

HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RE:

REGULAR 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,
Commissioners Chambers
567 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
Thursday, September 25, 2025
4:30 p.m.

B E F O R E:

CERTIFIED COPY

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

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

- EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ., Board Counsel
- ALBERICO DEPIERRO, ESQ., Hudson County Counsel
- ABRAHAM ANTUN, County Administrator
- WILLIE ORTIZ, County Commissioner Clerk
- Reported by: Shari Cathey, CCR, RPR

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

3 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

5 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

9 Commissioner O'Dea.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

12 Commissioner Walker. Chairman Romano.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Please stand for the Flag
15 Salute.

16 (Flag Salute.)

17 THE CLERK: Adequate notice of this
18 Regular Meeting has been provided as follows:

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

23 Copies of the above mentioned resolution
24 have been sent to the County Clerk and the editors
25 of the Kearny Observer and the Star Ledger.

1 May I have a motion -- excuse me. The
2 next order of business is to discuss today's agenda.
3 I'll turn it over to the Administration.

4 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I don't
5 have any additional items.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mr Clerk.

7 THE CLERK: According to the policy
8 set by the --

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Whoa. Whoa.

10 MR. FLORIO: Yeah, Chairman, it is my
11 understanding that the Board is going to introduce
12 and move another additional item for the agenda,
13 which is -- the title of which is supporting New
14 Jersey Senate Bill No. S3672, establishing
15 protections for immigrants interacting with
16 government agencies, designates New Jersey Immigrant
17 Trust Act.

18 THE CLERK: That will be Resolution
19 No. 32.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I asked or
21 requested it, but I believe it's going to be the
22 Board as the whole.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

24 MR. FLORIO: So that will be Board as
25 a whole, No. 32.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And it was going
2 to be the original second, but Board as a whole is
3 always better.

4 THE CLERK: Additionally,
5 commissioners, we have one additional one. I'll
6 read it by title supporting New Jersey Senate Bill
7 No. S4442, requiring Classy and Club Alcohol
8 Beverage License Holders to update their existing
9 health warning notices. That will be Resolution No.
10 33.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'll sponsor
12 that.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea, and I'll
14 second.

15 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Can you hear
16 me? You have me in?

17 THE CLERK: Yes, we can.

18 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: All right.
19 Because I've been here, but I haven't heard
20 anything.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walter. Walter.
22 So they have -- they have her on the Board
23 secretary, right? Rodriguez?

24 MR. FLORIO: Chairman, the record
25 should indicate the presence now of Commissioner

1 Rodriguez and Commissioner Walker, the virtual
2 appearance.

3 THE CLERK: According to the policy
4 set by the Board of County Commissioners, members of
5 the public are asked to limit their comments to five
6 minutes when discussing agenda items and three
7 minutes at the conclusion of the meeting for persons
8 who are submitting a written request to discuss
9 matters of public interest.

10 At this time, public may address the board
11 on agenda items only. Please keep, keep your
12 comments limited to five minutes. Are there any
13 speakers on the agenda items only?

14 MR. FLORIO: Chairman, before any
15 speakers approach, Commissioner Aponte-Lipski is
16 present.

17 Are there any speakers on agenda items?
18 You just come up and state your name and spell your
19 last name, please.

20 MS. WALKER: All right. Hello,
21 County Commissioners. My name is Courtney Walker
22 and I'm a resident of Jersey City. I'm here today
23 to urge you to pass the resolution which was added
24 to the agenda. I believe No. 32, which is to
25 support the New Jersey Immigrant Trust Act. This

1 act protects immigrants when they interact with
2 government agencies and reinforces the separation
3 between local law enforcement and federal
4 immigration enforcement.

5 Now, more than ever, our County must stand
6 with our immigrant community. Hudson County is one
7 of the most diverse in New Jersey and our
8 communities are being directly targeted. Earlier
9 this month, six armed individuals were seen in the
10 main lot at Braddock Park, two with full face
11 coverings, two with visible holsters. Many in the
12 community suspected they were ICE.

13 When asked to identify themselves, they
14 hid from the camera and stayed silent. When the
15 Hudson County Sheriff arrived, the officer chose to
16 question the person filming rather than the armed
17 group. Then just last week, ICE agents detained a
18 Jersey City resident in the Heights while his child
19 sat in the car behind him -- beside him, right
20 across from Christ Hospital.

21 Supporting this resolution is about both
22 public safety and human decency. Every resident
23 deserves to feel safe in our neighborhoods, in our
24 schools, hospitals, parks and in interactions with
25 law enforcement. And we deserve to know that our

1 local officials are putting families and communities
2 first. This is the fourth time I've stood before
3 you asking for action. So I'd like to again ask you
4 to please support this resolution and also have the
5 County look into the incident at Braddock Park, and
6 make sure that there are clear policies and
7 procedures in place when ICE shows up in County
8 spaces like schools or parks, if that were to happen
9 again in the future. Thank you.

10 MR. FLORIO: Mr. Chairman, before the
11 next speaker, the record should reflect that
12 Commissioner Kopacz is present.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Any other speakers
14 on agenda items only?

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Good afternoon.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm here for
18 Resolution No. 32. I don't want to be here, but I
19 can't ignore what's going on. I can't ignore a
20 President who has threatened states and cities with
21 the National Guard. The fact that Jersey City is on
22 a list of sanctuary cities, the Fed has threatened
23 to send troops to federal propaganda, eroding not
24 only American social societal norms, but also the
25 rule of law, giving what seems unlimited power to

1 some immigrants, immigration agencies, agencies that
2 hunt the less fortunate with for monetary gain.
3 With the Big Beautiful Bill billions being spent on
4 agencies that are simply just another national
5 prison system.

