

HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RE:

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

O P E N S E S S I O N

Hudson County
Administration Building,
County Commissioners Chambers
567 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
Tuesday, October 7, 2025
4:30 p.m.

B E F O R E:

CERTIFIED ORIGINAL

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

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

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

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner

2 Aponte-Lipski.

3 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

7 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

11 Commissioner O'Dea.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

14 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

16 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Here.

17 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

19 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 1.

20 Confirming the Appointment and Reappointments to

21 serve as member of the Hudson County Vision Zero

22 Task Force.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

24 Board as a whole. Board as a whole.

25 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 2. 2025

1 Budget Amendment, New Jersey Division of Highway and
2 Traffic Safety, FY2026 Highway Sustained Safety
3 Grant, \$140,000.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano, and make
5 it, for any Member of this Board? Let Carrie, if
6 Carrie sponsors it, I'll second it.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: We vote it up,
8 vote it down, or not seconding. But not back to
9 when Bob Januszewski was the County Executive. You
10 remember that, Abe, right? When they wouldn't let a
11 Member of the Board put an item on the agenda, and
12 then I explained to them how Robert's Rules of Order
13 worked, and if I have a motion and a second to put
14 an item on, it gets on the agenda. We know what
15 happened to Januszewski, right?

16 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: We don't -- we
18 don't run the government like that. I don't think
19 we do. So I asked for an item to be -- to be given
20 here, to be considered to be put on the agenda. I
21 have no problem or issue with that item being put on
22 the agenda today, and then revised by the -- by the
23 County Counsel between now and Thursday.

24 This is related to Christ Hospital, a
25 hospital that may close, a hospital where I was

1 born, a hospital where God knows what the effect of
2 people are. It's a simple courtesy. It affects
3 Jersey City. All I'm asking is the union of the
4 employees that are affected, ask the item to be put
5 on the agenda.

6 I'm asking as they requested the item be
7 placed on the agenda. I'll defer then. I've sent
8 you already the union vice president's phone number.
9 If they are with him on any changes you make, so we
10 can put them together on the docket Thursday, but I
11 don't want to wait til Thursday because then what if
12 that language doesn't meet what the union needs? Or
13 what their -- or what their goals or intentions are
14 as part of this fight.

15 So all I'm asking is that the item be
16 placed on the agenda, that we give it to the County
17 Counsel. Let the County Counsel review it. Let our
18 own counsel review it between now and Thursday. I
19 provided the name of someone from the union who has
20 the -- who can create whatever dialogue is necessary
21 to go through why something may be in it and
22 something else isn't in it. And then I'll be fine
23 with whatever everyone agrees on at the end of the
24 day Thursday.

25 But to not do it before Thursday and run

1 the risk that the resolution that's brought to us is
2 not up to what's needed, I think that would be very,
3 very risky and put a hospital that's already at risk
4 at a serious, serious situation. So that's all I'm
5 asking.

6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I just have a
7 question.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Al.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: The resolution
10 that Bill is putting forth, that's not on our
11 agenda, right? Do I have a copy of that resolution?

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We're all just
13 getting it now.

14 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Well, why are
15 we talking about it now instead of the end of the --

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I was talking
17 about -- I apologize, Al. Because you're not
18 physically here.

19 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: That's right,
20 I'm still here and present. I'm still present.

21
22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But you couldn't
23 see what was going on. So I had someone come here
24 and told me it can't be put on the agenda because it
25 didn't have the Law Department review it. And

1 that's why I began my discussion. And you're
2 actually the only person that's here. I was here
3 then when I was told back in the day, the only way
4 an item could go on an agenda is if the County
5 Executive put it on the agenda.

6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Oh, that's
7 done.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I don't like the
9 way --

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right.
11 That's done.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here's what we're
13 going to do. We're going to return to the agenda
14 and everybody's here. And I'll speak to you back on
15 the end of the agenda. We'll have a better
16 conversation then.

17 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. Let's
18 go through the agenda, and we'll bring it on at the
19 end. And we'll talk about it.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm upset
21 because I was told I couldn't even have it put for
22 consideration on the agenda.

23 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: No, Billy,
24 that's not accurate.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. Going

1 on with the agenda right now.

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: We're
3 interrupting the agenda.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I apologize. Go
5 ahead. I apologize to my colleagues.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right, go
7 ahead.

8 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 3. 2025
9 Budget Amendment, New Jersey Division of Highway
10 Traffic Safety 2026 Pedestrian Safety Grant Program.
11 \$80,000.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
13 Lipski.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 4,
15 resolution authorizing a one-year extension of the
16 Stop School Violence Program under the United States
17 Bureau of Justice Assistance and awarding a non-fair
18 and open contract to Social Decision-Making LLC, for
19 the provision of specialized training and technical
20 assistance for an extended period, October 1st, 2025
21 through September 30th, 2026, \$132,000.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 5.
24 Resolution authorizing payment for the annual
25 service agreement with Electronics System Solutions,

1 Inc., for WiMAX System and Integral Vision Interview
2 Room Equipment on behalf of the Prosecutor's Office,
3 January 1st, 2026 to December 31st, 2026, \$39,039.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Romano.

5 THE CLERK: Lipski-Romano, or
6 Romano-Lipski.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Give it to
8 Commissioner Lipski first.

9 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 6,
10 resolution authorizing payment to Tenex Software
11 Solution, Inc. for Software Solutions Management for
12 Election Infrastructure, including Election Worker
13 Management, Asset and Inventory Tracking, Help Desk,
14 and issue tracking for all Elections on behalf of
15 the Board of Elections, \$205,250.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's Cedeño and
17 Romano. What was that? Lipski. Lipski and me.

18 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 7.
19 Purchase -- approve Purchasing Agent's Awards,
20 purchases made under State contract.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
22 Walker.

23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 8.
24 Purchases made under the Educational Service
25 Commission of New Jersey Pricing System, formerly

1 known as the Middlesex Regional Educational Service
2 Commission.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Question.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Question, Bill.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Jonathan, are
7 you going to get me a copy of the layout of the
8 soccer field? Get that to me tomorrow. I'd be
9 appreciative.

10 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 9.

11 Purchases made under the Bergen County Cooperative
12 Pricing System.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 10.

15 Purchases made on the Union County Cooperative
16 Pricing System.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

18 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 11.

19 Purchases made under the Hunterdon County
20 Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing
21 System.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I don't know why
24 we just don't create our own. Yeah, everybody else.
25 Middlesex, Hunterdon, Union. We should just create

1 our own.

2 MR. ANTUN: We're -- we're -- we're
3 in the process of doing so. Yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But you can make
5 money from it, right? Can you make money from it?

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue Mr. Clerk.

7 THE CLERK: Resolution No 12.

8 Approve Purchasing Agent's awards.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker.

10 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 13, which
11 is a replacement, Commissioners. Purchases --
12 Purchasing Amending Resolution No. 467-8-2025
13 Purchases made under Bergen County Cooperative.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Walker on
15 No. 13.

16 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Questions I
17 had.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Bobby.

19 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Is it the
20 same amount?

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I believe just
22 the facts.

23 MR. ANTUN: No, no. What happened
24 was --

25 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: No, I'm aware

1 of it, but it's -- it's just the connect, is that
2 same amount. It's a 500 something dollars less.

3 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Okay.

5 MR. ANTUN: All we're doing is
6 amending the prior resolution because we paid \$500,
7 \$500 less.

8 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 14.
9 Resolution approving an award of a fair and open
10 competitive contract for Credible Messengers
11 Mentoring Movement to Implement the Hudson County
12 Credible Messengers Program, October 15, 2025
13 through October 14, 2026, \$400,000.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sponsor.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So I would say
16 that we carry it to the next agenda because I had
17 requested the full proposal. As you know, the prior
18 provider was taken out. There were questions of
19 improprieties that were related to it. Originally,
20 there were four respondents, two that were local.
21 They were discouraged based on how, what they were
22 told their score was not the exact score to, to
23 apply again. So they didn't. I just want to review
24 in detail the full proposal.

25 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I want to be

1 second. I would second Billy's motion.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All right. I'm
3 going to move it. I'll second it to get it on the
4 agenda. And I'm going to make a motion to carry the
5 item to the next agenda and to provide the entire
6 Board with full copies of the -- of the proposal
7 submitted by the two groups.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. I would
9 agree with Billy. So we've been on for Thursday,
10 but then we'll -- we'll move it. Well, we'll, we'll
11 make Billy's motion. We'll be in order on Thursday.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Did you get that?

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: We can do it
14 now.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We're doing it now.
16 That was to put it on the agenda. Now go ahead.
17 Billy's making a motion.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Carry to the
19 next meeting and to provide us the full proposals.
20 Al Cifelli seconded it. Roll call as long as
21 there's no objection.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Chris, go
23 ahead. Christine.

24 MS. MORO: The proposals are all
25 given to all the Commissioners when they come in.

1 On the Commissioner's portal.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I need a
3 physical copy. That's what I'm asking for.

4 THE CLERK: On the motion to move
5 Resolution No. 14 to the next public meeting.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Time out one
7 second. What was your question, Christine?

8 MS. MORO: How many physical copies
9 are needed? Because they're, they're electronic on
10 the Commissioner's portal.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Billy wants
12 one.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I want one.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay, Al. Al wants
15 one too.

