

HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RE:

REGULAR 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,
Commissioners Chambers
567 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
Thursday, June 12, 2025
4:30 p.m.

B E F O R E:

CERTIFIED COPY

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

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

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ., Board Counsel
ALBERICO DEPIERRO, ESQ., Hudson County Counsel
ABRAHAM ANTUN, County Administrator
CAROL JEAN DOYLE, County Commissioner Clerk
Reported by: Shari Cathey, CCR, RPR

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Aponte-
2 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 by
15 Zoom.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

17 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Here.

18 THE CLERK: And Chairman Romano.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

20 THE CLERK: Please stand to salute
21 the flag.

22 (Flag Salute.)

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Before we sit,
24 please, can we have a moment of silence for one of
25 our outstanding corrections officers who served over

1 30 years and suddenly passed away. That's Cecelia
2 Williams. And to our dear friend who has supplied
3 this Board with food on many occasions and just
4 someone that everybody loved Cecelia.

5 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Just would like
6 to add Hudson County Sheriff Officer Justin Rivera.
7 I had the opportunity to meet Justin when he was in
8 the eighth grade at Woodrow Wilkins School when I
9 was the assistant principal there. And I felt a
10 very strong relationship. Never met a more
11 disciplined, polished class of young man.

12 (Moment of Silence.)

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Amen. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Madam Clerk, the
15 first thing we'll do is we'll do CASA.

16 THE CLERK: We have a proclamation to
17 honor and commend Bev Savage on his retirement.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Her retirement.

19 THE CLERK: Pardon me?

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Her retirement.

21 THE CLERK: No, this is an error.

22 Whereas, Bev Savage has served with unrivaled
23 dedication, passion, and purpose as the Executive
24 Director of Court Appointed Special Advocates CASA
25 of Hudson County; and

1 Whereas, throughout her distinguished
2 years of service, Bev Savage has worked tirelessly
3 to ensure that children in foster care across Hudson
4 County are seen, heard, and supported through some
5 of the most vulnerable and formative moments of
6 their lives; and

7 Whereas, under Bev's exceptional
8 leadership, CASA of Hudson County has expanded its
9 reach, strengthened vital community partnerships,
10 and steadfastly held its mission to ensure that
11 every child who needed an advocate had one, a
12 powerful statement to Bev's strategic vision and
13 deep commitment to equity and justice.

14 Whereas, Beth's tireless advocacy,
15 integrity, and compassion have inspired generations
16 of volunteers, board leaders, and community
17 partners, leaving a lasting legacy that will
18 continue to uplift and protect children and families
19 for years to come; and

20 Whereas, Beth Savage embarks upon a
21 well-earned retirement, her indelible contributions
22 to our community will not be forgotten, and her
23 leadership will continue to resonate within the work
24 and spirit of CASA and beyond.

25 Now therefore, be it proclaimed by the

1 Hudson County Board of Commissioners that this Board
2 does hereby commend and thank Bev Savage for her
3 service, leadership, and enduring commitment to the
4 children and families of Hudson County.

5 We honor her dedication and extend our
6 heartfelt wishes for joy, fulfillment, and continued
7 inspiration in her next chapter of life. I, Carol
8 Jean Doyle, Clerk of the Board of County
9 Commissioners of the County of Hudson in the State
10 of New Jersey, do hereby certify the above
11 proclamation and has been authorized and sponsored
12 by Chairman Anthony L. Romano, Jr.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second by the
14 Board, and then ask any Commissioner to comment.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner
16 Aponte-Lipski.

17 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

19 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

21 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

23 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

25 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

4 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

6 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. Make that
9 board as a whole. I guess we all know, Bill, you
10 want to say something about that? Come on up, Beth,
11 would you say a few words? Like over there, the
12 mic.

13 MS. SAVAGE: Thank you very much for
14 this honor. I loved working for CASA and helping
15 kids in foster care. It was my life. And while the
16 work was very, very difficult, the situations were
17 very challenging, the kids faced heartbreaking
18 circumstances, they were always wonderful kids.

19 And there are so many wonderful kids in
20 Hudson County, as you know. I think I was just
21 sharing with Commissioner Walker, you know, he knows
22 many of the families and many of the people involved
23 in the system, but we can't talk about that because
24 confidentiality -- confidentiality is very
25 important. But there are many, many brave young

1 kids here and many wonderful volunteers who are
2 helping them.

3 I did this for 20 years. I worked
4 alongside community development, first with Susan
5 Mearns back in 2005, and now continue with Darice
6 Toon. And the County has been very good to CASA.
7 Every single year we have been funded, and it's made
8 a big, big difference. So I want to thank you for
9 your support and for your continuing good work,
10 because, boy, there are lots of challenges out
11 there. Thank you so much for this honor.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Come up
13 for a photo. Come up for a photo with the
14 Commission.

15 (Photo Opportunity.)

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Madam
17 Clerk.

18 THE CLERK: Adequate notice of this
19 meeting has been provided as follows: Posting
20 notice of Resolution 8-01-2025 on the County
21 Commissioner's Bulletin Board, First Floor,
22 Administration Building Annex, Jersey City, New
23 Jersey.

24 Copies of the above mentioned resolution
25 have been sent to the County Clerk and the editors

1 of the Kearny Observer and the Star Ledger.

2 May I have a motion to approve the minutes
3 of the Caucus Meeting of May 6, 2025, Closed
4 Sessions, there were three of them, May 6, 2025;
5 Regular Meeting of May 8, 2025, the Caucus Meeting
6 of May 20, 2025, and the Regular Meeting of May 22,
7 2025.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and Cedeño.
9 Also, before we proceed, Madam Clerk, the resolution
10 with regards to the training center is being held, I
11 guess. Does anybody know about that? What number
12 is that one? Is that that Joe Pascrell?

13 THE CLERK: I think that's being
14 presented at an event.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Oh, okay. Okay, go
16 ahead. Continue that.

17 THE CLERK: You're welcome.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I need, I'm
19 sorry, Commissioner. Do you know when that event is?
20 I think having worked on the late congressman's
21 first election for mayor of Paterson, I would
22 probably like to go to the event.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Do you know when
24 that is, Jenny?

25 MS. DAVIS: I'm looking. No, the

1 ceremony renaming the training center in honor of
2 late Congressman Pascrell.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay, thank you.
4 Just make sure you let us know.

5 MS. DAVIS: Yeah, when they pick the
6 date, which is wait till the family all coordinate.
7 That's going to take a little while, but yeah, yeah.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Madam Clerk.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Aponte
10 Lipski, this is on the minutes.

11 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

13 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

15 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Al.

18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

20 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

24 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

1 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

4 THE CLERK: The next order of
5 business is additional discussion on today's agenda,
6 and I turn it over to our County Administrator, Abe.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Abe.

8 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
9 I have one resolution for the Board's consideration.

10 It's a resolution urging the State legislature and
11 Governor to appropriate in the State of New Jersey's
12 Fiscal Year 2026 Budget State aid to the town of
13 Secaucus to offset the increase of County taxes.

14 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Motion.

15 THE CLERK: I need a sponsor. I need
16 a sponsor.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I would move it.
18 I'm out of time. Defer. We'll defer to Al.
19 Secaucus to Al and Bob. A little slow on the switch
20 there.

21 THE CLERK: Okay, that will be.

22 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Go ahead.
23 I'd like to thank the County Executive and the Board
24 as representing part of Secaucus. This hopefully
25 will help.

1 THE CLERK: That's Resolution 21.
2 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

3 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

7 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

11 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

15 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

17 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

20 MR. ANTUN: That's all the items that
21 I have, Mr. Chairman.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

23 THE CLERK: This resolution is -- I
24 have a resolution. Resolution No. 22. It's
25 supporting New Jersey State Bill No. S-3302, banning

1 employees from holding mandatory captive audience
2 meetings for their workers.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea-Lipski.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner
5 Aponte-Lipski.

6 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

8 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

10 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes. I don't
13 want to be captive of any audience. Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

15 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And that's what
18 the folks in the audience often say when you talk
19 for a little too long. I vote aye.

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: You ought to
21 know about people who talk too long.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You got me beat
23 lately.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

25 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

2 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: According to the policy
6 set by the Board of County Commissioners, members of
7 the public are asked to limit their comments to five
8 minutes when discussing agenda items and three
9 minutes at the conclusion of the meeting for persons
10 who submitted a written request to discuss matters
11 of public interest.

12 At this time, the public may address the
13 board on any item on the agenda only. Please keep
14 your comments limited to five minutes. Are there
15 any speakers on the agenda items only?

16 MR. BLOOMBERG: Good afternoon, Mr.
17 Chairman, Commissioners. Just had a quick question
18 regarding -- oh, apologies. Mark Bloomberg from
19 West New York. It's been a while since I've done
20 this. I just had a question regarding Resolution
21 No. 9, and a follow-up administrative question
22 related to it. Apologies. You asked me if I had
23 anything about Braddock Park.

