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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, August 14, 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
- KENNETH KOPACZ, Commissioner
- WILLIAM O'DEA, Commissioner
- CARIDAD RODRIGUEZ, Commissioner
- JERRY WALKER, Commissioner

A L S O P R E S E N T:  
EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ., Board Counsel  
ALBERICO DE PIERRO, Hudson County Counsel  
DAVID DRUMELER, Deputy County Administrator  
CAROL JEAN DOYLE, County Commissioner Clerk  
Reported by: Shari Cathey, CCR, RPR

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Aponte-  
2 Lipski. Commissioner Baselice.

3 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

5 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
7 Commissioner Kopacz.

8 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Here.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

12 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

14 Chairman Romano.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

16 THE CLERK: Please stand for the  
17 Pledge of Allegiance.

18 (Flag Salute.)

19 THE CLERK: Adequate notice of this  
20 Regular Meeting has been provided as follows:

21 Posting notice of Resolution No. 8-1-2025  
22 on the County Commissioner's Bulletin Board, First  
23 Floor, Administration Building Annex, Jersey City,  
24 New Jersey.

25 Copies of the above mentioned resolution

1 have been sent to the County Clerk and the editors  
2 of the Kearny Observer and the Star Ledger.

3 May I have a motion to approve the minutes  
4 of the Caucus Meeting of June 24, 2025; the Regular  
5 Meeting of June 26, 2025; the Caucus Meeting of July  
6 15, 2025; and the Regular Meeting of July 17, 2025.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Cedeño.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner  
9 Aponte-Lipski. Commissioner Baselice.

10 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

12 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
14 Commissioner Kopacz.

15 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: 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 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: If I could, Mr. Chairman,  
25 turn this over to Alberico for a laudatory.

1                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, of course.

2                   MR. DEPIERRO: Thank you, Chairman.  
3 Thank you, Clerk it's my esteemed pleasure and honor  
4 to read this for our colleague Marcy McClary. She  
5 probably doesn't even remember when I -- when I was  
6 a law clerk here, she's the first person I ever  
7 talked to because she had to process my paperwork so  
8 she was the first person I ever kind of came in  
9 contact with.

10                   So this resolution is to honor and commend  
11 Marcy McClary on her retirement from the County of  
12 Hudson after 37 years of service in the office of  
13 the Hudson County Counsel Department of Law.

14                   Whereas, Marcy Bethea McClary is a true  
15 daughter of Jersey City, born in the former Margaret  
16 Hague Hospital, now the Jersey City Medical Center,  
17 educated in the Jersey City public school system and  
18 graduated from Dickinson High School as a Ram in  
19 1987; and

20                   Whereas, thereafter, Marcy attended Drake  
21 Secretarial College attaining a certification for  
22 executive secretarial studies and after completion  
23 of her courses as destiny would have it, she  
24 interviewed with the office of the Hudson County  
25 Counsel Department of Law; and

1           Whereas, Marcy began her career in the Law  
2 Department on August 1st, 1988, and since held  
3 several positions within the Law Department, for  
4 example, Clerk Typist, Secretarial Assistant, Legal  
5 Assistant; and

6           Whereas, in 1997, Marcy was given the  
7 opportunity to become the secretary to the Director  
8 of Law slash Office Managerial position in the  
9 office of the Hudson County Counsel Department of  
10 Law staff and their subdivisions; and

11           Whereas, during the course of her  
12 employment, Marcy fulfilled her duties with  
13 integrity, commitment, excellence and  
14 professionalism and has always been a team player  
15 and has offered her wisdom and experiences to her  
16 co-workers and colleagues throughout the County; and

17           Whereas Marcy has been respected and  
18 admired by her co-workers within the Hudson County  
19 Counsel's office and the people she encountered  
20 while performing her duties; and

21           Whereas, Marcy has earned a well-deserved  
22 reputation as professional, reliable and most  
23 importantly a dedicated employee of the Hudson  
24 County Law Department. Her demeanor and  
25 understanding allowed her to interact effectively

1 with Directors, County officials, co-workers and the  
2 general public, thus generating goodwill for the  
3 County of Hudson; and

4           Whereas, Marcy's unique and vast  
5 experience and wealth of knowledge of the County's  
6 mission and government has been a valuable and  
7 indelible asset to the County of Hudson and the Law  
8 Department and its various subsidiaries; and

9           Whereas, during her almost four decades of  
10 service within the County of Hudson she has served  
11 under four County Executives and six County  
12 Counsels, as well as hundreds of employees; and

13           Whereas, notwithstanding the strains of  
14 preparing a hectic Commissioner's agenda, sometimes  
15 with as many as 60 resolutions, Marcy has always  
16 been able to navigate the demand with care,  
17 concentration, patience and attention while never  
18 ignoring or avoiding anyone in need of assistance  
19 often going above and beyond the call of duty which  
20 exemplifies a strong work ethic and dedication, and

21           Whereas, Marcy's value to the Law  
22 Department was, is and always will be priceless and  
23 will always be cherished by all of us who have ever  
24 worked with her and for her as she has been a beacon  
25 to all new employees and a consummate manager and

1 professional; and

2           Whereas, Marcy has been married to her  
3 husband Joseph G. McClary for 32 years and out of  
4 their marriage were born two wonderful children  
5 Chanel McClary and Marcus McClary who are the joys  
6 of their life; and

7           Now, therefore, be it resolved by the  
8 Hudson County Board of Commissioners as follows:

9           1. The Board of Commissioners along with  
10 County Executive Craig Guy, extends heartfelt good  
11 wishes and much happiness to Marcy McClary on her  
12 well-deserved retirement from the Hudson County  
13 Department of Law.

14           2. This Board is honored for the  
15 opportunity to express its appreciation to Marcy  
16 McClary for her valuable service to the County of  
17 Hudson.

