

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, July 17, 2025  
1:00 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  
WILLIAM O'DEA, Commissioner  
CARIDAD RODRIGUEZ, Commissioner

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

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



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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. Commissioner O'Dea.  
10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.  
11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
12 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Here.  
13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
14 Commissioner Cifelli.  
15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Here.  
16 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here. Commissioner  
18 Kopacz is away on vacation. I don't know about  
19 Commissioner Walker. He was just on the phone with  
20 me. I don't know. Okay. Continue, first thing.  
21 THE CLERK: Please stand for the  
22 Pledge of Allegiance.  
23 (Flag Salute.)  
24 THE CLERK: Adequate notice of this  
25 meeting has been provided as follows. Posting notice

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1 of Resolution 8-01-2025 on the County Commissioner's  
2 Bulletin Board, First Floor, Administration Building  
3 Annex, Jersey City, New Jersey.  
4 Copies of the above-mentioned resolution  
5 have been sent to the County Clerk and the editors  
6 of the Kearny Observer and the Star Ledger.  
7 May I have a motion to approve the minutes  
8 of the Caucus of June 11th, the Special Budget  
9 Hearing of June 11th, and the Regular Meeting of  
10 June 12th?  
11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and  
12 Lipski.  
13 THE CLERK: Commissioner  
14 Aponte-Lipski.  
15 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.  
16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.  
17 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
19 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
20 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
21 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
22 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
25 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

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1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
2 Chairman Romano.  
3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
4 THE CLERK: Chairman, we have a  
5 dedication.  
6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
7 THE CLERK: Dedicating and naming the  
8 Washington Park Little League Scoreboard in homage  
9 to John Brunn in celebration of his years of service  
10 to the Washington Park Little League. This has been  
11 voted on. So I think -- we did it the other night.  
12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We sponsored it.  
13 It was sponsored by the whole Board.  
14 THE CLERK: Yes. Is the family  
15 member here for a presentation?  
16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: John is here  
17 himself.  
18 THE CLERK: So take a vote on the  
19 item. Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.  
20 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.  
21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can we just read  
22 the item into the record?  
23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We're going do that  
24 after we vote on it.  
25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

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1 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
3 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
6 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
9 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
11 Chairman Romano.  
12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
13 THE CLERK: I'll read that into the  
14 record.  
15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
16 THE CLERK: Whereas, Mr. John Brunn  
17 has been pillar at Washington Park located in Union  
18 City, New Jersey, for the last 50 years; and  
19 Whereas, Mr. Brunn's impressive resume  
20 includes among other things, every board position  
21 from president to player agent to treasurer, and he  
22 filled each role with honor and integrity knowing  
23 that each role meant to the league and that the  
24 players and families being served.  
25 Whereas, Mr. Brunn has coached thousands

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1 of children impacting not only their skills in the  
2 game but also their lives, instilling teamwork,  
3 respect and integrity into each player providing  
4 indelible life skills for years to come; and  
5       Whereas, Mr. Brunn has consistently  
6 demonstrated how invaluable his presence has been to  
7 the league and most importantly, the children and  
8 families of Washington Park Little League and has  
9 served over decades.  
10       Whereas, to this day, players return to  
11 the park to talk to Mr. Brunn and express  
12 appreciation for what it was taught to them.  
13       Whereas, Mr. Brunn's steadfast support and  
14 work for the league for decades is one of the  
15 reasons the league remains in existence; and  
16       Whereas, all those at Washington Park  
17 Little League and the entire community thank Mr.  
18 Brunn for his unwavering service; and  
19       Whereas, in honor of his service and  
20 devotion, the Board of Commissioners wishes to name  
21 the Washington Park Little League scoreboard, the  
22 John Brunn Scoreboard as a permanent reminder of Mr.  
23 Brunn's legacy and influence of the community.  
24       Therefore, be it resolved by the Board of  
25 Commissioners of the County of Hudson, the aforesaid

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1 recitals are incorporated therein as though fully  
2 set forth at length. The Board recognizes Mr. Brunn  
3 as experienced career and the positive impact he has  
4 on young athletes throughout the community over the  
5 past five decades.  
6       The Board joins County Executive Craig Guy  
7 in naming the Washington Park Little League  
8 scoreboard, the John Bruin Scoreboard. The Board  
9 hereby authorizes the County Executive Craig Guy or  
10 the County Administrator, Abraham Antun and or  
11 Deputy County Administrator, David B. Drumeler on  
12 this lawfully appointed designee to execute any and  
13 all documents and take all the necessary action to  
14 complete and realize the intent and purpose of this  
15 resolution.  
16       CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Comments by the  
17 Commissioners? First, Billy, you want one?  
18       COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I think I've  
19 only known John for four and a half of the five  
20 decades, but what he's done up at Washington Park is  
21 amazing. Many of our little leagues have fallen by  
22 the wayside, had to merge, shut down, but John's  
23 presence there has not only kept it going, but let  
24 it thrive.  
25       And this is only a small token of, I

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1 think, the honor and recognition that he deserves.  
2 And I'm glad that sometimes in government, we get it  
3 right. We honor the right people. We honor them  
4 for the right reasons, and we honor them at the  
5 right time.  
6       CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You're right.  
7       COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Mr. Chairman?  
8       CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah, go ahead.  
9       COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I don't know,  
10 John. However, when I was 12 years old, and I think  
11 the one and only time that I can remember being in  
12 Washington Park, I grew up in Harrison, and I was a  
13 player in the Little League in Harrison. Harrison  
14 sent a team over to play a team from Union City, I  
15 think it was. And to this day, I remember that  
16 because a big part of my youth was playing Little  
17 League Baseball. And sometimes we don't appreciate  
18 the efforts that the volunteers put in like John.  
19       And it's a big part of young boys and now  
20 young girls' lives playing little league baseball.  
21 And it's a great thing, even if they don't go on, it  
22 teaches them skills and team membership and  
23 cooperation, and it gives them a lot of self-esteem.  
24 So notwithstanding the fact that I was a losing  
25 pitcher in that game, I'm still going to vote aye,

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1 proudly.  
2       CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Yraida.  
3       COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: John, as  
4 you know, we know each other for quite a while,  
5 since the late '90s, and very proud to have met you  
6 and working with you and my husband at the same  
7 time. And it was really a pleasure anytime that we  
8 were able to help you to help those kids, that's  
9 what you really was your priority.  
10       So I bet your family is very proud of you,  
11 especially your children, the way you treat all the  
12 children. Thank you for all your work. Thank you  
13 for all your days, 90 days, I mean, sweet, being  
14 there guiding those children. And we appreciate you  
15 and we pray for you and God will be guiding you.  
16 Thank you for all you do.  
17       CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Fanny or?  
18       COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: So John, now  
19 I'm a little bummed out that I don't actually have  
20 never actually met you. But from what everybody is  
21 saying, it sounds like you are an amazing role model  
22 to the kids that you have coached in Little League.  
23 It sounds like you have had an amazing career, and I  
24 think that's something to be proud of, and I commend  
25 you for it. And this is a true honor and you

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1 deserve it.  
2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Bobby.  
3 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: John, I don't  
4 know you either, but in my district, I handle  
5 Braddock Park, but I live downtown North Bergen. I  
6 frequented always Washington Park, beautiful place.  
7 And I did youth services for 20 years and doing  
8 youth services for 20 years, keeping children busy  
9 keeps them out of trouble. Thank you. You are  
10 truly commended, and if what you've done has been  
11 instilled in your family, we're lucky. I vote yes.  
12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: John, from the  
13 first day I met you, you've been nothing but a  
14 guiding force. The love that the children in both  
15 the girls and boys leagues exhibit for you along  
16 with so many other people is just amazing. You  
17 teach the game for the right reasons and made sure  
18 the kids respected one another.  
19 Your personality transcended the sport  
20 with your humility. Your mentor to Richie Rios, to  
21 John Hanisek, they're carrying on your legacy, and  
22 Debbie, Kathy, they all come from your tree as they  
23 say about a great coach's tree. And a lot of people  
24 don't realize the other traits that you do.  
25 John, also in Hoboken, happened to be my

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1 family's business, for many years ran the chess  
2 league on Tuesday nights. He's a great chess  
3 player. And the minute that he left, the league  
4 fell apart. Whether it be winter, summer, he had  
5 the clocks, the board set up and he was the  
6 organizer and everybody loved him. And then he  
7 would sneak and also play some pool and try to  
8 hustle pool, which he did a good job.  
9 But John, it's just an honor. You're one  
10 of those human beings that God put on the earth that  
11 makes a mark and an indelible impression. God bless  
12 you. And we're going to see you next opening day.  
13 We love you. Thank you.  
14 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I haven't  
15 been called.  
16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right, Carrie.  
17 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: If John, was  
18 John able to say a few words or it's up to you.  
19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Do you want to,  
20 John? Well, we'll come to you, John. What's  
21 easier? Carrie, Carrie's up there. Go ahead,  
22 Carrie.  
23 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I haven't --  
24 I'm ignored.  
25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No. Go ahead,

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1 Carrie. Go ahead.  
2 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I also have  
3 not met you, John, but from what I've heard and seen  
4 through the years through all the people, your  
5 dedication to that community, to those children is  
6 remarkable. And anyone that gives so much of their  
7 own to these kids, it's actually very deserving of a  
8 naming, all right? I congratulate you and your  
9 family. God bless you and give you a wonderful  
10 future. Thank you.  
11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Carrie.  
12 Okay. Big John, it's yours.  
13 MR. BRUNN: All right, mine. All  
14 right. What I did was I did from my heart for the  
15 kids, for the community. That's it. Nothing else.  
16 No, I didn't want this. And I didn't want any of  
17 all of this. I just enjoyed going out there every  
18 day. With this cancer hit, it's going to take a lot  
19 out of me.  
20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You're going to  
21 beat it.  
22 MR. BRUNN: I'm going to beat it,  
23 yes. And then I'm going to come back and still  
24 follow John and see everything he does. He's  
25 fantastic.

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1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: John Hancock. But  
2 please not Matthew Healy.  
3 MR. BRUNN: Yes. But thanks for all  
4 of you people. I appreciate it from the bottom of  
5 my heart. I really, really do. It takes a lot of  
6 me, a lot of strength out on me. And I have to  
7 learn a new way of life. But I have good people  
8 here. Thanks for all of you people. I know a lot  
9 of you people. Right, Anthony?  
10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You got it, boss.  
11 MR. BRUNN: Okay. That's it. Thank  
12 you very, very much.  
13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. John.  
14 Oh, you're coming, John. Want to take a picture?  
15 (Photo Opportunity.)  
16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. We'll now  
17 have the scholarships.  
18 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, we have  
19 Alan Weston here from the NJAC. He is the  
20 Legislative Director. He wanted to say a few words.  
21 MR. WESTON: Thank you. Thank you to  
22 the entire Board, the Chairperson for having NJAC  
23 here today for this scholarship presentation.  
24 That's a tough act to follow, Chairperson. I'm  
25 sorry. So I will be very brief.

