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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, October 9, 2025
4:30 p.m.

B E F O R E:

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

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

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

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Madam Clerk, call
2 the meeting to order.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

4 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

6 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.
8 Commissioner Kopacz.

9 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
13 Commissioner Walker.

14 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Here.

15 THE CLERK: And Chairman Romano.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

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

19 (Flag Salute.)

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: For the record,
21 Commissioner Rodriguez is here, and also we welcome
22 everyone that's here to participate in the meeting.
23 I see my neighbors from Hoboken. Makes me happy to
24 see them.

25 THE CLERK: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Start it off.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Hold on.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman,
5 just before you start, I just wanted to put
6 something quick on the record. Before the meeting,
7 I met with Adam from the Prosecutor's Office, and I
8 just forwarded a video statement to him. I was at
9 an event two days ago, and I've kind of just been
10 concerned ever since.

11 It relates to an incident that someone
12 reported or discussed. And I am concerned about the
13 individual safety that may have been mentioned as
14 part of that. So I just wanted to put that on the
15 record and I'll leave it. I asked that they maybe
16 interview that individual, ascertain who the person
17 is, where they live. Are they safe where they are?
18 Do they need to be relocated?

19 So I just, as an elected official, as I
20 thought about it, I felt important to do it. I had
21 originally initially checked with someone in the
22 JCPD, who checked with the Ceasefire to see if they
23 had a report, and their initial result is that they
24 did not have a report on it. So I just wanted to
25 make sure as someone who's an elected official, I

1 just want to put that on the record.

2 MR. SALZAR: I received it, thanks.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, sir.

4 THE CLERK: Okay. I'd like to note
5 that Commissioner Aponte-Lipski joined us.

6 Adequate notice of this meeting has been
7 provided as follows:

8 Posting notice of Resolution No. 8-1-2025
9 on the County Commissioner's Bulletin Board, First
10 Floor, Administration Building Annex, Jersey City,
11 New Jersey.

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

15 May I have a motion to approve the minutes
16 of the Caucus meeting of September 9th, 2025, and
17 the Regular meeting of September 11th, 2025.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cedeño and Romano.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner
20 Aponte-Lipski.

21 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

22 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

23 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

25 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

4 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

8 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

10 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: The next order of
14 business is a discussion on today's agenda. I
15 turned it over to administration.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mr. Administrator.

17 MR. ANTUN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
18 have no additional items, but with respect to Item
19 No. 18 that was placed on the agenda, there is a new
20 resolution that has been presented to the Board for
21 their consideration. I think it was placed at your
22 desk.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So take a look.
24 Does everybody have it? Everybody got it, correct?

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. A
2 motion on to, we have to put it on, Ed? Counsel
3 Florio? A motion to put it on, correct?

4 MR. ANTUN: Well, I think there
5 should be a motion to amend.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Motion to amend.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Bill.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm going to
9 move to amend, but I'm going to just note for the
10 record, at the next meeting I plan to put another
11 resolution forward related to the idea of creating a
12 pilot program that would have apartment dwellers or
13 apartment developers, rather, pay a health care tax.

14 But I'll flesh out what the union thinks
15 of the details of that. So that could be part of
16 the body of the resolution, because I think that at
17 the end of the day, if there's not a long-term
18 recurring revenue, we're going to be sitting here
19 over and over again.

20 As I was walking out of my office today,
21 there was a headline from the now no longer Jersey
22 Journal, and it said, CarePoint declares bankruptcy,
23 and that was about one year ago. And here we are
24 sitting a year later with a legitimate threat of
25 hospital or hospitals closing. So every year, every

1 year, every year, people that work in those
2 hospitals can't be subject to living that way, not
3 knowing. Every year, there's going to be one or two
4 months where you might close hospitals because of
5 revenue shortfalls.

6 By the own admission yesterday, a
7 representative of that hospital said to me, even
8 with this, we anticipate a \$20 million a year
9 revenue shortfall. So I'm open to what form
10 generating a recurring revenue stream for this to
11 be. But I'd like to put at the next meeting a new
12 resolution with more detail of what the wherefore
13 clause in this particular item that was taken out of
14 this resolution is trying to do.

15 THE CLERK: On the resolution, on the
16 revision on 18, amended.

17 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

18 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

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: Yes.
4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
5 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.
7 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.
8 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.
9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. Yeah, Jerry
10 said it.
11 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yeah. I said
12 yes.
13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: He's here. Okay.
14 Continue, Madam Clerk.
15 THE CLERK: I have a question on 14.
16 We pulled that on the caucus. Commissioner O'Dea,
17 are we putting that back on? That was the one where
18 you wanted the additional information. It's on your
19 desk.
20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, I asked to
21 have it carried to the next meeting.
22 THE CLERK: Okay. Sorry, to the next
23 meeting, to the following meeting. Okay. All
24 right. Okay.
25 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'm a pretty

1 good reader, but I'm not that good. A speed reader.
2 Go ahead. Excuse me. Could you log me in? I'm
3 sorry I joined late.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Commissioner
5 Cifelli is here.

6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Al.
8 Thank you, Al.

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

16 At this time, the public may address the
17 Board on any item on the agenda only. Please keep
18 your comments limited to five minutes. Are there
19 any speakers on the agenda items only? Seeing
20 none -- oh, we got one. Oh, I'm sorry.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Manny, come on up,
22 Manny.

23 MR. FLORIO: Chairman, before the
24 speaker begins --

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hold on one second,

1 Manny. Go ahead, Counselor.

2 MR. FLORIO: I just want to check
3 with the Clerk to make sure that internal timer is
4 operational this week.

5 THE CLERK: No, it's not, but we have
6 a manual timer.

7 MR. FLORIO: All right. Fine.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: What's the --
9 excuse me. What's the holdup that it's taken so
10 long?

11 THE CLERK: They're waiting for a
12 part.

13 MR. FLORIO: Pardon the interruption,
14 Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Manny.

16 MR. RIVERA-SOLER: Manuel
17 Rivera-Soler, Hoboken.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Welcome back.

19 MR. RIVERA-SOLER: Thank you, sir.
20 Commissioner.

21 Buona sera, buona serata a tutti. Buona
22 mese della cultura italo-americana e patrimonio
23 italo-americano. As well. Feliz mes de la provincia
24 latina hispana del condado de Hudson.

25 Commissioner, pardon me. That is quickly

1 translated. I guess, happy Italian-American Heritage
2 Month and happy Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month
3 to everyone in Hudson County. And of course, we
4 continue to celebrate both cultures proudly in our
5 county and in Hoboken as well as we did with you
6 this morning. And we appreciate your presence as a
7 resident of Hoboken, if you mind.

8 So actually, what I'm here tonight to
9 speak on is the importance. We are here tonight
10 because Hudson County Hospitals systems are in
11 special need, especially Hoboken Hospital. It is at
12 a crossroads. This is not just about a building, a
13 budget. This is about people's lives. Sorry, it
14 makes me a little emotional.

15 The patients who walk through the doors
16 and families rely on this care given at these
17 locations. The employees also dedicate their lives
18 every day to the communities that they serve and
19 should also be considered in every decision. So,
20 Mr. Chair and Commissioners, as we think about when
21 we make a resolution, like you just did, No. 18,
22 expressing it clearly to members of the public and
23 letting them also have a say in the process is very
24 important, especially for the County, of course, and
25 for my beloved City of Hoboken as yours, Mr. Chair.

1 Losing any hospital, but losing a hospital
2 like Hoboken, it is more than a tragedy. It is a
3 shame that it could happen at any moment because of
4 special interests of somebody else wanting to make a
5 profit on people's lives and suffering. So I hope
6 that, yes, this distinguished body does always
7 maintain an eye on the fact that we do need
8 hospitals and we do need, especially, I'm advocating
9 for the one in Hoboken where seniors, persons with
10 disability and families of all sorts depend on it.

11 And with that, I keep saying, Council
12 President, pardon me, Mr. Chair, I would also like
13 to ask and also like to join in No. 2, 3 and 4, if
14 you could please help members of the public
15 understand a little bit more. I know that there's a
16 one line here, but if explanation can be given in
17 how the disbursement of the grants are going to be
18 done and also just quickly, does it have to be now?

19 I know that we can get it, the resolution
20 in the back, but, of course, at this moment, it is
21 imprudent to just grab one while somebody may want
22 it again. But if information could be given in,
23 again, No. 12 and the purchasing, of course, these
24 numbers, A and I, is just how is it that it gets
25 dispersed? How is it that these amounts, I know

1 that for trucks and stuff and those parts must be
2 extremely expensive, especially these days, but what
3 is the counterbalance between purchasing a part that
4 may or may not cost \$50,000 or such, or \$40,000 in
5 this extra addendum?

6 The justification, would it be prudent to
7 perhaps purchase something else or perhaps do
8 something other? Or if not, just can members of the
9 public understand the methodology as to why the
10 purchasing and the numbers? And with that, Mr.
11 Chair, I will yield back. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You're welcome.
13 Manny, when you're finished speaking, we'll answer
14 some of your questions.