16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'll be there
17 Thursday.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay.

19 MS. MORO: All right. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So we got that.
21 You got that?

22 THE CLERK: On the motion to move
23 Resolution No. 14 to the next public meeting.

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 Cifelli.
6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: 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 Chairman Romano.
15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. Jerry's here.
16 THE CLERK: I'll give them the
17 opportunity to --
18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Go ahead.
19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Just for the
20 record. So I want to review the proposal. I want
21 to see who the people that are going to be there
22 working. I saw something that said they're going to
23 interview people. There were two people that worked
24 for the prior provider. One of the two, if not both
25 of them, but what I would define as whistleblowers.

1 And if those whistleblowers are not part of whoever
2 the new provider is, then I'm going to strongly
3 oppose that.

4 Because the worst thing in the world to
5 happen is have somebody be a whistleblower that
6 provides a certain service. And then when a new
7 provider comes in, and quite frankly, those
8 whistleblowers, as you know, Darice, have been
9 providing much of these services for free, with no
10 payment since the program was taken away from the
11 other provider.

12 I need to see the proposal and make sure
13 that their role -- their role is clearly defined in
14 it. Because quite frankly, they're the foundation
15 of what made the program successful to begin with.
16 I just need to put that on the record.

17 THE CLERK: Commissioner -- I mean,
18 Resolution No. 15. Resolution No. 482-8-2025
19 appointing the Difference Card to serve as the
20 Third-Party Administrator for the Health
21 Reimbursement Account for the County
22 Medical/Pharmaceutical Program, January 1, 2026 to
23 December 31, 2026.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sponsor.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Question. Go
2 ahead.

3 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, this
4 resolution was approved at a prior meeting. The
5 reason we come back to you with a new one is because
6 the out-of-pocket amount changed because the new
7 premiums went up. That's the only --

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Good enough. Okay.
9 No. 16.

10 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 16.
11 Resolution amending Resolution No. 557-9-2025
12 Qualifying Towing Companies to perform services
13 within the County of Hudson pursuant to Ordinance
14 Nos. 475-10-2011 and 234-4-2013, 636-10-2021 and
15 426-7-2025.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cifelli-Romano.
17 Question. I passed Lincoln Park the other day, and
18 there's a cover over like one of those fancy cars.
19 I don't know, whatever they are, Tesla, whatever.
20 Is it meant to be a parking lot? Or is it supposed
21 to be for convenience for people that go to work or
22 they can park their cars there for a week?

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's what
24 we're doing with the street sweepers there for that
25 exact reason.

1 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, they're not
2 supposed to be there.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I said I went
4 through Lincoln Park twice for some other things.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, we
6 instituted parking so that the next month we could
7 do that.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Good. Good idea,
9 Jonathan. All right, continue.

10 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 17.
11 Resolution declaring K-9 Hope of the Hudson County
12 Sheriff's Office to be retired and Decommissioned as
13 she is no longer needed for County use.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.
15 Question, what happens to the dog?

16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: What happens
17 to the dog, yeah?

18 MR. ANTUN: The owner is taking --
19 the handler is taking over. The handler takes the
20 dog. The officer gets it.

21 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: If they
22 request the dog, they can have the dog. And that
23 dog caught a lot of people.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Continue.

25 THE CLERK: I-1. Ordinance

1 establishing dedications within the County Parks.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Sponsor, is this
3 the bench one? Sponsor.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second.
5 Bobby, question and second.

6 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: You second
7 it. I want a question.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You want to second
9 it?

10 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: You second
11 it.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I'll second it.
13 Bobby, question, go ahead.

14 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: We get a lot
15 of requests in Braddock for memorials, et cetera.
16 The process by which we're going to approve them, I
17 mean, so, how do I say this? I think it's a great
18 idea. It's just, we're going to get, we may get
19 inundated with them. So we should come up with a
20 way to be able to put them throughout the park. But
21 I really like the idea. I also want to add in the
22 potential of flags, flags on like light poles.

23 THE CLERK: I will use the prior
24 sponsors for A-1 to be adopted. I will now turn it
25 over to the Administration.

1 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I have no
2 additional lines.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's just the
4 revision on 13, correct?

5 MR. ANTUN: Well, we already --
6 right. We already provided them.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay, go ahead now.
8 So I wanted to place.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: We have to
10 talk about Billy's resolution.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So everyone has
12 a copy. It says a resolution to save our hospitals,
13 save our communities. I'll read it because
14 Commissioner Cifelli did not get a copy.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It says, Where
17 the impact of Hudson Regional Health in Hudson
18 County closes would put thousands of residents
19 health care in jeopardy.

20 Whereas, in 2023, Christ, Hoboken and
21 Bayonne showed over 12,000 inpatient procedures and
22 over 70,000 emergency room visits.

23 Whereas, patients will have to travel
24 further and wait longer for care or go without.

25 Whereas, an improvement when a hospital

1 closes, other hospitals suffer.

2 Whereas, patient volume goes up and they
3 do not get the care they deserve, resulting in
4 higher patient death rate.

5 Whereas, Hudson Regional Health be
6 transparent about them seeking State approval and
7 provide a written approval before a closure plan can
8 be implemented.

9 Whereas, Hudson Regional Health needs to
10 be transparent to the unions and residents, a
11 detailed closure plan which includes proper
12 notifications for patients, staff, relevant agencies
13 that provide documentation such as financial census
14 report.

15 Whereas, HRH must seek all resources for
16 financial assistance such as Medicare, ESH payments,
17 emergency Medicaid dedicated to their graduated
18 medical education dollars before HRH submits a
19 certificate of need application for termination of
20 discontinuation of services.

21 And whereas, if Christ Hospital closes,
22 over 1,000 healthcare work -- care jobs will be lost
23 and it was reported in 2022, almost 200 million in
24 salaries and wages were paid to the worker.

25 Whereas, it's clear that this critical

1 investment in Hudson County that helps keep our
2 small businesses and local economy.

3 Now, therefore, be it resolved that the
4 Board of Commissioners and 1199-J District is
5 demanding lawmakers implement radical legislation,
6 create a pilot program that the department
7 developers pay a health care tax which would be an
8 annual payment to the municipality general fund
9 designated for health care facilities that can help
10 offset charity care.

11 Now, therefore, be it resolved further
12 District 1199-J is asking the County and State to
13 provide a financial safety net and save our
14 hospitals so our County residents can get what they
15 deserve.

16 So I'm moving to put the item on the
17 agenda. Two things I would want to note. You know
18 one, and as I said earlier if I've shared 1199-J's
19 contact with the County Counsel. I welcome him to
20 have a conversation with them to get more
21 information as he needs as it may relate to any of
22 the items within here. And as was done with the
23 last resolution came on the agenda, you reviewed it
24 you made changes. We didn't object to the changes.
25 It passed. Some people claim we watered some stuff

1 down, but I didn't, and I never called anybody out
2 even -- even representing that.

3 So I'm just asking again as a courtesy.
4 This is an urgent matter this isn't something that
5 can wait a couple of weeks or potentially put a
6 resolution on that may not have everything we need
7 at this point in doing it. It seems to be general
8 enough that I don't know why anyone would have a
9 serious objection to it. So I'm making a motion
10 that we put this item on the agenda for Thursday's
11 meeting.

12 THE CLERK: Is there a second?

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And when I go to
14 the rally tomorrow I will note that no one would
15 second the resolution, not the Chairman that's
16 represented that area for a long time, not
17 Commissioner Yraida Lipski who represents most of
18 that area now, nor any of my colleagues who whenever
19 they've asked me to sponsor or second a resolution
20 that they had, I've never had a problem to at least
21 get it on an agenda to be voted on.

22 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead. Welcome,
24 County Executive.

25 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Mr. Chairman,

1 more directed at Commissioner O'Dea. Commissioner,
2 shame on you for comparing this administration to
3 the previous administration Bob Januszewski, who
4 went to jail for ethical and criminal problems.
5 That's shameful that you said that.

6 You owe both the Board and this
7 Administration that worked so hard to do so many
8 good things with you, it's -- it's discouraging and
9 shameful that you would mention that. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, Craig, for
11 the record the only reason I said it was because
12 someone came to me and told me, I'm sorry, you're
13 not allowed to have this even considered to be put
14 on the agenda because you can't do that until the
15 Law Department reviews it, and the reality is that
16 the last time that ever occurred was when Bob
17 Januszewski was the County Executive.

18 And in no way am I saying that this
19 Administration is like that, but I found it
20 troubling that I could not even have a discussion to
21 read a resolution that I want to be put on the
22 agenda. Obviously, I know Jenny Davis called
23 everyone else and told everyone else not to second
24 it, which is certainly her privy to do that. I'll
25 certainly make sure that we've got lots of folks

1 here on Thursday, and I'll make sure they sign up to
2 speak because I'll exercise my right and their right
3 under the First Amendment to get that heard. So I
4 don't want to intimate that but this predated you
5 but -- and Abe Anton was here.

6 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Well, you did.
7 Bill, you did.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Look, I'll
9 apologize, but I was angry and upset because
10 something that hasn't happened in 25 or 20, 25, 27
11 years, where someone told me I couldn't even have an
12 item considered, right? And had I known it was
13 going to be such a problem, I would have had
14 conversations with Members of the Board. I'm
15 shocked that people that represent that area and
16 represent Jersey City are so -- are so silent, but
17 you know, that's up to them.