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1 A special thank you to Vice Chair Walker,  
 2 who serves on the NJAC Board, and of all the things  
 3 that we do at the Association of Counties, I think  
 4 this is probably my favorite thing. So we're here  
 5 today to honor some of the most outstanding  
 6 technical vocational school students that we have in  
 7 the state. This year, through the NJAC Foundation,  
 8 we will be giving out over \$100,000 in scholarship  
 9 money to County vo-tech students who are opting to  
 10 continue their education right here in New Jersey.  
 11 So without further ado, Chair, I will turn  
 12 it back over to you and let's get these kids their  
 13 checks.  
 14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Madam Clerk and  
 15 those wonderful students.  
 16 THE CLERK: The first laudatory is to  
 17 congratulate and commend Cayden Drumeler on  
 18 receiving the 2025 NJAC Foundation Investors Citizen  
 19 Bank Scholarship Award.  
 20 Whereas, Cayden Drumeler, a Secaucus  
 21 resident, is a 2025 graduate of High Tech High  
 22 School of the Hudson County Schools of Technology  
 23 who has been awarded the 2025 NJAC Foundation  
 24 Investors Citizen Scholarship Award for Hudson  
 25 County. This scholarship program is designed to

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1 encourage distinguished students who have chosen to  
 2 pursue their career training at the county or state  
 3 educational institution within New Jersey.  
 4 Whereas, Cayden has consistently  
 5 demonstrated leadership and initiative. He has  
 6 served as Student Council Vice President,  
 7 contributed to the High Tech High School morning  
 8 announcements, participated in Harvard Model  
 9 Congress for all four years. His most meaningful  
 10 involvement has been in live sports commentary, both  
 11 at school events streaming including New Jersey City  
 12 University soccer games. This experience has given  
 13 him a new avenue to pursue his love for sports after  
 14 stepping away from playing himself.  
 15 Cayden is kind, driven and sociable. He  
 16 has a strong work ethic, commitment to personal  
 17 growth and dedication to staying actively involved  
 18 on campus to make him an excellent candidate for  
 19 this scholarship; and  
 20 Whereas, Cayden is a motivated, articulate  
 21 and well-rounded student who plans to continue his  
 22 education in New Jersey by committing to Rutgers  
 23 University. He intends to major in Business and  
 24 Sports Media and a strong interest in pursuing a  
 25 career that allows him to combine his communication

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1 skills and passion for sports. He is a talented  
 2 writer and speaker.  
 3 Whereas, Cayden Drumeler's hard work and  
 4 commitment to excellence have brought honor upon  
 5 himself, his family, his school and the County of  
 6 Hudson.  
 7 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the  
 8 Hudson County Board of County Commissioners as  
 9 follow. The board congratulates and commends Cayden  
 10 Drumeler on receiving the 2025 NJAC Foundation  
 11 Investors Bank Citizen Bank Scholarship Award and  
 12 wishes him every success in his college endeavors.  
 13 That an appropriate copy of this  
 14 resolution be presented to Cayden Drumeler.  
 15 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.  
 16 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.  
 17 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.  
 18 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
 19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
 20 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
 21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
 22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
 23 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
 24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
 25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

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1 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
 2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
 3 Chairman Romano.  
 4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
 5 THE CLERK: Cayden is in the  
 6 audience.  
 7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We're going to do  
 8 it all together at the end.  
 9 THE CLERK: You want to do it all  
 10 together?  
 11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
 12 THE CLERK: The next one is Thiara  
 13 Hyatt. Thiara Hyatt, a North Bergen resident, is a  
 14 2025 graduate of High Tech High School of the Hudson  
 15 County Schools of Technology and who has been  
 16 awarded the 2025 NJAC Foundation PSE&G Scholarship  
 17 Award for Hudson County. This scholarship program  
 18 is designed to encourage distinguished students who  
 19 have chosen to pursue their career training at a  
 20 County or state educational institution within New  
 21 Jersey.  
 22 Whereas, Thiara Hyatt is an outstanding  
 23 Environmental Science Academy Major known for  
 24 academic excellence, curiosity, and leadership. In  
 25 addition to excelling in her coursework, Thiara

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1 applies her passion for sustainability through  
 2 hands-on work as an intern in the school's lab and  
 3 greenhouse. Therefore, she supports plant  
 4 cultivation, system maintenance, and student-led  
 5 research, gaining valuable real-world experience in  
 6 sustainable agriculture and innovative growing  
 7 methods. Thiara is deeply committed to  
 8 environmental stewardship and eager to expand her  
 9 knowledge in ecological systems and green  
 10 technologies.  
 11       Whereas, Thiara Hyatt will pursue her  
 12 academic career in environmental science this fall  
 13 at Rutgers University; and  
 14       Whereas, Thiara's hard work and commitment  
 15 to excellence have brought honor upon herself, her  
 16 family, their school, and the County of Hudson.  
 17       Now, therefore, be it resolved by the  
 18 Hudson County Board of County Commissioners as  
 19 follows: The Board does hereby congratulate and  
 20 commend Thiara Hyatt upon being awarded the 2025  
 21 NJAC Foundation PSE&G Scholarship Award and wish her  
 22 every success in her college endeavors.  
 23       That an appropriate copy of this  
 24 resolution be presented to Thiara Hyatt.  
 25       Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

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1       COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.  
 2       THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.  
 3       COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
 4       THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
 5       COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
 6       THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
 7       COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
 8       THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
 9       COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
 10       THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
 11       COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
 12       THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
 13 Chairman Romano.  
 14       CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
 15       THE CLERK: Laudatory 3. To  
 16 congratulate and commend Shady Besada on receiving  
 17 the 2025 NJAC Foundation AT&T Scholarship Award.  
 18       Whereas, Shady Besada, a Bayonne resident,  
 19 is a 2025 graduate of High Tech High School of the  
 20 Hudson County Schools of Technology, who has been  
 21 awarded the 2025 NJAC Foundation AT&T Scholarship  
 22 Award for Hudson County. This scholarship program  
 23 is designed to encourage distinguished students who  
 24 have been chosen to pursue their career training at  
 25 a County or State educational institution within New

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1 Jersey; and  
 2       Whereas, Shady Besada is an outstanding  
 3 candidate who combines creativity, strong  
 4 problem-solving skills, and leadership with a deep  
 5 passion for technology. He is eager to apply these  
 6 talents to build meaningful solutions that create  
 7 lasting impact. Driven by a desire to start a  
 8 technology business, Shady wants to show his  
 9 persistence, honesty, and heart can lead to both  
 10 innovation and meaningful impact. He is committed  
 11 to mental health advocacy, particularly for young  
 12 men, and hopes to use future platforms to foster  
 13 connection, openness, and support in both digital  
 14 and real-world spaces.  
 15       Whereas, Shady Besada will pursue his  
 16 academic career in computer science this fall at the  
 17 New Jersey School Institute of Technology; and  
 18       Whereas, Shandy Bezeda's hard work and  
 19 commitment to excellence have brought honor upon  
 20 himself, his family, his school, and the County of  
 21 Hudson.  
 22       Now therefore, be it resolved by the  
 23 Hudson County Board of County Commissioners as  
 24 follows: The Board does hereby congratulate and  
 25 commend Shady Besada upon being awarded the 2025

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1 NJAC Foundation AT&T Scholarship Award, and wish him  
 2 every success in his college endeavors; this and  
 3 appropriate copy of this resolution will be  
 4 presented to Shady Besada.  
 5       Commissioner 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.  
 13       THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
 14       COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
 15       THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
 16       COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
 17       THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
 18 Chairman Romano.  
 19       CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
 20       THE CLERK: Laudatory No. 4. To  
 21 congratulate and commend Steven Chen on receiving  
 22 the 2025 NJAC Foundation CHI International  
 23 Scholarship Award.  
 24       Whereas, Steven Chen, a Bayonne resident,  
 25 is a 2025 graduate of High Tech High School of the

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1 Hudson County Schools of Technology, who has been  
 2 awarded the 2025 NJAC Foundation CHI International  
 3 Scholarship Award for Hudson County. This  
 4 scholarship program is designed to encourage  
 5 distinguished students who have chosen to pursue  
 6 their career training at a County or state  
 7 educational institution within New Jersey.  
 8       Whereas, Steven is a computer programming  
 9 major at High Tech High School DFAB Academy,  
 10 maintains a rigorous academic schedule that includes  
 11 AP literature, AP statistics, contributing to his  
 12 impressive 3.9 GPA. In addition to excelling  
 13 academically, Steven is a student athlete  
 14 participating on both the junior varsity and varsity  
 15 volleyball teams. He is an engaged and well-rounded  
 16 member of the school community, actively involved in  
 17 the National Honor Society, Math League, and the  
 18 Music and Audio Tech Club. Stephen also gives back  
 19 to his peers as a volunteer peer tutor and serves as  
 20 a peer leader, demonstrating both leadership and a  
 21 strong commitment to supporting others.  
 22       Whereas, Steven will pursue his academic  
 23 career this fall at Rutgers University in Computer  
 24 Science.  
 25       Whereas, Steven's hard work and commitment

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1 to excel have brought honor upon himself, his  
 2 family, his school, and the County of Hudson.  
 3       Now, therefore, be it resolved by the  
 4 Hudson County Board of County Commissioners as  
 5 follows: The Board does hereby congratulate and  
 6 commend Steven upon being awarded the 2025 NJAC  
 7 Foundation CHI International Scholarship Award and  
 8 wish him every success in his college endeavors.  
 9       This and appropriate copy of this  
 10 resolution will be presented to Steven Chen.  
 11       Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.  
 12       COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.  
 13       THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.  
 14       COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
 15       THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
 16       COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
 17       THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
 18       COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
 19       THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
 20       COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
 21       THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
 22       COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
 23       THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
 24 Chairman Romano.  
 25       CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

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1       THE CLERK: Laudatory No. 5. To  
 2 congratulate and commend Brandon Alegre on receiving  
 3 the 2025 NJAC Foundation Investor Citizen Bank  
 4 Scholarship Award.  
 5       Whereas, Brandon, a Bayonne resident, is a  
 6 2025 graduate of County Prep High School of the  
 7 Hudson County Schools of Technology who has been  
 8 awarded the 2025 NJAC Foundation Investor Citizen  
 9 Scholarship Award for Hudson County. This  
 10 scholarship program is designed to encourage  
 11 distinguished students who have been chosen to  
 12 pursue their career training at a County or state  
 13 educational institution within New Jersey.  
 14       Whereas, Brandon is an excellent student  
 15 maintaining a rigorous course load throughout high  
 16 school. He is a polite, mature, and hard-working  
 17 young man, well-liked by both teachers and peers.  
 18       Whereas, Brandon will pursue his academic  
 19 career this fall at Hudson County Community College  
 20 in radiology. He plans to follow his father's  
 21 footsteps in being a radiologist.  
 22       Brandon's hard work and commitment to  
 23 excel have brought honor upon himself, his family,  
 24 his school, and the County of Hudson.  
 25       Now, therefore, be it resolved by the

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1 Hudson County Board of County Commissioners as  
 2 follows: The Board does hereby congratulate and  
 3 commend Brandon Alegre upon awarding the 2025 NJAC  
 4 Foundation Investor Citizen Bank Scholarship Award  
 5 and wishes him every success in his college  
 6 endeavors; that an appropriate copy of this  
 7 resolution be presented to Brandon Alegre.  
 8       Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.  
 9       COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.  
 10       THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.  
 11       COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
 12       THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
 13       COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
 14       THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
 15       COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
 16       THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
 17       COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
 18       THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
 19       COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
 20       THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
 21 Chairman Romano.  
 22       CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
 23       THE CLERK: And we have one more, but  
 24 the student isn't here. Okay. We'll have the  
 25 students come up and take a picture, give them their

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1 stuff.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Commissioners,

3 shouldn't we just read that one and at least read

4 the title?