15 MR. RIVERA-SOLER: Yes. Thank you,
16 sir.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Who can answer
18 that? Go ahead, sir.

19 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, the budget
20 amendments relate to a grant that the Sheriff's
21 Office received, and that is to do highway safety
22 and pedestrian safety. It's usually assigning, you
23 know, Sheriff's officers to do DWI and things like
24 that. That's the purpose of the grant.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: What about No. 4?

1 You said 4, right?

2 MR. RIVERA-SOLER: 3 and 4.

3 MR. ANTUN: I'm sorry. No. 4 has to
4 do with renewing a contract with Social
5 Decision-Making for Stop the School Violence. This
6 was a grant that the Department of Human Services
7 obtained, and this group provides specialized
8 training in the school to deal with this particular
9 issue.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: 12 what letter,
11 Manny? A and I.?

12 MR. RIVERA-SOLER: I believe so, yes.

13 MR. ANTUN: I think it was the
14 Purchasing Agent. The auto parts, correct?

15 MR. RIVERA-SOLER: Yes. Flowers.
16 Flowers and auto parts. 12 A and I. Flowers and
17 auto parts.

18 MR. ANTUN: With the auto parts, what
19 that is, is the County maintains a fleet of
20 vehicles, trucks, et cetera, so these vehicles, as
21 they break down, we have to buy parts, and we use
22 those parts to replace the parts that wear out and
23 they need to be replaced.

24 So these are open-ended contracts. So
25 what we do is, as we start to run out of the money,

1 as long as the contracts are still within the term,
2 we then come to the Board and request that they
3 appropriate additional monies so that we can
4 purchase these parts so that we can keep the fleet,
5 you know, maintained and on the road.

6 MR. RIVERA-SOLER: As needed?

7 MR. ANTUN: As needed, yes.

8 MR. RIVERA-SOLER: Thank you. And
9 No. A is just the landscaping, the amounts.

10 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Letter A, we
11 mean letter A, 12A.

12 MR. ANTUN: 12A?

13 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: The flowers.

14 MR. ANTUN: Yes. Hold on a second.
15 Let me just get there. Oh, this is for the -- I
16 believe this is for the parks.

17 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Right.

18 MR. ANTUN: Yeah. The parks, all the
19 time, and the director can amplify my answer, they
20 do a lot of landscaping. So there may be things
21 that they have to, you know, replant flowers or
22 things that, to keep everything nice. I don't know
23 if Jonathan, is he here? Oh, Kevin.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kevin's here.

25 MR. ANTUN: Kevin, you want to

1 address that further if you can? It has to do with
2 the planting materials, flowers, and supplies, and
3 that's a two-year amount that was pursuant to a bid.

4 MR. WONG: Yeah, the contract is for,
5 not just plant materials, but for like fertilizers,
6 pesticides, any kind of garden center material that
7 the parks needs to maintain our parks.

8 MR. RIVERA-SOLER: Okay. I
9 appreciate the answer, Mr. Chair. It was just a
10 clarification, and it was given just that the money
11 is being allocated, is being held. It's not that
12 you're spending this money outright.

13 MR. ANTUN: That's correct.

14 MR. RIVERA-SOLER: That's what the
15 people want to know. Thank you. Appreciate it, Mr.
16 Chair. Thank you all.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You're welcome,
18 Manny. Next speaker.

19 THE CLERK: Are there any other
20 speakers on the agenda items only?

21 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Motion to
22 close.

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

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Lipski.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner
2 Aponte-Lipski.
3 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.
4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.
5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.
6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.
7 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.
8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.
9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.
10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.
11 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.
12 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Come back to me
14 in a minute.
15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
16 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
17 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.
18 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.
19 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.
20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.
21 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Aye.
23 THE CLERK: Aye. He said aye?
24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.
25 THE CLERK: Thank you. We have one

1 ordinance for introduction. It's establishing
2 dedications within County Parks.

3 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

4 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

6 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

8 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

12 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

16 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

18 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been
22 introduced. We have one ordinance for second
23 reading. Ordinance amending the Hudson County
24 Administrative Code pursuant to the applicable
25 provisions of the optional County Charter Law

1 N.J.S.A. 40:41A-1.

2 This is the time fixed for hearing of this
3 ordinance, which was introduced at the meeting of
4 September 25th, 2025, advertised as required by law,
5 together with a notice of hearing for this time.
6 It's been posted on the County Commissioners
7 bulletin board and made available to the general
8 public.

9 Are there any speakers on this ordinance?
10 Seeing none, a motion to close.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Kopacz.

12 THE CLERK: All in favor?

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

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Question. Go
16 ahead, Bill.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: This involves
18 the removing of Weights and Measures from the
19 Sheriff to the Law Department.

20 MR. ANTUN: Correct.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So how much
22 revenue per year does that Division currently
23 generate, approximately?

24 MR. ANTUN: I don't know. Cheryl?
25 Off the top of my head, Commissioner, I don't know

1 because that revenue gets deposited into a trust
2 fund.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, currently
4 it does. It might change once you move it over.

5 MR. ANTUN: No. No, it cannot. No.

6 DIRECTOR FULLER: No. It won't
7 change. Commissioners, I'll have the total amount
8 for you before this meeting ends.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So my second
10 question is, my understanding is, currently the
11 trust fund that it's in is then utilized by the
12 Sheriff?

13 MR. ANTUN: Well, it's utilized by
14 Weights and Measures.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: By Weights and
16 Measures, which is under the Sheriff.

17 MR. ANTUN:

18 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: So could it
19 only be used by weights and measures and not used
20 for any other costs that the Sheriff has?

21 MR. ANTUN: It's limited to Weights
22 and Measures because they, well, I'm sure you know
23 what they do, so they purchase equipment, supplies.

24 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Staff?

25 MR. ANTUN: I don't know if you can

1 use staff for it, not used for staff. No.

2 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: So the amount
3 of revenue generated by it isn't sufficient enough
4 that it would, self-sustaining, to use that as a
5 term?

6 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, I don't think it's
7 self-sustaining, no.

8 MR. DEPIERRO: It is guided by
9 statutory provisions as to what can and cannot be
10 done.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. So but
12 none of that revenue under any circumstance under
13 the current or now what will be the new placement of
14 where it's located, none of that ever finds its way
15 into any other general revenue line, correct?

16 MR. ANTUN: Commissioner, if you
17 want, we can send you an opinion on that.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's fine.
19 Yeah, no rush.

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can I ask
21 something?

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Al.

23 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So but this
24 has nothing to do, as I understand it, with vehicle
25 Weights and Measures, like for overweight trucking,

1 because those penalties go somewhere else.

2 MR. DEPIERRO: Yeah, no, the Weights
3 and Measures.

4 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Just the local
5 merchants?

6 MR. ANTUN: Right. Exactly,
7 Commissioner. Merchants. That's correct. It has
8 nothing to do with overweight vehicles.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Is anyone here
10 could answer any of my questions? Oh, there you go.

11 MR. ALONSO: Commissioner, how are
12 you? Frank Alonso, Superintendent of Weights and
13 Measures. The trust account in Weights and Measures
14 is only used for Weights and Measures equipment,
15 vehicles. The only thing it doesn't cover is
16 staffing. Everything else comes out of the trust
17 account for Weights and Measures.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So staffing is
19 paid by the County budget, and then all the other
20 costs are paid out of that?

21 MR. ALONSO: Correct.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Do you know
23 approximately how much revenue is generated by this?

24 MR. ALONSO: So in registrations,
25 anywhere between \$200,000 and \$250,000. It all

1 varies on the business that are open or closed in
2 the County. And fines also, Commissioner, so it all
3 depends on fines issued throughout the County. Now
4 with the cannabis population growing, there's going
5 to be an average of 300 licenses issued in the
6 County, which are definitely going to generate
7 revenue for the County again or for the trust funds.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So those
9 licenses are issued through that office?

10 MR. ALONSO: So they're issued
11 through the State of New Jersey, inspected through
12 the Office of Weights and Measures.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So the State
14 issues them, which I'm familiar with, and then it's
15 your responsibility to inspect?

16 MR. ALONSO: Correct.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What do you
18 inspect the places for?

19 MR. ALONSO: We inspect them for the
20 scales, the ounces, the pounds that are sold in the
21 businesses. And also, now with the cannabis --

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You don't check
23 the product, though, right?

24 MR. ALONSO: No, we don't inspect the
25 product, Commissioner. We also inspect what they

1 call the wet weight of the plant that comes in if
2 it's fresh cannabis.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And then what's
4 your exact title?

5 MR. ALONSO: Superintendent of
6 Weights and Measures.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Does that title
8 require a certification?

9 MR. ALONSO: Yes. I am certified by
10 the State of New Jersey as required in Title 51.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So you had to go
12 through what classes or courses?

13 MR. ALONSO: Correct. And we do
14 continuing education every year.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. Thank
16 you.

17 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: And as part of
18 that, as part of the cannabis certification, did you
19 graduate with high honors?

20 MR. ALONSO: I did, Commissioner.

21 THE CLERK: Are there any additional
22 speakers or comments on this ordinance?

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Hold on. So all
24 those speakers, we closed the public hearing. We
25 just had a question prior to closing.

