

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, September 9, 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
ABRAHAM ANTUN, County Administrator
WILLIE ORTIZ, County Commissioner Clerk
Reported By: Shari Cathey, CCR, RPR

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner
2 Aponte-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 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Here.
15 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.
16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.
17 (Inaudible.)
18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Can you do that one
19 more time?
20 THE CLERK: Chairman, we're on
21 Resolution No. 1.
22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.
23 THE CLERK: Do you want me to read it
24 again?
25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 1.
2 Resolution in Support of the Climate Superfund Act
3 S3545/A4696.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Sponsor.

5 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second.

6 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 2.
7 Resolution authorizing acceptance of -- I believe it
8 was Commissioner O'Dea and Commissioner Walker.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Walker.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: If it doesn't
11 pass before the end of the year, Jerry will be the
12 prime sponsor.

13 THE CLERK: Resolution No 2.
14 Resolution authorizing the acceptance of additional
15 funds from the National Opiate Settlement Fund for
16 the purpose of mitigating the effects of the opiate
17 epidemic on the residents of Hudson County.
18 \$261,059.47.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

20 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 3.
21 2025 Budget Amendment the National Opioid Settlement
22 Fund, \$261,059.47.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez, and who
24 was that? Rodriguez and O'Dea.

25 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 4.

1 Resolution authorizing acceptance of grant funding
2 from the State of New Jersey Department of
3 Corrections for the FY2026 Hudson County Reentry
4 Coordinators Program. \$50,000.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

6 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 5. 2025
7 Budget Amendment State of New Jersey Department of
8 Corrections Grants-In-Aid FY 2026 County Re-entry
9 Coordinators Program, \$50,000.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walker and who was
11 that, Cedeño? Walker and Cedeño.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Question.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Al.

14 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: This grant,
15 the \$50,000, that goes into the treasury of the --
16 is there a separate treasury that the
17 redevelopment -- I'm sorry, the reentry program has?

18 MR. ANTUN: This offsets the salary
19 of the coordinator.

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Who gets this
21 money?

22 MR. ANTUN: The county.

23 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: And then what
24 does the County do with the money?

25 MR. ANTUN: It offsets the salary of

1 the coordinator.

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: And how much
3 does this County pay the salary of the -- who is the
4 coordinator? Is that Mr. McGreevey?

5 MR. ANTUN: I don't know. Frank?
6 Frank Mazza?

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: For the record,
8 Commissioner, you're right to ask him to ask that
9 question.

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Well, Billy
11 would know. I would ask Billy. He knows
12 everything. So, Billy, who gets this money?

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Time out. Time out
14 here. Frank, answer the question, please.

15 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Right now, there is
16 no designated coordinator. We still have to --

17 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Who do we pay
18 the money to?

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: What, Al?

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Who do we pay
21 the money to?

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We didn't hire
23 nobody yet.

24 MR. ANTUN: No, no.

25 DIRECTOR MAZZA: We previously did.

1 MR. ANTUN: We haven't designated
2 someone. In the past, the prior coordinator was
3 Jackie Jenner.

4 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: And there's no
5 coordinator right now?

6 MR. ANTUN: No one. No one's been
7 designated, but we're still getting the money.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: How long has it
9 been without a coordinator? I guess that's the
10 reason.

11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah, yeah,
12 Billy. That's what I'm talking about.

13 DIRECTOR MAZZA: A month, I believe.

14 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: And how does
15 that coordinator get chosen?

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Lottery.

17 DIRECTOR MAZZA: I suppose through
18 Executive branch? Yeah.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Through the
20 Executive branch, Al.

21 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Of who?
22 Executive branch of who?

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: The County.

24 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So our County
25 Executive picks the coordinator for the reentry

1 program?

2 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Correct.

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: And so, our
4 County Executive essentially --

5 MR. ANTUN: Commissioner, I think
6 you're confusing this with -- this is the reentry
7 program within Hudson County, the County government.
8 Not -- what I think what you're referring to is the
9 reentry program that's run by an outside individual.
10 This is for the County. The legislature, a couple
11 years ago, appropriated money for all the 21
12 counties to have a reentry coordinator. The money
13 goes to each County.

14 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. So who
15 in our program gets the money?

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We don't have one
17 yet, Al. It's a vacant position.