5 THE CLERK: I'll still read it. To

6 congratulate and commend Celita Salas Paucar on

7 receiving the 2025 NJAC Foundation Amazon

8 Scholarship Award. Read the whole thing?

9 Whereas, Celita, a Kearny resident, is a

10 2025 graduate.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I don't have to

12 read the whole thing.

13 THE CLERK: Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: He's not here.

15 We'll vote on it.

16 THE CLERK: Yeah. She's been

17 notified. Okay. Do you want all the students to

18 come forward for a picture?

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Vote on that

20 one.

21 THE CLERK: Okay. I'm sorry.

22 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

23 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

25 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

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1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

2 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

4 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I see where

5 Celita from our hometown, Mayor Doyle, is following

6 unfortunately the practice of her County

7 Commissioner and only shows up for half the meeting,

8 but that's okay. But I proudly vote aye and I'm

9 glad to see that Kearny's represented. I don't know

10 who Bayonne paid off to get all those students, but

11 Kearny, I'm proud to say and vote aye for our Kearny

12 resident. I vote aye.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I vote yes and I

15 want to find what happened with Jersey City.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

19 Chairman Romano.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. I want to ask

21 them to come up. All the students please in front

22 with the Commissioners.

23 (Photo Opportunity.)

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Craig, you want to

25 say something else please? Okay. At this time for

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1 the students, our County Executive would like to

2 address you. Go ahead, Craig.

3 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Thank you,

4 Chairman, for allowing me to speak. Hey,

5 Commissioners, you know, these students that have

6 been recognized, I think, is a recognition of

7 everything that this Board does in support of the

8 schools, right? I mean, over the years, this Board

9 and this County Executive and my predecessor have

10 always been extremely supportive of the schools, and

11 you guys set the tone in approving a lot of

12 different things so these kids can be successful.

13 And for the kids themselves, you know,

14 move on, move forward, move upward, but know that,

15 you know, we hope that your experience in the

16 schools was a good one. So congratulations.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, County

18 Executive. Also, on behalf of the Board, I want to

19 thank you and Jonathan DeFilippo for moving that

20 along with regards to the scoreboard if you'd like

21 to make a comment on that also.

22 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Well-deserved.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Thank you.

24 Go ahead, Bill.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So, Craig, we

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1 appreciate all the efforts and work you've done,

2 obviously, as County Exec, but even prior to that,

3 when you were the Chief of Staff, and you were the

4 Chair of the Schools of Technology Board. Those

5 schools continue to be among the most impressive in

6 the state of New Jersey.

7 And we had a little discussion at the

8 caucus the other day, and I guess we'd like to get

9 engaged with the schools in figuring out how we

10 start to bring some sports back there. It's many

11 years since they did away sports at that school. We

12 understand they may have to be done in small

13 incremental steps, but having gone to some of the

14 intramural events that they had there, students love

15 sports, and they love when the students that they

16 root for are students that are there from their own

17 school.

18 So hopefully we can start a little bit of

19 a dialogue and process with whoever we need to at

20 the school to maybe in the fall at least get a

21 couple of sports started and then see how we can

22 build it from there. As always, we appreciate the

23 cooperative effort in you always work with this

24 Board. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Madam Clerk,

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1 continue.

2 THE CLERK: The next order of

3 business is the additional discussion on today's

4 agenda, and I turn it over to the Administration.

5 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I have no

6 additional items.

7 THE CLERK: This is to the public.

8 According to the policy set by the Board of County

9 Commissioners, members of the public are asked to

10 limit their comments to five minutes when discussing

11 agenda items and three minutes at the conclusion of

12 the meeting for persons who submitted a written

13 request to discuss matters of public interest.

14 At this time, the public may address the

15 Board on any item on the agenda. Please keep your

16 comments limited to five minutes.

17 Are there any speakers on the agenda items

18 only? I see none. No speakers. May I have a

19 motion to approve all the items on the consent

20 agenda?

21 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Motion.

22 THE CLERK: A second. Oh, wait a

23 second. Which ones will have to do that? Yeah.

24 Commissioner Walker.

25

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1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Give them all to

2 Cedeño.

3 THE CLERK: 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22

4 and 27. Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Okay.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And that was a

7 motion by Yraida and seconded by Fannie.

8 THE CLERK: Okay. And with that

9 correction, roll call.

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 O'Dea.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Got to come back

20 because I've got to vote no on one of them.

21 THE CLERK: So okay. Commissioner

22 Rodriguez.

23 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. I just want

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1 to make a comment on the one item, with regards to

2 the discussion previously with regards to four years

3 that affects over 79 employees, and with regard to

4 four years, it really becomes two years plus. It's

5 for the years 2024 and 2025. So it really turns out

6 to be two years.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: We didn't vote

8 on that one.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea, you

10 wanted me to come back to you?

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes. I'm going

12 to vote no on No. 27.

13 THE CLERK: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: As I've stated

15 previously, you know, I have serious concerns with

16 the lack of services, programming, et cetera, that

17 is provided by Essex County to our juveniles. I

18 think it's critical that our juveniles be afforded

19 the best opportunity to rehabilitate themselves, to

20 get a fresh start chance of opportunity.

21 I've been dealing with some nonprofits in

22 the community that express great concern as to what

23 happens to when those individuals are released from

24 Essex County and how much learning loss they have

25 suffered while they're at that juvenile detention

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1 facility. And I know that we on our own, and again,

2 I credit everyone in the County that has done this,

3 has gone out of our way to create some programming

4 for many of the juvenile detentions from -- from

5 Hudson County. But there are really, there are,

6 there are still very significant issues and problems

7 there that we need to stay on top of and that we

8 need to address and take whatever action legal, if

9 necessary to make sure that these juveniles are

10 given, are given an opportunity.

11 Because not only while they were there, if

12 you don't properly offer them the educational

13 schooling while they're there, many of them are

14 already behind when they go there. They fall so

15 much farther behind that our local schools don't

16 even want to take them back. And all we're doing is

17 creating a pathway not to rehabilitation, but a

18 pathway ultimately to a State correctional

19 institution. So I cannot in good conscience vote

20 for that. I understand because we're no longer

21 operating a juvenile detention facility, our options

22 are somewhat limited, but that's just not good

23 enough an excuse for me.

24 And I will vote aye on the rest.

25 THE CLERK: It's noted on 27 that

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1 Commissioner O'Dea is a no vote.  
 2 I have one ordinance for introduction.  
 3 It's an ordinance to establish and authorize salary  
 4 increases for certain County offices and positions,  
 5 including the staff of the Commissioners in  
 6 accordance with the provision of the New Jersey Law  
 7 and the Hudson County Administrative Code.  
 8 Roll call. Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.  
 9 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.  
 10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.  
 11 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
 12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
 13 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
 14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
 15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
 16 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
 17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No.  
 18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
 19 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
 20 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
 21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
 22 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been  
 23 introduced.  
 24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. Can we,  
 25 can we just get clarity because I know the Chairman

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1 said that it's only for two more years. The  
 2 memorandum at the beginning says this proposed  
 3 ordinance, which complies with State Controller  
 4 statements, applies the annual market adjustments  
 5 for the years 2025 through 2028. So '26, '27, '28,  
 6 I think would be three years. So I don't know if  
 7 it's only two. Can we get some clarity?  
 8 MR. ANTUN: You're correct.  
 9  
 10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I was wrong. It  
 11 wasn't two. Three years. '25. Okay. And I stand  
 12 corrected.  
 13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And again  
 14 that -- again, that is the reason why I vote against  
 15 it. I think every year we should vote on it. We've  
 16 done that for many years, almost all the time. I  
 17 actually vote for them, even though I defer or don't  
 18 take the raise. I don't want to deprive those 79  
 19 individuals of it, but doing it for three years  
 20 forward, just -- it seems like we're kind of finding  
 21 a way not to have to vote on it maybe during a  
 22 reelection, and we shouldn't be afraid to do it.  
 23 They're not -- they're not outlandish increases, you  
 24 know, but the public should be able to come and  
 25 speak each and every time.

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1 THE CLERK: Thank you. We have five  
 2 ordinances for public hearing. Ordinance 1, A-1.  
 3 Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 234-4-2013 Motor  
 4 Vehicle Towing regulations within Chapter 200, and  
 5 Organizing Towing regulations as Appendix C to the  
 6 Hudson County Administrative Code.  
 7 This is the time fixed for the public  
 8 hearing of this ordinance, which was introduced at  
 9 the meeting of June 26th, 2025, advertised as  
 10 required by law together with the notice of hearing  
 11 for this time. It's been posted on the County  
 12 Commissioners' bulletin board and made available  
 13 general public.  
 14 Are there any speakers on this ordinance?  
 15 Seeing none, I'd like to have a motion to close the  
 16 hearing.  
 17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cedeño and  
 18 Rodriguez.  
 19 THE CLERK: All in favor? Opposed?  
 20 (The Board votes unanimously to close  
 21 the Hearing.)  
 22 On the final adoption, Commissioner  
 23 Aponte-Lipski.  
 24 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.  
 25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

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1 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
 2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
 3 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
 4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
 5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
 6 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
 7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
 8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
 9 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
 10 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
 11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
 12 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been  
 13 adopted. A-2, the Ordinance amending Ordinance No.  
 14 58-1-2025 establishing the regulations for the use  
 15 of County Building by the Public.  
 16 This is the time fixed for the public  
 17 hearing of this ordinance, which was introduced at  
 18 the meeting of June 26th, 2025, advertised as  
 19 required by law together with the notice of hearing  
 20 for this time. It's been posted on the County  
 21 Commissioners' bulletin board and made available to  
 22 the general public.  
 23 Are there any speakers on this ordinance?  
 24 MR. BLOOMBERG: Yes. Good afternoon,  
 25 Mark Bloomberg from West New York. So on Monday, we

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1 posted or the County posted the agenda for this  
 2 meeting. I looked and I saw this was an amendment  
 3 that looked interesting to me. So I requested an  
 4 OPRA because that's the only way to read these  
 5 ordinances. I received it on Tuesday and was busy.  
 6 And so I didn't actually get to read it until  
 7 Wednesday. And then silly me, when I requested it,  
 8 I didn't request what the original ordinance was  
 9 that this was amended.

10 So I have two asks here. One is on  
 11 transparency and then one goes towards the  
 12 practicality of what we're doing here. So I know  
 13 I've been in here before, and I've requested more  
 14 transparency of asking, can we post these ordinances  
 15 in advance, and are we making any progress on this,  
 16 you know, so that we can see what's been passed and  
 17 what -- and -- and what will be --

18 MR. FLORIO: That is not the subject  
 19 matter of the ordinance. It's a different issue  
 20 than the public hearing on the ordinance is on the  
 21 content of the ordinance only.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I respectfully  
 24 disagree and think that to some degree it's  
 25 tangentially attributable to what we're doing.

