

HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RE:

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

O P E N S E S S I O N

Hudson County
Administration Building,
County Commissioners Chambers
567 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
Tuesday, August 12, 2025
4:30 p.m.

B E F O R E:

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

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

CARMEN E. MENDIOLA, ESQ., Board Counsel
ALBERICO DEPIERRO, ESQ., Hudson County Counsel
DAVID DRUMELER, Deputy County Administrator
WILLIE ORTIZ, County Commissioner Clerk
Reported By: Shari Cathey, CCR, RPR

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1 THE CLERK: Commissioner
 2 Aponte-Lipski.
 3 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Here.
 4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baslice.
 5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.
 6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.
 7 Commissioner Cifelli. Commissioner Kopacz.
 8 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Here.
 9 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
 10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.
 11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
 12 Commissioner Walker. Chairman Romano.
 13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here. Yraida, hold
 14 on. Yraida. Yraida, you've got to stay on. We
 15 have to have five in the chamber. I told them too.
 16 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: I'm ready.
 17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.
 18 THE CLERK: For the record,
 19 Commissioner Cedeño and Commissioner Rodriguez are
 20 present in the room.
 21 Resolution No. 1. To honor and commend
 22 Marcy McClary on her retirement from the County of
 23 Hudson after 37 Years of Service in the Office of
 24 the Hudson County Counsel, Department of Law.
 25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

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1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 2.
 2 Resolution authorizing supporting Assembly Bill No.
 3 551 and Senate Bill No. 1046 to extend the Home
 4 Improvement Contract cancellation period for Seniors
 5 Citizens.
 6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.
 7 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 3. 2025
 8 Budget Amendment U.S. Department of Health and Human
 9 Services HIV Emergency Relief Supplemental Grant,
 10 \$1,658,323.
 11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
 12 Lipski.
 13 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 4. 2025
 14 Budget Amendment United States Department of Health
 15 and Human Services Health Resources and Services and
 16 Services administration for ending the HIV Epidemic:
 17 A plan for America-Ryan White HIV/AIDS Programs
 18 Parts A and B, \$740,446.
 19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
 20 Lipski.
 21 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 5. 2025
 22 Budget Amendment New Jersey Department of Health
 23 H.C. Ambulatory Tuberculosis Care Program, \$318,116.
 24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and
 25 Rodriguez.

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1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 6, 2025
 2 Budget Amendment New Jersey Department of Human
 3 Services State Health Insurance Assistance Program,
 4 \$42,000.
 5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
 6 Lipski.
 7 THE CLERK: 2025 budget amendment,
 8 U.S. Department of Transportation, safe Streets and
 9 Roads For All, \$260,000.
 10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Romano.
 11 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 8. 2025
 12 Budget Amendment, U.S. Department of Housing and
 13 Urban Development Office of Community Planning and
 14 Development James J. Braddock Park, Roadway Safety
 15 Initiative, \$500,000.
 16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Baslice and
 17 Rodriguez.
 18 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 9.
 19 Resolution authorizing to allocate FY2025 Funds from
 20 the National Endowment of the Arts and County Funds
 21 for the Hudson County Arts in Education Program to
 22 Grantee Organizations, September 1, 2025 to June 30,
 23 2026, \$269,954.46.
 24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
 25 Lipski.

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1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 10.
 2 Resolution authorizing the acceptance of grant funds
 3 from the National Endowment for Arts Project Grants
 4 Program for the Hudson County Arts in Education
 5 Program, June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2027, \$60,000.
 6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Baslice and
 7 Lipski.
 8 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 11. 2025
 9 budget amendment, National Endowment for the Arts
 10 Grants for Arts Projects Program, \$60,000.
 11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and Romano.
 12 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 12.
 13 Resolution authorizing the acceptance of additional
 14 funds from the National Opioid Settlement fund for
 15 the purpose of mitigating the effects of the Opioid
 16 Epidemic on the Residents of Hudson County,
 17 \$113,125.95.
 18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
 19 Lipski.
 20 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 13. 2025
 21 Budget Amendment, National Opiate Settlement Fund,
 22 \$113,125.
 23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea-Rodriguez.
 24 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 14.
 25 Resolution authorizing the acceptance of Funds from

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1 the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and
 2 Addiction Services for training and technical
 3 assistance on serious mental illness, March 1, 2025
 4 through September 30, 2025, \$10,000.
 5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Lipski.
 6 Is that Lipski?
 7 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 15. 2025
 8 Budget Amendment State of New Jersey, New Jersey
 9 Department of Human Services Division of Mental
 10 Health and Addiction Services Training and Technical
 11 Assistance in Support of Clients with SMI or SED,
 12 \$10,000.
 13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Kopacz.
 14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 16.
 15 Resolution acceptance of award from the Department
 16 of Community Affairs of the FY25 Hudson County
 17 Housing First Pilot Program, July 1st, 2025 to June
 18 30th, 2026 \$500,000. 00.resolution acceptance of
 19 award from the Department of Community Affairs of
 20 the FY 2025 Hudson County FIRST pilot program, July
 21 1st, 2025 through June 30th, 2026, \$500,000.
 22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea-Lipski.
 23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 17. 2025
 24 Budget Amendment New Jersey Department of Community
 25 Affairs Hudson County Housing First Grant, \$500,000.

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1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Rodriguez.
 2 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 18.
 3 Resolution accepting award from the Department of
 4 Community Affairs of the FY26 Hudson County Reentry
 5 Pilot Program Grant, \$7,000,000.
 6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.
 7 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 19. 2025
 8 Budget Amendment New Jersey Department of Community
 9 Affairs Hudson County Re-entry Pilot Program,
 10 \$7,000,000.
 11 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Sponsor.
 12 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Second.
 13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Frank, so in
 14 broad strokes, what is the \$7 million pay?
 15 DIRECTOR MAZZA: The \$7 million, so
 16 it's labeled a reentry pilot program, but it's
 17 allotted. We are allowed to use the funds for
 18 emergency housing, so it pays to offset for all of
 19 our reentry programming, and to pay for housing for
 20 folks that don't qualify for emergency assistance,
 21 and there are various reasons why someone wouldn't
 22 qualify for welfare and that emergency assistance.
 23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's only
 24 reentry, or anybody?
 25 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Anybody.