24 So I was just curious. So No. 9 is a
25 grant from 2023, for half a million dollars. I was

1 just curious what safety improvements are and if
2 this money has been spent already. So that's the
3 meat of the question. The follow-up administrative
4 is I'm just kind of curious why the entire meeting
5 agenda, inclusive of the entirety of these
6 resolutions, isn't made available after these
7 meetings.

8 So that if a member of the public, after
9 the meeting is over, rather than seeing the two or
10 three line bullet item, could actually see the
11 three-page resolution for all of these items in
12 their entirety, just to create more transparency.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So go ahead, answer
14 that.

15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So posted on
16 the agenda is posted, but I think what the speaker
17 is asking is if hypothetically, there's 30
18 resolutions for proposed adoption on the agenda, but
19 may -- 28 maybe get approved because maybe one or
20 two were tabled or maybe some were negative votes or
21 some may be modified. Is the speaker looking for
22 after the meeting, do we post the final approved
23 resolutions in their final form on our web site? Is
24 that what it is?

25 MR. BLOOMBERG: No, no, that's

1 correct. So the meeting agenda is published in
2 advance, but --

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Post agenda.

4 MR. BLOOMBERG: Right.

5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: That's not
6 necessarily the final approved resolutions because
7 they could have been withdrawn, they could have been
8 amended. Is that the question?

9 MR. BLOOMBERG: The question just
10 basically is it's around creating transparency. I
11 understand in advance, it's very difficult to
12 essentially what's going to get approved, what
13 isn't, things aren't in their final form. If
14 there's something that really interests me, I can
15 send a request in. Sometimes it has to be an OPRA.
16 It's a sloppy process.

17 But what I'm saying is afterwards, can we
18 just memorialize these things in their entirety,
19 right? The agenda is already up there online, but
20 each one of these bullet items has like three or
21 four pages behind it to let us know what it actually
22 is that got passed. So that's one part.

23 But the first part of the question was,
24 what is No. 9? What were the safety improvements?
25 Even after reading the three pages, we're just

1 saying, oh, we've got \$500,000. Has the money been
2 spent yet?

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Jonathan, thank
4 you.

5 MR. BLOOMBERG: And what was it for
6 or what will it be for?

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Tom Malavasi, you
8 want to answer?

9 MR. ANTUN: No, go ahead.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That would be Tom
11 Malavasi.

12 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, right. But the
13 money has not been spent.

14 MR. BLOOMBERG: Okay. So we have --
15 oh, we're getting an answer here?

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah.

17 MR. BLOOMBERG: Okay, great.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. Just give
19 them a chance to get.

20 MR. BLOOMBERG: Okay. No worries.
21 Hello.

22 MR. MALAVASI: We kind of received a
23 \$500,000 congressional appropriation to help offset
24 the cost of a roundabout in Braddock Park.

25 MR. BLOOMBERG: The preexisting

1 roundabout?

2 MR. MALAVASI: No, the one that first
3 one you come in, come to, first intersection you
4 come to, off of Bergenline. There's a deck there.
5 So we were looking at safety improvements for that
6 intersection. So we talked about a roundabout
7 there. We also are doing a project to construct now
8 two roundabouts there. One there and one at the
9 triangle through the NJTPA. The NJTPA asked us not
10 to mix the funding. So we went back to HUD who's
11 paying for that project and asked if we could do
12 safety improvements elsewhere in the park. So off
13 of Main Drive, we are going to improve Main Drive
14 South. It'll include some bump outs, some edge
15 lines, rumble strips, new crosswalks.

16 MR. BLOOMBERG: Bike lanes?

17 MR. MALAVASI: It's not looking for a
18 bike lane.

19 MR. BLOOMBERG: You should consider.

20 MR. MALAVASI: We'll have it as wide
21 as we can make it.

22 MR. BLOOMBERG: In your master plan,
23 you should look at what was done in Lincoln Park
24 where they've made many of the roadways one way. If
25 you do a traffic study, you'll see that the majority

1 of traffic is just passed through the park. And if
2 you put in more traffic deadening things, reduce the
3 width of the road and potentially make it one way
4 and put in bike lanes. So things to consider.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. MALAVASI: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Just for the
8 record, before bike lanes were ever popular, I was
9 the guy who stood up to get those bike lanes done in
10 Lincoln Park many years ago when Cara Hrabowski came
11 to a meeting and convinced me the importance of it.

12 MR. BLOOMBERG: Let's continue on the
13 Braddock Park as well. No, and it's worked well.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The fact when it
15 was going to be done, people panicked. It was the
16 end of the world. How did you get to the Casino in
17 the Park, et cetera, et cetera.

18 MR. BLOOMBERG: Yeah.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Twenty years
20 later, it works and it works very well.

21 MR. BLOOMBERG: Yeah. And today, if
22 you're driving in that area, your GPS directs you
23 through the park rather than around it as the
24 fastest way to get anywhere, which isn't the purpose
25 of a park.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And the other
2 part of that was before that was there, that was the
3 throughway to get from Westside to 440 because you
4 could go up, go to the left and it's a two-minute
5 thing. So it helped, didn't eliminate it, but it
6 definitely alleviated that as a throughway, which
7 you don't want a park to be a throughway.

8 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, Mr.
9 Bloomberg has asked for backup. So on some of the
10 resolutions and ordinances per our conversation, so
11 does that have to be OPRAed, Mr. Florio.

12 MR. FLORIO: That would be my
13 opinion, Chairman.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. All right.

15 THE CLERK: Thank you very much. Are
16 there any other speakers?

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: On agenda.

18 THE CLERK: On the agenda only.
19 There being none. May I have a motion to approve
20 all the items listed on the consent agenda? And a
21 second.

22 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

23 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

25 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

2 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead. Al. Al.

5 On the agenda.

6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes. Can you

7 hear me? I'm sorry. Yeah. Yes.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

9 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

13 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

15 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: We have three ordinances

19 for introduction. Ordinance 1 is an ordinance

20 rescinding Ordinance No. 2070-4-2024 and eliminating

21 a parking space for People with Disabilities at 2749

22 JFK Boulevard in Jersey City for Castor C.

23 Marasigan.

24 May I have a roll call?

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner

2 Aponte-Lipski.

3 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

7 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

11 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

15 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

17 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been
21 introduced. Ordinance 2. It's ordinance amending
22 Chapter 200, Article 8.11 of the Administrative Code
23 to establish a restricted parking space on John F.
24 Kennedy Boulevard, City of Bayonne for Gregory J.
25 Borke.

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Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

Commissioner Cifelli.

COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

THE CLERK: The ordinance has been introduced. Third ordinance is amending Chapter 200, Article 27 of the Administrative Code to establish traffic calming devices, delineators and rumble strips; and Article 15 providing for the installation of a No U-Turn signs on the

1 Newark/Jersey City Turnpike in the Town of Kearny.

2 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

3 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

7 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

11 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

15 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

17 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been
21 introduced. We have one ordinance for a second
22 reading. This is a Bond Ordinance providing for
23 various 2025 Park Improvements buying in the County
24 of Hudson State in New Jersey appropriating
25 \$22,661,740 therefor; including State grants

1 received or expected to be received in the aggregate
2 amount of \$3,099,000 and authorizing the issuance of
3 18,631,180 bonds or notes to finance part of the
4 cost thereof.

5 This is the time fixed for the Public
6 Hearing of this ordinance which was introduced at
7 the meeting of May 22nd, 2025, advertised as
8 required by law together with the notice of hearing
9 for this time. It's been posted on the County
10 Commissioner's bulletin board and made available to
11 the general public.

12 Are there any speakers on this ordinance?
13 Okay. We have a speaker.

14 MR. BLOOMBERG: I'm aiming for the
15 trifecta today. Mark Bloomberg. So first again
16 I'll start with the administrative part of this.
17 I'm curious to know why I have to file an OPRA
18 request to get the full contents of an ordinance
19 that's going to be publicly discussed. So you know
20 again that should be published in advance. And then
21 available in perpetuity afterwards after it's been
22 passed or if it hasn't been passed just for the
23 record.

24 Specific to this ordinance though, you
25 know, for the most part this is fantastic. I mean

1 it's not so great that we have to go out and borrow
2 the money, but what it's going to all the work in
3 the parks and everything is wonderful. It's great
4 news for the Braddock Park Nature Trail.

5 Commissioner Baselice I know we started off pretty
6 far apart on it. We're pretty much close to the
7 same page so I'm grateful to see that moving
8 forward. Good news that there'll be improvements to
9 the pickle ball courts because a lot of folks I know
10 are playing there and so that's all great.

11 One line item that I was concerned about
12 though is that within Braddock Park there's a line
13 item to refurbish an elevator at the boathouse. Now
14 the boathouse really isn't a boathouse anymore.
15 It's got some kayaks in it, but it's got two private
16 businesses in it that serve food, and so yeah, the
17 elevator's out of commission.