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1 Because the use of public County buildings and an  
 2 individual's ability to access and use a public  
 3 building to get the information, to make a decision  
 4 as to whether or not to speak on items or at least  
 5 get access to information on items on an agenda, I  
 6 think is, is a legitimate, if you, if you address us  
 7 with your questions, we'll address the transparency  
 8 after you speak.

9 MR. BLOOMBERG: That's very fair. So  
 10 as far as practicality goes, I was in a County  
 11 building in Braddock Park over the weekend, and I  
 12 was photographing a violation, which has since been  
 13 taken care of. But like, I'm looking at this and  
 14 I'm saying, Well, I don't really understand what the  
 15 laws are. And I mean, I was -- I was taking a  
 16 picture of a -- of a violation.

17 The vendor, as I've previously mentioned,  
 18 isn't allowing access to the second floor, but if I  
 19 continue to take pictures in this public building,  
 20 since I don't have the full amendment in front of me  
 21 and don't have time for an OPRA, my question today  
 22 is, can I legally do that in that space? Or does  
 23 this prevent me from taking pictures in that  
 24 building?

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I'd have to -- you

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1 finish speaking to your -- legal counsel well answer  
 2 your question, okay?

3 MR. BLOOMBERG: Yeah. That's --  
 4 that's the entirety of my comments. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: If I  
 6 understand the speaker's question is that it's  
 7 difficult for him to intelligently discuss the  
 8 ordinance, which is an amendment to a prior  
 9 ordinance that's before us today. And it's -- it's  
 10 difficult for him to ascertain because he didn't  
 11 have the underlying ordinance that's being amended.  
 12 And so it's hard to discern what's being changed.  
 13 Is that the?

14 MR. BLOOMBERG: That's one portion of  
 15 it. And more largely since I don't have that, yeah,  
 16 I would just like an interpretation of, am I allowed  
 17 to take pictures in that space?

18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. When  
 19 you're -- when you're finished, so I can just follow  
 20 up that with our counsel. So until this ordinance  
 21 is adopted, would the speaker be in violation in  
 22 your opinion, would the speaker be in violation of  
 23 the existing ordinance, the pre-amendment, if he  
 24 were to take pictures in County facility?

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Let him finish

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1 speaking. Let him finish speaking after the speaker  
 2 finishes, then I'll go reconvene.

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Just another,  
 4 another question. I don't want to belabor it but --

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli,  
 6 they can't hear him speaking. He's got to put the  
 7 mic closer to his mouth.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can you hear  
 9 me now? I'm sorry. So -- so the second question  
 10 is, and again, excuse my ignorance on the -- on the  
 11 process, but if we were to vote I on this and adopt  
 12 this, this rest of this amendment to the existing  
 13 ordinance today, when does it take effect? It  
 14 doesn't, it doesn't have to be published again.  
 15 It's been advertised already, but that's -- that's  
 16 for the effective date is for 20 days.

17 So that to a certain extent might answer  
 18 your question that not withstanding, whatever we do  
 19 today, you've got 20 days to take your pictures. I  
 20 think that's right. I just don't want you to go out  
 21 tonight and take a picture and somebody slaps you  
 22 with a summons. I don't want that to happen to you  
 23 So.

24 MR. BLOOMBERG: Agreed. I also want  
 25 to know in 21 days.

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1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: No, that's --  
 2 I get it, but I'm just saying.  
 3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mark, you finished  
 4 speaking and then we're going to have Alberico speak  
 5 to you.  
 6 MR. BLOOMBERG: Okay.  
 7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Thank you.  
 8 Okay. Alberico.  
 9 MR. DEPIERRO: Yes. And Commissioner  
 10 Cifelli, as a fellow attorney, I know you and I like  
 11 when the answers are, the questions are easy to  
 12 answer. The good thing for you, Mr. Bloomberg is  
 13 number one, I would love to talk to you and provide  
 14 you a copy of the original ordinance. Number two,  
 15 the good thing is it only affects County buildings.  
 16 So you can take pictures in the park, the park, the  
 17 park is an open space. It's not a County building.  
 18 MR. BLOOMBERG: It -- it's a County  
 19 park, and I was in a County building in the park.  
 20 MR. DEPIERRO: Oh, you were in a  
 21 building within the park.  
 22 MR. BLOOMBERG: Yes.  
 23 MR. DEPIERRO: Okay. And which  
 24 building was that?  
 25 MR. BLOOMBERG: It's referred to as

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1 the boathouse or the environmental center in -- in,  
 2 Braddock Park. It contains two vendors, and a  
 3 second floor with seating.  
 4 MR. DEPIERRO: And I will gladly talk  
 5 to you that because the ordinance talks about which  
 6 buildings of the County have public access or  
 7 restricted access or no access. The ordinance only  
 8 talks about what your rights for filming and  
 9 photographing based on the designation of the  
 10 building without knowing more. And I can find out  
 11 more after the meeting with our parks director and  
 12 speak to you.  
 13 It seems to me that the building you're  
 14 talking about is a building that has access to the  
 15 public. And therefore I just need to know what the  
 16 access of the building is to the public, and that  
 17 will determine what you are able to do in that area,  
 18 and the original ordinance has that the amendment  
 19 doesn't affect that aspect of the ordinance, but we  
 20 can provide you both that the original ordinance and  
 21 the answers to your question.  
 22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. See him  
 23 after the meeting then.  
 24 MR. BLOOMBERG: Yep. Good. Thank  
 25 you.

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1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Also, Carol --  
 2 THE CLERK: Are there additional  
 3 speakers on this ordinance?  
 4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: One comment. Can  
 5 we ensure with the Legal Department that these  
 6 ordinances are put up on this police for the benefit  
 7 of the public? We'll take care of them.  
 8 So go ahead, Bill. So prior to closing.  
 9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So obviously I  
 10 voted against the one in January. I'm going to vote  
 11 against this one, but if you have the ordinance in  
 12 front of you, it says public hearing, and public  
 13 hearing for the purpose of hearing persons  
 14 interested or affected by this proposed ordinance  
 15 authorizing the assessment shall be held on June  
 16 26th, 2025 at 567 Pavonia. What public hearing was  
 17 held on that date?  
 18 MR. DEPIERRO: The public hearing --  
 19 the address is incorrect. The public hearing should  
 20 have been for this, for the public hearing for the  
 21 ordinance.  
 22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Oh, but it says  
 23 June 26th. Today is July 7th.  
 24 MR. DEPIERRO: That's just typo then.  
 25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, it's a

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1 pretty significant type. If someone -- if  
 2 someone -- if someone had been here on that day,  
 3 there wasn't a public hearing on this ordinance.  
 4 That's a pretty significant typographical error to  
 5 have the wrong date for when a public hearing is  
 6 held. Otherwise you're adopting -- otherwise, if I  
 7 say nothing, you adopt an ordinance that's  
 8 inaccurate because it says that public hearing was  
 9 held on a date of public hearing was not out.  
 10 MR. DEPIERRO: I'm being told by our  
 11 department, actually, as we speak that it was fixed  
 12 prior to that.  
 13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So we got -- it  
 14 just given to me.  
 15 MR. DEPIERRO: I wasn't given to you  
 16 by me.  
 17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Do you have a  
 18 copy of what was advertised?  
 19 MR. DEPIERRO: Absolutely. We have  
 20 it upstairs in our -- in our records.  
 21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can I see it  
 22 before we vote it?  
 23 MR. FLORIO: Chairman, it's being  
 24 retrieved from the Clerk's office right now.  
 25 MR. DEPIERRO: And also just to say

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1 something else, when the -- when the notices go out,  
2 they have the actual hearing. So if there's an --  
3 if there's an error in the ordinance, when it's  
4 public, when it's published, as I'm sure the Clerk  
5 can confirm the correct date of the hearing was  
6 published.  
7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. That's  
8 what I want to see.  
9 MR. DEPIERRO: What I'm saying is  
10 besides that when it's published by the Clerk as  
11 required by law, it had the correct date for today.  
12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. Well,  
13 the -- we assume that. We assume that, sir. Let's  
14 see that also you're speaking for the Clerk to  
15 speak. The Clerk can speak for herself.  
16 MR. DEPIERRO: I'm not speaking for  
17 the Clerk.  
18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You just did.  
19 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Well, why  
20 don't we just wait and see what the actual public  
21 right now continue while we're waiting. Let's  
22 continue.  
23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Madam Clerk,  
24 continue while we're waiting.  
25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because if it

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1 was corrected, if it was corrected, it's interesting  
2 that we didn't get a copy of what was corrected.  
3 This was not generated by this office, correct?  
4 Where does the agenda start up? With the  
5 Administration and the Law Department. So this was  
6 a document, correct me if I'm wrong, that was  
7 provided to us from your office, correct?  
8 MR. DEPIERRO: Correct.  
9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. So you  
10 gave us the wrong, the wrong date. Even though you  
11 said that you corrected it, somebody still -- I'm  
12 not meaning you personally, somebody still gave us  
13 the wrong date. I'm glad you think it's funny  
14 because hopefully one day it's not something more  
15 significant than a date.  
16 MR. DEPIERRO: Nothing funny,  
17 Commissioner. You're saying that I did something.  
18 That's all.  
19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I went out of my  
20 way to say, I didn't say you, I said someone in the  
21 meeting.  
22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Absolutely. Carol  
23 Jean, continue with the meeting.  
24 THE CLERK: Okay. So there being no  
25 further speakers on this ordinance, may I have a

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1 motion to close the hearing?  
2 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Motion.  
3 THE CLERK: Is there a second?  
4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and  
5 Cedeño.  
6 THE CLERK: All in favor?  
7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No. No.  
8 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.  
9 THE CLERK: On the final adoption.  
10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, I know,  
11 but two of us voted no.  
12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go through the roll  
13 call.  
14 THE CLERK: Okay. On the final  
15 adoption, Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.  
16 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.  
17 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.  
18 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
20 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'm  
23 abstaining.  
24 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I vote no. We

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1 haven't gotten information. I don't know whether  
2 what I'm voting on is what was published in the  
3 newspaper or not.  
4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
5 Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Commissioner.  
6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So I don't know  
7 if what we voted, we're voting on was published in  
8 the newspaper. Even if the date, even if what was  
9 published in the newspaper stated there was a  
10 hearing this date, did it say that there was a  
11 public hearing on June 26th? I think we should know  
12 that before any of us votes on it.  
13 Obviously, I've had issues with this from  
14 the beginning. I voted against the original  
15 ordinance in January. I think it has a chilling  
16 effect on individual's ability to -- to go in, to  
17 record in -- in public buildings. This just kind of  
18 adds, adds to the fire, as it relates to the  
19 enforcement from the Sheriff officers. But I found  
20 it funny to say, we are happy to report that the  
21 public has not made any complaints regarding our  
22 original ordinance. And this amendment is largely  
23 due to enforcement concern.  
24 Well, maybe because you couldn't enforce  
25 it, nobody complained. And secondly, the only time

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1 someone's going to complain is when they get  
2 themselves in a situation that causes them to be  
3 thrown out of a building, which is what this  
4 ordinance is going to make it easier for the Sheriff  
5 officers.  
6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can I make a  
7 comment?  
8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Al.  
9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can I -- can I  
10 make a comment about -- I understand Commissioner  
11 O'Dea's comments. He's going to vote no,  
12 notwithstanding what the ordinance says that,  
13 because he stated that on the record with the  
14 previous vote. My question to the County Counsel  
15 and to our counsel is that assuming when we see a  
16 copy of the notice that was actually published, if  
17 that notice correctly recites today as the hearing,  
18 if that's what our notice says, does that cure any  
19 defect that occurred prior to that with the wrong  
20 date?  
21 And so that -- that is, it's appropriately  
22 before us to vote on a final, on the final  
23 resolution, final adoption of it today. Or if the  
24 notice comes back, or we're speculating, let's see  
25 what the notice comes back in a few minutes. So I

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1 don't know why we're taking a vote right now. Let's  
2 wait till the notice comes in because if the notice  
3 comes in that the Clerk's office published the  
4 notice with the correct date. And my question is,  
5 does that cure any typographical defect? If the  
6 notice unfortunately comes back to the June 26th  
7 date, that's a problem. I don't -- I don't know how  
8 to get around that except to withdraw and republish.  
9 I don't know.  
10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Then let's  
11 just hold that one. Hold this one aside. Yeah, go  
12 ahead, Bob.  
13 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: June 26th is  
14 one of our County Commission meetings. Yeah, that's  
15 a public meeting, correct? That was the  
16 introduction. That's the introduction. We're  
17 talking about the here. There should have been a  
18 hearing. If today's here. And again, I'm going to  
19 ask legal because I'm not a lawyer, but with respect  
20 to, if it was advertised correctly, is that like  
21 Commissioner Cifelli said, does that eliminate, cure  
22 the defect?  
23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. Well,  
24 we'll wait and see what the paperwork is. Hold it  
25 in abeyance. Carol Jean, move on to the next one.