18 But when I'm told, Sorry, they weren't
19 even going to give me a copy of the resolution,
20 Craig. I had to tell -- like, they were not going
21 to give me a copy of something I asked to be
22 drafted. Now, that's not the way I've ever seen
23 anything in your administration or the Tom DeGise
24 administration. The last time I saw anything like
25 that was in the Bob Januszewski administration.

1 So I apologize for the -- for the -- for
2 the inference or reference that somehow it makes it
3 the same as that administration. I don't mean to
4 say that, but I hope you appreciate my anger at
5 having something happen to me that hasn't happened
6 since my first year on this Board. And I think I
7 had to make that clear because I hope that's not a
8 direction we're headed in.

9 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI:

10 Chairman.

11 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Apology

12 accepted, Bill. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.

14 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI:

15 Commissioner O'Dea. It's not that I do not support
16 my constituents. That's what I'm here for, to work
17 for them and to, you know, help as much as I can in
18 any capability that I have available. It's just I
19 did not know about this. So how could you want me
20 to vote about something that I don't know about? I
21 need to read it. I need to see what is it, you
22 know? Why, you know, is this resolution putting in
23 front of us the last minute without us not -- not
24 knowing what it is about. That is what I'm
25 thinking. That is my personal opinion, and nobody

1 else, you know, had to tell me what to do.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm going to
3 check when I sent it. I know I included the
4 Chairman when I sent it, and my assumption is that
5 the Chairman would share it with the rest of the
6 Board. That's not my bad. I followed the proper
7 procedure. I sent it to the clerk. I copied the
8 Chairman, I copied Carmen, and I copied Luz, and I
9 said, Could you please have this drafted?

10 MS. MENDIOLA: Commissioner, I didn't
11 get a copy of that, just so you know.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'll show you
13 and you were copied it.

14 MS. MENDIOLA: No. It was not in the
15 e-mail.

16 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Thank
17 you.

18 MS. MENDIOLA: I was not in the
19 e-mail.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. But the
21 Chairman was on it. The Clerk was on it. It's
22 their job, quite frankly, the reason I don't put
23 everyone on it is because then I can have somebody
24 saying, We're right, we don't send things to
25 everyone because you might have come back and have a

1 back and forth conversation, and we've been advised
2 in the past that not to do that because that may be
3 a violation of -- of OPRA, correct?

4 MR. ANTUN: Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's why I
6 followed what would be the normal protocol, sent it
7 to the Chairman and the Clerk, asked for it to be
8 drafted. Would have assumed that once it was
9 drafted, that the Clerk would have just shared it
10 with the members.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Well, I didn't
12 look. But I honestly didn't look at it, but I have
13 to make a statement. I used to -- it was in my
14 area. I still 1199J and all the hospital workers,
15 my problem is I had a problem with something written
16 in there. Obviously, we can't discuss it because
17 it's not on the agenda, but I have a problem with
18 one of the paragraphs, and that's my reason I wanted
19 that to see if it passes legal review. So that
20 disturbs me the one paragraph on it. Obviously, we
21 can't talk about it, correct?

22 MR. DEPIERRO: Not yet.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Right.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But again, I
25 said clearly there was a resolution on the last

1 agenda concerning a State legislation related to
2 ICE. The item that was drafted and put on the
3 agenda by me was not the item adopted two days
4 later, correct? Right?

5 MR. DEPIERRO: It was approved by our
6 office.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All I asked is
8 that that same courtesy be extended. Place the item
9 on the agenda, let the County Counsel have two days
10 to address whatever issue the Chairman or anyone
11 else had. I shared with the County Counsel today
12 the union representative who sent it to me to begin
13 with for whatever discussions they can have back and
14 forth.

15 MS. DAVIS: Can I speak? My name is
16 relevant in a disparaging way which I always love in
17 Hudson County. So just to be clear, once you said
18 you were putting the agenda, I walked away. I
19 didn't have time to call everyone in this room,
20 Bill, between the time I walked away and came back.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'll just tell
22 you that Members of the Board told me you spoke to
23 them before the meeting.

24 MS. DAVIS: It's not true. What I
25 can tell you, Bill, is I don't appreciate being

1 disparaged. So put it on the agenda. We'll revise
2 it for Thursday. I never said no once you said that
3 to me. I walked away and literally have been in
4 this room with no cell signal since about the
5 stopping. So please don't disparage my name.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All I would tell
7 you is I wasn't disparaging. I was probably giving
8 you a lot of credit because you were able to
9 convince not one other person to just second an item
10 to go on the agenda.

11 MS. DAVIS: Well, that's not the
12 case, but we're okay. We're okay. That's very nice
13 of you. Thank you. I appreciate that. We all
14 agree to disagree on that one, but we're okay.
15 Everyone, it sounds like there's a lot of
16 miscommunication. We will revise for Thursday.
17 Let's move forward so we can all get ourselves out
18 of here tonight.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Two things.
20 I just want to add to that. I have to apologize.
21 I, for my own personal reasons, had some issues
22 going on. I didn't look. I didn't look at it, the
23 e-mail. So I'll take that. To 1199J, don't doubt
24 that any Member of this Board, including the County
25 Executive and staff does not support your union.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I never said
2 that. No, I didn't. I don't believe that.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No, I didn't say
4 you did.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Based on what
6 Jenny said, I'll re-ask for a second to my
7 resolution. Hold on, let me -- let my friend,
8 Commissioner Walker read it.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. And also,
10 Jerry, you have to vote on something else.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Come on, Jerry,
12 just put it on the agenda. But your hospital too,
13 it's in your district.

14 COMMISSIONER WALKER: What's --
15 what's the issue with this?

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Some of the
17 wording wasn't -- I've agreed that we will change
18 reasonable wording. Get the item on the agenda so
19 we can start the discussion.

20 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI:
21 Chairman?

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: I also
24 want to just emphasize that who wants to close the
25 hospital and in the area that they needed the most?

1 Nobody. But like I say, I didn't know about it.
2 That's what I'm trying to say. I didn't know about
3 it. And I know that we all, the County Executive
4 and all the Commissioners, we could get together
5 with the Law Department and put something together
6 that, you know, help in any capacity possible.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Put it on the
8 agenda and make any changes you want.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Listen, let's end
10 the discussion. We'll put it on. And then I got a
11 question. Okay? I'll second.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right?

14 THE CLERK: We'll be resolution No.
15 18. We'll have a question on that.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. Now
17 question the last paragraph and then whatever,
18 whatever comments that you have and the -- the
19 Administration has that last paragraph troubles me.

20 MR. DEPIERRO: Okay. We're -- we're
21 going to look at this. In all fairness. I just
22 looked the -- the one for the Immigrant Trust Act
23 from last agenda was sent to me actually four hours
24 before the Thursday meeting. So it wasn't even on
25 the Tuesday. I just need to make sure like with any

1 resolution, I get the backup, understand what's
2 going on here and approve it for legal sufficiency
3 and efficacy. And then whatever is the final
4 version, if there is one, it will be presented to
5 the Board. I just have to make sure like in any
6 resolution I get like Commissioner Aponte-Lipski was
7 saying, get the information related to it. I will
8 contact counsel if necessary on the other side and
9 address the language as well, and make sure just
10 like last time, we'll -- we'll always present before
11 the board, um, something that is approved by the
12 entire Law Department for legal sufficiency.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So can I amend
14 my own resolution now that's on the agenda? So I
15 want to add --

16 MR. DEPIERRO: -- for counsel of the
17 Board.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So can I add --
19 so can I add to the final paragraph, which says be
20 it resolved District 911 is asking, add the words of
21 the city or the city, the County and State because
22 all levels of government with cities, I guess the
23 cities, right? Cause he -- cause it's three
24 different cities. So just add the words, "the
25 cities," the County and the State to provide a

1 financial statement. So everybody would be asked
2 if, if there's a need to put in, that we do that.
3 And if you want to change that, you can change it.
4 But I think for clarity, you can't let the cities
5 involved be off the hook.

6 MR. DEPIERRO: I would just say for
7 most efficiency, like we did last time, if you could
8 propose a draft to counsel for the Board and then
9 they send it up, that would be the easiest way.
10 Like with the previous immigration --

11 MS. MENDIOLA: Let me make a
12 suggestion. Maybe perhaps prior to change it
13 around, circulate it amongst the Commissioners and
14 then perhaps send it over to me. It's the first
15 time I'm seeing it as well, but send it over and I
16 can review it. And I can contact counsel and go
17 through it with them as well.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's on the
19 agenda.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Well, I apologize
21 to you for not getting to read it. I had some
22 issues going on personally. Yes.

23 MR. ANTUN: If I can just address
24 Commissioner O'Dea on this amendment. Commissioner,
25 you know, the County and the City are going to have

1 some financial challenges in the future. I think
2 that the prior paragraph isn't, it is a very
3 interesting one.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yep. That's my
5 comment.

6 MR. ANTUN: Yeah. It's a very
7 interesting one.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: It's dangerous.

9 MR. ANTUN: So -- so, you know --

10 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: You were
11 saying that's --

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I mean, that's why
13 I definitely have to have, I think, you know, and
14 nobody knows any communication with the hospital.
15 Do we have anything to go on here that where were
16 there at with this? Has anybody spoken to any
17 representatives?

