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HUDSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RE:

CAUCUS MEETING : TRANSCRIPT OF  
OF THE :  
HUDSON COUNTY BOARD OF : PROCEEDINGS  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS :  
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O P E N S E S S I O N

Hudson County  
Administration Building,  
County Commissioners Chambers  
567 Pavonia Avenue  
Jersey City, New Jersey  
Tuesday, June 24, 2025  
4:30 p.m.

B E F O R E:

CERTIFIED COPY

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

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

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

1 THE CLERK: Commissioners, you're  
2 going to be working off Agenda No. 2. Commissioner  
3 Aponte-Lipski. Commissioner Baselice.

4 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

6 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Here.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.  
10 Commissioner O'Dea.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
13 Commissioner Walker. Chairman Romano.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

15 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 1. To  
16 honor and commend --

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Excuse me one  
18 second before we start. I'd like to ask for a  
19 moment of silence for deceased Sheriff's Lieutenant  
20 Garcia, Rich Garcia, a good man.

21 (Moment of Silence.)

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: May he rest in  
23 peace. Continue, Mr. Clerk.

24 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 1. To  
25 Honor and Commend Thomas Malavasi, P.E., P.P.,

1 C.M.E., C.P.W.M., Hudson County Engineer on his  
2 retirement from the County of Hudson, after nine  
3 years of service.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

5 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 2.

6 Resolution lending advice and consent to the  
7 Appointment of Alber -- I'm sorry.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Alberico.

9 THE CLERK: Alberico G. De Pierro,  
10 Esq., to the position of Hudson County Counsel and  
11 Director of the Department of Law.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.  
13 Commissioner Walker on stand.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 3.

15 Resolution authorizing application for and  
16 acceptance of funds, if awarded from the North  
17 Jersey Transportation Planning Authority for the  
18 FY2026 Local Capital Project Delivery Program  
19 Concept Development Phase Study for Palisade  
20 Retaining Wall Structure on County Roads.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Baselice.

22 Yes, go ahead, Bob. Yep, Commissioner Kopacz is on  
23 board.

24 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 4. 2025

25 Budget Amendment the National Opioid Settlement

1 Fund, \$30,630.82.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Baselice.

3 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 5. 2025  
4 Budget Amendment State of New Jersey, New Jersey  
5 Department of Environmental Protection FY2025 Clean  
6 Communities Grant, \$24,809.44.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Baselice-Kopacz,  
8 and Commissioner Rodriguez is on Zoom.

9 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 6. 2025  
10 Budget Amendment New Jersey Transit Corporation  
11 Section 5310 Coronavirus Response and Relief  
12 Supplemental Appropriations Act and American Rescue  
13 Plan Act Grant. \$300,000.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's Lipski and  
15 Rodriguez.

16 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 7. 2025  
17 Budget Amendment New Jersey Governor's Council on  
18 Alcoholism and Drug Abuse FY2026 Alliance to prevent  
19 Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Program, \$270,478.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and  
21 Rodriguez.

22 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 8. 2025  
23 Budget Amendment, U.S. Department of Health and  
24 Human Services Minority AIDS Initiative Program,  
25 \$116,709.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Lipski.

2 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 9. 2025  
3 Budget Amendment, New Jersey Division of Highway  
4 Traffic Safety DRE Readiness and Reimbursement  
5 Program. \$27,800.

6 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.  
7 Kopacz.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second.  
9 Kopacz-Romano.

10 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 10. 2025  
11 Budget Amendment, U.S. Department of Health and  
12 Human Services HIV Emergency Relief Formula Grant -  
13 \$1,158,331.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz. And was  
15 that Lipski or Rodriguez?

16 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Lipski.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Was that you?  
18 Yeah.

19 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 11. 2025  
20 Budget Amendment State of New Jersey, New Jersey  
21 Department of Community Affairs FY2025 Local  
22 Recreation Improvement Grant Program, \$76,448.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Baselice.

24 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 12. 2025  
25 Budget Amendment, New Jersey State Department of

1 Human Services Medication Assisted Treatment  
2 Initiative, \$279,805.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Lipski.

4 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 13. 2025  
5 Budget Amendment State of New Jersey Department of  
6 Children and Families Children's Interagency  
7 Coordinating Council, \$47,669.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Rodriguez.

9 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 14. 2025  
10 Budget Amendment, New Jersey Department of Community  
11 Affairs Recreational Opportunities for Individuals  
12 with Disabilities Grant Program, July 1, 2024  
13 through December 31, 2025, \$35,000.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Kopacz.

15 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 15. 2025  
16 Budget Amendment New Jersey Department of Law and  
17 Public Safety, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice  
18 Assistance Grant Program, \$132,664.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano-Lipski.

20 THE CLERK: 2025 Budget Amendment.  
21 New Jersey Department of Families and Human Services  
22 Service Human Services Advisory Council Grant, July  
23 1st, 2025 through June 30th, 2026, \$69,419.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Lipski.

25 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 17.

1 Resolution amending Resolution No. 116-2-2025 and  
2 authorizing FY2025 Ryan White Minority AIDS  
3 Initiative Grant, Second Partial Award allocations  
4 to Professional Services Providers and a Provider  
5 Awarded through a Competitive Contracting Process,  
6 March 1st, 2025 through February 28th, 2026,  
7 \$116,709.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and  
9 Kopacz.

10 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 18.  
11 Resolution amending Resolution No. 114-2-2025 and  
12 authorizing FY'2025 Ryan White Part "A" Formula  
13 Grant Second Partial Award allocations to  
14 Professional Services Providers, providers awarded  
15 through a Competitive Contracting Process and  
16 approving the award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract  
17 with Jeff Murray Programming Shop, Inc., March 1st,  
18 2025 through February 28th, 2026, \$1,158,331.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Rodriguez.

20 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 19.  
21 Resolution amending Resolution No. 742-12-2024 to  
22 extend the contract term for the Data Driven  
23 Decision Making Organizational Enhancement Program  
24 Grant from the Department of Community Affairs,  
25 Office of Homelessness Prevention, July 1st, 2023

1 through December 31st, 2025. No cost extension.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Lipski.

3 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 20.

4 Resolution authorizing Public Donor Agreements with  
5 Garden State Community Development Corporation and  
6 Collaborative Services Program of New Jersey, Inc.  
7 to provide Support Services for Hudson County's  
8 State Rental Assistance Program, July 1st, 2025 to  
9 June 30th, 2026, \$500,000.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Romano.

11 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 21.

12 Resolution awarding Educational Services Contract  
13 Non-Fair and Open Hudson County Community College  
14 for the continuation of the Academic Workforce and  
15 Pathway Program on behalf of the Department of  
16 Family Services and Reintegration in Partnership  
17 with the Department of Corrections and  
18 Rehabilitation, June 1st, 2025 to May 26th, 2026,  
19 \$368,215.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Kopacz.

21 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 22.

22 Resolution awarding a Professional Services Contract  
23 Non-Fair and Open with Integrity House, Inc., A  
24 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Treatment Provider, to provide  
25 a Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program for

1 240 Inmates at the Hudson County Correctional and  
2 Rehabilitation Center, July 1st, 2025 to June 30th,  
3 2026, \$3,000,000.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea-Rodriguez.

5 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 23.

6 Resolution authorizing a Non-Fair and Open Contract  
7 with Sigmund Software, LLC, for the warranty and  
8 support of the Electronic Medical Health Records  
9 System at Meadowview Psychiatric Hospital, July 1st,  
10 2025 through June 30th, 2026, \$159,280.70.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Rodriguez.

12 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 24.