1 DIRECTOR FULLER: Yes. The current
2 balance in the Weights and Measures Trust Fund is
3 about \$718,500.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Wow. That's a
5 lot of money. It usually carries over into the --

6 DIRECTOR FULLER: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay.

8 DIRECTOR FULLER: The Trust Fund just
9 carries over.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Al.

11 Question?

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: No, no, no.
13 I'm fine.

14 THE CLERK: On the final adoption,
15 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

16 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

17 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

18 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

20 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

24 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

3 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

5 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been
9 adopted. This concludes the items of business on
10 today's agenda. Are there any comments from the
11 Commissioners on the business of the Board?

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah. I just want
13 to thank the Director DeFilippo and his staff and
14 Director D'Alessandro for really making the Columbus
15 Park Italian American Ceremony, the annual one, just
16 very, very classy and well-received and a very warm
17 celebration ceremony. So thank you all for the work
18 that you did for that. Thank you. Any other
19 Commissioners? Go ahead, Billy.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Is Kevin Wong
21 here? I know Jonathan's being honored tonight.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kevin's here.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Kevin, on the
24 Lincoln Park soccer field, what do you estimate?
25 What do you estimate the timeline now for them to be

1 able to begin and complete the construction of the
2 field?

3 MR. WONG: I'm thinking we're going
4 to start aerating it first, probably as soon as the
5 summer season ends, and then over the winter, all
6 the weeds will die out, we'll start establishing new
7 lawn. And then probably, I'm thinking, maybe late
8 spring.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So you think
10 you'd be done, you'd be able to play on it?

11 MR. WONG: We think so. Well, yeah,
12 when the grass is established.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. And
14 obviously, this field is going to be more of a --
15 it's a professional, but it's a full-size soccer
16 field as opposed to what was there before. It
17 wasn't a field, it was just used as one.

18 MR. WONG: Right. It's going to be
19 shifted over slightly, so the grades will be much
20 better, more flat or better. It's also bigger.
21 It'll be bigger too.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Are you taking
23 out one of the baseball?

24 MR. WONG: Yes, we are.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So will the

1 soccer goals be permanent or no?

2 MR. WONG: I'm not sure about that.
3 They may be like inserts in the ground where it'll
4 stay in, but I could discuss that with John.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because
6 obviously, on like 10 and 11, where they do it, it's
7 gated in and easy, it's right near the large storage
8 area, so there's places to take it. Here, that
9 really isn't the case, so I'd like to just
10 understand how that relates as to the actual goals
11 themselves.

12 MR. WONG: Right. We'll talk it
13 over.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All right.
15 Thank you. Okay. I'm sorry. One other thing.
16 Denise, can we do with -- maybe schedule it for
17 early next week? We could do it by Zoom, a special
18 Public Resources committee about the building that's
19 going to be built in Mercer Park with Commissioner
20 Walker and I, and obviously, I've commended the
21 County before in being able to have a local minority
22 contractor as the entity that's going to do the
23 project.

24 But as I've said, as the Administrator
25 would know, those local minority contractors have

1 additional challenges sometimes with bonding than
2 other big contractors do. So I think that the
3 individual will be able to address that, but by
4 addressing that, I think we want to have a
5 discussion as how to find a way to have a speedier
6 process, especially in the beginning of the project,
7 for payments based on a smaller contractor's
8 limitation to lay out capital as opposed to a large
9 one, and knowing the County's strong commitment to
10 wanting to give minority contractors opportunities.

11 I think our ability to create some
12 flexibility in that would shine well for us as a
13 great example as someone who walks the walk and
14 creates real opportunities and doesn't create
15 opportunities on paper that no one's able to take
16 advantage of.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I also neglected to
18 say Cultural Affairs for setting it up, so I thank
19 Director Hulings also and her staff for that. Okay.
20 Any other Commissioners before we continue.

21 Continue, Madam Clerk.

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

24 MS. DAVIS: Really brief comments. I
25 look forward to our discussion about the next

1 resolution, Bill. I think that's actually a really
2 interesting topic. I'm going to ask everybody, as I
3 did yesterday at the rally for the hospital, I'm
4 going to implore everyone in this room and everyone
5 at home listening in to please try to work in unity
6 to solve problems in the County.

7 I understand there are some issues, but
8 I'm also going to implore everyone to use their
9 listening ears as I say it, because my children get
10 told to use your listening ears all the time, so
11 sorry, but I'm a mom. So please use your listening
12 ears tonight when we're discussing these issues, and
13 please pay attention closely to what is stated by
14 the Chairman and by the County Engineer about issues
15 that may be happening right now. I just ask that
16 everyone listen and hear and then talk reasonably.
17 That's it. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. I'm
19 going to try. Go ahead. Continue, Madam Clerk.

20 THE CLERK: This is the time for
21 persons who submitted a timely written request to
22 address the Board on any matter of public interest.
23 Please remember to limit your comments to three
24 minutes. The first speaker is Raymond Mitchell.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: While Ray's coming

1 up, I just want to read statements to maybe
2 alleviate some of the things that are going to
3 happen with the other speakers. And this way
4 they'll have an opportunity after they each speak to
5 meet with people afterwards. There is an abundance
6 of misinformation and falsehoods being spread
7 regarding the reconstruction of River Road in West
8 New York, Guttenberg, and North Bergen.

9 First and foremost, it is critical for
10 residents to know that once work is completed, the
11 roadway will no way be different than it has been
12 before, a five-lane roadway. Two lanes northbound
13 traffic, two lanes southbound traffic, and a middle
14 turn lane.

15 Another misconception, bike lanes are not
16 a new thing. There have been bike lanes on River
17 Road since 2011. Those unprotected lanes are being
18 replaced by a protected two-way bicycle track on the
19 northbound side of River Road to serve the growing
20 number of cyclists in the area. This will in no way
21 reduce the number of vehicular lanes or hinder
22 traffic. Installing these protected lanes is in
23 keeping with the County Executive's and the Board's
24 pledge to end needless fatalities on our roads.

25 We want to be clear. The delays on this

1 project are unacceptable and inexcusable. Simply
2 put, to say we are dissatisfied with the performance
3 of the contractor on this job is an understatement.
4 The County Executive and the Members of this Board
5 have expressed their complete displeasure and
6 frustration. We will continue to hold this
7 contractor accountable to ensure that this job is
8 completed safely and as expeditiously as possible.
9 Unfortunately, New Jersey procurement law required
10 that the County hire the lowest responsible bidder
11 to perform the resurfacing work.

12 We were required to hire the contractor to
13 do this job because their price was the lowest.
14 Clearly, in this instance, the contractor has not
15 been up to the task. Today, we are calling on our
16 partners in the State legislature to reform our
17 procurement laws so that when we hire someone to do
18 a job, we get what we pay for, we get it right in a
19 safe and timely manner. That's from our Department
20 of Engineering.

21 So continue, Madam Clerk. Ray, you're up.

22 MR. MITCHELL: I thought it was the
23 clock.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You're up. Three
25 minutes.

1 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. As we all know,
2 my name is Raymond Mitchell. I'm back here once
3 again trying to find out what this mystery is all
4 about with my father, why he has strangle marks on
5 his face. And the last time I was here, as Romano
6 stated, my dad had COVID and I was with the
7 Prosecutor's office so I did a OPRA request here. I
8 received nothing.

9 Also, back in April 12, 2013, I had an
10 issue with Bryan Stack, if anybody ever wants to
11 look it up. Also, Esther Suarez, the Homicide Unit,
12 Esther Suarez has achieved a hundred-percent solve
13 rate, surpassing the national average of 58 percent.
14 My father must be in this hundred-percent because
15 she was the last Prosecutor, chief of officers. So
16 she's reliable, I guess, to where's the autopsy of
17 my father's COVID.

18 Also, Matthew Plankin, so all of us know
19 that Mello, Wayne Mello, has tried high profile
20 murder cases. So I would like to rechallenge that
21 my father did not have COVID, that yeah, I have
22 pictures here of him strangled, okay? Also, they
23 said about the death certificate here, the nursing
24 home said that my dad died naturally of natural
25 causes from a heart condition. So now we have a

1 natural condition from the North Bergen Harborage,
2 owned by Hackensack Meridian Hospital. Also, we
3 have the strangle marks. I also have an audio here
4 of the nurse that I played last meeting. And also
5 now COVID that my dad supposedly passed away of.

6 I do have Brian Stack stated that he was
7 going to, you know, investigate, he never did. So
8 I'm still waiting on Brian Stack and also the State.
9 And also it says Brian Stack sends out these when
10 Mikie Sherrill, about just like soccer or baseball,
11 the government is a team sport. So I'd like to know
12 who's on Brian Stack's team here. And also Governor
13 Murphy, he's covering up, as we could see Matthew
14 Plankin. They allowed those nursing homes to be
15 sold back in 2022. I still have not received any
16 information from them as well.

17 And I don't know how many times I have to
18 keep coming out here to find out what's going on.
19 Last time Adam was supposed to, first couple, you
20 know, weeks that I was here, Adam, you were supposed
21 to investigate and give me information, but I didn't
22 receive any of that.