18 MR. ANTUN: Yeah. I would suggest
19 that we -- my suggestion, you know, given the fact
20 that the City and the County are going to have a lot
21 of financial issues, that, you know, we -- and
22 really when it comes to the -- when it comes to
23 hospital safety nets, it's really the State through
24 their -- through their charity care and Medicaid and
25 insurance programs that, you know, we seek state

1 assistance in this and this, this idea of having
2 some type of a healthcare tax, interesting thing to
3 think about. You know, I think something like that,
4 I think is something to have some kind of a revenue
5 stream to -- to support this.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, yeah. We,
7 we did one and the hospital didn't pay us the money.
8 That's about \$15 million they didn't pay.
9 Everybody, anybody up here forget what the history
10 of this hospital is. So like part of that's not --
11 not Hudson regional, but their predecessors
12 self-inflicted wound.

13 But -- but when they took the hospital
14 over, they assumed the liability because I've done
15 some of the research onto it. So now they're coming
16 back as it relates to that. So look, you can reword
17 the language. Maybe it says, is asking primarily
18 the State. I like -- like work the language. Let's
19 get it on. We got the discussion started. I
20 haven't got myself worked up so much in a long, long
21 time. I got a debate at six o'clock and man, I feel
22 bad for those other folks. I'm all worked up.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And here's my other
24 issue too. Hoboken hospital is linked. So when my
25 people in Hoboken see this, they're going to say,

1 well, what is this? We're opening up Pandora's box
2 with that other paragraph.

3 MR. DEPIERRO: I echo our County
4 Administrator's statement. And also this seems that
5 something that needs a further analysis, a lot
6 further.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The union knows
8 more about this than any of us up here does. You
9 got from now to Thursday.

10 MR. DEPIERRO: Just in all fairness,
11 that may not be enough time for me and counsel to
12 discuss this further, to rush something. I'm just,
13 I want to make sure that I present --

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I trust you can.

15 MR. DEPIERRO: I trust myself too,
16 but I want to make sure I present something to the
17 Board that is accurate and has all the information
18 needed. That's all.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And look, maybe
20 the first one, you know, takes us out of the safety
21 net and we do another one that, you know, defines
22 differently what our safety net might be. That's
23 fine. Maybe there's more than one resolution.

24 But the fact is this is urgent. We don't
25 have time. Let's talk about closing hospitals. Has

1 there been a closing hospital, shutting down
2 emergency rooms?

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead Bobby.

4 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I go to
5 process usually, okay? The process in this case is
6 the problem. Not having the information, I've in
7 the past said, I need to read something before I
8 vote on something. Not having it in the beginning
9 and then not complying with Commissioners speaking
10 about it. But every time we've dealt with a
11 hospital, we go to a closed session, we go to a
12 subcommittee and we talk it out and we deal with
13 them.

14 My colleague here who has additional
15 information and has been privy to additional
16 information, none of the hospitals in my district,
17 but I always support the unions. We've done that
18 this year many times, but I don't like the idea of
19 being called out because I didn't know about this.
20 And it's not enough information for me to make a
21 determination on something that potentially have a
22 consequence to every municipality because we're
23 going to foot the bill at the end of the day.

24 And as a Commissioner who does not like
25 seeing the tax increases and as a Commissioner who

1 appreciated what we did for Secaucus, I don't want
2 us to be in the dark voting on something. So in the
3 future, I would appreciate if whoever gets to,
4 however it gets to anybody, let's have a
5 subcommittee meeting. And listen, there was enough
6 time. There's been talk about this. I haven't read
7 anything about the closure of the hospital.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: There's a lot of
9 things going on out there, but I would Google it.
10 There's a lot out there. You just got to Google it.
11 There's a lot out there. There's a rally tomorrow.
12 There's a meeting on Friday. Like this is hot and
13 heavy.

14 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Commissioner,
15 I'm asking you that when you do have additional
16 information, let us all know. I'm okay with knowing
17 and then voting. The only thing is I don't want to
18 not know.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: There's concerns
20 that they want to take some of these hospitals
21 because they're private development sites and turn
22 them into private development sites. So money,
23 greed, over health care. This is a real serious
24 issue. Christ Hospital is close to our heart
25 because as you know, Mr. Administrator, this County

1 working with Alliance probably saved several
2 thousand lives during COVID, right? I apologize to
3 Craig, but on the flip side of it, I don't know how
4 many other counties in the United States did what we
5 did. We all worked together on that. We had many
6 conversations as that was put together, and it was
7 put together quickly.

8 We talked about the trucks that were there
9 with bodies in the trucks, and that step-down unit
10 created across the street at that former nursing
11 school saved thousands of lives. We'll never know
12 how many. I think it was a national case study that
13 we never fully publicized, and I brag about it and
14 talk about it all the time. I want to put things in
15 perspective so.

16 I was born in this hospital, so maybe I
17 got an emotional attachment. I guess I'm the only
18 guy in politics that wasn't born in Margaret Hague.
19 That's my age. I've got no idea why, but my family
20 lived four blocks away. When your mom's about to
21 deliver, they take you to whatever the hell the
22 closest hospital is or wherever your doctor is. I
23 don't know.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I have two requests
25 too. I'm going to ask 1199J. Obviously, we have a

1 relationship with maybe certain Commissioners, but
2 to inform every Commissioner of what you're feeling,
3 including the County Executive's office, so somehow
4 we can all be aware of what's going on. I think
5 that's number one.

6 And number two, could somebody find out or
7 have from the Administration of what is truth or
8 what is fantasy or what is reality and what is a
9 rumor with regard to the hospital itself? I think
10 that's important, plus our State representatives.
11 This all should be a collective communication.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So I think
13 Friday there's a meeting with different officials.
14 If you're not, I just saw it.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Tomorrow there's a
16 rally. I got invited.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Tomorrow's a
18 rally. Friday is, I think, a meeting, a
19 stakeholder-type meeting. Obviously, you're the
20 Chairman and Yraida is in the area. You should be
21 there. I'm going to try to be there, too, but just
22 an urgency. I'll send you the information. It's
23 Friday morning.

24 But there's just an urgency to it. The
25 importance of just getting this discussion today was

1 very healthy and helpful because time is not on our
2 side. If people are trying to close a hospital to
3 turn it into a thousand units of market-rate rental
4 housing, we've got to stand strong sooner rather
5 than later.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: With regard to what
7 Abe said, we're not in the business of running
8 hospitals. Some people in the Hoboken are
9 requesting, Oh, well, we don't run hospitals.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And again, that
11 tax we did was done to help hospitals, and it has
12 helped hospitals. Their failure to pay \$15 million,
13 that was CarePoint. Listen, point the weapon where
14 it should be pointed. CarePoint created and
15 exacerbated the problem. They don't even know and
16 understand exactly who paid that \$15 million because
17 you and I had a discussion where they're asking us
18 to postpone getting the money back, but at the end
19 of the day, we're not the recipient of the money
20 anyway. We're just forwarding the money back to the
21 State because the State had to front the money.

22 That's scary that even the hospital
23 doesn't even fully understand what the hell they're
24 doing. Then before that, as you know, and we never
25 got the answer to this, we wrote a check for a

1 million dollars, right? To their foundation when
2 CarePoint was there. We got the million dollars
3 back and got it to the hospital, but that million
4 dollars disappeared. The way banking works, the
5 bank gives you your money back, because you know I
6 had my account at Bank of America once wiped out.
7 They never tell you who did it, what did it, do they
8 prosecute who they are. You have no knowledge of
9 it. There's a pretty shady history as it relates to
10 the prior operator of this hospital.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Craig, would you
12 like to comment on anything?

13 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Yeah. Bill, I
14 was not born in Margaret Hague. I was born in the
15 great city of Weehawken.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Craig, I was too,
17 so I guess we're the only ones. The hospital don't
18 even exist anymore.

19 MR. ANTUN: Weehawken. North Hudson
20 Hospital.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah, North Hudson.

22 MS. DAVIS: Really quickly interject,
23 I need to go get my kids. I'm not leaving because
24 of this. I'm glad everyone's talked this out.
25 We're very good. I'm just leaving because I have my

1 kids, and I'm going to say goodnight to everybody
2 early. I apologize. I'm leaving early.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. I think
4 we're done. I'll make a motion or adjourn.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Wait, hold on.
6 Hold on. Hold on. The Clerk ask Commissioner
7 Walker.

8 THE CLERK: Would you like to cast
9 your vote on moving Resolution No. 14 to the next
10 public meeting, which would be October 23rd?

11 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Motion to adjourn.

13 THE CLERK: All in favor?

14 (Whereupon the proceeding is then
15 concluded at 5:31 p.m.)
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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 an Regular Caucus
Meeting of the Hudson County Board of County
Commissioners, held on Tuesday, October 7, 2025; and
that this is a correct transcript of the same.