13 Resolution amending Resolution No. 156-3-2025 to  
14 extend the Professional Services Contract Non-Fair  
15 and Open with Wellpath, LLC for up to an additional  
16 90-day period for the Medical Health Care  
17 Management, Mental Health Care Management, and  
18 Fiscal Management at the Hudson County Correctional  
19 and Rehabilitation Center, July 1st, 2025 to  
20 September 30th, 2025, \$3,600,000. New total,  
21 \$7,200,000.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Lipski.

23 Question. Go Bill.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Are the  
25 proposals received?

1 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: How many  
3 proposals were received?

4 MR. ANTUN: Two.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Who were the two  
6 that were received?

7 MR. ANTUN: WellPath, CFG.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: When were they  
9 received?

10 MR. ANTUN: I don't know. I don't  
11 know. I don't know when they were received.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: A week ago?  
13 Three weeks ago?

14 MS. MORO: They came in on June 4th.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: June 4th? Why  
16 do you need to extend it for three months?

17 MS. MORO: We are having our  
18 interviews with the vendors in July and then we  
19 won't have it awarded until the August meeting and  
20 then the transition period. That's up to 30 days.  
21 Up to an additional 90 days. If it's awarded before  
22 that, it won't be the full 90 days.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Was there ever a  
24 time when we didn't have an outside vendor do this  
25 and we didn't have it?

1 MS. MORO: Not that I'm aware of.

2 MR. ANTUN: If it occurred,  
3 Commissioner --

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It would be  
5 before you.

6 MR. ANTUN: No, not before me. It  
7 would have been in the early '90s. We've had a  
8 vendor in place at least 30 years.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Does anyone, if  
10 you don't know the answer, can we just research? Do  
11 any of the county facilities in New Jersey not use  
12 an outside vendor? If so, who?

13 MS. MORO: I can find out.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Of those that  
15 use an outside vendor, who do they use? I'd like to  
16 know all that for Thursday.

17 MS. MORO: Sure.

18 MR. ANTUN: Most of them use an  
19 outside vendor. Most of the smaller ones use  
20 in-house, but most of them use --

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You can identify  
22 by these facilities have 500 patients. They're  
23 in-house. I'd like to see that for sure. It's  
24 troubling to me that there's only two companies that  
25 are looking to do that.

1 MS. MORO: Most of the counties that  
2 we've looked into in the past use WellPath or CFG.

3 MR. ANTUN: It's funny. I said the  
4 same thing when I was commenting with Dave. If you  
5 recall, we did this process because of the State  
6 Controller, and when we did it the last time, we  
7 actually got more proposals. And then he objected  
8 to the process that we made, and now we followed his  
9 process and we got two. Anyway. That's just my own.  
10 We will get you the information.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you,  
12 Christine.

13 MS. MORO: Just to clarify, you want  
14 the counties or all facilities in the state?

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, if you do  
16 the whole state, that would be great.

17 MR. ANTUN: We'll get you what we  
18 can.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I guess I don't  
20 know how you get the answers, but if you had five or  
21 four, I'd be curious to know why can we just make an  
22 inquiry as to why you didn't bother submitting a  
23 proposal.

24 MR. ANTUN: We'll get you as much  
25 information as we can.

1                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: This is a very  
2 important thing that we have to do. It's not only  
3 the health care, but the issue of mental health and  
4 the problems of mental health at that facility to  
5 some degree exacerbated by some of the contracted  
6 out individuals that are there. It's real.

7                   MS. MORO: A lot of the pushback I  
8 believe is the inability through the competitive  
9 contracting process to negotiate, which is one of  
10 the reasons we believe the other process was the way  
11 to go because of the service that it is. But we  
12 can't negotiate any part of the specifications with  
13 the vendors, and that's part of the reason why other  
14 people don't want to participate.

15                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So whatever you  
16 put out in the proposal is what they responded to?

17                   MS. MORO: We can't negotiate to  
18 change any of those specifications after the fact.

19                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So what do you  
20 do if something else happens? I'll make an example.  
21 You have an example that requires a psychiatrist or  
22 psychologist to be there whatever, 12 hours a day  
23 and whatever it is, 8 to 8 and then suddenly you  
24 find out that the issues related to serious mental  
25 health occur 17 hours a day.

1 MS. MORO: We can change staffing  
2 levels. What we can't do is negotiate --

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: We can't change  
4 services? You can't add or delete services after we  
5 award it?

6 MS. MORO: We can change --

7 MR. ANTUN: If things come to our  
8 attention that require an amendment, sure, and we  
9 come back to you and you approve it.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So you can add  
11 services after the fact?

12 MS. MORO: Minor additions, nothing  
13 material. Like for instance, we can't negotiate  
14 like insurance limits and bonding and things that  
15 the vendors would push back on.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And I guess the  
17 difference in this instance also is, do we set the  
18 price or the price is part of the --

19 MS. MORO: We do not set the price.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What were the  
21 bids for?

22 MS. MORO: It was -- I don't have the  
23 exact numbers, but the lower number was \$79 million  
24 I believe over 5 years.

25 MR. ANTUN: That's right. These are

1 five-year numbers. I can read them. WellPath for 5  
2 years, \$83,372,377.16; and CFG was \$79,156,286.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's for five  
4 years?

5 MR. ANTUN: That's a five-year  
6 number.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Divide five into  
8 79 is 16, just a little under 16 million, right?

9 MS. MORO: Yeah, it goes up. It goes  
10 up slightly every year.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: On both of them;  
12 79 would be a higher number but it goes up?

13 MS. MORO: Yeah.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All right. So  
15 but currently you pay \$14.4 million.

16 MS. MORO: Yeah, I believe so.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So your number  
18 is going to go at least up almost at least \$1.5  
19 million or \$2 million depending on which way the  
20 recommendation is made.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Chris.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Is that  
23 surprising? Have these gone up? Have their numbers  
24 gone up every year? Obviously the number I gave you  
25 is not the first year, but if I aggregate it out it

1 aggregates out to that.

2 MS. MORO: Yes. They go up slightly  
3 every year for both vendors.

4 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: So with  
5 WellPath, WellPath is let's say divided by whatever  
6 per year, per quarter if we give them 3 months with  
7 a new contract would it be less?

8 MS. MORO: No, I don't think so.

9 MR. ANTUN: The prices that we  
10 provided are based on the current prices, not on the  
11 new.

12 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Okay.

13 MS. MORO: The number for the  
14 extension is based on our current usage.

15 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Is the new  
16 contract less per quarter or more?

17 MS. MORO: It's going to be more.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Chris.  
19 Continue, Mr. Clerk.

20 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 25.  
21 Resolution approving a Non-Fair and Open Contract  
22 with Cody Computers Services, Inc. For its Records  
23 Management Software System Support on behalf of the  
24 Sheriff's Office, September 1st, 2025 through August  
25 31st, 2026, \$65,292.42.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano-Lipski.

2 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 26.

3 Resolution amending Resolution No. 423-7-2024 to  
4 extend the contract period for the recreational  
5 opportunities for individuals with disabilities  
6 Grant Program and to authorize funding to various  
7 providers, July 1st, 2024 through December 31st,  
8 2025, \$42,000.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and  
10 Rodriguez.

11 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 27.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Question.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Is that funding  
14 going to, I guess, the Liberty Camp?

15 DIRECTOR TOON: Good afternoon,  
16 Commissioners. Part of the funding is going to  
17 Liberty Camp. We purchased 20 slots for individuals  
18 with disabilities and others.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.  
21 Clerk.

22 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, we would  
23 like to withdraw No. 27.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. We need a  
25 motion on that or is that on the agenda?

