

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 21, 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

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

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

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner

2 Aponte-Lipski. Commissioner Baselice.

3 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

5 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

9 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

13 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: He's up there.

16 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

18 THE CLERK: And Commissioner

19 Aponte-Lipski is here.

20 L-1. Resolution recognizing October as

21 Hindu Heritage Month in the County of Hudson.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 1.

24 Resolution authorizing pre-qualification regulations

25 for bidders related to the heating and cooling plant

1 replacements of the Honorable William J. Brennan
2 Hudson County Courthouse, Jersey City, New Jersey.
3 There'll be a hearing held on this at the public
4 meeting. Can I have a sponsor.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Billy O'Dea. I'll
6 second.

7 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 2.
8 Confirmation of appointments and reappointments of
9 members to the Board of Education of the Hudson
10 County Schools of Technology.

11 I think Commissioner Rodriguez?

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Commissioner
13 Rodriguez, sponsor. I'll second it.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 3.
15 Confirmation of appointments and reappointments of
16 members of the Hudson County Community College Board
17 of Trustees.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sponsor.

19 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Second.

20 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 4.
21 Resolution authorizing an application for and
22 acceptance of funds if awarded from New Jersey
23 Transit Corporation for the Senior Citizens and
24 Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program
25 for CY2026, January 1st, 2026 through December 31st,

1 2026, \$2,226,388.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

3 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 5.

4 Resolution authorizing an application for and
5 acceptance of funds if awarded from the New Jersey
6 Department of Health Division of HIV Sexually
7 Transmitted Diseases Tuberculosis Services for the
8 Hudson County Ambulatory Tuberculosis Care Program,
9 January 1st 2026 through December 31st, 2026,
10 \$259,037.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I heard O'Dea and
12 Rodriguez on that. Kopacz. Okay.

13 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 6.
14 Resolution approving Year Five of the Fair and Open
15 Contracts with Garden State Community Development
16 Corporation and North Hudson Community Action
17 Corporation under CY2025 Hudson County Homeless
18 Trust Funds, January 1st, 2025 through December
19 31th, 2025, \$180,000.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
21 Lipski. Question, Bill.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can we through
23 the appropriate committee set up a meeting with the
24 providers? I just -- I just -- I'll say it's a
25 concern, but I just see that there seems to be and

1 some could be just due to economics, some could be
2 due to maybe lack of proper mental health care or
3 health care facilities. I just see an increase in
4 the population, and I just -- I'd like to find out
5 what -- what plans they have to address some of the
6 long-term chronic homeless situations.

7 They tend to respond when we reach out to
8 them, and I'd also like to hear what some of their
9 frustrations are. If there's a -- if there's a way
10 that we can figure out on other levels of government
11 how we could be of assistance. I mean you don't
12 need to hold this up. I'm not asking for that, but
13 it could be at some point just set up, you know,
14 just set up to do a committee meeting.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Question
16 also -- I mean for the record, Commissioner Cifelli
17 is on.

18 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 7.
19 Resolution authorizing a non-fair and open
20 professional service contract with Alliance
21 Community Health Care Inc. for the provision of
22 medical services for the Hudson County Warming
23 Center, November 1st 2025 through April 30th, 2026,
24 \$140,890.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Kopacz.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Again, by
2 contrast, the Warming Center is probably a national
3 model for services provided to individuals during,
4 you know, during winter months and then obviously
5 when it's very warm in the summer, that that takes
6 it above and beyond what -- what most homeless
7 shelters ever provide to people that that are housed
8 there even on a temporary basis.

9 So I look at the two, they come one after
10 the other, but I think in one case I just need to
11 better understand what they're seeing, what are they
12 able to do, what are they not able to do, and how
13 otherwise maybe we'd be able to help or get others
14 on a city level or state level to be more support.

15 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 8.
16 Resolution awarding professional service contract
17 non-fair and open for financial advisory services NW
18 Financial Group LLC, \$35,000.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sponsored by
20 Kopacz. Second by Rodriguez.

21 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 9.
22 Resolution authorizing payment to Election System
23 and Software, LLC Election Support Services for the
24 June 2025 Primary Election on behalf of the Board of
25 Elections \$20,090.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Kopacz.

2 THE CLERK: No. 10 is a replacement
3 which is on the dais, Commissioners. Approved
4 Purchasing Agent's Awards, purchase made under state
5 contracts.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
7 Cedeño. What is the correction for the Board's --
8 that it's a replacement?

9 MR. ANTUN: It was just amended. I
10 think the prior resolution had a specific department
11 than this. It was changed to various, I think you
12 know --

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: It's just a typo.

14 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Continue,
16 Mr. Clerk.

17 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 11.
18 Purchase made under Bergen County Cooperative
19 Pricing System.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
21 Cedeño.

22 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 12.
23 Approved Purchasing Agent's awards.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Cedeño.

25 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 13.

1 Resolution awarding a Fair and Open Professional
2 Services Contract for Comprehensive Clinical
3 Consulting Pharmacy Services at Meadowview
4 Psychiatric Hospital to Pharma Care, Inc., February
5 1st, 2026 through January 31st, 2027, \$52,800.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and
7 Rodriguez.

8 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 14.
9 Resolution authorizing the award of a Fair and Open
10 Competitive Contract with Moxie Strategies for the
11 provision of Consulting Services to Assist the
12 County in the Development of a Brand Identity to
13 increase awareness of its policies, programs, and
14 services \$143,375.

15 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.
16 Kopacz.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second.

18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Excuse me can
19 we -- was there a committee meeting on this?

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Is anybody who can
21 speak on the item?

22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I don't know.
23 It's the first time I'm seeing it. I'm just -- it's
24 a lot of money.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Who can speak on

1 it?

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Is there
3 somebody from the vendor?

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. The Chief of
5 Staff is coming up.

6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: What about the
7 vendor of Moxie Strategies in Asbury Park?

8 MS. DAVIS: Yes. They're online.
9 Yeah. No, you guys approved the RFP a while back,
10 and then this is the award of it, but Moxie is
11 online. It's either Maggie, Janine or Megan.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Maggie. Are you on
13 there, Maggie, for any questions for Commissioner
14 Cifelli?

15 MS. MORAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Any
16 questions we're happy to take.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So do you
19 have -- I'm sorry. I apologize, but as I guess the
20 Chief of Staff has said that this was on a prior
21 agenda, but before we get to Thursday can you just
22 resend the outline of services so I can vote on
23 Thursday for it?

24 MS. MORAN: Yes, sir.

25 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Thank you.

1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 15.

2 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I've got a
5 question too so.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Maggie. Maggie,
7 stay on please.

8 MS. MORAN: Yes, sir.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Two things. One
10 the cost criteria was 30 points. Can you -- can
11 somebody just give us a breakdown of the scoring? I
12 don't mean now. Not now, just send it to us give us
13 a document.

14 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: For Thursday.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. Okay.

16 MR. ANTUN: I believe it was part
17 of -- it's part of the background.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Oh, yeah.
19 You're right. Let me look at that, 93, 86, 92, 91,
20 84, 89, 10. I guess if it being local, is a
21 criteria then, I can see how one that's 20 -- that's
22 just, you know, 20 and 10 percent, 20 percent more
23 expensive, you know, maybe gets it, right? Because
24 they're in New Jersey versus Florida. Otherwise,
25 I'd have to dig pretty deep into the number to

1 figure out what it is.

2 I assume the one that was 27,000 just
3 you're not getting anything for you -- you're not
4 getting a bang for your buck? So all right, yeah.
5 Can we get the proposals, I guess, for the two top
6 ones? I'd just been curious to see.

7 MS. DAVIS: Last procurement, I don't
8 have them.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can we just have
10 somebody get them to us? I don't want them now.

11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I don't want
12 to hold it up now. I just want it for Thursday.
13 Great. Thank you.

14 MS. MORAN: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.
16 Clerk.

17 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 15.
18 Resolution authorizing the award of a Fair and Open
19 Competitive Contract with Frontier Strategies Group
20 for the provision of consulting service for the
21 development of educational newsletters and other
22 mailings on behalf the County of Hudson, \$69,300.

23 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.
24 Kopacz.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second by

1 Rodriguez. Kopacz-Rodriguez.

2 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 16.
3 Resolution accepting and approving the award of a
4 Fair and Open and Governmental Contracts to various
5 providers for the operation, administration and
6 management of Social Service programs by the Hudson
7 County Division of Aging Services, January 1st, 2026
8 through December 31st, 2026, \$4,824,089.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioners, No. 17 is
11 also a replacement on the dais.