18 DIRECTOR MAZZA: I'm sorry?

19 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Who decides on
20 who that person --

21 MR. ANTUN: Executive branch Frank
22 just said.

23

24 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: The Executive
25 branch. So that's the County Executive.

1 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So the County
3 Executive designates the coordinator and that person
4 gets the salary?

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: We don't
7 control that. That's from the County Executive's
8 office.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I had a
10 question. Is it a civil service?

11 DIRECTOR MAZZA: It comes to the
12 County through State legislature. The legislation
13 requires that the reentry coordinator make sure that
14 there is a connection between the jail and Welfare
15 so that when people leave, they have benefits. We
16 can apply that to whoever does that in the program
17 right now to help offset that salary as long as we
18 follow the legislation. So that still has to be
19 decided on who that will be.

20 I would defer to personnel, but I don't
21 think that their actual title changes. They're just
22 the designated coordinator for Hudson County.

23 MR. ANTUN: So, it could be
24 unclassified or someone with a civil service.
25 Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So it could be
2 someone that doesn't have a title, or it could be
3 someone that has a title but will perform these
4 functions.

5 MR. ANTUN: That's correct.

6 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Yes. They have to
7 satisfy the legislation.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I don't want
9 to be accused of being --

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Somebody got
11 hired as a lawyer, and they actually did stuff not
12 related to being a lawyer but related to reentry.
13 Just as a potential idea.

14 MR. ANTUN: That could happen.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It might have
16 happened. That could happen. It will happen.

17 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'm not clear.
18 I just wonder who gets the money.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So I have a
20 question.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Bill.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: How long have we
23 had a reentry program in Hudson?

24 DIRECTOR MAZZA: The reentry program
25 started in 2008.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Right. Which is
2 17 years; six years before any or seven years before
3 any outside entity had a reentry program, correct?

4 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.
6 Clerk.

7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'm sorry.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Al.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Sorry. I need
10 an answer. So is it \$50,000? Is that the amount?

11 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Ultimately,
13 who is the individual that gets paid this \$50,000?

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Right now, the
15 position is vacant. For a month, it's been vacant,
16 and the choice is going to be made by the Executive
17 branch.

18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So our
19 Executive designates the person to whom this \$50,000
20 is going to get paid?

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Got you.
23 Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So here's a
25 concern. The concern I have is twofold. It would

1 seem that someone should always have to fulfill that
2 function based on the nature of what needs to be
3 done; is that fair?

4 DIRECTOR MAZZA: That's correct.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Someone should
6 be acting in that the day the former individual
7 moved to a different title in a different place,
8 someone should have been named acting. That's the
9 way things like that should work. It would be like
10 if the County Counsel left tomorrow, you'd have to
11 get an acting County Counsel because there's a
12 certain function that a County counsel should have
13 to perform.

14 DIRECTOR MAZZA: You know,
15 Commissioner, maybe to provide you some context
16 here, just give you the background on this. Hudson
17 County actually did the legislation for this to sort
18 of push other counties to replicate our model. The
19 Welfare Association pushed back and said this is
20 sort of an unfunded mandate by the State. So the
21 state turned around and provided funds for each
22 County.

23 But since we were sort of the model for
24 this to be built, we had a position like this in
25 place. So we have this just by default. We have

1 somebody who connects. We have several people. The
2 question is who will be designated the coordinator?

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'll let Al go.
4 I'm not done yet either.

5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: When are we
6 going to find out? The prior person, who was that.

7 DIRECTOR MAZZA: It was Jacqueline
8 Jenner.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Jacqueline,
10 that's a female, right? Jacqueline Jenner.

11 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Correct.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: She's gone.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. She moved
14 to a position at the college.

15 DIRECTOR MAZZA: The County college.

16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right. So
17 she's not with the reentry coordinator anymore. So
18 now Craig Guy, Craig Guy, Craig Guy, he has to
19 designate somebody who's going to be the recipient
20 of this money? And presumably that's going to be
21 part of their salary. But what are we going to find
22 out who that person is?

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That gets to my
24 concern. So not having a person in that title,
25 acting or otherwise, raises a concern of authority

1 as it relates to certain functions. Now I respect
2 the job that you do, Frank, very much. So it's not
3 that I assume it's not being done, but without
4 having a clear chain of command to understand the
5 functions that that title by its nature has to
6 create, if nothing else, confusion. So that's a
7 concern I have, not putting someone even in an
8 acting position at the title.