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

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1 2:19 15:22 17:25 18:24 1,000 20:22 10 9:14 11 9:18 1199 21:4,12,18 1199j 27:14 29:23 39:25 12 10:7 12,000 19:21 13 10:10,15 19:4 132,000 7:21 14 11:8,13 13:5 13:23 43:9 140,000 3:3 15 11:12 15:18 35:8 41:12,16 16 16:9,10 17 17:10 18 31:15 1st 7:20 8:3	3	6	5 7:23 500 11:2,6,7 557-9-2025 16:11 567 1:8 5:31 43:15
2	4	7	6 8:9 636-10-2021 16:14
2 2:25 2/4/27 44:16 20 24:10 200 20:23 2022 20:23 2023 19:20 2025 1:9 2:25 7:8,20 11:12 44:9	3 7:8 30th 7:21 30xi00234700 44:5 31 15:23 31st 8:3 39,039 8:3	8	6 8:9 636-10-2021 16:14
	4	9	7 1:9 8:18 44:9 70,000 19:22
	4 7:14 400,000 11:13 426-7-2025 16:15 467-8-2025 10:12 475-10-2011 16:14 482-8-2025 15:18 4:30 1:10	a	8 8:23 80,000 7:11
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		a	abe 3:10 24:5 41:7 able 18:20 29:8 abraham 1:23 accepted 25:12 account 15:21 42:6 accurate 6:24 36:17

6:22 7:1,3 11:16 12:4,5 12:16 21:17,23 22:10,21 23:14 23:22 27:17 28:1,3,9,18 29:1,10 30:12 30:18 31:8,23 32:14 33:19 agent's 8:19 10:8 agree 12:9 29:14 agreed 30:17 agreement 7:25 agrees 4:23 ahead 5:8 7:5,7 12:16,23 14:18 16:2 18:13 19:7,15 22:23 25:13 37:3 al 5:8,17 12:20 13:14,14 alberico 1:22 albert 1:16 alliance 39:1 allowed 23:13 amend 32:13 amending 10:12 11:6 16:11 amendment 3:1 7:9 24:3 33:24	america 42:6 amount 10:20 11:2 16:6 analysis 36:5 anger 25:4 angry 24:9 annual 7:24 21:8 answer 41:25 anthony 1:14 anton 24:5 antun 1:23 3:16 10:2,23 11:3,5 16:3 17:1,18 19:1,5 27:4 33:23 34:6,9,18 42:19 anybody 22:1 34:16 35:9 38:4 anymore 42:18 anyway 41:20 apologize 5:17 7:4,5 24:9 25:1 29:20 33:20 39:2 43:2 apology 25:11 aponte 1:14 2:2 2:3 13:24,25 25:9,14 26:16 30:20,23 32:6 application 20:19	apply 11:23 appointing 15:19 appointment 2:20 appreciate 25:4 28:25 29:13 38:3 appreciated 38:1 appreciative 9:9 approval 20:6 20:7 approve 8:19 10:8 18:16 32:2 approved 16:4 28:5 32:11 approving 11:9 area 22:16,18 24:15 27:14 30:25 40:20 asked 3:19 22:19 24:21 27:7 28:7 33:1 asking 4:3,6,15 5:5 13:3 21:12 22:3 32:20 35:17 38:15 41:17 asset 8:13 assistance 7:17 7:20 20:16	35:1 assumed 27:8 35:14 assumption 26:4 attachment 39:17 authorizing 7:15,24 8:10 available 25:18 avenue 1:8 award 11:9 awarding 7:17 awards 8:19 10:8 aware 10:25 40:4 aye 13:25 b b 1:11 back 3:8 6:3,14 16:5 26:25 27:1 28:13,20 35:16 41:18,20 42:3,5 backup 32:1 bad 26:6 35:22 bank 42:5,6 banking 42:4 based 11:21 30:5 baselice 1:15 2:4,5 10:16,19
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10:25 11:4 14:1,2 17:21 18:6,10,14 34:10 37:4 38:14 bayonne 19:21 began 6:1 beginning 37:8 behalf 8:2,14 believe 10:21 30:2 bench 18:3 bergen 9:11 10:13 better 6:15 bill 5:10 9:5 24:7 25:12 28:20,25 37:23 42:13 billy 6:23 12:9 13:11 billy's 12:1,11 12:17 19:10 blocks 39:20 board 1:1,4,21 2:23,24,24 3:5 3:11 7:22 8:15 12:6 17:14 21:4 23:6 24:14 25:6 26:6 28:22 29:24 32:5,11 32:17 33:8 36:17 44:8	bob 3:9 23:3,16 24:25 bobby 10:18 18:5,13 37:3 bodies 39:9 born 4:1 39:16 39:18 42:14,14 box 36:1 braddock 18:15 brag 39:13 bring 6:18 brought 5:1 budget 3:1 7:9 building 1:7 bureau 7:17 business 41:7 businesses 21:2 c c 44:1,1 call 12:20 28:19 called 22:1 23:22 37:19 capability 25:18 capacity 31:6 card 15:19 care 19:19,24 20:3,22 21:7,9 21:10 34:24 38:23	carepoint 41:13,14 42:2 caridad 1:17 carmen 1:21 26:8 carrie 3:5,6 carry 11:16 12:4,18 cars 16:18,22 case 29:12 37:5 39:12 cast 43:8 cathey 1:25 44:4,14 caucus 1:3 44:7 caught 17:23 cause 32:23,23 ccr 1:25 44:4 44:14 cedeno 1:15 2:6 2:7 8:16 14:3,4 cell 29:4 census 20:13 certain 15:6 40:1 certainly 23:24 23:25 certificate 20:19 certify 44:6 cetera 18:15 chairman 1:14 2:17,18,23 3:4 5:8,12 6:12,25	7:6,12,22 8:4,7 8:16,21 9:3,5 9:13,17,22 10:6,9,14,18 11:14 12:12,15 12:22 13:6,11 13:14,18,20 14:14,15,18 15:24 16:1,3,8 16:16 17:3,8 17:14,24 18:4 18:8,12 19:1,7 19:15 22:15,22 22:23,25 25:10 25:13 26:4,5,8 26:21 27:7,11 27:23 28:10 29:19 30:3,9 30:21,22 31:9 31:13,16 33:20 34:4,8,12 35:23 37:3 39:24 40:15,20 41:6 42:11,16 42:21 43:5,12 challenges 34:1 chambers 1:8 change 30:17 33:3,3,12 changed 16:6 changes 4:9 21:24,24 31:8 charity 21:10 34:24
---	--	--	--

check 26:3 41:25	10:10 11:8 13:4,22 14:1,3	comments 31:18	30:1,5,8,11,14 30:16,20,23
chris 12:22	14:5,7,9,11,13	commission	31:7,12 32:6
christ 3:24	14:16 15:17	8:25 9:2,20	32:13,18 33:18
19:20 20:21	16:10 17:10,25	44:16	33:24,24 34:10
38:24	18:23 22:12	commissioner	35:6 36:7,14
christine 12:23	26:7,21 27:7,9	1:14,15,15,16	36:19 37:4,24
13:7	31:14 43:6,8	1:16,17,17,18	37:25 38:8,14
cifelli 1:16 2:8	43:13	1:24 2:1,3,4,5,6	38:14,19 40:2
2:9 5:6,9,14,19	close 3:25	2:7,8,9,10,11	40:12,17 41:10
6:6,10,17,23	30:24 38:24	2:12,13,14,15	43:3,6,11
7:2 11:25 12:8	41:2	2:16 3:7,17 5:6	commissioner's
12:20 13:13,16	closed 37:11	5:9,14,16,19,22	13:1,10
14:5,6 16:16	closes 19:18	6:6,8,10,17,20	commissioners
17:16 19:9,14	20:1,21	6:23 7:2,4 8:8	1:1,4,8 10:11
circulate 33:13	closest 39:22	9:4,6,23 10:4	12:25 21:4
cities 32:22,23	closing 36:25	10:16,19,21,25	31:4 33:13
32:24,25 33:4	37:1	11:4,15,25	37:9 40:1 44:9
city 1:9 4:3	closure 20:7,11	12:2,8,13,18	communication
24:16 32:21,21	38:7	13:2,13,16,24	34:14 40:11
33:25 34:20	colleague 37:14	13:25 14:1,2,3	communities
42:15	colleagues 7:5	14:4,5,6,7,8,9	19:13
claim 21:25	22:18	14:10,11,12,13	companies
clarity 33:4	collective 40:11	14:19 15:17,25	16:12
clear 20:25	come 5:23	16:23 17:5,16	comparing
25:7 28:17	12:25 16:5	17:21 18:2,6	23:2
clearly 15:13	18:19 26:25	18:10,14 19:3	competitive
27:25	30:11	19:9,11,14,16	11:10
clerk 1:24 2:1,4	comes 15:7	22:13,17 23:1	complying 37:9
2:6,8,10,13,15	34:22,22	23:1,10 24:8	concerning
2:17,19,25 7:8	coming 35:15	25:9,14,15	28:1
7:14,23 8:5,9	comment 34:5	26:2,10,12,16	concerns 38:19
8:18,23 9:10	42:12	26:20 27:5,24	concluded
9:14,18 10:6,7		28:7,21 29:6	43:15