23 THE CLERK: Mr. Mitchell, your time
24 is up.

25 MR. MITCHELL: Okay.

1 THE CLERK: The next speaker is Frank
2 Alonso.

3 MR. MITCHELL: So is there anything I
4 could do, guys, since you're all officials of the
5 courts and stuff and help me out here so I can get
6 my information in?

7 THE CLERK: The next speaker.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mr. Mitchell, just
9 so you know, on behalf of the Board, we all feel
10 compassion for your loss. But we have nothing to do
11 with this determining factors of anyone's passing,
12 okay?

13 MR. MITCHELL: Well, can I at least
14 get, you know, the investigation, somebody to
15 investigate, to start it up?

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You already had
17 that with the Prosecutor.

18 MR. MITCHELL: I have pictures.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Next.

20 MR. MITCHELL: I didn't have it with
21 the prosecutor. They denied me.

22 THE CLERK: The next speaker is David
23 Shanky.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: What? You said
25 Frank Alonso.

1 THE CLERK: Frank Alonso. He just
2 said he didn't want to speak.

3 MR. SHANKY: Oh. Hi, Commissioners.
4 Thank you for your time today. My name is David.
5 I'm here to register my support and gratitude for
6 the safety improvements being made on River Road.
7 I've been a resident of Hudson County for about five
8 years now. My spouse and I are raising a daughter
9 here. We hope to remain here for many more years.

10 There are many reasons that I ride a bike.
11 For transportation, since we sold our car a year ago
12 for financial reasons. For my own health, since my
13 doctor stressed the importance of cardio exercise
14 after a health crisis. And for fun, because it's
15 fun. I often ride with my four-year-old daughter in
16 tow in our bike trailer, taking her to doctor's
17 appointments, the library, to visit friends.

18 Of course, I'm very careful about the
19 roads I choose to ride on with her. In fact, I'm
20 severely limited in the places we can go together.
21 I've spent over a thousand hours on my bike since
22 moving to Hudson County. And I always, always tell
23 people that the most dangerous place I ride on my
24 own is River Road, where speeding cars pass cyclists
25 at frighteningly close distances.

1 Even so, I ride on River Road because it's
2 a crucial connection between Hudson County and the
3 George Washington Bridge. The bridge is the only
4 way people on bikes can ride into New York City. I
5 want to applaud you all and thank you for the work
6 you've done on this month in implementing a new bike
7 lane on the County road. The work you're doing will
8 save lives by making River Road safer for
9 pedestrians, bicyclists, and even drivers by calming
10 traffic.

11 The improvements you made are creating
12 conditions that discourage reckless behavior. It's
13 a very strong start, and I hope you'll add more
14 protected bike lanes on County roads like the 14th
15 Street Viaduct that connects Jersey City, Hoboken,
16 and Union City. Again, I want to express how
17 grateful I am for your efforts to make Hudson County
18 safer by building a protected bike lane on River
19 Road. Thanks.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, sir.
21 Next speaker.

22 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Jack
23 McKee.

24 MR. MCKEE: Good afternoon, everyone.
25 My name is Jack McKee. I appreciate you hearing me.

1 I also am here to express my support for the River
2 Road protected bike lane. I'm from New Jersey, and
3 I was out of the country for several years. When I
4 came back in 2023, the improvements that Hudson
5 County had made in transit and bike lanes, including
6 a bike share, was one of the reasons I chose to come
7 back here. I was able to sell my car. I save well
8 more than \$10,000 a year, and my quality of life is
9 better.

10 I want to stay here. I like it here.
11 It's my home state, and I think that Hudson County
12 could be a world-class place. Right now it's a
13 great place. It could become world-class, and I
14 think bike lanes are a big part of that. Very often
15 we hear this refrain that, Oh, that's great in
16 Amsterdam, or that's great in Copenhagen, or I was
17 in Taipei for a couple years. That's great in
18 Taipei, but here is different. But the reality is,
19 it's the choices that we make as a community, as
20 legislators, that transform our area from what it
21 was to what it will be.

22 I applaud you for doing this, and I hope
23 to see this continue in other regions. The reality
24 is that I can't ride all roads with my partner.
25 It's not going to happen. It's not comfortable for

1 me, certainly not comfortable for her. And some of
2 the roads that I ride on alone, I feel foolish and
3 scared. I still do it because maybe I'm foolish,
4 but it's crucial, and I think that something that's
5 overlooked a lot is the economic benefit.

6 I mean, the places that have good bike
7 infrastructure are places that people want to visit.
8 And for so long, we've been seeing, Oh, the 6th
9 Borough and Hudson County as a whole, it's like the
10 cousin of New York. But I have high hopes for this
11 place, and I think that bike infrastructure is a big
12 way that we can really encourage in-County mini
13 tourism, so to speak. And all the data shows, it's
14 not like that's not conjecture, that's not my
15 opinion. There is a wealth of data out there that
16 says business revenue goes up, tax revenue goes up.
17 And just a general sense of that you feel connected
18 to the place.

19 You don't feel that Guttenberg or West New
20 York is some faraway place that you would only get
21 if you had an engine carrying you. It becomes a
22 place that is connected to your life, and that's
23 what I've seen here in Jersey City and Hoboken with
24 the bike lanes, as intermittent as they are, I
25 understand that's how it gets done. So if just in

1 the moments where it seems like, what's the point?

2 The point is you do what you can, where
3 you can, and you build on it. Because once you
4 build one little bit, people see the vision that
5 many of us have, and I believe all of you have. So
6 I applaud you. Keep at it. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, sir.

8 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Anne
9 Atkinson.

10 MS. ATKINSON: Hi, I'm Anne Atkinson.
11 Thanks so much for doing this. Yeah, I'm also here
12 in support of the River Road bike lane. I live in
13 Jersey City, and I ride my bike for so many reasons,
14 transportation as a form of exercise. And honestly,
15 it's my best antidepressant. I have anxiety and
16 depression, double winner. And it really helps when
17 people want to know how I'm doing. They tend to ask
18 me if I've been riding my bike.

19 So, yeah, this past summer, I was riding
20 up along the waterfront, along Hoboken and then up
21 River Road once or twice a week, every single week.
22 And I rode it so often and often while I'm riding,
23 I'm thinking, Oh, this could be better. This could
24 be different. Or this is beautiful and perfect.
25 And definitely River Road has many, many gaps where

1 it does not feel safe to ride.

2 I know that this is just this one little
3 piece and there already was a shoulder there. But,
4 oh, my gosh, a protected bike lane is going to be
5 magic. I'm so excited about it. I've had the
6 thought while riding, like, Oh, the cars are going
7 40 miles an hour and here's me. So sometimes I will
8 go over onto the sidewalk, and then I feel like a
9 total jerk riding on the sidewalk because you're not
10 supposed to do it. It's illegal or whatever.

11 And also there's tons of pedestrians who
12 take the bus, right? And so they're walking there.
13 Every time I see a pedestrian, I get off. I walk
14 around them. I'm kind about it. And so then I'm
15 like, I need to get back on the road. So I go on
16 the road and then maybe it's fine. But then
17 sometimes it's not fine. And a car will come so
18 close and you just feel the wind of the car.

19 And in those moments, which has happened
20 multiple times, I think I am harming my family right
21 now. Like, I am doing a bad thing for my family,
22 and I feel ashamed that I'm taking my life at risk.
23 If something were to happen to me, like, without my
24 salary, they would lose their home. I'm a hundred
25 percent sure that's what would happen. I don't

1 know. It makes me sad to think about. Also, they
2 lose me.

3 But yeah, and so it's just the options are
4 not great, and there are so many cyclists. Even if
5 I made the decision to never ride that road again,
6 there's hundreds of other cyclists, and we all know
7 this. One time I lost my wallet on the road. And
8 this really nice guy called me and drove the wallet
9 back. And I was like, Hey, it was my first time
10 riding this road. And I was like, Oh, I'm riding up
11 this road. I don't know.

12 And he said, Oh, all the cyclists ride up
13 this road. So anyway, it's a very popular place for
14 cyclists. I believe that most drivers, even if they
15 don't care about bike lanes, I really believe that
16 drivers don't want to kill someone while they're
17 driving, right? Like a person driving does not want
18 to kill a cyclist. That would be a horrible moment
19 in their life as well. So safety of cyclists is
20 better for everyone. All right. Anyway, thank you
21 so much. I'm really excited about it. Thank you.

22 THE CLERK: Thank you. Next speaker
23 is Michael Elling.

24 MR. ELLING: Hello. I'm Michael
25 Elling. My wife and I lived in West New York at

1 61st and Boulevard East for about 10 years after
2 moving from Manhattan's cycling paradise to the
3 micro-mobility wasteland of North Hudson County,
4 where families depend on cars and unreliable
5 north-south running buses that create their own
6 congestion through poor spacing and parking control.

7 With virtually no east-west mass transit,
8 car use and traffic is inevitable. I cycle and walk
9 daily. The few cyclists I see are mostly delivery
10 workers, some recreational riders, and very few
11 commuters. North-south and east-west bike lanes in
12 North Hudson and South Bergen counties would bring
13 more cyclists and fewer cars.