9 And I'll raise an analogy that is still a
10 concern because I think we still haven't awarded a
11 contract as it related to services that were
12 provided to juveniles at the juvenile detention
13 facility since January; is that correct, Director
14 Toon?

15 As you know, a couple of months ago, we
16 raised a serious concern that the vendor that was
17 providing certain services to individuals at the
18 juvenile detention center ostensibly walked away.
19 We had to uncover it, but once I uncovered it, we
20 had a whole back and forth with it. You then
21 undertook a process to award a contract to an entity
22 to do it, and I could be wrong, but have we awarded
23 that contract yet, or do we have to go out a second
24 time to get proposals based on the proposals that
25 were received the first time?

1 DIRECTOR TOON: Darius Toon, Director
2 of Health and Human Services. Commissioner, the
3 vendor was not providing services to juveniles at
4 the detention center. That vendor was providing
5 services to juveniles in the community. But yeah,
6 we did go through a process, and we did award the
7 contracts.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Who did you
9 award the contracts to?

10 DIRECTOR TOON: I don't remember the
11 name of the vendors off the top of my head, but we
12 can get that information to you.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because the last
14 I checked, there was one entity, there was one RFP
15 that went out. I know at least two entities that
16 responded. I think I even spoke to you. One was
17 based out of Camden. One was based out of maybe
18 Washington, and I don't remember that those
19 contracts being awarded.

20 DIRECTOR TOON: Oh, Commissioner,
21 you're referring to Credible Messengers?

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Correct.

23 DIRECTOR TOON: That's different.
24 Yeah, those contracts have not been awarded. We'll
25 be coming before the Board at the -- I believe the

1 first meeting in October for that.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So did you have
3 to go out a second time?

4 DIRECTOR TOON: We did. For that, we
5 did. We went out a second time.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because
7 honestly, no one ever came to us and explained to us
8 why you had to go out a second time.

9 DIRECTOR TOON: Well, we -- none of
10 the vendors scored high enough. I know I forwarded
11 a copy of the RFP to you. But yeah, none of the
12 vendors scored high enough. They didn't meet the
13 minimum threshold, which is 75. So we had to go out
14 again to release the RFP.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because my
16 concern with that was when I saw who initially
17 submitted it was like a group from Camden. I think
18 a group maybe even out of Washington. And I was
19 like, I've got a serious concern if entities that
20 are based out of those places are who's going to
21 wind up performing that service.

22 DIRECTOR TOON: Yeah. The group,
23 there was a vendor that has an office, I believe, in
24 the southern part of New Jersey. And then there is
25 a vendor that actually came up with a concept for

1 the Credible Messengers from Washington that works
2 with communities throughout the country in terms of
3 implementing this. So although their headquarters
4 is in Washington, they're actually involved in
5 Credible Messenger initiatives throughout the
6 country.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And my last
8 point on that is that I also had a concern as to
9 ensuring, to the degree possible, that community
10 individuals who were the driving force, two
11 individuals in particular, that were the driving
12 force behind that, one of which, let's be straight
13 up, became a whistleblower, that they are not going
14 to now be iced out of the program by whatever
15 process was taken.

16 DIRECTOR TOON: Not at all. Not at
17 all. In fact, we will continue with that process of
18 having any of the individuals vetted through our
19 Prosecutor's office as well.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because those
21 two individuals, quite frankly, were the key to its
22 success. And to their credit, continued to provide
23 services despite no compensation being provided to
24 them.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.

1 Clerk.

2 THE CLERK: For the record,
3 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski is present and
4 Commissioner Cifelli is present via Zoom.

5 Resolution No. 6. Resolution amending
6 Resolution No. 257-8-2025 to accept United States
7 Department of Health and Human Services Health
8 Resources and Services Administration carryover
9 funds and to authorize the ending of the HIV
10 epidemic, A Plan for America Ryan White HIV-AIDS
11 Program Parts A and B Grant Contracts with
12 professional service providers or providers awarded
13 through a competitive contracting process, September
14 15, 2025 through February 28, 2026, \$1,657,000.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That was Lipski and
16 Rodriguez.

17 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 7. 2025
18 budget amendment United States Department of Health
19 and Human Services Health Resources and Services
20 Administration for ending the HIV epidemic, a plan
21 for American, Ryan White HIV-AIDS Program Part A and
22 B., \$1,657,000.