6 No system is perfect. We've had decades
7 of on the decades of undocumented immigrants, those
8 who participated in this American dream, some who
9 receive status, some who have become legal after
10 years of waiting, asylum seekers and so on, all who
11 have participated into the economy of the city and
12 State. To me, it seems like a lose-lose what is
13 going on with this hammer of immigration federal
14 policy.

15 And so seeing what is going on in other
16 cities seems ridiculous. A day or so ago, ICE
17 agents held a five-year-old autistic girl outside of
18 Massachusetts home to beat her father. And I want
19 protections against this because there are plenty of
20 undocumented that are not evil terrorist criminals,
21 like some media says or repeats. And I'm not here
22 to protect criminals, which is why I and many
23 believe we need further implementation of the
24 Immigrant Trust Act to protect immigrant communities
25 that have been here for years who have not caused

1 trouble.

2 As it stands on 9 September 2025, some
3 recorded immigrant -- immigration agencies -- agents
4 staging up at Braddock Park in North Bergen. This
5 seems to be evidence that some officers were in
6 violation of the Immigrant Trust Directive, that the
7 State and Feds should not be working together when
8 it comes to immigration policy.

9 People are scared of power. Some people
10 are scared of just, you know, just regular police.
11 And, you know, I don't want people to be scared.
12 Sorry, I'm lost my place on the new ribbon. Can you
13 imagine how people feel with masked agents who don't
14 who seem that they don't have to follow
15 constitutional laws? We need to use our State
16 rights, protect our communities, protect our
17 communities. We don't need agents in the streets
18 acting like bounty hunters to hit quotas.

19 It's a detriment to our society, to our
20 economy, to our American identity of the melting pot
21 as Hudson County is extremely diverse, many, many
22 undocumented. This who have not committed crimes
23 and are not terrorists and not criminals. The
24 immigration policy hammer is a detriment to the good
25 old America dream. Immigration policy has not been

1 perfect, but we don't need agencies acting as bounty
2 hunters in the streets or courts. Thank you for
3 your time.

4 THE CLERK: Are there any further
5 comments on the agenda only?

6 MS. SARAH: Hello. I'm here for the
7 Resolution No. 32.

8 MR. FLORIO: Your name, please.

9 MS. SARAH: My name is Sarah, and I'm
10 here not only as a resident of Hudson County, but as
11 a parent, a community volunteer, a PTA Vice
12 President and someone deeply invested in the safety
13 and well being of our neighborhoods.

14 Tonight, I urge you to pass a resolution
15 in support of the Immigrant Trust Act. This is not
16 just policy. It's about protecting the fabric of
17 our community. When we allow fear to dictate who
18 feel safe calling the police, we all lose. No
19 person should hesitate to report abuse. No child
20 should fear that asking for help might lead to their
21 families being torn apart.

22 The Immigrant Trust Act ensures that local
23 law enforcement focuses on public safety, not
24 immigration enforcement. It means victims of
25 domestic violence, sexual abuse, human trafficking,

1 whether children or adults can step forward without
2 fear of deportation. That's how we build trust.
3 That's how we stop crimes before they escalate. We
4 must remember America's a nation built by
5 immigrants, and yet history has shown us time and
6 time again how easily immigrants become scapegoats
7 in times of political tension.

8 Hudson County can choose a different path.
9 You can lead supporting the Immigrant Trust Act
10 sends a clear message. We protect all our
11 residents. We stand for justice, and we prioritize
12 the safety over fear. Thank you.

13 MR. GHAINDA: Good evening. My
14 name's Adrian Ghainda, G-H-A-I-N-D-A. So I come
15 here tonight as a child of immigrants and a lifelong
16 resident of Jersey City. Something that they always
17 taught us in the public schools in Jersey City is
18 that we should be proud of our diversity. And as
19 someone that's inherently a political person, I
20 think for us to truly designate New Jersey as a
21 safe, blue state is by ensuring all the cities of
22 Hudson County, our County as well as our state, are
23 making sure that all our immigrant communities are
24 being protected.

25 And the story that I want to share is the

1 story of my parents, who were undocumented
2 immigrants until recently. When I was a teenager,
3 my dad got a citizenship when I was about 13, 14
4 years old. So I was a freshman in high school. I
5 was helping my dad study for his -- his immigration
6 testing. At the same time, I was talking to lawyers
7 on my mom's behalf, because at that time, my mom was
8 fully undocumented.

9 And as you can imagine, growing up in
10 these circumstances, there were days that I would
11 come home from school fearing the worst. What if I
12 come home, and my mom's not home? What if I come
13 home and I'm greeted by my dad in tears because
14 my -- our situation would be no different than any
15 others who go through these circumstances but don't
16 really have that outlet to say, Hey, I can ask for
17 help from whatever entity possible.

18 And the reason that I find myself here
19 tonight is because I have that opportunity in my
20 adulthood to be -- to have that courage that channel
21 that courage that every children of immigrants don't
22 necessarily have because of that fear, that fear of
23 when you leave your house, you're no longer safe
24 because of these vested institutions that want to
25 split up families, that want to do their

1 undemocratic process of quite honestly inflicting
2 trauma onto these families.

3 And that's something that I feel needs to
4 be protected by making sure that we have this
5 resolution to ensure that we're backing the
6 Immigrant Trust Act. For a democracy to truly work,
7 we have to go from every angle conceivably possible
8 to ensure that we have this broad coalition of
9 saying if these are the people that are being
10 targeted, we have to have their back. And
11 truthfully, I'm hoping that the Board of
12 Commissioners does decide to do that and support
13 this resolution and make your way down to Trenton
14 when it comes time for this resolution to be brought
15 before the Senate.