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1 We'll hold this in abeyance until the paperwork  
2 comes down.  
3 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, if I just  
4 may, I think what you were voting on was to close  
5 the public hearing. You were not voting to adopt  
6 the ordinance.  
7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. That's  
8 correct.  
9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: We voted to  
10 close the hearing. That was all in favor. Aye,  
11 whatever.  
12 MR. ANTUN: No, no, no, Commissioner.  
13 What happened was you and Cifelli voted no. And so  
14 they take a roll call to close the hearing. That's  
15 what you're voting on.  
16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I don't know  
17 You can have a vote on a hearing that legally  
18 shouldn't take place in the first place. That's a  
19 different story.  
20 MR. ANTUN: That's right. Yes. You  
21 are voting to close the hearing.  
22 MR. FLORIO: I think the prudent  
23 thing at this moment would be to postpone the vote  
24 until we have the actual document that was presented  
25 as the notice to the public, and then that will

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1 resolve the issue as to whether the hearing was  
2 publicly noticed properly.  
3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Carol Jean,  
4 continue with the other ordinance.  
5 THE CLERK: A-3. Ordinance amending  
6 Chapter 200, Article 8.11 of the Administrative Code  
7 to establish a restricted Parking Space on JFK  
8 Boulevard, City of Bayonne, for Magda I. Torres.  
9 This is the fixed time for the public  
10 hearing of this ordinance, which was introduced at  
11 the meeting of June 26, 2025, advertised as required  
12 by law together with a notice of hearing for this  
13 time. It's been posted on the County Commissioners'  
14 bulletin board made available to the general public.  
15 Are there any speakers on this ordinance?  
16 Seeing none, I ask for a motion to close the  
17 hearing.  
18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cedeño and Lipski.  
19 THE CLERK: All in favor?  
20 (The Board votes unanimously to close  
21 the Hearing.)  
22 THE CLERK: On the final adoption,  
23 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.  
24 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.  
25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

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1 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
 2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
 3 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
 4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
 5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
 6 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
 7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
 8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
 9 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
 10 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
 11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
 12 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been  
 13 adopted. Ordinance 4. Ordinance amending Ordinance  
 14 No. 289-05-2019, Article 17 of the Hudson County  
 15 Administrative Code to mandate minimum hourly rates  
 16 of pay, vacation benefits and health insurance  
 17 benefits for certain Non-County Employees providing  
 18 Services to the County.  
 19 This is the time fixed for this public  
 20 hearing of this ordinance, which was introduced at  
 21 the meeting of June 26, 2025, advertised as required  
 22 by law together with a notice of hearing for this  
 23 time. It's been posted on the County Commissioners'  
 24 bulletin board and made available to the general  
 25 public.

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1 Are there any speakers on this ordinance?  
 2 Seeing none, I'll ask for a --  
 3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Motion to close.  
 4 THE CLERK: Motion to close the  
 5 hearing.  
 6 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.  
 7 THE CLERK: All in favor?  
 8 (The Board votes unanimously to close  
 9 the Hearing.)  
 10 THE CLERK: Opposed? On the final  
 11 adoption, Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.  
 12 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.  
 13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.  
 14 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
 15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
 16 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
 17 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
 18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
 19 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
 20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
 21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
 22 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
 23 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
 24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
 25 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been

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1 adopted. Ordinance 5. Ordinance authorizing local  
 2 enforcement of the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code.  
 3 This is the time fixed for the public  
 4 hearing of this ordinance, which was introduced at  
 5 the meeting of June 26, 2025, advertised as required  
 6 by law together with a notice of hearing for this  
 7 time. It's been posted on the County Commissioner's  
 8 bulletin board and made available to the general  
 9 public. Are there any speakers on this ordinance?  
 10 Seeing none, I'll ask for a motion to  
 11 close the hearing.  
 12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and Cifelli.  
 13 THE CLERK: All in favor? Opposed?  
 14 (The Board votes unanimously to close  
 15 the Hearing.)  
 16 THE CLERK: On the final adoption,  
 17 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.  
 18 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.  
 19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.  
 20 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
 21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
 22 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
 23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
 24 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
 25 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

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1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
 2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
 3 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
 4 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
 5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
 6 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been  
 7 adopted. This concludes the items of business on  
 8 today's agenda. Are there any comments from the  
 9 Commissioners on the business of the board?  
 10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Commissioners?  
 11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: There are two  
 12 items today, two items today on the agenda that I  
 13 think were particularly critically important. The  
 14 first one relates to our support of funding the  
 15 Affordable Housing Trust Fund. I can't be any more  
 16 adamant about the fact that taking \$125 million away  
 17 from that fund jeopardizes 30, 40 significant  
 18 smaller affordable housing projects in Hudson County  
 19 and throughout the state. Those are often or more  
 20 often than not, projects where local not-for-profits  
 21 are involved.  
 22 There are several not-for-profits, Family  
 23 Promise, Black Law Enforcement Serving Community,  
 24 among others locally. You got to pursue those  
 25 dollars. Without those dollars, those projects will

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1 not happen. I appreciate the fact that we strongly  
 2 supported this. I would hope that our Legislators  
 3 take whatever actions are necessary sooner rather  
 4 than later to find a way to restore that.  
 5 One of the reasons they didn't fund it is  
 6 they decided to take the tax away on properties sold  
 7 for more than \$1 million, eliminate that and raise  
 8 the amount to \$2 million. So I don't think the  
 9 people selling homes for more than a million would  
 10 have -- would have found themselves in bankruptcy if  
 11 they had to continue to pay that fee.  
 12 The second resolution that clearly affects  
 13 the County but my district relates to the proposed  
 14 merger of New Jersey City University and Kean  
 15 University. Currently without legislation, the  
 16 tenured professors at NJCU will have zero  
 17 protection. Many of them have been there for  
 18 decades. Protecting their rights, ensuring that  
 19 those tenured professors continue to be tenured  
 20 professors as part of that merger is critical.  
 21 They've provided education to our young  
 22 men and women for many, many years and the  
 23 importance of any merger of minimizing the negative  
 24 impacts is a critical component and the passing of  
 25 this and getting our legislature to enact this

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1 quickly before the merger takes place I think is  
 2 something that we all need to support. Thank you.  
 3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Okay.  
 4 Continue, Madam Clerk.  
 5 THE CLERK: Are there any comments  
 6 from the Chief of Staff to the County Executive?  
 7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue.  
 8 THE CLERK: This is the time for  
 9 persons who submitted a timely written request to  
 10 address the Board on any matter of public interest.  
 11 Please remember to limit your comments to three  
 12 minutes. We do have speakers. The first one that  
 13 signed up was Leroy Truth. He's not here.  
 14 James Reginald.  
 15 MR. JAMES: Good afternoon,  
 16 Commissioners. My name is Reginald James, and I'm  
 17 the managing partner and founder of Revision House  
 18 which is a cooperative sober living facility  
 19 licensed by DCA. We've been in existence since  
 20 2020, when we first opened, and we were housing men  
 21 that were COVID-quarantined individuals for the  
 22 State through a contract with Volunteers of America  
 23 Delaware Valley.  
 24 When that was over, we approached the  
 25 County of Hudson as there seemed to be a need --

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1 a need for housing. When I sent the letter out,  
 2 they contacted us the same day actually, you know.  
 3 It took a year which our place was empty for a year  
 4 to finally get awarded an RFP to do this. Four  
 5 months after, I had documented that social services  
 6 was not filling our beds and as a small company, you  
 7 know, we have very tight margins, and we were being  
 8 compliant on our side, and we didn't feel that  
 9 social services was being compliant.  
 10 So I made issue of this. So I'm basically  
 11 here to heighten the complaint because a number of  
 12 things happened over time, some of a very sensitive  
 13 nature, but we did contact the Law Department and  
 14 verbally -- I mean by e-mail in March, and then  
 15 formally in April and they have responded. I  
 16 understand because of the sensitivity there's going  
 17 to be a third party involved, but we're trying to  
 18 stay solvent.  
 19 And what happened while we made clear  
 20 that, you know, we were hurting because our beds  
 21 weren't being filled, another operation was allowed  
 22 to open another transit -- transitional housing to  
 23 add insult to injury. So I wanted that  
 24 investigated. I'm waiting for transparency about  
 25 this, and there are two other matters of lesser

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1 importance. But because of this I -- Commissioner  
 2 O'Dea as well as Commissioner Walker, which I'm in  
 3 both of those on the borderline of both of their  
 4 districts, you know, toured our place. I invite all  
 5 the commissioners to uh tour our place because we  
 6 give a standard of very high quality services.  
 7 The evaluator was there two months ago,  
 8 and she said that she had -- there's no place like  
 9 this in the state in an urban area.  
 10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Thank you.  
 11 Your time is up.  
 12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Mr. James,  
 13 from your last comments, I gather that your facility  
 14 is in Jersey City?  
 15 MR. JAMES: On Bergen Avenue.  
 16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. How  
 17 many -- how many beds?  
 18 MR. JAMES: Ten.  
 19 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Ten beds are  
 20 available.  
 21 MR. JAMES: Yeah, it's the only ten.  
 22 It's the only licensed cooperative sober living  
 23 facility in the County.  
 24 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. Okay.  
 25 All right.