23 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Sponsor.

24 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.

25 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 8.

1 Resolution authorizing a non-competing continuation
2 grant application acceptance of funds if awarded
3 from the United States Department of Health and
4 Human Services Resources and Services Administration
5 for Ryan White HIV-AIDS Part A funding, March 1,
6 2026 through February 28, 2027, \$5,018,386.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
8 Lipski.

9 THE CLERK: Resolution authorizing
10 the submission of a grant application to the
11 National Endowment for the Arts Project Grants
12 Program accepting these grants funds if awarded for
13 the Hudson County Arts and Education, June 1, 2026
14 through May 31, 2028, \$300,000 total; \$150 federal
15 grant, and \$150 County match.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Baselice and
17 Lipski.

18 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 10.
19 Resolution authorizing the application for the
20 acceptance of funds if awarded for the prevention,
21 education, intervention, addiction, treatment, and
22 recovery support services under the 2026 Alcohol and
23 Drug Abuse Services Grant Act, January 1, 2026
24 through December 31, 2026, \$1,335,017.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 11.
2 Resolution authorizing the application for the
3 acceptance of services if awarded from the New
4 Jersey State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program
5 SLCGP.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and O'Dea.

7 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 12.
8 Resolution renewing the educational service contract
9 non-fair and open with We Are One New Jersey, Inc.,
10 A 501(c)(3) Organization, October 1, 2025 to
11 September 30, 2026, \$338,763.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Lipski.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Question.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Question.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can we have them
16 available for Thursday? So obviously the services
17 that they provide, and we were I think the second
18 County in the state to do that, I want to ensure
19 that we are now covering all the services that we
20 need to in light of things that have happened or are
21 happening on the federal government level.

22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I would join
23 in Bill's request and I would think that for
24 \$340,000, give or take a thousand, they'd be at our
25 doorstep waiting for the meeting to start.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, and Frank
2 said they'd be. And I was a sponsor of it
3 originally, and I strongly support what they do. I
4 just want to make sure that that world is changed.

5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'll go back
6 at the end of the meeting with a couple of questions
7 about a couple of the past immediate things we just
8 passed about federal grants that we're getting and
9 incorporating. I just need somebody to tell me how
10 firm those grants are based upon all the nonsensical
11 machinations going down in Washington.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And on this one,
13 obviously we were a trailblazer. Can we find that
14 when we first did the first contract? We were a
15 trailblazer in providing assistance to individuals
16 related to their immigration status, individuals
17 looking to gain permanent status; individuals
18 looking to not go only for permanent status, but to
19 ultimately gain citizenship.

20 And obviously the things that I want to
21 question about is are individuals still going there?
22 Has there been a drop off because people are just
23 afraid? Are people intimidated? When we hold
24 public sessions to inform individuals of their
25 rights, they're seldom very well attended in public

1 because people fear if I show up there, is ICE going
2 to be waiting outside? So I just want to ensure
3 that if there are any alterations that they need to
4 have in how we promote the services that they
5 provide as well as ensuring that they're able to
6 continue to provide those services to the best
7 possible manner and maybe potentially alter or add
8 services in light of changes that have occurred on a
9 federal level.

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I don't want
11 to belabor this on this resolution, but one comment
12 that Bill's made kind of dovetails with a news
13 article I read this morning, that the crime
14 statistics in the cities where ICE is being
15 concentrated, whether it's New York or Boston or
16 Chicago or whatever, the crime statistics have
17 actually plummeted in the last two months, but it's
18 not because there isn't any crime or any domestic
19 violence. It's because of the intimidation factor
20 that the victims of those crimes are reluctant to
21 make a formal complaint to the authorities because
22 they're afraid to get caught up in that and ICE will
23 come and swoop them away.