1 MR. ANTUN: No, not on the agenda.  
2 Just forget about it.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Which one?

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: 27 is off, ladies  
5 and gentlemen. 28, go ahead, Will.

6 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 28.  
7 Resolution renewing a Tri-Party Agreement with the  
8 Hudson County Economic Development Corporation  
9 (EDC); the Hudson County Improvement Authority  
10 (HCIA) and the County of Hudson, July 1st, 2025 to  
11 June 30th, 2026. \$670,000.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and  
13 Rodriguez.

14 THE CLERK: Approve Purchasing  
15 Agent's Awards, purchases made under State  
16 Contracts.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walker-Rodriguez.

18 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 30.  
19 Purchase made under the Educational Service  
20 Commission of New Jersey Pricing System, formerly  
21 known as the Middlesex Regional Education Service  
22 Commission.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

24 THE CLERK: 31. Purchases made under  
25 the Union County Cooperative Pricing System.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez. Yes,  
2 Walker.

3 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 32.  
4 Approve Purchasing Agent's Awards.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I have a  
7 question going back to 28 on the Tri-Party  
8 agreement.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Tri-Party.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: On page 3, it  
11 lists like accomplishments, loans, amount, jobs,  
12 whatever. 137,000 people reached out. I'd be  
13 curious to find out where that number came from.

14 MR. ANTUN: I'm sorry, Commissioner?

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Page 3 of the  
16 backup.

17 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: There's  
19 notations about loans, aggregate, jobs.

20 MR. ANTUN: I see.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Are they  
22 programs? I don't understand what the last two  
23 mean. People reached. 137,000 people were served by  
24 the businesses? Go ahead, Michelle.

25 DIRECTOR RICHARDSON: Good evening,

1 Commissioners. Commissioner O'Dea, would you please  
2 restate your question so I'm clear?

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm reading the  
4 report.

5 DIRECTOR RICHARDSON: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And it says 26  
7 to-date accomplishments. It lists the number of  
8 loans, the aggregate amount of the loan, jobs, it  
9 says 739 jobs. So I have a question on for how long  
10 do you monitor retention? Is there an annual? Do  
11 you monitor the retention for the life of the loan?

12 DIRECTOR RICHARDSON: The UCEDC  
13 provides us with regular reports on the loan over  
14 the life of the loan, yes.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So every year  
16 you would get a report?

17 DIRECTOR RICHARDSON: We actually get  
18 reports more frequently, Commissioner. We get  
19 reports at least five times a year.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So they require  
21 their loan clients to provide to you that many times  
22 a year how many employees they have working?

23 DIRECTOR RICHARDSON: Commissioner,  
24 clients do not report directly to Hudson County EDC.  
25 That is based on confidentiality of the information

1 between a business and a lender. So all of the  
2 details of the loan are confidential. They're the  
3 funder. The UCEDC is the funder. They use their  
4 balance sheet. So the details of every transaction  
5 is confidential, but we get summary statistics. We  
6 get the type of loan, the amount of the loan, the  
7 borrower, the location, employment numbers. We see  
8 summary statistics, Commissioner.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Why that's it?  
10 I mean, I don't necessarily agree that the funding  
11 source they have to make the loans is what?

12 DIRECTOR RICHARDSON: The underlying  
13 funding source is primarily SBA. So UCEDC from the  
14 outset in 2016, has been very clear and very careful  
15 about the level of detail they share with the EDC.  
16 So most of the lending is SBA lending and they are  
17 following those guidelines.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Are there SBA  
19 lenders that you refer people to?

20 DIRECTOR RICHARDSON: They are  
21 primarily an SBA lender, yes.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And you make  
23 referrals?

24 DIRECTOR RICHARDSON: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Someone comes

1 because you don't really have a loan pool of your  
2 own.

3 DIRECTOR RICHARDSON: That is  
4 correct. We're no longer a bank, sir.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Remember, I'm  
6 who suggested UCEDC. I'm just trying to get some  
7 answer. It says programs, 116 programs. Can you  
8 elaborate? What does that mean?

9 DIRECTOR RICHARDSON: So I'm showing  
10 you my report is in two sections. The EDC every two  
11 years or so publishes an update report. It's our  
12 annual report. So what we're showing you on page 3  
13 in the first section is since the relaunch of the  
14 EDC in 2016, we're showing you the information that  
15 we have in the public domain about how we're doing.

16 So we show the metrics that are in the  
17 public domain are reported every two years, the  
18 number of business loans, jobs created, the number  
19 of programs you're asking about programs. So they  
20 range from some of the training programs that we  
21 actually did directly with UCEDC.

22 As you may be aware, Commissioners, UCEDC  
23 focuses on three things, actually. They're a bank.  
24 They're also a training institution, and they're  
25 also a PTAC. So in our earlier years, we actually

1 did webinars. Then we transitioned -- actually, we  
2 did in-person in a couple of the cities in the  
3 County, and then we transitioned to hybrid. So we  
4 had a range of training programs with them, and  
5 then, of course, we branched out into webinars on  
6 various topics under our own brand. And then  
7 bringing you present, we are now actively engaged in  
8 webinars providing information in partnership.

9           So the business model has changed since  
10 2016, and our programs are typically in partnership.  
11 If you're thinking about 2025, and some of the  
12 e-mails you may be getting from us in 2025, we are  
13 running a four-part series with UCEDC and the SBDC  
14 and NJCU on a variety of financial topics. Why  
15 financial topics? It aligns with our primary focus,  
16 which is business loans.

17           COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So your 24  
18 accomplishments list, eight loans totaling \$100,000.

19           DIRECTOR RICHARDSON: Yes. Things  
20 are slowing down. During the pandemic, we put a lot  
21 of points on the board during the pandemic, and I  
22 think you and the Administration and the EDC are  
23 very proud of the work that we did during the  
24 pandemic. At that time, I will just remind you,  
25 Commissioner, because you know this space as well as

1 many of us do. During the pandemic, the CDFIs, the  
2 Community Development Financial Institutions, were  
3 the anchor, they were the lender of first resort in  
4 many instances. So when you look at our  
5 accomplishments, they actually spiked during the  
6 pandemic, and it has tapered off and it is  
7 continuing to taper off. I don't mind being very  
8 transparent with you. It's slowing down.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So in my  
10 experience, you know, I do something during the  
11 daytime, I haven't seen that. I've seen a continual  
12 increased demand on businesses because banks aren't  
13 lending, and they're just looking for somewhere else  
14 to find a funding source.

15 DIRECTOR RICHARDSON: Commissioner,  
16 I'm glad that you're encouraging me to get a little  
17 bit more detailed on the lending. There is still,  
18 Commissioners, there's a lot of demand. But when  
19 you look at the businesses that are actually seeking  
20 financing, that's where it becomes a little bit  
21 tricky. Some of the businesses that, and I spoke to  
22 UCEDC about this because I actually anticipated any  
23 number of you might say to me, Hey, Michelle, what's  
24 happening?

25 So the conversation that I've been having

1 with UCEDC since the beginning of the year is one of  
2 the reasons things are slowing down is that they  
3 have people asking. But there is a great deal more  
4 caution when it comes to the underwriting. Many  
5 businesses are on the sidelines right now. They're  
6 uncertain whether they should borrow or not. If a  
7 business has cash in the bank, they're kind of  
8 holding on to it. They're a little bit uncertain  
9 about whether they want to invest their own cash and  
10 they're certainly pausing on borrowing.