18 I went there the other day. The only
19 occupant Rumba Cafe that allows folks to use it.
20 Playa Bowls says that's not their space. Rumba Cafe
21 I offered to purchase food and asked if I could go
22 up to the second floor. They said it's closed.
23 It's only available for private parties of large
24 sizes on it. So I don't know what the lease
25 agreement says, but if we're paying for an elevator

1 that the general public doesn't have access to, they
2 should be contributing towards it or perhaps there's
3 something wrong with the lease but even the
4 staircase going up to it has a velvet rope across it
5 to discourage people from going up there.

6 You know if it was an environmental
7 center, which it is meant to be originally and
8 that's a whole other discussion about, well, if we
9 have all this money to spend on the parks why can't
10 we support an environmental center? I think that
11 ship has sailed at this point. But again, one line
12 item out of 22 million, not worth stopping this bill
13 most likely. I don't know if you can line item veto
14 it or just investigate further and long-term look at
15 a better resolution to all this whether it's having
16 them contribute or again opening that section to the
17 public or something else.

18 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: We need to
19 look at the lease. I don't know. I don't know
20 exactly what it says. I don't think it was just
21 restricted.

22 MR. BLOOMBERG: Yeah.

23 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: So we'll look
24 at that.

25 MR. BLOOMBERG: Yeah. And we spoke

1 briefly before the meeting as well, but again, I
2 want to just bring it to the public's attention as
3 well. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

5 DIRECTOR DEFILLIPO: Me and Mark had
6 a chance to talk before the meeting. I did look
7 into the lease. You are correct. There should be
8 no velvet ropes going across that staircase. Should
9 be open to the public. I'm going to call number as
10 soon as I leave the meeting and explain to them it's
11 got to be where we have access to it. It's right in
12 the lease agreement. That's why we are fixing the
13 elevators. You need to have that. So it is needed.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you,
15 Jonathan.

16 MR. BLOOMBERG: Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So point of
18 clarification after the meeting is over what do we
19 post online?

20 THE CLERK: Agenda. The corrected
21 agenda.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Just the agenda.
23 This just this?

24 THE CLERK: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Why wouldn't we

1 post at a minimum the body of the resolutions and
2 ordinances that we vote on? Why would people have
3 to OPRA that? I understand opening a 20-page backup
4 document. They're generally one to two pages. They
5 do provide information in the case of a budget of a
6 bond like this. At least provide a listing of what
7 the projects. I don't know. I would just if we
8 need to vote on, I would vote. I think.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can I ask a
10 question?

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hold on. Hold on.
12 Hold on. Three people speaking. Go ahead, Carrie.

13 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I had my
14 hand up before when Mr. Bloomberg was speaking. Is
15 he talking about having minutes posted of the
16 meeting?

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: He's talking about
18 on agenda items.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Resolutions.

20 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Minutes of
21 the meeting?

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No, no, no. The
23 resolutions themselves. Not the backup.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Only resolutions.
25 All right.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Al, go ahead.

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: When we post
3 the proposed, the agenda and the proposed
4 resolutions before the meetings, are the backup
5 documents also attached?

6 THE CLERK: No, no. Well, they're
7 not.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: No, they're
9 not? Yeah, I can see that the speaker has a valid
10 point that I don't know why any citizen would have
11 to OPRA the backups if that's part of our public
12 record, because that's what we go on. I don't know.
13 I don't understand that. I understand why, and I
14 think it's an easy task to just publish the final
15 resolutions as approved, and maybe they were amended
16 from the first version that was on the agenda.

17 THE CLERK: We're going to do it.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We're going to do
19 it, Al. We'll do it.

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Why would we
21 make the public OPRA all the backups that we have?

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No, we're not, Al.
23 It's going to be posted.

24 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay? Thank you.

1 Continue, Madam Clerk.

2 THE CLERK: Are there any other
3 speakers on this ordinance? I'd like a motion to
4 close the hearing.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Cedeño.

6 THE CLERK: All in favor? Opposed?
7 (The Board votes unanimously to close
8 the Hearing.)

9 THE CLERK: On the final adoption,
10 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

11 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

13 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

15 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

17 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

19 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

23 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

25 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Resolutions -- ordinance
4 has been adopted. Public portion. This concludes
5 all the items on the business agenda. Are there any
6 comments from the Commissioners?

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Billy.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Have you, Mr.
10 Administrator, had any conversations with the HCIA
11 since the issue I raised yesterday about the PLAs?

12 MR. ANTUN: No, Commissioner. I did
13 not get a chance to do that today. I'm sorry.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Could you please
15 make that a priority?

16 MR. ANTUN: Yes, I will.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I have a
19 comment.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Al.

21 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: With the HCIA,
22 again, and it kind of dovetails to the discussion we
23 had about the leases that we entered into with the
24 proprietors of facilities in Braddock Park, and
25 maybe Billy knows this better than I, because

1 Lincoln Park, after Billy dies, it's going to be
2 changed from Lincoln Park to O'Dea Park so.

3 Lincoln Park. But, you know, what's going
4 on with the Casino in the Park? I mean, we have a
5 lease with them. A, are they current with their
6 lease payments? And B, are they fully operational
7 with respect to the catering, with respect to the a
8 la carte dining? When I spoke to Norman Guerra
9 maybe a month or two ago, I'm not sure what's going
10 on over there. I thought that, and I know there are
11 functions going on, and I know the lease requires
12 them to do certain improvements, and I believe the
13 lease requires that they open up their operations in
14 different phases, like catering, and also a la
15 carte, open to the public. What's going on there?

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Jonathan, can you
17 give Al after the meeting? Al, Jonathan, the
18 Director of Parks is going to call you after the
19 meeting.

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And Al, to
22 Jonathan's credit, because I don't take anyone
23 else's ideas and take credit for them. I think he
24 has a very --

25 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: You're kidding

1 me. What? Can you repeat that?

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I never take
3 credit for anyone else's ideas. Unlike some people
4 that often run for office. But he has, I think, a
5 very interesting idea and approach for the a la
6 carte, and it's just been a matter, I think, of
7 setting up a meeting with the HCIA and the
8 proprietor to have a discussion. But the idea that
9 he has, I think, is fantastic. It's a win-win for
10 them. It's a win-win for the community, and it's
11 going to be a win-win for a lot of young people that
12 go to college.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: And I think
14 that's a diamond in the rough. We need to
15 capitalize on that. I mean, for the first time, I
16 went and actually played a round of golf across the
17 road. And it would be wonderful if you have golfers
18 going after their round of golf. They could have
19 dinner or lunch or whatever as an a la carte
20 function. But the last time I looked, it wasn't
21 available yet. And I think the lease, I believe,
22 says that they were supposed to implement an a la
23 carte service by now.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Al, Jonathan's
25 going to call you after.

1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right. He
2 has my cell phone, my office number, a cell phone
3 number?

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. He said he
5 has one.

6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Got it.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right, great.
8 Thank you. Madam Clerk, I just want to say for the
9 public portion, the Councilwoman from Hoboken,
10 Tiffany Fisher is here. It's going to add on to it.
11 But after conversations with the County Executive
12 and the different parents in Hoboken, the
13 superintendent of schools, board of ed. members,
14 were requesting, Tom, that you pull any improvements
15 to 11th to 12th on Willow until further notice.

16 So that's with the idea that they wanted
17 to do, you know, until there's going to be a
18 community meeting, the County Executive is going to
19 attend. I will attend. And when we have the open
20 to public portion, Councilwoman Fisher will speak on
21 behalf of a few of the Council Members. So go
22 ahead, Madam Clerk -- hold on, Jerry wants to say
23 something. Go ahead, Jerry.

24 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Just one thing.
25 The last meeting, we talked a little bit about the

1 Liberty Science Center project. I'm not sure we
2 received any information in reference to that. I'm
3 getting a lot of questions in the community about,
4 you know, because it's supposed to be a school. But
5 right now they're building luxury apartments,
6 high-rises, and everybody's questioning that. And
7 what comes first? I thought the school should come
8 first, right? So I guess the HCIA is in charge of
9 this; is that?

10 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I believe
11 an e-mail was sent out on that.

12 COMMISSIONER WALKER: They did?

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: It was sent to the
14 entire Board.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But in what they
16 laid out, there's significant caveats. And that
17 caveat is, if you get these, these are the dollars
18 that you can get. And if the cost of it is those
19 dollars, okay, we're good to go. If not, we're
20 going to have to come talk to some people. Is that
21 a fair representation?

22 MR. ANTUN: Yes, Commissioner.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. Okay.
24 Keep Commissioner Walker and the rest of the Board
25 updated.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I think more
2 than that, I think we should, we should do whatever
3 committee chairman feels is appropriate. We should
4 bring in the HCIA and the school to a committee
5 meeting to get a little more detail than that memo
6 laid out. There's significant issues. But it's the
7 public resources on that.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Continue,
9 Madam.