confirming 2:20	copy 5:11 9:7 13:3 19:12,14 24:19,21 26:11	cover 16:18	declaring 17:11
connect 11:1	correct 19:4 27:3,21 28:4 44:10	covid 39:2	decommissio... 17:12
consequence 37:22	counsel 1:21,22 3:23 4:17,17 4:18 21:19 28:9,11 32:8 32:16 33:8,16 36:11	craig 23:10 24:20 39:3 42:11,16	dedicated 20:17
consideration 6:22	counties 39:4	create 4:20 9:24,25 21:6	dedications 18:1
considered 3:20 23:13 24:12	county 1:1,1,4 1:4,7,8,22,23 1:24 2:21 3:9 3:23 4:16,17 6:4 9:11,15,19 10:13 11:11 15:21 16:13 17:11,13 18:1 19:18 21:1,12 21:14,19 22:22 22:24,25 23:17 24:6 25:11 28:9,11,17 29:24 31:3 32:21,25 33:25 34:20 36:3 38:25 40:3 42:13 44:8,8	created 39:10 41:14	defer 4:7
constituents 25:16		credible 11:10 11:12	define 14:25
contact 21:19 32:8 33:16		credit 29:8	defined 15:13
continue 10:6 17:9,24		criminal 23:4	defines 36:21
contract 7:18 8:20 11:10		critical 20:25	definitely 34:13
convenience 16:21		d	degise 24:23
conversation 6:16 21:20 27:1		dangerous 34:8	deliver 39:21
conversations 24:14 39:6		darice 15:8	demanding 21:5
convince 29:9		dark 38:2	department 5:25 21:6 23:15 31:5 32:12
cooperative 9:11,15,20 10:13		davis 23:22 28:15,24 29:11 42:22	depierro 1:22 27:22 28:5 31:20 32:16 33:6 36:3,10 36:15
copied 26:7,8,8 26:13		day 4:24 6:3 16:17 37:23 41:19	deserve 20:3 21:15
copies 12:6 13:8		days 28:3,9	designated 21:9
	couple 22:5	deal 37:12	desk 8:13
	courtesy 4:2 22:3 28:8	dealt 37:10	detail 11:24
		death 20:4	detailed 20:11
		debate 35:21	determination 37:21
		december 8:3 15:23	
		decision 7:18	

developers 21:7 development 38:21,22 dialogue 4:20 difference 15:19 different 32:24 40:13 differently 36:22 directed 23:1 direction 25:8 disagree 29:14 disappeared 42:4 discontinuation 20:20 discouraged 11:21 discouraging 23:8 discuss 27:16 36:12 discussion 6:1 23:20 30:19 31:10 35:19 40:25 41:17 discussions 28:13 disparage 29:5 disparaged 29:1	disparaging 28:16 29:7 district 21:4,12 30:13 32:20 37:16 disturbs 27:20 division 3:1 7:9 docket 4:10 doctor 39:22 documentation 20:13 dog 17:15,17 17:20,22,22,23 doing 10:3 11:5 12:15 16:24 22:7 41:24 dollars 11:2 20:18 42:1,2,4 doubt 29:23 draft 33:8 drafted 24:22 26:9 27:8,9 28:2 <p style="text-align:center">e</p> e 1:6,6,11,11,20 1:20,21 26:15 26:19 29:23 44:1 earlier 21:18 early 43:2,2 easiest 33:9 echo 36:3	economy 21:2 education 20:18 educational 8:24 9:1,20 effect 4:1 efficacy 32:3 efficiency 33:7 election 8:12,12 elections 8:14 8:15 electronic 13:9 electronics 7:25 emergency 19:22 20:17 37:2 emotional 39:17 emphasize 30:24 employees 4:4 entire 12:5 32:12 equipment 8:2 esh 20:16 esq 1:21,22 establishing 18:1 et 18:15 ethical 23:4 everybody 9:24 33:1 35:9 43:1	everybody's 6:14 everyone's 42:24 exacerbated 41:15 exact 11:22 16:25 exactly 41:16 executive 3:9 6:5 22:22,24 22:25 23:17 24:6 25:11 29:25 31:3 42:13 executive's 40:3 exercise 24:2 exist 42:18 expires 44:16 explained 3:12 extended 7:20 28:8 extension 7:15 <p style="text-align:center">f</p> f 1:11 44:1 facilities 21:9 fact 34:19 36:24 facts 10:22 failure 41:12 fair 7:17 11:9
--	---	--	---

fairness 31:21 36:10 family 39:19 fancy 16:18 fanny 1:15 fantasy 40:8 favor 43:13 feel 35:21 feeling 40:2 field 9:8 fight 4:14 final 32:3,19 financial 20:13 20:16 21:13 33:1 34:1,21 find 40:6 fine 4:22 36:23 first 8:8 24:3 25:6 33:14 36:20 flags 18:22,22 flip 39:3 folks 23:25 35:22 followed 26:6 27:6 foot 37:23 force 2:22 forget 35:9 former 39:10 formerly 8:25 forth 5:10 27:1 28:14	forward 29:17 forwarding 41:20 found 23:19 foundation 15:14 42:1 four 11:20 31:23 39:20 frankly 15:7,14 26:22 free 15:9 friday 38:12 40:13,18,23 friend 30:7 front 25:23 41:21 full 11:17,24 12:6,19 fully 39:13 41:23 fund 21:8 further 19:24 21:11 36:5,6 36:12 future 34:1 38:3 fy2026 3:2	give 4:16 8:7 14:16 24:19,21 given 3:19 12:25 34:19 gives 42:5 giving 29:7 glad 42:24 go 4:21 5:8 6:4 6:18 7:4,6 12:16,22 14:18 16:1,21 18:13 19:7,15,24 22:13,23 25:13 29:10 33:16 34:15 37:3,4 37:11,11 42:23 goals 4:13 god 4:1 goes 20:2 going 5:23 6:13 6:13,25 9:7 12:3,4 14:21 14:22 15:2 18:16,18 24:13 24:19,20 26:2 29:22 31:21 32:2 33:22,25 34:20 35:25 37:23 38:9 39:25 40:4,21 43:1 good 16:8 17:8 17:8 23:8 42:25	goodnight 43:1 google 38:9,10 government 3:18 32:22 graduated 20:17 grant 3:3 7:10 great 18:17 42:15 greed 38:23 groups 12:7 guess 32:22 39:17 42:17 guy 22:22,25 24:6 25:11 39:18 42:13
			h
			hague 39:18 42:14 handler 17:19 17:19 happen 15:5 25:5 happened 3:15 10:23 24:10 25:5 happens 17:15 17:16 hard 23:7 headed 25:8 health 15:20 19:17,19 20:5 20:9 21:7,9

<p>38:23 healthcare 20:22 35:2 healthy 41:1 heard 24:3 heart 38:24 heavy 38:13 held 44:9 hell 39:21 41:23 help 8:13 21:9 25:17 31:6 41:11 helped 41:12 helpful 41:1 helps 21:1 higher 20:4 highway 3:1,2 7:9 history 35:9 42:9 hoboken 19:20 35:24,25 41:8 hold 30:7 43:5 43:6,6 honestly 27:12 hook 33:5 hope 17:11 25:4,7 hospital 3:24 3:25,25 4:1 5:3 19:25 20:21 27:14 30:12,25 34:14,23 35:7</p>	<p>35:10,13,24 37:1,11 38:7 38:24 39:16,22 40:9 41:2,22 42:3,10,17,20 hospitals 19:12 20:1 21:14 36:25 37:16 38:20 41:8,9 41:11,12 hot 38:12 hours 31:23 housing 41:4 hrh 20:15,18 hudson 1:1,4,7 1:22 2:21 11:11 16:13 17:11 19:17,17 20:5,9 21:1 28:17 35:11 42:19,21 44:8 hunterdon 9:19 9:25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">i</p> <p>i.d. 44:15 ice 28:2 idea 17:8 18:18 18:21 35:1 37:18 39:19 immigrant 31:22 immigration 33:10</p>	<p>impact 19:17 implement 11:11 21:5 implemented 20:8 importance 40:25 important 40:10 improprieties 11:19 improvement 19:25 included 26:3 includes 20:11 including 8:12 29:24 40:3 increases 37:25 inference 25:2 inflicted 35:12 inform 40:2 information 21:21 32:7 36:17 37:6,15 37:16,20 38:16 40:22 infrastructure 8:12 inpatient 19:21 instituted 17:6 insurance 34:25 integral 8:1</p>	<p>intentions 4:13 interesting 34:3,7 35:2 interject 42:22 interrupting 7:3 interview 8:1 14:23 intimate 24:4 inundated 18:19 inventory 8:13 investment 21:1 invited 40:16 involved 33:5 issue 3:21 8:14 28:10 30:15 35:24 38:24 issues 29:21 33:22 34:21 item 3:11,14,19 3:21 4:4,6,15 6:4 12:5 21:16 22:10 24:12 28:2,3,8 29:9 30:18 items 21:22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">j</p> <p>j 21:4,12 j's 21:18 jail 23:4</p>
---	--	---	--