18           3. Letting Marcy know that no matter  
19 where she may be, she will always have a home in the  
20 County Law Department; and

21           4. This resolution shall take effect  
22 immediately. I'm sure you all join with me --

23                   (Applause.)

24           THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, please note  
25 that Commissioner Aponte-Lipski has joined us.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue with the  
2 vote.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

4 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: For me, yes.  
5 We've known each other a long time. Your smile,  
6 that smile is a wonderful thing. When we used to  
7 walk into the Law Department, your kindness, your  
8 professionalism, your way of doing things without  
9 ever being non-professional, is what I remember the  
10 most. You're one of you. I will have fond memories  
11 of working with you all these years. I came and I  
12 went. I came and I went, but you are one of the  
13 fondest memories the Law Department, all employees  
14 that are retiring right now, it makes my heart bleed  
15 because I'm getting to that point because I'm up  
16 there with the amount of years with all of you, but  
17 I just want to say, so well-deserved enjoy your  
18 retirement. Enjoy your family. Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Please pull the mics  
20 closer to you. Commissioner Cifelli. Commissioner?

21 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Oh, I'm sorry.  
22 I've logged on. Yeah, I -- my computer crashed.  
23 I'm only on the phone. Okay. To Marcy,  
24 Commissioner Baselice said that he's getting up  
25 there in his tenure. He is nowhere near me in his

1 tenure, no. But -- but Marcy has been the County  
2 Counsel longer than I've been around, and that's  
3 going somewhere. But every time I've ever spoken to  
4 the County Counsel, and over the years, I've spoken  
5 to several County Counsels, and sometimes our  
6 conversations between County Counsel and myself have  
7 not been all that cordial, but Marcy, to her credit  
8 was always the professional.

9 She's -- she's just the epitome of a  
10 professional person that you can deal with and never  
11 have any recriminations. She always gave you the  
12 right answer. She was always calm and her demeanor  
13 was always professional and wonderful, and we're  
14 going to miss that. And so I wish her and her  
15 husband many, many more years of happiness and good  
16 health, and we're going to miss you thank you and I  
17 proudly vote aye.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

19 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yeah. Marcy, I  
20 work with a lot of newer teachers and employees, and  
21 I always tell them make sure you come to work with a  
22 smile in the morning because your kids deserve that,  
23 and here your employees and citizens of Hudson  
24 County deserve that. And when you leave, make sure  
25 that you're leaving with a smile, because leave all

1 your problems from work here because your family  
2 deserves that. It's rare that we have someone that  
3 can do both, and then also keep a smile throughout  
4 the workday and make everybody's day brighter and  
5 you, you've done that for your whole career.

6 So I just want to thank your family for  
7 sharing you with us for so long, and thank you for  
8 the wonderful job you've done god bless you and  
9 enjoy your retirement.

10 THE CLERK: Your vote?

11 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yeah.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner  
13 Aponte-Lipski.

14 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Marcy, I  
15 don't know for not -- I don't know you for a long  
16 time. From the little time that I know you, it's  
17 true that all my colleagues are saying. So I just  
18 cannot be saying more than that because your  
19 professionalism is just you, and that smile always  
20 in your face. Thank you. Enjoy your retirement  
21 with family and I vote aye.

22 MS. MCCLARY: Thank you.

23 THE CLERK: Thank you. Commissioner  
24 O'Dea.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So you've always

1 had a pleasant smile. You're always friendly. My  
2 history goes back with the McClary side of the  
3 family, back to when you were a freshman, probably,  
4 in Dickinson High School in 1985, right? So that  
5 history is so long. You've just always been a class  
6 act. I've never heard anybody say a bad word.  
7 Whether it's inside the County or outside at any  
8 event, you're always there. You're always friendly.  
9 You always smile. You're always there to be helpful  
10 to people.

11 And you're young, so I don't know what  
12 your next act is. I know you're not retired,  
13 because you're way too young. You've got way too  
14 much energy to actually spend your days and not do  
15 something. So I'm very curious when you get up and  
16 speak to find out what your next act is going to be.  
17 You've got way too much talent at your age to just  
18 go off and collect a pension and relax. But I  
19 obviously vote aye.

20 THE CLERK: Thank you. Commissioner  
21 Cedeño.

22 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Marcy,  
23 congratulations on your retirement. Thank you for  
24 the years that you have dedicated to the residents  
25 of Hudson County. Thank you for your hard work and

1 everything that you do to help your colleagues and  
2 to help us here on Board. So I just want to wish  
3 you a healthy retirement. I hope that you get to  
4 enjoy it with your family, because that's what it's  
5 about, right?

6 MS. MCCLARY: Yes. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Thank you.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

9 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Marcy, oh,  
10 my God, I echo what all my colleagues said about  
11 you. Thank you for your pleasant personality and  
12 that dedication to your job and commitment to the  
13 people of our community and our department. Thank  
14 you for everything you've done for us over the  
15 years. Obviously people that know you longer, have  
16 expressed numerous pleasant and wonderful things  
17 about you, and I believe those. So I wish you the  
18 best in your future endeavors. Congratulations on  
19 your retirement from us.

20 MS. MCCLARY: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

22 God bless. Yes, I vote yes.

23 THE CLERK: Thank you. Commissioner  
24 Walker.

25 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes. Just want

1 to echo what my colleague said. Definitely have a  
2 beautiful smile. She's definitely a Ram, because at  
3 St. Anthony's, our home court was actually  
4 Dickinson. So I kind of knew Marcy a really long  
5 time, since out of high school. But we wanted to  
6 say good health and congratulations, and enjoy your  
7 family. Enjoy your time walking. Like Bill was  
8 saying, I'm curious to know your next move, because  
9 you're definitely a bright star. If you need a  
10 landing spot, just holler at me. You're coming to  
11 Team Walker.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So you might  
13 have a bidding war.