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1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And how much of
 2 it is used for that, and how much of it do you use
 3 for the actual re-entry program?
 4 DIRECTOR MAZZA: So about a million
 5 dollars is used for the housing, the line item is
 6 called the reunification line, and the rest is used
 7 to pay for things like Integrity House treatment in
 8 the jail, which is about \$3 million, and the One
 9 Stop in the jail, and the other services inside the
 10 jail, and the housing specifically for the inmates
 11 when they leave the jail.
 12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So if pilot
 13 funding goes away next year, that's just annual
 14 allocation from the State, right?
 15 DIRECTOR MAZZA: That's right. It's
 16 from the -- it's in the budget. It's not actually a
 17 grant that we apply for, it's part of the budget.
 18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So it's a
 19 special line item?
 20 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Yes.
 21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I mean,
 22 obviously I'm a huge fan in favor of it, I just
 23 wonder, not knowing what happens in November, what
 24 do we do in case, next year they decide -- are we
 25 the only County that gets it?

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1 DIRECTOR MAZZA: No. Essex County
 2 also gets a line item from the State for reentry
 3 services, which is actually more than what we get.
 4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So two counties
 5 get them in the whole state?
 6 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Yeah, and then
 7 there's two non-profits that get funding for
 8 reentry, and they provide throughout the state.
 9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So they service
 10 all the others?
 11 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Yeah.
 12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Do you know who
 13 they are?
 14 DIRECTOR MAZZA: New Jersey Reentry
 15 Corporation and the Volunteers of America.
 16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can you outline
 17 which County they provide those services for?
 18 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Sure. I would have
 19 to look it up and give you a memo on it, yeah.
 20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And how much
 21 they get each year.
 22 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Okay.
 23 THE CLERK: For the record,
 24 Commissioner Walker is President of the Chambers.
 25 Resolution No. 19. 2025 Budget Amendment,

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1 New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Hudson
 2 County Reentry Pilot Program, \$7 million.
 3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Rodriguez.
 4 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 20.
 5 Resolution Amending Resolution 334-6-2025, and
 6 Authorizing FY2025 Ryan White Minority AIDS
 7 Initiative Grant Final Award Allocation to
 8 Professional Service Providers and Providers Awarded
 9 through the Competitive Contract Process, March 1,
 10 2025 through February 28, 2026, \$231,472.
 11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Rodriguez.
 12 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 21. 2025
 13 Budget Amendment, U.S. Department of Health and
 14 Human Services Minority AIDS Initiative, \$231,472.
 15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Lipski.
 16 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 22.
 17 Resolution amending Resolution No. 335-6-2025 and
 18 authorizing FY2025 Ryan White Part "A" Formula Grant
 19 Final Award allocations to Professional Services
 20 providers and providers awarded through a
 21 competitive contracting process, March 1st, 2025
 22 through February 28th, 2026, \$765,777.
 23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Lipski.
 24 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 23. 2025
 25 Budget Amendment, U.S. Department of Health and

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1 Human Services HIV Emergency Relief Formula Grant -
 2 \$765,777.
 3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Rodriguez.
 4 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 24.
 5 Resolution Amending Application and Acceptance of
 6 Funds if Awarded from New Jersey Department of
 7 Environmental Protection, Green Streets, and
 8 Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping Grant Program,
 9 \$175,000.
 10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Baseli-ce-Lipski.
 11 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 25,
 12 Resolution authorizing FY2025, Ryan White Part "A"
 13 Supplemental Grant Award Allocation to Professional
 14 Service Providers, March 1, 2025 through February
 15 28, 2026, \$1,658,323.
 16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Lipski.
 17 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 26.
 18 Resolution Amending Resolution No. 240-5-2025 to
 19 Reallocate Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Services Grant
 20 Funding for February 1st, 2025 through December
 21 31st, 2025, \$40,000.
 22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Rodriguez.
 23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 27.
 24 Resolution amending Resolution No. 115-2-2025 to
 25 accept the second partial and final awards from the

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1 United States Department of Health and Human
 2 Services Health Resources and Services
 3 Administration and to authorize ending the HIV
 4 Epidemic: A plan for America Ryan White HIV/AIDS
 5 Program parts "A" and "B" Grant allocations to
 6 Professional Services providers and providers
 7 awarded through a Competitive Contracting Process,
 8 March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026 -
 9 \$1,158,400.
 10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Rodriguez.
 11 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 28.
 12 Resolution authorizing Resolution No. 698-11-2024,
 13 Authorizing the Acceptance of CY2025 State Community
 14 Partnership and Family Court Services Grant Program
 15 Funds from the New Jersey Department of Law and
 16 Public Safety Youth Justice Commission. January 1,
 17 2025 through December 31, 2025, \$1,357,137.
 18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Baseli-ce-Lipski.
 19 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 29.
 20 Resolution authorizing -- amending No. 701-11-2024
 21 to extend the contract period for the Community
 22 Development Block Grant Cares Funding for various
 23 providers, August 6, 2021 through March 31, 2026.
 24 No Cost Extension.
 25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Kopacz.