12 Resolution amending No. 569-9-2023 to
13 reallocate American Rescue Plan Act Grant Funds to
14 the Salt Foundation, Inc. to address food
15 insecurity, September 15th, 2023 through December
16 31st, 2025, \$60,550.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski-Romano.
18 Question, what was the -- why was it a replacement?

19 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, the grid
20 had to be changed. The prior resolution did not
21 have the unallocated amount of \$85,000.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Beautiful. Thank
23 you.

24 THE CLERK: Resolution number --

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Question.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So you're
2 reducing a number of them right?

3 MR. ANTUN: Yeah. We're reducing
4 three.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Why are you
6 reducing?

7 MR. ANTUN: They did not, you know,
8 they started late. Variety of reasons, it's -- I
9 believe it's mentioned in the memo. It's because
10 they're not going to spend their money within the
11 time frame and --

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What is Salt
13 Foundation? Salt Foundation? Who runs that? Who's
14 the executive director?

15 MR. ANTUN: Let me have Ms. Garcia
16 address that.

17 MS. HARRIS-GARCIA: Good afternoon.
18 Can you repeat the question? I was walking in was
19 you were that asking a question.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Who's the
21 executive director who runs that?

22 MS. HARRIS-GARCIA: I'm not sure of
23 her name but I could get back to you.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What are the
25 dollars allocated use for?

1 MS. HARRIS-GARCIA: Can you tell me
2 which resolution number you're on because I can't
3 remember. She is assisting us with food
4 commodities. She responded to the food security
5 service RFP, and she is going to provide overhead
6 expenses and purchase of food commodities with these
7 funds.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What's the
9 overhead expense?

10 MS. HARRIS-GARCIA: I don't have
11 those exact details, but I could get them to you.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: If tell me their
13 name, if I saw that person, I might be able to help
14 them.

15 MS. HARRIS-GARCIA: If you give me a
16 moment, I could get you the name of the person.
17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Give me a name
19 and a contact number.

20 MS. HARRIS-GARCIA: Absolutely.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.
22 Clerk.

23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 18.
24 Resolution amending Resolution No. 22-1-2024 to
25 reallocate American Rescue Plan Act Grant Funds to

1 various providers to address food insecurity -
2 January 16th, 2024 through October 31st, 2026,
3 \$20,000.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and Kopacz.

5 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 19, which
6 is also a replacement, Commissioners. Resolution
7 amending No. 765-12-2024 to Reallocate American
8 Rescue Plan Act Grant Funds to Hunger Free Unity in
9 the Community to address food insecurity January 1,
10 2025 through October 31, 2026, \$10,500.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Lipski.

12 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 20.
13 Resolution amending Resolution Nos. 226-4-2021,
14 83212-2023, and 317-5-2024 to award Year Five of a
15 Fair and Open Competitive Contract with Global Tel
16 Link Corp and to add funds for an additional service
17 on the Inmate Table Systems \$583,000.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Lipski.

19 Question. Can someone for the benefit of the Board
20 explain what that is?

21 CORRECTIONS REPRESENTATIVE: Good
22 afternoon, Commissioners. This is for the inmate
23 tablets that we have at the facility, which also
24 covers the telemedicine application, as well as
25 we're adding FM radios to the tablets.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So the system we
2 have now doesn't have that?

3 CORRECTIONS REPRESENTATIVE: It
4 doesn't have FM radio, so we're extending for the
5 fifth year contract, and then we're adding on the FM
6 station to the tablets because we removed all of the
7 batteries out of the facility, which they used to
8 utilize Walkmans, but they were using it as
9 ignitions to smoke different things inside the
10 facility.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: FM radio is the way
12 to keep things?

13 CORRECTIONS REPRESENTATIVE: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Any questions by
15 the Commissioners? Okay. Thank you. Continue,
16 Madam Clerk. I mean Mr. Clerk.

17 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 21.
18 Resolution approving addition -- additional No. 2 to
19 a Fair and Open Competitive Contract with French and
20 Parrello Associates for Consulting Services to
21 perform professional Engineering/Historic
22 Architectural Services for the Hudson County William
23 J. Brennan Courthouse, Heating and Cooling Plant
24 replacement, \$56,400.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Kopacz.

1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 22.
2 Resolution approving Addition No. 2 to a Fair and
3 Open Competitive Contract for Professional Services
4 with USA Architects Consulting Services to perform
5 Professional Architectural Services for the Hudson
6 County Correctional and Rehabilitation Center intake
7 and facility maintenance modifications, \$146,300.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Cifelli.
9 Question. Abe, what is that just to upgrade the
10 obsolete or the antiquated?

11 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, they -- there was
12 something that they discovered in the demolition
13 that required additional engineering.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Demolition of what?

15 MR. ANTUN: Yeah. They were. This
16 was within Module F. Can you explain?

17 MR. SAX: What Abe said is correct.
18 Modular F is a building separated from the main part
19 of the jail. It's where our maintenance department
20 is. And because of these grade changes that were
21 found for the sallyport, that building has to be
22 demolished before they can continue. So this is for
23 the design, the demolition and for instructions for
24 the general contractor.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.

1 Clerk.

2 THE CLERK: I-1. Ordinance of the
3 County of Hudson State of New Jersey approving and
4 authorizing: A, the entering into, Execution and
5 Delivery of a Lease and Development Agreement with
6 the Hudson County Improvement Authority for the
7 Liberty Science Center High School Project with an
8 estimated cost not to exceed \$73,000,000, the cost
9 of such project to be financed through the issuance
10 of the County Secured Lease Revenue Bonds of the
11 Hudson County Improvement Authority; and B, The
12 entering into, Execution and Delivery of a Lease
13 Agreement with the Hudson County Schools of
14 Technology, to provide Science, Technology,
15 Engineering and Mathematics Educational Services for
16 the students of the County.

17 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.
18 Kopacz.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second. Question.
20 Question, Bill.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: First is a
22 statement for the record. So when this project was
23 first envisioned, there was and there may be even
24 some kind of a memorandum that this was approved on
25 the City Council level that proposed that the City

1 of Jersey City would be making a \$2 million or there
2 about annual payment towards the bonds of this
3 project in exchange for a percentage of students
4 from Jersey City.

5 It has been put on record more than once
6 that you cannot allocate a certain number of
7 students to any city under the law. And based on
8 that, my position as a County Commissioner and my
9 position, if I move onto City government, is that
10 that \$2 million payment is illegal, and should not
11 be part of any proposed funding or financing as it
12 relates to this project. So I'm not aware as to
13 whether this I don't believe this itself does that.
14 Does it, Mr. Administrator?

15 MR. ANTUN: No. This has to do with
16 the construction. What you're referring to,
17 Commissioner, has to do with the -- when the school
18 is open, correct.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So I just want
20 to be clear on the record for that. I think it's it
21 I think it's illegal too for the City to pay that
22 since whatever allocation of students there will be
23 will have to be done in the same fair and
24 competitive manner that any other school that's run
25 under their jurisdiction is done.

1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: My question, I
2 have a question.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: One minute,
4 Billy -- al, one second. Billy still -- let Billy
5 finish then you.

6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'm sorry.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: My second
8 question, and I saw Craig's -- Craig's release that
9 the project will be built under a Project Labor
10 Agreement. My other question is when the courthouse
11 was built, I thought that we created a very good
12 system to create opportunities for local minority
13 and women and veteran-owned businesses to be
14 contractors on the site to be vendors for purchases
15 on the site. And we have touted, as we should, the
16 success of that, that success being we exceeded the
17 percentages that we had.

18 And in that process, because Mr. Antun,
19 you and I both serve on the review committee, the
20 demonstration as part of your submittal as to how
21 you would meet that goal in detail was a
22 requirement. Is that -- was that a requirement as
23 part of the submittals by or will it be if it hasn't
24 already been a requirement of the submittals of any
25 of the any firm that's going to be whatever you're

1 going to call the DB, design-build; GC, whatever
2 language may be alluded to in the -- in the request
3 for proposal?

4 MR. O'CONNOR: Mr. Chairman, if I
5 might, Mike O'Connor from the Hudson County
6 Improvement Authority, and Commissioner O'Dea is
7 correct. We're all proud of the work of the
8 Administration and supported by the County
9 Commissioners and Commissioner O'Dea and Abe who are
10 on that committee, with the inclusion and
11 participation with the courthouse project.

