000 is a significant amount of

1 purchases. So I would recommend that, you know, do
2 that. Come back to us. Maybe even hold a webinar
3 or an event for them and others to figure out how we
4 can get more of them to go after putting in bids or
5 proposals to get some of this.

6 DIRECTOR WALKER: We do take that
7 information and build our programming around it, but
8 going forward, we can send that data to Purchasing
9 as well, so it's available to you.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. I mean I
11 think we have to figure it out, like it's not --
12 it's not good what we can only get 10 percent of a
13 set-aside. Well, we get 10 percent of a general,
14 that's pretty good. Ten percent of a set-aside,
15 that's over.

16 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 11.
17 Resolution awarding Professional Services Contract
18 Fair and Open to Dresdner Robin Environmental
19 Management Inc. Professional Environmental
20 Engineering Services for "Permitting for Lincoln
21 Park Lake Dredging," \$94,680.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I mean, I'll
23 sponsor. I've got questions too.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right.
25 Sponsored by O'Dea. Second by -- was that Yraida?

1 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I think it was
2 Carrie.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Carrie.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So what baffles
5 my mind a little bit is the fact that a vendor who
6 has 15 or 20 percent, 20 percent less hours, right?
7 Has a 50 percent higher price can anyone explain
8 that? I guess Mr. Malavasi.

9 So you have three firms. One says it
10 takes 297 hours. One says it says 367 hours. One
11 is 774 hours. Yet the one with the -- with the
12 least amount of hours is the second highest price.

13 MR. MALAVASI: I'm at a bit of a
14 disadvantage. I don't like memo with me since my
15 office is closed right now, but in the variability
16 of the pricing, there were some who had quite a
17 bit -- quite a bit of subcontracting work. I think
18 some did work themselves.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So did what, I'm
20 sorry?

21 MR. MALAVASI: They didn't work
22 themselves. For example, Paul Sarkozy (ph.) had way
23 more hours but only \$3,000 in subcontracting.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay.

25 MR. MALAVASI: So Dresdner Robin had

1 had -- had more hours than the second bidder, but
2 only had \$20,000 in subs.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So one had
4 20,000 more in some work, but still had 20 percent
5 less hours?

6 MR. MALAVASI: Right.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Still. It still
8 doesn't -- it's 28,000 more, but the difference
9 still doesn't seem to make sense to me. That
10 substantial of a difference in cost still doesn't
11 make sense to me.

12 MR. MALAVASI: I don't have all
13 the --

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: One was like it
15 like if CME was like a 105,000, and Dresdner Robins
16 was 94,000, I'd be like, all right, based on hours
17 this is has more but the outside expenses is 28 more
18 it would have made a lot more sense to me.

19 MR. MALAVASI: Just as opposed to
20 some of our other -- our other on-call contracts,
21 the environmental consultants use their own billing
22 rates. So everybody can use whatever billing rates
23 they want. So it is possible, and if you need that
24 analysis I can dig that up.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. I mean,

1 yeah. A hundred percent, would be curious to see if
2 at the end of the day CME's hourly billing rate is
3 25-percent greater than Dresdner Robins for the same
4 personnel. Yeah, I would love to see that sure
5 because then I'll call CME and say, I just -- if you
6 can't get competitive with your hourly rates, you
7 might not want to spend time trying to put bids in
8 anymore. So yeah, I would -- I would love to see
9 that because it's just kind of -- it's pretty
10 simple. I mean you're dredging a -- you're dredging
11 a lake.

12 MR. MALAVASI: It's the part -- this
13 is not the work itself.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: This is the
15 design. I'm just saying it's -- it's something that
16 these firms have either done and have experience
17 doing or don't, right?

18 MR. MALAVASI: I'll get you some of
19 the hours.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Just obtaining
21 permits, right? Just obtaining permits, one is
22 22,000 versus 13; 18 versus four. Just that alone
23 CME is at 40,000; Dresdner Robins at 17,000. That's
24 a huge difference is that hours, or is that it just
25 one knows how to get a permit a lot easier than

1 another. I mean, look, I'll do my own Intel to try
2 to understand that a little. Yeah, if you could
3 break me the hourly rates that would be very
4 helpful.