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1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, I've just a  
2 couple but it is my district. So Mr. James is  
3 correct. We are trying to address the issue and his  
4 concerns are legitimate. Whatever the past is, we  
5 can't change the past. Whatever reason additional  
6 facilities were bought on, you know, we could -- we  
7 can try to even figure out what, when, why and how,  
8 but the reality is in order to ensure that your  
9 facility can properly operate, we've undertaken the  
10 County, a process whereby they would be able to pay  
11 for all the beds on a regular basis in order to  
12 ensure that you have the income stream that  
13 necessary to operate and clearly that's critical.  
14 You and I've had numerous conversations.  
15 I have the greatest degree of respect for you. I  
16 have tremendous respect for your passion for this  
17 particular issue and the critical, the critical  
18 nature of it, and I think we just need to find out  
19 when we can move forward with awarding the  
20 contracts. I know that the proposals have been  
21 received. They're being reviewed, but obviously,  
22 that addresses it.  
23 Now, as usually is the case there are no  
24 perfect solutions, and in our discussion back and  
25 forth because the County is also sensitive from

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1 their own economic perspective that there will be  
2 times that there may be individuals referred there  
3 just based on the demand that may not fit into what  
4 the core mission of -- of your facility is, and  
5 we've talked about that, and that there should be a  
6 certain level of latitude within -- within sending  
7 individuals to that facility of ensuring that  
8 individuals that go there are not, in fact, having a  
9 detrimental impact on what the core mission of that  
10 is.  
11 And I think that we've, you know, never  
12 come up with a perfect solution, but I think they've  
13 come up with a good solution to balance to be able  
14 to do that. But until that resolution comes before  
15 us, and that resolution gets approved, you're still  
16 in a bit of limbo. I know they've been trying to  
17 increase to make sure that they get as close as  
18 possible to filling all the beds, but the long-term  
19 solution is getting that reviewed and voted on, and  
20 we only have one meeting a month during the summer  
21 so now which is July, you've got another month until  
22 that that resolution can even come before this Board  
23 so I'm -- I'm sensitive to it.  
24 I do urge all the Board Commissioners to  
25 go there. You'll see how it operates. You'll see

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1 what's important about it for the population that it  
2 serves, what the core mission is, and then hopefully  
3 we can move forward with providing an agreement with  
4 you that will ensure a revenue stream that allows  
5 the facility to operate. Otherwise there's a clear  
6 risk of -- of it going out -- out of business, and  
7 then individuals that need the additional services  
8 are not going to have them, and if you ask the  
9 Director, we need more beds and more facilities, not  
10 potentially losing those that we already have.  
11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Bill.  
12 Next speaker, please.  
13 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Devon  
14 Murphy.  
15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead Bob.  
16 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I just want  
17 to ask one question. What is your target population  
18 again, please?  
19 MR. JAMES: Ten.  
20 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: And it's for  
21 the entire County, or is it just the whole County?  
22 MR. JAMES: The whole county. Yes.  
23  
24 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: The County,  
25 yes. Do you have some kind of paperwork?

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1 MR. JAMES: I do. I actually want to  
2 leave --  
3 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Just give it  
4 all to the Clerk, sir, and then we'll --  
5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Carol Jean,  
6 next speaker.  
7 THE CLERK: Devon Murphy.  
8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.  
9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Mr. James, in  
10 your opening comments you said that your facility  
11 has been, I maybe I'm misstating it, approved by  
12 DCA. By DCA, right?  
13 MR. JAMES: Yes. Department of  
14 Consumer Affairs.  
15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: In my -- in my  
16 earlier life, I was a member of a local hospital  
17 board, and when we needed something to be approved  
18 so that we could get funding, they called it a  
19 certificate of need. Now is there -- is there an  
20 analogous certificate that DCA gave you that said  
21 that your facility rises up to a level of competence  
22 for different functions that it's like a kind of a  
23 pre-qualification?  
24 MR. JAMES: Yeah. We're inspected  
25 annually, and we -- we go through the inspection

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1 with. As I said we're the only Class F.  
2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So I don't  
3 know what that means.  
4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mr. James, you know  
5 what? Mr. James, if I could work, after the meeting  
6 you can meet with Commissioner.  
7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'll talk to  
8 you after the meeting. Okay. Okay.  
9 THE CLERK: Thank you. Devon Murphy.  
10 I don't see him here. Next one is Mark Bloomberg.  
11 Thank you, Mark.  
12 MR. BLOOMBERG: Yeah. Hi. Mark  
13 Bloomberg. So wanted to talk primarily about  
14 Braddock Park today. On the northern part of the  
15 park, there's a service road that also referred to  
16 as a driveway that leads into what's colloquially  
17 referred to as the preschool parking lot. From time  
18 to time, there is a gate that gets locked that  
19 prevents folks from accessing it.  
20 And so given the lease between North  
21 Bergen and the County, I'm curious about whose  
22 jurisdiction it really is. Who's -- who's locking  
23 the gates? Is it the Sheriff? Is it the Parks  
24 Department? Is it North Bergen? Is it the North  
25 Bergen Board of Education? Similarly, whose

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1 jurisdiction is the parking lot as well? And -- and  
2 what's the criteria for when and why those gates are  
3 locked? So that's -- that's item number one.  
4 The other thing I wanted to raise just for  
5 awareness, so on July 8th, a public hearing was held  
6 regarding the building of the permanent preschool in  
7 Braddock Park which you've already voted on. I just  
8 wanted to give you a quick update that unofficially,  
9 we had 24 people opposing from the public, ten were  
10 in favor. The majority of those people who spoke in  
11 favor were elected officials, members of the board  
12 of education, and other folks affiliated with the  
13 board of education.  
14 There have also been hundreds of e-mails  
15 that have been sent in, in opposition to -- to  
16 allowing the diversion to continue. Inexplicably, a  
17 second public hearing has been called on April 13th.  
18 We haven't been told why.  
19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: August?  
20 MR. BLOOMBERG: I'm sorry. August.  
21 August 13th, with the comment period until August  
22 27th. So the comment period was supposed to end on  
23 the 22nd, of this month, so it's been extended six  
24 weeks as well. If you think nothing has changed in  
25 the last couple years, well, just last week Governor

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1 Murphy signed a couple of laws. One is that all  
2 municipalities have to offer full-time kindergarten  
3 within five years. It's shocking to me that there  
4 are municipalities that don't have full-time  
5 kindergarten. But if you only have five years to do  
6 it, where do you think people are going to build  
7 these schools? Also what Murphy signed was an  
8 expansion of preschool as well.  
9 So over the next couple of years there's  
10 going to be a large demand for facilities, and  
11 there's a precedent that's being set with this  
12 diversion here that that this echoes across the  
13 state because it's DEP. So I just wanted to say  
14 since other elected officials spoke at this public  
15 hearing during the public hearing portion, some of  
16 you may have changed your minds on this matter.  
17 I'm asking you to go back on the record if  
18 you've changed your mind, comment at that meeting or  
19 send e-mails into the DEP in North Bergen. Thank  
20 you.  
21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Mark.  
22 Jonathan, after the meeting can you meet Mr.  
23 Bloomberg about the locked gate in the parking lot,  
24 and Alberico, can you also inform with regards to  
25 the status of the diversion where we're at and then

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1 let -- also let the Board know where we're at with  
2 that, okay?  
3 MR. BLOOMBERG: Thank you.  
4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And you're going to  
5 get the, Carol Jean, you can see about how the  
6 ordinances are going up to for the transparency.  
7 THE CLERK: Okay.  
8 MR. BLOOMBERG: Okay. Thank you.  
9 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Raymond  
10 Mitchell.  
11 MR. MITCHELL: All right, guys. I  
12 gave notice to Esther Suarez and also the Chief of  
13 Homicide and Internal Affairs to be here. Are they  
14 here? With the information that Romano said that my  
15 father died of COVID that they stated. I called  
16 them up and also Fannie about that personnel about  
17 Lily --  
18 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Who? Whose  
19 personnel?  
20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Excuse me. There's  
21 no direct back and forth. You have your minutes to  
22 speak, please.  
23 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. So is anybody  
24 here with the information about my father died of  
25 COVID? The mystery death? Adam? You and Matthew

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1 Plankin? Anything?  
2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Adam's not going to  
3 address you either. You can't go back. You have to  
4 speak and make your thing. It's not a dialogue.  
5 MR. MITCHELL: I'm getting  
6 obstructed. I called the Prosecutor's office and  
7 they don't have anything. I called the medical  
8 examiners. They don't have anything. So since  
9 March 30th of 2020, the mystery death of my father  
10 strangled, okay? Trying to find out what's  
11 happening here, and Hackensack Meridian, number one  
12 hospital, North Bergen Harborage. They sold it.  
13 So I don't get no justice I guess.  
14 Everybody else gets all love in here and happiness  
15 and cheers and everything else. How about Craig  
16 Guy? What does he know? Is he available to speak?  
17 Nothing. Nobody has nothing to do with it.  
18 Everybody hangs out with Brian Stack though, right?  
19 And also Bob Menendez. Those two are the only  
20 people I know that knew my father. And they knew  
21 where he was in that nursing home.  
22 I have a recording here. Maybe you guys  
23 can hear it. Straight from the nurse. I can't get  
24 nobody arrested for someone.  
25 (Recording plays.)

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1 MR. MITCHELL: So the nurse that was.  
2 MR. FLORIO: Chairman, the time has  
3 expired. The time's up.  
4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Advice would be to  
5 speak to the doctor who signed the certificate.  
6 Speak to the doctor.  
7 MR. MITCHELL: I need to. It's fraud  
8 under that certificate. I want to get them all  
9 arrested right now for obstruction, accessory,  
10 everything.  
11 MR. FLORIO: Chairman, the speaker's  
12 time has expired.  
13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Of course. Thank  
14 you. Next speaker.  
15 MR. MITCHELL: All right. So when do  
16 I get this letter from whoever? The Prosecutor's  
17 office from here that we have on my phone.  
18 THE CLERK: Sabura Alexander. I'm  
19 sorry. Is it Sabura Alexander? She's not here.  
20 That was -- that was our last speaker that signed  
21 up, Chairman. Before we ask for an adjournment, did  
22 we get an answer on ordinance?  
23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Where's the  
24 ordinance? That paperwork?  
25 MR. DEPIERRO: Classified ad for

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1 hearing date for the hearing on the ordinance. I  
2 have it right in front of me. This public hearing  
3 on the ordinance will be held at a meeting of the  
4 Board of County Commissioners of the County of  
5 Hudson on July 17th, 2025, at 1 p.m. in the  
6 Commissioner's Chamber, First floor, Hudson County  
7 Administration Annex, 567 Pavonia Avenue, Jersey  
8 City, New Jersey. Published in the Star Ledger on  
9 July 2nd, 2025.  
10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Is the body of  
11 the ordinance in the advertising?  
12 MR. DEPIERRO: The entire, it's  
13 the -- it's the ordinance that goes, the notice that  
14 I just read as well.  
15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So does the  
16 ordinance published have a section that says public  
17 hearing?  
18 MR. DEPIERRO: It does.  
19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And what does  
20 that section say?  
21 MR. DEPIERRO: It says June 26, and  
22 then two paragraphs down where it says the notice  
23 for the public hearing which is published in the  
24 record, and my suggestion would be in if it's false  
25 information, if Counsel to the Board disagrees, that

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1 that page is replaced because the notice that went  
2 out to the public says what the date of the hearing  
3 is. It's today.  
4 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: My question  
5 though County Counsel is that my question earlier  
6 was it was a two-step question. Number one, does  
7 the notice that was actually published recite today  
8 as the public hearing? I think the answer is in the  
9 affirmative. Number two, with that said, does that  
10 cure any -- I won't say defect any -- any incorrect  
11 date in the -- in the resolution that we had when we  
12 introduced it when we voted to introduce it.  
13 Because that as I recall or as I  
14 understand that original motion that we approved for  
15 introduction said that June 26th, was the date for  
16 the -- for the hearing.  
17 MR. DEPIERRO: Say yes.  
18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Well, just so  
19 I get my facts straight. The first notice was that  
20 the public hearing on the ordinance was going to  
21 take place on June 26th. That's what we adopted on  
22 June whenever we adopted it to the introduction. It  
23 was introduced.  
24 MR. DEPIERRO: No, it was just in the  
25 introduction.