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1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 30.
 2 Resolution authorizing a Non-Fair and Open Contract
 3 with Tenex Software Solutions for Software Licensing
 4 and Support and Maintenance of Electronic Poll Books
 5 on behalf of the Superintendent of Elections,
 6 September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026 \$290,307.
 7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Lipski.
 8 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 31.
 9 Resolution Authorizing a Non-Fair and Open
 10 Professional Service Contract with Waterfront
 11 Project, Inc., to provide foreclosure accounting and
 12 related legal services, September 1, 2025 through
 13 August 31, 2026, \$200,000.
 14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea-Romano.
 15 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 32.
 16 Resolution awarding Non-Fair and Open Contracts to
 17 Prime Athletic Development, \$116,500; and Rashawn
 18 Jackson Endowment Fund Wellness Collective, LLC,
 19 \$50,000; for the Sports in Education Program,
 20 October 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026, \$116,500; and
 21 Rashawn Jackson Endowment Fund Wellness Collective,
 22 LLC, \$50,000 for the Sports in Education Program -
 23 October 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026, \$166,500.
 24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Somebody give us
 25 like an overview of it. Is this the first time

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1 we're funding it?
2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah, I've
3 never heard of this. What is this thing? What is
4 this all about?
5 COMMISSIONER WALKER: First, you want
6 to log Cifelli in?
7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah, we
8 logged in. Yeah, we logged in for a couple of
9 minutes now, but what's this all about?
10 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Al, I was at
11 this finale last year. We had three schools in
12 Bayonne. It's a grant process that comes through
13 the Cultural Affairs. We had arts and education
14 program for a couple of years, and then we went to
15 sports and education.
16 As you know, everything is organized.
17 Kids don't play in the schoolyard. I say it all the
18 time. So, we need to get out to the schools. Every
19 school in Hudson County was eligible to apply.
20 Director Hulings and her staff went through it.
21 Prime went and evaluated where the students were in
22 the beginning of the training, and then when they
23 were at the end.
24 Again, I had the pleasure to be at the
25 finale. It was tremendous. The kids were so

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1 excited, so well-behaved, so on task. Being a
2 Bayonne resident, obviously working in the schools,
3 I can tell you that you are receiving the best of
4 the best training by Prime. This year, it looks
5 like Rashawn Jackson is being added. Rashawn is a
6 superstar from St. Peter's Prep, who played football
7 at University of Virginia, and then went on and
8 played in the NFL. Complete class act, both
9 programs.
10 Again, our kids will be coached and taught
11 by the best, and I would just like to give a special
12 shout-out to Director Hulings and her staff for
13 putting this out together. Again, this is what is
14 needed for the youth. If people want to talk about
15 kids exercising, it's not going to happen
16 old-fashioned, where kids go play in the street, and
17 go play in a park, and go play in a schoolyard
18 without parents. It needs to be organized, and
19 again, shout-out to Director Hulings and Craig Guy
20 for making sure that this type of education in
21 sports does happen.
22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So the funding
23 of this comes from our -- the County's bottom line.
24 It's not funded by a grant, right?
25 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Correct.

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1 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Correct. The
2 grant was sent out by us.
3 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Absolutely. And
4 thank you, Commissioner Kopacz, for giving the
5 breakdown on it. So, Commissioner Kopacz was there
6 last year at the Combine, and so was Chairman
7 Romano. Thank you so much for being in attendance.
8 So, last year, we did the pilot program.
9 It was 10 schools. This year is a full-fledged
10 program with 35 schools in seven municipalities for
11 public and charter schools. And again, it is funded
12 by the County. We do reach out for sponsorships,
13 and we do reach out for other ways of funding.
14 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: It's
15 self-funded, Gina, right?
16 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Correct, for now.
17 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Now it's
18 self-funded. Okay. We're not looking for any
19 grants.
20 DIRECTOR HULINGS: I'm sorry?
21 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: We're not
22 looking for federal grants, because my point, I'm
23 going to make this at the end of the caucus. I am
24 extremely worried about funding that comes into our
25 resolutions, that comes from Washington down,

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1 because we have a new set of rules now. But this
2 particular, I think it's a great program, but I just
3 want to know where the funding is coming from. The
4 funding is coming from us, coupled with sponsors in
5 the community. Financially, I mean, they're coming
6 up with money.
7 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Correct. Right
8 now, it's --
9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. All
10 right. I got it. I just want to make sure. I think
11 it's a great program. Thank you.
12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Just want to add to
13 that. It was I was with Kenny there. It was
14 unbelievable. I hope you get more participation by
15 the schools, especially Hoboken, that they show up.
16 DIRECTOR HULINGS: So, Jersey City,
17 Hoboken, Harrison, Kearny, Bayonne, and let's see.
18 Quickly, Union City, and Guttenberg.
19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Did that include
20 all the schools in all those cities?
21 DIRECTOR HULINGS: So every public
22 and charter school are invited to apply. So these
23 are based on the applications we received.
24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can you provide
25 a list for those in the Jersey City schools that

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1 applied?

2 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Absolutely.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What's the total

4 number of students that you expect to --

5 DIRECTOR HULINGS: We won't know that

6 yet, because what's going to happen next is that the

7 organizations, us, will meet with the schools. The

8 maximum number that the students can participate is

9 30 students per school, correct? So, it's just

10 contingent upon --

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You could have

12 1,000?

13 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Technically, yes.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You could

15 service 1,000 students?

16 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Yeah.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And the cost is

18 not student-dependent. It's a cost.

19 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Right.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It should be --

21 we should look to get 1,000 students. I mean, if

22 you only get 200 students, the cost per student is a

23 lot bigger than if you get 1,000.

24 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Right. I have a

25 feeling it'll be very robust. We also had

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1 implemented this year an absentee policy. So if you

2 have more than five absences, you're not able to

3 continue to participate in the program. So there's

4 a lot of things that we had to tweak, you know, in

5 order to make sure that the students that are

6 attending are getting value out of it.

7 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Just let me

8 say, we maxed out all of the schools that were

9 awarded the grant. Everyone was maxed out.

10 DIRECTOR HULINGS: It was around 500

11 students last year.

12 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: 500 last year?

13 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Yeah.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And that was

15 only 10 schools.

16 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Right.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's 50

18 schools. Now you're down to 30 a school.