5 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 12.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Excuse me, Tom.
7 What are you going to do? Empty the whole lake?
8 Does that mean anything found there belongs to
9 Billy, or if there's any buried treasure?

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Hope they don't
11 find anything.

12 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, this is to
13 obtain the permits. This is not --

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I knew the
15 project is going to cost a lot more than \$97,000.

16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'm just
17 curious. How many acres is the Lincoln Park Lake
18 comprised?

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Kevin Wong
20 should know. He is an expert at that stuff. You've
21 got a front and back.

22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah, I
23 mean --

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's a front and
25 then you've got one of the back.

1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: There's one
2 over on the western side. All right.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, I assume
4 it's both.

5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah. I'm
6 just curious as to the volume of it besides.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Is this both
8 Lincoln Park East and West?

9 MR. WONG: I guess it is both east
10 and west.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Could you get us
12 what the area of it is?

13 MR. WONG: Sure. Probably about a
14 little over two acres for both.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And Tommy, I
16 mean you spoke earlier and answered the question no
17 one asked you, but you did it again. You said you
18 already have an estimate to dredge something that
19 hasn't been designed yet. It's like telling me how
20 much it is going to cost to build a building in the
21 architect hasn't designed the building yet.

22 MR. MALAVASI: I mean my estimate was
23 premature because you're absolutely right.

24 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 12.
25 Resolution approving Addition No. 3 to a Fair and

1 Open Professional Services Contract with French and
2 Parrello Associates for Professional Environmental
3 Engineering Services "Preparation of a Preliminary
4 Assessment Report at James J. Braddock Park,"
5 \$34,300.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Bobby and Carrie.

7 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 13.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So a quick
9 question on these. How does someone determined that
10 this additional work or this work was indeed
11 additional and not part of what was originally
12 thought or scoped? Because obviously you're bidding
13 these, or you get prices on these, and if it turns
14 out that if I was somebody else, I would have said,
15 Yeah, you had to do these two things anyway, and had
16 I known that my bid would have been lower than the,
17 or you know, or if you added this to the other cost
18 my bid, would have been lower than that.

19 MR. MALAVASI: The initial contract
20 to the consultant was to satisfy the requirements of
21 Green Acres for funding that we received. They did
22 some studies. They did some test pits. They
23 determined what's under the ground. Sadly,
24 sometimes these things blossom into -- well, we
25 found this, Green Acres, do more testing. We found

1 this, more testing. So it's -- it's not something
2 that they could have predicted. It's something they
3 didn't know until they -- they got in the ground.

4 A former employer of mine used to say
5 doing a ground hole, if I'm doing work like this,
6 it's like throwing water in a sponge. It just
7 absorbs money, but it's either things we need to do
8 to satisfy the money we got from Green Acres.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It sure -- it
10 sure seems to go -- they seem to every time they
11 seem to get a contract, they always seem to have a
12 significant increase in the contract that they get.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 13.
15 Resolution authorizing Year 4 of a Fair and Open
16 Competitive Contract to Civitas, LLC for the
17 Community Development Block Grant Cares Act, Home
18 Investment Partnership Program, Preparation of the
19 Home American Rescue Plan Allocation Plan and Home
20 ARP Policies, May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026 -
21 \$24,400.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Romano.
23 Just the correction, it's Cinitas.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Are they paid a
25 flat amount or they paid on an hourly basis?

1 DIRECTOR TOON: Good afternoon,
2 Commissioners. Cinitas paid based on the different
3 projects that they complete. It's generally I mean
4 out the payment is primarily hourly. It's not like
5 a flat amount.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Do they ever go
7 over their budget? I mean there's a lot of -- a lot
8 of stuff going on in Washington with a lot of these
9 programs that may require them to be more diligent
10 and put more time into things.