12 And in fact, the request for proposals and
13 the actual technical review of the scoring for these
14 proposal, we got the tech -- we got the proposals
15 back last Friday. So the technical review, it's
16 similar to what went on with the courthouse,
17 although the statute now has some changes and all.
18 So, yeah, so 20-percent or actually it's 20 points.
19 I take that back 20 points of the scoring, which is,
20 I think, 80 points for the technical portion of the
21 project that's related to those efforts.

22 And in service of that, one of the things
23 we required of the -- of the respondents, and we
24 received three respondents, we qualified five, and
25 four participated, but three responded. We had and

1 you may recall what we did with the courthouse, we
2 had a webinar where we reached out and invited subs
3 and vendors. And so we had a good list, and we work
4 with the Office of Business Opportunity. Our team
5 consults from SRL. We introduced over 200 vendors
6 and potential SBEs, XBEs as we call them to the
7 team, to the different respondents.

8 And that's still up on our web site
9 because that's a continuing process, as you know,
10 even after something is awarded. So, yeah, it is
11 part to the extent that it's viable under the --
12 under the statute and the regulations that we have
13 to work under on the design build. Absolutely, it's
14 part of it.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I would be
16 curious to see how it changed. I know that since
17 the courthouse was done, the County undertook it,
18 did a diversity study.

19 MR. O'CONNOR: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So we were able
21 without a diversity study to get the prior project
22 done. And what's -- what's clear about success in
23 this field is requiring respondents to show you by
24 name of entity and by estimated amount of contract,
25 how they're going to do that.

1 And I'll defer, Mr. Administrator, for you
2 to discuss and see how the HCIA has structured it,
3 and let me know whether it is like or similar to the
4 process that we undertook when we did the
5 courthouse. Because it worked then. I think if
6 there's a reason why it can't, then somebody should
7 lay out in writing why we couldn't follow that same
8 process that we followed when we -- when we did the
9 courthouse.

10 MR. O'CONNOR: I think you'll find it
11 similar and that we did. We did. You know, we
12 learned a lot from that and incorporated that to the
13 extent we could in this and that will be a
14 successful outcome in that regard.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: If you could
16 follow up, I would appreciate it.

17 THE CLERK: Can I have a second? We
18 didn't have a lot going on. 1-2.

19 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right. So
20 just following up on Bill's comments about Liberty
21 Science Center. So I understand that Bill has a
22 very legitimate question with respect to the City
23 and the legality of the mandatory student
24 population. But going back to the original bond,
25 does the City contribute to the -- to the expansion

1 or is it just the County? A dollar, I mean,
2 dollar-wise.

3 MR. ANTUN: No, no. The City -- the
4 City is not providing any dollars, but there is a
5 possibility that -- well, I shouldn't say possibly,
6 but the Liberty Science Foundation, I believe
7 they -- they have provided some funding for this.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: My point is,
9 and I understand Bill's point, and I think Bill's
10 point is excellent from a legal point of view, is if
11 we approve this, I don't know how we can mandate a
12 certain percentage of the population, the student
13 population to get the benefit of this. But going
14 back, the funding of it, what we're doing, there's
15 no we don't have any underlying obligation for that
16 or any connection or condition or contingency for
17 the student population?

18 MR. ANTUN: No, no, Commissioner.
19 Commissioner O'Dea was referring to related to
20 operating expenses once the school was open in terms
21 of --

22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Oh, okay. I
23 guess get that. But before that, the City has no
24 obligation to contribute anything towards the hard
25 construction?

1 MR. ANTUN: No. That's what
2 Commissioner O'Dea was alluding to that in his -- in
3 his view, the City -- that clause is not enforceable
4 in terms of the operating.

5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: No. I do
6 think Bill's point is very well-taken, but my
7 question goes before that. So the County is -- is
8 kind of on the hook, if you want to say that, for
9 the construction, but yet the County has no
10 analogous benefit as to how many students get seats
11 at this particular project, even though I think
12 Bill's saying I don't know how valid that would be
13 in the first place; is that right, Bill?

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Correct. It was
15 a time that the City of Jersey City said they would
16 contribute x amount of dollars per year to the
17 school, which my recollection is would offset bond
18 payments for the project, and in exchange for that,
19 there would be set aside a percentage of students
20 who would come from Jersey City. You can't do that.

21 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I understand.
22 But my point is going before that, as far as the --
23 the funding of the actual construction, before you
24 get into the Jersey City set-aside, there's no
25 County set-aside.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, how are
2 the bonds going to be repaid?

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I don't know
4 that's what I'm questioning.

5 MR. ANTUN: It's going to be repaid
6 by the County and by the State, and by the state
7 because --

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So the State and
9 the County have a formula to pay the bonds back.

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: No
11 contribution from the City?

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: None.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right.

14 MR. ANTUN: No specific contribution
15 from the City, but as you know, this will be part of
16 our budget, and then everybody pays.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Right. But --
18 but as discussed in the past, Jersey City was making
19 an extra payment.

20 MR. ANTUN: That's correct.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And I'm telling
22 you that ain't going to happen.

23 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I agree with
24 Bill. That's why I'm asking the question.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Not going to

1 happen. City's got enough problems. They can't be
2 putting \$2 million a year beyond whatever the
3 taxpayers of Hudson County already have to pay to --
4 to make an extra payment on them.

5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So Bill that's
6 why --

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: We wouldn't ask
8 any other county to do that right? Secaucus? We
9 wouldn't ask North Bergen.

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah, yeah.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Continue,
12 Mr. Clerk.

13 THE CLERK: I-2. Ordinance amending
14 the Hudson County District Solid Waste Management
15 Plan to: 1, Include the Advanced Enterprises
16 Recycling, Inc., AER Facilities, as the County
17 Designated Facilities to which Solid Waste Types 10,
18 13, 13C, 23, 25 and 27 are directed for Disposal; 2,
19 Incorporate the New Solid Waste Disposal Services
20 Agreement by and between the Hudson County
21 Improvement Authority and AER for the provision of
22 Disposal Services for Solid Waste Types 10, 13, 13C,
23 23, 25 and 27; and 3, Direct all Solid Waste Types
24 10, 13, 13C, 23, 25 and 27, to the AER Facilities
25 for Disposal, pursuant to Regulatory Waste Flow

1 Control.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sponsor. Second,
3 Kopacz.

4 THE CLERK: I-3. Ordinance amending
5 Chapter 200, Article 27 of the Administrative Code
6 to establish traffic-calming devices on Bergen
7 Turnpike in the City of Union City and John F.
8 Kennedy Boulevard East in the town of Guttenberg.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cedeño and
10 Rodriguez.

11 THE CLERK: I will use prior sponsors
12 for the ordinance up for adoption. I will now turn
13 it over the Administration.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So go ahead.

15 MR. ANTUN: I have a couple of items,
16 Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.

18 MR. ANTUN: Which is first item is
19 under the Union County Cooperative Pricing System,
20 we would like to award \$62,800 to Johnston
21 Communications to reroute cable and conduit that was
22 cut during the demolition at the jail.

23 Just so that you know, this is something
24 that the county will be recouping because the
25 contractor did that.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And to ensure that
2 when that payment comes, that we know that it was
3 paid back.

4 MR. ANTUN: Oh yeah, we already filed
5 a claim.

6 THE CLERK: That will be Resolution
7 No. 23. Could I have a --

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
9 Lipski.

10 MR. ANTUN: The next item that I have
11 is a resolution to accept from the New Jersey
12 Department of Labor Workforce Development.
13 \$4,025,985.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

15 THE CLERK: That will be Resolution
16 No. 24.

17 MR. ANTUN: And the last one that I
18 have is a budget amendment for \$4,025,985 for the
19 Workforce Department of Labor Workforce Development.

20 THE CLERK: That will be Resolution
21 No. 25. May I have a sponsor and a second?

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Lipski.

23 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I don't
24 have any additional items, but Deputy Director
25 Nicole Garcia does have the information that

1 Commissioner O'Dea requested for Item 17.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Come on up there,
3 Nikki.

4 MS. HARRIS-GARCIA: Hi. Thank you
5 for the opportunity to come up again. So in
6 reference to your questions on No. 17, the CEO of
7 the Salt Foundation is Claudia Wheeler. The costs,
8 these funds will go to costs to support storage for
9 food, U-Haul, transportation for food rescue, rent,
10 utilities, and also food purchases to be given out
11 into the community.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Thank you.

13 MS. HARRIS-GARCIA: Thank you.

14 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, I do have
15 one resolution which will be Resolution No. 26,
16 which I will read by title. It is now being handed
17 out to the Commissioners.