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1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: On the  
 2 introduced, on the -- and that -- and that ordinance  
 3 that form of ordinance recited that would be  
 4 assuming it was approved, it would be there would be  
 5 a public hearing on what date? The original form,  
 6 not what the notice was that was published, but the  
 7 original date of what we voted for, correct?  
 8 MR. DEPIERRO: 26th.  
 9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So  
 10 subsequently, the note -- the official public notice  
 11 setting forth today as the hearing notwithstanding  
 12 the fact that it was another date.  
 13 MR. DEPIERRO: Which is the correct  
 14 date of the notice.  
 15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. So my  
 16 question, then question two is, in your opinion and  
 17 in our counsel's opinion, is that sufficient to cure  
 18 any typographical error or whatever error in what  
 19 we -- what we voted for on when we voted for. I  
 20 don't remember the date that we voted for the  
 21 introduction of it, and we established in that or in  
 22 that resolution or that approval, we established a  
 23 date for the open the final hearing, and that final  
 24 hearing date and what we voted for that day was a  
 25 date in June; is that right?

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1 MR. DEPIERRO: Yes.  
 2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But the  
 3 note --  
 4 MR. DEPIERRO: But the answer to your  
 5 question --  
 6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But the notice  
 7 that got published had the correct date which is  
 8 today.  
 9 MR. DEPIERRO: That is correct.  
 10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So my question  
 11 is, in your opinion both counsel is that public  
 12 notice with the correct date of July 17th, for the  
 13 public hearing today is that sufficient to cure any  
 14 procedural defect that, we can vote today on the  
 15 ordinance the final adoption. That's my question.  
 16 MR. DEPIERRO: The notice that is  
 17 public in this published in the Star Ledger which  
 18 notifies the public says the date assigned by the  
 19 Clerk of this Board as to when someone from the  
 20 public can appear that being today. So that's my  
 21 answer would be that it does cure it.  
 22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. If  
 23 it's --  
 24 MR. DEPIERRO: Even if we could even  
 25 call it a default. I'm not saying it's a default.

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1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can we get a  
 2 copy of that Star Ledger?  
 3 MR. DEPIERRO: Yeah.  
 4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That the  
 5 newspaper?  
 6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But just so  
 7 we're clear.  
 8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I didn't know  
 9 the Star Ledger published online.  
 10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So the answer  
 11 is that the notice setting forth today as the final  
 12 hearing was the notice that appeared in the  
 13 publication through the New York Star Ledger. And  
 14 in that case is it in your legal opinion that that  
 15 cures any defect with respect to the date that was  
 16 in the -- the resolution that we adopted introducing  
 17 the ordinance for the --  
 18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I think Alberico,  
 19 we're going and spinning in circles. Al's asked you  
 20 three times. Is it a yes or no?  
 21 MR. DEPIERRO: The answer is yes, and  
 22 we even have a member from the public.  
 23 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: That's what I  
 24 wanted to know.  
 25 MR. DEPIERRO: Okay. And the notice

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1 to the public is accurately published.  
 2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. So now  
 3 you're proposing to adopt an ordinance with a lie in  
 4 it, correct? That's what you're proposing to do.  
 5 You're proposing -- hold on -- that you're going to  
 6 adopt which will then be a public record for any  
 7 citizen to get is going to say the following. A  
 8 public hearing for the purpose of persons interested  
 9 and or affected by this authorizing the assessment  
 10 shall be held on June 26th. It's not held on that  
 11 date. You should amend your ordinance.  
 12 MR. DEPIERRO: That's exactly what I  
 13 stated.  
 14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because  
 15 otherwise you're adopting an ordinance that has a  
 16 false statement in it. How do you not amend it?  
 17 How do you allow an ordinance to adopt that has an  
 18 obvious false statement?  
 19 THE CLERK: That happens all the time  
 20 in the world.  
 21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: More than a  
 22 typo.  
 23 MR. DEPIERRO: Before you adopt the  
 24 ordinance you can amend it to correct the date.  
 25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. All right.

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1 So Carol Jean, it's going to be a motion.  
 2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You've got to go  
 3 all the way back because you were halfway through a  
 4 vote.  
 5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah, we're halfway  
 6 through.  
 7 THE CLERK: We're going to start  
 8 over. Start over on it.  
 9 MR. DEPIERRO: This just to correct  
 10 the record, this is to close the public hearing?  
 11 This is vote to close a public hearing.  
 12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Public hearing  
 13 first.  
 14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, I'm not  
 15 doing it. I'm just going to correct you when you're  
 16 wrong.  
 17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Motion to  
 18 close the hearing.  
 19 THE CLERK: There are no further  
 20 speakers, so I'm looking for a motion to close the  
 21 public hearing.  
 22 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Motion.  
 23 THE CLERK: Is there a second?  
 24 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Second.  
 25 THE CLERK: All in favor? Opposed?

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1 Abstaining?  
 2 (Ayes.)  
 3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I think there  
 4 may be some members from the public that were  
 5 confused. They saw the ad in the paper. They read  
 6 it. It said 26. They said, oh, the hearing must  
 7 have already been held. I would have loved to come  
 8 speak but in reading the body of the ordinance, it  
 9 says that there was a hearing held already. There  
 10 must be an error in advertising it now, so I'm not  
 11 going to go to that. Or they may also say, Wow, I  
 12 would have went at 4:30 in the afternoon, but  
 13 interestingly, the legislative body chose to do an  
 14 ordinance like this that affects the public so much  
 15 at a one p.m meeting, so I have a job so I can't  
 16 take off to go to the hearing. So I'm going to  
 17 abstain on closing the hearing.  
 18 On the final adoption, Commissioner  
 19 Aponte-Lipski --  
 20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Correct, counsel?  
 21 THE CLERK: A motion to make on the  
 22 amendment to the Ordinance No. 2, correcting the  
 23 effective date of the public hearing.  
 24 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Motion.  
 25 THE CLERK: And a second?

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1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cifelli and Lipski.  
 2 THE CLERK: I'll do a roll call.  
 3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Shouldn't you  
 4 read into the record what your amendment is? That  
 5 would make good sense I think?  
 6 MR. DEPIERRO: Yes. And we will  
 7 bring down obviously a print copy of it. It will  
 8 change Section 6.A to a public hearing for the  
 9 purpose of hearing persons interested in or affected  
 10 by this proposed ordinance authorizing the  
 11 assessment shall be held on July 17th, at 567  
 12 Pavonia Avenue, Board of Commissioners Chambers,  
 13 First Floor, Jersey City, New Jersey 07306 at 1  
 14 p.m., and again as certified in the classified ad.  
 15 THE CLERK: A vote on the amendment,  
 16 Commissioner 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 O'Dea.  
 25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No.

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1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
 2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You can't change  
 3 what already happened.  
 4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
 5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Carrie. She's on  
 6 this phone. She's on mute. Keep going. Keep  
 7 talking. Okay.  
 8 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
 9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
 10 THE CLERK: The amendment's been  
 11 adopted. Now we're going to vote on the ordinance,  
 12 the adoption of the ordinance. Do I have -- do I  
 13 have a person -- I don't need a motion.  
 14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The roll call.  
 15 Just a roll call.  
 16 THE CLERK: Roll call on final  
 17 adoption. Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.  
 18 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.  
 19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.  
 20 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
 21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
 22 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
 23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
 24 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
 25 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

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1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Voted against  
2 the original version. I think it has a chilling  
3 effect on the public and the public's ability to  
4 access public property for the taxes that they pay  
5 to those buildings. We shouldn't be doing things  
6 like this. So I vote no.  
7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
8 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Oh, sorry.  
9 Yes.  
10 THE CLERK: On both, right? On the  
11 amendment?  
12 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Yes.  
13 Yes. On the amendment.  
14 THE CLERK: Okay.  
15 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I apologize.  
16 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. And I think  
18 that Alberico was making some clarifications with  
19 regard to buildings. I suggest you meet Mr.  
20 Bloomberg and, you know, especially with regards to  
21 the access to that restaurant.  
22 MR. DEPIERRO: Yep. I'll be here.  
23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Before you go  
24 on, I just have one other item that I wanted to put  
25 on the record. So A-4 we adopted today related to

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1 the rates for living wages for employees and  
2 businesses and subcontractors benefiting to ensure  
3 that our employees retain a living wage, responsible  
4 health benefits, and adequate leisure time. You  
5 know, Hudson County was a trailblazer in this area.  
6 It was in my early years as a then  
7 Freeholder, obviously, now we're County  
8 Commissioners. We were the second County on the  
9 ordinance I sponsored in the country to have a  
10 living wage. It's been critical. It continues to  
11 be critical, probably now more than ever, because  
12 the cost of living in this County is high, high  
13 relative to other counties, even in the state of New  
14 Jersey.  
15 So now more than ever, our continued  
16 ability to add and increase what those wages are  
17 that these contractors, subcontractors must pay  
18 people that work there, 90-percent which live in  
19 Hudson County, to ensure they have medical benefits,  
20 or are given a stipend to pay for their medical  
21 benefits. We need more and more. So again, I want  
22 to compliment the Executive and the Administration  
23 and staying on top of this to make sure that we're  
24 current and continuing to raise those rates. So I  
25 just wanted to put that on the record.

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1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Bill.  
2 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, we have one  
3 more speaker. She called in, Courtney Walker.  
4 MS. WALKER: Good afternoon, County  
5 Commissioners. My name is Courtney Walker, and I'm  
6 a resident of Jersey City. I'm here today to  
7 express deep concern about the ongoing targeting of  
8 immigrants and political dissenters, including  
9 students, lawful residents and citizens by ICE and  
10 the Trump administration.  
11 ICE rates have been escalating nationwide  
12 this year, and with the passage of the new federal  
13 budget, the pressure to ramp up these operations is  
14 higher than ever. Here in New Jersey, we've seen a  
15 70-percent increase in ICE arrests in 2025, an  
16 average of nearly 20 arrests a day. As one of the  
17 most diverse Counties in the state, we know we're  
18 being targeted. We've seen the GoFundMe pages for  
19 our neighbors, families torn apart, asking for help  
20 with legal fees and basic needs because a parent can  
21 no longer bring home a paycheck.  
22 Immigrants are the heart of our community.  
23 They are some of the hardest working people I know,  
24 and they deserve the right to live in a place  
25 they've called home for decades. This isn't just a

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1 federal issue. It's a local one. It's about public  
2 safety and it's about human decency. We all deserve  
3 to feel safe in our neighborhoods, in our schools,  
4 hospitals and interactions with law enforcement.  
5 And we deserve to know our local officials are  
6 putting our families and futures first.  
7 So today I'm asking the board, do we have  
8 a County ordinance requiring visible identification  
9 for all law enforcement operating within County  
10 limits, including federal agents, i.e. visible  
11 badges, no masks? Are local police prohibited from  
12 cooperating with or facilitating ICE operations,  
13 especially those without warrants or clear  
14 justification? How are we working with schools,  
15 universities and hospitals to establish or  
16 strengthen sanctuary policies and rapid response  
17 systems when federal agents show up?  
18 And on a separate note, but very related  
19 to the conversation today, it's troubling that this  
20 public meeting is being held in the middle of a  
21 workday. I had to take off time just to be here and  
22 ask these questions. That shouldn't be the case.  
23 E-mail goes unanswered by this Board. Phone calls  
24 don't reach anyone either. And when we finally get  
25 a chance to speak, we're limited to three minutes

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1 and have to jump through hoops to do so. Frankly,  
2 it's disrespectful and unacceptable as a member of a  
3 public to have to engage this way with our local  
4 government. And so with that, I thank you for your  
5 time. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I think that I  
7 concur with what the speaker said. We should look  
8 to what degree we can amend any ordinances we need  
9 to. We're quick to adopt ordinances that restrict  
10 the public to come in and video or take photos. But  
11 we don't seem to be quick to ensure that we're  
12 protecting individuals that are here and subject to  
13 these ICE raids.