19 DIRECTOR HULINGS: We had to change

20 it this year because of all the --

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The capacity,

22 exactly.

23 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Yeah.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I mean, it

25 sounds like you probably just want to make sure we

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1 get our best bang and get the max out of the kids.

2 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Of course.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And the school

4 selects the children?

5 DIRECTOR HULINGS: The schools do

6 select. It's up to their process.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And there's

8 no --

9 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Guidelines. We

10 give them guidelines on how to select. The goal is

11 obviously to reach those underserved that are not

12 capable to do club sports or anything like that.

13 But every district functions --

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can you provide

15 me what the guidelines are?

16 DIRECTOR HULINGS: Absolutely.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm going to be

18 proactive with some of the schools. I think it's a

19 great program. Another reason we should bring

20 sports back to the County high schools, right?

21 Both. And the middle school. I think they're

22 working on it. They're going to be able to do it.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.

24 Clerk.

25 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 33.

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1 Resolution awarding a Fair and Open Competitive

2 Contract to CFG Health Systems, LLC for the Medical

3 Healthcare Management, Mental Health Care

4 Management, and Fiscal Management for the Hudson

5 County Correctional and Rehabilitation Center;

6 \$14,965,955.00; Year 1.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

8 Question, Bill.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So CFG used to

10 be in the County. It got thrown out.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: It's Lipski and

12 Romano.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: They're coming

14 back. How have they changed? I've been told that

15 they've gone under some form of reorganization

16 internally, which should address any concerns there

17 were before. Is anybody from the County's facility

18 or somewhere here to kind of address that?

19 MR. DRUMELER: Commissioner, we also

20 have representatives from CFG as well.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Let them answer

22 directly.

23 MR. DEJULIUS: Hi, good evening. My

24 name is Brandon DeJulius. I'm the chief executive

25 officer of CFG Health.

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1 DR. HANSET: Good afternoon. I'm Dr.
2 Hanset, medical director for CFG.
3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.
4 DR. HANSET: CFG Health has gone
5 through a major reorganization. The company has a
6 new executive team in place of experienced
7 correctional health care executives with a combined
8 total near three centuries of correctional health
9 care experience.
10 We have invested in critical areas of the
11 company infrastructure relative to clinical care,
12 recruiting, and have really put a lot of emphasis
13 onto the core areas that our clients look to us for
14 excellence in clinical care of the inmate
15 populations that we serve. You want to add
16 anything?
17 DR. HANSET: Hello again. A little
18 bit of the old, a little bit of the new. I'm very
19 familiar with this Board and the Board of
20 Commissioners has definitely made it a focus to zero
21 in on certain things such as mental health, such as
22 reentry. I would venture to say that we've really
23 gotten to the point where we've been able to really
24 optimize those.
25 And one of the key developments is the

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1 62-bed unit that's in the community that will be
2 able to take dual diagnosis patients, and that's the
3 CFG initiative. I think one of its kind, and we did
4 offer it and we've been actually using it with
5 Hudson County already. It's for discharge planning.
6 It's for placement of patients that are very
7 difficult to place because they come in with low
8 charges, but high pathology in terms of mental
9 health. And we've been very successful over the
10 last two years in placing those patients.
11 And I think there's a great word that one
12 of the deputies use, which is a great marriage
13 because Hudson County is known for the programming
14 inside the jail. When the patients leave, a lot of
15 times, unfortunately, there's a dropoff. We've been
16 able, I think, to bridge that gap, and we've created
17 a program that allows for continuity of care that
18 we're proud of. And I think that would benefit our
19 patients, frankly.
20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Could you just
21 elaborate on that a little? So this is a 62-bed
22 facility?
23 DR. HANSET: Yes.
24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Where is it
25 located?

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1 DR. HANSET: It's on North 13th
2 Street in Newark. It takes patients really based on
3 the need of the jail. The jail is filled with
4 patients that come in that have very high pathology
5 to decompensated schizophrenia. They come in with
6 patients that have no track record of any known
7 provider in the community. And the jail becomes
8 their primary care provider.
9 And so now that the jails have become de
10 facto mental health institutions, we need a partner
11 in the community that can accommodate these
12 patients. And so the Silver Lakes Project is called
13 Silver Lakes. And it's a 62-bed facility that's
14 dedicated to this particular patient. This is not a
15 spinoff. This is the primary focus of this program
16 is this population.
17 And so we have a screener that we can call
18 at the ready literally seven days a week. They'll
19 come to the jail. They'll get endorsements from the
20 mental health department. And then once custody
21 transports that patient, they can hold that patient
22 on from one to three months as they do the
23 stabilization, and then they do the community
24 relations to then place the person back on Medicaid.
25 We have Frank Mazza here, who I'm well

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1 known -- very well known to me. And I have to say,
2 Hudson County led the way for preemptive
3 eligibility. That's the ability for patients to
4 leave the jail and get services through Medicaid.
5 Unfortunately, you don't have many partners in the
6 community to do that. This allows those patients to
7 leave. Even if their Medicaid has been suspended,
8 they can get it reinstated within that facility.
9 They can get stabilized within that facility. And
10 then hopefully, even if they don't get family
11 reunification, they're placed in a position where
12 they can get some independent living, at least a
13 modified form of it.
14 Because unfortunately, many of those
15 patients, if you look at your roles, keep coming
16 back. There's a high recidivism rate with our
17 mentally ill patients. And so we've been able, over
18 the year and a half, we had to go to petition the
19 head of Medicaid at the time, Jennifer Jacobs, to
20 use this as a pilot program. And it's actually been
21 very successful beyond what we thought it was going
22 to be. So now we're looking at seeing if we can
23 maybe expand it by another 40 beds, maybe get 100
24 beds.
25 Because we reached out to all the

