

HUDSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RE:

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

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O P E N S E S S I O N

Hudson County  
Administration Building,  
Commissioners Chambers  
567 Pavonia Avenue  
Jersey City, New Jersey  
Thursday, November 13, 2025  
4:30 p.m.

B E F O R E:

CERTIFIED ORIGINAL

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

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

- 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 Clark, at  
2 your pleasure.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Aponte-  
4 Lipski. Commissioner Baselice.

5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

7 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
9 Commissioner Kopacz.

10 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Here.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
14 Commissioner Walker.

15 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Here.

16 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

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

20 (Flag Salute.)

21 THE CLERK: Adequate notice of this  
22 Regular Meeting has been provided as follows:

23 Posting notice of Resolution No. 8-01-2025  
24 on the County Commissioner's Bulletin Board, First  
25 Floor, Administration Building Annex, Jersey City,

1 New Jersey.

2 2. Copies of the above mentioned  
3 resolution have been sent to the County Clerk and  
4 the editors of the Kearny Observer and the Star  
5 Ledger.

6 May I have a motion to approve the minutes  
7 of the Caucus Meeting of October 7, 2025; the  
8 Regular Meeting of October 9, 2025; Caucus Meeting  
9 of October 21, 2025; and the Regular Meeting of  
10 October 23, 2025?

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Baselice.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner  
13 Aponte-Lipski. Commissioner Baselice.

14 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

16 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
18 Commissioner Kopacz.

19 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

23 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

25 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: The next order of  
4 business is to turn it over to administration.

5 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I have no  
6 additional items. However, there were some  
7 replacements that I want to go over.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sure.

9 MR. ANTUN: Resolution No. 14 is  
10 being replaced because we had to change the dates.  
11 The new dates are October 1st, 2025 to June 30th,  
12 2026. No. 25, again, there was a change in the  
13 date. The new date is October 1st, 2025 to June  
14 30th, 2026.

15 Resolution No. 26 is to authorize payment,  
16 so we had to insert that, and the new term is July  
17 1st, 2025 to June 30th, 2026. No. 27, again, is to  
18 authorize payment, and the new term is July 1st,  
19 2025 to June 30th, 2026. And then 28, Resolution  
20 28, is also authorizing payment, and the new term is  
21 July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. I have no additional  
22 items, Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

24 THE CLERK: We still did not get 27.  
25 It didn't come downstairs yet.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. When it  
2 comes. We have 27 coming, is that correct, Mr.  
3 Administrator?

4 MR. ANTUN: Should be.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And that's for the  
6 same basic thing, correct?

7 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, like I said, number  
8 27 is, again, it's just authorizing payment, and the  
9 new term is July 1st, 2025 to June 30th, 2026.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay.

11 MR. ANTUN: That's the only change.  
12 Good. Continue, Madam Clerk.

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

20 At this time, the public may address the  
21 Board on any item on the agenda only. Please keep  
22 your comments limited to five minutes. Are there  
23 any speakers on the agenda items only?

24 Seeing none, may I have a motion to  
25 approve all the items listed on the consent agenda

1 and a second?

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cedeño and  
3 Rodriguez.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner  
5 Aponte-Lipski. Commissioner Baselize.

6 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

8 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
10 Commissioner Kopacz.

11 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Abstain on 19-C.  
14 Aye on the rest.

15 THE CLERK: 19-C. Commissioner  
16 Rodriguez.

17 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

19 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: We have to have a change  
23 here. Commissioner Lipski isn't here. So I need a  
24 second on 1, 2, 3, 5, 6.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Commissioner

1 Cedeño?

2 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: I'll take it.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli,  
4 please note, just entered.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Record him.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner, do you want  
7 to vote on the minutes? On the minutes?

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Okay. Thank you. On the  
10 agenda items too?