14 When West New York's only east-west
15 connector road through the Palisades, Anthony M.
16 Defino, was resurfaced, no bike lanes were added,
17 forcing e-bikes and scooters onto sidewalks.
18 Furthermore, North Bergen Park is also missing
19 lanes, despite the planned Boulevard East project,
20 and Pershing Road in Weehawken remains unsafe for
21 cyclists.

22 Tens of thousands have moved to River Road
23 and western neighborhoods in the past two decades,
24 yet little planning has addressed micro-mobility to
25 reduce traffic and connect communities across

1 physical and virtual divides in both counties. The
2 river can be less than 100 yards away, but might as
3 well be miles from many residents living up west of
4 the Palisades. And the opposite holds for those who
5 live east on the waterfront.

6 The two counties could consider funiculars
7 and elevators to help older adults, those with
8 disabilities, families and groups, cyclists and
9 pedestrians, move safely east-west without cars,
10 creating dynamic, integrated communities that bridge
11 geographic, education and culture divides while
12 reducing north-south traffic. A protected bike lane
13 on River Road with clear markings north to Fort Lee
14 and south to the tunnel is essential to provide a
15 safe route where none exists today.

16 It would connect shoppers, diners and
17 commuters to shops, restaurants, ferries, light rail
18 and the cycling experience of Henry Hudson Drive.
19 If you've never ridden there, I'll be glad to show
20 you, and I'll include a bicycle. Regarding the
21 River Road project, better planning control was
22 needed for the six-turn signals and clear
23 communications using traffic coordinators and
24 electronic signage. Drivers remain confused by the
25 current setup, especially near the hospital and

1 shopping plaza. This is the real cause of the
2 congestion, not the PBL.

3 In conclusion, North Hudson and South
4 Bergen need one comprehensive micro-mobility plan
5 improving both north-south and east-west movement
6 for residents, visitors and tourists, more bike
7 lanes and safety infrastructure and finally new
8 ways, elevators and funiculars to bridge physical
9 and social divides. Thank you very much.

10 THE CLERK: Thank you. Next speaker
11 is Michaela Renee.

12 MS. RENEE: Hello. My name is
13 Michaela Renee. I live directly on River Road,
14 right by the hospital. So I have a front row seat
15 to this, which is why I'm here to represent the many
16 neighbors that I have that have signed a petition
17 because this was such an ill-conceived plan.

18 I am not against bike lanes at all. I am
19 against good bike lanes, functional, scalable bike
20 lanes. And the fact of the matter is the way that
21 this bike lane was constructed with cement barriers
22 that are so low that one, you are going to have ADA
23 compliance issues with the bus stops. And two,
24 we're prone to flooding in that area. Flooding and
25 snow. Unable to see these barriers when, God

1 forbid, we need to flee for our lives.

2 I know that's a little bit of a hyperbole
3 here, but it's something that living in this area, I
4 consider, and having to watch this day in and day
5 out. I don't understand why those concerns weren't
6 addressed before this Board approved this project.

7 Again, I am in full support of sustainable
8 transportation, but there has been a lack of
9 transparency from this Board. There has been a lack
10 of consulting people that live in the area. I am
11 happy that my County neighbors in Hoboken and Jersey
12 City are here today to speak about the bus -- about
13 the bike lanes. I'm happy that we all are so
14 committed to this. But when you live right on that
15 road and in that area and you had no, like, no one
16 asked you, the businesses, the residents, we live
17 with the problems of a half mile bike lane to
18 nowhere.

19 So I just want this Board to consider,
20 one, I understand this is going forward, and we're
21 all running to, you know, paint those lines that for
22 some reason I can't fathom in my head that there's
23 actually room for five lanes there. If you've
24 actually driven through the area or looked at it,
25 it's not really exactly, you're narrowing the lanes,

1 which is another danger. But I ask this Board to
2 look into the compliance, especially for the
3 passengers on New Jersey Transit, getting on and off
4 that bus, they're not going to have to cross that
5 lane.

6 Any ADA compliance that is going to be
7 violated from the current design and what the effect
8 of our community is going to be once this is
9 finished. I know we can't stop it. I know you got
10 to push forward, but this is going to be an issue
11 that is not going away because, like the gentleman
12 before it, I live here, I work here, and I'm not
13 leaving. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Just
15 one correction. We only go on the recommendations
16 of engineering and after the meeting, if you'd like
17 to talk to the engineers to get some of those
18 questions answered, you're welcome to. This Board
19 does not decide the technical aspects.

20 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Ebwanza
21 Lumumba.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Call the name
23 again, please.

24 THE CLERK: Ebwanza Lumumba.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Next.

1 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Greg
2 Bongin.

3 MR. BONGIN: Hello. Thank you for
4 this opportunity. So since 2013, I've logged in --

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Give me a little
6 louder.

7 MR. BONGIN: Since 2013, I've logged
8 in about 8,000 miles of cycling per year. Ninety
9 percent of that goes from Hoboken up past the GW
10 Bridge. And so I'm really happy about the bike
11 lanes that were there before and are currently being
12 put in. However, I do want some constructive
13 feedback.

14 The protected bike lane is only for a very
15 short period, and supposedly it's going to be
16 bi-directional. I hope they're not expecting
17 southbound cyclists to cross over and have to take
18 that lane instead of proceeding along the west side
19 of the River Road, because I feel that's a dangerous
20 thing to do.

21 Second thing is that I don't feel like
22 cyclists were sort of consulted on where this bike
23 lane, protected bike lane should have been put.
24 These protected bike lanes should be put at the most
25 risky areas. That actually part of River Road,

1 since I've ridden there I can't mention how many
2 times, is actually one of the more visible areas for
3 cars. There's actually areas very close to that on
4 the southbound side which would have been a better
5 placement for. So I don't think the placement was
6 looked at from a "where's the most risk for
7 cyclists." We're actually riding up that to
8 actually put a protected bike lane.

9 So I would just ask in the future that
10 somehow there's better communication between people
11 who actually cycle there and get some feedback on
12 where these should be placed. Secondly, a protected
13 bike lane seemed to be, you know, in theory very
14 good and I do support them. However, it does
15 reinforce the attitudes of cars that travel along
16 there that cyclists belong in the gutter, okay?

17 So when you're on the protected bike lane
18 it's fine. As soon as you get off that, it's like
19 what are you doing in my way? And so I would ask
20 that in the areas where you don't have protected
21 bike lane, the two things happen. That you put the
22 textured milling along the bike lane that's not
23 protected so that when cars drift over into that,
24 there's an alert system. The second thing too is
25 post repeated signs that enforce the State law that

1 says that cars cannot pass the cyclist unless
2 they're at least four feet to the left of them.

3 So that's one thing that I would ask
4 because I think the knowledge of that law is lost on
5 most people who drive cars on there and people don't
6 understand. When they pass me, they're passing very
7 close and right up the line. I ask them why they're
8 passing so close and they have no idea that that's
9 the law. So thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Question to
12 the speaker.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right, Al.

14 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Speaker, the
15 statute you just referred to about the four feet
16 clearance between cyclists and motor vehicles, do
17 you know what the citation is? Because I'm curious
18 about this whole thing because I'm over here in the
19 western part of the County, and the biggest problem
20 that I have in my area is not so much cyclists on
21 the road as cyclists on the sidewalks with motor
22 scooters, electric scooters on the sidewalk.

23 But I've tried to research this, but the
24 statute referred to about the four foot right of way
25 or clearance. If you have it now, if not, I'll give

1 you my e-mail address and you can cite me to it
2 because I'm curious about that. I never saw that
3 before.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay, sir. If you
5 can give that to the Clerk, you can give it to Al.
6 Thank you. All right, sir? If you can get that, if
7 you have it.

8 MR. BONGIN: I don't have a law off
9 the top of my head.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Next
11 speaker.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: When you had a
13 chance.

14 THE CLERK: My next speaker is Ernst
15 Boyd. Go ahead. Ernst Boyd.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Proud to say my
17 neighbor, same floor, right across.

18 MR. BOYD: Hello, Mr. Romano. Hey, my
19 name is Ernst Boyd, Marine View Plaza. I live in
20 Hoboken. I've been there for 25 years, and I cycle
21 up to 9W as much as I possibly can. It's a
22 beautiful road. We have a cycling paradise just a
23 few miles from Hoboken, from La Jersey City. It's a
24 cycling paradise. I've cycled in Girona, Spain.
25 I've cycled in Barcelona. I've cycled in Portugal.

1 I've cycled all over.

2 We have pristine roads just close to us.
3 They should be protected. This is not cars versus
4 bikes. This is cars and cyclists. I'm fortunate.
5 I get to cycle because it's recreation for me. Many
6 have to cycle for their daily bread. We should be
7 protecting those folks too. So I'm up here to
8 protect not just myself, but for all of us. All of
9 those who day by day need to be on their bikes.