16 So with that being said, my story isn't
17 different than anyone else's. The only difference
18 is, is that I'm allowed to have that courage and
19 talk about my parents' story, whereas some people
20 don't really feel emboldened by that because of
21 their situation. So that being said, I would
22 genuinely appreciate the Board of Commissioners
23 passing this resolution to show their support for
24 the ITA.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Just to everybody

1 knows, we're pass this tonight.

2 MR. FAVOR: Okay. Great. Well, I'll
3 be quick then. My name is Tony Favor. I'm also
4 here to speak on behalf of Resolution 32 and the
5 Immigrant Trust Act. I'm a former resident of
6 Jersey City. I now live in Scotch Plains, where
7 around where I live, there have been all kinds of
8 raids, none of these to get rid of criminals, all of
9 them to round up mass numbers of day laborers.

10 I don't know how this makes us more safe
11 or helps our economy. As others have pointed to,
12 this whole thing just makes our community less safe.
13 Not is it -- not only do undocumented immigrants --
14 are not going to be able to not speak to police or
15 other agencies if the -- if cops are allowed to work
16 with ICE, but families will not speak to cops or
17 other government agencies either. It makes all of
18 us less safe. Thank you very much. Thanks for your
19 time.

20 MS. SIEGEL: Hi. My name's Jennifer
21 Siegel. I'm a resident of Jersey City Ward D. I'm
22 here to I'm here today to urge you to immediately
23 pass Resolution No. 32 in support of the New Jersey
24 Immigrant Trust Act. This act protects immigrants
25 when they interact with government agencies and

1 reinforces the separation between local law
2 enforcement and federal immigration enforcement.

3 Now, more than ever, our County must stand
4 with our immigrant community. Hudson County is one
5 of the most diverse in New Jersey, and our
6 communities and our neighbors are being directly
7 targeted. It's sickening seeing the abuse of power
8 and the active harm to our neighbors, who we know
9 and love and who add so much to our community and
10 who need us now more than ever to stand up for
11 what's right and put in any protections we can.

12 Supporting this resolution is both about
13 public safety and human decency. Every resident
14 deserves to feel safe in our neighborhoods, in our
15 schools and our hospitals and parks, et cetera. So
16 in addition to supporting this resolution, I'd like
17 to also ask the Board the following:

18 Has the County investigated the Braddock
19 Park incident with the Hudson County Sheriff to
20 ensure ICE was not assisted in a public space,
21 something that would clearly violate the Immigrant
22 Trust Directive? And what progress has the County
23 made toward establishing clear policies and
24 procedures for the next time ICE shows up in County
25 spaces like schools or parks? Thank you.

1 MS. BENSACOURT: Hi, everyone. Naomi
2 Bensacourt.

3 MR. FLORIO: Good afternoon.

4 MS. BENSACOURT: Our state is facing
5 a real and growing threat to the city and dignity of
6 our neighbors. Recent enforcement actions in New
7 Jersey have left families terrified. Students are
8 afraid to go to school and whole communities
9 reluctant to leave their homes to fear for a return
10 day that can continue on that we're living in fear.

11 This is not about left or right. It's
12 about what is right and what's wrong. If you have
13 the authority to act now is the time to defend and
14 protect our residents, immigrants and marginalized
15 communities who will be next. If we don't -- if we
16 continue to remain silent, we call on every County
17 and leader to stand up to protect human dignity,
18 preserve community safety and uphold the freedoms we
19 promise in the land of the free.

20 As someone who has dedicated over three
21 years to nonprofit work, let me be blunt. If you
22 are actually caring about the people of who you
23 claim to serve, here are three actions you can claim
24 and must make either today or this week. You work
25 for us, not the other way around. So let's not

1 forget about that. Put your money where your mouth
2 is. So let's be real.

3 I would keep the emergency social services
4 likes childcare, mental health services, rental
5 assistance for families who are ripped apart by
6 detentions or deportations. Words won't pay rent or
7 comfort a child who just lost a parent to ICE.

8 Two, stop hiding behind closed doors. If
9 you really want to hear the voices of our citizens,
10 then treat communities, town halls with the same
11 visibility as you do for city fairs and street
12 markets. Make them public, make them loud and
13 impossible to ignore.

14 Number three, who will the current back on
15 law enforcement demand transparency from both local
16 agencies and the state? That means notification
17 protocols and report regular briefings to the Board,
18 briefings that could be made for the public and not
19 being pushed out from state and local news. So no
20 more secrecy. So if there was anything that I said
21 here today, will you serve as a follower? Will you
22 be an example for other states? Thank you.

23 MS. LILY: Hello. Thank you for
24 allowing us here today. My name is Lily. I
25 represent the Green Party of New Jersey. I am here

1 not just as a member of the Green Party, but also as
2 an immigrant. And I'm coming to ask you to approve
3 this resolution. Resolution 32 the Immigrant Trust
4 Act. My reasons are very personal.

5 I've been here for 36 years, and there's
6 not a day that I've been here that have not been
7 attacked by racism or discrimination. So how do I
8 feel safe here? I don't feel safe. My family
9 doesn't feel safe. And I tell you an incident that
10 happened in a month ago or so. My granddaughter,
11 which she doesn't look Latina, and she doesn't have
12 a Latino last name. But her car plates are on my
13 daughter's name. She was profile. She was raised
14 her profile by policeman. He stopped her, and he
15 asked her if she was a U.S. Citizen.

16 That's -- that's scary. She was very
17 nervous. She's 19. There's no reason for that.
18 There's absolutely no reason for that. She didn't
19 even get a ticket because there was no reason for
20 her to be stopped. So this is what's going to
21 happen, and it's already happening in some towns.
22 We have ICE standing on the highways stopping trucks
23 that are going to work. You know, they -- they know
24 which ones.