18 Resolution No. 26. Resolution in
19 opposition to the termination of the Hudson County
20 River Tunnel Project.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

22 THE CLERK: That's all I have Mr.
23 Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: What number was
25 that?

1 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Any comments by any
3 Commissioners before we adjourn?

4 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: On the last
5 resolution about the Hudson Tunnel, on Thursday,
6 does or do any of the Commissioners have any idea
7 about if there's any speakers that are going to
8 speak in support of that resolution?

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I don't know.
10 Not so far.

11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I mean, so,
12 and then, because we're obviously a blue state and
13 are being punished by the President of the United
14 States. We're being punished because we're a
15 democratic blue state as is New York.

16 So, do we have our legislators? Have we
17 had any communication with them about what we're
18 going to do when the shutdown ends, if it ever ends,
19 as to how we're going to address the abusive
20 behavior by the President as to why he's terminating
21 that contract or withholding funds from that
22 contract only but for the fact that were our states
23 voted against him in the last election? Is there
24 some other protest we're going to make?

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Al, there's no, I

1 don't think there's an official cutoff date yet.
2 We're waiting to hear from the County Executive I
3 know is working on it.

4 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Because we're
5 getting, you realize everybody in New York and New
6 Jersey are getting royally, I guess, what's the
7 legal expression? Screwed over by this. And are we
8 going to just pass this resolution? Are we going to
9 do something more forceful with our legislators?
10 Because this is an outrage.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes, we should
12 do anything and everything that we can.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I think you
14 agree with me, right?

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: A hundred
16 percent, yes.

17 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: This is just
18 out-and-out, mean-spirited, arbitrary, and I would
19 say unconstitutional directive by the chief
20 executive of the United States to punish, that's the
21 word, punish states that did not vote for him. And
22 that's incredible because our states contribute more
23 than we get. We give more money to the federal
24 government on taxes than we get back.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Jenny's got a

1 comment on behalf of the executive branch.

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Please,
3 because this is an outrage, and I don't know why
4 we're lying down for this.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Jenny.

6 MS. DAVIS: Commissioner, you're
7 absolutely correct. The County Executive was one of
8 the first people out in the press last week, was it
9 already? Was it last Tuesday when this came out?
10 God, time flies. But he was one of the first people
11 out to the entire time for the press conference with
12 Senator Macurdy, with Senator Menendez, with
13 Congressman Mikie Sherrill, and they went at it
14 hard.

15 Listen, I think you're absolutely right. I
16 have friends who work on the project. They are
17 still getting paid to date. There is no new news on
18 their end from what I've, and I talk to them daily
19 because I'm concerned about them and their welfare
20 and the project. You know, there's plenty of points
21 out there.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And I agree. I
23 agree we need to do anything and everything we can
24 to fight and get the project started. But we have a
25 more immediate problem, and that's called food

1 stamps. That's an immediate problem. November 1st,
2 22,300 families in Jersey City won't get them. I
3 don't know whether it's 68 or 86,000 Countywide will
4 not get food stamps. And that is an immediate,
5 urgent problem that no offense, if we just tell
6 everybody to go to food pantries, it ain't going to
7 solve the problem.

8 We need as a County, under the leadership
9 of the County Executive to immediately get an
10 executive order, put together a task force. How are
11 we going to deal with this? People are going to
12 show up because they're not going to have it. Not
13 every individual that gets this is going to even
14 know about it. Trust me. And it's going to become
15 November 1st. They're going to go, I have no money.
16 And we're going to have a crisis on our hands.

17 And we need to plan now. We only have 10
18 days or 11 days to get ready for it. But we need to
19 put that task force together. We need people from
20 the cities on it. We need to be proactively
21 notifying everyone who's affected by it and see how
22 we can help it and see how we can go get more food
23 donated through the Goyas of Hudson County, who got
24 a great tax break from the state of New Jersey, from
25 ShopRite, from the ShopRites, Inserra, based

1 actually out of Elizabeth.

2 We need to get them and be proactive
3 because what's going to happen on November 1st, is
4 individuals are going to find out they don't have
5 it. They don't have dollars to purchase, whether
6 it's formula for their baby, whether it's milk and
7 food for themselves and their children. And man,
8 they're going to be lined up. They're going to be
9 lined up.

10 MS. DAVIS: Let me assure you all
11 this discussion already started last week amongst
12 many of the directors in the County, the County
13 Executive's office, Abe. We've already been in this
14 discussion. We've had my communications meeting and
15 we are looking at everything we can do to actually
16 service people should this happen again. The hope
17 is that it doesn't, but agreed there's no hoping
18 anymore. It's just preparing. So I promise you we
19 are already preparing.

20 I have not yet started a gigantic task
21 force, but we are having a task force internally.
22 So we will add you into it, but we will. Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I think you need
24 to add us into it. If you don't make us part of the
25 solution, you force us to be part of the problem.

1 It's an old adage, but it's a true adage, right,
2 Abe? We've learned that over the years.

3 But secondly, we've got to -- you've got
4 to start looping because these, these pantries will
5 be overwhelmed.

6 MS. DAVIS: Yeah, I agree with you.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here's a list.
8 And the next thing you know, there's 300 people
9 outside a pantry that has food for 50 people.

10 MS. DAVIS: I did not approve the
11 handout you got today. I did not see this handout.
12 So it's the first time I've seen it also. And I
13 agree with you absolutely a hundred percent.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's not, I
15 mean, it's not -- it's not the pantries.

16 MS. DAVIS: It's just a list of the
17 pantries. So I'm just saying, I didn't --

18 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: We can
19 coordinate the pantries. So we can all be --

20 MS. DAVIS: I'm just saying it's the
21 first time I saw it and it's just listing pantries.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So you need to
23 be involved in it too. It's not all on us.

24 MS. DAVIS: Absolutely. I agree.

25

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hold on a minute.
2 Kenny's talking, Al.

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'm sorry.
4 I'm sorry.

5 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Just to end the
6 meeting on a positive note, Jen, back to No. 14, the
7 Moxie, that's a woman and minority-owned business,
8 correct?

9 MS. DAVIS: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: So thank you
11 for not only talking the talk, but walking the walk.

12 MS. DAVIS: We're trying.

13 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Thank you.

14 MS. DAVIS: We're trying. We keep
15 trying.

16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But with
17 respect to what Bill said about the food pantries,
18 it's somewhat disturbing that in the government
19 shutdown, those funds are being tied off, yet ICE is
20 being fully funded. So what am I missing here? I'm
21 sorry.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right.

23 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Motion.

24 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.

25 THE CLERK: All in favor? We are

1 adjourned.

2 (Whereupon the proceeding is then
3 concluded at 5:24 p.m.)

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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 21, 2025;
and that this is a correct transcript of the same.



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

1	2,226,388 4:1 2/4/27 39:15 20 10:21,22,22 15:12 21:18,18 21:19 20,000 15:3 20,090 6:25 200 22:5 28:5 2023 12:15 2024 15:2 2025 1:9 4:18 4:19 5:23 6:24 12:16 15:10 39:8 2026 3:25 4:1,9 4:9 5:23 8:5 12:7,8 15:2,10 2027 8:5 21 1:9 16:17 39:8 22 17:1 22,300 34:2 22-1-2024 14:24 226-4-2021 15:13 2283786 39:14 23 27:18,23,24 29:7 24 29:16 25 27:18,23,24 29:21 259,037 4:10	26 30:15,18 27 27:18,23,24 28:5 27,000 11:2	567 1:8 569-9-2023 12:12 583,000 15:17 5:24 38:3
1 2:20,23 15:9 18:2 27:15 10 7:2 10:20,22 27:17,22,24 34:17 10,500 15:10 11 7:17 34:18 12 7:22 13 7:25 27:18 27:22,24 13c 27:18,22,24 14 8:8 37:6 140,890 5:24 143,375 8:14 146,300 17:7 15 10:1 11:17 15th 12:15 16 12:2 16th 15:2 17 12:10 30:1,6 18 14:23 180,000 4:19 19 15:5 1st 3:25 4:9,18 5:23 8:5 12:7 34:1,15 35:3	3	6	
2	3 3:14 27:23 28:4 30 10:10 300 36:8 30th 5:23 30xi00234700 39:4 31 15:10 317-5-2024 15:14 31st 3:25 4:9 8:5 12:8,16 15:2 31th 4:19 35,000 6:18	6 4:13 60,550 12:16 62,800 28:20 68 34:3 69,300 11:22	
2 3:7 16:18 17:2 19:1,10 23:18 27:2,13 27:18	4	7	
	4 3:20 4,025,985 29:13 29:18 4,824,089 12:8 4:30 1:10	7 5:18 73,000,000 18:8 765-12-2024 15:7	
	5	8	
	5 4:3 50 36:9 52,800 8:5 56,400 16:24	8 6:15 80 21:20 83212-2023 15:14 84 10:20 85,000 12:21 86 10:19 86,000 34:3 89 10:20	
		9	
		9 6:21 9078 39:12 91 10:19 92 10:19	

