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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, September 11, 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:

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

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Madam Clerk?

2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Aponte-

3 Lipski.

4 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Here.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Basalice.

6 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

8 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

10 Commissioner Kopacz.

11 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Present.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

15 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

17 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Here.

18 THE CLERK: And Chairman Romano.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

20 Q. Please stand to salute the flag.

21 (Flag Salute.)

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: If we can have a  
23 moment of silence? Today is the 24th anniversary of  
24 the tragic, horrible incident that happened to those  
25 first responders and to the victims that perished,

1 and also for the families that continue to this day  
2 suffering. We ask for a moment of silence.

3 (Moment of silence.)

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Go  
5 ahead, Madam Clerk.

6 THE CLERK: Adequate notice of this  
7 Regular Meeting has been provided as follows:  
8 Posting notice of Resolution No. 8-1-2025 on the  
9 County Commissioner's Bulletin Board, First Floor,  
10 Administration Building Annex, Jersey City, New  
11 Jersey.

12 Copies of the above-mentioned resolution  
13 have been sent to the County Clerk and the editors  
14 of the Kearny Observer and the Star Ledger.

15 THE CLERK: May I have a motion to  
16 approve the minutes of the caucus meeting of August  
17 12th, 2025, and the regular meeting of August 14th,  
18 2025?

19 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Motion.

20 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Lipski.

22 THE CLERK: Commissioner

23 Aponte-Lipski.

24 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

1 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

3 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

5 Commissioner Kopacz.

6 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

10 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

12 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Aye.

15 THE CLERK: I'd like to turn the

16 meeting over to administration.

17

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

19 additional items. Thank you.

20 THE CLERK: I do have one from the

21 Commissioner's office. On the agenda, it'll be

22 listed as 33. It's endorsing a change in New Jersey

23 State legislation to authorize automated traffic

24 enforcement in cities of the first class and support

25 Vision Zero goals. I need a sponsor and a second.

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COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Motion.  
COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.  
CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Lipski.  
What number?  
THE CLERK: 33.  
CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.  
THE CLERK: Commissioner  
Aponte-Lipski.  
COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.  
THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.  
COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
Commissioner Kopacz.  
COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.  
THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.  
THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Basalice?  
2 Yes? According to the policies set by the board --

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: One more item on  
4 the agenda.

5  
6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: We do?

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The item that I  
9 handed out to my colleagues, that I'm going to ask  
10 we introduce and carry to the next meeting, and then  
11 have the Public Safety Committee, you know, review  
12 it.

13 It's creating Office of Hudson County  
14 Correction and Rehabilitation Ombudsman, authorizing  
15 issuance of RP to qualified respondents. Governing  
16 information regarding incarcerated individuals with  
17 significant medical and psychological needs.

18 I think, just for the record, I was happy  
19 with the new medical group that was brought in. I  
20 was -- I was very encouraged by their presentation,  
21 very encouraged by their capacity and capability to  
22 take individuals that may have mental health issues  
23 and get them diverted out of the correctional center  
24 and correction facility with the soon-to-be mental  
25 health court.

1           Many of those individuals, based on our  
2           conversations, may never have to spend a day in the  
3           correctional center or be diverted out quickly. So  
4           I just think that, based on some of the deaths that  
5           have occurred this year, it's important to put this  
6           in place. This was done working in close -- working  
7           closely with the Public Defender's Office. So I  
8           would just -- I gave it out today, but I mean -- I'm  
9           looking to have for the next meeting, if you could  
10          put it on the -- on your Public Safety Committee  
11          meeting.

12                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Madam  
13          Clerk.

14                   THE CLERK: According to the policies  
15          set by the Board of County Commissioners, members of  
16          the public are asked to limit their comments to five  
17          minutes when discussing agenda items, and three  
18          minutes at the conclusion of the meeting for persons  
19          who submitted a written request to discuss matters  
20          of public interest.

21                   At this time, the public may address the  
22          Board on any item on the agenda. Only please keep  
23          your comments limited to five minutes. Are there  
24          any speakers on the agenda items only? Seeing none,  
25          may I have a motion to approve all the items listed

1 on the consent agenda?

2 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Kopacz.

3

4 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Cedeño.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner

7 Aponte-Lipski.

8 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

9 THE CLERK: 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: Come back to

18 me.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

20 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

22 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

25 MR. FLORIO: Chairman?

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah.

2 MR. FLORIO: For a moment, as a point  
3 of order, Commissioner Cifelli was not on the Zoom.  
4 And sponsored one and seconded three others.

5 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: I'll take them  
6 all.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kenny.

8 THE CLERK: Thank you. Going back to  
9 Commissioner O'Dea?

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Abstain on 15B  
11 as in boy.

12 THE CLERK: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And aye on the  
14 rest.

15 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I have to  
16 abstain on that, too.

17 THE CLERK: Which one is it,  
18 Commissioner Basalice?

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, and we'll  
20 come back.

21 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yeah. Come  
22 back.

23 THE CLERK: Come back to that one?  
24 Okay. We have three ordinances for introduction.  
25 I-1. Finance and Administration. Bond Ordinance

1 providing for various 2025-2026 Capital Improvements  
2 at and the acquisition and installation of equipment  
3 and buses for the Hudson County Schools of  
4 Technology, located within the County of Hudson,  
5 State of New Jersey; Appropriating \$1,500,000  
6 therefore and authorizing the issuance of \$1,500,000  
7 Bonds and Notes for the County of Hudson, State of  
8 New Jersey, for financing such appropriate.

9 For introduction, Commissioner  
10 Aponte-Lipski.

11 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

13 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

15 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

17 Commissioner Kopacz.

18 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

22 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

24 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been  
3 introduced.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Bobby.

5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Abstain on  
6 No. 13.

7 THE CLERK: 13?

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay.

9 THE CLERK: Okay. Going back to the  
10 consent agenda. All those items, with the exception  
11 of 13 for Commissioner Baselize and 15B for  
12 Commissioner O'Dea. May I have a motion to approve  
13 all of the items on the consent agenda?

14 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Motion.

15 THE CLERK: Second?

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and -- I  
17 thought we voted.