10 THE CLERK: Are there any comments
11 from the Chief of Staff to the County Executive?

12 MS. DAVIS: None.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Jen.

14 THE CLERK: All right. To the
15 public. This is the time for persons who submitted
16 a timely written request to address the board on any
17 matter of public interest. Please remember to limit
18 your comments to three minutes. The first speaker
19 is Councilwoman Tiffany Fisher.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hold on. I think
21 Counsel, Counsel, you wanted to say something or
22 leave it?

23 MR. FLORIO: At your direction,
24 Chairman, we prepared a short statement to be read
25 into the record prior to speakers on matters of

1 public interest. The Board of County Commissioners
2 is committed to maintaining a meeting environment
3 that is conducive to public discourse, but also one
4 that maintains safety and security from
5 inappropriate or threatening behavior toward members
6 of the public, County employees, as well as elected
7 officials.

8 The Chairman reserves the right to ask for
9 the removal from the Commissioner Chamber of anyone
10 who may present inappropriate language or conduct or
11 threatening behavior at his discretion. Thank you,
12 Chairman.

13 THE CLERK: So the first speaker is
14 Councilwoman Tiffany Fisher.

15 COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: So I shouldn't
16 swear. That's what you're saying?

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Don't get
18 emotional.

19 COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Yeah. One very
20 quick thing before I get to the point that Chairman
21 Romano mentioned. If you -- if you want to see what
22 we do in Hoboken with our documents, we actually
23 have an online agenda that you can just -- you can
24 just put everything in a link, and people can just
25 go and click and see all the backup. You don't have

1 to OPRA. It'll save you a lot of money, you know,
2 responding to requests, and then it's just really
3 transparent. It's probably just a technology thing.
4 And if you talk to our clerk, they can tell you what
5 technology we use. It's called Excel.

6 So I'm here specifically on the topic
7 Commissioner Romano mentioned. We all want to see
8 improvements on all of our roads. We want to see
9 them safer. We all live in an urban environment
10 with, you know, tons and tons of people. Hoboken is
11 one of the most densely populated towns in the
12 country, in the state, et cetera. And on Willow
13 Avenue, which is a County road, we are -- we have
14 long awaited improvements that are planned.

15 You know, it's the base of the viaduct.
16 Viaduct is now, you know, touches goes up and
17 touches Patterson Plank and in the roads up in
18 Jersey City. So connecting all of those in a way
19 that is pedestrian friendly, bike friendly is great.
20 But one of the concerns I've always had is when we
21 think about Vision Zero improvements, we can't take
22 a one size fits all approach. We can't take it in
23 places where we are, you know, have so many
24 pedestrians walking around and and not every town is
25 the same and not every block within a town is the

1 same, right?

2 And so we often have planners that are
3 well-intended that come forward with ideas that, you
4 know, the books say this would be better if we put a
5 bike lane here. If we made this change here, but it
6 just may not consider the existing conditions. So
7 for example, on Willow Avenue, this one stretch,
8 it's actually two stretches, you know, Commissioner
9 mentioned 11th to 12th, but it's really 11th to
10 14th.

11 I mean, we're looking at putting a bike
12 lane at the bottom of the viaduct going south that
13 would run directly in front of a grocery store
14 entrance that's very busy in front, and across a
15 parking garage entrance that's very busy and already
16 dangerous how cars are turning in and turning out.
17 Then it hits a corner which is adjacent to our
18 biggest public housing senior building in Hoboken
19 and disabled. It has just filled with seniors and
20 vulnerable population and then go another 100 feet
21 and you're in front of an elementary school, right?
22 Where kids are little kids are dropped off every day
23 and like 30 percent of our special needs kids in
24 Hoboken are dropped off there.

25 And so we're talking about putting a bike

1 lane where we are encouraging bikes to go fast
2 because that's what bike lanes do. They encourage
3 them to feel safe and go fast across all of these,
4 you know, all of these points where they're
5 potentially going to have conflict with pedestrians,
6 with cars, with kids, with seniors like that. That
7 just makes no sense.

8 So all -- sorry, all we're asking is when
9 we are -- are making these changes, it's really
10 important to consider the very specific conditions
11 that are there and not solve for a bike lane, but
12 solve for what makes sense for pedestrian safety,
13 bike safety, what -- what optimizes and makes the
14 most sense. So I hope that, you know, the County's
15 done a lot of great work. They work very closely
16 with our own -- our own staff. We will talk with
17 our own staff, but I just want to come and register
18 that, that it's not Vision Zero is not a one size
19 fits all.

20 So thank you for indulging me. Thank you
21 for inviting me. And hopefully we'll see you again.
22 And I didn't swear. Thank you.

23 THE CLERK: The next speaker is
24 Raymond Mitchell.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: What Tiffany was

1 saying was there's a Trader Joe's, a senior citizen
2 home that is, as she said, Fox Hill turned into the
3 disabled. Wallace has 700 students in there, and
4 the County Exec received many, many memorandums from
5 different members of the education community and the
6 city government. And that's why we're requesting,
7 Tom, that anything any changes being done. There
8 was also an incident where a car went over into the
9 schoolyard in that area. So thank you.

10 COUNCILWOMAN FISHER: Also, just to
11 add, it also has the 126 Bus Route. It's literally
12 the busiest bus route in the state of New Jersey.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Well, it's an
14 artery from three different municipalities into the
15 hospital besides that. So thank you. Yeah.
16 One other thing with that, Bob, also, I've been
17 requested to look --

18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can I ask a
19 question?

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah. One second,
21 Al. Also looked into Observer Highway. The traffic
22 is completely bottlenecking now. There's been a
23 request. Can we restore a lane that was taken away
24 so this traffic can flow instead of it just jamming
25 down there? Please consider, and as the engineers,

1 Al Cifelli and Bobby Basalice.

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I appreciate
3 the Councilperson's comments because over -- and
4 Mayor Doyle will appreciate this as well, I believe
5 that over in our provinces over here in the western
6 part of the County, we don't really have bike lanes,
7 not that we don't need them, but we don't have them.
8 But my experience is in Manhattan, when I go there
9 for medical reasons often, and I think the Chairman
10 will understand this, where we go on the Upper East
11 Side.

12 You step off the curb being a New Jerseyan
13 and you're not overly familiar with bike lanes
14 maybe, you step off the curb, you take your life in
15 your hands because those folks riding bikes are --
16 they're scaring because they believe they're safe.
17 And I understand that. But they are -- they are --
18 they were pedaling like crazy. And you step off the
19 curb and you can take your life in your hands
20 because you're not really cognizant of that.

21 So my question is, don't the rules of the
22 road, the traffic rules, the Title 39 rules, don't
23 they abide bicycles? And so that, you know, because
24 my experience is, and I don't mean to to throw the
25 bicyclists under the bus, no pun intended, but a lot

1 of them don't honor stoplights. They don't honor
2 passing lanes. They just barrel right through, and
3 unfortunately, pedestrians sometimes walk out of
4 medical offices, walk out of their apartments, walk
5 out of stores and they walk into the bike lanes.
6 They're not thinking of a bicycles or scooters, and
7 they can get injured like rapidly.

8 So I appreciate the Councilperson's
9 comments. So my question is, what, if anything, do
10 we do signage-wise or enforcement-wise as far as the
11 conduct of the bicycle people that are operating in
12 those lanes? Don't they have to comply with the
13 rules of the road?

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Undersheriff, could
15 you answer that one?

16 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: But we could
17 enforce the rules, but trying to stop a bicyclist
18 who doesn't want to stop has a big advantage to get
19 away from us. So it would have to be on a
20 case-by-case basis.

21 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Well, I don't
22 know if that's a great answer that we can't catch
23 them. I -- I just want my first question, don't
24 they have to abide by the rules and the laws?

25 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: Yes, they do.

1 And whenever we can, we would enforce it in the
2 municipalities. The municipal officers can enforce
3 it as well.

4 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah. Well,
5 okay.

6 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: Attorney general
7 guidelines when -- when you're trying to chase
8 somebody on a bicycle or one of those motorized
9 scooters, it would cause more of a problem and a
10 danger to everybody.

11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So they can
12 just get away with it then?

13 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: No, they don't
14 get away with it, but they can get away with it most
15 of the time because they have the advantage of what
16 they're operating.

17 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah. Well,
18 and they don't have insurance either. Yeah. So if
19 they knock me down when I walk out of my office at
20 seven o'clock at night or eight o'clock at night
21 when it's dark, and I don't have the circumspection
22 to look both ways on the sidewalk, and I get
23 waffled, then it's on me then?

24 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: Yeah, that's
25 correct.

1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'm going to
2 call. I agree. I agree with the Councilwoman. I
3 think -- I think we need to have more regulation on
4 that.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Go
6 ahead, Bobby.

7 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: You're on top
8 of the -- this budget?

9 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: Yeah, that's
10 right.