25 So how do we do this? They just look and

1 see that someone is Latino and they stop them. So
2 we need if the state, if the two parties are not
3 making a decision on the Immigrant Trust Act and the
4 towns have to start doing this to protect our
5 communities. Thank you.

6 MS. PANTANO: Hi. My name is Maya
7 Pantano. And I was going to speak on Resolution 32.
8 But you said you're going to pass it. So I'm going
9 to say thank you so much for doing that. I really
10 appreciate you listening to the constituents who's
11 been coming up asking for it, and I think it's going
12 to place really important upward pressure on the
13 state legislature to get this passed. So I won't
14 waste your time on why it's a good idea because you
15 already agree.

16 But I did want to kind of go a bit
17 further. This is my first time in front of -- in
18 front of y'all. I've lived in Weehawken for two
19 years now with my aunt who's lived here for, like,
20 40 years. And I think that it's so great that we're
21 going to pass a resolution to support the Immigrant
22 Trust Act. I am wondering if there's other things
23 that the County Commissioners might be able to do to
24 protect the community from being terrorized by these
25 federal agents really on almost a daily basis in

1 parts of the County, like North Bergen and Braddock
2 Park area.

3 It's not just the incident that was
4 captured on video where a community member spotted
5 these masked armed gunmen in the park. And, you
6 know, a Hudson County Sheriff Officer Santos clearly
7 tried to obstruct the community member from
8 exercising their First Amendment right to document,
9 right? That's the incident everyone's been
10 referring to. But the ICE has been in that park at
11 least five times confirmed this summer, quite
12 literally kidnapping people who are going by on
13 their morning jog, people who are day laborers
14 waiting to go to work.

15 Families come in that park. It's really
16 the heart of the community. And now it's very sad
17 that even from the time when I first moved here to
18 now, seeing how that park has emptied out because
19 people are just absolutely living in terror. And so
20 being that the parks are County property, I'm
21 wondering what the County can do beyond the
22 resolution to try and get ICE out of there. One
23 thing, of course, as the ITA Act would require is
24 maybe having some -- some reporting or requirements
25 of proof that Sheriff says they're not cooperating

1 with ice. But, you know, there was an agent on
2 camera, asking community member, Well, how do you
3 know their ICE, and then -- and then saying, Well,
4 don't interfere.

5 So it's like, do you know their ICE or
6 not? And if you know their ICE, why are you
7 helping? And if you don't know their ICE, why
8 aren't you asking them for identification? Because
9 there are masked men in a park, right? It's very
10 strange incident. So there could be some
11 accountability there. But beyond that, is there a
12 way that the County can ban ICE from these parks? I
13 know they're public parks, but I know there's
14 ordinances that require them only to be used for
15 recreation. and that doesn't look like fun to me or
16 anyone else.

17 So I'm just wondering if we can think
18 creatively about protecting our parks and our public
19 spaces. And then also, as someone else mentioned,
20 whether there's any County funds available to
21 support families who are so devastated by this or
22 businesses along the park who are seeing a
23 precipitous drop in customers and that kind of
24 thing. So I look forward to coming more often, and
25 I love good public comment and appreciate you

1 listening to the community. And I'm excited to see
2 y'all pass the act. So thank you so much.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman,
4 just before, because so from last week's incident in
5 the Heights, which I was, I found myself engaged
6 with the wife and the children, up to like 10:30
7 last night. And I have to give a lot of credit to
8 County Clerk, Junior Maldonado, who actually is a
9 neighbor, lives across the street and to Carmen
10 Mendiola, who is -- who is remote, who was able to
11 get on the phone last night and speak to the wife.

12 One of the concerns that I think we need
13 to address immediately in Carmen is an attorney, and
14 she was very helpful. And thank God today that
15 woman's case was postponed to now allow her to
16 really get and lock in an attorney to represent her
17 in her request for asylum. But currently we fund a
18 program called One New Jersey, and I was proud to
19 sponsor it many years ago. And at that time, its
20 purpose was to take individuals that had status and
21 guide them through to get their citizenship. We
22 heard Adrian speak early about his dad and his mom.

23 That program was created under the
24 auspices with the AFL CIO many years ago. But today
25 that mission, and Julie was helpful last week in

1 referring someone. Ultimately, they weren't able to
2 do the representation in time, but we -- we need to
3 meet with that group and redirect or add to what
4 their functions are to provide certain legal
5 attorney access because that woman would have walked
6 in today back to the earliest because she has two
7 Children, an eight-year-old and a 14-year-old, and
8 there was a whole question. Should all three of
9 them were subject to what the hearing was going to
10 be today.

11 Should the children go? And if they don't
12 go and she's taken away, what happens to their
13 children? It wasn't even -- it wasn't even a
14 guardianship paper available, and I learned a lot of
15 this in the last few days to make sure that if that
16 God forbid that happened, what would happen to those
17 children when they gave came home from school that
18 day?

19 So I think -- I think the issue with the
20 parks and the Sheriff, certainly the Public Safety
21 Committee needs to figure that out. We need to --
22 we need to address that. People shouldn't be afraid
23 to go to a park because of their status. And
24 someone may randomly show up with a mask and start
25 to demand ID, and take them away. That's insanity.

1 The last time things like that happens were was back
2 in Germany many, many, many years, even before I was
3 born.

4 But additionally, and all those services
5 you spoke about, yeah, we need to provide them. We
6 meet. We need to make sure that in instances where
7 families divided whoever remains here, especially
8 when you have children that we do everything we can
9 for them. But immediately we need to, Mr.

10 Administrator, convene a meeting or bring One New
11 Jersey here to the next caucus because we got to
12 discuss creating some legal access.