18 THE CLERK: I didn't vote on it. We  
19 didn't vote on it. I held up for Commissioner  
20 Baselize.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Oh, okay.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, I  
23 abstained on one.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah. But we came  
25 back to him.

1 THE CLERK: I came back to it.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Vote on it?

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner

6 Aponte-Lipski.

7 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

9 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

11 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

13 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: This is on the

16 ordinance?

17 THE CLERK: No. This is on the

18 consent agenda minus 15.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We voted on that

20 already.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: We already voted

22 on it.

23 THE CLERK: I thought we did -- I

24 thought I had to come back and vote.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Oh, no. We all

1 voted. I abstained --

2 THE CLERK: Just on that one? Oh,  
3 I'm sorry, then. Yes. Okay. Just on the  
4 ordinance, then for the introduction.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The ordinance.  
6 Yes.

7  
8 THE CLERK: Okay. Commissioner  
9 Rodriguez.

10 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

12 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Ordinance I-2. Finance  
16 and Administration. Bond Ordinance providing for  
17 the undertaking of capital projects for fiscal year  
18 2026 by and for the Hudson County Community College  
19 located within the County of Hudson, State of New  
20 Jersey; appropriating \$6,634,062, therefore, and  
21 authorizing the issuance of \$6,634,062 bonds and  
22 notes of the County of Hudson, State of New Jersey  
23 for financing such appropriations. The principal of  
24 an interest on the aggregate principal amount of  
25 which will be entitled to state aid, pursuant to

1 Chapter 12 of the laws of New Jersey of 1971.

2 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

3 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Basalice.

5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

7 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

9 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

13 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

15 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been

19 introduced. Ordinance I-3. Roads and Public

20 Property/Engineering. Ordinance amending Chapter

21 200, Article 18 of the Administrative Code to

22 regulate bus stops on Bergen Turnpike in the

23 Township of North Bergen, a County-owned roadway.

24 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

25 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.  
2 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
4 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.  
6 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.  
7 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
10 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
12 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.  
13 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
15 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been  
16 introduced. We have three ordinances for second  
17 reading. Ordinance A-1. Ordinance amending the  
18 Hudson County Administrative Code pursuant to the  
19 applicable provisions of the Optional County Chapter  
20 Law N.J.S.A. 40:41A-1.  
21 This is the fixed time for the public  
22 hearing on this ordinance, which was introduced at  
23 the meeting of August 14th, 2025, advertised as  
24 required by law, together with the notice appearing  
25 for this time. It's been posted on the County

1 Commissioner's bulletin board and made available to  
2 the general public. Are there any speakers on this  
3 ordinance?

4 Seeing none, I ask for a motion to close  
5 the hearing.

6 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Motion.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second.

8 THE CLERK: Second?

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cedeño and Romano.

10 THE CLERK: All in favor.

11 (The Board votes unanimously to close  
12 the Hearing.)

13 THE CLERK: Opposed? On the final  
14 adoption. 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 Kopacz.

21 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

25 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

2 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been  
6 adopted. Ordinance A-2. It's an ordinance amending  
7 Chapter 200, Article 8.3 of the Administrative Code  
8 to regulate parking at John F. Kennedy Boulevard in  
9 the City of Jersey City, a County-owned roadway.

10 This is the time fixed for public hearing  
11 on this ordinance, which was introduced at the  
12 meeting of August 14th, 2025, advertised as required  
13 by law, together with the notice appearing for this  
14 time. It's been posted on the County Commissioner's  
15 bulletin board and made available to the general  
16 public. Are there any speakers on this ordinance?

17 There being none, I'd like a motion to  
18 close the hearing.

19 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Motion.

20 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and Cedeño.

22 THE CLERK: All in favor.

23 (The Board votes unanimously to close  
24 the Hearing.)

25 THE CLERK: Opposed. On the final

1 adoption. Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

2 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

4 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

6 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

8 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

12 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

14 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been

18 adopted. Ordinance A-3. Roads and Public

19 Property. Ordinance amending Chapter 200, Article

20 27 of the Administrative Code to establish Traffic

21 Calming Devices on Newark Street and Monroe/Grove

22 Street in the City of Hoboken.

23 This is the fixed time for the public

24 hearing of this ordinance, which was introduced at

25 the meeting of August 14th, 2025, advertised as

1 required by law, together with the notice appearing  
2 for this time. It's been posted on the County  
3 Commissioner's bulletin board and made available to  
4 the general public. Are there any speakers on this  
5 ordinance?

6           Seeing none, I'll ask for a motion to  
7 close the hearing.

8           CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Motion.

9           COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Second.

10          THE CLERK: Second?

11          COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Second.

12          THE CLERK: All in favor.

13          (The Board votes unanimously to close  
14 the Hearing.)

15          THE CLERK: Opposed? On the final  
16 adoption. 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 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 adopted. This concludes the items of business on  
9 today's agenda. Are there any comments from the  
10 Commissioners on the business of the Board?

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Billy?

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Just a couple of  
13 comments on the resolution related to supporting the  
14 negotiations of 32BJ. Obviously, they've been a --  
15 an organization that hires local. They have a very  
16 large percentage of their membership are Hispanic.  
17 They live in Jersey City, Union City, West New York,  
18 so it's always good to help them make sure that they  
19 have a good -- a good living -- living wage.

20 And then, obviously, on the one with the  
21 Vision Zero and potentially being able to get  
22 speeding cameras by our own schools on streets like  
23 Kennedy Boulevard, I think that's important. We  
24 once were kind of a trailblazer with red light  
25 cameras. We were able to use the funding from those

1 fines to actually create additional traffic controls  
2 in that -- in those areas between kind of by  
3 Montgomery Street.

4           Unfortunately, one Republican legislature  
5 from South Jersey decided -- I don't know if he --  
6 maybe he got a ticket or something. He made it his  
7 -- he made it his cause to get rid of that. It's  
8 too bad, but I would hope that having the capability  
9 to bring those cameras in to reduce speeds on  
10 streets like JFK Boulevard, especially by schools,  
11 is something to happen.