11 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: It's great,
12 yeah. With regard to the grant, we need to make
13 sure that all the reform or reprogramming happens at
14 all. You won't get the grant.

15 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Good. Thank
17 you.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Next question.
19 Where are you with the design of it? Have you bid
20 it? Like what's -- what's the -- where are you
21 within the process of it? Because we're talking
22 about stopping it, holding it, changing it. But I
23 know that with grants, it's not that easy.

24 MR. MALAVASI: We're in design. We
25 had a meeting the other night at the school.

1 There's a public information center scheduled for
2 June 25th. We also at the request of the school,
3 we're going to set up a special meeting in July,
4 over the summer. It'll be they're looking to
5 advertise it before school, and so they're still
6 around. But I think that meeting will be over this
7 summer in a similar meeting like another in August.
8 So all these, you know, I. I joked the other night
9 that I thought we're going to either run out of
10 postage or ink with the number of there's a lot of
11 comments and a lot of constructive comments.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So let me ask you
13 this. So on one side, you're going to take you're
14 going to put a protected bike lane where there's
15 diagonal parking and force the cars that are
16 diagonal out into the street to protect the bike
17 lane, then across the street, have another bike lane
18 in front of the school with the buses coming down,
19 is that correct?

20 MR. MALAVASI: My recollection is
21 that the bike lane on the diagonal parking side is
22 going to be elevated to be the same as the sidewalk.
23 And the cars are backing up.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So we're having
25 dual bike lanes on that street.

1 MR. MALAVASI: You'll have a bike
2 presently a bike lane on each side.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: What's the purpose
4 of that?

5 MS. DAVIS: One in each direction,
6 one south, one north and south.

7 MR. MALAVASI: No, it's not a two-way
8 bike track. It's one lane each direction.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So -- so I'm
10 just trying to understand. Was there a design done?
11 Was the design that was previously done submitted as
12 part of the grant application? Was the grant
13 application approved with that design?

14 MR. MALAVASI: There was a concept
15 plan submitted with the grant. So don't recall off
16 the top of my head exactly what it looked like. I
17 found this information came late. I didn't have
18 time to look at all.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So any
20 information, though, any changes to that will
21 require you to resubmit to the funding source. Now,
22 you can make any -- any you can make any change you
23 want and not do a bike lane?

24 MR. MALAVASI: It calls for a bike
25 lane.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Exactly. So you
2 can't. That was my question. So if you -- if you
3 come to the conclusion of eliminating a bike lane,
4 then it will affect you, okay? I just let people
5 understand what it is, so they're not misled down
6 the wrong path.

7

8 MR. MALAVASI: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That was okay.

10 Next.

11 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Raymond
12 Mitchell.

13 MR. FLORIO: Not present. It appears
14 Mr. Mitchell is not present.

15 THE CLERK: Then the following
16 speaker will be Sabura Alexander. Sabura. Sabura.

17 MS. ALEXANDER: Good evening,
18 Commissioners. I'm Sabura Alexander, Hudson County
19 Family Services Reintegration employee, Union
20 President for AFSCME Local 1697. And I'm here to
21 get some clarity from the appointing authority,
22 Elinor Gibney. I see that she is in the back to my
23 left. I have been getting numerous complaints about
24 the HSS3s who took the test and passed it to become
25 a 4. I also see that the union president for 2306

1 is in the room.

2 So I sent Elinor Gibney an e-mail on March
3 14th, as follows: Good afternoon, Elinor. There
4 will be names left on both lists that may or may not
5 be reached before the 3/22/25 expiration date. I am
6 requesting, if possible, for the County to extend
7 the list for six to 12 months, as opposed to the few
8 names on the list waiting for the test to be called
9 again. No response.

10 On April 25th, I sent her another e-mail.
11 Good afternoon, all. Elinor, please advise as to
12 whether you filed to extend the list. Employees are
13 asking. I did inform employees that I would ask.
14 So now here's the thing. We have HSS3s that took
15 this test, passed it. Last year, I was given a list
16 by personnel officer stating that there were going
17 to be 14 supervisors promoted, seven regular, seven
18 bilingual. This year, they took the 14 and cut it
19 in half. So seven. And then it took the seven and
20 cut that a half again, which -- which gave me four
21 regular and three bilingual.

22 The concern is the bilingual list expires
23 this November. So it would have been fair to reach
24 the regulars. Mind you, last year, when I took
25 presidency for the local, the next day, which I

1 believe was March 14th, 2024, 14 bilinguals were
2 promoted. So there's -- there's an unequal balance
3 there. Now, what I would like to know is if Elinor
4 Gibney can still extend this list because it's not
5 fair to the people that were supposed to be
6 originally promoted from the seven. The list has
7 expired. We're in June now.

8 Two e-mails, one in March, one in April,
9 no response. Elinor Gibney is the appointing
10 authority. She has to do better. She has to do
11 better. We're trusting her. She's the hiring,
12 firing. She does all of that with civil service.
13 But when I have employees questioning me and getting
14 mad at me, I'm going to direct them to her. That's
15 what I'm going to do. She needs to answer this,
16 because at the end of the day, her hefty six-figure
17 salary warrants a response.

18 We are doing the work. Without the
19 employees there is no agency; without the stats,
20 there is no grants, no funds, no nothing. It is my
21 team, my members that have to prepare reports to
22 give to our superiors, to then give to directors, to
23 then give to the state. So we need to take that
24 into consideration.

25 Now we're in negotiation. I'm not here for

1 that. It's looking like it's going to be good. But
2 that needs we need to. Elinor needs to do better.
3 I'm not going to keep coming here asking Elinor to
4 respond to something that she chose to accept when
5 she accepted a position. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So I think it's
8 a natural question to ask. What when that e-mail
9 was sent, what happened? What did Ms. Gibney
10 respond? Did she send it? Did she send it to
11 someone else within the Administration to ask their
12 guidance? Like, I think that's a legitimate
13 question that I'd like to ask Elinor.

14 MS. ALEXANDER: Okay. Well,
15 Commissioner O'Dea?

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

17 MS. ALEXANDER: Here is the people
18 that the e-mail went to: Elinor Gibney, Cheryl
19 Fuller, Abe Antun, Dave Drumeler, Donato Battista,
20 Alberico De Pierro, Roger Quintana, Frank Mazza,
21 Susan McCurry, Catherine Healy, Bob Knapp. And that
22 was on the 25th, on the 14th of March, and then
23 again on the 25th. Now, I'm also being told that
24 allegedly the 4s that were promoted, were promoted
25 after the list expired. So I'm trying to figure out

1 how that's working.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Do you want to
3 speak, Elinor, after the meeting to her now? Thank
4 you.

5 DIRECTOR GIBNEY: Elinor Gibney,
6 Personnel Director. I have received numerous
7 e-mails from Ms. Alexander on a regular basis. I
8 believe I did respond to that e-mail. I will answer
9 that you can't request an extension of a list while
10 there is an eligibility list existing. So a list
11 would be a certified list would need to be returned
12 before you can request an extension, and at the time
13 there was an open list.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Thank you. She
15 said there was.

16 MS. ALEXANDER: Oh, I didn't hear
17 that.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: She said it was
19 open.

20 MS. ALEXANDER: Who?

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: At the time
22 there was an open list.

23 MS. ALEXANDER: I'm not taking any of
24 that. Before it's extended -- expired.

25 DIRECTOR GIBNEY: Excuse me,

1 Commissioner. The list would need to have what
2 happened to it before you could extend it. It's an
3 active certification that the County had requested
4 and would need to be returned with the appointments
5 made before we could request civil service to then
6 extend it again.

7 MS. ALEXANDER: So it's an, you got
8 to explain that to me, I'm looking.

9 DIRECTOR GIBNEY: It's an active
10 list. We had a certification list that we requested
11 from civil service. We have since made appointments
12 from that list. You couldn't request it to be
13 extended until we had returned the certification
14 list that was active.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And when was
16 that returned?

17 DIRECTOR GIBNEY: I'd have to give
18 you I don't have the date available right now.

19 MS. ALEXANDER: Okay. I'm requesting
20 that because she didn't respond either one of my
21 e-mails, I have them both here. So the e-mail she
22 responded is not the same address, meaning it did
23 not get transmitted to me.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But so walk me
25 through it. So you get your return. You know the

1 date, not now, but you can tell me the date it got
2 returned. Then you did request an extension or you
3 couldn't request an extension? What's the next
4 step?

5 DIRECTOR GIBNEY: At the time that
6 Ms. Alexander was requesting the extension, we had
7 an active certification that appointments were being
8 made from. So you couldn't request to extend it
9 until we returned the certification. A number of
10 appointments were made based on the vacancies
11 available at the time.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. But -- so
13 that's happened already?

14 DIRECTOR GIBNEY: Correct.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So have you then
16 requested to extend the list?