11 So then you come to those businesses that  
12 have been approaching UCEDC, and quite frankly, some  
13 of those businesses are already having difficulties.  
14 It's showing up in the financials. They're behind  
15 on utility bills. So you know, there's a lot of  
16 demand but they are very risk averse, as you know,  
17 Commissioner. They're very risk averse.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I guess part of  
19 my concern is as government, is there a need?  
20 Again, I don't know how many people that have sought  
21 loans that have not been able to get approved. I  
22 often see government as a source of higher risk  
23 loans than is normally the case, especially for  
24 minority and women-owned businesses. I just see  
25 that. In my example, we actually got EDA dollars to

1 loan for a project at the airport, and we  
2 anticipated up to 50-percent failure rate, but it  
3 was an opportunity to give businesses that would  
4 never ever in their lifetime have an opportunity to  
5 do that. We haven't had that high of a failure rate  
6 yet, but we've had a couple of successes that are  
7 quite impressive in the ability that they did.

8           So I would just be curious not obviously  
9 now because it's a longer discussion. Are there  
10 borrowers out there that just get turned down by  
11 UCEDC? If there are, what types of loans are they  
12 looking for? What kind of numbers? What kind of  
13 amounts for what kind of sources? And then do we  
14 try to find another source? Some which may exist  
15 especially in Hudson County where -- which I was  
16 kind of wondering if that has an impact on it too is  
17 that up to two years ago, all the Urban Enterprise  
18 Zones had no money. Now they have money again. How  
19 many of those I expect they own and Jersey City  
20 offer loan products again. They may not have had  
21 the money to offer them before.

22           But I was curious, I'd be curious to see  
23 whether or not they're now becoming a place for  
24 people to go borrow because maybe they're a little  
25 less stringent in their underwriting.

1                   DIRECTOR RICHARDSON: Would you like  
2 me to reply to your comment?

3                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Why don't you do  
4 this? Why don't you get all the information that  
5 you should be requesting?

6                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Whatever you  
7 thought was immediate.

8                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Whatever  
9 information you have, the commissioner requested, if  
10 you can gather it all together Thursday would be  
11 good.

12                   DIRECTOR RICHARDSON: I'm happy to  
13 send it. Thank you very much.

14                   THE CLERK: Resolution No. 33. This  
15 resolution was listed in Agenda one as resolution  
16 coming. It is now on the dais.

17                   Resolution No. 33. Resolution awarding a  
18 Fair and Open Competitive Contract to the difference  
19 card to serve as the third-party administrator for  
20 the Health Reimbursement Account for the County  
21 Medical/RX Program; no cost to County for Phase I.

22                   COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.

23                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second.

24                   THE CLERK: Resolution No. 34.  
25 Resolution approving Addition No. 3 to a fair and

1 open professional service contract with Remington  
2 Vernick Engineer Design and Construction Management.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Question. Go  
4 ahead.

5 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, if I may,  
6 before we get to Item 34, can I just provide a brief  
7 explanation on No. 33? And I have representatives  
8 from our risk management group and from the  
9 difference card. What we're attempting to do, Mr.  
10 Chairman, about a year or so ago, State health  
11 benefits allowed a pilot program with at least one  
12 county whereby we would introduce a concept to on a  
13 voluntary basis to have employees choose a higher  
14 deductible higher copay plan that's offered by State  
15 health benefits.

16 And what we would do is that the  
17 difference in the savings we were putting to a  
18 reimbursement account, and then that reimbursement  
19 account would be used to pay part of the medical  
20 expenses that the employee incurs. What we're  
21 seeking to do is to and that's why it's phase one,  
22 what we're seeking to do is to engage all of the  
23 unions because the State requires that we enter into  
24 an MOU with each of the unions that are interested.  
25 But the interest is limited to giving the county the

1 ability to offer the program on a voluntary basis.

2           There is no obligation on the part of the  
3 employee to participate, but if they do participate,  
4 there are savings that the employee can achieve  
5 without hurting their current level of benefits. So  
6 I just wanted to, that's an overview. Now, at some  
7 point after we complete phase one we will come back  
8 to the Board because the Board has to also approve  
9 the MOU with the union, and we will also indicate  
10 the level of interest and the amount of money that  
11 has to be set has to be set aside in the  
12 reimbursement account.

13           And so that the Board knows, this has to  
14 be done in an annual basis because as you know,  
15 there's open enrollment and every year the employee  
16 can change their mind. So every year we will go  
17 through this process, but assuming that there's  
18 interest and employees continue to enroll in this  
19 voluntary program, you know, our vendor will be the  
20 difference card. So we will be back. That's what I  
21 wanted to say.

22           COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Two things.  
23 When was it the pilot first started?

24           MR. ANTUN: I think it was about a  
25 year or two ago, Commissioner. I think Hunterdon

1 County was the first county that did it.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Hunterdon?  
3 Hunterdon?

4 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: How many  
6 employees did it have? A hundred?

7 MR. ANTUN: Maybe less than a  
8 thousand.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Do you have  
10 empirical data on how many opted in?

11 MR. ANTUN: They told me that they  
12 got about 400 opted in. I don't expect to see that  
13 high of an enrollment.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's 40 percent,  
15 right?

16 MR. ANTUN: Yeah. I don't expect to  
17 see that high of an enrollment, but if we can  
18 achieve anywhere from 10 to 20 percent, you know,  
19 that I think is doable because in all likelihood  
20 younger, more healthier employees will probably  
21 enroll, will opt for it as opposed to those that  
22 have higher medical needs. I don't see them opting  
23 into the program.

24 But the interesting thing about this  
25 program is that with the higher deductible and

1 higher copay, the employee is responsible for up to  
2 \$14,000. So that becomes our obligation for funding  
3 the reimbursement. And what we're hoping is that  
4 anything, and obviously anything above that, then  
5 State health benefits pays a hundred percent.

6 But we believe that if we can get enough  
7 employees to participate in the program, overall  
8 it'll be a savings to the County because most of our  
9 employees are either in direct 10 or direct 15,  
10 which is a very high premium for them.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I mean, you kind  
12 of answered the question saying that younger people  
13 would opt in, older people would tend not to. What  
14 happens if an older person, for whatever reason,  
15 opts in and then they retire? Do they get to go  
16 into it?

17 MR. ANTUN: Well, if they retire,  
18 that's a whole different program. The State offers  
19 their package, and that's what a retiree has to  
20 take. They get that.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So they don't  
22 get penalized by utilizing this during the period of  
23 time that they work?

24 MR. ANTUN: No, they do not.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And then how

1 does the difference card make money?

2 MR. ANTUN: They charge approximately  
3 \$59 per employee per month.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's the  
5 administrative fee?

6 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, that includes,  
7 exactly, that's the, you know, processing claims,  
8 monitoring the reimbursement account, all that  
9 stuff.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's \$700 a  
11 month per person that opts in out of a liability of  
12 potentially \$15, right? Five percent. Okay. Do  
13 you have somebody who could give me their card?  
14 Obviously, I have a chief of staff that's an expert  
15 in this field. I want her to speak to me.

16  
17 MR. ANTUN: Commissioner, the  
18 individuals are in the back.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I know Dominic.  
20 I don't know the other gentleman there.

21 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, No. 34, we  
22 would like to withdraw that as well.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: The benefit of the  
24 Board, 34 is withdrawn.

25 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 35.

1 Resolution awarding Professional Service Contract  
2 Fair and Open outside Legal Services General Counsel  
3 to the Board of County Commissioners Edward J.  
4 Florio, Esq. of Florio, Kenny & Raval, LLP, June 28,  
5 2025 to June 27, 2026, \$106,400.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Lipski.  
7 Question on 34. Question by one of the  
8 Commissioners. What is the reason it was pulled?