13 Because obviously, in this case, the woman
14 that was that went to the first hearing was handed
15 a -- basically a piece of paper, and it was a phone
16 number call. She said that she called that number
17 multiple times and nobody answered. That's a
18 problem. So if somehow and I don't want to be a
19 conspiracy theory there is, but if somehow the
20 government is giving out a piece of paper telling
21 people call a number and that number is not going to
22 get to provide them the legal services they're
23 entitled to, then we have a major problem.

24 And we're probably having people, you
25 know, families being deported, never given the

1 opportunity to fully have type of representation to
2 present the case there. So I think that that is an
3 equally urgent need. Just because I found being
4 somewhere last Thursday, having the County clerk
5 call me going with Mr. Zupa to the house, spending
6 over an hour there listening to actually what
7 incident was, what happened and then playing it
8 through to last night.

9 And again, Carmen's on the phone. I have
10 to thank her again because there was a panic as to
11 what was going to happen today. So I think, Mr.
12 Administrator, we fund that agency. We funded for
13 many years. It's had a lot of successes. But I
14 think even Juliet admits their mission has to be
15 either changed or added on to because they're the
16 first person I'm calling when I have someone in a
17 situation like the one that I encountered last week.
18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

20 MR. HEISINGER: Good evening. My
21 name is Ryan Heisinger. I've been a resident of
22 Hudson County for over a decade. I'm here to speak
23 about the same resolution. I know you all plan to
24 pass it, so I won't be too self-indulgent here.
25 I'll be brief and I'll get into practicalities, too.

1 But I do want to start by mentioning the briefly.

2 You know, we're in the midst of a massive
3 wave of authoritarian and fascism rolling through
4 our country. And the psychoanalyst Theodore Reich
5 one said, it has been said that history repeats
6 itself. But this is perhaps not quite correct. It
7 merely rhymes. And what we're seeing now, the
8 scapegoating of immigrants for crime and economic
9 hardship, the violence and family separations. They
10 all rhyme. And history will remember who allowed
11 this to happen and who stood up.

12 And so I'm asking you to stand up. I
13 thank you for voting in favor of this resolution and
14 urging the state of New Jersey to fortify
15 protections for our neighbors here in Hudson County.
16 And I implore you, the work does not stop with
17 telling the state to pass a law. Some folks have
18 offered ideas here, and I'll just offer a couple
19 more. I would ask that you please work with us.
20 Please work with the community to develop a
21 comprehensive plan to protect our neighbors.

22 We can work together to expand access to
23 Know Your Rights Trainings and maybe with the help
24 of One New Jersey expanding legal support for
25 affected families. We can ban federal agents from

1 wearing masks while conducting immigration
2 enforcement, which other municipalities and counties
3 around the country have done. And we can expand
4 other protections at the -- at the County level.
5 And so, please, I just ask that passing a resolution
6 telling the State to pass a law is not the end of
7 this conversation, but the beginning. So I thank
8 you for your time.

9 MS. HUNT: I am Catherine Hunt, and
10 I'm from Monroe Township. Thank you, Mr O'Dea, for
11 your comments. I also work with a community group
12 called DIRE, Dire, and we do much of the work that
13 you're describing. So when families -- well, when
14 ICE is in the neighborhood, somebody perhaps gets
15 taken or they go to a warehouse and take 100 people,
16 all without their Fourth Amendment rights. Yep.
17 All without a judicial warrant. And apparently our
18 police can't arrest them for doing that.

19 So what we do is we'll -- we'll do that.
20 We have a rapid response team. We also help people
21 find the lawyers that they need, identify and
22 collect the data for the lawyers so that they can
23 remember what is has just happened. We write it
24 down and record it so that they will have it for the
25 visit to the lawyer. We helped with counseling

1 families. We helped them find rent payments at just
2 a lot of things that we do as a group of churches
3 and community groups and which you could probably
4 use is a model for your own team here that you could
5 do.

6 We also tell businesses that, you know, we
7 teach Know Your Rights to individuals. We also let
8 businesses know that they have rights and what they
9 can do to protect their businesses, that they don't
10 have to let ICE into their private areas that they
11 can tell their employees somebody asked you, you
12 tell them to tell to ask us because we have done the
13 paperwork. We're the ones who manage this business,
14 you know? So, you know, get the word out, tell
15 people what their rights are and what they can do.
16 Businesses have rights to now.

17 I wanted to let you know I really am
18 thankful that you have voted to pass the idea, and
19 it's so appropriate that this should start in
20 municipalities because years ago we take a little
21 trip back a couple of years. We did have an
22 autocrat King George and British soldiers could come
23 to your house or grab you on the street or whatever.
24 Take any man, woman, child, any animal, any of your
25 stuff, any of your crops, and people didn't like

1 that. So municipalities started passing
2 resolutions, ordinances, and these finally made
3 their way up to the state government level. And
4 then when we did finally have a national government
5 made it into the Constitution as the Fourth
6 Amendment.

7 Stand up for the Fourth Amendment. Use it
8 or lose it. So I would request that you let
9 everybody know what the Fourth Amendment is, that
10 they have to have a judicial warrant to come and get
11 people. They can't just run around with masks and
12 snatch people, kidnap people off the street,
13 disappear them so you don't even know where they
14 went. They don't have to -- uh-huh -- they need to
15 have a judicial warrants. And I really think that
16 we should have some officers that maintain that
17 here. Yeah, I think so, I do.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can you leave
19 your contact information?

20 MS. HUNT: I did sign up actually
21 online.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So we could
23 follow up.

24 MS. HUNT: Sure, I sure will. Who
25 should I leave it with?

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Leave it with
2 Luz, I think.