10 So I think what you've done is beautiful.
11 I'm hoping that Bergen County can also get the memo
12 and keep extending it to the bridge. This will make
13 both our counties a beautiful place to live, a
14 beautiful place to cycle, and just a beautiful
15 place, I think, for our entire communities. Thank
16 you very much.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Ernie, thank you.

18 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Sean
19 Harmon.

20 MR. HARMON: Thank you and good
21 evening County officials, fellow residents. The
22 debate against the new bike lanes can be summarized
23 in three points. Flow of traffic, safety of all
24 road users, and the best use of our tax dollars.

25 As a multi-decade County resident who owns

1 and regularly uses both car and bike, I support my
2 tax dollars being used to expand equitable and safe
3 roadways for all. Bike lanes may seem like an
4 improvement that benefits just few. In reality,
5 they create safer, healthier, and more efficient
6 communities for all of us.

7 But surprisingly, I've heard a lot more
8 about people's concern on their travel time than
9 safety. So let's start with safety. These lanes
10 encourage more people to ride. When cycling feels
11 safe, families, commuters, students, they all feel
12 far more likely to choose a bike over a car. It
13 reduces congestion, like has been mentioned. It
14 eases parking demand, cuts down on emissions. And
15 all this helps all of us breathe cleaner air and
16 live longer, healthier lives.

17 Second, protected bike lanes are good for
18 local businesses because it provides our County
19 additional tax income. As someone had mentioned,
20 studies consistently show that cyclists are more
21 likely to stop at neighborhood businesses, shops,
22 restaurants, than drivers who are just speeding
23 through. Safer streets are more vibrant, walkable,
24 economically resilient streets.

25 It's also about equity and choice. Not

1 everyone has a car. Not everyone wants to drive all
2 the time. Bike lanes did exist, as was mentioned,
3 on River Road before removal for car lane expansion.
4 This reflected gentrification of the coastline,
5 where most developments now have private roads and
6 new traffic lights, even with more lights added just
7 this year. The mile and a half stretch from Henley
8 Place to Lydia Drive alone has more than 10 traffic
9 lights servicing only newer waterfront community
10 residents, all of which are interconnected.

11 A real solution to make River Road safer
12 and more efficient for all road users, while
13 lowering our tax spend on benefits for an extremely
14 small proportion of residents, would be to focus on
15 decommissioning some of these lights, which benefit
16 only the affluent drivers who live in that area, who
17 prefer not to have to drive another 30 seconds to
18 the next River Road access point.

19 Others, like Edgewater's Admiral Walk
20 development, also proved their indifference over
21 decades of refusing legal orders to connect the
22 Hudson River shared path, going back on their word
23 and depriving locals a safe space away from cars.
24 This is disrespect and arrogance, along with just
25 local corruption, as personified by the now

1 convicted developer Frank Diabese, which has led to
2 the safe passage law that was just mentioned.
3 That's 39-4:36, in effect since 2022. Drivers must
4 pass on the left lane like they would any other
5 driver, or leave no less than four feet of space to
6 pass a cyclist while going 25 or less.

7 How often have people in this room
8 violated this law, whether River Road or elsewhere
9 in New Jersey? Can bike lane opponents suggest
10 where cyclists should go instead for north-south
11 passage that's safe, without violating a sidewalk
12 trespass or other law? Not in my backyard,
13 suggestions like climbing a 300-foot cliff up to
14 Boulevard East is just, it's unrealistic and it
15 exposes the conceit of those bike lane opponents.

16 And one final misnomer I'd like to dispel,
17 emergency vehicles will legally use these bike lanes
18 when they are stuck in a typical traffic jam of the
19 other five lanes, and it's an easy example of how we
20 all benefit from these bike lanes. It helps all
21 citizens, their safety, they're sustainable, they
22 strengthen the fabric of our community. You invest
23 in them, we invest in the future of ourselves.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

25 THE CLERK: Thank you. Josh

1 Weissman. Josh Weissman.

2 John Hedge. Next speaker. David Grijs,
3 G-R-I-J-N-S.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: He's here. He's
5 coming up.

6 MR. GRIJNS: My name is David Grijs.
7 I live in the West New York part of Port Imperial,
8 directly on River Road. My wife and I have been
9 there for the last 12 years. Let me address an
10 issue that's been so far, that so far has gone
11 unmentioned, which is the context of the bike lane
12 in this particular area.

13 In the 12 years that we've lived there,
14 we've seen this area develop and grow at an
15 astonishing rate. The number of projects currently
16 under construction, whether they're rental
17 buildings, condominiums, hotels, big box stores, is
18 through the roof. Building permits are being handed
19 out at a staggering rate between West New York,
20 Edgewater, North Bergen, and Weehawken.

21 There's an interior road that we live on
22 called Port Imperial Boulevard. There are plans to
23 add 1500 apartments just for that piece of the road.
24 So for those of you who are familiar with that area,
25 you have the Acme grocery store, and then you have

1 the Weehawken ferry terminal. There are plans to
2 add 1500 apartments, just for that stretch, which is
3 less than a half mile.

4 So when we're talking about a bike lane on
5 a road that was never built to support this many
6 people, this many structures, this many apartments,
7 this much thoroughfare, trying to do all of the
8 above, meaning provide for all these property
9 developers, allow all this construction to proceed
10 to pace, to then add a double-wide bike lane, we're
11 effectively doing the impossible. We're essentially
12 asking a four-lane road to support a multitude of
13 different services, right?

14 From buses to trucks to regular passenger
15 vehicles. But we're effectively trying to shunt
16 potentially thousands of new residents, tens of
17 thousands of new residents into a road which cannot
18 be expanded. You've got the cliffs on one side, you
19 have the river on the other. The road cannot
20 possibly be widened.

21 There is also -- and it's not that, and we
22 have a petition that's been signed by over a
23 thousand people. It's not that those thousand
24 people are against the bike lane. It's just that we
25 believe there was an alternative proposal or

1 alternative plan which would have served the
2 interests of bike riders as well as passenger
3 vehicles in a much better situation. And that would
4 have been to expand the existing promenade, to
5 lengthen the existing promenade past the hospital,
6 which is Hackensack Meridian, 7600 River Road, so
7 that that promenade would continue from Weehawken
8 all the way up through Edgewater. Obviously that's
9 a more expensive proposal, but it would eliminate
10 the need to then share the road, which is already
11 too narrow.

12 I'll give you an example. Even just a
13 single car accident on River Road, even without the
14 bike lane, causes traffic on River Road to back up
15 for miles. All it takes is one single accident, but
16 that's what happened. What's happening right now
17 with the bike lane, is that we have people driving
18 very, very aggressively. We have ambulances not
19 able to get to the hospital. We have school buses
20 not able to get to schools.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Wrap it up, please.
22 You have the next speaker.

23 MR. GRIJNS: So it's not that we're
24 against it. We just think there's an alternative
25 proposed that makes a lot more sense. Thank you.

1 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, the next
2 speaker is Stephen Chang. Stephen Chang. Next
3 speaker, Tony Borelli.

4 MR. BORELLI: Hi. Tony Borelli, a
5 trustee of Hudson County Complete Streets and also
6 vice president of Bike JC here in Jersey City
7 regarding the River Road project. First and
8 foremost, thanks to all of you and to the County
9 Administration under County Executive Craig Guy for
10 moving ahead with it. All the groups with which I
11 am affiliated strongly support it.

12 This kind of redesign work in general,
13 including physical separation of bikes from moving
14 cars and also genuinely hardened separation is
15 pretty much the first thing Bike JC asks of every
16 level of government. We naturally hope to see many
17 more projects like this on all roads, well, on roads
18 all across this great County. And yes, maybe even
19 more on River Road itself in time to add
20 connectivity.

21 We thank all the many individual people
22 who have e-mailed the County government and
23 otherwise expressed support for the project. I also
24 want to thank everyone in the area for their
25 patience during the work itself. All road

1 construction causes some temporary disruption, and
2 we know this one has, as your Chairman just
3 referenced. I would encourage anyone with specific
4 technical concerns about the project itself,
5 frankly, to keep raising them. Sometimes the
6 answers are tweaks that are made after the planned
7 build is finished and engineers see how it works in
8 practice. Sometimes the answer is the next project.

9 But the end result of projects like this
10 one all over this region and indeed all over the
11 world has been safer transportation for all road
12 users along with less pollution, better public
13 health, the slowing of climate change and ultimately
14 less need to spend taxpayer dollars in the ways that
15 catering exclusively to cars inevitably demands.

16 As a Jersey City resident without a car, I
17 too am very familiar with River. It's a road we
18 have long hoped to see made safer. Many of us in
19 this town remember that 11 years ago, a Jersey City
20 resident named Tony Tyson was killed by a driver on
21 River Road while riding his bicycle. So it is in
22 Tony's memory that I will, in conclusion, reiterate
23 our thanks and our full support.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, sir.

25 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Raul

1 Regas. Raul Regas. Next speaker is Dean Bellew.
2 Next speaker. Bryce Cristiano.

3 MR. CRISTIANO: Hey, Commissioners.
4 How's it going? My name is Bryce Cristiano. I live
5 in Port Imperial. Who am I? Why are we here? Why
6 does my car insurance cost more than my car? Is a
7 hot dog a sandwich? Or is it a warning? And most
8 importantly, why does it take me one hour to drive
9 three miles on River Road? These are some of the
10 questions that I've been pondering while I've been
11 sitting in bumper-to-bumper traffic over the last
12 couple of weeks.