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay, you got  
10 it, Bill. Yeah, I'm sorry. You mentioned it. Got  
11 it.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Why was 34  
13 pulled?

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Historic questions  
15 on the work to be done, Al.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's over a  
17 hundred years old, right?

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: It's over a hundred  
19 years old.

20 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 36.  
21 Resolution awarding a Fair and Open Contract Lexus  
22 Nexis for Electronic Legal Reference Materials for  
23 the Hudson County Adult Correctional Center, July  
24 1st, 2025 through June 30th, 2027, \$43,560, Two-Year  
25 Total, \$21,780.00 Per Year.

1 Cifelli and Walker. Quick question. Is that for  
2 corrections officers?

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: No, that's for  
4 the inmates.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Oh, for the  
6 inmates.

7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: It's a law  
8 library, right? They have a right to access for  
9 their own defense, right?

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yep.

11 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 37.  
12 Resolution awarding a Fair and Open Contract West  
13 Publishing Corporation, d/b/a West, a Thomas Reuters  
14 Business for Westlaw Edge for the Law Department,  
15 the Prosecutor's Office and other Departments as  
16 required and clear, a fugitive, witness locator  
17 service for the Law Department, July 1st, 2025  
18 through June 30th, 2027, \$261,444.50, Two-Year Total;  
19 \$127,004.78 Year One Total; \$134,439.72, Year Two  
20 Total.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Al?

22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I don't  
23 understand the numbers. Is Alberico there? Maybe  
24 he can walk us through the numbers.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You've got to get

1 it sponsored first, Al.

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'll sponsor  
3 it.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cifelli and  
5 Kopacz -- Kopacz and Cifelli. Okay. Who's got the  
6 answer from the Law Department? Alberico.

7 MR. DEPIERRO: Well, the foster and  
8 the -- Commissioner, in the backup, there's yearly  
9 totals for separate services that West Law provides,  
10 and it's also broken down for the Prosecutor's  
11 Office.

12 So there's West Law Edge, which is what we  
13 attorneys use, obviously, for our research. There's  
14 Clear, which is an additional service offered by  
15 West Law, where you can do your investigative  
16 research, and the Prosecutor's Office has a yearly  
17 fee as well, so that's how the breakdown is come up  
18 with. And that's coming straight from West Law.

19 MR. ANTUN: Did you get that, Al?

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I get it. But  
21 none of this involves, Alberico, none of this  
22 involves the Law Department or the Prosecutor's  
23 Office using AI for ghost citations, I hope?

24 MR. DEPIERRO: No, no.

25 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right.

1 All right.

2 MR. DEPIERRO: No. West Law has a  
3 separate program for AI, which none of us are taking  
4 on yet.

5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. That's  
6 good so far.

7 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 38.  
8 Resolution authorizing Fair and Open Competitive  
9 Contracts with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese  
10 of Newark and North Hudson Community Action  
11 Corporation for Physical Improvement to Healthcare  
12 Facilities through the Community Development Block  
13 Grant, Coronavirus 2 Grant Program, July 1st, 2025  
14 through December 31st, 2025, \$380,000.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and Cifelli.

16 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 39.  
17 Resolution awarding Fair and Open Competitive  
18 Contract to Collaborative Support Programs of New  
19 Jersey for the operation of the Hudson County  
20 Warming Center and Cooling Center, June 22, 2025  
21 through June 30, 2026, \$645,000.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.  
23 Board as a whole.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can I question?

25 MR. ANTUN: Hold on. There was a

1 replacement in the term changed. The term is June  
2 22nd, 2025 to June 21st, 2026.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. Can we  
4 have that corrected then?

5 MR. ANTUN: The replacement I think  
6 was --

7 THE CLERK: I'm being told that it's  
8 on the dais as well.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Question.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Question. Go,  
11 Bill. I received three phone calls last night later  
12 in the evening asking whether the cooling center was  
13 open, only to find out I guess it closes at six.  
14 Has anybody ever analyzed on a certain level of heat  
15 night whether -- whether closing it at six and  
16 transporting all these individuals back to basically  
17 the streets makes sense or not?

18 MR. ANTUN: You know, Commissioner,  
19 cooling centers are designed to be in the daytime.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Understood, but  
21 they're generally designed for people that have  
22 places to live that don't have air conditioning.  
23 They're generally not designed for people that are  
24 home. And again, I'm not definitively on one side  
25 or the other. I just found that the level of heat

1 last night was such that people were actually  
2 called. In fact, one was a city employee just their  
3 AC broke and they had no, it was unbearable. They  
4 had asthma or whatever and they weren't. It was  
5 unbearable for them to be in their own house.

6 MR. ANTUN: Again, this is designed  
7 more for homeless individuals that don't have a  
8 shelter. That's what this is.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, I  
10 understand. I understand.

11 MR. ANTUN: They can call their  
12 municipality.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. I've just  
14 been thinking about it. At the end of the day,  
15 you're transporting the individuals on still what's  
16 a very hot night, putting them out on the street.  
17 I'm not sure the health side of it is. I mean,  
18 tonight it's going down 87. I don't know, 99 or 101  
19 and 87. I'm not sure I'd be able to sleep. I'm not  
20 able to sleep outdoors in either of those  
21 temperatures.

22 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I also want to  
23 ask something. Is it possible that we could move  
24 the time to about 8:30 because the sunset about like  
25 8:47 or something like that now. I mean, I

1 understand when it's a little bit darker, it gets  
2 cooler. But if we can do it like 8:45 because  
3 that's when the sun, the sun is out still.

4 MR. ANTUN: I don't know if we need  
5 to go to 8:45 because I go out at 8:45 every night  
6 in the sunset. But let me see what we can do.

7 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I'll speak to  
8 you.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Just to show  
10 today as an example, just to show today. Just to  
11 show today eight p.m., the sun sets at 8:31  
12 temperature 93 degrees.

13 MR. ANTUN: Commissioner, I'm not  
14 disputing that, but the sun is not as intense.  
15 Although it's hot out, it's not as intense.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: 93 is hot. If  
17 you can go out tonight at 8 o'clock and fall asleep  
18 on a park bench, I'll give you an award.

19 MR. ANTUN: I will not go out  
20 tonight.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'll give you an  
22 award.

23 MR. ANTUN: You don't need to do  
24 that.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You can fall

1 asleep on a park bench.

2 MR. ANTUN: We will see what we can  
3 do.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All right.  
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue.

7 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 40.  
8 Resolution awarding Professional Services Contract  
9 Fair and Open to T & M Associates Professional  
10 Engineering Services "Sprinkler System at the Kearny  
11 Naval Reserve Building," \$114,970.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano-Cifelli. Go  
13 ahead.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 41.  
15 Resolution authorizing in Interlocal Professional  
16 Services Contract with Global Tuberculosis Institute  
17 at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey for  
18 the provision of specialized Medical Services at the  
19 Hudson County Chest Clinic, July 1st, 2025 through  
20 June 30th, 2028, \$802,745.37.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Cifelli.  
22 Question, Cifelli. Go ahead.

23 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: On the  
24 \$802,000 maybe Abe can answer this. Back-checking  
25 that, how much of that money is offset by grants

1 that we get?

2 MR. ANTUN: Hold on a second,  
3 Commissioner. I'm sorry, Commissioner. I lost  
4 track of where we are here. No. 41?

5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah, 41.  
6 Yeah.

7 MR. ANTUN: I believe we get two  
8 grants on that. I don't remember what the dollar  
9 amounts are for each one. One is a State grant, and  
10 the other one is a federal grant. Between the two,  
11 I'm thinking that we get maybe around \$600,000  
12 between the two.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. Okay. So  
14 the net on the County budget, if you offset the  
15 grants, it's about \$200,000, give or take \$25,000?