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

14           THE CLERK: Are there any comments  
15 from the Chief of Staff to the County Executive?

16           MS. DAVIS: Good afternoon,  
17 everybody. Happy Fall. I'm speaking today because  
18 I'm a bit concerned. It was -- it has come to the  
19 attention of the County Executive's Office after the  
20 fact that there were some armed individuals this  
21 weekend on County property, and I want you all to  
22 understand that we were not notified at the County  
23 Executive's office that there were armed individuals  
24 in this property. We found out through a social  
25 media post by a concerned citizen. So there's a

1 couple of things.

2           The County Executive really, really  
3 prioritizes our parks, as you all know. We want our  
4 parks to remain safe for everyone. They should be a  
5 safe haven for most people, for all of our  
6 residents. Because we were not -- because neither  
7 Craig nor anyone in our office was informed of our  
8 incident, we don't know who these people were. I  
9 don't know if they actually legitimate law  
10 enforcement or not. None of us do.

11           So we are asking the sheriff, Sheriff  
12 Schillari, and his office to remember to please  
13 report immediately if there are any other such  
14 incidents. And just a little reminder about the  
15 Immigrant Trust Directive that I believe -- and this  
16 is not -- I'm not a lawyer and I'm not a police  
17 officer, so don't yell at me if I'm wrong. But I  
18 believe the Sheriff's office and all Sheriff's  
19 officers have to abide by the Immigrant Trust  
20 Directive.

21           CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

22           MS. DAVIS: That prohibits local law  
23 enforcement from participating in ICE civil  
24 immigration enforcement and/or also prohibits them  
25 from providing ICE with access to local law

1 enforcement resources. Such as equipment, office  
2 space, databases, or property.

3 If I'm wrong, somebody tell me so, but I'm  
4 just bringing it to everybody's attention. Because  
5 again, we really want our parks to remain a safe  
6 haven for all Hudson County residents. And we were  
7 a little disturbed that there was such an incident  
8 this weekend that we did not know about.

9 So just letting you all know, from our  
10 perspective. Please -- and to the Sheriff's  
11 officers, please take the message back to the  
12 Sheriff for us, that we're -- we're hopeful that, if  
13 this should happen again, we would be called right  
14 away. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: More  
16 importantly, since a question was asked at the prior  
17 meeting about what role or -- the Sheriff officer  
18 would play related to that, and it was made clear  
19 that they play no role related to that, that  
20 heightened my concern. Because based on that post,  
21 it would seem that wasn't the case.

22 MS. DAVIS: Right. And again, I'm  
23 not a lawyer and I'm not a police officer, so I do  
24 not know. I just know what I know of the Immigrant  
25 Trust Directive, so I'm bringing it to everyone's

1 attention to say, please look into it, please  
2 consult. And if I'm wrong, please tell me so.  
3 Okay. Thank you.

4 THE CLERK: This is the time for  
5 persons who submitted a timely written request to  
6 address the Board on any matter of public interest.  
7 Please remember to limit your comments to three  
8 minutes. We do have speakers. The first is Raymond  
9 Mitchell.

10 MR. FLORIO: Chairman, before Mr.  
11 Mitchell begins speaking, please note that anyone  
12 who is speaking, the -- the official timer is not  
13 operating properly, so I will be keeping the time.  
14 I'll inform the speaker when the three minutes has  
15 expired.

16 MR. MITCHELL: It's always something  
17 here. All right. So last meeting, we all know that  
18 Esther Suarez, she retired, supposedly, but then she  
19 goes to another law firm. Is everybody aware of  
20 that? She retired from there, and then she's  
21 attending another law firm? I guess, everybody  
22 knows; right?

23 So I gave notice to Esther Suarez to be  
24 here today at the meeting to be here. She sits on  
25 the judiciary with Brian Stack. I asked for human

1 resource? Is she here? I gave notice to her to be  
2 here. Not here either about Esther Suarez.  
3 Surprisingly, she retires.

4 Jim Tedesco, Bergen County Executive, I  
5 gave him notice. Debbie White, the Union, I gave  
6 notice. She covers North Bergen and Hackensack  
7 Meridian. I also gave notice to Wayne Mello. Is he  
8 here? Wayne. Prosecutor's not here. Captain  
9 Ciattarelli is here. Internal affairs. Will from  
10 homicide, the captain, is he here? I also called  
11 Governor Murphy's office, gave him notice to be  
12 here.

13 So as we continue this on, I have not  
14 received any proof that my dad died of COVID when he  
15 had strangle marks on his face. Pictures, I have  
16 audio; okay? Of the nurse. And how does anybody  
17 here allow her to retire when I gave you my  
18 information? Is that a violation of her oath?  
19 Anybody? Is it reasonable to say that this is  
20 suspicious activity, whoever is in law enforcement  
21 here? Talking about a strangle. Face, neck, eye.  
22 COVID can't -- is Craig Guy here? There's law  
23 enforcement.

24 Craig Guy, do you have any explanation for  
25 what's going on with Esther Suarez? Brian Stack? I

1 got letters from Brian Stack, still waiting on that  
2 personnel. Can you tell me that personnel --

3 MR. FLORIO: Commissioner --  
4 Commissioners.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Please, no dialogue  
6 with the Commissioners, just use your time, please.

7 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah. We got Brian  
8 Stack from Union City Municipal, but then he sends  
9 me a letter from his senator's office saying he's  
10 going to investigate my father's, you know, homicide  
11 here, and he never did. Until January of this year,  
12 17th of '25, he puts it into the Health Department  
13 of Human Services.

14 So I'm not sure what's going on here. And  
15 it also says that a hundred percent -- what did I  
16 have here? Esther Suarez -- oh, wait. Dennis  
17 Miller. Let me tell you, he praised Ms. Suarez for  
18 some reason. Dennis Miller, the chief that I have  
19 issues with.

20 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

22 MR. MITCHELL: Three minutes. That's  
23 all I get.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, sir.

25 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Mr. Chairman,

1 please note that Commissioner Cifelli just joined  
2 us.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Go ahead.  
4 Next.

5 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Courtney  
6 Walker.

7 MR. MITCHELL: So am I going to get  
8 the COVID information here? Anybody? No? Yes?  
9 Maybe so?

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next speaker. Next  
11 speaker, please.