11 DIRECTOR TOON: Actually,
12 Commissioner, there -- they actually don't deal with
13 our Washington matters. What they do is they help
14 us with the -- with let's say underwriting analysis.
15 If we're looking at an affordable housing project,
16 they conduct those kinds -- they provide technical
17 assistance for things that we're required to comply
18 with as far as the regulations are concerned.

19 And let me not misspeak because they may
20 it may be -- it may not be hourly and maybe based on
21 the projects. I can clarify that, but they never go
22 over it. In fact, the contract is pretty small.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You know, it's
24 very small based on the time period. All right.
25 That's it.

1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 14.
2 Resolution amending Resolution No. 718-11-2024 to
3 Approve Addition No. 2 to a contract with Hudson
4 Community Enterprises, Inc., a Sheltered Workshop,
5 for the Shredding of Documents for various County
6 Departments, \$10,000.

7 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second.

9 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 15.
10 Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement
11 between the Township of North Bergen and the County
12 of Hudson for the Maintenance of Township-owned
13 Traffic Signals, April 1, 2025 through March 31,
14 2027; \$30,000.00 per year; \$60,000 two-year total.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Baselice and
16 Rodriguez.

17 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 16.
18 Resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding
19 between the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office and
20 RWJ Barnabas, Jersey City Medical Center and the
21 Jersey City Police Department to establish Joint
22 Participation in the ARRIVE Together Program to
23 enhance and support response to Critical Incident
24 Behavioral Health Crisis Calls, No Cost.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Is there -- is
2 there a role the Prosecutors play of this, as
3 opposed to, I guess, the JCPD?

4 MR. SALZER: Critical instance where
5 like SWAT team is involved. So there are two SWAT
6 teams that respond to various incidents in Hudson
7 County. One is the Jersey Police Department ESU.
8 The other one is Hudson County Regional SWAT Team.
9 This memorandum of understanding relates to mental
10 health response for both JCPD and regional SWAT.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Adam, with the
12 Sheriffs.

13 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I was going
14 to ask the same question about the Sheriffs.

15 MR. SALZER: They're not in as
16 relates to the directive that was in place
17 previously, they're not -- they don't respond to the
18 barricaded or hostage situations within the County.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So what do they
20 do as it relates to Arrive Together, in the City of
21 Bayonne. Because there's a pilot program that the
22 Sheriff's Office is running for Arrive Together.
23 How does that differ?

24 MR. SALZER: It's two different
25 things. The critical incident model relates

1 specifically to the critical incidents that involve
2 a barricaded person with a mental health crisis. So
3 the providers that will be responding as part of
4 this are specifically to assist negotiators and the
5 SWAT team or ESU in such situations. So it's a
6 different -- it's under Arrive, but it's a
7 different -- different --

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's a higher
9 level or more?

10 MR. SALZER: It's just a different --
11 it's just a different thing. So like the people
12 that would respond to an incident like the pilot
13 program you were referring to, they're specific to
14 other types of incidents. These people that are
15 going to be responding are specific to assist in
16 those critical incidents.

17 So let's say for example Arrive in the
18 Bayonne pilot program is responding to one thing,
19 and another incident comes in, a critical incident.
20 These people are specific to that critical incident.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here's the
22 challenge right now this is only with the City of
23 Jersey City. So how would they -- how would they do
24 this if an incident was of the category you just
25 described occurred in Bayonne?

1 MR. SALZER: No, that's not accurate,
2 Commissioner. It is specific for the regional SWAT
3 team which responds in Bayonne and throughout the
4 rest of the County and Jersey City. So it's --
5 there's somebody on-call to handle these critical
6 incidents throughout the County.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So is Jersey
8 City, Jersey City; and then the Prosecutor the other
9 cities?

10 MR. SALZER: In these -- in these
11 type of incidents, yes, exactly.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So Jersey City
13 will handle their own with their own SWAT team?

14 MR. SALZER: Correct.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And any other
16 city within Hudson County that has that kind of
17 it -- that level of incident, the County
18 Prosecutors' SWAT unit will be the one that
19 responds?

20 MR. SALZER: Correct. And the mental
21 health professional responsible.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The mental
23 health person from Barnabas responsible?