16 MR. ANTUN: Something like that,  
17 Commissioner.

18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. Okay.  
19 I understand.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.  
21 Clerk.

22 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 42.  
23 Resolution authorizing the County of Hudson to enter  
24 into a Non-Exclusive Memorandum of Understanding  
25 with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Inc., a

1 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation for the provision  
2 of Snap Navigator Services with the Department of  
3 Family Services and Reintegration; No cost to the  
4 County.

5 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Lipski  
6 and Basalice, was it?

7 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Me, Carrie.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and  
9 Rodriguez.

10 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 43.  
11 Resolution amending Resolution No. 294-5-2015, and  
12 approving an amendment to the agreement with AR  
13 James Media and the City of Jersey City for the  
14 Construction and Erection of Bus Shelters on a  
15 County-Owned Roadway.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Romano.

17 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 44.  
18 Resolution authorizing the approval and execution of  
19 a Lease Agreement by and between the County of  
20 Hudson and NJ Transit for upgrades to Traffic  
21 Signals located in the County Right-of-Way at the  
22 Intersection of Seaview Drive and Paul Amico Way, a  
23 County Road, in Secaucus, New Jersey for Traffic  
24 Control in support of the upcoming FIFA World Cup  
25 2026.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Al?

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Sponsor.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Baselice and  
4 Cifelli.

5 THE CLERK: Resolution number --

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I have a  
7 question.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Question.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Just to go back  
10 in. You can just get me this for Thursday. Can you  
11 have somebody from the City explain what their basis  
12 was for determining where they want to put all the  
13 shelters?

14 MR. ANTUN: I'm sorry, put what?

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Bus shelters.  
16 What was it based on? Was it based on community  
17 requests? Was it based on the amount of ridership  
18 that utilized those particular intersections?

19 MR. ANTUN: The resolution?

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Was it part of  
21 some other program? Literally, every one of them is  
22 in my district. That's why I'm curious. Did they  
23 just pick an area?

24 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 45.

25 Resolution approving and authorizing the execution

1 of a certain "Non-Disturbance and Attornment  
2 Agreement and partial release of assignment of  
3 leases and rents" in connection with a certain  
4 "Telecommunications Facility Easement Agreement and  
5 Assignment of existing building space licenses" to  
6 be entered into between Amparo Enterprises, Columbus  
7 Drive, LLC and K2 Towers III, LLC, with respect to  
8 115 Columbus Drive, within the City of Jersey City,  
9 and other related actions.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano-Walker.

11 THE CLERK: I-1. Ordinance amending  
12 Ordinance Number 234-4-2013 Motor Vehicle Towing  
13 regulations within Chapter 200, and Organizing  
14 Towing regulations as Appendix C to the Hudson  
15 County Administrative Code.

16 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Sponsor.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Question. I want  
19 to answer that one. On a tow, where's the  
20 relocation?

21 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: I'm sorry?  
22 There's one for relocation and one for recovery.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.  
24 Clerk.

25 THE CLERK: I-2. Ordinance amending

1 Ordinance No. 58-1 2025, establishing regulations  
2 for the use of County buildings by the public.

3 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.

4 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Question. What  
6 is the reason for this?

7 MR. DEPIERRO: Commissioner, we're  
8 just making just a few changes. It's actually only  
9 three changes after discussing it with the Sheriff's  
10 Office and working on some adjustments that they  
11 proposed. It's only -- the ordinance, if you see  
12 the ordinance is only changing, it's deleting the  
13 section that says that persons cannot film other  
14 members of the public. It's amending that all  
15 signage across County buildings will also include  
16 the ordinance number. And the last part of it is  
17 that it allows the Sheriff's Office to act if a  
18 person continues to disregard the instructions and  
19 becomes disruptive then they will be, that gives the  
20 Sheriff's Office grounds to remove the person from  
21 the building.

22 So it's only three changes after  
23 discussing with the Sheriff's Office.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You're allowed  
25 to record members of the public without approval

1 permission. All the signs have the ordinance on it.

2 MR. DEPIERRO: Correct.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: If a person  
4 continues to disregard to stop the person will be  
5 deemed disruptive which will be grounds for the  
6 Sheriff's Department to remove the person. So what  
7 if the person is recording a member of the public  
8 without approval and then the Sheriff's Office tells  
9 them to stop? They can still remove them because  
10 they told them to stop?

11 MR. DEPIERRO: No. Commissioner,  
12 this ordinance only shows the three amendments. The  
13 person is deemed disruptive if they do not follow  
14 the request pursuant to the ordinance of not  
15 recording where they are not allowed to record. So  
16 it's only if they're not responding to the request  
17 to comply with the ordinance as to when and where  
18 someone is allowed to record. That part is already  
19 in the ordinance. These are only the three changes  
20 that are being made. That part, Commissioner,  
21 allows the Sheriff's Officer to remove someone that  
22 is just simply not complying with the request to  
23 obey the ordinance.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Under the  
25 existing ordinance, what do they do?

1 MR. DEPIERRO: I'm sorry?

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Under the law  
3 today, what do they do?

4 MR. DEPIERRO: Under the law today,  
5 it had language about seizing their camera or  
6 recording device. This just makes it much easier in  
7 implementing any consequence for disruption. So it  
8 just clarifies, and this is something that came  
9 directly in communications and conversations with  
10 the Sheriff's Office. It facilitates how the  
11 Sheriff's Officers can de-escalate a situation.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: If I voted no on  
13 the first one, I probably voted no on this. Got it.  
14 Thank you.

15 MR. DEPIERRO: I think you voted for  
16 yes on that one.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, I did not.  
18 right, Abe?

19 MR. ANTUN: You're correct.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Thank you.

21 THE CLERK: I-3. Ordinance amending  
22 Chapter 200, Article 8.11 of the Administrative Code  
23 to establish a restricted parking space on JF  
24 Kennedy Boulevard, City of Bayonne, for Magda I.  
25 Torres.

1                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO:  Kenny?  Kopacz and  
2 Walker.

3                   THE CLERK:  I-4.  Ordinance amending  
4 Ordinance No. 289-5-2019 Article 17 of the Hudson  
5 County Administrative Code to mandate minimum hourly  
6 rates of pay, vacation benefits and health insurance  
7 benefits for certain Non-County Employees providing  
8 Services to the County.

9                   COMMISSIONER KOPACZ:  Sponsor.

10                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO:  Second.

11                  COMMISSIONER O'DEA:  How much does  
12 this result in an increase?

13                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO:  Abe.

14                  MR. ANTUN:  We don't have that  
15 calculation, Commissioner.  This affects any of the  
16 services that we award contracts to that have labor,  
17 like the food, things like that.  I don't have a --  
18 I don't have a post on that.

19                  COMMISSIONER O'DEA:  And that didn't  
20 answer my question.

21                  MR. ANTUN:  What was that?  I'm  
22 sorry, Commissioner.

23                  COMMISSIONER O'DEA:  It doesn't  
24 really answer my question.

25                  MR. ANTUN:  No, I don't have the cost

1 on it. It wasn't provided.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Will we have that  
3 for the next meeting?

4 MR. ANTUN: We'll try. The problem  
5 is that we would have to contact all of the --

6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But just the  
7 implementation of this, if it gets approved, that's  
8 at no cost to the County. That's a cost that the  
9 County mandates to their vendors who have employees,  
10 such as janitorial or whatever. That's just a  
11 requirement that the vendors have to abide by, and  
12 it comes out of the cost of the vendors.