12 MR. MITCHELL: Next speaker? Don't  
13 care?

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next speaker.

15 MR. MITCHELL: Didn't she just say  
16 about --

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next speaker,  
18 please. Thank you. Thank you.

19 THE CLERK: Please take your sign.  
20 Next speaker is Courtney Walker.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Ms.  
22 Walker.

23 MS. WALKER: Hello, County  
24 Commissioners. My name is Courtney Walker, and I'm  
25 a resident of Jersey City. I'm here today to raise

1 two issues. First, early voting locations. In the  
2 June primary, Hudson County had 32 early voting  
3 sites where coverage was unequal. In the north,  
4 Union City, Weehawken, West New York, and Guttenberg  
5 had over 70 percent of voters living within one  
6 district of a site. In North Bergen, it was 42  
7 percent. In Hoboken, only 13 percent had access.  
8 And in East Newark and Harrison, there were none.

9 Coverage was also duplicative, for  
10 example, the Summit Ave Mobile Trailer in Union City  
11 was placed right next to the North Bergen Rec Center  
12 and library site. And the 34th and New York Avenue  
13 trailer, also in Union City, was right next to Union  
14 City City Hall.

15 I've recommended replacing these two  
16 duplicative sites with new ones at libraries in  
17 Harrison, Hoboken, and Jersey City. That change  
18 would increase county-wide coverage of voters within  
19 one district of a site by four percent, with no loss  
20 of access anywhere. To uphold fairness, I urge you  
21 to ensure early voting sites are equitably  
22 distributed across all communities.

23 Second, Braddock Park. Last week, a video  
24 showed six armed individuals in the park's main lot,  
25 two with full face coverings, two with visible

1 holsters. When asked to identify themselves, they  
2 hid from the camera and stayed silent. When a  
3 Hudson County Sheriff arrived, the officer  
4 questioned the person filming instead of the armed  
5 group.

6 This raises serious concerns if those  
7 individuals were ICE, failing to identify them  
8 undermines the Immigrant Trust Directive and leaves  
9 our community unsafe. Public spaces should not be  
10 used in this way, and the county urgently needs a  
11 clearer policy for responding with ICE or anyone  
12 claiming to be ICE shows up on County property.

13 I'd also urge the County to strongly  
14 consider passing a resolution in support of the  
15 Immigrant Trust Act, Senate Bill Number S3672A4987.  
16 This act establishes protections for immigrants  
17 interacting with government agencies and strengthens  
18 and codifies the separation between local law  
19 enforcement and federal immigration enforcement.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

22 THE CLERK: Next speaker --

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Hold on.

24 THE CLERK: -- is Mark Bloomberg.

25 Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

1                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I had a  
2 question. Could you get a copy of those two pieces  
3 of legislation to me?

4                   MS. WALKER: Yeah.

5                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah.

6                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Alberico is  
7 getting, too, Bill.

8                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And then on the  
9 first item, I think we should have the -- whether  
10 it's -- whether it's Harper or Marianne. Because I  
11 a hundred percent agree. There are cities where  
12 there's -- there are as many early voting locations,  
13 as there are regular -- maybe more than actual  
14 voting locations. And that seems to be totally  
15 unfair. And in places like Jersey City, there are  
16 certainly not enough of early voting locations.  
17 Especially within areas where are there -- where  
18 there are both minority and low -- and low-income  
19 populations.

20                   So we need an explanation as who makes  
21 those decisions, how those decisions are made. And  
22 quite frankly, if they can't address it, maybe it's  
23 something worth even taking legal action. I think  
24 you make a very valid point that people are not  
25 being treated equally when it relates to access to

1 early voting.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: At the next, Abe,  
3 just have the Superintendent of Elections --

4 MR. ANTUN: I believe that's -- I  
5 believe polling places are Mike --

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I think it's  
7 Mike.

8 MR. ANTUN: Michael Harper.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Michael Harper.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I think it's  
11 Mike Harper. Have him available for the next.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next?

13 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Pardon  
14 me. I'm sorry, Chairman?

15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can I ask a  
16 question? I'm sorry.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yraida is  
18 speaking. Go ahead, Yraida.

19 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Is it  
20 the same thing as our assistant to our County  
21 Executive we're talking about -- what you were just  
22 talking about?

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. Same thing.

24 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Thank  
25 you.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Next -- oh,  
2 Al. Al, did you have a question?

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Question just  
4 about -- I'm sorry. Just backtracking to the voter  
5 places. When I drive through Harrison and Kearny, I  
6 see that there are voting designations there. Is  
7 there a problem with these? I'm not sure --

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No. Al, the  
9 question that the speaker has is a question to the  
10 number of locations. And we're going to have, at  
11 the next meeting, Michael Harper here to tell us.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right. So  
13 we're going to push that back until Mike Harper gets  
14 here and gives us the -- the nitty gritty; right?

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And I'm just  
16 going to shed a little light, because I've had a  
17 discussion with him. He's going to say that they  
18 defer to the local officials. Well, that's a pretty  
19 damn --

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: That's not --  
21 that's not acceptable.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, that's  
23 what I'm saying. That's a pretty poor excuse. You  
24 know, local -- local officials don't want --

25 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: No, no.

1                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And that gives  
2 you the okay to deprive --

3                   COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: No. My  
4 understanding is that the county is the responsible  
5 party to make sure --

6                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: They are.

7                   COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: -- that  
8 there's a fair and equitable distribution of those  
9 locations.

10                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So we'll have  
11 Michael Harper here.

12                  COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: The  
13 municipalities. I want to hear from us. From Mike.

14                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We'll hear from  
15 Michael next meeting.

16                  COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right.

17                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Next  
18 speaker.

19                  THE CLERK: Mark Bloomberg is the  
20 next speaker.

21                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mark, come up.

22                  MR. BLOOMBERG: Good afternoon. This  
23 summer, more than 500 people went on the record to  
24 oppose the Braddock Park diversion. As a result of  
25 this, as of yesterday, North Bergen withdrew its

1 application from the DEP.