17 DIRECTOR GIBNEY: No. There's no
18 vacancies to fill at this time.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So then you --
20 you refute the statement from the union president
21 that said the County said they were going to make X
22 amount of appointments, and they only made what they
23 and you're saying that that was never made, or that
24 the County changed their mind and only made a lesser
25 number of appointments?

1 DIRECTOR GIBNEY: Commissioner, I
2 will gladly provide you a breakdown of how many
3 appointments were made, how many vacancies there are
4 at the time. I don't have that readily available.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I mean, because
6 the speaker represented that there was
7 representations that there were going to be X amount
8 of positions or vacancies filled. Then that those
9 vacancies were not all filled. And that in one
10 category, maybe they were, right? Seven were made
11 of one. But -- but there's seven from the other one
12 never made.

13 MS. ALEXANDER: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So -- so I would
15 ask for a written explanation and to share it with
16 the union president as to was that true? And if it
17 was, why was seven in one area made, but not seven
18 in the non-bilingual area made? I guess that would
19 be the question.

20 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Well, thank you.
22 Next speaker.

23 THE CLERK: The next speaker is D.K.
24 Moore. D.K. Moore?

25 MR. FLORIO: Not here.

1 THE CLERK: Next one is William
2 Horan.

3 MR. FLORIO: He can stand, sir. Only
4 this the person who signed up to speak me.

5 MR. HORAN: Okay. Hi. My name's
6 Bill Horan, and I'm calling on something about -- I
7 read something in the paper a couple of months ago.
8 My house, I guess they want to do eminent domain on
9 Smith Street. It's three properties. And my house
10 was not in the article. So 24, 22 and 20 Smith, I
11 guess they want to do eminent domain. I'm 18 Smith.
12 The house is 130 years old.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can I ask
14 what -- what city is this in?

15 MR. HORAN: Jersey City. And since
16 the 1980s, those houses have been historical status.
17 It's been in literally five different news articles.
18 I've gotten calls from people, NJ.com, New York
19 Post. I've never even got a letter, but is just
20 curious. What's going on?

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Is that County
22 property?

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, it's going
24 to build a garage. I object to taking the
25 properties. Norman has said there's been an

1 exchange of some information on it. But I'm against
2 taking them. So I'll defer to the Administration to
3 explain.

4 MR. HORAN: I could say that my house
5 is attached to one house that they want to purchase
6 from the article. I haven't even got a letter. How
7 can you knock one house down a brick house with a
8 porch, one hundred thirty years old? My house would
9 be destroyed; A. So it's very odd that they didn't
10 want my house. But I'm just trying to figure out
11 what's going on.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: What is the
13 condemning agency? Is it the Improvement Authority?
14 Is it the City, the County?

15 MR. HORAN: Yeah, the guy --

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hudson County
17 Improvement Authority.

18 MR. HORAN: Yeah. You know,
19 that's --

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'm sorry.
21 I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm just trying to get some
22 facts. So and what's the purpose? What's the
23 public purpose for the eminent domain application?

24 MR. HORAN: I didn't even get a
25 letter. I just read it.

1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But what's the
2 project or what's the project?

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Let the County.
4 Yeah, let the County. Abe.

5 MR. ANTUN: I'm not responding. I
6 can't answer the question.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Alberico? Who's
8 available to take it?

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Well, the
10 Improvement Authority would be the ultimate. But
11 get in here for the next -- get in here right away,
12 get somebody else?

13 MR. FLORIO: Chairman, Chairman?
14 It's Michael O'Connor, Chairman. Yeah, he's raising
15 his hand.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Mike.
17 Mike.

18 MR. O'CONNOR: Yeah. Can you hear
19 me? Can you hear me?

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I can hear
22 you.

23 MR. O'CONNOR: Okay. So, yeah. In
24 fact, this is property that's adjacent to existing
25 parking lots at 830 Bergen Avenue, the Bergen Center

1 complex. And -- and in fact, the Improvement
2 Authority, the County Administration has discussed
3 with the Improvement Authority over a period of time
4 the reconfiguration of the -- of the -- of the
5 parking lots. And specifically, there's one
6 property that is surrounded by these parking lots on
7 three sides. That's 24 Smith Street.

8 So in consultation with the County
9 Administration, I think, believe three different
10 properties, and the individual that's speaking is
11 correct; 18, I believe, which he said he is the
12 owner and occupant of was not included in the
13 condemnation authorization. And in fact, the
14 free -- the Commission -- Board of Commissioners did
15 approve the request to proceed with acquisition of
16 these properties back, I believe it was in November.
17 So the Board was apprised of it at that time and did
18 actually approve that through the process that's
19 necessary for the Improvement Authority to acquire
20 property in this way.

21 So -- and I believe subsequently in an
22 inquiry that was in an e-mail chain, I think
23 Commissioner O'Dea was on this, I think I'm sure Abe
24 Antun was on it. There was an inquiry about this at
25 a previous meeting, I believe. And I believe it was

1 the County Executive himself who stated that, in
2 fact, an intention here is -- is whatever is done
3 with these properties and all of them may not be
4 acquired is to configure ultimately and have an
5 opportunity for not just to reconfigure the parking,
6 but for a significant affordable housing opportunity
7 there. So that's what this is.

8 And I understand the person who's speaking
9 what his concerns are. And we would certainly like
10 to talk to him. You know, we're right across the
11 street so we can arrange to do that. I understand
12 what his concerns are. You know, we may be able to
13 relieve some of them.

14 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So that's --
15 that's my process is Michael. Can you -- can I ask
16 you a question?

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: One second, Al.
18 Michael, can you ensure that you have the -- that he
19 has your contact numbers to get this discussed?

20 MR. O'CONNOR: What I -- and I'm
21 doing this remotely. But if he -- he's right --
22 we're right across the street. So we're at 830
23 Bergen Avenue, sir. So if you just come in, and
24 they'll direct you up to me. I'll be here tomorrow.
25 I have a meeting in the morning, but I'll certainly

1 be here at 11, and I'll be here till two tomorrow.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Tomorrow works for
3 Mr. Horan at 11, please?

4 MR. HORAN: And it doesn't work for
5 me.

6 MR. O'CONNOR: Oh, doesn't? So you
7 know what, Mr. Horan, I'll stop by. I'll leave my
8 information on your door tomorrow morning. So
9 you'll be able to call me on my cell and e-mail me
10 and talk to -- talk to me.

11 MR. HORAN: Absolutely. All right.
12 Can I just say one more thing? Since the 1980s,
13 those houses had historical status by Jersey City.
14 I'm just curious, does that mean anything?

15 MR. O'CONNOR: I can't answer for
16 that. Right. Well, we can discuss that also. I
17 mean, everybody's concerns about this are, you know,
18 we appreciate. And this is at the start of a
19 process. And so and I think, you know, the property
20 I'm talking about, the one that's in the back that's
21 surrounded by the parking lots, the house that's
22 separate.

23 MR. HORAN: The owner is here and he
24 just raised his hand. The only thing --

25 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. Can I

1 ask a question?

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Al.

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah. Well,
4 Mr. Horan and Mike O'Connor. Yeah. I mean, the
5 eminent domain is a very specialized statutory
6 process, and you have to condemn, which would be the
7 County or the City, whoever. I guess it's the
8 County. And this -- this instance has to follow a
9 very specific route in doing this. They have to
10 negotiate with the property owner. They have to
11 establish that there's a public purpose for the
12 taking. Then they have to establish what a price
13 is. They have an obligation to negotiate in good
14 faith for a value. They have an obligation to
15 discuss separation damages.

16 And the -- the owner has a right to a jury
17 trial, actually. And there's a -- there's possible
18 litigation with -- with Commissioners that are
19 appointed by the Superior Court. It's a very
20 involved process. So -- and but the problem is when
21 you float out an idea or it gets out to be a public,
22 a public message or a public -- public information
23 that some property, whether it's Mr. Horan's or
24 anybody's property, is -- is being scrutinized as
25 part of a possible eminent domain project that can

1 have drastic consequences on the market value of
2 that property.

3 And so to be fair to the property owners,
4 there's a process in place that has to take that has
5 to go through the dot the I's and cross the T's. So
6 let's get this done. I mean, this isn't fair to the
7 property owner.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But we have a
9 bigger question, which is if these properties are
10 part of a historic district?

11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: That's another
12 question. You're absolutely right, Bill.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What happen is
14 if I have received a historic designation?

15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: They may be
16 immune from eminent domain that I don't know. But
17 through the city of Jersey City, whereby prohibiting
18 their demolition, then why the hell would we be
19 waiting? You're absolutely right. Why are we
20 waiting?

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You're
22 absolutely right.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Before we do
24 anything. It's really not that difficult to do that
25 level of research as has been has those properties

1 been listed or designated by the city of Jersey City
2 as historic. And as such, are they either unable or
3 they unable to be demoed? Would you have to go get
4 the approval of SHPO, which is a State Historic
5 Preservation Office?