14 COMMISSIONER WALKER: And I vote aye.

15 THE CLERK: Thank you, Commissioner.

16 MS. MCCLARY: Thank you.

17 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: When I first became  
19 a Commissioner, one of the first people I had to  
20 interact, and it was actually outside. And it was a  
21 welcoming presence, and the warmth that she showed  
22 to someone who was just walking into something that  
23 he didn't know much about. I think that says it.

24 The personality, the ability to keep it  
25 real. Born and raised in Jersey City, Hudson

1 County. That's how we all roll. She's a strong  
2 leader, which is always important, especially in the  
3 Law Department, dealing with this group of  
4 Commissioners. And you're a class act. You're a  
5 steady presence, and you're truly loved. And I just  
6 want to say, for me, good luck to you in your future  
7 endeavors. As Bill said, there's probably a door  
8 that's going to open, whether it be privately or  
9 publicly. But all we can say is, thank you, thank  
10 you, and thank you. God bless you, my friend.

11 MS. MCCLARY: Thank you. I guess  
12 I've got to say something now, right? Can you hear  
13 me?

14 THE CLERK: Yes.

15 MS. MCCLARY: All right. I didn't  
16 have any speech written down, because I want to  
17 speak from my heart. You're real. You would say  
18 that. Speak from my heart, because I don't want to  
19 cry. Because this County has been my life. As you  
20 know, I came here very young. I've been working  
21 here. I've been as you can hear from the speech, 37  
22 years. And the County was my life, every day.

23 So it's like my family when I'm leaving,  
24 but I'm never going to be too far away. I want to  
25 thank the Administration for having faith in me, and

1 my co-workers, and all of these other co-workers  
2 here that I have been working with constantly,  
3 daily. I appreciate you. I appreciate the kindness  
4 and the support from everyone throughout the County.  
5 And my future plans are to relax. Can I relax for a  
6 minute? I want to relax for a minute. I haven't  
7 thought about it. But I'm quite sure that I have a  
8 lot to do.

9 This is my daughter, if anybody ever met  
10 her. She still will be with the County, so treat  
11 her very good, okay? But I just want to thank you  
12 all for all the kind words and everything that the  
13 County has done for me and my family. You know  
14 what? I never missed a paycheck. Never was ever  
15 laid off or anything like that. So I'm grateful for  
16 that. And I'm grateful for this job that provided  
17 me the abilities to provide for my family.

18 I have two children. They're very well  
19 educated. I have a nice husband. I love him to  
20 death. And for that alone is enough, you know, that  
21 you don't have to worry about what tomorrow is going  
22 to bring. But also, I want to start to think about  
23 the next chapter in my life while I'm on the beach,  
24 with my feet in the sand and drink in my hand. And  
25 I will take that. Thank you. I love you guys. I

1 love you.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Come on up.  
3 (Photo Opportunity.)

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Thank you,  
5 everybody, for coming on. Go ahead.

6 THE CLERK: The next order of  
7 business is to turn it over to the Administration.

8 MR. DRUMELER: Chairman, we have  
9 nothing further for this agenda.

10 THE CLERK: According to the policy  
11 set by the Board of County Commissioners, members of  
12 the public are asked to limit their comments to five  
13 minutes when discussing agenda items, and three  
14 minutes at the conclusion of the meeting for persons  
15 who submit a written request to discuss matters of  
16 public interest.

17 At this time, the public may address the  
18 Board on any item on the agenda only. Please keep  
19 your comments limited to five minutes. Are there  
20 any speakers on the agenda items only?

21 MR. BLOOMBERG: Good afternoon. Mark  
22 Bloomberg from West New York. So I have questions  
23 about two items on the agenda today. One is 38H.  
24 It's essentially upgrades of some bathrooms. No  
25 argument. The bathrooms in question definitely need

1 to be upgraded. For \$200,000, though, I could build  
2 a new wing on my house. So I don't really want to  
3 discuss this much. I just want to raise it and say,  
4 has this really been vetted given what the size of  
5 those bathrooms are?

6 What I do want to talk more about is Item  
7 No. 8. Does anyone know what project specifically  
8 this is? It's \$500,000 that we're getting  
9 additionally, which is great. I'm curious if it's  
10 the Boulevard East-Main Drive Palisades Triangle  
11 project or if it's something else.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: After you finish,  
13 then they'll answer.

14 MR. BLOOMBERG: Okay. So assuming it  
15 is that project, one portion of it raises a lot of  
16 questions in my mind. If it's a safety project, why  
17 does it include a driveway that's going into the  
18 park that has never had an accident on it? That  
19 portion is basically being added to support the  
20 preschool. And the specs for the driveway are based  
21 on Department of Education standards, not the  
22 Department of Transportation.

23 If I owned a house and I decided to load  
24 it up with electronics or hydroponics or whatever, a  
25 data center, and I blew out the fuses, and I went to

1 the landlord and said, Hey, you've got to upgrade my  
2 electricity.

3 The landlord would say, No, that wasn't  
4 the right use of the house. You pay for it.

5 Well, if North Bergen is going to put a  
6 preschool in the park and they need a driveway for  
7 it, they're the ones that should be paying for it.  
8 So I want to raise as more money is coming in for  
9 this project that it's not being misspent and North  
10 Bergen pays their fair share. North Bergen locks  
11 the parking lot regularly that that driveway leads  
12 to.

13 So, you know, saying that it's shared use  
14 by park users just isn't true. July 4th, Memorial  
15 Day weekend, yeah, you can use the driveway and you  
16 would have found a locked gate. There's enough  
17 parking. That driveway shouldn't be a part of this  
18 project, and this money hopefully isn't going to  
19 help support it. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Dave or Alberico.