24 MR. SALZER: Correct.

25 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Is there any

1 I guess bringing together of the Sheriffs, with the
2 Prosecutors, with the Jersey City? Because
3 remember, the Sheriff's, the Prosecutor's SWAT team
4 is an offshoot of the original Sheriff's SWAT team.

5 MR. SALZER: Yeah.

6 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: So do they
7 work together at all?

8 MR. SALZER: Not in this particular
9 instance. It relates, again, to these critical
10 instances where there's directive response to, and
11 as I said the only certain --

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Somebody holds
13 someone hostage. There's a mental health issue.
14 Somebody's being held hostage.

15 MR. SALZER: Exactly.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Obviously,
17 that's not the Sheriff's office, and someone from
18 the hospital going to the -- they're knocking on the
19 door, right? I got that. This is where in that
20 instance you have a SWAT team come. SWAT team has a
21 negotiator. If it's in Jersey City, Jersey City has
22 their team and their negotiator.

23 MR. SALZER: Correct.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Any other of the
25 11 municipalities that the Prosecutor's SWAT team

1 would be the response?

2 MR. SALZER: Correct. Exactly.

3 THE CLERK: Okay. I will now turn it
4 over to the Administration. I will use the prior
5 sponsors for the ordinances.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I just have one
7 question. Back to Adam, then in that incident, in
8 that same example you gave, then in those, and I've
9 just used a hostage as an example, in those non-SWAT
10 team instances, currently the Sheriff is in Bayonne?

11 MR. SALZER: Correct.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And there's
13 certainly, one would argue a need for the other ten
14 towns since, Jersey City, I believe has a unit to
15 respond to the incidents that now the Sheriff does
16 in Bayonne?

17 MR. SALZER: I'm sorry?

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: The protocol. He
19 means the protocol. The protocol is Jersey City PD.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So Jersey City
21 PD responds to both, those in this MOU?

22 MR. SALZER: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Which in every
24 other town the Prosecutor will now -- will respond
25 to?

1 MR. SALZER: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: As well as those
3 not in this category.

4 MR. SALZER: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Which currently
6 in my belief, Jersey City responds to recently only
7 in the last few months, and the Bayonne through the
8 Sheriff responds.

9 MR. SALZER: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: There's ten
11 other towns that have neither in that second
12 example.

13 MR. SALZER: I understand. I
14 understand you. We are -- we're actually -- and
15 that's separate from the critical, and so we're
16 working with the Jersey City Medical Center to
17 expand that program to the rest of the County as we
18 see it. So we hope to have that in due course. Or
19 the Sheriff could do that because he's already doing
20 it.

21 THE CLERK: Okay. Yes. I will now
22 turn to the Administration. I will use the prior
23 sponsors for the ordinances to be considered for
24 adoption.

25 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I have one

1 item for consideration. It is a resolution to
2 support an application that will be filed by the
3 City of Union City to replace the pedestrian bridge.

4 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: I'll sponsor
5 that.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I'll second that.
7 That's number what?

8 THE CLERK: That is No. 17.

9 MR. ANTUN: That's all that I have,
10 Mr. Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay.

12 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, I have one
13 additional one.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Which will be Resolution
16 No. 18, which I'll read by title. Resolution urging
17 to reroute non-essential helicopter traffic from
18 flying above Hudson County residential neighborhoods
19 and requiring such flights to utilize routes that
20 take them over bodies of water.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Sponsor.

22 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I just have three
24 things.

25 THE CLERK: Who are the sponsors in

1 the second one?

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Walker.

3 I've got requests for the next for the meeting

4 Thursday. I would like somebody from Junior

5 Maldonado's office, the Clerk, to explain this

6 fouled up letter that was sent out.

7 ,Okay? There's a letter that was sent to all voters

8 that they were being -- it could be. If they could

9 explain and tell us what happened. Who's on?

10 Somebody tell us that. Okay. To have Junior come

11 here then Thursday unless there's someone with their

12 hand raised.