13 I feel, firstly, that this is an
14 incredibly expensive project. It's been draining
15 money without actually fixing our concerns.
16 Everybody here is for safe bike lanes. Somebody
17 suggested putting them on a promenade, expanding
18 that in a way that actually connect the city more.
19 I also agree.

20 Secondly, as expressed by others, there
21 are more and more condos going up every month. I
22 also live in the Port Imperial area where those 1500
23 units are being added. So we're adding all these
24 houses, we're adding these condo units, but the road
25 isn't being expanded. In fact, it seems like it's

1 being reduced. It seems like we're removing away.

2 Third, this design forces bus riders to
3 step directly into a bike lane with no barrier, no
4 protection that I've heard of myself. Just this week
5 in New York, a woman was tragically struck and
6 killed in this exact situation.

7 Fourth, in practice, this won't just be a
8 neighborhood bike lane. There's a lot of people
9 from Jersey City here, but for us living in a
10 neighborhood, it's not just going to be a
11 neighborhood bike lane so we can go to businesses.
12 It's going to become also a speedway for e-bike
13 delivery drivers, especially as demand grows as we
14 get new residents in the area.

15 Fifth, just this week alone, businesses in
16 the area that were once flourishing are now
17 struggling because of the traffic, which is,
18 granted, a temporary issue that we're facing.

19 And lastly, right now, the traffic doesn't
20 just stay on River Road. It's been spilling over
21 into the Upper Palisades as drivers look for
22 different shortcuts to get home. This creates
23 gridlock in other communities, creates unsafe
24 conditions.

25 So for me, I just want to be clear about

1 what we're asking for. We're not asking for
2 perfection. We're just asking for some common
3 sense. We're not asking for miracles. We're asking
4 for safety, such as expanding the promenade to go up
5 to Edgewater. We're not asking for luxuries. We're
6 just asking for roads that work. What we have here
7 is not progress, but it feels like regression. And
8 if we let it stand, the cost won't just be measured
9 in dollars. It'll be measured in lives,
10 livelihoods, and perhaps the soul of the community.

11 River Road deserves better. Hudson County
12 deserves better, and we deserve better too. Thank
13 you.

14 THE CLERK: Thank you, sir. Next
15 speaker is Jimmy Lee. Jimmy Lee. Jimmy Lee.

16 Next speaker is Karen VanOppen.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Could I make a
18 request?

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sure.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Jimmy Lee's not
21 here, and I see Emanuelle Morgan's here. If you
22 wouldn't object, if we could allow her. You know,
23 Jimmy, they work together. We could go after her.
24 Is that okay?

25 THE CLERK: I have another speaker

1 that signed up, though.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because they're
3 from the same group and organization.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.

5 MS. VANOPPEN: It's me, right? All
6 right. My name is Karen. I came here today to talk
7 about vaccinations. A couple of years back, I came
8 to say that it wasn't right how you only had the
9 COVID vaccine at a spot where you could do, where
10 you had to take your car in, and then it got fixed
11 with walk-in clinics, et cetera. Commissioner O'Dea
12 was a good year on that one.

13 What we have right now, and this is, I'm
14 coming with good news, is that there is a fantastic
15 program for people who need the ones that are either
16 not insured or underinsured. I just want to come
17 here because maybe people don't even know it's out
18 there. People probably don't know how well it's
19 run. I just want to bring that forward, that
20 compliment to whomever is running that program. I
21 know, I believe the COVID vaccine is going to be
22 coming up soon. They had some government issues
23 that they had to deal with.

24 Now that I'm here anyway, I would like to
25 put my two cents in regarding the bike lane

1 everybody is talking about. I happen to be in that
2 area on Saturday because one might think, why would
3 somebody from Jersey City be in that area? Well,
4 there are stores there, and I ride my bike anywhere.
5 I've been doing this for 50 years, not in Jersey
6 City, only for the last 25 years, but it's normal to
7 be able to ride your bike where you need to be, and
8 there are stores there that I frequent, so if I have
9 the time to go all the way there, that's what I do
10 in the weekend.

11 So I was there on the weekend, and I was
12 like, what the heck is with this road? Because it
13 was hard to be on it when I heard that there's going
14 to be a bike lane. I was elated. I think it's the
15 right place for it to be. It's going to be safe for
16 the people who have to use that stretch of the road
17 for whatever reason.

18 And I understand people who are in the
19 car, and they probably think, oh my God, there's not
20 even a bike here. But that's because we're that
21 fast. We're not, you know, we're just passing by,
22 and we're out of there already. It's not like a
23 car, you know. We don't take up that much space.
24 So I would recommend that people kind of look like
25 how many bikers are out there, and it's way more

1 than you think.

2 And I'm looking forward to a safer way,
3 because on my way back, I was on the road, and let
4 me tell you that the amount of space that they have
5 to give you, majority of people don't do it. One
6 quick extra thing. Can you put a bike lane?
7 Because I came by bike, and there's nowhere to put
8 it. Thank you.

9 THE CLERK: Thank you. The next
10 speaker is Annabella Patton. Annabella. Okay, then
11 Commissioner O'Dea, who did you say wanted to speak?

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Emmanuelle
13 Morgan.

14 THE CLERK: Emmanuelle Morgan.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah. Well, while
16 she's just coming up, we just want to reiterate to
17 those that are concerned. There is no removal of
18 any traffic lanes. I know that Commissioner
19 Rodriguez liked that. Make sure that said that
20 there is no removal of lanes. It's going to be the
21 same way it was before. The engineer will gladly be
22 after the meeting, taking any questions. And that's
23 our County Engineer right there, Mark. So he will
24 meet with you if there's any questions. I know
25 that's a concern for a lot of the constituents of

1 Commissioner Rodriguez, and Commissioner Rodriguez
2 will speak after the final speaker. Go ahead.

3 MS. MORGAN: Thank you. My name is
4 Emmanuelle Morgan. I'm a co-founder and executive
5 director of Hudson County Complete Streets. I just
6 want to say good evening, Commissioners and
7 Chairperson.

8 We are really just here. I just want to
9 join the chorus of gratitude. Thank you truly for
10 the exceptional progress on River Road for the
11 safety improvements currently being installed. And
12 of course, especially the top of the line, concrete
13 protected bike lane. Thank you. We understand
14 there's been some delay and some confusion,
15 frustration from residents. We understand that
16 there are still questions to be answered, especially
17 the question about bus rider access.

18 And I had a question that come in, that
19 came in to me about that, that I'll be able to
20 forward. We know these questions will be answered
21 in time. But in the meantime, I am really just here
22 to offer my support to all of you and to the County
23 Executive. Thank you for initiating this progress
24 on River Road years ago, authorizing the grant
25 application, taking every step in the process to

1 make this design among the highest quality street
2 safety designs in the County. This project is a
3 significant step forward in the County's Vision Zero
4 Action Plan.

5 I do have a personal story about River
6 Road, but in the interest of time, I'm going to skip
7 it. And I would love to invite all of you to help
8 us activate the lane when it's finished, to ride on
9 it, to demonstrate our shared commitment to safety
10 for all road users. And I also invite you to share
11 some of the following responses when asked about
12 this project by constituents who may be confused or
13 frustrated.

14 This design is about safety, about
15 complete streets. It's about Vision Zero, yes, but
16 it's also about dignity. It is about not leaving
17 behind our most vulnerable people who cannot afford
18 a car, who've aged out of driving, who are too young
19 to drive, who want sustainable choices. Most of
20 all, it is about equity because we all pay for our
21 roadways in one way or another. Non-drivers pay
22 taxes for our roadways too. Non-drivers, in fact,
23 do subsidize drivers, and we have a right to access
24 our roadways that we help pay for.

25 We in the Safe Streets community and at

1 Hudson County Complete Streets are ready and
2 available to do public education, to advocate for
3 and celebrate this progress and to partner with you
4 and support you in community outreach and engagement
5 to the best of our ability with professionalism and
6 respect for all, no matter what travel mode that
7 people choose.

8 Thank you again for this immense step
9 forward and for simply doing the right thing.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you,
11 Emmanuelle.

12 THE CLERK: Chairman, we have no more
13 speakers. Commissioner Rodriguez, would you like
14 to --

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: This is the
16 Commissioner Rodriguez represents West New York
17 Commissioner and Commissioner Baselice represents
18 North Bergen. They'd like to say something.

19 THE CLERK: Could the Commissioner
20 bring the microphone closer?

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Pull it down,
22 Carrie. Yeah, there you go.

23 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. I
24 represent Weehawken, West New York and Guttenberg,
25 and we're not at all opposed to bicycle lanes.

1 That's great. I come from a bicycle town all my
2 life, all my young life. And I think it's a great
3 thing to do to be able to ride a bicycle and get to
4 where you're going on a bicycle. Very economical
5 and exercise is great when you ride a bike, and it's
6 a happier and more free way of transporting
7 yourself.