21 MR. DRUMELER: Chair, if I may. This  
22 is, Mr. Bloomberg, this is just simply a budget  
23 amendment for a grant that was approved back in  
24 June -- on June 12th of 2025. With the way the  
25 County budgeting works, we can't put items that we

1 receive as part of a grant into the County budget  
2 until after the budget's approved. So that's why  
3 you'll see a number of these budget amendments  
4 through Finance Administration, the first several  
5 items on the agenda. But the grant initially was  
6 approved by the Board of Commissioners back at the  
7 first June meeting in 2025.

8 So this doesn't really affect the project  
9 or any parts of the project or the grant application  
10 itself. This is just simply a record-keeping  
11 procedure that we need to do as far as the budget  
12 goes.

13 MR. BLOOMBERG: Okay. I appreciate  
14 that it's just receiving money. But I hope I've  
15 made my point about that overall project and how  
16 money gets allocated to it. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: After which you can  
18 also speak with the Director DeFilippo on both  
19 items. Okay. Mark.

20 MR. KATARYNIAK: I can briefly speak  
21 to that in terms of that we were still advancing the  
22 scope of the project with respect to the physical  
23 configuration of the road. It is primarily a safety  
24 project along Boulevard East. We will be having a  
25 public information center on the project. We do not

1 have the date set yet. In fact, we'll be  
2 advertising, publicizing, we're thinking early fall  
3 for a public information center. So that's part of  
4 the process.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You can elaborate a  
6 little bit more after the meeting.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And I guess just  
8 on the other item related to the bathroom, I would  
9 assume that we can provide, not us, but also provide  
10 a speaker to detail scope of services. After the  
11 meeting, I'm curious to get the scope of services.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you,  
13 Commissioner. Continue, Madam Clerk.

14 THE CLERK: Before I have a motion to  
15 approve that, we have a public hearing on the draft  
16 of the official Hudson County map.

17 MR. DRUMELER: Actually, Madam Clerk,  
18 if I may, that's all those items are on the consent  
19 agenda. So I believe, and I'm subject to your  
20 counsel, I believe it would be appropriate to take a  
21 vote on the consent agenda and then do that. The  
22 one thing that we didn't put on the consent agenda  
23 after the hearing.

24 THE CLERK: May I have a motion to  
25 approve all the items on the consent agenda?

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Cedeño.

2 THE CLERK: Commissioner

3 Aponte-Lipski.

4 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

6 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

8 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

12 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

16 Commissioner Rodriguez?

17 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Yes.

18 Thank you.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

20 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: And Chairman Romano.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Okay. A public hearing

24 will be held on the 2025 Draft Official Hudson

25 County Map. Please take notice that the Hudson

1 County Board of County Commissioners will conduct a  
2 public hearing to provide the general public with an  
3 opportunity to comment on the 2025 Draft Official  
4 Hudson County Map, at the regularly scheduled August  
5 Commissioners meeting pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:27-5  
6 et seq. It will be held on Thursday, August 14,  
7 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioner Chambers, 567  
8 Pavonia Avenue, 1st Floor, Jersey City, New Jersey.  
9 The 2025 "Draft" map is available online.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Are there any  
11 speakers on this?

12 THE CLERK: There are no speakers.  
13 There are no speakers on the proposed. I see no  
14 one. I'll have a motion to close the public  
15 hearing.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Baselice and  
17 Cedeño.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner  
19 Aponte-Lipski.

20 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

22 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

24 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.  
3 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.  
4 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
7 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
9 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.  
10 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
12 THE CLERK: I'll conclude that. Then  
13 as another vote?  
14 MR. FLORIO: Yes.  
15 THE CLERK: For the adoption of the  
16 2025 map. 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 Kopacz.  
25 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
4 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
6 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.  
7 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
9 THE CLERK: We have three ordinances  
10 for introduction. Ordinance 1. It's an ordinance  
11 amending the Hudson County Administrative Code  
12 pursuant to the applicable provisions of the  
13 optional County Charter Law N.J.S.A. 40:41A-1.  
14 May I roll call? 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 Kopacz.  
23 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.  
24 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Come back to me.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

2 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

4 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes on

7 introduction.

8 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. The ordinance  
10 has been introduced. Ordinance 2. It's an  
11 ordinance amending Chapter 200, Article 8.3 of the  
12 Administrative Code to regulate parking at John F.  
13 Kennedy Boulevard in the City of Jersey City, a  
14 County-owned roadway.

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 Kopacz.

24 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
3 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
5 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.  
6 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
8 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been  
9 introduced. Ordinance 3. It's an ordinance  
10 amending Chapter 200, Article 27 of the  
11 Administrative Code to establish traffic-calming  
12 devices on Newark Street and Monroe/Grove Street in  
13 the City of Hoboken.  
14 Commissioner 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 Kopacz.  
23 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.  
24 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

2 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

4 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been  
8 introduced. We have one ordinance for adoption.  
9 It's the ordinance to establish and authorize salary  
10 increases for certain County offices and positions,  
11 including the staff of the Commissioners in  
12 accordance with the provision of the New Jersey law  
13 and the Hudson County Administrative Code.

14 This is the time fixed for a public  
15 hearing of this ordinance, which was introduced at  
16 the meeting of July 17, 2025, advertise as required  
17 by law, together with a notice of hearing at this  
18 time. It's been posted on the County Commissioners'  
19 Bulletin Board and made available to the general  
20 public. Are there any speakers on this ordinance?

21 I'm seeing none, I'd like a motion to  
22 close the hearing.

23 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Motion.

24 THE CLERK: Second?

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cedeño.

1 THE CLERK: All in favor?

2 (The Board votes unanimously to close  
3 the Hearing.)

4 THE CLERK: Opposed? On the final  
5 adoption, 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 Kopacz.

14 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Just to note,  
17 I'm not opposed to getting these or having these on  
18 an annual basis, but our best practice was each year  
19 they would be voted on. And my no vote just  
20 reflects that we're now voting for the next three  
21 years of increases where I think that each year they  
22 should be voted on.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

24 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

1 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

4 THE CLERK: This concludes the items  
5 of business on today's agenda. Are there any  
6 comments from the Commissioners on the business of  
7 the Board?