6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Absolutely,
7 right.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: -- be able to do
9 it like -- like let's do all of that.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And quite
11 frankly, that should be done before you even
12 initiate the process and vote on it, because a lot
13 of time and effort is wasted. And then the second
14 point to make to piggyback on what Al Cifelli said,
15 there's a significant chilling effect the minute you
16 start this process. The first aspect of the
17 chilling effect is good luck trying to sell your
18 property.

19 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Exactly. It's
20 got a cloud over it.

21 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: No -- yeah,
22 no, yeah, no one -- no one can buy your property.
23 And secondly -- because of the cloud over it. And
24 secondly, depending how the process plays out, at
25 some point in the process, government gets to

1 deposit an amount of money in a bank and take your
2 property. They can file a declaration of taking and
3 they own it. With everything that Al said, courts
4 and hearings and all of that, I've seen it occur
5 when the person's no longer in that property because
6 they dispute what -- what value through what through
7 that other aspects of the negotiation that -- that
8 the Commissioner has spoken about.

9 So there's significant things when you
10 come to taking a property. But if these properties
11 are historic and there's an issue as to whether you
12 can demolish them. Don't even wait. What are we
13 wasting our time, which is, you know, I'm starting.

14 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: You got it.
15 Let's get something from Shippen (ph.) that says
16 that --

17 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI:

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All right. All
19 right.

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah, Bill's
21 right.

22 MR. HORAN: Can I say one more thing?
23 I spoke with Maggie O'Neill. I believe she's a
24 historical director of Jersey City, and she told me
25 this months ago. Just when I read the article, I

1 got -- I got a call from people. My house wasn't
2 included. It was in the New York Post. It was an
3 NJ.com. It was an ex-Jersey Journal writer who used
4 to live in the house next door. Dominic Caliccio.
5 Do you remember that name? Dominic wrote a lot of
6 freelance writing now. And he was sitting on the
7 porch on 20 Smith Street.

8 MR. FLORIO: Time's expired.

9 MR. HORAN: And I'm like, what's
10 going on?

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, if you
12 could get a letter from the person from the city
13 historical office that says this is the designation
14 that it's received and that designation precludes
15 demolition. Game over, in my opinion. Yeah. And
16 Michael, thank you.

17 THE CLERK: Clearance from Shippen.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Michael, make sure
19 you meet with Mr. Horan tomorrow to -- to try to
20 straighten things out here.

21 MR. O'CONNOR: I'll stop. And should
22 I have my contact?

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: They'll deal with
24 you deal with Maggie on your own. And then with
25 Michael tomorrow and then let us know.

1 MR. O'CONNOR: All right. Mr. Horan,
2 I'll stop by for you.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. And
4 it's got to Michael. Go ahead. Michael, ensure
5 that you get back to the Board.

6 MR. O'CONNOR: Yeah. Well, the
7 County Administration and the County Administration
8 is aware of this, I'm not sure about Abe, but
9 certainly Dave Drumeler worked on this.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Let's find out if
11 it's historical. That's what the Board wants to
12 know. And I -- and I don't have any question that
13 what Mr. Horan said about it being in a historic
14 district is true. I can't say whether it was or
15 not. I am not aware.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Just find out.

17 MR. O'CONNOR: -- that big buildings
18 are. So we'll find out. Absolutely.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Madam
20 Clerk, with the next speaker. She said the mic.
21 I'm sorry. She's at the mic.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Good. Thank
23 you.

24 MS. GARCIA: Good afternoon,
25 Commissioners. Johanna Garcia. I must give you

1 credit, Mr. Romano. You have let a lot of people go
2 over their time today. I'm very proud of you. good
3 afternoon, Commission, Chairman and fellow
4 commissioners. I'm here once again.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: As Billy O'Dea has
6 got to have dialogue with everybody. Go ahead.

7 MS. GARCIA: Just don't forget when
8 it's my turn. I am here once again today to seek
9 your assistance in addressing the ongoing
10 discrepancy surrounding hazard pay for members of
11 Union Local 2306. While I understand that the
12 County is currently engaged in -- in contract
13 negotiations with our union and that there are
14 limitations on what can be publicly discussed, I
15 must stress that this issue of hazard pay goes
16 beyond the scope of the contract itself.

17 Hazard pay funds were distributed to two
18 unions within the facility. Yet only 90 members of
19 Local 2306 received the payments. This raises --
20 this raises serious concerns about fairness,
21 discrepancy and equal treatment. I respectfully ask
22 that the Board to take action and help us resolve
23 this issue once and for all.

24 On April 2nd, 2025, Mr. Guy issued an
25 executive order that included an inaccurate

1 statement regarding the start and end date, dates
2 used to determine eligibility for hazard pay.
3 Today, I'm calling on -- I'm calling out on Mr. Guy
4 to take full accountability for the error and to
5 ensure that all eligible members of Local 2306
6 receive the hazard pay they rightfully earned.
7 Doing so would set an important example, not only as
8 County Executive, but as a leader who stands by his
9 word, honor integrity and does what is right for the
10 people he serves.

11 Mr. Guy, I urge you. Let's put an end to
12 this ongoing fight. Demonstrate to the public what
13 real leadership looks like. We have been engaged in
14 this battle and peacefully protesting for over two
15 months now. And while we are prepared to continue
16 standing up for what's right, I offer you the
17 opportunity to do the same, to stand up for your
18 workers and to prove to the public that you are a
19 man of honesty, fairness and integrity.

20 May I ask the Board? Is there any update
21 on the hazard money?

22 MR. DEPIERRO: Chairman, and again, I
23 appreciate the speaker. It's unfortunate that it
24 seems that, again, the updates are not being
25 provided to by the representation of the union to

1 their members, because earlier this week, as the
2 Board is aware, we had our first conference in
3 litigation. I as you were provided the update, I
4 would hope that the same would be afforded to the
5 members of the union. It seems that it has not. We
6 are in litigation. We're taking this very
7 seriously. So is the County Executive's office and
8 this Board, obviously. And that's all I can say,
9 really, because we're discussing it with counsel.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So the union
11 president is not funneling the information down to
12 the membership.

13 MR. DEPIERRO: As that is my guess
14 from what I'm hearing here today, because, again,
15 as -- as the Chairman, as Chairman, you know, you
16 got the Board got the update as to this week's first
17 event and call with related to this unfair practice
18 charge that was filed. And I'm hoping that they
19 would get the same response.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: How can they get
21 from the County the information that the union
22 president is not giving?

23 MR. DEPIERRO: I cannot provide legal
24 advice, but I'm sure that they can ask the questions
25 to the right persons.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: And can I say
3 something without -- without getting into the
4 specifics of it. We as a Board of Commissioners
5 were briefed as -- as Alberico said a few minutes
6 ago on Tuesday. I believe we were briefed on the an
7 overview of not only the underlying contract
8 negotiations, but also this issue and based upon
9 information that we have. We -- we as a board, I
10 believe, were encouraged with the possibility that
11 the hazardous pay issue could be resolved in the
12 context of the overall contract negotiations.

13 I don't mean -- I don't mean to speak out
14 of turn, but I know that that issue is a separate
15 issue that's before PERC right now. But and I think
16 there's an arbitration, if I'm not mistaken,
17 scheduled for July, Alberico, on that issue?

18 MR. DEPIERRO: Commissioner, the July
19 date is when the next round of documents need to be
20 submitted to PERC. And after that, an arbitration
21 date will be scheduled.

22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But I think
23 stepping back from that, it was at least as one
24 Commissioner, it was my hope that from that
25 discussion that we had in closed session that the

1 issue of hazardous pay would hopefully be resolved
2 in the greater context of the labor negotiations.
3 And that's all I think. I hope I haven't
4 overstepped my bounds legally and making those
5 comments. But I think that's -- that's my accurate
6 take on it.

7 MR. DEPIERRO: Okay. Okay. That's
8 correct. Commissioner, I agree with you.

9 MS. GARCIA: Hopefully we don't get
10 them mixed together because one thing has to do with
11 the other. But that's just one thing. That needs
12 to be taken into consideration as well.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Well, I
14 understand that, but -- but sometimes things get
15 resolved. I hate to -- I hate to use this word
16 because it's an overused word. It's like the word
17 that people say "transparent." To me, it's an
18 overused word. But I think globally, I would like
19 to think that a lot of the -- or all of the labor
20 issues with -- with the unions involved will be
21 resolved, including this one very shortly. I was
22 encouraged by the comments that our representatives
23 made to us in closed session on Tuesday.

24 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, it's Kalala
25 Daily.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So before the
2 next week comes up daily. Well, before the first
3 week --

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She's not here.

5 THE CLERK: The next speaker then
6 is -- sorry -- I'm sorry.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I try not to
8 talk too loud, but if I need to, Mayor, I'll raise
9 my voice. My understanding is that the settlement
10 of the contract and the resolution of retention pay,
11 because that's the terminology used even in the
12 document referenced by the speaker, are separate and
13 distinct, that there is a process that has begun for
14 the resolution of retention pay that involves
15 arbitration, whatever other process that may take
16 place.