january 8:3 15:22	34:9,13,19,21 34:25 35:3	liability 35:14	38:8,10,11
januszewski 3:9,15 23:3,17 24:25	36:20,21 37:19 38:16,18,25 39:3,11,23 41:15,24 42:5	license 44:4	lots 23:25
jenny 23:22 30:6	knowing 25:24 38:16	light 18:22	love 28:16
jeopardy 19:19	knowledge 42:8	lincoln 16:17 17:4	luz 26:8
jerry 1:18 30:10,11	known 9:1 24:12	lines 19:2	m
jerry's 14:15	knows 4:1 34:14 36:7	linked 35:24	made 8:20,24 9:11,15,19 10:13 15:15 21:24
jersey 1:9,9 3:1 4:3 7:9 8:25 24:16 44:6,15	kopacz 1:16 2:10 14:7,8	lipski 1:14 2:2 2:3 7:13 8:4,5 8:6,8,17,17 13:24,25 22:17 25:9,14 26:16 30:20,23 32:6	mail 26:15,19 29:23
job 26:22	l	listen 31:9 38:5 41:13	make 3:4 4:9 10:4,5 12:4,11 15:12 23:25 24:1 25:7 27:13 31:8,25 32:5,9 33:11 36:13,16 37:20 43:4
jobs 20:22	l 1:20	literally 29:3	man 35:21
jonathan 9:6 17:9	language 4:12 32:9 35:17,18	lived 39:20	management 8:11,13
justice 7:17	law 5:25 23:15 31:5 32:12	lives 39:2,11	margaret 39:18 42:14
k	lawmakers 21:5	llc 7:18	market 41:3
k 17:11	layout 9:7	local 11:20 21:2	matter 22:4
keep 21:1	leaving 42:23 42:25 43:2	long 12:20 22:16 35:20,20	mean 15:17 18:17 25:3 34:12
kenneth 1:16	legal 27:19 32:2,12	longer 17:13 19:24	
kids 42:23 43:1	legislation 21:5 28:1	look 24:8 27:12 27:12 29:22,22 31:21 35:16 36:19	
kind 35:4	levels 32:22	looked 31:22	
know 3:14 9:23 11:17 15:8 16:19 21:17 22:8 23:22 24:17 25:17,19 25:20,22,22 26:1,3,11 31:1 31:2,3,6 33:25		lost 20:22	
		lot 16:20 17:23 18:14 29:8,15 34:20 36:5	

<p>meant 16:20 medicaid 20:17 34:24 medical 15:22 20:18 medicare 20:16 meet 4:12 meeting 1:3 12:19 13:5,23 16:4 22:11 28:23 31:24 38:5,12 40:13 40:18,19 43:10 44:8 member 2:21 3:5,11 29:24 members 24:14 27:10 28:22 memorials 18:15 mendiola 1:21 26:10,14,18 33:11 mention 23:9 mentoring 11:11 messengers 11:10,12 middlesex 9:1 9:25 million 20:23 35:8 41:12,16 42:1,2,3</p>	<p>minute 25:23 miscommuni... 29:16 mom's 39:20 money 10:5,5 35:7 38:22 41:18,19,20,21 42:5 month 17:6 morning 40:23 moro 12:24 13:8,19 motion 3:13 12:1,4,11,17 13:4,22 22:9 43:4,12 move 12:3,10 13:4,22 29:17 movement 11:11 moving 21:16 43:9 municipality 21:8 37:22</p>	<p>22:6 25:21,21 31:25 33:2 37:7 42:23 needed 5:2 13:9 17:13 30:25 36:18 needs 4:12 20:9 21:21 36:5 net 21:13 36:21 36:22 nets 34:23 never 22:1,20 29:2 30:1 39:11,13 41:24 42:7 new 1:9 3:1 7:9 8:25 15:2,6 16:5,6 44:5,15 nice 29:12 non 7:17 normal 27:6 north 42:19,21 nos 16:14 notary 44:5,14 note 21:17 22:14 notes 44:7 notifications 20:12 number 4:8 40:5,6 nursing 39:10</p>	<p>o o 1:6,6,11,20 44:1 o'clock 35:21 o'dea 1:17 2:11 2:12 3:7,17 5:16,22 6:8,20 7:4 9:4,6,23 10:4,21 11:15 12:2,13,18 13:2 14:9,10 14:19 15:25 16:23 17:5 18:2 19:3,11 19:16 22:13 23:1,10 24:8 25:15 26:2,12 26:20 27:5,24 28:7,21 29:6 30:1,5,11,16 31:7,12 32:13 32:18 33:18,24 35:6 36:7,14 36:19 38:8,19 40:12,17 41:10 43:3 object 21:24 objection 12:21 22:9 obviously 23:22 27:16,20 39:25 40:19</p>
	<p>n n 1:6,6,20 44:1 name 4:19 28:15 29:5 national 39:12 necessary 4:20 32:8 need 13:2 15:12 15:16 20:19</p>		

<p>occurred 23:16 october 1:9 7:20 11:12,13 43:10 44:9 office 8:2 17:12 28:6 40:3 officer 17:20 officials 40:13 offset 21:10 oh 6:6 41:9 okay 6:17 11:4 12:8,22 13:11 13:14,18 14:18 16:8 17:24 19:7 26:20 27:4 29:12,12 29:14,19 30:9 31:11,20 37:5 38:16 43:3 once 27:8 28:17 29:2 42:6 ones 42:17 open 7:18 11:9 opening 36:1 operator 42:10 opinion 25:25 opportunity 14:17 oppose 15:3 opra 27:3 order 3:12 12:11 ordinance 16:13 17:25</p>	<p>originally 11:19 ortiz 1:24 owe 23:6 own 4:18 9:24 10:1 29:21 32:14 owner 17:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">p</p> <hr/> <p>p 1:6,20 p.m. 1:10 43:15 paid 11:6 20:24 41:16 pandora's 36:1 paragraph 27:20 31:17,19 32:19 34:2 36:2 paragraphs 27:18 park 16:17,22 17:4 18:20 parking 16:20 17:6 parks 18:1 part 4:14 15:1 35:10 party 15:20 passed 16:17 21:25 passes 27:19 past 27:2 37:7</p>	<p>patient 20:2,4 patients 19:23 20:12 pavonia 1:8 pay 21:7 35:7,8 41:12 payment 7:24 8:10 15:10 21:8 payments 20:16 pedestrian 7:10 people 4:2 14:21,23,23 16:21 17:23 21:25 24:15 35:25 41:2,8 perform 16:12 period 7:20 person 6:2 29:9 personal 25:25 29:21 personally 33:22 perspective 39:15 pharmaceutical 15:22 phone 4:8 physical 13:3,8 physically 5:18 pilot 21:6 place 19:8 28:8</p>	<p>placed 4:7,16 plan 20:7,11 please 26:9 29:5 plus 40:10 pocket 16:6 point 22:7 41:13 pointed 41:14 poles 18:22 politics 39:18 portal 13:1,10 possible 31:6 postpone 41:18 potential 18:22 potentially 22:5 37:21 predated 24:4 predecessors 35:11 premiums 16:7 present 5:20,20 32:10 36:13,16 presented 32:4 president's 4:8 pretty 42:9 previous 23:3 33:10 pricing 8:25 9:12,16,20 primarily 35:17 prior 11:6,17 14:24 16:4</p>
--	--	--	--

18:23 33:12 34:2 42:10 private 38:21 38:22 privy 23:24 37:15 probably 29:7 39:1 problem 3:21 22:20 24:13 27:15,15,17 37:6 41:15 problems 23:4 procedure 26:7 procedures 19:21 proceeding 43:14 proceedings 1:4 44:6 process 10:3 18:16 37:5,5 program 7:10 7:16 11:12 15:10,15,22 21:6 programs 34:25 proper 20:11 26:6 proposal 11:17 11:24 12:6 14:20 15:12	proposals 12:19,24 propose 33:8 prosecute 42:8 prosecutor's 8:2 protocol 27:6 provide 12:5,19 20:7,13 21:13 32:25 provided 4:19 19:6 provider 11:18 14:24 15:2,7 15:11 provides 15:6 providing 15:9 provision 7:19 public 13:5,23 43:10 44:5,14 publicized 39:13 purchase 8:19 purchases 8:20 8:24 9:11,15 9:19 10:11,13 purchasing 8:19 10:8,12 pursuant 16:13 put 3:11,13,20 3:21 4:4,10 5:3 5:24 6:5,21 12:16 15:16 18:20 19:18	21:16 22:5,10 23:13,21 26:22 28:2 29:1 30:12 31:5,7 31:10 33:2 39:6,7,14 putting 5:10 25:22 28:18 q qualifying 16:12 question 5:7 9:4,5 13:7 16:1 16:17 17:15 18:5,7,13 31:11,15,17 questions 10:16 11:18 quickly 39:7 42:22 quite 15:7,14 26:22 r r 1:11,20 44:1 radical 21:5 rally 22:14 38:11 40:16,18 rate 20:4 41:3 rather 41:4 read 19:13 23:21 25:21 30:8 33:21 37:7 38:6	real 38:23 reality 23:15 40:8 really 18:21 34:22,23 42:22 reappointments 2:20 reason 16:5,25 23:11 26:22 27:18 reasonable 30:18 reasons 29:21 recipient 41:19 record 14:20 15:16 23:11 reference 25:2 regard 40:9 41:6 regional 9:1 19:17 20:5,9 35:11 regular 44:7 reimbursement 15:21 relate 21:21 related 3:24 11:19 28:1 32:7 relates 35:16 42:9 relationship 40:1
---	---	--	--