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman, I  
10 wanted to note a couple of items. First, I was very  
11 happy to see the presentation that CFG did the other  
12 day. I think the incorporation of the in-patient  
13 program located on 13th Street in Newark,  
14 individuals with serious mental health issues, is  
15 going to really help address the problem that we've  
16 seen at the correctional center in recent years, as  
17 well as be a huge component in making the mental  
18 health court that the County is going to see happen  
19 sooner rather than later, but in the near future, be  
20 much more successful.

21 And I also want to commend the County for  
22 the approach they took in resolving the contract  
23 with 3206, hearing the voices of those employees who  
24 came here on numerous occasions, and obviously, the  
25 importance they afforded this Board to make the

1 changes and adjustments to many of those salaries to  
2 reflect what other counties have also done.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Go ahead,  
4 Al. Go ahead, Al.

5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah, yeah. I  
6 just wanted to echo a part of Bill's comments about  
7 Item 33 on the CFG contract. My comments at  
8 Tuesday's caucus, the Clerk was able to give me the  
9 contact information for the CFG representative,  
10 which I did yesterday morning, and he answered all  
11 my questions.

12 But the thrust of my questions on Tuesday  
13 were, this is not an insignificant contract, it's  
14 close to \$50 million. What I was concerned about  
15 was how, if at all, our Big, Beautiful Bill that our  
16 President has shoved down everybody's throat, how  
17 that affected, if at all, this contract or our  
18 reimbursement. And he assured me that it was  
19 irrelevant because Medicaid was not included in this  
20 payment. It never has been, he explained to me, in  
21 outpatient and inpatient services. So I'm satisfied  
22 that it's appropriate to push my eye on this  
23 resolution so I can get that out. And I think  
24 Medicaid is not really a significant player in this  
25 contract.

1                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Al. I  
2 just want to add also, it was just a wonderful  
3 collaborative effort between the Executive Branch,  
4 ourselves, and the representatives who were so  
5 forthcoming and willing to interact with us, and the  
6 leadership of the correctional facility. So again,  
7 thank you.

8                   THE CLERK: Continue, Madam Clerk.  
9 Are there any comments from the Chief of Staff to  
10 the County Executive?

11                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Patty?

12                   MR. McCARTHY: Nothing to say. Thank  
13 you.

14                   THE CLERK: All right. This is the  
15 time for persons who submitted a timely written  
16 request to address the Board on any matter of public  
17 interest. Please remember to limit your comments to  
18 three minutes.

19                   MR. FLORIO: Please note that we're  
20 having technical difficulties with the timer. I  
21 will be timing the speakers, and I will let them  
22 know when the three minutes has expired.

23                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You got it. All  
24 right.

25                   THE CLERK: First speaker is Raymond

1 Mitchell.

2 MR. MITCHELL: When are you going to  
3 start?

4 MR. FLORIO: When you start talking.

5 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. All right. So  
6 last meeting, I was here July 17th of 2025. Esther  
7 Suarez, I gave notice to. Also, the Captain of  
8 Internal Affairs and Captain of Homicide were here.  
9 July 17th, Ms. Esther Suarez retires after she calls  
10 COVID, and my father died of it, which I would like  
11 to challenge it. I also gave a call to Desiree in  
12 the Prosecutor's Office, gave notice to Wayne. The  
13 new Prosecutors are here, so I can challenge it.  
14 Adam, anybody here? So I can challenge it with you  
15 about the COVID.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mr. Mitchell,  
17 there's no back and forth. You're addressing us.  
18 You have to address us, please.

19 MR. MITCHELL: Order. How long have  
20 I been coming for this at your office, for my  
21 father's mystery death and also for Dennis Miller?

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: He's not to answer.  
23 He's not to answer. It's not a dialogue, sir. With  
24 all due respect, we don't dialogue. You have to  
25 speak to us, please. Thank you.

1 MR. MITCHELL: All right. So, Fannie.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No addressing her  
3 personally, please, by Commissioner.

4 MR. MITCHELL: Commissioner Fannie.  
5 Okay. Brian Stack, you know those letters he gave  
6 me? I asked you about the person, Lilitha, that she  
7 just vanished. She doesn't work. Or I guess you  
8 guys didn't work. Do you have the personnel  
9 information?

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: She's not --

11 MR. MITCHELL: Well, that's a  
12 privilege. Do you have privilege with Brian Stack?

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: She's not going  
14 into dialogue with you, sir. I told you, please.

15 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. So no one.  
16 Okay. So what do we all think about Ester Suarez  
17 staying silent? Do you think that's suspicious,  
18 that she retired the same day I came in and asked  
19 her what happened to my father's mystery death, that  
20 she said he had COVID, which I'm challenging you.  
21 His face here, he has strangle marks, at Hackensack  
22 Meridian Hospital, owned the North Bergen Harborage,  
23 March 3rd, 2020.

24 So I've been going through this over more  
25 than five years, trying to investigate and figure

1 out what happened to my father's face. And Ms.  
2 Esther Suarez, I believe, now she knows. You can  
3 all see it. The reasonably suspicious, what do you  
4 think? Officers and attorneys, everybody here,  
5 everybody that wears a badge and is an attorney, you  
6 think that's a reasonable suspicion, that she just  
7 gets to retire and call my dad to COVID, and then  
8 retires right the same day he came here, July 17th?

9 You don't think she needs to be locked up,  
10 put in prison, for covering up, shielding all these  
11 years, Porter (ph.) He knows. Porter. Come on.  
12 He's a witness, Porter. He knows how many times I  
13 went to that office about this. Dennis Miller, and  
14 also the chief, Dennis Miller, how he used the Mayor  
15 Gonnelli, to fabricate it, okay? It's about me.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next speaker.