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1 stakeholders. Many of you are familiar, because I
2 know you petitioned on behalf of the patients. But
3 if you reach out to the State, they only have two
4 places. They have Anne Klein and Trenton State.
5 The beds are very limited. They're limited to
6 patients that have committed high crimes. That does
7 not reflect the roster of the jail. The jail is
8 filled with people with low-level crime with
9 high-level pathology. So this solution really has
10 been a great way to kind of bridge that gap. And I
11 think Hudson County does lead the way in terms.
12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: How much have we
13 been using it? I'm sorry, go ahead.
14 DR. HANSET: We've been using it
15 about two months ago. And right now, up to this
16 date, they've placed 12 patients in there that were
17 difficult patients to place, and they were readily
18 accepted into that program. No hesitation at all.
19 If we had the director that placed Dr. Faruqi, she
20 would tell you, basically, if they're decompensated,
21 we want them. If they don't have Medicaid, we want
22 them.
23 So these are the kind of patients that
24 historically have been very difficult to place. But
25 now we've made it very easy for those patients to

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1 leave the jail. And what we've done, we've been
2 able to get some of the judges now to understand
3 that. So there's been a cooperative effort between
4 the prosecutor, the public defender, and the judges
5 to say, Hey, let's look at this case. This man's
6 been in this jail multiple times. We know that it
7 stems from mental illness that's placed in there.
8 So I would frankly call it a post-diversion program,
9 because he's already in the jail. Because a great
10 diversion would be primary, where you don't even go
11 to jail.
12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right.
13 Can I ask a question?
14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can I finish?
15 I'm not finished. Is that all right? So we applied
16 for, and my understanding is received, but no one's
17 told us. Just like no one told me about this great
18 program you've just elaborated on. For a grant to
19 operate a mental health court in Hudson County. My
20 understanding is that we received \$600,000 under
21 that grant. Is that correct?
22 I mean, so nobody told me, but, Well,
23 somebody told me, but no one within the County
24 government. But that aside, I'm committed, and I
25 believe this Board is committed, to allocate the

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1 additional dollars necessary to implement that
2 court. And I think we should move to do that as
3 quickly as possible. So assuming that occurs, and
4 occurs sooner rather than later, that facility you
5 reference would be a prime facility for individuals
6 to be released to, as opposed to being incarcerated.
7 DR. HANSET: Absolutely.
8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. That's my
9 question. Thank you.
10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Al.
11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So the doctor
12 had mentioned the magic word, Medicaid. So this is
13 a \$15-million, give or take, a few hundred thousand
14 dollars. What's that mean? But it's a \$15-million
15 hit on our budget. So how much of that depends on
16 the continuation of Medicaid benefits after the Big,
17 Beautiful Bill?
18 How much -- what are we putting ourselves
19 out there for on this \$15-million price tag that we
20 expect to get funded through Medicaid, which I think
21 now is kind of up in the air from Washington. So
22 can somebody answer that question for me?
23 DR. HANSET: Well, first of all, and
24 a great point, because these patients, fortunately,
25 they have not been affected by the Big, Beautiful

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1 Bill. What we see is that these are the patients
2 that were absolutely qualified under the poverty
3 level, that were absolutely qualified based on the
4 indicators for people that need to be hospitalized
5 based on a dual diagnosis. So it's not only mental
6 health, it's also for substance abuse patients.
7 So these patients, and the great thing
8 about the program is that they can come to that
9 facility with no insurance. They're willing to
10 absorb that initial loss and then work with the
11 social service department.
12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Doctor, I'm
13 sorry, who's willing to absorb that initial loss?
14 DR. HANSET: The Silver Lakes program
15 absorbs it.
16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Who absorbs
17 it?
18 DR. HANSET: The hospital itself, the
19 ownership.
20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So that's not
21 part of the \$15 million?
22 DR. HANSET: It is not.
23 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right.
24 And the folks that come to us in need, the Medicaid
25 patients, the continuing stream of reimbursement

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1 from Medicaid, we depend, you depend on that. The
2 program depends on that; is that right?
3 MR. DEJULIUS: No. Medicaid is cut
4 off when an individual is incarcerated. There is a
5 waiver.
6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Is that
7 correct? I'm sorry. I don't want to fact check
8 here.
9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Why don't we do
10 this? Al, do you want me to get his phone number
11 out so you can call him?
12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Sure.
13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And he can fill in
14 your questions? We'll do it that way.
15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Sure. I just
16 want the public to hear this, that's all. But if
17 you want me to call him directly, I will. Give me
18 his phone number.
19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: He'll leave a
20 number to the clerk.
21 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I thought this
22 was a caucus that we were airing all this out, but
23 that's okay. So give me his number.
24 DR. HANSET: Okay. I'll provide it
25 to the Clerk, sir.

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1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. So
2 provide it to the Clerk, and I'll speak to the Clerk
3 after the meeting. Thank you.
4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Thank you. Is
5 it all Hudson County residents?
6 MR. DEJULIUS: Yes.
7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Frank, you wanted
8 to say something?
9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The facility in
10 Newark are only Hudson County residents?
11 DR. HANSET: No, no. It's open to
12 all Hudson County residents.
13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: No, Billy,
14 you're right.
15 DR. HANSET: For that program. Once
16 they enter the jail --
17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And you can get
18 them from any facility. I'm sure you have people
19 from Essex County.
20 DR. HANSET: Right. We'll have
21 patients from Essex County, Hudson County, which
22 will make primarily the two biggest groups that will
23 be delivering. Because unfortunately, us, Hudson
24 and Essex County, are the two biggest receivers of
25 the mentally ill.