8 But where we live, Weehawken, West New
9 York and Guttenberg, right by River Road, if you
10 think of Defino Way, part of West New York coming
11 down and then we go to that intersection of going
12 left north and right south, it's crazy. It's very,
13 very dangerous.

14 And this construction could have been
15 planned a little better, more informative to the
16 people because all of a sudden, I was not copied on
17 engineering meetings or invited to engineering
18 meetings last year when this happened. We knew it
19 was happening, but we didn't know when. Now, all of
20 a sudden we're faced with this traffic jam that is
21 keeping mothers bringing their children to daycares
22 in Guttenberg, being late to get back home, to get
23 ready to go to work in the city.

24 It's created so much catastrophe in
25 people's lives that we are really very concerned

1 with the way that this construction is going. I
2 don't think it's a healthy and safe construction
3 mode. I personally, and I'm sorry to say that.
4 Again, not against bicycle lanes, we're all for
5 that, but not the way that this has been proposed
6 and is going on. The people that are talking about
7 riding bicycle from Jersey City into here and there
8 far from our area cannot experience those jams in
9 the morning and in the afternoon.

10 You have to live there and you have to go
11 around. Ambulances are having a hard time getting
12 to the hospital because of the traffic. It's not
13 like the cars can go to the right, to the shoulder
14 or even to the left if the other lane allows it so
15 the ambulance can go through. It's havoc. It is
16 physically havoc. And I'm sorry, but this is the
17 truth. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. One thing
19 before Commissioner Basalice. I know that County
20 Executive Guy, with his office, was trying to
21 ameliorate the situation with the traffic with
22 regards to law enforcement personnel. So I know
23 he's aware and I'm sure Jenny can also support that
24 statement. So it's not going unnoticed by either
25 branch of the government. Go ahead, Bobby.

1 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: As the
2 Chairman said before, I'm Bob Baselice, and I
3 represent North Bergen and Secaucus.

4 THE CLERK: Microphone closer.

5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I agree with
6 the people that have been inconvenienced by the
7 traffic. I've gone down there several times. I've
8 helped with the diner, et cetera. I try to come up
9 with solutions. So going forward, I've spoken to
10 the County personnel and I think participation in
11 the planning process helps.

12 I think better notice and communication.
13 A web site that possibly has under construction and
14 whatever's under construction potentially could be
15 on that web site and give updates. There seems to
16 be a disconnect with the law enforcement with
17 regards to communication. I'm going to work on that
18 also. I'm a firm believer that if people are part
19 of the process, they buy into the process. I don't
20 want to see that traffic. I was down there several
21 times.

22 I live in North Bergen myself and in all
23 honesty, I've been in touch with a lot of the
24 buildings, the condo association vice president, and
25 we just have to do a better job. Everybody

1 understands this contractor was not the best choice,
2 and at the end of the day, nobody wants to see any
3 of the residents in any municipality go through
4 this. It's been difficult. It's almost done. My
5 understanding is that it's going to be done Tuesday,
6 weather permitting. Okay, weather permitting. And
7 again, that's changed weather. Everything's
8 conditioned upon weather.

9 The problem is there should have been some
10 notice to the buildings because today I heard people
11 couldn't get out of their properties because it's
12 paved and then if you do go onto it, it's going to
13 get damaged. So it's a better process of getting
14 information out there and I think the County
15 Administration, the County Commissioners and all of
16 us need to work together on making that a better
17 process. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Any other? Go
19 ahead, Billy.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I know they
21 talked about some of the changes in the legislation
22 as it relates to bidding like this to the degree
23 because we've done it in other instances. Can we
24 look at how we do demonstration of prior like
25 projects, references, review of references, almost

1 like a pre-bidder process. So you provide not only
2 your qualifications, list of projects, the County's
3 given a period of time to check out not just the
4 ones they have but whatever all projects like that
5 have been done within the last, whatever, 24 months,
6 36 months and then do a review and if there's an
7 ability so then they can object if they're rejected
8 to then make sure that you're not bringing somebody
9 here who's doesn't either have the experience of
10 doing this has a track record of not being able to
11 do it properly on time, et cetera.

12 We had the same situation on the safety,
13 traffic safety and traffic-calming project on the
14 Boulevard between Communipaw and Bond Street. That
15 project had to take two times or three times as long
16 as it was originally projected to take. We wound
17 up, I think we probably wound up in litigation with
18 the contractor at the end of the day because at the
19 end of the day they clearly didn't have the
20 background and previous experience of doing that
21 type of a project. So I think that's just something
22 that we should look into. Let me make one more
23 state, one more comment.

24 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Chairman,
25 Chairman, one more comment.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead. Go
2 ahead.

3 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Okay. Abe,
4 you're not going to like this and taxpayers may not
5 like this, but I got a lot of phone calls about why
6 were we -- why was it being done during the day?
7 And it's cost usually, but some people did say why
8 weren't we doing this in the evening? I just want
9 to put it out there, and it's on the record because
10 I did get people calling me about why couldn't you
11 do this at night? It's still going to affect you
12 going in and out maybe not as much. That's not
13 cheap, not cheap.

14 MR. ANTUN: You know, Commissioner,
15 we considered that, but there was also the noise
16 factor because we did a job at night.

17 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I understand.

18 MR. ANTUN: And Weehawken and trust
19 me, we got the phone calls too.

20 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: And that's --
21 I'm just putting it on the record. I know.

22 MR. ANTUN: You remember.

23 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I remember.

24 MR. ANTUN: Commissioner, you
25 remember.

1 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I'm putting
2 it on the record just because some people ask me, I
3 don't have that history. I'm the new guy, but at
4 the end of the day.

5 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, before we
6 have a motion to close, can I ask Commissioner
7 Cifelli if he approves September 9th, 2025 Caucus
8 meeting and the Regular meeting of September 11th,
9 2025, if he votes for that one?

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. Commissioner
11 Cifelli. You're on mute, Al.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli, you
13 have to unmute.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Unmute, Al.
15 Unmute, Al. We could do thumbs up and we'll see
16 that.

17 THE CLERK: Can you give us a thumbs
18 up, Al?

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Al?

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Thank you so much.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Jenny, do you want
23 to speak on behalf with anything with regards to the
24 last topic on behalf of the County Executive?

25 MS. DAVIS: No, we're good.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Chairman, two
2 quick things before we adjourn. First, I received
3 the information and I received the proposal from the
4 entity that was selected, Darice. I'd like to see
5 the other proposal. There's Credible Messengers.

6 DIRECTOR TOON: This is an applicant.
7 I thought this was the actual entity itself.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'll talk to
9 you. This is one and this is the other. And this
10 is the one that got picked and this is the other.
11 This is the one that wasn't scored high. This is
12 the one that was scored high. When I went to
13 school, I don't know, term papers, it's five times
14 as big. But all right. I thought this was the
15 actual RFP.

16 DIRECTOR TOON: That was one.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But I'll be
18 honest with you, in reviewing this quickly, I have
19 concerns. I'm extremely surprised that you didn't
20 require resumes from individuals that they would be
21 looking to put in the positions. It's very, very
22 vague; x amount of years, preferably Hudson, three
23 years experience, handwritten in, salary of \$50,000.
24 Is that a salary and benefits? \$50,000? Who are
25 you going to get to hire?

1 DIRECTOR TOON: A hundred percent.

2 Yeah.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm shocked at
4 the scoring. I'll be dead honest with you. I'm
5 shocked at how this thing scored with the way it's
6 going.

7 The other thing is Mr. Alonzo is still
8 here. So I have two quick questions. One, is there
9 a reason why that fund always has such a large
10 balance in it?

11 MR. ALONSO: I'm very frugal when I
12 spend and I don't spend taxpayer dollars. We use a
13 trust account for all our equipment and all the
14 things we use for Weights and Measures. The money
15 that we bring in, Commissioner, is fines that we
16 issue and registrations for businesses in the
17 County.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And how long
19 have you been the -- was it the director of it?
20 What's your title?

21 MR. ALONSO: Fifteen years.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And then what
23 role did you play in I guess the process of moving
24 it over?

25 MR. ALONSO: I didn't have a role in

1 moving it over. I found out by error. I'm sorry.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I mean, I would
3 just say, as a course of courtesy, if you're going
4 to make changes, you probably want to at least have
5 a conversation with the individual that's run
6 something for 15 years. You know, for future
7 reference, folks. You weren't aware. Bobby?

8 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: No, I was not
9 aware.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Bobby just
11 wanted to say something.

12 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: No, I'll
13 leave it at that. I wasn't aware of that either.
14 All right. Thank you.

15 THE CLERK: Thank you. Are you
16 finished, Commissioner?

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: There being no further
19 business, come before the Board. May I have a
20 motion to adjourn?

21 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Motion.

22 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Second.

23 THE CLERK: All in favor? Meeting
24 adjourned.

25 (Whereupon the proceeding is then
concluded at 6:11 p.m.)

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

I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No.
30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New
Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein
are from the notes taken by me of a Regular Meeting
of the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners,
held on October 09, 2025; and that this is a correct
transcript of the same.



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

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