24 So that's counterproductive,
25 counterintuitive, and it's actually raising the

1 violence quotient in those communities, immigrant
2 communities. So I'm drifting from what Bill said
3 and what's in front of us. I just want everybody to
4 know that because that's something that we need to
5 discuss later on.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Mr.
7 Clerk.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Resolution No.
9 13. Resolution approving payment to Packetalk
10 Corporation for the ALPR Equipment Service Contract
11 throughout the County on behalf of the Hudson County
12 Prosecutor's Office, \$38,000.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano-Lipski.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can we from the
15 Prosecutor's Office, so can you provide us,
16 obviously I first raised it over a year ago the
17 prior Prosecutor signed on board, we applied for and
18 received a grant to start it. That grant doesn't
19 fully fund the creation of the County mental health
20 court but do you have a roadmap? Do you have a
21 plan? Do you have a timeline? And we need that to
22 be shared with us so we can, one, share it with our
23 community, and then secondly, share it with those
24 even from the Public Defender's Office who have been
25 big advocates of wanting a mental health court also.

1 MR. SALZAR: So we're, as you stated
2 Commissioner, we received --

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Who's
4 speaking? I don't know.

5 MR. SALZAR: This is Adam Salzar from
6 the Prosecutor's Office.

7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay.

8 MR. SALZAR: We received some money
9 not the full amount that we had asked for
10 originally. We have been working with Frank Mazza
11 of the two to make sure that we're in the
12 re-budgeting process right now. We have to send a
13 revised budget. We met on, I think it was Friday of
14 last week to talk about a couple items that needed
15 to be added in. We're coordinating constantly. I
16 think that we should probably have the revised
17 budget finalized by the end of this week at which
18 point we have to send it down to the State Bureau.
19 So we're moving forward.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So we need to be
21 kept in the loop of it, and you should provide to us
22 what is a reasonable timeline so you submit your
23 amended budget to them because you have to adjust
24 the fact that you didn't get all the funding. You
25 still have to be able to demonstrate to them how

1 you're going to provide the court. So it would be
2 nice to share those documents with us, and then you
3 and myself and others may be able to inquire to the
4 State to see how quick of a turnaround time they can
5 sign off on your revised budget and then what's the
6 timeline to start the court.

7 I think that -- and I don't believe that
8 necessarily that a mental health court but who knows
9 could have prevented what happened last Friday when
10 an individual who fired a pellet gun or BB gun at
11 police officers on JFK Boulevard was shot and
12 killed. But it brought to mind at least the
13 importance of having that mental health court in
14 place because several individuals have spoken about
15 the fact that that individual had a history of
16 substance abuse use but also mental health issues.

17 I'm just saying as time goes on other
18 incidents could occur. I don't want to see another
19 individual potentially die at the correctional
20 center who's there on a shoplifting charge and may
21 commit suicide or something happen to them because
22 we lag in our implementation of the court. So I
23 know you've got to go through a process. I know
24 you've got to submit a revised budget to the State.
25 I'm wholly familiar with it. I do that in my day

1 job. I understand it, but we've got to push it and
2 we've got to not just submit it because if you
3 submit something to the State you can wait two
4 months for them to get back to you, or you submit it
5 and then after you submit it you've got ongoing
6 e-mails that say we want to get this started. We
7 want to move this. Can you please act on what we
8 submit as quickly as possible.

9 MR. SALZAR: I've been in contact
10 with the State with regards to that originally and
11 we'll make sure to continue that contact with them.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.
13 Clerk.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 14.
15 Resolution approving payment to Power DMS, Inc., for
16 Support and Maintenance of Proprietary Computer
17 Hardware and Software and On-line Training Module
18 for Officers and Civilians at the Hudson County
19 Correctional Center, December 29, 2025 to December
20 28, 2026, \$18,804.49.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Romano.

22
23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 15.
24 Approve Purchasing Agent's Awards, purchased made
25 under State contracts.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.
2 On 14, make that Kopacz and Cifelli.

3 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 16.
4 Purchase made under the Educational Service
5 Commission of New Jersey Pricing System, formerly
6 known as the Middlesex Regional Educational Service
7 Commission.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Question.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Bill.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: At the last
11 meeting there was an award of a contract to William
12 J. Guarini for a different bathroom, and a speaker
13 requested the backup and detail on it. Was that
14 provided to them? Yeah, we need to do because there
15 is a high likelihood that that speaker will be here
16 Thursday. I think you should get his e-mail,
17 provide him it, and submit it to him tomorrow
18 morning because otherwise he will be here Thursday.

19 There is another similar project on the
20 agenda and the first question I would have is how
21 come I never got the last one? I know you're very
22 busy and anytime I request anything from you, you
23 are extremely diligent including, I'll give you
24 credit, when the tree collapsed under that storm the
25 other day and shut Kennedy Boulevard down, those

1 crews were up there within 20 minutes, and within
2 probably 90 minutes that tree was cleared and that
3 road was opened.