17 The resolution of the contract is a
18 document that that we have been shared with. That
19 hopefully sooner rather than later, and there are a
20 couple of things on the union side that need to be
21 done and taken care of before it can be submitted to
22 the -- to the members for a vote, and I think we
23 left the meeting yesterday generally thinking it's a
24 good at a couple of questions after the answers.
25 Good, good, good from the -- from the employees'

1 perspective of addressing the issue of what we would
2 call, I guess, market analysis.

3 But that resolution of that contract in no
4 way, in my opinion is settling the issue of
5 retention pay. The retention pay was filed by the
6 union, is going through a process, documents will be
7 provided arbitration. That process will go through
8 whatever process it goes through. Am I not accurate
9 in saying that?

10 MR. DEPIERRO: Commissioner, it's not
11 that you're -- you're not accurate, and I respect
12 your opinion. Respectfully, I think it's important
13 to to state that the two issues, the answer is that
14 I don't want to upset the fundamental principle of
15 Contract negotiations for either side, both the
16 County and the union, because that also touches upon
17 not only legal strategies, but also litigation
18 strategies.

19 So I think that as Commissioner Cifelli
20 was kind of alluding to, I'll just say this, there
21 is nothing stopping either side to resolve as in any
22 legal matter, any and all outstanding issues. So
23 even though they are technically two separate
24 issues, that does not stop the County and the --
25 and/or the union in negotiating, negotiating them

1 all at once.

2 And again, I don't want to touch upon the
3 union's council's litigation strategies that he or
4 she may have. And also the County here and our
5 director of labor relations, because I know that
6 both sides are definitely working hard. So it is
7 something that would touch upon not only litigation
8 strategy, but I think it could be resolved as
9 anything, you can have a global settlement.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, that's not
11 what the -- that's not what I felt was portrayed
12 yesterday. And I think it would be prudent for me
13 to ask my additional questions in a closed session
14 as opposed to an open session, because they may
15 jeopardize some of what your negotiations are right
16 now.

17 MR. DEPIERRO: And I would always
18 welcome that.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Next
20 speaker.

21 THE CLERK: Mark Bloomberg.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Perfect. There is
23 Mark.

24 MR. BLOOMBERG: Yeah. My -- my stats
25 are looking better than Commissioner Walker's,

1 though that's not easy. Oh, no, I'm perfect from
2 the field today so. All right. I just -- I want to
3 invite actually each of you, as well as all members
4 of the community this weekend, hopefully most of you
5 are aware that there are No Kings protests going on.
6 I think it's particularly important for our elected
7 officials to participate and make their voices
8 heard. One is happening in Jersey City. Another
9 one is happening up in Weehawken. If you just do a
10 search for No Kings online, you will find maps and
11 details. I'm not an organizer of -- of any of
12 these. I'm just sharing information.

13 What I'd also like to just add with that
14 is a reminder to law and law enforcement, our County
15 Sheriff, as well as the local police departments,
16 that these are planned as peaceful protests and that
17 they act accordingly and just allow people to voice
18 what they want to voice basically along there. So
19 extremely important, really, for the public to
20 participate and for elected officials.

21 And then just separating from that and
22 kind of back on the topic of where I've been all
23 day. So regarding being able to speak at these
24 meetings and opening it up to more people. So we
25 have a requirement that people do have to sign up in

1 advance. And so I'm questioning why if they do
2 that, why cannot why can't they also do that
3 remotely? Why can't I be sitting at home today
4 rather than having to fight traffic? It is now six
5 o'clock. I parked my car at four p.m. There's a
6 two-hour limit here. So first of all, I had to find
7 parking and get here early. Second of all, I've got
8 a haul out of here to make sure that my car doesn't
9 get towed.

10 So you'll have to find a solution. And
11 it's not an either or. You could find parking for
12 us where you reserve the street for us. For
13 Commissioners who aren't here, you could offer us
14 their parking spaces. You guys get free parking
15 beneath this building or somewhere nearby. We
16 don't, right? And you can also let us basically
17 just speak from the comfort of our computers. I
18 would much rather be here in person, but there are
19 times where I'm on the road or just the convenience
20 of getting here 4:30 just isn't reasonable.

21 You guys have done a great job. I mean,
22 it's taken a while for you to start making the
23 meetings available online again, much too long, in
24 my opinion. But it's progress. You've got the
25 meeting minutes online. You've got the agendas

1 online. We need to get the ordinances. We need to
2 get the resolutions. We need to open things up, and
3 you need to open things up for the public so that
4 everybody here doesn't have to bust their chops to
5 get here, to speak to you and get their voices
6 heard. Thank you.

7 THE CLERK: My last speaker is Ada
8 Wideman. Ada.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, just as
10 Ada's coming up. So, you know, I think that I'd
11 like to go beyond it, but I think in the short term.
12 Figuring a way to get reasonable access to parking
13 in the lot across the street for individuals who
14 come to a meeting is not an unreasonable request,
15 because you're right. It's certainly a chilling
16 factor if there's nowhere to park. So I, you know,
17 what could we look into, Denise, as it relates to
18 when there's parking available in the lot across the
19 street? At what time?

20 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: Four o'clock.

21 MR. BLOOMBERG: So could you
22 advertise that on the web site?

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Sure. Can we
24 let individuals know that may be attending a meeting
25 that beginning at 4 p.m. the day of the meeting, the

1 lot, and they can identify the lot will have the arm
2 raised and is available for individuals to park
3 without any penalty.

4 MR. FLORIO: This time's expired.
5 Good day.

6 MS. WIDEMAN: Oh, Ada Wideman. Good
7 evening. I'm here on behalf -- there was a breach
8 of my social security number during a grievance
9 hearing I had a couple of months ago. It was at the
10 third step. And Elinor Gibney had to hear it. And
11 in providing you guys the information to the steps,
12 she breached my social security. Now, the
13 information that she presented, not just my
14 information, people's information --

15 MR. FLORIO: I don't want to
16 interrupt the speaker, but if there's an allegation
17 of some wrongdoing that affects the employee's
18 employment with the County, she has not been Riced
19 for this purpose, and we may be entering upon an
20 area that should not be subject for any discussion.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. So advise
22 Ada.

23 MS. WIDEMAN: So what do I got to do
24 forward a court case? I can't -- give me advice as
25 to the violation. I can't do that?

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We can't discuss.

2 MS. WIDEMAN: You have it as well,
3 Mr. Florio. You have my information, my personal
4 rights as well.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And then let the
6 speaker come back to the next meeting.

7 MR. FLORIO: As long as the Rice
8 notice is presented in a -- within a reasonable
9 time.

10 MS. WIDEMAN: What then?

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Notice that the
12 government must provide the employee that's going to
13 be --

14 MR. FLORIO: It would not be your
15 obligation to do that. Our obligation would come
16 from the governing body to the employee that there
17 may be discussion about circumstances that affect
18 that person's employment with the County. And that
19 person then can seek either a hearing in closed
20 session or an open session.

21 MS. WIDEMAN: I mean, we can't --

22 MR. FLORIO: I'm sorry?

23 MS. WIDEMAN: We don't have to deal
24 with here. We can do it in a closed session. But
25 it needs to be done because over 40 people it was

1 leaked to, and that puts me in danger.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So I would
3 suggest that we, based on what was brought to our
4 attention today, provide a Rice notice. Is that the
5 only employee that you're referencing is Elinor
6 Gibney?

7 MS. WIDEMAN: To my knowledge.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All right. That
9 we -- that we provide a Rice notice to direct --

10 MS. WIDEMAN: You said Rice notice,
11 R-I-C-E.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Right. That we
13 the County, based on someone saying that we're going
14 to come here to speak about it, provide the Rice
15 notice to Ms. Gibney that at the next Commissioner
16 meeting with that date and time that there may be a
17 discussion related to that individual. And then you
18 can talk about something else, can't talk about that
19 now. But then at the next meeting, then you will be
20 able to put on the record what you just were looking
21 to put in.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Alberico, I'm
23 assuming that you would handle with regards to the
24 employees. Any employees mentioned where they have
25 to go in a closed session?

1 MR. DEPIERRO: Absolutely. Right.

2 MS. WIDEMAN: I can do it out --

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's okay.

4 MS. WIDEMAN: No matter to me.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: -- advised it
6 cannot be done out in open public.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, it's up to
8 the person. It's up to that person to decide. The
9 employee is getting the notice. The person decides.

10 MS. WIDEMAN: Okay. Okay. Thank
11 you.

12 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, I have no
13 other people that have signed up. So there being no
14 further business to come before the Board, may I
15 have a motion to adjourn? All in favor?

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Cedeño.

17 THE CLERK: We're adjourned.

18 (Whereupon the proceeding is then
19 concluded at 6:06 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 Regular Meeting of the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners, held on Thursday, June 12, 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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