2           So North Bergen -- one of the things that  
3 North Bergen elected officials mistakenly believe is  
4 that the land that the trailer school is currently  
5 on can be left as it is and doesn't have to be  
6 opened up for public use. If you look at the lease  
7 that you have with them, that is patently false.

8           So it's the County's responsibility to set  
9 things straight here at this point. And there are  
10 two actions that I feel the County is responsible  
11 for, not the actual actions themselves, but ensuring  
12 that their tenant follows these. One is ensuring  
13 that the trailers are removed from the park. They  
14 are no longer in use. All the preschoolers have  
15 been moved out to preexisting elementary schools as  
16 of the start of this school year.

17           Second, making sure that North Bergen  
18 actually restores the land for recreation or  
19 conservation. It doesn't have to be a softball  
20 field like it was, but it's land that's available on  
21 it. So my ask is, I want to know who from the  
22 County, I want a name, I want contact information  
23 for who is going to basically spearhead this and  
24 make sure that North Bergen does this in a timely  
25 fashion?

1                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: To the best of my  
2 knowledge, our legal department, Alberico, you would  
3 be able to answer that, sir.

4                   MR. BLOOMBERG: Okay. Is my time  
5 stopped or --

6                   MR. FLORIO: You have a minute and 44  
7 seconds.

8                   MR. BLOOMBERG: Okay.

9                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Just do your  
10 time, and then we'll finish at the end.

11                   MR. BLOOMBERG: Okay. Yeah. I just  
12 want to move on to this second topic. You know, I  
13 feel like the County needs to start playing offense  
14 rather than defense talking about this immigration  
15 issue. Not just what happened at Braddock Park,  
16 that's one example with armed men being in the park,  
17 which I'm going to assume they were actually ICE or  
18 law enforcement, based on the officer's response to  
19 the situation.

20                   Regardless of that, the County needs to  
21 declare itself as a sanctuary County, just as Jersey  
22 City, just as Hoboken has done. Playing defense  
23 with this federal administration is bending the  
24 knee. Take offense on this. We need to be  
25 protecting our residents in County spaces and not

1 empowering immigration enforcement. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Alberico, will you  
3 see Mr. Bloomberg after the meeting --

4 MR. DE PIERRO: Sure. No problem.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: -- for what you're going to do?

6 MR. BLOOMBERG: Okay.

7 MR. DE PIERRO: Absolutely.

8 MR. BLOOMBERG: So you'll get me a  
9 name and we'll get this moving forward?

10 MR. DE PIERRO: A name of?

11 MR. BLOOMBERG: Of who is going to  
12 take responsibility for making sure that North  
13 Bergen vacates the trailers, gets the trailers out,  
14 and restores the park land.

15 MR. DE PIERRO: It's not going to be  
16 name, it's going to be a concerted effort. This has  
17 to take multiple parties. And we're already -- as  
18 of last night and this morning's news, we're already  
19 in the process of handling the situation with all  
20 the parties that need to be involved.

21 MR. BLOOMBERG: Okay. I would like--

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That means he's  
23 the person.

24 MR. BLOOMBERG: Okay.

25 MR. DE PIERRO: No. That means I'm

1 one of the persons.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You're the  
3 lawyer.

4 MR. BLOOMBERG: Right. But I  
5 shouldn't have to run around to a consortium of  
6 people to keep track of what's going on. And you  
7 know, it would be -- you know, there should be a  
8 timeline.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next speaker.

10 MR. BLOOMBERG: A project plan.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next speaker,  
12 please.

13 MR. DE PIERRO: I think we've already  
14 communicated with you. Myself and Rihanna Garcia  
15 have been very good with you.

16 MR. BLOOMBERG: Okay. We'll talk  
17 after.

18 MR. DE PIERRO: We'll continue that.

19 MR. BLOOMBERG: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Alberico, please  
21 consider a softball field, can never have enough.

22 MR. DE PIERRO: And a soccer field.

23 MS. ALEXANDER: Greetings,  
24 Commissioners. How are you? Sabura Alexander.  
25 Hudson County Family Services and Reintegration.

1 President of Local 1697. I'm first here to address  
2 Commissioner Kopacz. I told y'all I was coming  
3 about that Bayonne parking. So it was brought to my  
4 attention by a fellow colleague at work that Jersey  
5 City has zoned parking. So I wanted to ask if  
6 that's something that could be proposed to the  
7 Bayonne residents?

8 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: So that's an  
9 issue for the city council.

10 MS. ALEXANDER: Okay.

11 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: You don't have  
12 to tell me, I just -- what street do you live in or  
13 around?

14 MS. ALEXANDER: I live on Andrew  
15 Street.

16 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Andrew?

17 MS. ALEXANDER: Yeah.

18 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: So, yeah.  
19 That's the first ward. So that's First Ward  
20 Councilman Neil Carroll. So I'll make sure that you  
21 get his contact.

22 MS. ALEXANDER: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: And you can  
24 reach out to him directly.

25 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you.

1                   COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: That's just not  
2 a County issue. You agree, Colleagues?

3                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah.

4                   COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yeah. I want  
5 to be able to help you with that.

6                   MS. ALEXANDER: Okay. And it was  
7 also suggested that I attend a town meeting. Do you  
8 think I should? A town hall meeting in Bayonne?

9                   COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: The council is  
10 very proactive.

11                   MS. ALEXANDER: Okay.

12                   COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: So I will put  
13 you in contact. And that's kind of like borderline  
14 first and second. So I don't know exactly where the  
15 address is, but I'll give you Jackie Weimmer's  
16 number as well. And both of them are very proactive  
17 in helping residents. So they'll be able to help  
18 you out.

19                   MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you so much for  
20 that. The second thing I want to address -- second  
21 and third, actually, is we had a meeting, myself and  
22 my board members with the management committee,  
23 Central Personnel. And I see that Eleanor Gibney,  
24 as well as Director Mazza Frank, is in the building.

25                   And I'm coming here because I know that

1 they tried to assist and I appreciate that, but it  
2 doesn't excuse the fact that we're still  
3 struggling. So what I proposed was, is there a  
4 possibility that the Commissioners could come up  
5 with some type of a rental stipend? Or Hudson  
6 County Supervisors that reside in Hudson County?  
7 Because we are still struggling with our bills.