13 I mean, indirectly, when the vendors  
14 negotiate the contracts with us later on, then that  
15 cost will probably be passed along to us in the form  
16 of whatever the bid is or the contract is; is that  
17 right?

18 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, Commissioner. The  
19 cost could be passed on to us because when we go out  
20 to bid for a particular service that requires --

21 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah, sure.  
22 We've got to factor in that cost.

23 MR. ANTUN: That's right. And we  
24 provide this information as part of the bid specs so  
25 that they know --

1                   COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So they know  
2 how to factor that in when they put their bid in.

3                   MR. ANTUN: That's correct.

4                   COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah, but it  
5 doesn't -- I mean, directly, it doesn't cost the  
6 County. It's indirect in that eventually the County  
7 is probably going to have to absorb some or all of  
8 that cost by virtue of an increased bid and that  
9 successful vendor or bidder is going to charge us.

10                  MR. ANTUN: Right.

11                  COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So obviously, I  
12 was a sponsor for this 20-something years ago.

13                  MR. ANTUN: Yeah, this is your --

14                  COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, I  
15 understand. I understand. But at some point, I  
16 thought we changed it from 150 percent to like a  
17 standard wage. It was a 32BJ initiative.

18                  MR. ANTUN: I remember the standard  
19 wage.

20                  COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can somebody  
21 just check?

22                  MR. ANTUN: Yeah, we'll check that.

23                  COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm going to go  
24 share this with them too to make sure that --

25                  MR. ANTUN: Yeah, you're right.

1 There is something about the standard wage. This  
2 was the one that was brought to my attention by the  
3 Law Department that we had to change because we're  
4 required to review it every so many years.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can you check  
6 and reconcile the two? I wouldn't want to get  
7 caught doing this, and then somebody coming and  
8 saying, Oh, you're doing this, which now reduces  
9 what the standard wage law does.

10 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, I don't think we're  
11 reducing anything.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Just check.

13 MR. ANTUN: But we'll check.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's pretty  
15 close. I'm going to just share that with them.  
16 Does the ordinance continue to provide the other  
17 requirements about providing medical benefits five  
18 days a year?

19 MR. ANTUN: That's all in there.  
20 Read the whole thing. What we didn't provide to the  
21 Commissioner was the cost. We would have to go and  
22 check the contracts. I know there's some that are  
23 obvious, but there are others that we would have to  
24 take a look.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.

1 Clerk.

2 THE CLERK: I-5. Ordinance  
3 authorizing local enforcement of New Jersey Uniform  
4 Fire Code.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

6 THE CLERK: I will now turn it over  
7 to the Administration.

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

10 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, I have just  
11 one additional announcement. A public hearing will  
12 be held on the following proposed funding for the  
13 Hudson County Open Space Recreational and Historic  
14 Preservation Trust Fund for the Trust Fund's 2025  
15 funding cycle. This will occur on June 26, 2025 at  
16 4:30.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I have a couple  
18 questions. Could the County Engineers, you're  
19 having a meeting in Hoboken, correct, tomorrow  
20 night? Please understand that Commissioner Kopacz,  
21 myself, Commissioner Walker, we don't want to see it  
22 done. The County Executive agrees with us, and  
23 certain Council officials also, that there's no need  
24 by that school to put the bike lanes in the  
25 positions that they're going to put them in. If

1 there's a discussion of another resolution to this  
2 situation, that's fine. But I'm opposed. I'm going  
3 to publicly say I'm opposed. And parents don't want  
4 it. That's the first thing.

5 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: I support you  
6 all a thousand percent. I mean, there's some places  
7 that are sacred, and those are elementary schools.  
8 There are only three, I believe, elementary schools  
9 in Hoboken. That could be one or maybe two.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Four.

11 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Four, okay. I  
12 mean, let's put those lanes somewhere else. I mean,  
13 those kids come out on dismissal. You might have  
14 700, 800 kids. When we had neighborhood schools  
15 where everyone walked to school, it wasn't an issue.  
16 Now everyone drops their kids off. So you have  
17 double parking all over. And again, this isn't just  
18 a Hoboken issue. This is a County-wide issue. So  
19 please, you can't put them there. This is a huge  
20 issue for parents and the kids most importantly.  
21 Please come up with a solution for that. I agree a  
22 thousand percent. If you need anything, just let me  
23 know.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And City planners  
25 don't understand because they don't live in Hoboken.

1 Willow Avenue is a major artery from three different  
2 municipalities down Willow Avenue to the hospital.  
3 And again, growing up there, I know you have the  
4 angle parking on one side which has the cars already  
5 protruding. They already did work years ago to  
6 narrow it. You have the island that is now bumped  
7 out all the way. So trucks are running over that  
8 anyway because trucks cannot proceed down Willow.  
9 So when they try to turn, they're going right or  
10 left. It's just not feasible.

11 Jerry, you want to say something?

12 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I agree. I  
13 think it's dangerous, quite dangerous to be honest  
14 with all the kids being let out on a corner like  
15 that. I agree with my colleagues a hundred percent.  
16 I do have one question for the appropriations for  
17 the parks. So I guess to Francesca, did they enough  
18 money for Caven Point?

19 MS. GIARRATANA: Hey Commissioner,  
20 that's the maximum award that we can give to a  
21 single project, \$750,000. It's actually, this is  
22 the first year that it's been by. So we know that  
23 the City is looking to the BOE, and I'm sorry, the  
24 BOE is looking to the City, also in the BOE budget,  
25 and they were exploring other funding options.

1                   COMMISSIONER WALKER: Okay. If you  
2 can just give me the number to that because maybe  
3 I'll get somebody to match it.

4                   MS. GIARRATANA: Yeah, definitely.

5                   COMMISSIONER WALKER: Thank you.

6                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Another question.  
7 Sean Dias and I were discussing it. Abe, for  
8 non-funded County road projects, the Sheriff's  
9 officers, their pay scale is way lower than  
10 municipalities. If it's not affecting us, can there  
11 be some kind of discussion with the Sheriff's Union  
12 on raising that since it's not involving us in any  
13 way?

14                   MR. ANTUN: Outside duty?

15                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Outside duty. I  
16 mean, it's some kind of -- it would be good for  
17 morale. When they do a job, for example, on Willow  
18 Avenue and Hoboken, Hoboken police get \$145 an hour,  
19 \$30 goes to the City. When the Sheriff's do it, I  
20 think it's \$65. I mean, disparity is just, again,  
21 it's not the County projects, the non-county  
22 projects.

23                   MR. ANTUN: Well, no, the County  
24 projects, that's usually done on straight or  
25 overtime.

1                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No, that's what I'm  
2 saying. We're not discussing that. We're  
3 discussing projects that have nothing to do with the  
4 County. If it's Sean Diaz and the union president  
5 just see if it's feasible, some kind of raise.

6                   The other thing also is, who's on from  
7 High-Tech today? Anybody from High-Tech?

8                   MR. ANTUN: Alicia Abraham.

9                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Alicia? Okay, she  
10 might be at the -- when is the graduation today,  
11 Bill, right?

12                   MR. ANTUN: She has her hand up.

13                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Alicia?

14                   MS. ABRAHAM: Hi, I'm here.

15                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Just so you know,  
16 we have some paperwork for you from NJAC for you to  
17 distribute to your students.

18                   MS. ABRAHAM: Okay.

19                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So let me know  
20 where I can meet you, get it to you.

21                   MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I will  
22 discuss that with Dr. Gee because that's something  
23 that needs to be presented here, and we've done that  
24 in the past, but we need to coordinate that with  
25 your schedule. These are the NJAC foundation

1 scholarships. So we have to find out when the  
2 students are available.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Well, you'll  
4 work it out and coordinate it through us so all the  
5 Commissioners will be there.