17 THE CLERK: Mr. Vincent Johnson.

18 MR. JOHNSON: Hey, good afternoon.

19 Hi, all. We are with the Hudson County Youth  
20 Football Program.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Do me a favor,  
22 Vinny. Into the mic so we can hear you, please.

23 MR. JOHNSON: We're with the Hudson  
24 County Youth Football Program, and for the last few  
25 years, you guys have been helping us a great deal to

1 keep our league running, so I'm going to cut it  
2 short. I'm going to give it to our treasurer, and  
3 she's going to explain what we need from you guys,  
4 if possible.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Is this the  
6 official money again, correct?

7 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, ma'am.

9 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Your name, please.

11 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Hi, good afternoon.

12 My name is Petra Rodriguez. So, as Vinny mentioned,  
13 we get lots of help from you guys and a lot of  
14 support for our youth, our kids, in the Hoboken  
15 Leagues and Hudson County Leagues. So what I'm here  
16 is respectfully to request your support for the  
17 All-County Youth Football League, which is a vital  
18 program that provides young athletes across our  
19 County with opportunities of growth, teamwork, and  
20 community engagement. And we also assist in  
21 fostering great preparedness for their athletic and  
22 scholarly futures.

23 So as we're preparing for the upcoming  
24 seasons, we're facing increased costs associated  
25 with the program for the operations of officiating

1 the games, referees, et cetera. Last season, many  
2 of the board members had to put up personal funds  
3 because of the costs that were so high. We were a  
4 little short. So we had to actually put some of our  
5 personal money into paying to continue to have the  
6 program continue to run properly. We lost almost  
7 about \$4,000 to \$5,000 of personal funds in order to  
8 finish the season.

9 In order for us to be able to continue and  
10 offer a safe, inclusive, and enriching experience to  
11 our youth, we're formally requesting an amount of  
12 \$23,000 for 2025 football season, which the total  
13 cost to run our program, just in referee costs, is  
14 \$20,300. About \$1,200 for our championship trophies  
15 and recognitions for our youth, and badges and other  
16 miscellaneous expenses that are incurred with the  
17 kids during the games.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Well, I know this,  
19 I think I speak for the whole Board. You have very  
20 big supporters here for athletics. I know County  
21 Executive Craig Guy, and I'm sure if you meet with  
22 Dave Drumeler, we'll adjust whatever we have for as  
23 long as you -- I think it's important to have a  
24 meeting, and this way they know what's needed. And,  
25 you know, we all have our support. We have Billy

1 O'Dea, Kenny Kopacz, Jerry Walker, everybody here,  
2 and everybody will support. If you just meet with  
3 Dave, so we know where the money's being spent.

4 One other favor we have, Vinny. Ed Florio  
5 would like to be either involved in the league in  
6 some capacity, because he was a Hoboken legend that  
7 played.

8 MR. FLORIO: Mr. Chairman, to  
9 paraphrase Lyndon Johnson, before the 1968  
10 Democratic primary, I shall not seek, and will not  
11 accept, a nomination to serve as an administrator.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You were a legend  
13 back in that day.

14 MR. FLORIO: In my own mind.

15 MR. DRUMELER: Ed told me he was  
16 going to be a free referee on services, actually. I  
17 did.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah, go ahead,  
19 Bobby.

20 MR. MITCHELL: Sorry, I didn't hear  
21 you.

22 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Where do you  
23 get your funding now coming from your program? Us?  
24 We do every year? Where does your funding comes  
25 through, the County?

1 MR. JOHNSON: I'm just looking for an  
2 adjustment.

3 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I'm trying to  
4 figure out, if I know that there are other youth --  
5 other departments that fund youth programs and if  
6 every year coming up short, maybe we look at that as  
7 something to supplement or add to your program.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: There's your second  
9 meeting with Commissioner Baselice, who does all the  
10 juvenile justice stuff, too, so he would know.

11 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Absolutely. Any help  
12 is greatly appreciated. I'm a volunteer. I've been  
13 helping Vinny for the past three years. My son now  
14 is no longer in the program, but I'm still  
15 volunteering and helping out.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I attend all your  
17 functions, you know? It's amazing what you do and  
18 accomplish, Vinny. And to keep those wonderful  
19 children off the street and involved in a program  
20 where the game is taught and where the coaches  
21 volunteer, and to see that different cities in the  
22 County come together, it's just an amazing thing  
23 when you all volunteer. So we'll be there.

24 And if you're looking about referee  
25 questions, you're going to have Patty McCarthy

1 there, who's a referee. Get him. Get any  
2 questions. You need to get him out there again.

3 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you.  
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Get Dave's  
6 information and Bobby's information.

7 THE CLERK: I think the next speaker  
8 is Mark.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hold on. Billy  
10 wants to speak.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm sorry.  
12 Darice isn't here. Who's here from Darice's  
13 department.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Back there.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So we used to  
16 have -- I think her name's Priscilla, who we brought  
17 on to assist nonprofits in applying for funding. Do  
18 we still have some kind of contractual relationship  
19 with that individual? In all instances like that,  
20 we should also just refer that to her. And someone  
21 should just do some just general research. Are  
22 there grants available for youth football or  
23 whatever, equipment, referees, and then assist those  
24 entities in applying for those funds.

25 Some of those funds are one-page

1 applications. They might be \$2,500 or whatever.  
2 But we just simply don't do that. We're here to  
3 cover the whole number. So we brought someone on  
4 specifically to be helpful with that. And it would  
5 be good if we were able, whenever we have a  
6 situation like this, that we're able to just sit  
7 down with the group and say, do some research. Are  
8 there any banks, local foundation, and businesses,  
9 et cetera, that have as one of their lists, in this  
10 case it's youth football. Some may be youth  
11 baseball.