4 DIRECTOR DEFILIPPO: Just to be
5 clear, we spoke after the meeting once a week, and I
6 explained the details of the bathrooms, and I think
7 that was sufficient. But you're right, he did ask
8 for it and I will provide it.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: As someone who
10 is a public speaker.

11 DIRECTOR DEFILIPPO: Just so you
12 know, he was happy with that explanation.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Giving him a
14 document addresses any ability for him to raise any
15 questions.

16 DIRECTOR DEFILIPPO: John, do me a
17 favor give me one for the Hoboken one too, so in
18 case they ask me.

19 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 17.
20 Purchase made under the Bergen County Cooperative
21 Pricing System.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
23 Walker.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioners, No. 18 is
25 a replacement which is on the dais. Purchases made

1 under the Union County Cooperative Pricing System.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
3 Walker.

4 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 19.
5 Purchase made under the Huntington County
6 Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing
7 System.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
9 Walker.

10 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 20.
11 Approve Purchasing Agent's Awards.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
13 Walker.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 21.
15 Resolution authorizing the renewal of a Contract
16 with Mercy for My Neighbor Under the Gus Schumacher
17 Nutrition Incentive Grant Program for Year Three of
18 a Fair and Open Competitive Contracting Process,
19 September 14, 2025 through September 14, 2026,
20 \$30,000.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Lipski.

22 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 22.
23 Resolution authorizing an annual public donor
24 agreement with Mercy for My Neighbor Emergency Food
25 Program, September 15, 2025 through September 14,

1 2026, \$35,000.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea-Romano.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's more of a
4 statement than a question. So I've probably worked
5 with this organization for well over 10 years. A
6 lot of what they do, the Thanksgiving meals that
7 they do, they do out of the church on Communipaw.
8 They're the real deal. I doubt -- I'm sure very
9 little of this money is going to anything except the
10 materials and food products that they service the
11 community with. They do an amazing job. They also
12 have an office or a headquarters based on the
13 Boulevard near Danforth. And on any given Saturday,
14 there's a line around that corner of them providing
15 food products to individuals.

16 And, Darice, just because it's directly
17 related to it. I'd like to set up a Zoom sooner
18 rather than later, and obviously have Commissioner
19 Walker in on it. I met today with a group that runs
20 a dialysis center, and they service approximately
21 160 residents, almost exclusively from Jersey City.
22 The majority of them are on Medicaid or Medicare.
23 Many if not most of them are also food stamp or cash
24 recipients from our Family Services Department. And
25 they came with a concept that I think is relatively

1 simple. Could cost a small amount of dollars, but
2 the benefits of it I think are significant.

3 And that is, and as you know, South Hudson
4 is one of the groups that you've been kind enough to
5 redistribute food twice a month. Today we
6 distribute fruits and vegetables and healthy food
7 products. Their idea is they have, I think, enough
8 space in their dialysis center to receive fruits,
9 what we would normally distribute out to the
10 community. They're willing, they may need to get a
11 refrigerator for some of it.

12 They're willing to then do two things.
13 One with a dietitian create an individualized meal
14 plan, including preparation of meals for those
15 individuals that are on dialysis. And as you know,
16 people that -- people that suffer, diet is
17 important. Diet is directly related not only to the
18 treatment but to maintenance of health. So they're
19 willing to have their dietitian person by person
20 create a dietary program. They're willing to
21 distribute the food to their patient.

22 So I said, Well, you have 160 patients,
23 how are you going to distribute it to them? So of
24 the 160 patients about 110 are there every other
25 day. It's dialysis, right? You go Monday,

1 Wednesday, Friday, you get there Tuesday, Thursday,
2 Saturday. So within two days they can service
3 75-percent of their patients on-site. Here's your
4 food package, here's your diet plan, which I think
5 is great and amazing. And then they would be
6 willing to bring to the homes, because most of the
7 other individuals now are doing the treatments in
8 their homes to the other, say, 30 or 40 individuals.