6 MR. ANTUN: I'll speak to Carol Gee  
7 because she has to follow up with some --

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Good, you handle it  
9 then. You and Alicia handle it. Is Richie Sires on?  
10 Richie Sires? Who does he work with?

11 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: He works for  
12 the Sheriff.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Where's the  
14 Sergeant of the Guard? I'd like to have Richie  
15 Sires get in touch with me, please. Thank you. Go  
16 ahead.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So shouldn't we  
18 give the extra duty a level of flexibility? I'll  
19 give you an example. Last week we walked West Side  
20 Avenue, and I asked why they don't have extra duty  
21 officers, and they said the City rate is so much  
22 that the economics don't work. I reached out to  
23 Andrew and he gave me the rate. So at the end of  
24 the day if they don't want to do the work, they can  
25 turn the work down. If an SID with UEZ money can

1 only afford \$70 an hour, you've got to have a way  
2 to -- maybe you can put a max. Put a flexibility in  
3 it. If they can only afford \$70 an hour, and  
4 they're like no, the least we take is \$110 then  
5 there's no service. You cut off your nose to spite  
6 your fate.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: In other words,  
8 between that kind of SID work and the County work,  
9 that's one thing. But we're talking about, for  
10 example, construction jobs.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, I got it.  
12 You have no choice. You have no option to do it.  
13 They should get paid the max. I agree.

14 MR. ANTUN: Listen, I'm not going to  
15 opine on that because I don't know if you can make  
16 those type of distinctions between, you know, I'm  
17 going to charge you \$5 but you \$10. I don't know if  
18 I can do that but you know something?

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's pretty  
20 easy. The way to do it is if you allow the  
21 bargaining unit to negotiate a rate with a cap high  
22 amount, why couldn't you do that? So in the case of  
23 a construction job, we're not negotiating. It's  
24 like a PLA. The rate is the rate. But in the  
25 instance of whatever, doing something else where

1 there's a different funding source. And again, if  
2 they don't want to do it, they don't want to do it.  
3 It just means they don't get the work because they  
4 can't afford to pay the work. In one case, they got  
5 no choice. They have to have those offices there.  
6 Otherwise, you can't do the construction job. In  
7 the case of an SID, they have a budget. If it  
8 doesn't fit within the budget then they're not able  
9 to do it.

10 MR. ANTUN: So, again, just to use  
11 your example. I'm just making up a number. If the  
12 SDI can only afford \$70 an hour, and then the  
13 Sheriff says, no, I don't want to do it.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No, they won't do  
15 that. They won't do that. They'll understand the  
16 situation. There's flexibility. There's also  
17 common sense. If the SID is granted this amount of  
18 money, we have to work within that framework. If  
19 it's a County job, we work within the County's  
20 rules. But if it's a non-county and it's a  
21 construction company that's building a high-rise.

22 MR. ANTUN: I'm just trying to say, I  
23 just don't know if that's feasible. But you know  
24 something? I'll refer to counsel.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Talk to Sean Dias

1 on that.

2 We've got to get a resolution together.  
3 Rich Garcia, who passed away, the Lieutenant from  
4 the Sheriff's office. He's six months shy of a  
5 pension. He's 24 years and six months. But at the  
6 same time he's also a World Trade Center survivor.  
7 Alberico, can we put something together requesting  
8 that there be a bill or something passed in the  
9 State by the pension board where he can get that and  
10 to ensure that the proper paperwork was filed with  
11 regards to the WTC program. I'm a member of it, so  
12 if you need any help with that.

13 MR. DEPIERRO: We'll talk to our  
14 legislators.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I did. I spoke  
16 to Senator Mukherji. So he said he needs the  
17 details. He'll gladly sponsor the bill. That's the  
18 good news. The bad news is he said the ability to  
19 get it done prior to lame duck is slim to none  
20 because of whatever process they have from now to  
21 then. So then the question is how do you apply it  
22 retroactively?

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And the County  
24 Executive is also on board. He also supports us in  
25 what we're trying to do.

1                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Maybe somebody  
2 finds a way to I mean the challenge is that the wife  
3 and those kids will be without medical insurance in  
4 a week. Maybe there's a way to create a temporary.

5                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah. I see Craig.  
6 I see Craig is on here. Craig, thank you for  
7 supporting us in that.

8                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So I had two  
9 issues. The first issue is that I received and  
10 reviewed this report. Like this is good. I don't  
11 know how many other people have done this. This is  
12 what we want. This is what I asked for. Now I  
13 think we have to look at those things that are  
14 ending that have a significant impact and figure out  
15 what we're going to do.

16                   Simply saying somebody else is going to do  
17 it, and we sit here a year and a year and a half  
18 from now, and they're not able to provide it. We've  
19 failed. How many children do we lose because we  
20 don't provide them the mental health services? How  
21 many individuals don't get the food they need?  
22 Basically most of those things are either mental  
23 health services, a couple of domestic violence  
24 services that point out no one else provides  
25 domestic violence in the Arabic community in Hudson

1 County.

2 That's a huge concern of mine. The issues  
3 of domestic violence within that community is  
4 significant. To now have no one providing that, you  
5 know, what happens? Do we have to lose someone?  
6 Does someone have to be killed? And then, you know,  
7 shame on us. So what I would like to do is now  
8 through whatever process or committee the Exec and  
9 the Chair want, create a dialogue and a discussion  
10 to figure out how we make sure those things get  
11 continued. How are those services going to be  
12 continued? Who can continue them? Where does the  
13 funding come from to continue them?

14 Because you know, I mean, I disagree with  
15 some that they may have downgraded a little, but  
16 that's a reasonable discussion. But they've  
17 identified several high significant impact ones,  
18 some with domestic violence, some with mental  
19 health, and then some with food insecurity. And to  
20 the County Exec's credit and the County and all of  
21 our credit, we've been a strong supporter of  
22 addressing the issue of food insecurity. And if it  
23 costs money, then we've got to figure out how to  
24 make that work.

25 My second point relates to Courthouse

1 Park. We would prefer to have I guess a committee  
2 named on the executive side, but we just think that  
3 we need to start, Yraida and I were speaking before  
4 the meeting, to just get something going. So we're  
5 inclined to kind of just do a resolution creating a  
6 committee because we're getting a lot of back  
7 pushing from people in the community.

8 They've identified the two people that  
9 they want that have been kind of the leaders on the  
10 community side. We'd suggest that there be two  
11 Commissioners on it, and then obviously, I would say  
12 whatever, two reps from Jersey City, two reps from  
13 the executive side of government. So it's easier if  
14 Craig just does an executive order. Obviously stuff  
15 has to get voted on by us, but it's got to get  
16 processed and presented to us by the Executive. But  
17 we'd like to see that thing named this week.

18 So if I see Craig's on, I'm not going to  
19 ask him to respond now. But if we can talk to him  
20 and get an executive order done so we don't have to  
21 kind of just do a resolution creating. It would  
22 make no sense to have two of them, right? That  
23 would be counterproductive. You can get back to us  
24 before Thursday on that. That's all I got.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Anybody else? We

1 need a Kopacz motion.

2 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Motion to  
3 adjourn.

4 THE CLERK: All in favor?

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Directors, thank  
6 you. Looking forward to seeing you Thursday.

7 THE CLERK: We are adjourned.

8 (Whereupon the proceeding is then  
9 concluded at 5:53 p.m.)

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

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I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No. 30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein are from the notes taken by me of a Caucus Meeting of the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners, held on Tuesday, June 24, 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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