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1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: At the end of
2 the day, you're going to fill your -- look, as you
3 should, you're going to fill a bed.
4 DR. HANSET: We're going to fill a
5 bed, not on a loss. We will. And we've gotten
6 definitely agreement from the medical director, from
7 Anne Klein, the medical director from Trenton State.
8 Even some of the local hospitals, frankly, because
9 when those patients leave the jail, if they can't be
10 accommodated, oftentimes they end up in these
11 hospitals.
12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So to clarify,
13 individuals that the \$14.9 million we're paying,
14 really isn't related to that facility. That
15 facility --
16 DR. HANSET: Not at all.
17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: When someone
18 gets sent to that facility, you're then able to bill
19 Medicaid for the cost for each of those patients.
20 DR. HANSET: Absolutely.
21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Correct?
22 DR. HANSET: Yes.
23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So we
24 understand. It's not under this contract, but in my
25 opinion, it's a clear benefit.

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1 DR. HANSET: Yes.
2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Right? Because
3 of the causal relationship. And obviously, poised
4 now to start a County mental health court, it's a
5 critical component.
6 DR. HANSET: Absolutely.
7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because at even
8 a bail hearing, a public defender could now say,
9 Your Honor, there will be no purpose served by this
10 individual being remanded to the Hudson County
11 Correctional Facility. However, based on a
12 prognosis, diagnosis, I'll defer to you on the
13 medical terms, this individual would be best served
14 at the facility on North 13th Street.
15 DR. HANSET: Absolutely.
16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And during that
17 short period, maybe between an arrest and a bail
18 hearing, which is using that term, that you, in your
19 other role, that we're paying you \$14.9 million for,
20 can and should be doing that analysis, assessment,
21 diagnosis, working with not only the prosecutor, but
22 the public defender.
23 DR. HANSET: Absolutely. Actually,
24 that would start from intake.
25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: From intake. I

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1 think you're part of it.
2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'll call the
3 gentleman after this, but just my point is, the \$15
4 million affects our County bottom line, but it might
5 be subsidized, or it should be subsidized, by
6 Medicaid. And my question is, with the tumultuous
7 Medicaid issues going on through the national
8 government now, with the recent litigation, are we
9 guaranteed to get that \$15 million?
10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Frank, go ahead and
11 answer Al.
12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: We're
13 guaranteed to get it; is that right? Is that what
14 I'm hearing?
15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Just leave your
16 stuff. Frank, go ahead and sit down.
17 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Commissioner
18 Cifelli, it's Frank Mazza. Just to engage directly
19 with what you're asking, Medicaid, regardless of the
20 Big, Beautiful Bill, cannot be spent inside of a
21 correctional facility, so Medicaid will not offset
22 the cost of this contract. Where the potential
23 savings can be is the state --
24 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Frank, you
25 said potential savings, so that's different from

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1 guaranteed.
2 DIRECTOR MAZZA: No, there will be no
3 savings on this contract through Medicaid.
4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: This contract,
5 \$15 million, has nothing to do with Medicaid.
6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But that \$15
7 million affects our bottom line, right?
8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Right. What was
9 it last year? So what was it for the year that just
10 ended, or the last contract year? How much was it
11 there?
12 MR. DRUMELER: Commissioner, I don't
13 know.
14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, guys.
15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: 14 million?
16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hold on, go ahead,
17 Christine.
18 MS. MARO: About 13.2.
19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So the contract
20 was previously 13.2. It's now going up to 14.9.
21 But the RFP added significant additional services.
22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'm not
23 worried about that. What I'm worried about is the
24 reimbursement. How much of the previous bill was
25 paid by Medicaid?

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1 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Zero.
2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Zero.
3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Zero.
4 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So we absorbed
5 it all?
6 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Yes.
7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.
8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right.
9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The way Medicaid
10 works and how we, many years ago, took Christie to
11 court, because he was denying them access to that,
12 is when an individual gets sent outside to the
13 Jersey City Medical Center, while they're there,
14 they have the ability to bill Medicaid for that,
15 which would reduce, potentially, our out-of-pocket
16 costs related to that hospital, correct? Is that a
17 fair representation?
18 DIRECTOR MAZZA: That's exactly
19 right. And potentially Medicaid, if the person is
20 admitted in this place, depending on what it is
21 designated, its licenses may be able to pay if
22 somebody's admitted here too, if they have inmate
23 status.
24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, I'm going
25 to assume that's your model, right? The individual

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1 goes there. Now they're not in the correctional
2 center. Now their Medicaid eligibility kicks in.
3 Now you're able to bill Medicaid the same way when
4 they go to the seven days at the medical center, and
5 then the medical center.
6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: That's easy.
7 That's an easy bill. That gets paid. I just want
8 to, I'm very concerned about it, and I don't want to
9 belabor this. I'm just very concerned with the new
10 Medicaid regulations, provisions that are coming in
11 from the quote, Big, Beautiful Bill. Is that
12 changing anything?
13 DIRECTOR MAZZA: No.
14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No.
15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right.
16 Okay. All right.
17 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 34.
18 Approve Purchasing Agent's awards purchases made
19 under State contracts.
20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.
21 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 35.
22 Purchases made under the Passaic Valley Sewage
23 Commission, North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative
24 Pricing System.
25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

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1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 36.
 2 Purchases made under the Union County Cooperative
 3 Pricing System.
 4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.
 5 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 37.
 6 Purchases made under Bergen County Cooperative
 7 Pricing System.
 8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.
 9 THE CLERK: Commissioners, 38 is a
 10 replacement. It's on the dais. Purchases made
 11 under the Educational Service Commission of New
 12 Jersey Pricing System, formerly known as the
 13 Middlesex Regional Educational Service System.
 14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.
 15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What's the
 16 change?
 17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: What's the change
 18 in that resolution on 38, Mr. Administrator? Thank
 19 you, Chris.
 20 MS. MARO: It was just basically
 21 formatting and we added a letter F, Parts Authority.
 22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.
 23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 38.
 24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Did it change
 25 the amount?