9 I think it's a model. I think it's
10 something that even those in the federal government
11 or to the far extreme would embrace, because it's
12 not only saving lives, it's probably reducing
13 medical costs, because the healthier those
14 individuals are, the less they're going to need to
15 rely on the medical system. I'm sure Frank Mazza
16 will love it, and see how to use it too, but it's a
17 small one. It's a pilot program. It's 120 to 150
18 individuals. And I think it's going to be very
19 inexpensive for us to get it started.

20 We don't need to pay any staff from the
21 perspective of the entity that I work with. We'll
22 bring the food to them, because we work with the
23 Improvement Center. We'll physically bring it to
24 that location on Pacific Avenue. And then we'll
25 just get it distributed. So maybe I'll send you an

1 e-mail tomorrow, and by next week we can set up the
2 Zoom meeting. I didn't see Jenny Davis today, but
3 obviously I'd like -- is Jenny here?

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No. Patty's on.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But I'd
6 obviously want to make sure she would be part of the
7 conversation.

8 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 23.

9 Resolution authorizing extraordinary unspecified
10 services agreement with Metropolitan Life Insurance
11 Company to provide life insurance to eligible County
12 employees and volunteer life insurance for retirees,
13 October 1st, 2025 to September 30th, 2026, \$95,000.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano-Kopacz.

15 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 24.

16 Resolution authorizing an amendment to Resolution
17 No. 612-10-2024 to extend Year Two of a Fair and
18 Open Competitive Contract to the Waterfront Project
19 for Housing Stability Services for three months and
20 additional funding, September 1, 2025 to November
21 30, 2025; Not to Exceed \$60,000.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Board as a whole
23 is fine. Board as a whole.

24 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 25.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm sorry. Just

1 again on this one, so to some degree, right? I
2 appreciate the support of the County from day one
3 when a couple years ago, I asked you guys to put
4 these services together as right to counsel services
5 because while Jersey City adopted right to counsel,
6 they weren't going to be able to really fund it
7 until 2026. But how are we now going to and what
8 will we transition, if anything, over to that
9 municipality?

10 And obviously the need for these services
11 or the other municipalities are not going to go
12 away. Right, Frank? And I know some of this stuff
13 has been funded by ARC money, right?

14 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Yeah. So this is
15 specifically for folks who are being evicted as a
16 direct result of COVID. So that's their population
17 as defined by the funding source. So you're talking
18 about a program that expands past persons affected
19 by COVID, just anybody being evicted.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But we were
21 creative in utilizing that as an impetus to provide
22 much of the funding. And whenever possible, being
23 able to apply individuals to be funded through that
24 program, going back to when we started.

25 DIRECTOR MAZZA: That's correct.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So the concern
2 is, and it's why I think it was so critical when we
3 had the exercise of analyzing all things that we
4 received ARC money for, and what's going to happen
5 now when ARC money runs out, because we prioritize
6 them.

7 And the one I harp the most on is the need
8 to create a domestic violence program to assist
9 victims who are of Arabic descent, because we found
10 out without having that particular individual
11 talking about what Al Cifelli talked about later,
12 people not reporting crimes because they may be here
13 illegally, and if I report that I was robbed or
14 assaulted, the end result may be I'm deported,
15 right? Think about that.

16 Similarly, if there's not someone to which
17 members of the Arabic community have comfort level
18 to go speak to, those crimes, we found out, were
19 probably previously not reported. But now that we
20 know that that's a legitimate issue, we've kind of
21 got an obligation to it.

22 So I think similarly here, I think the
23 issue of eviction and the inability of individuals
24 of low mod income sometimes to be able to defend
25 themselves against eviction is a service that's not

1 going to go away. And we need to figure out,
2 because it's not only Jersey City. I know they've
3 got it up in Union City. I know they have some in
4 Bayonne. I know other places that have had a number
5 of individuals. So we've got to kind of figure out
6 exactly how things like that will be able to
7 continue.

8 And then working with, say, in Jersey
9 City, that has, starting in January, identified a
10 funding source. How do we interact and work
11 together? And does it make sense for them
12 potentially to just contract with us to provide a
13 service that we've already been providing?

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue.

15 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 25.

16 Resolution approving reimbursement of Administrative
17 Funds to the County of Hudson from the New Jersey
18 Department of Community Affairs for the Low-Income
19 Heating and Energy Assistance Program \$54,533.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Walker.

21 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 26.