93 10:19	additional 15:16 16:18 17:13 29:24	ahead 28:14,17	13:15 17:11,15
a	address 5:5 12:14 13:16 15:1,9 31:19	ain't 26:22 34:6	19:15 20:18
abe 17:9,17 21:9 35:13 36:2	adjoin 31:3	al 20:4 31:25 37:2	24:3,18 25:1 26:5,14,20 28:15,18 29:4 29:10,17,23
able 6:12,12,13 14:13 22:20	adjourned 38:1	alberico 1:21	anybody 8:20
above 6:6	administration 1:7 12:5 21:8 28:13	albert 1:16	anymore 35:18
abraham 1:22	administrative 28:5	alliance 5:20	apologize 9:19
absolutely 14:20 22:13 33:7,15 36:13 36:24	administrator 1:22 19:14 23:1	allocate 19:6	aponte 1:14 2:2 2:19 31:1 37:24
abusive 31:19	adoption 28:12	allocated 13:25	application 3:21 4:4 15:24
accept 29:11	advanced 27:15	allocation 19:22	appointments 3:8,15
acceptance 3:22 4:5	advisory 6:17	alluded 21:2	appreciate 23:16
accepting 12:3	aer 27:16,21,24	alluding 25:2	appropriate 4:23
act 12:13 14:25 15:8	affected 34:21	ambulatory 4:8	approve 24:11 36:10
action 4:16	afternoon 13:17 15:22	amended 7:9	approved 7:3 7:23 9:9 18:24
actual 21:13 25:23	agenda 9:21	amending 12:12 14:24 15:7,13 27:13 28:4	approving 4:14 12:3 16:18 17:2 18:3
actually 21:18 35:1,15	agent's 7:4,23	amendment 29:18	april 5:23
adage 36:1,1	aging 12:7	american 12:13 14:25 15:7	arbitrary 32:18
add 15:16 35:22,24	agree 26:23 32:14 33:22,23 36:6,13,24	amount 12:21 22:24 25:16	architects 17:4
adding 15:25 16:5	agreed 35:17	analogous 25:10	architectural 16:22 17:5
addition 16:18 17:2	agreement 18:5 18:13 20:10 27:20	annual 19:2	article 28:5
		anthony 1:14	
		antiquated 17:10	
		antun 1:22 7:9 7:14 10:16 12:19 13:3,7	

<p>asbury 9:7 aside 25:19,24 25:25 asking 5:12 13:19 26:24 assist 8:11 assistance 3:24 5:11 assisting 14:3 associates 16:20 assume 11:2 assure 35:10 authority 18:6 18:11 21:6 27:21 authorizing 2:24 3:21 4:4 5:19 6:22 8:9 11:18 18:4 avenue 1:8 award 8:9 9:10 11:18 12:3 15:14 28:20 awarded 3:22 4:5 22:10 awarding 6:16 8:1 awards 7:4,23 aware 19:12 awareness 8:13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">b</p> <p>b 1:11 18:11 baby 35:6 back 9:9 13:23 21:15,19 23:24 24:14 26:9 29:3 32:24 37:6 background 10:17 bang 11:4 based 19:7 34:25 baselice 1:15 2:2,3 basis 6:8 batteries 16:7 beautiful 12:22 behalf 6:24 11:22 33:1 behavior 31:20 believe 10:16 13:9 19:13 24:6 benefit 15:19 24:13 25:10 bergen 7:18 27:9 28:6 better 6:11 beyond 6:6 27:2 bidders 2:25</p>	<p>bill 4:21 18:20 23:21 25:13 26:24 27:5 37:17 bill's 23:20 24:9,9 25:6,12 billy 3:5 20:4,4 20:4 blue 31:12,15 board 1:1,4,20 2:22 3:9,16 4:2 6:24 12:9 15:19 29:14 30:21 39:7 board's 7:7 bond 23:24 25:17 bonds 18:10 19:2 26:2,9 boulevard 28:8 branch 33:1 brand 8:12 break 34:24 breakdown 10:11 brennan 3:1 16:23 buck 11:4 budget 26:16 29:18 build 21:1 22:13 building 1:7 17:18,21</p>	<p>built 20:9,11 business 22:4 37:7 businesses 20:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">c</p> <p>c 39:1,1 cable 28:21 call 21:1 22:6 called 33:25 calming 28:6 care 4:8 5:2,3 5:21 8:4 caridad 1:17 carmen 1:20 case 6:10 cathey 1:24 39:3,13 caucus 1:3 39:6 ccr 1:24 39:3 39:13 cedeño 1:15 2:4 2:5 7:7,21,24 28:9 center 5:23 6:2 17:6 18:7 23:21 ceo 30:6 certain 19:6 24:12 certify 39:5 chairman 1:14 2:15,16,17,22</p>
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3:5,12,18 4:2	9:18,25 10:14	15:5,12 16:16	18:17,21 19:8
4:11,20 5:15	11:11 17:8	16:16,17 17:1	19:17,19 20:1
5:25 6:19 7:1,6	20:1,6 23:19	18:1,2 23:17	20:6,7 21:6,9
7:13,15,20,24	24:8,22 25:5	27:12,13 28:4	22:15,20 23:15
8:6,17,20,25	25:21 26:3,10	28:11 29:6,15	23:19 24:8,18
9:4,12,15,17	26:13,23 27:5	29:20 30:14,22	24:19,22 25:2
10:3,6 11:15	27:10 31:4,11	37:25	25:5,14,21
11:25 12:9,17	32:4,13,17	clinical 8:2	26:1,3,8,10,12
12:19,22,25	33:2 37:3,16	code 28:5	26:13,17,21,23
14:21 15:4,11	cities 34:20	college 3:16	26:25 27:5,7
15:18 16:1,11	citizens 3:23	come 6:9 25:20	27:10 30:1,12
16:14,25 17:8	city 1:9 3:2	30:2,5	31:1,4,9,11
17:14,25 18:19	6:14 18:25,25	comes 29:2	32:4,11,13,15
20:3 21:4	19:1,4,7,9,21	coming 9:5	32:17 33:2,6
27:11 28:2,9	23:22,25 24:3	comment 33:1	33:22 35:23
28:14,16,17	24:4,23 25:3	comments	36:7,14,18,22
29:1,8,14,22,23	25:15,15,20,24	23:20 31:2	37:3,5,10,13,16
30:2,14,21,23	26:11,15,18	commission	37:23,24
30:24 31:2,25	28:7,7 34:2	39:15	commissioners
32:25 33:5	city's 27:1	commissioner	1:1,4,8 7:3
37:1,22	claim 29:5	1:14,15,15,16	12:10 15:6,22
chambers 1:8	claudia 30:7	1:16,17,17,23	16:15 21:9
changed 7:11	clause 25:3	2:1,2,3,4,5,6,7	30:17 31:3,6
12:20 22:16	clear 19:20	2:8,9,10,11,12	39:8
changes 17:20	22:22	2:13,14,18	committee 4:23
21:17	clerk 1:23 2:1,4	3:11,12,19	5:14 8:19
chapter 28:5	2:6,8,10,12,14	4:22 5:16 6:1	20:19 21:10
chief 9:4,20	2:16,18,23 3:7	8:15,18,22 9:2	commodities
32:19	3:14,20 4:3,13	9:6,13,18,25	14:4,6
children 35:7	5:18 6:15,21	10:2,4,9,14,15	communication
chronic 5:6	7:2,16,17,22,25	10:18 11:9,11	31:17
cifelli 1:16 2:6	8:8 10:1 11:16	11:23 13:1,5	communicati...
2:7 5:16 8:18	11:17 12:2,10	13:12,20,24	28:21 35:14
8:22 9:2,6,14	12:24 14:22,23	14:8,12,18	