13 MS. DAVIS: Just a point of info, my

14 office has asked for established protocol from the

15 Clerk's office, which I am waiting for still that

16 reviews and allows for more people to be involved in

17 the reviewing process because we were not in the

18 reviewing process for what went out.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Let's have Junior

20 here for this meeting so he can explain to the

21 board.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The only good

23 thing is he didn't mail five of them to my house.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: The next thing is

25 there --

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Only one was
2 mailed.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I think Yraida was
4 a second on that last one Jerry said. Is there a
5 Sheriff's supervisor here? Okay. Could you please
6 tell a supervisor for the Thursday's meeting, the
7 Directors should not be pushed to the back. The
8 front rows should be for the Directors and the
9 County staff. So I'd like to have the supervisor
10 when they get here early to ensure that that people
11 that are here to speak or to try to film are not
12 sitting in the first row, the first two rows. That
13 should be for our directors. They seem to be pushed
14 to the back the last couple.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What about here?
16 It says reserved for press.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah, that's fine.
18 Over there. Wherever it's reserved for the press,
19 okay? And the third thing is, who's on from the
20 Schools of Technology? Who is determined to be our
21 representative? At our Board of Estimate meeting
22 they said someone to be appointed.

23 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, someone was, Mr.
24 Chairman, but they weren't available but somebody
25 else was.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Here's the
2 question. I have someone that put in --

3 MR. ANTUN: I don't know. I don't
4 know if they can identify themselves.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Well, I have
6 someone who put in for an application for charity, a
7 game in one of their gyms and has been waiting three
8 weeks for a response. So they could -- if they
9 can't get it, they'd have to go somewhere else.
10 Could you please for Thursday have someone here so
11 we can tell them to at least give those a group.
12 It's a group that doesn't --

13 MR. ANTUN: If someone is on from the
14 Schools of Technology, can you please raise your
15 hand?

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's Andrew
17 Conti, isn't it?

18 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Andrew.

20 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: I was just going
21 to ask that since the sign there for the press has
22 reserved, maybe there could be some signs put on the
23 other side for the Directors, reserved for
24 Directors. It makes it a lot easier when someone
25 sees that on the seat and won't sit there.

1 MR. ANTUN: Okay. Well, hold on a
2 second. That's not a sign. That is a dedication
3 that the Board made.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Well, we'd
5 like a sign.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It was done. It
7 was done in recognition of the fact that members of
8 the press sit there. So all he's saying is do one
9 that says Directors for those over there.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Piece of paper.
12 Hey, piece of paper, print County Directors and
13 stick it on the chairs.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And Junior
15 Maldonado to the meeting. Yes, go ahead, Yraida.

16 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Up to
17 the point that everybody's bringing that up, I was
18 thinking, yes, I feel personally that this side
19 supposed to be only Directors, no mix with nobody
20 from outside, and that side was supposed to be
21 everybody else that come from outside. That is my
22 personal opinion. I was thinking to bring that up
23 because it seems to be like it's been too much going
24 on lately people from outside, you don't know who
25 they are, sitting close to the directors. So I

1 think the Directors supposed to be there, and then
2 the other side the public.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Ralph.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Tape them to the
5 chairs. Just tape it to the chair. And then you
6 could put outsiders -- oh, no. That wouldn't be
7 politically correct, right? I'm sorry. I just
8 misspoke.

9 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Well,
10 they're from outside so.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I don't call
12 them outsiders. They're our residents. They're our
13 constituents.

14 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: They're
15 not the directors.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: They're
17 constituents.

18 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: You want
19 to call them constituents?

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's better.
21 That's better. When we deal with a guy like Donald
22 Trump who's trying to deport so many people, I would
23 not want to use the term "outsider" in reference to
24 anyone.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I think someone was

1 trying to raise their hand from the Board of
2 Elections but I don't know. Okay. Go ahead.

3 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Motion to
4 close.

5 THE CLERK: All in favor? We are
6 adjourned.

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

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

I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No.
30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New
Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein
are from the notes taken by me of a Caucus Meeting
of the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners,
held on Tuesday, April 22, 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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