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1 MS. MARO: No.
 2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It changed the
 3 amount by like \$5,000?
 4 MS. MARO: 2,383,000?
 5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes. So the
 6 original resolution says amount 2,383,000; County
 7 2,378,000. There's a \$5,000 difference on the fact
 8 sheet, the 38. Is it a typo? Some kind of weird
 9 typo. \$5,000.
 10 MS. MARO: Yeah. Exactly. There
 11 wasn't any change in the dollar amount.
 12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's a fact
 13 sheet says it does, says two different amounts. The
 14 amount of the contract is \$5,000 greater than the
 15 County source, which would to the naked eye, make
 16 you believe that \$5,000 of this is not coming from
 17 the County source. Is that just a typo?
 18 MS. MARO: I'll check it.
 19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's a fact
 20 sheet. It's not -- I don't see it in the body of
 21 it, but it's on the -- it's in the cover sheet of
 22 the fact sheet.
 23 MS. MARO: Okay. I'll check it out.
 24 I'll make any changes necessary.
 25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Let us know,

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1 please, for Thursday. Continue, Mr. Clerk.
 2 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 39.
 3 Approve Purchasing Agent's Awards.
 4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.
 5 THE CLERK: That was 39, correct?
 6 Resolution No. 40. Approve Purchasing Agent's
 7 awards, Construction Contracts.
 8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Where's Rodriguez?
 9 No, no. I've got to sponsor this one.
 10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's Jerry's.
 11 COMMISSIONER WALKER: It took me
 12 seven years to get here. I've got to sponsor.
 13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walker-Rodriguez.
 14 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Thanks to
 15 Administration. We finally got it done. This is --
 16 this is example of government taking so long. Hey,
 17 we're here now.
 18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, but,
 19 Jerry, what's good about it is it's, the work is
 20 going to be done by a Jersey City-based local
 21 contract.
 22 COMMISSIONER WALKER: That's the
 23 most --
 24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's what's
 25 beautiful about it.

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1 COMMISSIONER WALKER: That's
 2 beautiful. Okay.
 3 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 41.
 4 Resolution awarding Professional Service Contract
 5 Fair and Open to the Institute for Forensic
 6 Psychology for Pre-Employment Psychological
 7 Evaluation Services, October 1, 2025 to September
 8 30, 2026, \$85,000.
 9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Romano.
 10 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 42.
 11 Resolution awarding Professional Service Contract
 12 Fair and Open to Susan A. Furnari, E.ED. to conduct
 13 Psychological Fitness for Duty Examinations, October
 14 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026, \$37,500.
 15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Romano.
 16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Do these
 17 individuals go have to go to Point Pleasant?
 18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: My question,
 19 because if they do, I want to go with them until
 20 Labor Day.
 21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: They have to go.
 22 Does she come here or they go? Does that work?
 23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Director.
 24 DIRECTOR GIBNEY: Most of them are
 25 done remotely via Zoom.

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1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Oh, all right.
2 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 43.
3 Resolution awarding Year One of a Fair and Open
4 Competitive Contract to Revision House, LLC for
5 Sober Living Housing Services, \$260,000.00.
6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea-Rodriguez.
7 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 44.
8 Resolution awarding Professional Services Contract
9 Fair and Open to Michael Baker International, Inc.
10 for Professional Engineering Services for the
11 "Hackensack Riverfront Project," \$737,170.75.
12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Baselice-Walker.
13 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 45.
14 Resolution awarding Year 4 of a Fair and Open
15 Competitive Contract to Most Excellent Way Learning
16 Life Center for Supportive Housing Services for the
17 Reentry Population and amending Housing locations
18 set forth in Resolution No. 768-12-2024, September
19 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026, \$424,075.
20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Lipski.
21 THE CLERK: 46. Resolution 46.
22 Resolution authorizing the submission of the
23 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, 2025 Annual
24 Action Plan updated Citizen Participation Plan to
25 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

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1 Development, July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030
2 \$4,684,936.76.
3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Lipski.
4 THE CLERK: 47. Resolution No 47.
5 Resolution authorizing Final Approval for the 2025
6 Hudson County Open Space, Recreation and Historic
7 Preservation Trust Fund Projects as presented at the
8 June 26, 2025 Open Public Meeting as mandated by
9 N.J.S.A 40:12-15.3, August 14, 2025 to August 13,
10 2027, \$11,740,093.
11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.
12 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 48.
13 Resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding
14 between the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office and
15 RWJ Barnabas - Jersey City Medical Center and
16 Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services and various
17 local Law Enforcement Agencies for the expansion of
18 the Arrive Together Program to enhance and support
19 response to critical incident behavioral Health
20 Crisis Calls, April 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, No
21 Cost.
22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.
23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 49.
24 Resolution authorizing the Hudson County Cooperative
25 Pricing System to Join the Cranford Police

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1 Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods
2 and services.
3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walker-Lipski.
4 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 50.
5 Resolution accepting four Dodge Caravans and one
6 Chevrolet Uplander donated by the Hudson County
7 Schools of Technology to be donated to various
8 nonprofits.
9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Romano.
10 Question, Billy.
11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: How did they
12 determine which nonprofits get, or what is the
13 process of the time?
14 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: Well, there
15 will be requested three of them, but we're going to
16 go with them. There was another nonprofit who went,
17 but I don't know if they have additional vehicles.
18 We only took five this round. So you have any, what
19 we're going to do is we're going to take it to make
20 it easier, and then we'll give it to them and
21 they'll get the insurance and they'll eliminate, but
22 we had our mechanics check them, take the best five.
23 And that's the one that we found.
24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because I know
25 at least a couple that definitely need them. How

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1 many people does it hold? Well, what is it? What
2 is it? Is it a truck? Is it a --
3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Like the shuttle
4 buses that go to like, shuttle buses you see. But
5 go ahead.
6 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 51.
7 Resolution establishing a dedication by Rider for
8 the New Jersey Fire Safety Fund pursuant to N.J.S.A.
9 52:27D-192.
10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Romano.
11 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 52.
12 Resolution appointing the Difference Card to serve
13 as the Third Party Administrator for the Health
14 Reimbursement Account for the County Medical/RX
15 Program as required by the New Jersey State Health
16 Benefits Commission, January 1, 2026 to December 31,
17 2026.
18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: It's Lipski and who
19 else second? Lipski and Kopacz.
20 THE CLERK: Please take notice that
21 the Hudson County Board of Commissioners will
22 conduct a public hearing to provide general public,
23 the general public with an opportunity to comment on
24 the 2025 Draft Official Hudson County Map at the
25 regularly scheduled August Commissioners meeting