community 3:16 4:15,16 5:21 15:9 30:11	continue 7:15 11:15 14:21 16:15 17:22,25 27:11	correct 17:17 19:18 21:7 25:14 26:20 33:7 37:8 39:9	couple 28:15
competitive 8:10 11:19 15:15 16:19 17:3 19:24	continuing 22:9	correction 7:7	courthouse 3:2 16:23 20:10 21:11,16 22:1 22:17 23:5,9
comprehensive 8:2	contract 5:20 6:16 8:2,10 11:19 15:15 16:5,19 17:3 22:24 31:21,22	correctional 17:6	covers 15:24
concern 4:25	contractor 17:24 28:25	corrections 15:21 16:3,13	craig's 20:8,8
concerned 33:19	contractors 20:14	cost 10:10 18:8 18:8	create 20:12
concluded 38:3	contracts 4:15 7:5 12:4	costs 30:7,8	created 20:11
condition 24:16	contrast 6:2	council 18:25	crisis 34:16
conduit 28:21	contribute 23:25 24:24 25:16 32:22	counsel 1:20,21	criteria 10:10 10:21
conference 33:11	contribution 26:11,14	county 1:1,1,4 1:4,7,8,21,22 1:23 2:21 3:2 3:10,16 4:8,17 5:22 7:18 8:12 11:22 12:7 16:22 17:6 18:3,6,10,11,13 18:16 19:8 21:5,8 22:17 24:1 25:7,9,25 26:6,9 27:3,8 27:14,16,20 28:19,24 30:19 32:2 33:7 34:8 34:9,23 35:12 35:12 39:7,7	curious 11:6 22:16
confirmation 3:8,15	control 28:1		cut 28:22
congressman 33:13	cooling 2:25 16:23		cutoff 32:1
connection 24:16	cooperative 7:18 28:19		cy2025 4:17
construction 19:16 24:25 25:9,23	coordinate 36:19		cy2026 3:25
consulting 8:3 8:11 11:20 16:20 17:4	corp 15:16		d
consults 22:5	corporation 3:23 4:16,17	countywide 34:3	daily 33:18
contact 14:19			dais 7:3 12:11
contingency 24:16			date 32:1 33:17
			davis 9:8 11:7 33:6 35:10 36:6,10,16,20 36:24 37:9,12 37:14
			days 34:18,18
			db 21:1
			deal 34:11
			december 3:25 4:9,18 12:8,15

<p>deep 10:25 defer 23:1 delivery 18:5 18:12 democratic 31:15 demolished 17:22 demolition 17:12,14,23 28:22 demonstration 20:20 department 4:6 7:10 17:19 29:12,19 depierro 1:21 deputy 29:24 design 17:23 21:1 22:13 designated 27:17 detail 20:21 details 14:11 development 4:15 8:12 11:21 18:5 29:12,19 devices 28:6 different 16:9 22:7 dig 10:25 direct 27:23</p>	<p>directed 27:18 directive 32:19 director 13:14 13:21 29:24 directors 35:12 disabled 3:24 discovered 17:12 discuss 23:2 discussed 26:18 discussion 35:11,14 diseases 4:7 disposal 27:18 27:19,22,25 district 27:14 disturbing 37:18 diversity 22:18 22:21 division 4:6 12:7 document 10:13 doing 24:14 dollar 24:1,2 dollars 13:25 24:4 25:16 35:5 donated 34:23 due 5:1,2</p>	<p>e e 1:6,6,11,11,19 1:19,20 39:1 east 28:8 economics 5:1 education 3:9 educational 11:21 18:15 efforts 21:21 either 9:11 election 6:22,23 6:24 31:23 elections 6:25 elizabeth 35:1 ends 31:18,18 enforceable 25:3 engineering 16:21 17:13 18:15 ensure 29:1 entering 18:4 18:12 enterprises 27:15 entire 33:11 entity 22:24 envisioned 18:23 esq 1:20,21 establish 28:6 estimated 18:8 22:24</p>	<p>everybody 26:16 32:5 34:6 exact 14:11 exceed 18:8 exceeded 20:16 excellent 24:10 exchange 19:3 25:18 excuse 8:18 execution 18:4 18:12 executive 13:14 13:21 32:2,20 33:1,7 34:9,10 executive's 35:13 expansion 23:25 expense 14:9 expenses 14:6 24:20 expensive 10:23 expires 39:15 explain 15:20 17:16 expression 32:7 extending 16:4 extent 22:11 23:13 extra 26:19 27:4</p>
--	--	---	---

f	finish 20:5	free 15:8	34:22
f 1:11 17:16,18 28:7 39:1	firm 20:25	french 16:19	goal 20:21
facilities 5:3 27:16,17,24	first 8:23 18:21 18:23 25:13	friday 21:15	god 33:10
facility 15:23 16:7,10 17:7	28:18 33:8,10 36:12,21	friends 33:16	goes 25:7
fact 21:12 31:22	five 4:14 15:14 21:24	frontier 11:19	going 13:10 14:5 20:25
fair 4:14 5:19 6:17 8:1,9	flies 33:10	frustrations 5:9	21:1 22:25 23:18,24 24:13
11:18 12:4 15:15 16:19	florida 10:24	fully 37:20	25:22 26:2,5 26:22,25 31:7
17:2 19:23	flow 27:25	funded 37:20	31:18,19,24 32:8,8 34:6,11
families 34:2	fm 15:25 16:4,5 16:11	funding 19:11 24:7,14 25:23	34:11,12,13,14 34:15,16 35:3
fanny 1:15	follow 23:7,16	funds 3:22 4:5 4:18 12:13	35:4,8,8
far 25:22 31:10	followed 23:8	14:7,25 15:8 15:16 30:8	good 13:17 15:21 20:11
favor 37:25	following 23:20	31:21 37:19	22:3
february 8:4	food 12:14 14:3 14:4,6 15:1,9	g	government 5:10 19:9
federal 32:23	30:9,9,10 33:25 34:4,6	garcia 13:15,17 13:22 14:1,10	32:24 37:18
field 22:23	34:22 35:7 36:9 37:17	14:15,20 29:25 30:4,13	governmental 12:4
fifth 16:5	force 34:10,19 35:21,21,25	garden 4:15	goyas 34:23
fight 33:24	forceful 32:9	gc 21:1	grade 17:20
figure 5:10 11:1	formula 26:9 35:6	general 17:24	grant 12:13 14:25 15:8
filed 29:4	found 17:21	getting 11:3,4 32:5,6 33:17	great 11:13 34:24
financed 18:9	foundation 12:14 13:13,13	gigantic 35:20	grid 12:19
financial 6:17 6:18	24:6 30:7	give 10:11,12 14:15,18 32:23	group 6:18 11:19
financing 19:11	four 21:25	given 30:10	guess 9:19 10:20 11:5
find 5:4 23:10 35:4	frame 13:11	global 15:15	
		go 28:14,17 30:8 34:6,15	

24:23 32:6 guttenberg 28:8 guys 9:9	hindu 2:21 historic 16:21 hiv 4:6 hold 5:12 11:12 37:1 homeless 4:17 5:6 6:6 honorable 3:1 hook 25:8 hope 35:16 hoping 35:17 hospital 8:4 housed 6:7 hudson 1:1,4,7 1:21 2:21 3:2,9 3:16 4:8,16,17 5:22 11:22 12:6 16:22 17:5 18:3,6,11 18:13 21:5 27:3,14,20 30:19 31:5 34:23 39:7 hundred 32:15 36:13 hunger 15:8	illegal 19:10,21 immediate 33:25 34:1,4 immediately 34:9 improvement 18:6,11 21:6 27:21 include 27:15 inclusion 21:10 incorporate 27:19 incorporated 23:12 increase 5:3 8:13 incredible 32:22 individual 34:13 individuals 6:3 35:4 information 29:25 inmate 15:17 15:22 insecurity 12:15 15:1,9 inserra 34:25 inside 16:9 instructions 17:23 intake 17:6	internally 35:21 introduced 22:5 invited 22:2 involved 36:23 issuance 18:9 item 8:21 28:18 29:10 30:1 items 28:15 29:24
h			j
handed 30:16 handout 36:11 36:11 hands 34:16 happen 26:22 27:1 35:3,16 happy 9:16 hard 24:24 33:14 harris 13:17,22 14:1,10,15,20 30:4,13 haul 30:9 hcia 23:2 health 4:6 5:2,3 5:21 hear 5:8 32:2 heard 4:11 hearing 3:3 heating 2:25 16:23 held 3:3 39:8 help 6:13 14:13 34:22 heritage 2:21 hi 30:4 high 18:7	i		j 3:1 16:23 jail 17:19 28:22 janine 9:11 january 3:25 4:9,18 8:5 12:7 15:2,9 jen 37:6 jenny 33:5 jenny's 32:25 jersey 1:9,9 3:2 3:2,22 4:5 10:24 18:3 19:1,4 25:15 25:20,24 26:18 29:11 32:6 34:2,24 39:5 39:14 john 28:7 johnston 28:20 june 6:24