8           While we just got a raise, we had to take  
9 pension loans, and that was like the raise goes back  
10 to the state. Now, Elinor Gibney did inform me, and  
11 I respect that, that, you know, we cannot do  
12 intergovernmental transfers. She's the appointing  
13 authority, we understand that. But again, it still  
14 doesn't excuse the fact that we can't transfer out,  
15 and we still can't afford to pay our rent. So where  
16 does that leave us as employees? And it's the same  
17 with car mileage. I propose that as well.

18           Now, I know from me working, not only at  
19 the County, but also Hudson County Corrections, that  
20 me personally, I get car mileage because I'm  
21 traveling from county to county. But I have members  
22 under my Local that are traveling from out -- you  
23 know, out of Hudson County, into Hudson County  
24 because they live out of County. And again, they  
25 can't transfer into a -- you know, a position in

1 that county, because we would have to resign and  
2 then go from an HSS-1, which is almost taking a  
3 \$50,000 pay cut. So I would like to know what can  
4 the Commissioners do to help us with this -- this  
5 situation?

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Alberico?

7 MR. DE PIERRO: If you can send me an  
8 e-mail with more details?

9 MS. ALEXANDER: Absolutely. Thank  
10 you so much.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thanks. Next  
12 speaker.

13 THE CLERK: Kay Daly.

14 MS. DALY: Good evening,  
15 Commissioners. My name is Kayla Daly. I work for  
16 Hudson County Department of Family Services in ABD  
17 Department. Tonight, I come bearing gifts. I have  
18 no pitchforks or torches tonight. I come here to  
19 thank you. Well, I'm here to thank each of you.

20 Our Director, Frank Mazza. Poor Mr. Mazza  
21 had to take a vacation at the Local 2306 --  
22 negotiations -- well, voting -- we're re-voting. He  
23 was running over the building. And I told him, I  
24 was going to speak up and let him know that we  
25 appreciated his help.

1 I'm also thanking Elinor Gibney. Sharon  
2 Santana, which works with us at Hudson County  
3 Department of Family Services. Our union, our union  
4 negotiation team. All the members that came here to  
5 speak, and support us, and all who helped us get  
6 this great contract that this Local ever had.  
7 Hudson County went from being the underdogs of  
8 family services, to now, in this state, the county  
9 agency that made history. And you are part of it,  
10 as well as all the others that I spoke about.

11 I do have one question because I was just  
12 coming to speak about thanking you. But the Human  
13 Services 3 workers position, it came up, and the  
14 test is still open. And the workers want to know,  
15 will this position actually -- will it still be  
16 calling people out? Because the list is going to  
17 expire soon.

18 So I just wanted to know if that's going  
19 to happen because people are questioning that. And  
20 there was some slack in voting because people didn't  
21 want to take certain positions because they were on  
22 the list with HSS-3.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: After the meeting,  
24 Director Gibney, can you speak with the speaker  
25 after the meeting?

1                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Do you know when  
2 it expires? The list expires?

3                   MS. DALY: I think it expires next  
4 year.

5                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. I mean,  
6 it would be -- I mean, I guess that's not just  
7 Eleanor, it would also be from the administrative  
8 side, what they see are in need or demand over  
9 time. But it would be -- it would be good -- it  
10 would be good if they could try to fill as many  
11 spots as they could from the list.

12                   MS. DALY: Well, that was a question  
13 that was going on through negotiations and voting.  
14 So that was a concern from the people. Because a  
15 great deal of people did take that test and they  
16 didn't want to, you know, take next-level positions  
17 that were offered during negotiations behind that.  
18 So that's why we wanted to know where that went.

19                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Based on the  
20 contract, the -- the interest in taking that has  
21 changed, is that a fair way to categorize it?

22                   MS. DALY: Well, this is the thing,  
23 as you know, the HSS-1s were actually upgraded to be  
24 HSS-2 provisional.

25                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Correct.

1 MS. DALY: But the ones that took the  
2 HSS-3 test didn't want to cut themselves off. So  
3 they didn't want to take the HSS-2 provision. So  
4 that was a question that people were speaking about,  
5 and you know, were leery about even taking the HSS-2  
6 positions because they took the three tests.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Elinor, after the  
8 meeting, you can meet with them and explain the  
9 situation.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. It would  
11 be good to get us a report for the next meeting as  
12 to how many individuals would be affected or  
13 impacted by that. Because I understand what you're  
14 saying.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Take the test of  
17 the -- what you see or don't see is going to happen  
18 as a result of it. You want to go through it. I  
19 got it.

20 MS. DALY: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's nice.

23 MS. DALY: So I don't know who to  
24 give it to, but --

25 THE CLERK: Give it to the Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All. It goes to  
2 all. It goes to all. Put it up on the wall.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Put it up on the  
4 wall.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Put it up on the  
6 wall. That will be like a mission to everyone.

7 MS. DALY: Thank you, Commissioners.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. I like  
9 that jacket.

10 THE CLERK: Chairman, the last listed  
11 speaker is Stephanie Campos.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Stephanie? Just  
13 one second. Thank you very much on behalf of the  
14 Commissioners. It's a beautiful -- the wording is  
15 what really makes it. And your very part of this --  
16 not only the County, but the history of this County  
17 government, but your friendship is more important  
18 than anything. And the fact that you help so many  
19 of our constituents that are in need. God bless you  
20 on behalf of all of us. Pass it around. Go ahead.  
21 Sorry.

22 MS. CAMPOS: Okay. No. That's  
23 fine. Good evening. My name is Stephanie Campos, I  
24 am a Jersey City resident. Last week, community  
25 members documented armed masked agents, who turned

1 out to be ICE agents, in Braddock Park. This park  
2 is the heart of the majority Latino community, where  
3 kids and play, and families go to work. Throughout  
4 the summer, ICE has taken people multiple times from  
5 this same park.