12 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: I can meet with  
13 the bank that we do have a consultant.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes, that's all.  
15 Just to do a little research. It's a few thousand.  
16 And if you're not waiting at the end, then we have a  
17 couple of those. Maybe that's ShaRonda. That's  
18 Jerry Walker's wife. She's also the Director.

19 MS. WALKER: I'm Director ShaRonda  
20 Walker.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Right, that's good.  
22 Hey, Jerry. Hey, ShaRonda. That's right. That's  
23 right. That's wonderful. You also have Jenny  
24 Davis, and from the County Exec's office, to give  
25 you an invite. Thank you.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next speaker.

3 THE CLERK: Mark Bloomberg.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mark Bloomberg.

5 Come on up, Mark. Yes, sir.

6 MR. BLOOMBERG: Hello. So, on July  
7 22nd, the County received information regarding soil  
8 testing that had been done in Braddock Park at the  
9 proposed new picnic area. I love the idea of the  
10 new picnic area. So I'm just concerned that on the  
11 22nd, the County was notified that lead was found in  
12 some of the soil samples, including some on the  
13 actual surface level at very high levels above safe  
14 standards.

15 I stopped by the site two days ago, three  
16 weeks after the County received this notice. There  
17 was nothing on the site identifying that, you know,  
18 there's hazardous materials on the site. I  
19 completely appreciate that the report said they  
20 don't know the full extent of it. It could be a  
21 larger area. They have to do more testing. But I'm  
22 going to say I'm disappointed at this point that  
23 it's been three weeks, and there hasn't been any  
24 response as far as putting up signage. You know, I  
25 would assume we would want to keep people out of

1 that area. So that's the primary thing.

2 As everything with me runs through the  
3 preschool, if you look at the map of where the lead  
4 was found and where the preschool is, they're really  
5 close to each other. Now, everybody here signed off  
6 on putting a permanent preschool in that park. You  
7 took on faith from North Bergen that that was the  
8 safest place to put the school. Nobody required  
9 them to do any soil testing in 25 years. None has  
10 been on that site.

11 So if they find something, I don't know  
12 who ends up paying for that either, but it just  
13 seems like it was a major oversight. Yeah, there's  
14 another area not too far from the preschool as well  
15 where Creosote was found years ago because of  
16 railroad ties that were dumped. So just because,  
17 you know, oh, it's a park, it should be a safe  
18 place, there could be danger coming from the ground,  
19 basically, on it.

20 So first and foremost, you know, let's see  
21 a better response out of the County to protect our  
22 residents and park-goers. I know it's not a  
23 well-utilized area to park at this point, but even  
24 so, that's my primary point today. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Can you

1 answer that, Dave?

2 MR. DRUMELER: I have to defer to the  
3 Parks Department. Jonathan, will meet with you.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, Jonathan,  
5 please.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I mean, yeah,  
7 posting some signage is probably something that  
8 could be done quickly, easily.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next speaker.

10 THE CLERK: The next speaker is  
11 Courtney Walker.

12 MS. WALKER: Good afternoon, County  
13 Commissioners. My name is Courtney Walker, and I'm  
14 a resident of Jersey City. I'm here again today to  
15 express deep concern about the ongoing target of  
16 immigrants, including students, lawful residents,  
17 and citizens, by ICE and the Trump administration.

18 As I mentioned last month, ICE rates have  
19 been escalating nationwide this year. Here in New  
20 Jersey, we've seen a 70-percent increase in ICE  
21 arrests in 2025, averaging nearly 20 arrests a day.  
22 Today I'd like to follow up on last month's  
23 discussion and better understand the relationship  
24 between our Hudson County Sheriff's Office and ICE  
25 agents, if there is one. I'm choosing to follow up

1 on the conversation here, since this is the forum  
2 that's proven to be most effective for dialogue and  
3 understanding how our County government works.

4 To be specific, areas of North Hudson have  
5 seemed to be of particular interest of ICE agents,  
6 members of the public, even having noticed ICE  
7 agents operating within some County parks. The  
8 questions I have regarding the Sheriff's Office are  
9 as follows:

10 Do county sheriffs have any kind of  
11 working relationship with ICE, formal or informal?

12 Do our Sheriffs share buildings with ICE  
13 agents during their shifts, such as the County  
14 courthouse or other County facilities?

15 How are we working with schools,  
16 universities, hospitals, and parks to establish or  
17 strengthen policies and rapid response systems when  
18 federal agents do show up?

19 Do we currently have any policies in place  
20 to protect our community from overreach of ICE  
21 agents?

22 Again, I'd like to reiterate how this  
23 forum is one of the most effective for the public to  
24 interact with the County, and it's concerning how  
25 access to this meeting is limited to the middle of a

1 workday. Heading into the fall, these start times  
2 will push back to 4:30, but again, that is an  
3 incredible inconvenience to working members of the  
4 public. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Courtney, if you  
6 can, after the meeting, speak with Undersheriff  
7 Conti, he can answer your questions with regards to  
8 the law.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But you know  
10 what? Like, you can answer them here on the record.  
11 I mean, they certainly have significance to all of  
12 us.

13 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: I was outside in  
14 the hallway, so I didn't hear her question.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And there  
16 shouldn't be a time limit put on you. Could you  
17 just repeat the questions you had?

18 MS. WALKER: So the questions  
19 include, does the Sheriff's office have any kind of  
20 working relationship with ICE, whether this is  
21 formal or informal?

22 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: No.

23 MS. WALKER: Do Sheriffs share  
24 buildings with ICE agents during their shifts, like  
25 the courthouse?

1                   UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: No.

2                   MS. WALKER: How are we working with  
3 schools, universities, hospitals, and County parks  
4 to establish or strengthen rapid response systems if  
5 federal agents show up on those County premises?

6                   UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: We don't assist  
7 them.

8                   MS. WALKER: Right. But do we have  
9 policies in place where we can help protect  
10 residents in County areas, like schools, parks, et  
11 cetera?