jurisdiction 19:25	lack 5:2	listen 33:15	manner 19:24
k	language 21:2	listing 36:21	mathematics 18:15
keep 16:12 37:14	late 13:8	llc 6:18,23	meadowview 8:3
kennedy 28:8	law 19:7	local 10:20 20:12	mean 5:11,16 10:12 16:16 24:1 31:11 32:18 36:15
kenneth 1:16	lay 23:7	long 5:6	medical 5:22
kenny's 37:2	leadership 34:8	look 6:9 10:19	meet 20:21
kind 18:24 25:8	learned 23:12 36:2	looking 35:15	meeting 1:3 3:4 4:23 5:14 8:19 35:14 37:6 39:7
know 5:13 6:4 7:12 8:22 10:22,23 13:7 22:9,16 23:3 23:11 24:11 25:12 26:3,15 28:23 29:2 31:9 32:3 33:3 33:20 34:3,14 36:8	lease 18:5,10 18:12	looping 36:4	megan 9:11
kopacz 1:16 2:8 2:9 3:19 4:12 5:25 6:20 7:1 8:6,15,16 10:2 11:23,24 12:1 15:4,11,18 16:25 17:8 18:17,18 28:3 29:22 36:18 37:5,10,13,23	legal 24:10 32:7	lot 8:24 23:12 23:18	members 3:9 3:16
	legality 23:23	lying 33:4	memo 13:9
	legislators 31:16 32:9	m	memorandum 18:24
	legitimate 23:22	macurdy 33:12	mendiola 1:20
	level 6:14,14 18:25	madam 16:16	menendez 33:12
	levels 5:10	made 7:4,18	mental 5:2
	liberty 18:7 23:20 24:6	maggie 9:11,12 9:13 10:6,6	mentioned 13:9
	license 39:3	mailings 11:22	mike 21:5
	lined 35:8,9	main 17:18	mikie 33:13
	link 15:16	maintenance 17:7,19	milk 35:6
	lipski 1:14 2:2 2:19 4:21 5:25 7:1 12:17 15:4 15:11,18 29:9 29:22 31:1 37:24	make 27:4 31:24 35:24	million 19:1,10 27:2
	list 22:3 36:7 36:16	making 19:1 26:18	minority 20:12 37:7
I		man 35:7	
I 1:19 2:20		management 12:6 27:14	
labor 20:9 29:12,19		mandate 24:11	
		mandatory 23:23	

minute 20:3 37:1	31:15 32:5,5 33:17 34:24 39:4,14	18:21 19:19 20:7 21:6,9 22:15,20 23:15 24:19 25:2,14 26:1,8,12,17,21 26:25 27:7 30:1,12 31:9 32:11,15 33:22 35:23 36:7,14 36:22	open 4:14 5:19 6:17 8:1,9 11:18 12:4 15:15 16:19 17:3 19:18 24:20
missing 37:20	news 33:17		operating 24:20 25:4
model 6:3	newsletters 11:21		operation 12:5
modifications 17:7	nicole 29:25		opportunities 20:12
modular 17:18	nikki 30:3		opportunity 22:4 30:5
module 17:16	non 5:19 6:17		opposition 30:19
moment 14:16	north 4:16 27:9	obligation 24:15,24	order 34:10
money 8:24 13:10 32:23 34:15	nos 15:13	obsolete 17:10	ordinance 18:2 27:13 28:4,12
month 2:21	notary 39:4,13	obviously 6:4 31:12	original 23:24
months 6:4	note 37:6	october 1:9 2:20 15:2,10 39:8	ortiz 1:23
moran 9:15,24 10:8 11:14	notes 39:6	offense 34:5	outcome 23:14
motion 37:23	notifying 34:21	office 22:4 35:13	outline 9:22
move 19:9	november 5:23 34:1,15 35:3	official 32:1	outrage 32:10 33:3
moxie 8:10 9:7 9:10 37:7	number 10:25 12:24 13:2 14:2,19 19:6 30:24	offset 25:17	outside 36:9
n	nw 6:17	oh 10:18 24:22 29:4	overhead 14:5 14:9
n 1:6,6,19 39:1	o	okay 4:12 5:15 7:15 9:17 10:15 16:15 24:22 27:11	overwhelmed 36:5
name 13:23 14:13,16,18 22:24	o 1:6,6,11,19 39:1	old 36:1	owned 20:13 37:7
national 6:2	o'connor 21:4,5 22:19 23:10	once 19:5 24:20	
need 5:12 6:10 33:23 34:8,17 34:18,19,20 35:2,23 36:22	o'dea 1:17 2:10 2:11 3:5 4:11 4:22 6:1 10:4,9 10:15,18 11:9 13:1,5,12,20,24 14:8,12,18	ones 11:6	
new 1:9 3:2,22 4:5 10:24 18:3 27:19 29:11		online 9:8,11	

p	people 6:7 33:8 33:10 34:11,19 35:16 36:8,9	policies 8:13	process 20:18 22:9 23:4,8
p 1:6,19	percent 10:22 10:22 21:18	population 5:4 23:24 24:12,13 24:17	procurement 11:7
p.m. 1:10 38:3	percentage 19:3 24:12 25:19	portion 21:20	professional 5:20 6:16 8:1 16:21 17:3,5
paid 29:3 33:17	percentages 20:17	position 19:8,9	program 3:24 4:8
pantries 34:6 36:4,15,17,19 36:21 37:17	perform 16:21 17:4	positive 37:6	programs 8:13 12:6
pantry 36:9	person 14:13 14:16	possibility 24:5	project 18:7,9 18:22 19:3,12 20:9,9 21:11 21:21 22:21 25:11,18 30:20 33:16,20,24
park 9:7	pharma 8:4	possibly 24:5	promise 35:18
parrello 16:20	pharmacy 8:3	potential 22:6	proper 5:2
part 10:16,17 17:18 19:11 20:20,23 22:11 22:14 26:15 35:24,25	place 25:13	pre 2:24	proposal 21:3 21:14
participated 21:25	plan 12:13 14:25 15:8 27:15 34:17	preparing 35:18,19	proposals 11:5 21:12,14
participation 21:11	plans 5:5	president 31:13 31:20	proposed 18:25 19:11
particular 25:11	plant 2:25 16:23	press 33:8,11	protest 31:24
pass 32:8	please 10:7 33:2	pretty 10:25	proud 21:7
past 26:18	plans 5:5	pricing 7:19 28:19	provide 6:7 14:5 18:14
pavonia 1:8	plant 2:25 16:23	primary 6:24	provided 6:3 24:7
pay 19:21 26:9 27:3	plans 5:5	prior 7:10 9:20 12:20 22:21 28:11	providers 4:24 12:5 15:1
payment 6:22 19:2,10 26:19 27:4 29:2	plans 5:5	proactive 35:2	
payments 25:18	plant 2:25 16:23	proactively 34:20	
pays 26:16	please 10:7 33:2	probably 6:2	
	plenty 33:20	problem 33:25 34:1,5,7 35:25	
	point 5:13 24:8 24:9,10,10 25:6,22	problems 27:1	
	points 10:10 21:18,19,20 33:20	proceeding 38:2	
		proceedings 1:4 39:5	

providing 24:4	questioning	reducing 13:2,3	requirement
provision 5:21	26:4	13:6	20:22,22,24
8:11 11:20	questions 9:13	reference 30:6	requiring
27:21	9:16 16:14	referring 19:16	22:23
psychiatric 8:4	30:6	24:19	reroute 28:21
public 3:3 39:4	r	regard 23:14	rescue 12:13
39:13	r 1:11,19 39:1	regular 39:6	14:25 15:8
punish 32:20	radio 16:4,11	regulations	30:9
32:21	radios 15:25	2:24 22:12	resend 9:22
punished 31:13	reach 5:7	regulatory	residents 3:24
31:14	reached 22:2	27:25	resolution 2:20
purchase 7:4	read 30:16	rehabilitation	2:23,24 3:7,14
7:18 14:6 35:5	ready 34:18	17:6	3:20,21 4:3,4
purchases	realize 32:5	related 2:25	4:13,14 5:18
20:14 30:10	reallocate	21:21 24:19	5:19 6:15,16
purchasing 7:4	12:13 14:25	relates 19:12	6:21,22 7:10
7:23	15:7	release 20:8	7:17,22,25 8:1
pursuant 27:25	reappointments	remember 14:3	8:8,9 10:1
put 19:5 34:10	3:8,15	removed 16:6	11:17,18 12:2
34:19	reason 23:6	rent 30:9	12:3,12,20,24
putting 27:2	reasons 13:8	repaid 26:2,5	14:2,23,24,24
q	recall 22:1	repeat 13:18	15:5,6,12,13,13
qualification	received 21:24	replacement	16:17,18 17:1
2:24	recognizing	7:2,8 12:11,18	17:2 29:6,11
qualified 21:24	2:20	15:6 16:24	29:15,20 30:15
question 4:21	recollection	replacements	30:15,18,18
5:15 10:5	25:17	3:1	31:5,8 32:8
12:18,25 13:18	record 5:16	reported 1:24	respect 23:22
13:19 15:19	18:22 19:5,20	representative	37:17
17:9 18:19,20	recouping	15:21 16:3,13	respond 5:7
20:1,2,8,10	28:24	request 21:2,12	responded 14:4
23:22 25:7	recycling 27:16	requested 30:1	21:25
26:24		required 17:13	respondents
		21:23	21:23,24 22:7