6 When a community member documented the  
7 agents in the public parking lot, video shows  
8 Officer Santos of Hudson County Sheriff's Department  
9 preventing her from filming, allowing agents to  
10 photograph her, and telling her, how do you know  
11 they are ICE? And apparently, later stated, do not  
12 interfere. Either the Hudson County Sheriff is okay  
13 with armed masked men in our public parks, or he  
14 knew they were ICE and was assisting them in  
15 violation of the Immigrants Trust Directive.

16 We don't want the sheriff's department to  
17 support ICE. And we don't want federal agents in  
18 our public parks. The asks here are, communicate in  
19 a town hall with the Sheriff there. The County  
20 policies for responding when ICE or anyone claiming  
21 to be ICE is on County property. Pass a resolution  
22 in support of the Immigrant Trust Act.

23 My second point is, this sign was made by  
24 an 11-year-old, a Hudson County resident, while she  
25 waited for six hours outside Delaney Hall to visit

1 her father, who has now been detained for two  
2 months. I understand that this is in Essex County.  
3 The cardboard and the markers were provided by  
4 volunteers. As were the chairs, the umbrellas, the  
5 chair for her to sit on, the snacks for her to eat.  
6 An umbrella to block out the sun. We provide these  
7 small comforts from our own funds. There is no  
8 support from government agencies. Understanding  
9 that Delaney Hall is in Essex and not Hudson County.

10 Visitors wait hours outside the gate on  
11 what is essentially an active driveway on what is  
12 known as Chemical Alley, in case you didn't know.  
13 The child's sister is 15, and her brother is 16.  
14 Their dad was the main income earner who was taken  
15 on his way to work.

16 Earlier this week, the 16-year-old called  
17 to tell me that his family had received an eviction  
18 notice. At 16, he is looking for ways to raise  
19 money to keep his family housed. This is just one  
20 story out of so many. Where is the County?

21 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Chairman.

22 MS. CAMPOS: The asks here are -- and  
23 I'm almost done. Begin an emergency fund for Hudson  
24 County families impacted by the detentions. Bring  
25 together Hudson County agencies, CBOs, and grassroots

1 organizations in one place to communicate to  
2 families what services are available and how to get  
3 them. And finally, fund a resource navigator  
4 position, even if it's part-time, to help link  
5 families to services. Because, as of now,  
6 volunteers are filling this gap, and it is not  
7 sustainable. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

9 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, there are no other  
10 speakers and --

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Just to the last  
12 speaker. I -- I agree with what you said. And we  
13 spoke earlier. We had an item today on the agenda,  
14 and I thought somebody was going to be here from  
15 that organization. One New Jersey. Oh, I'm sorry.  
16 I missed -- you didn't tell me you were here. So  
17 the other day, one of the questions we have is we  
18 found -- and it addresses some of the comments of  
19 the prior speaker.

20 As we've attempted to have events to  
21 notify individuals of their rights and services we  
22 can provide to them, we find it difficult to get  
23 people to come for the exact reason that you talked  
24 about going on in Braddock Park and that people are  
25 afraid to literally go to an information session to

1 try to tell them what rights they could have or what  
2 help we could provide them, because the fear that  
3 someone -- ICE may be outside looking to -- to grab  
4 whoever goes there.

5           And that's a challenge, but a challenge  
6 that we have to figure out a solution to. Because  
7 that's difficult. I did a -- I did an interview  
8 with the president of the State Hispanic Chamber of  
9 Commerce, and they've shown a serious decline in  
10 sales in Hispanic bodegas and Hispanic businesses,  
11 which they tie directly to individuals' fear to even  
12 go to a store in their community for what might  
13 happen.

14           So I understand, and I'm sympathetic to  
15 it. But I had asked you to come here today because  
16 much of the services you provide -- or some of the  
17 services you provide, in the past, have always been  
18 focused on helping individuals gain permanent  
19 status, helping individuals with status go on and  
20 gain their citizenship.

21           But obviously, in today's climate, some  
22 things have changed. And the need for you to  
23 provide services for individuals who -- whatever.  
24 An expired work visa, over extended student visa.  
25 There's so many other categories of individuals that

1 have nowhere to go and may not have the financial  
2 resources to do it. And my question is -- or two.  
3 One is how you can provide those kind of services.  
4 And I know, to some degree, you already are.

5 But secondly, and this goes into more  
6 globally what the prior speaker said, how do we  
7 create a system of how we're able to, not only reach  
8 those individuals, but assist those individuals at a  
9 time and climate where fear -- fear within those  
10 communities are so great.

11 The one example you cited, in Braddock  
12 Park, is only one example. But the fear is so great  
13 that if we had an event here tomorrow, saying come  
14 if you're -- if -- you know, you may get service  
15 providers to come. But if you ask the individuals  
16 to come who are affected, many -- many, if not most,  
17 would say, if I go there, what's going to stop when  
18 I leave or when I come, an ICE agent waiting to  
19 check who I am and potentially take me away?

20 So we've got to figure out how we overcome  
21 that. Because if we don't, then they won and we're  
22 losing. So I think that should be part of a bigger  
23 discussion. But on the question I have asked about  
24 what is your capacity to provide those services for  
25 individuals that fall into categories that

1 technically -- technically, today, is someone  
2 stopped them, oh, your work visa expired last month,  
3 let's go, what -- how are you able to help them?  
4 And then how are we able to create a way to reach  
5 out to those individuals where they're going to be  
6 able to get service without having fear of coming to  
7 your office?

8 MR. FLORIO: We need the speaker's  
9 name for the record.

10 MS. BERNAL: Good afternoon. My name  
11 is Julia Bernal, and I'm the executive director of  
12 We Are One New Jersey. We are a nonprofit  
13 organization that provides educational and  
14 immigration services to the residents of Hudson  
15 County. So to address your question of how our  
16 services have shifted, as you're aware, in the past,  
17 we have provided services to facilitate individuals  
18 becoming United States citizens through the  
19 naturalization process. Meaning, we not only help  
20 in filling out the paperwork, but we also provide  
21 citizenship classes, mock interviews.