22 Resolution approving acceptance for reimbursement of
23 Administrative Funds to the County of Hudson from
24 the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for
25 the Universal Service Fund \$34,866.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walker and Basalice
2 -- Kopacz. Walker and Kopacz.

3 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 27.
4 Resolution declaring 56 Optiplex Computers, Nine
5 Dell Monitors, One HP Monitor, Five Printers, and
6 Two Televisions in the Sheriff's Office Technology
7 Inventory to be surplus or obsolete and eligible for
8 public sale.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sponsor.

10 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Second.

11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can I ask a
12 question?

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Al.

14 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: JNV10C2. Can
15 I bid on that? I'm only kidding. No, I'm done.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: They're cleansed,
17 right? Those computers?

18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I don't want
19 Abe Antun's old e-mails on my computer.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, they are
21 cleansed. Okay. Continue, Mr. Clerk.

22 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 28.
23 Resolution transferring custodianship of petty cash
24 funds d from Marcy McClary to Erin Kochanski at the
25 Hudson County Counsel's Office.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano-Kopacz.

2 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 29.

3 Resolution in support of 32BJ SEIU Security Officers
4 in their 2025 Contract Campaign.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

6 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 30.

7 Resolution urging the New Jersey City University to
8 preserve athletic programs.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole?

10 THE CLERK: I-1. Bond Ordinance
11 providing for Various 2025-2026 Capital Improvements
12 at, and the acquisition and installation of
13 equipment and buses for, the Hudson County Schools
14 of Technology, located within the County of Hudson,
15 State of New Jersey; Appropriating \$1,500,000
16 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$1,500,000
17 Bonds and Notes of the County of Hudson, State of
18 New Jersey, for financing such appropriation.

19 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second.

21 THE CLERK: I-2. Bond Ordinance
22 providing for the undertaking of Capital Projects
23 for Fiscal Year 2026 by and for the Hudson County
24 Community College located within the County of
25 Hudson, State of New Jersey; appropriating

1 \$6,634,062 therefor and authorizing the issuance of
2 \$6,634,062 Bonds and Notes of the County of Hudson,
3 State of New Jersey, for financing such
4 appropriation, the principal of and interest on the
5 aggregate principal amount of which will be entitled
6 to State Aid, pursuant to Chapter 12 of the Laws of
7 New Jersey of 1971.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano-Lipski.

9 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: On the bus,
10 is that \$1.5 million?

11 THE CLERK: That's \$1.5 million.

12 I-3. Ordinance amending Chapter 218 of the
13 Administrative Code to regulate bus stops on Bergen
14 Turnpike in the Township of North Bergen, a
15 County-owned roadway.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Baselice and
17 Cifelli.

18 THE CLERK: I will use the prior
19 sponsors for the ordinance for adoption. I'll now
20 turn it over to the Administration.

21 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I have two
22 items for the Board's consideration. The first item
23 is from the Department of Family Services and
24 Reintegration, and that is a resolution to accept
25 funds from the New Jersey Division of Family

1 Development for the Supportive Assistance to
2 Individuals and Families SAFE Program in the amount
3 of \$756,583.

4 THE CLERK: That will be Resolution
5 No. 31.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Walker.

7 MR. ANTUN: Second item that I have
8 is a resolution to amend the budget to appropriate
9 the funds that we're receiving from the SAFE Program
10 in the amount of \$756,583.

11 THE CLERK: That will be Resolution
12 No. 32.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and
14 Rodriguez.

15 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, that's all
16 the items that I have.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Bill.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Mr.
19 Administrator, could you ask that the Superintendent
20 of Elections either reach out to me to update me on
21 a matter I asked her to look into or if she prefers
22 be available on Thursday for me to discuss it at the
23 regular Superintendent of Elections. You need to
24 reach out and update me or otherwise they will be
25 available for you to reach out.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Also, I'd like to
2 thank the Office of Emergency Management. We had
3 two huge water main breaks. I thank the Executive
4 Branch and the Director of Roads for getting the
5 water down there to those seniors. Anybody?
6 Anything else?

7 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Motion to
8 adjourn.

9 THE CLERK: All in favor? We are
10 adjourned.

11 (Whereupon the proceeding is then
12 concluded at 5:23 p.m.)

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

I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No. 30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein are from the notes taken by me of a Caucus Meeting of the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners, held on Tuesday, September 09, 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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