3 MS. HUNT: Okay, I'll leave it with
4 you. Okay. You're welcome. So thank you very
5 much. And I also want to add, I am an RN, and
6 everything I do has to be documented. I have to
7 identify myself. ICE agents don't identify
8 themselves. They don't document anything. And if
9 our police on their off-hours work with ICE agents,
10 they also wear masks, do not identify themselves,
11 and do not document. They're unaccountable.

12 Would you want to work that way if you
13 were a professional? I wouldn't. I would not want
14 to work for any organization as an RN that didn't
15 require me to match the standards of the State. And
16 I really believe that our officers should not seek
17 to work with ICE on any level, off hours or
18 whatever. Because what are they doing? Not
19 identifying themselves, not documenting, totally
20 unaccountable. Is that what you want to be? Is
21 that what you want to be as an officer?

22 MR. FLORIO: Your time has expired,
23 ma'am.

24 MS. HUNT: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next speaker.

1 MR. MITCHELL: How are you doing?
2 Raymond Mitchell. I want to say it's a great thing
3 that you guys are doing for the people, immigrants
4 that come over here, and that want to do something
5 for America. But, you know, the criminals and stuff
6 like that, the murderers, sex assaults and all that
7 stuff, we shouldn't be taking them in. ICE should
8 be arresting them.

9 And also about, how about the
10 American-born? I've been here for months, and
11 nobody ever took their time. Even O'Dea has not
12 even took his time out and said anything or any help
13 for me.

14 MR. FLORIO: On the agenda, Mr.
15 Mitchell.

16 MR. MITCHELL: That is on the agenda.

17 MR. FLORIO: It's not on the agenda,
18 Mr. Mitchell. It's not on the agenda.

19 MR. MITCHELL: We're comparing what's
20 going on?

21 MR. FLORIO: You have signed up to
22 speak on that particular matter at the end, but not
23 now. This is on items on the agenda. What you're
24 moving into now as subject matter is not on the
25 agenda.

1 MR. MITCHELL: It's not on the
2 agenda?

3 MR. FLORIO: It is not, no.

4 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. All right.
5 Well, I want to vote no on it and against it. And I
6 hope you guys start looking at what they did to me
7 and my family here, okay? In this pandemic. How
8 it's set up --

9 MR. FLORIO: On the agenda, Mr.
10 Mitchell.

11 THE CLERK: May I have a motion to
12 approve all items listed on the consent agenda?

13 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Motion.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second. That is
15 the agenda.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner
17 Aponte-Lipski.

18 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baseline.

20 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

22 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

24 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

1 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Abstain on 16A,
4 and aye on the rest.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

6 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

8 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: We have one ordinance for
12 introduction. I'll read it by title. Ordinance
13 amending the Hudson County Administrative Code
14 pursuant to the applicable provisions of the
15 optional County Charter Law N.J.S.A. 40:41A-1.

16 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

17 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

19 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

21 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

23 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

25 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

4 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

6 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: We have three ordinances
10 for second reading. First one, 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 On the adoption. Commissioner
20 Aponte-Lipski.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Public hearing.

22 THE CLERK: Oh, yes. I'm sorry. My
23 bad. Are there any speakers on I-1? We need a
24 motion to close.

25 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Motion.

1 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Second.

2 THE CLERK: All in favor?

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

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Prior to
6 adoption, is someone from the school available? I
7 know the superintendent has sent me an e-mail and I
8 sent an e-mail back. So I don't know if --

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: He's just releasing
10 it for him. Also, while he's coming on, I'm told
11 that the superintendent hasn't brought up enough yet
12 on all the info.

13 MR. ANTUN: I didn't hear what you
14 said, Mr. Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I was informed that
16 the superintendent has not brought up to speed with
17 regard to the buses. He's only taken over.

18 MR. ANTUN: I don't know that. I
19 would defer to Alicia Abraham. She raised her hand.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Alicia.

21 MS. ABRAHAM: Hi, yes. I'm here. I
22 believe the superintendent contacted Commissioner
23 O'Dea by e-mail yesterday, and I think you're in
24 correspondence.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, I

1 responded. But I did not see a response to mine.
2 So his e-mail said that I had questions. He asked
3 me to send the questions and concerns. And he said
4 he would answer to the best of the ability. I'm
5 fine. He said he has his board meeting at the same
6 time. So I don't -- I'm not faulting him for not
7 being available. But the concern was, why should
8 County-related bus trips pay per bus rental fee?
9 When the County buys the buses, and replacement
10 vehicles. Paying for drivers is fine, and even gas
11 reimbursement, which could easily be based on number
12 of miles for the trip. So that's a question and
13 concern that I have.

14 MS. ABRAHAM: Yeah, I will relay that
15 message. And I guess he will follow up with you.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, I mean,
17 we'll have him available at the next caucus.
18 Because I don't need follow-up e-mails. I think
19 it's pretty simple. It's my position, and I think
20 it should be the County's position that trips that
21 are related to County functions, the most obvious
22 one is the boat rides, should not have to pay a \$250
23 fee, in addition to paying for the driver.

24 Most of those buses drive an average of
25 ten miles or less from the point of picking up

1 individuals, bringing them to Weehawken, and then
2 bringing them back. I don't know what 10 miles is,
3 a couple of gallons of gasoline, and they can add
4 that to the cost, and within County. Maybe they
5 shouldn't even look at that factor, but it doesn't
6 seem fair and reasonable. I mean, the whole cost is
7 a different discussion. But it doesn't seem fair
8 and reasonable to charge that fee to the government
9 which purchased the vehicle.

10 So I don't want to hold this up because my
11 understanding is most of this money has already been
12 spent. As reimbursing for monies that have been
13 spent. But obviously part of it includes purchasing
14 buses, and we need to resolve that issue, and if as
15 the Chairman said, the superintendent is not aware
16 of it, maybe it predated him taking over as a
17 superintendent. I don't know. Fine, but we need to
18 resolve it by the next meeting. I think it -- I
19 think it makes absolutely no sense to me.