22 And then once the person has become a  
23 citizen, we help them fill out the application for  
24 their passport, as well as vote registration, the  
25 change of status with Social Security, and all the

1 things that come with knowing how to assimilate to  
2 being a U.S. citizen. In addition to that, we also  
3 help with green card renewals, and work permit  
4 renewals, and also with deferred action. In the  
5 past year, since the change of Administration, we  
6 have also added to our educational services know  
7 your rights sessions across the County. And also,  
8 in places of work and education -- educational  
9 institutions.

10 This is as far as we've been able to get  
11 with what our staff can do, and also the budget that  
12 we have. But we have service -- done many, many  
13 know your rights sessions. We have trained  
14 individuals in their work areas, be it at daycares,  
15 or schools, or we have been contacted by individual  
16 businesses to train their employees.

17 So it's different kind of trainings,  
18 depending on what the facility is. But we have been  
19 reaching out to the community. I do want to point  
20 out that, as Commissioner O'Dea said, in various  
21 know your rights sessions open to the public, we  
22 have had people not show up. We did hold one very  
23 early in the change of Administration, I believe it  
24 was in the first two weeks of the change of  
25 Administration, and we had only three individuals

1 show up out of fear. The room was empty.

2 And then we also held one -- just to  
3 compare, like the trajectory. We also held one  
4 earlier, I want to say it was already summer at Team  
5 Walker, which is another nonprofit organization.  
6 They hold a -- they hold a farmer's market on  
7 Saturdays, and we teamed up with them in order to do  
8 our session after the farmer's market to draw people  
9 in.

10 And what happened was people came for the  
11 farmer's market, they didn't want to stay, they  
12 didn't feel safe staying. Even though they trusted  
13 the organization and the organization trusted us to  
14 deliver the message, but people just did not feel  
15 safe in the fact that they knew that there had been  
16 dissemination of this session happening at that  
17 site.

18 And so at that point, I think that people  
19 feel unsafe being in places where it's common  
20 knowledge that this is the topic of discussion. So  
21 in that case, we ended up doing a Facebook live for  
22 the session. But again, there was very little to  
23 none turnaround because --

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Could you -- Bill  
25 -- can you send to all the Commissioners' e-mails

1 your contact info, also what you just summarized?  
2 The programs that you do, so we're all aware of it,  
3 and how to get in contact?

4 MS. BERNAL: Absolutely.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And I was in no  
6 way of being critical. You did one with me at  
7 County Plaza --

8 MS. BERNAL: Yeah.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Early on. I  
10 know we, similar, had a problem.

11 MS. BERNAL: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Of getting  
13 people to come. We got some services provided to  
14 come.

15 MS. CAMPOS: Right.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It was good to  
17 get some information. But if you need additional  
18 resources to put something together, you should let  
19 us know. This is -- this is a crisis.

20 MS. BERNAL: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Let's make no  
22 mistake about it. It's a crisis. And one thing I  
23 learned is, somewhere, somehow, somebody's figured  
24 out a way to get the message to everybody they need  
25 to get the message in some part of this country.

1 So with this stuff now, you can figure it out.  
2 So I think, whether it's from the -- from the  
3 activists or from the office, just everybody put  
4 their heads together. Because we have to find a way  
5 to do that. And some may be through groups. I work  
6 closely with HACA, which is Dominican Based Business  
7 Association. If somebody gets their leadership that  
8 information, they could probably go business by  
9 business, store by store, on what know your rights  
10 is to do that.

11 Again, that's just one out of a hundred  
12 different ways. But I think it would make sense for  
13 you to put together a plan. If it requires  
14 resources, then -- the worst we could do is say no.  
15 But if you never ask --

16 MS. CAMPOS: Right.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So -- because it  
18 doesn't seem like it's going to get better. It  
19 seems like it's going to get worse. And -- and  
20 letting -- you know, letting people know what their  
21 rights are, creating as much protection and  
22 assistance as humanly possible, we have to do. I  
23 know people who've lived in the country 25 years,  
24 but technically, here illegally.

25 MS. BERNAL: Right.

1                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: They live here,  
2 they work here, their kids go to school here,  
3 they're spouses are citizens. But every day, they  
4 live in that fear that tomorrow, for whatever  
5 reason, I don't know. They went 30 miles an hour in  
6 a 25-mile-an-hour zone in the wrong town.

7                   So I just think that we, from our  
8 perspective, we need to provide, if it's additional  
9 resources, for you to do what your job is. Because  
10 what you do is so much change; right? In just one  
11 year. What your main focus is -- is changing --  
12 figuring out how people can easily access, working  
13 maybe with advocates, a trust level, whether it's  
14 done remotely.

15                   Because people are even afraid, if it's  
16 remotely, someone can find out where I am; right?  
17 If you're in fear, those are the kind of things  
18 you're afraid of, but --

19                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And we'll work on  
20 it.

21                   MS. BERNAL: If I may? I think that  
22 there is a -- especially need to contact employers,  
23 I think. Because this is people's places of work.  
24 And so if something could be done in terms of  
25 education, especially for the employers. There's a

1 big need for that. Like I find that very many  
2 employers don't even know the difference between a  
3 judicial warrant and an ICE warrant. And it's  
4 important that they know that difference. Because  
5 ICE is using the administrative warrants in order to  
6 gain access so.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Again, we got a  
8 chamber of commerce in Hudson County. We got -- I  
9 think, the majority of our cities in Hudson County  
10 have urban enterprise zones. They have lists of  
11 directories, and each of those towns can do  
12 informational sessions for businesses and employees.  
13 That's a great idea. So I think that will be  
14 something you should put a proposal together, and we  
15 should run with it.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And I can always  
17 help you with that county chamber; okay? Thank  
18 you. And if anybody wants to speak to you after the  
19 meeting, please.

20 MS. BERNAL: Okay.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Two announcements.  
22 We have two birthdays. September 5th, Commissioner  
23 Yraida Lipski turned 25. And on September 20th,  
24 Commissioner Caridad turned 18. So Happy Birthday.  
25 All in favor. Aye.

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THE CLERK: All in favor.  
(Whereupon the proceeding is then  
concluded at 5:30 p.m.)

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

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I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No.  
30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New  
Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein  
are from the notes taken by me of a Regular Meeting  
of the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners,  
held on Thursday, September 11, 2025; and that this  
is a correct transcript of the same.



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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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