14 Thank God we got out of housing ICE  
15 detainees from 2018, when I spoke and stood against  
16 it to 2020, when as a result of my position, I was  
17 no longer the Vice Chairman. I still no longer sit  
18 on the Public Safety Committee because I had the  
19 courage to take that position. I'm extremely  
20 sympathetic and sensitive to what you said today.

21 And I think that I'll give you my cell  
22 number before you leave today so you can be able to  
23 get a hold of me.

24 MS. WALKER: How do we get the  
25 answers to these questions? The question is, can we

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1 answer questions we're asked?

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can we give  
3 answers to those questions today? If not, do  
4 whatever research you need to do. If there's a need  
5 to adopt or introduce an ordinance, I'm on record  
6 that I will sponsor that ordinance. And if there's  
7 need be, I'm sure we could get one of my colleagues  
8 to be willing to second it so you know that the item  
9 will be put up for a vote at a meeting.

10 But everything you said is important. We  
11 should get a report from the Schools of Technology  
12 as to what they're doing and what their position is.  
13 We should get a report from the Hudson County  
14 Community College. They're also under our  
15 jurisdiction. So if we can, at a minimum, get  
16 someone available to present that information to us  
17 as soon as possible. I think that's critical.

18 And as it relates to the identification,  
19 it's a no-brainer. Yes, if our current laws do not  
20 require that, then we need to introduce at the next  
21 meeting an ordinance that does that. I'll defer,  
22 though I've been a little rough on the County  
23 Counsel today, I'll defer to him to do the research.  
24 I might check, you know, double check his work. But  
25 you know, can we get that for the next meeting? Can

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1 we get a report as to how our schools, high schools  
2 and colleges are currently handling that? I'm sure  
3 they should have a policy and protocol in place that  
4 we can get a copy of. If they don't, then we need  
5 to provide them what other schools are, the schools  
6 that I know and am involved in that have put good  
7 policies in place as to how to address the issues  
8 when individuals come in.

9 But you're a hundred percent right. The  
10 fear factor that currently exists is frightening.  
11 There are individuals that have lived in this  
12 country for more than two decades, have never ever  
13 gotten in trouble, have paid taxes and everything  
14 else, that now live in fear as to whether or not  
15 someone's going to come knock on their door,  
16 someone's going to show up at their place of  
17 business where they work, and take them away from  
18 their family, from their children, and deport them  
19 to another country.

20 And I think that until this insanity  
21 stops, areas like our area, Hudson County, which is  
22 so critical, you know, now I'm out knocking on doors  
23 and the number of individuals that say they're here  
24 on student visas is a large number. How many of  
25 them may be passed when the visa is? I don't know.

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1 But again, those individuals are probably living in  
2 that same fear. They stayed in school an extra  
3 year. Who knows what all those factors are? I  
4 would, on a positive note, know that this County was  
5 the second county in the state that created a  
6 program to assist individuals to resolve issues with  
7 their visas, with their permanent status, with their  
8 ability to get citizenship.

9 And I think, Mr. Administrator, we should  
10 think about how we can let that agency, right, which  
11 is under the auspices in cooperation with the  
12 AFL-CIO, be able to become more proactive in helping  
13 with some of the issues that the speaker addressed  
14 today.

15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Mr. Chairman,  
16 I empathize with everything that the Speaker has  
17 said. The Trump administration, their practices  
18 have only escalated to more draconian measures. My  
19 only question is, and we can defer this maybe to the  
20 next meeting when our Board Counsel and the County  
21 counsel maybe can get back with an opinion and maybe  
22 even the Prosecutor's office. We live in a  
23 federalist system. We are one level of a many-level  
24 system of government. We can probably pass  
25 ordinances to enforce what can be done in our public

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1 buildings, County public buildings.  
2 I don't know how far we can go with the  
3 public high school in Kearny or the public high  
4 school in Secaucus or the hospitals. I don't know  
5 that we have any jurisdiction to do that. What I  
6 understand is, for my six o'clock every morning  
7 looking at the news, that there is legislation now  
8 pending. I don't know how far it's going to get in  
9 the House of Representatives to ban certain  
10 practices such as, and what to me is extremely  
11 deplorable. It reminds me of Nazi Germany.  
12 I don't mean to be overstated or a  
13 pro-right government in Chile years ago, that people  
14 come up, enforcement officers with no  
15 identification, wearing masks. There was a student,  
16 I think at Tufts University, a young woman, a  
17 doctoral student that was taken off the street by  
18 three men, put into a car. God knows what they were  
19 going to do with her. There's also stories I've  
20 heard where actually there have been imposters going  
21 to people's houses, tending to be ICE officials and  
22 to gain access to the house for some criminal  
23 reason. I think on the federal level, that's much  
24 more of a sure bet.  
25 On our level, maybe there's some things we

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1 can do. Certainly we can pass a resolution urging  
2 the facilities in the County, whether it's the local  
3 police departments. I don't even know how much  
4 control we have over the Sheriff's office, to tell  
5 you the truth, it's a constitutional. So in any  
6 event, I think the underlying basis of your  
7 comments, totally get it, totally agree with it.  
8 But as a Board, as a County Board, I'm not sure what  
9 jurisdiction we have to pass enforceable measures to  
10 stop that.  
11 MS. WALKER: Yeah, and I appreciate  
12 that perspective, Commissioner. I would challenge  
13 that a little bit, though, in the sense that, as you  
14 mentioned, this time is reminding of Nazi Germany.  
15 And so that requires a certain level of political  
16 courage with the power that you all have on this  
17 Board to think creatively and really question the  
18 jurisdiction that you do have and think of what are  
19 some creative ways that we do have power in this  
20 situation.  
21 I heard in LA, for example, they're  
22 ticketing ICE cars. We can have that discussion.  
23 But Chairman Romano, he directed a question.  
24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We don't go back  
25 and forth in the dialogue. You had your time to

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1 speak.  
2 MS. WALKER: But I literally took  
3 paid time off to be here.  
4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Right, and you made  
5 your point. And Commissioner Cifelli is glad to  
6 speak to you afterwards.  
7 MS. WALKER: But I've seen other  
8 speakers go back and forth. So why, in my case, can  
9 I not go back and forth?  
10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What's a few  
11 more minutes going to matter?  
12 MS. WALKER: Yeah, like, do you have  
13 a 2:30, Commissioner?  
14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Make your last  
15 comment. But we do not have enforcement power over  
16 any law enforcement agency with regards to their  
17 policy.  
18 MS. WALKER: But you have oversight,  
19 do you not?  
20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We cannot tell the  
21 Sheriff what to do.  
22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I think we can  
23 pass resolution urging him to do something. We can  
24 ask the Sheriff to come to this Board at the next  
25 caucus and ask him what we would like him to do. We

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1 do control the purse strings of his budget, unless  
2 until he goes to court and has somebody say we  
3 don't. So we do have the ability to provide him  
4 resources or take away resources.  
5 So let's not make believe we have nothing  
6 that we can do. So I think that we can be  
7 proactive, reactive, or inactive. I encourage us to  
8 be proactive. And I think that there's other parts  
9 of this that may not be as obvious but are real. So  
10 in Jersey City, and we may not have as much to do  
11 except point out when it happens and try to help the  
12 individuals impacted.  
13 So individuals are purchasing  
14 multi-dwelling buildings in Jersey City regularly  
15 now at very high prices. And it's to their  
16 advantage, as crazy as it sounds, to get everyone  
17 out of the building. Because once they get everyone  
18 out of the building, if they do a certain amount of  
19 work on the building, they get an exemption from the  
20 rent control law. And they can take a \$1,200 rent  
21 and make it \$3,500. And we know of cases, and I'm  
22 trying to help people in cases, unfortunately,  
23 sometimes too late because they run, as soon as the  
24 landlord says this, says you have to get out of the  
25 unit. You need to get out of the unit. And they

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1 know that that individual or that family in that  
 2 unit, someone in that family is not here legally.  
 3 So that's another thing to put on the list of  
 4 challenges we have to address.  
 5 Because what happens to that family? I  
 6 don't know. Where do they go? Where are they  
 7 living? Again, when I'm critical of the  
 8 Administration, I'm critical. When credit is  
 9 deserved, I give credit. We have a warming center  
 10 and a summer cooling center. And I've seen larger  
 11 groups of individuals. And I bet you some of those  
 12 people impacted by that have resulted there. Where  
 13 do they go? Do they go to our shelters? But we  
 14 should be tracking that. And that's something else  
 15 I think that with Director Mazza's department. We  
 16 should just be able to stay on top. But I  
 17 appreciate everything you said.  
 18 MS. WALKER: Yep.  
 19 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Thank  
 20 you. Chairman, let me address you. I'm sorry. My  
 21 apologies. I didn't get back to you. It's a  
 22 different complete issue that we were back on for.  
 23 So I'm going to try to respond to you today or  
 24 tomorrow, okay?  
 25 MS. WALKER: Okay. Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And likewise, if we  
 2 send, you have all our e-mails, correct?  
 3 MS. WALKER: Yeah. And the last time  
 4 I reached out, I didn't get a response back,  
 5 unfortunately. So that's why you have to show up.  
 6 Because if you're not responding to e-mails, then  
 7 how are we supposed to engage?  
 8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'll also give  
 9 you a number. I'll give you my cell number.  
 10 MS. WALKER: Yeah. And even  
 11 sometimes cell phone numbers go. So this is the one  
 12 time that we have to interact as members of the  
 13 public. That's what we're trying to say. So thank  
 14 you.  
 15 THE CLERK: Chairman, there being no  
 16 further business before the Board, I ask for an  
 17 adjournment.  
 18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Motion.  
 19 THE CLERK: All in favor? Opposed?  
 20 Meeting adjourned.  
 21 (Whereupon the proceeding is then  
 22 concluded at 2:54 p.m.)  
 23  
 24  
 25

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1 CERTIFICATION  
 2  
 3 I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No.  
 4 30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New  
 5 Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein  
 6 are from the notes taken by me of a Regular Meeting  
 7 of the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners,  
 8 held on Thursday, July 17, 2025; and that this is a  
 9 correct transcript of the same.  
 10  
 11  
 12   
 13 SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR  
 14 A NOTARY PUBLIC of the  
 15 State of New Jersey  
 16 I.D. No. 2283786  
 17 Commission Expires 2/4/27  
 18  
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