20 Why I would buy a vehicle for you and then
21 when I -- when I needed to use it for a government
22 purpose, not only am I paying the hourly rate for
23 the driver, because why should you have to incur a
24 cost? But I'm paying you a fee to use the vehicle
25 that I bought. It makes no sense. Makes no logical

1 sense. I would hope that this issue is resolved By
2 the next caucus or meeting. If not, then I am
3 strongly requesting or almost demanding that the
4 superintendent physically be here to have that issue
5 discussed. That's my only question.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.
7 Clerk.

8 THE CLERK: On adoption, Commissioner
9 Aponte-Lipski.

10 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

12 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

14 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: 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: We have an additional
3 ordinance for adoption, A-2. Bond Ordinance
4 providing for the undertaking of Capital Projects
5 for Fiscal Year 2026, by and for the Hudson County
6 Community College located within the County of
7 Hudson, State of New Jersey; appropriating
8 \$6,634,062 therefor and authorizing the issuance of
9 \$6,634,062 Bonds and Notes of the County of Hudson,
10 State of New Jersey, for financing such
11 appropriation, the principal of and interest on the
12 aggregate principal amount of which will be entitled
13 to State Aid, pursuant to Chapter 12 of the Laws of
14 New Jersey of 1971.

15 Is there any speakers on this ordinance?

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Motion to close.

17 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Second.

18 THE CLERK: All in favor?

19 (The Board votes unanimously to close
20 the Hearing.)

21 THE CLERK: On A-2, Commissioner
22 Aponte-Lipski.

23 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

25 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.
2 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.
3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.
4 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: 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: We have an additional
16 resolution for -- I mean an ordinance for adoption,
17 A-3. Ordinance amending Chapter 200, Article 18 of
18 the Administrative Code to regulate bus stops on
19 Bergen Turnpike in the Township of North Bergen, a
20 County-owned roadway.
21 Are there any speakers on this ordinance?
22 Motion to close the hearing?
23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Baselice and
24 Cedeño.
25 THE CLERK: All in favor?

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

3 THE CLERK: On final adoption,
4 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

5 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Basalice.

7 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

9 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

13 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

17 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

19 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: That concludes the
23 business of today's agenda. Are there any comments
24 from the Commissioners on the business of the Board.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Al.

1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Just on Item
2 32, I think the electorate was for want of a better
3 term sold the bill of goods by the Administration
4 during the election. We were told, I think Mr.
5 Mitchell correctly pointed out, that no reasonable
6 person would be against arresting deporting hardcore
7 criminals who are undocumented. I don't think
8 that's the issue. But we were sold that. That's
9 what this was all about.

10 Then the administration conflated all
11 immigrants into that category all undocumented
12 people into that category, and we hear horror
13 stories every day about U.S. citizens or people that
14 are otherwise documented being rounded up. The idea
15 that people come, and one of our other speakers
16 correctly pointed out that, and I think Commissioner
17 O'Dea also alluded to the atrocity, if you want to
18 call it that, of being masked.

19 If you're proud of what you do, and law
20 enforcement is a proud and wonderful occupation, and
21 it takes a certain kind of person that want to do
22 what wants to do that, that person should be proud
23 of what they do, proud of their uniform, proud of
24 the function they carry out. Why do you need a mask
25 is beyond me? It does smack of Europe in the 1930s,

1 smacks of Chile in the 1970s, where people were
2 rounded up and never heard from again. Families
3 didn't know where they went. They just disappeared.
4 That sounds stark and we think it can never happen
5 in this country. But as one of the other speakers
6 said uh authoritarianism and fascism starts with an
7 inch, and before you know it, it's a mile.

8 Sometimes it happens in a swift coup where
9 one of the current writers on the scene about this
10 and there's another professor at NYU. I forget her
11 name. I read her book called Strong Men, but
12 Albam's theory is that if this is a small moving
13 coup, it's immigration, and then we just saw last
14 week, it's the First Amendment.

15 One thing I thought of last week when I
16 saw or early Tuesday when I saw Mr. Kimmel come back
17 on is that if we stick together and we raise our
18 voices, there comes a time when the bullies will
19 back off, and we have to keep vigilant, keep solid.
20 Again, this morning, I saw a flyer that our homeland
21 security secretary Ms. Noem put out about honoring
22 ICE. Be proud of ICE. Be proud of law enforcement,
23 and that's we should be proud and support law
24 enforcement.

25 But the hypocrisy of it astounds me

1 because when you look back at January 6th, where was
2 the administration? Where was our president then
3 where was he supporting our law enforcement then?
4 He only supports law enforcement when it's about
5 him. So I think this week, I think was a watershed
6 in this fight. One thing that I think Americans
7 share that it's -- it's almost like real -- it's
8 handing out to religion. It's our civic religion,
9 and that's the First Amendment. So we all kind of
10 got together behind that. There's other things we
11 can get together.

12 But that was something where I think the
13 administration touched a hot stove, and maybe
14 they'll learn. I kind of doubt it. I think we have
15 to keep teaching them. So thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Al.
17 Billy.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes. So one of
19 the -- or more than one at least one speaker
20 mentioned, and I think that this is something that
21 from our Prosecutor to our local County agencies is
22 going to is becoming a significant issue as it
23 relates to ICE and immigration is in fact domestic
24 violence. Individuals are fearful to report
25 domestic violence because of what their status may

1 be, and that's kind of last week's incident because
2 I had some concern as to how ICE found out what
3 happened and was explained to me as once -- once an
4 arrest report is filed, all law enforcement agencies
5 have access to that, all law enforcement agencies.
6 Because we wondered whether someone within our
7 system, within our correctional system may have been
8 it, and the County Counsel did his homework and due
9 diligence and said, Look, this is -- and he owes me
10 a longer explanation, but it's my fault because I
11 didn't call him back.