12                   UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: We don't have a  
13 policy.

14                   MS. WALKER: No policy, okay. Yeah,  
15 so those were the questions.

16                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So, Courtney, my  
17 question to you would be, do you have, from other  
18 jurisdictions, potential policies that the Sheriff's  
19 office could consider?

20                   MS. WALKER: Yeah, I'm sure there are  
21 policies that we could look up, yes.

22                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Could you  
23 provide that, then, and we'll share that and see  
24 what --

25                   COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can you

1 provide that, Courtney? Because this is Al Cifelli.  
2 I look at the national immigration situation as  
3 President Trump's policies have seemed, at least,  
4 to, as they say, secure the borders on a present  
5 basis as far as new people coming into the country,  
6 and I understand that.

7           What's more troubling to me is how the  
8 administration's policies affect people that are  
9 here now with respect to deportation and taking  
10 people off the streets, whether the ICE agents are  
11 masked or whatever, where they're showing up. That  
12 to me is much more troublesome, and it's much more  
13 troublesome in that we have a lot of friends and  
14 neighbors who have been here for literally decades  
15 and now are being threatened, even though they are  
16 hard-working, law-abiding, tax-paying people, and  
17 they are getting lumped in together with what  
18 President Trump would call the troubled criminal  
19 element in the undocumented population.

20           That to me is much more troubling. So I  
21 think I'd go to that question as to what we as a  
22 local law enforcement entity or entities are doing  
23 with respect to that half of the problem. I mean, I  
24 don't know if that coincides with your thoughts, but  
25 that's what my thoughts are.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

2 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Sabura  
3 Alexander.

4 MS. ALEXANDER: Good afternoon,  
5 Commissioners. Sabura Alexander, Hudson County  
6 employee, President of AFSCME Local 1697. I'm here  
7 to say thank you to you all. Thank you for  
8 ratifying our contract on July 17th. I was not here  
9 to speak. I thought it was a 4:30 session, so I  
10 missed that. I did sign up. Thank you, Ms. Doyle.

11 But we are pleased. We are thankful. We  
12 appreciate you. It was tough. It was. But I want  
13 to give special thanks to Head Negotiator Sean Dias.  
14 He was phenomenal. He was tough. I was tough.  
15 But, you know, my prayers were heard. They were  
16 answered. I want to extend the thanks to our  
17 director, Frank Mazza, to Central Personnel Director  
18 Elinor Gibney. Yes, we don't always see eye-to-eye,  
19 but I want to thank her.

20 I'm here to thank her because I believe in  
21 giving credit where it's due. And Elinor did not  
22 have to do what she did for my membership, so,  
23 Elinor, wherever you are, I see you. Thank you so  
24 much, Elinor Gibney.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Jersey City girl,

1 born and raised.

2 MS. ALEXANDER: I'm from Brooklyn,  
3 New York, but you know what? Like I said, same  
4 thing. But, Elinor, I do really appreciate you.

5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I objected to  
6 Elinor getting more credit than she deserves.

7 MS. ALEXANDER: No, no, don't say  
8 that. Don't say that. She went above and beyond  
9 her team. Stop laughing. No, be nice.

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Elinor's  
11 great. She's great.

12 MS. ALEXANDER: She is. Elinor, her  
13 team, Mary Beth, from Personnel, my office, I want  
14 to thank Sharon Santana. I want to thank Christian  
15 Santiago. I want to thank Erin Nally. I want to  
16 thank any and everybody that had anything to do with  
17 our contract, our increase, our retro. You know,  
18 the biggest thing for my membership was, and Elinor,  
19 we thank you for pushing it up because we needed to  
20 get the funds so that we can get school shopping. So  
21 as opposed to September 5th, her wonderful team has  
22 agreed to August 22nd, so I am here to say thank  
23 you. I am here for that. I appreciate you all. I  
24 will be stepping down when my term is up, so you  
25 won't be seeing me.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You're still  
2 welcome here.

3 MS. ALEXANDER: I'll come. I'll come  
4 visit. But it's definitely been a pleasure. It  
5 really has. We're greatly appreciative. We thank  
6 you. I mean, we're happy. We're happy. And one  
7 last thing, Commissioner Kopacz, I'm going to send  
8 an e-mail to see if we can possibly get some help  
9 with the parking in Bayonne. That's it. Thank you  
10 all so much. I greatly appreciate you. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Well-deserved. It  
12 was a collaborative effort, executive branch,  
13 legislative, and all the directors. We, as a Board,  
14 thank you all for your service, and we also thank  
15 everybody for working together to at least come to  
16 some kind of fair compromise. So, God bless you.

17 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you. Thank you  
18 so much.

19 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: We really  
20 appreciate your shout out to Elinor because Elinor  
21 is great.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Madam  
23 Mayor.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner, I just  
25 wanted to say I need a vote from Commissioner

1 Aponte-Lipski and Commissioner Walker on the minutes  
2 for the Caucus for July 15th, and the regular for  
3 July 17th. Also, for the Caucus on June 24th and  
4 the Regular Meeting, June 26th.

5 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye,  
6 aye, aye.

7 THE CLERK: I need a vote.  
8 Commissioner Walker?

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: He's off the air.

10 THE CLERK: Oh, he's off the air.  
11 Okay. That concludes the business for today.

12 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Motion to  
13 adjourn.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All in favor?  
17 Thank you all. Have a good weekend.

18 (Whereupon the proceeding is then  
19 concluded at 2:06 p.m.)  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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

I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No.  
30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New  
Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein  
are from the notes taken by me of a Regular Meeting  
of the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners,  
held on Thursday, August 14, 2025; and that this is  
a correct transcript of the same.



SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR  
A NOTARY PUBLIC of the  
State of New Jersey  
I.D. No. 2283786  
Commission Expires 2/4/27

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