relevant 20:12 28:16	9:10,14,18 10:7,10,12	reword 35:16	16:16,16 17:3
remember 3:10	11:6,8,9 13:5	right 3:10,15 5:11,19 6:10	17:8,14,24 18:4,8,12 19:7
rental 41:3	13:23 15:18,18	6:25 7:1,6 10:5	19:15 22:23
replacement 10:11	16:4,10,11,11 17:10,11 19:10	12:2 13:19 17:9 19:6 24:2	25:13 27:11,23 29:19 30:3,9
report 20:14	19:12 21:23	24:2,12 26:24	30:22 31:9,13
reported 1:25 20:23	22:6,15,19 23:21 24:19	27:23 28:4 31:13,16 32:23	31:16 33:20 34:4,8,12
represent 24:15,16	25:22 27:25 30:7 31:14	39:2 42:1	35:23 37:3 39:24 40:15
representative 28:12	32:1,6,14 36:23 43:9	risk 5:1,3 risky 5:3	41:6 42:11,16 42:21 43:5,12
representatives 34:17 40:10	resolved 21:3 21:11 32:20	robert 1:15 robert's 3:12	room 8:2 19:22 28:19 29:4
represented 22:16	resources 20:15	rodriguez 1:17 2:13,14 7:12	rooms 37:2
representing 22:2	respondents 11:20	8:21 9:3,13,17 9:22 10:9,14	rpr 1:25 44:4 44:14
represents 22:17	rest 26:5	14:11,12	rules 3:12
request 17:22	resulting 20:3	role 15:13,13	rumor 40:9
requested 4:6 11:17	retired 17:12	roll 12:20	run 3:18 4:25 41:9
requesting 41:9	return 6:13	romano 1:14 2:17,18,23 3:4	running 41:7
requests 18:15 39:24	revenue 35:4	3:4 5:8,12 6:12 6:25 7:6,12,22	rush 36:12
research 35:15	review 4:17,18 5:25 11:23	8:4,4,5,6,7,16 8:17,21 9:3,5	s
residents 19:18 20:10 21:14	14:20 27:19 33:16	9:13,17,22 10:6,9,14,18	s 1:6,6,6,20,20
resolution 2:19 2:25 5:1,9,11	reviewed 21:23	11:14 12:12,15 12:22 13:6,11	safety 3:2,2 7:10,10 21:13
7:8,14,15,23,24	reviews 23:15	13:14,18,20 14:14,15,18	34:23 36:20,22
8:9,10,18,23	revise 29:1,16	15:24 16:1,8	salaries 20:24
	revised 3:22		save 19:12,13 21:13
	revision 19:4		

<p>saved 39:1,11 saw 14:22 24:24 40:14 saying 23:18 26:24 32:7 34:11 says 19:12,16 32:19 35:17 scary 41:22 school 7:16 39:11 score 11:22,22 secaucus 38:1 second 3:6,13 12:1,1,3 13:7 15:25 18:4,5,6 18:8,10,12 22:12,15,19 23:23 29:9 30:6 31:11 seconded 12:20 seconding 3:8 see 5:23 14:21 15:12 25:21 27:19 35:25 seeing 33:15 37:25 seek 20:15 34:25 seeking 20:6 seems 22:7 36:4 seen 24:22 self 35:12</p>	<p>send 26:24 33:9 33:14,15 40:22 sent 4:7 26:3,4 26:7 27:6 28:12 31:23 september 7:21 serious 5:4,4 22:9 38:23 serve 2:21 15:19 service 7:25 8:24 9:1 15:6 services 9:20 15:9 16:12 20:20 session 37:11 several 39:1 shady 42:9 shame 23:2 shameful 23:5 23:9 share 26:5 shared 21:18 27:9 28:11 shari 1:25 44:4 44:14 sheriff's 17:12 shocked 24:15 show 26:12 showed 19:21 shutting 37:1 side 32:8 39:3 41:2</p>	<p>sign 24:1 signal 29:4 signature 44:13 silent 24:16 simple 4:2 sites 38:21,22 situation 5:4 six 35:21 small 21:2 soccer 9:8 social 7:18 software 8:10 8:11 solution 8:11 solutions 7:25 8:11 somebody 15:5 26:23 40:6 sooner 41:4 sorry 23:12 24:18 sounds 29:15 speak 6:14 24:2 28:15 speaking 37:9 specialized 7:19 spoke 28:22 spoken 34:16 sponsor 11:14 15:24 18:2,3 22:19 sponsors 3:6 18:24</p>	<p>staff 20:12 29:25 stakeholder 40:19 stand 41:4 start 30:19 started 35:19 state 8:20 20:6 21:12 28:1 32:21,25 34:23 34:25 35:18 40:10 41:21,21 44:5,15 statement 27:13 33:1 36:4 states 7:16 39:4 step 39:9 stop 7:16 stopping 29:5 stream 35:5 street 16:24 39:10 strong 41:4 strongly 15:2 study 39:12 stuff 21:25 subcommittee 37:12 38:5 submits 20:18 submitted 12:7 successful 15:15</p>
--	--	--	---

suffer 20:1 sufficiency 32:2,12 suggest 34:18 suggestion 33:12 34:19 support 25:15 29:25 35:5 37:17 supposed 16:20 17:2 sure 15:12 23:25 24:1 31:25 32:5,9 36:13,16 sustained 3:2 sweepers 16:24 system 7:25 8:1 8:25 9:12,16 9:21	talked 39:8 42:24 talking 5:15,16 task 2:22 tax 21:7 35:2 37:25 41:11 technical 7:19 tell 24:20 26:1 28:21,25 29:6 42:7 tenex 8:10 termination 20:19 tesla 16:19 thank 13:19 23:9 25:12 26:16 29:13 31:12 thing 15:4 35:2 38:17 things 17:4 21:17 23:8 26:24 29:19 38:9 39:14 think 3:18 5:2 18:17 25:6 33:4 34:1,13 35:3,3,4 39:12 40:4,9,12,18 43:3 thinking 25:25 third 15:20 thousand 39:2 41:3	thousands 19:18 39:11 three 32:23 thursday 3:23 4:10,11,18,24 4:25 12:9,11 13:17 24:1 29:2,16 31:24 36:9 thursday's 22:10 time 13:6 22:16 23:16 24:24 28:19,20 32:10 33:7,15 35:21 36:11,25 37:10 38:6 39:14 41:1 times 37:18 today 3:22 28:11 40:25 together 4:10 31:4,5 39:5,6,7 told 5:24 6:3,21 11:22 23:12,23 24:11,18 28:22 tom 24:23 tomorrow 9:8 22:14 38:11 40:15 tomorrow's 40:17 tonight 29:18	took 35:13 towing 16:12 tracking 8:13 8:14 traffic 3:2 7:10 training 7:19 transcript 1:3 44:10 transparent 20:6,10 travel 19:23 troubles 31:19 troubling 23:20 trucks 39:8,9 true 28:24 trust 31:22 36:14,15 truth 40:7 try 40:21 trying 31:2 41:2 tuesday 1:9 31:25 44:9 turn 18:24 38:21 41:3 twice 17:4 two 11:20 12:7 14:23,24 21:17 28:3,9 29:19 39:24 40:6 type 35:2 40:19
t			
t 1:20 44:1,1 take 29:23 38:20 39:21 taken 11:18 15:10 44:7 takes 17:19 36:20 talk 6:19 19:10 27:21 36:25 37:12 38:6 39:14			

u	visits 19:22	watered 21:25	worker 8:12
um 32:11	volume 20:2	way 6:3,9 18:20	20:24
under 7:16	vote 3:7,8	23:18 24:22	workers 27:14
8:20,24 9:11	25:20 30:10	28:16 33:9	working 14:22
9:19 10:13	37:8 43:9	42:4	39:1
24:3	voted 22:21	we've 12:9	works 42:4
understand	voting 38:2,17	23:25 27:1	world 15:4
32:1 41:16,23	w	37:10,17 41:4	worst 15:4
union 4:3,8,12	wages 20:24	weapon 41:13	wound 35:12
4:19 9:15,25	wait 4:11 19:24	weehawken	written 20:7
28:12 29:25	22:5 43:5	42:15,19	27:15
36:7	walked 28:18	week 16:22	wrote 41:25
unions 20:10	28:20 29:3	weeks 22:5	y
37:17	walker 1:18	welcome 21:19	yeah 9:24 10:3
unit 39:9	2:15,16 8:22	22:23	17:1,5,17 34:6
united 7:16	9:3,13,17,22	went 16:7 17:3	34:18 35:6
39:4	10:9,14 14:13	23:4	42:13,21
units 41:3	30:8,14 43:7	whistleblower	year 7:15 25:6
upset 6:20 24:9	43:11	15:5	37:18
urgency 40:22	want 4:11	whistleblowers	years 24:11
40:24	11:23,25 13:13	14:25 15:1,8	yep 34:4
urgent 22:4	14:20,20 18:7	william 1:17	yraida 1:14
36:24	18:8,21 21:17	willie 1:24	22:17 40:20
use 17:13 18:23	23:21 24:4	wimax 8:1	z
used 27:13	25:19 29:20	wiped 42:6	zero 2:21
usually 37:5	30:24 31:8	wording 30:17	
v	32:15 33:3	30:18	
version 32:4	36:13,16 38:1	words 32:20,24	
vice 4:8	38:17,20 39:14	work 16:21	
violation 27:3	wanted 19:8	20:22 25:16	
violence 7:16	27:18	35:18	
vision 2:21 8:1	wants 13:11,14	worked 3:13	
	30:24	14:23 23:7	
		35:20,22 39:5	