12 But you know, it was made clear to me
13 because I had a concern about that there are people
14 within the correctional center leaving papers on the
15 desk when they and when they finish with someone,
16 and then somebody comes in from the federal marshal,
17 and then they like -- but you know, his explanation
18 seemed fair and reasonable. But we have to figure
19 out and put in place a system because you can't have
20 a chilling effect where whether they're men or
21 women, they are so afraid to go make a domestic
22 violence complaint because if they do so, the
23 repercussions as it relates to them could be greater
24 than what what's happening to them at that moment in
25 time.

1 So I would task whether it's Darice, I had
2 a conversation with Stacy Flanagan last Friday from
3 Jersey City, who's their health and human services
4 director on programs they may have as outlets for
5 individuals to be able to deal with that, and we may
6 need to put those programs in place sooner rather
7 than later because we don't want people to die or be
8 killed because that fear, the same way people are
9 now afraid to go to bodegas, and as some said even
10 to go to parks. God forbid they're afraid to call
11 in because of their status. What's going to happen
12 when law enforcement goes there and says, Oh, can I
13 see your identification?

14 So I'd ask that we get Darice to reach out
15 maybe Jersey City. Obviously, it's this
16 County-wide, not just the city, and I think we need
17 to sooner rather than later come up with some other
18 alternate ways to allow those victims to call a
19 number to have someone address the issue and secure
20 their ability to not now be subject to ICE when an
21 arrest may be effectuated at a property.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So let's put that
23 on the record just one comment in that. I'm just
24 proud to say that local law -- all local law
25 enforcement agencies, municipal, County even State

1 all wear identification tags. So thank God for that
2 that we always had to wear them, and it shows the
3 reflection of our adherence to the community.

4 Continue, Mr. Clerk.

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

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Jenny? Thank you,
8 Jen. Continue, Mr. Clerk.

9 THE CLERK: This is the time for
10 persons who submitted timely written requests to
11 address the Board on any matter of public interest.
12 Please remember to limit your comments to three
13 minutes. Are there any speakers? I believe Mr.
14 Mitchell signed up speak tonight.

15 MR. MITCHELL: (Plays recording.)
16 This is a TikTok, so everybody could go on it's
17 going viral now on TikTok, so everybody could
18 continue that.

19 Also, Brian Stack comes out with his
20 little political, says just like soccer or
21 basketball, the government is a team sport. I need
22 to work with other public officials to ensure that
23 we receive necessary funding service and facility --
24 facilitate. So who is on Brian Stack's team besides
25 Mikie Sherill. Oh, and I forgot, I gave a call to

1 Mikie Sherill to come in. Is she here? No. And
2 Rob Menendez, is he here? Two Congressmen I asked
3 to come over and support me. Nobody's here.

4 Okay. As you said Mr. Romano, my dad died
5 of COVID. Prosecutor's office, I did an OPRA got
6 nothing for it, and then Ester Suarez here says the
7 homicide unit under Suarez has achieved a
8 hundred-percent solve rate, surpassing the national
9 average of 58 percent. Does anybody believe in
10 that? The national average is 58 percent, but she
11 comes out with a hundred percent. Well, I'm
12 challenging her, and there's Wayne here? Mellow.
13 So I could challenge her -- challenge him, and he
14 what was -- what was Wayne? Mr. Plankin, the State
15 prosecutor said Mellow has tried high-profile murder
16 cases, so he'd be the perfect person in this case,
17 but I can't even get a hold of him or anything.

18 Adam, do you have anything? Anybody? So
19 what is happening here? I know we're here for the
20 immigration and everybody, and this and that.
21 That's fine. People are people. But how about me
22 and my family? Have been politically retaliated
23 since this pandemic? Was this pandemic a genocide
24 by a bio-weapon? Did everybody know about this
25 before it came out?

1 Only two people that knew my father, was
2 Brian Stack and Bob Menendez, okay? The only two
3 knew where he was, Hackensack Meridian, and the
4 North Bergen Harborage, and they sold it also. So
5 am I getting the proof that my dad died of COVID?
6 Because I have pictures of him strangled here, right
7 on there, and I know a lot of people seen it already
8 so.

9 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Mr.
10 Mitchell.

11 THE CLERK: There is one other
12 speaker that has signed up, Charles Pratt. Is Mr.
13 Pratt in attendance? Not here.

14 MR. MITCHELL: So I guess I'm not
15 getting any of that information, right? Was he dug
16 out? Was he dug out of that grave? So no one's up?
17 So Ester Suarez. Then she retires.

18 MR. FLORIO: Time's up, sir.

19 MR. MITCHELL: I think she violated
20 her oath. She should be in prison.

21 THE CLERK: There being no further
22 business to come before the Board, may I have motion
23 to adjourn?

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz. Seconded
25 by Jerry. All in favor?

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THE CLERK: We are adjourned.

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Thank
you, everyone.

(Whereupon the proceeding is then
concluded at 5:33 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 25, 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

1	32 3:19,25 5:24 7:18 10:7 14:4 14:23 18:3 19:7 42:2	abraham 1:23 35:19,21 36:14	added 5:23 25:15
1 33:15 34:10 34:23	33 4:10	absolutely 18:18 20:19 37:19	addition 15:16 36:23
1,500,000 34:15 34:16	36 18:5	abstain 33:3	additional 3:5 3:12 4:5 39:2 40:15
10 37:2	4	abuse 10:19,25 15:7	additionally 4:4 24:4
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