<p>22:23 revenue 18:10 review 20:19 21:13,15 rfp 9:9 14:5 right 10:19,23 11:4 13:2 23:19 25:13 26:13,17 27:8 32:14 33:15 36:1 37:22 river 30:20 robert 1:15 rodriguez 1:17 2:12,13 3:11 3:13 4:12,20 6:20 7:6,20,24 8:7 12:1,1 16:25 28:10 29:8 romano 1:14 2:15,16,17,22 3:5,12,18 4:2 4:11,20 5:15 5:25 6:19 7:1,6 7:13,15,20,24 8:6,17,20,25 9:4,12,17 10:3 10:6 11:15,25 12:9,17,17,22 12:25 14:21 15:4,11,18 16:1,11,14,25 17:8,14,25</p>	<p>18:19 20:3 27:11 28:2,9 28:14,17 29:1 29:8,14,22 30:2,21,24 31:2,25 32:25 33:5 37:1,22 royally 32:6 rpr 1:24 39:3 39:13 run 19:24 runs 13:13,21</p>	<p>screwed 32:7 seats 25:10 secaucus 27:8 second 3:6,13 3:19 6:20 8:17 10:3 11:25 18:19 20:4,7 23:17 28:2 29:21 31:1 37:24 secondly 36:3 secured 18:10 security 14:4 see 4:25 5:3 10:21 11:6 22:16 23:2 34:21,22 36:11 seeing 6:11 8:23 seems 4:25 seen 36:12 senator 33:12 33:12 send 10:12 senior 3:23 separated 17:18 september 12:15 serve 20:19 service 5:20 6:16 11:20 12:6 14:5 15:16 21:22</p>	<p>35:16 services 4:7 5:22 6:3,17,23 8:2,3,11,14 9:22 12:7 16:20,22 17:3 17:4,5 18:15 27:19,22 set 4:23 5:13,14 25:19,24,25 sexually 4:6 shari 1:24 39:3 39:13 shelters 6:7 sherrill 33:13 shoprite 34:25 shoprites 34:25 show 22:23 34:12 shutdown 31:18 37:19 signature 39:12 similar 21:16 23:3,11 sir 9:24 10:8 site 20:14,15 22:8 situations 5:6 smoke 16:9 social 12:6 software 6:23 solid 27:14,17 27:19,22,23</p>
	<p>s s 1:6,6,6,19,19 sallyport 17:21 salt 12:14 13:12,13 30:7 saw 14:13 20:8 36:21 sax 17:17 saying 25:12 36:17,20 sbcs 22:6 school 18:7 19:17,24 24:20 25:17 schools 3:10 18:13 science 18:7,14 23:21 24:6 scoring 10:11 21:13,19</p>		

solution 35:25	states 31:14,22 32:20,21,22	systems 15:17	terminating 31:20
solve 34:7	station 16:6	t	termination 30:19
somebody 9:3 10:11 11:10 23:6	statute 21:17 22:12	t 1:19 39:1,1	terms 24:20 25:4
somewhat 37:18	stay 10:7	table 15:17	thank 9:25 11:13,14 12:22 14:17 16:15 30:4,12,13 37:10,13
sorry 9:19 20:6 37:3,4,21	storage 30:8	tablets 15:23 15:25 16:6	thing 36:8
speak 8:21,25 31:8	strategies 8:10 9:7 11:19	take 9:16 21:19	things 10:9 16:9,12 21:22
speakers 31:7	structured 23:2	taken 25:6 39:6	think 3:11 6:10 7:10,11 19:20 19:21 21:20 23:5,10 24:9 25:6,11 32:1 32:13 33:15 35:23
specific 7:10 26:14	student 23:23 24:12,17	takes 6:5	thought 20:11
spend 13:10	students 18:16 19:3,7,22 25:10,19	talk 33:18 37:11	three 13:4 21:24,25
spirited 32:18	study 22:18,21	talking 37:2,11	thursday 9:21 9:23 10:14 11:12 31:5
sponsor 3:4,13 3:18 8:15 10:2 11:23 18:17 28:2 29:21	submittal 20:20	task 34:10,19 35:20,21	time 8:23 13:11 25:15 33:10,11 36:12,21
sponsored 6:19	submittals 20:23,24	tax 34:24	title 30:16
sponsors 28:11	subs 22:2	taxes 32:24	today 36:11
srl 22:5	success 20:16 20:16 22:22	taxpayers 27:3	
staff 9:5,20	successful 23:14	team 22:4,7	
stamps 34:1,4	summer 6:5	tech 21:14	
start 36:4	support 6:14 6:23 30:8 31:8	technical 21:13 21:15,20	
started 13:8 33:24 35:11,20	supported 21:8	technology 3:10 18:14,14	
state 4:15 6:14 7:4 18:3 26:6,6 26:8 31:12,15 34:24 39:4,14	sure 13:22	tel 15:15	
statement 18:22	system 6:22 7:19 16:1 20:12 28:19	telemedicine 15:24	
		tell 14:1,12 34:5	
		telling 26:21	
		temporary 6:8	
		tend 5:7	
		term 5:6	

together 34:10 34:19 top 11:5 touted 20:15 towards 19:2 24:24 town 28:8 traffic 28:6 transcript 1:3 39:9 transit 3:23 transmitted 4:7 transportation 3:24 30:9 true 36:1 trust 4:18 34:14 trustees 3:17 trying 37:12,14 37:15 tuberculosis 4:7,8 tuesday 1:9 33:9 39:8 tunnel 30:20 31:5 turn 28:12 turnpike 28:7 two 6:9 10:9 11:5 types 27:17,22 27:23 typo 7:13	u u 30:9 unallocated 12:21 unconstitutio... 32:19 under 4:17 7:4 7:18 19:7,25 20:9 22:11,12 22:13 28:19 34:8 underlying 24:15 understand 6:11 23:21 24:9 25:21 undertook 22:17 23:4 union 28:7,19 united 31:13 32:20 unity 15:8 upgrade 17:9 urgent 34:5 usa 17:4 use 13:25 28:11 used 16:7 using 16:8 utilities 30:10 utilize 16:8	v valid 25:12 variety 13:8 various 7:11 12:4 15:1 vendor 9:3,7 vendors 20:14 22:3,5 versus 10:24 veteran 20:13 viable 22:11 view 24:10 25:3 vote 9:22 32:21 voted 31:23 w waiting 32:2 walk 37:11 walker 2:14 walking 13:18 37:11 walkmans 16:8 want 11:10,11 11:12 19:19 25:8 warm 6:5 warming 5:22 6:2 waste 27:14,17 27:19,22,23,25 way 5:9 16:11 we've 35:13,14 36:2,3	web 22:8 webinar 22:2 week 33:8 35:11 welfare 33:19 went 21:16 33:13 wheeler 30:7 william 1:17 3:1 16:22 willie 1:23 winter 6:4 wise 24:2 withholding 31:21 woman 37:7 women 20:13 word 32:21 work 21:7 22:3 22:13 33:16 worked 23:5 workforce 29:12,19,19 working 32:3 writing 23:7 x x 25:16 xbes 22:6 y yeah 9:9 10:15 10:18 11:4 13:3 17:11,15 21:18 22:10

27:10,10 29:4
36:6
year 4:14 15:14
16:5 25:16
27:2
years 36:2
york 31:15 32:5
yraida 1:14