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1 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:27-5 et seq. It will be held
2 on Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 1:00 PM in the
3 Commissioner Chambers, 567 Pavonia Avenue, 1st
4 Floor, Jersey City, New Jersey. The 2025 Draft Map
5 is available online in a PDF form for inspection.
6 I was informed by Mr. Drumeler that he
7 will take a first and a second tomorrow after the
8 hearing -- previous to the hearing.
9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay.
10 MR. DRUMELER: We need this put on
11 the consent agenda, the first and the seconds, put
12 things on the consent agenda.
13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Duly noted. Duly
14 noted. Continue, Mr. Clerk.
15 THE CLERK: I-1. Ordinance amending
16 -- Ordinance amending the Hudson County
17 Administrative Code pursuant to the applicable
18 provisions of the optional County Charter Law
19 N.J.S.A. 40:41A-1.
20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano-Kopacz.
21 THE CLERK: I-2. Ordinance amending
22 Chapter 200, Article 8.3 of the Administrative Code
23 to regulate parking at John F. Kennedy Boulevard in
24 the City of Jersey City a County-Owned Roadway.
25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walker and Lipski.

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1 THE CLERK: I-3. Ordinance amending
2 Chapter 200, Article 27 of the Administrative Code
3 to establish a Traffic Calming Devices on Newark
4 Street and Monroe/Grove Street in the City of
5 Hoboken.
6 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Do I have to
7 sponsor first? There's a question on that.
8 Sponsor.
9 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: I'll
10 second.
11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. What's
12 the -- what's this latest traffic calming device?
13 If you -- if you calm the traffic down anymore, we
14 might as well just sit there. You know what the
15 traffic's like?
16 MR. KATARYNIAK: It's to prevent cars
17 from blocking the intersection, Do Not Block
18 Intersection.
19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: How can you
20 block -- not block the intersection when we don't
21 have enough lanes for the traffic to flow? How
22 about an ordinance creating another lane of traffic
23 on Observer Highway? I would love to sponsor that
24 ordinance. Thank you, Mark.
25 THE CLERK: As to A-1, I will use the

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1 prior sponsors for adoption. I will now turn it
2 over to the Administration.
3 MR. DRUMELER: If you'll indulge me
4 for a moment, we have two late starters that the
5 Board would so indulge us. The first is -- it
6 doesn't matter which we take first. The first is
7 one for Roads and Public Property. And that's for
8 evaluating a retaining wall that appears to have
9 developed a crack in it, and that is for French and
10 Parrello in the amount of \$8,370, that evaluation.
11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That will be No.
12 53.
13 MR. DRUMELER: Actually, actually
14 Chairman, if I may make that 53, and we'll keep
15 bumping.
16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: What is the present
17 53 down? So it remains last? Okay. In other
18 words, so 53 now on the agenda becomes 55, 55 in
19 reality.
20 MR. DRUMELER: Right.
21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Duly noted, Mr.
22 Clerk.
23 THE CLERK: It's going to be numbered
24 53, correct?
25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: 53 is the crack on

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1 the wall at Braddock Park.
2 MR. DRUMELER: Oh, did we get first
3 and second? The next one is where we got it. We
4 need to go ahead.
5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Bobby, that's
6 Braddock Park. Bobby. Okay. So that's Baslice and
7 Kopacz.
8 MR. DRUMELER: And the next one would
9 ask to be No. 54. And that is a memorandum of
10 agreement between Local 2306 for the period of July
11 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029. That is the -- what
12 we generally refer to as the rank and file of
13 Welfare or Family Services Union, and that will
14 settle their contract.
15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.
16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So just on that,
17 I think that, that this is a product of why people
18 from the public, including people in unions coming
19 and speaking at meetings is important and valuable.
20 A significant issue was brought to the attention as
21 it related to salary disparities with other
22 counties. We obviously had one or two closed
23 sessions, and at the end of the day, the product of
24 it is not -- no one makes everyone happy, but it
25 looked like it made 80-percent of the people that

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1 are happy. And I think that's -- that's the way
 2 government should try to work.
 3 MR. DRUMELER: And that's --
 4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The only thing I
 5 have is there's no ordinance on Commissioners,
 6 directors for market adjustment audit? So to make
 7 sure that's not coming down the road, I just want to
 8 make sure.
 9 MR. DRUMELER: Not that we're aware
 10 of.
 11 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Okay. On No.
 12 28, should that read instead of youth, it reads
 13 Youth Justice Commission. Should it be Juvenile
 14 Justice Commission.
 15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: While he's checking
 16 that, I think on behalf of the Commissioners, we
 17 want to thank --
 18 MR. DEPIERRO: We'll check that out.
 19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We want to thank
 20 all those involved in negotiations, the County
 21 Executive's office, the Law Department, the
 22 Administrator are working together to somehow come
 23 to that ground where the workers seem to get
 24 satisfaction. And this way the Commission is also
 25 grateful to hear a desire to get it settled. So

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1 thank you.
 2 Anything else before Kenny does as usual?
 3 MR. DRUMELER: We are just waiting on
 4 a Commissioner Kopacz to make the motion.
 5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Commissioner
 6 Kopacz, you want to make the motion?
 7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Second.
 8 THE CLERK: All in favor? We are
 9 adjourned.
 10 (Whereupon the proceeding is then
 11 concluded at 5:33 p.m.)
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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 Caucus Meeting
 7 of the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners,
 8 held on Tuesday, August 12, 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
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