11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Thank you. So  
13 Commissioner Cedeño is gonna fill in for all  
14 Commissioner Lipski.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Okay. Thank you. We  
17 have three ordinances for introduction. The first  
18 one is Roads and Public Property. It's an Ordinance  
19 amending Chapter 200, Article 8.11 of the  
20 Administrative Code to establish a restricted  
21 Parking Space on Willow Avenue, City of Hoboken for  
22 James B. Rooney.

23 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski. Commissioner  
24 Baselice.

25 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.  
2 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
4 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.  
6 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.  
7 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
10 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Jerry.  
13 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.  
14 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
16 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been  
17 introduced. I-2. Roads and Public Property, an  
18 ordinance amending Chapter 200, Article 27 of the  
19 Administrative Code to establish traffic-calming  
20 devices, delineators, on County Avenue in the town  
21 of Secaucus.  
22 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski. Commissioner  
23 Baselice.  
24 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.  
25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

1 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.  
2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.  
4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.  
5 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.  
6 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.  
7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.  
8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.  
9 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.  
10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.  
11 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.  
12 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.  
13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.  
14 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been  
15 introduced. I-3. An Ordinance of the County of  
16 Hudson, State of New Jersey approving and  
17 authorizing the entering into, Execution and  
18 Delivery of a Lease and Development Agreement with  
19 the Hudson County Improvement Authority for the  
20 Liberty Science Center High School Project with an  
21 estimated cost not to exceed \$76,000,000, the cost  
22 of such project to be financed through the issuance  
23 of County Secured Lease Revenue Bonds of the Hudson  
24 County Improvement Authority; the entering into,  
25 Executive and Delivery of a Lease Agreement with the

1 Hudson County Schools of Technology to provide  
2 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics  
3 Educational Services for the students of the County;  
4 the Guaranty of the payment of the Principal of and  
5 Interest on not exceeding \$76,000,000 Aggregate  
6 Principal amount of County Secured Lease Revenue  
7 Bonds, Series 2025, Liberty Science High School  
8 Project, issued by the Hudson County Improvement  
9 Authority for the purpose of providing additional  
10 security therefor, consenting to such financing and  
11 determining certain other matters in connection  
12 therewith.

13 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA:

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Why, sure. Go  
16 ahead, Bill.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Abe, did you see  
18 the last question I e-mailed you?

19 MR. ANTUN: Yes, I did. And I  
20 followed up with Michael O'Connor. I don't know the  
21 answer to that. I don't know if he's available.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, he's on.  
23 What's the question, Bill?

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, the  
25 question is, we see a memo sent to the Executive

1 Director of the JCRC saying, we need \$10 million  
2 from your escrow for the project to work. But I  
3 don't see the answer. And then beyond the answer,  
4 my question was, what do they have to formally do?  
5 So there's an escrow agreement that says, the two  
6 parties, either the court can order it or the two  
7 parties can mutually agree to allocate money from  
8 the escrow account.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Michael O'Connor,  
10 please answer the question.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Hold on. Hold  
12 on. One of the two parties is the Jersey City  
13 Redevelopment Authority. I believe that the Jersey  
14 City Redevelopment Authority, because it would be  
15 the case if it related to where I am, would need  
16 authorizations from their board to be able to do  
17 that. So is that the case? And then when will that  
18 authorization take place? And how does that fit  
19 into the timing of everything else that's getting  
20 done?

21 Because at the end of the day, in order  
22 for you to enter into an agreement for someone to do  
23 a design build of the building, you've got to show  
24 you've got all the money. And how are we going to  
25 show it? How and when will that \$10 million be

1 shown?

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mike?

3 MR. O'CONNOR: Yeah, can you hear me?

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, sir.

5 MR. O'CONNOR: Yeah, sorry. And I  
6 did send, it was late when I sent it, Commissioner.  
7 It was probably five minutes before your meeting.  
8 So I did send an e-mail. And you're right, the JCRA  
9 and SciTech need to come to agreement, which they  
10 have, related to the release of funds from that  
11 escrow, related to the terms of that escrow. And if  
12 an action of the JCRA is necessary, they'll take  
13 that action of the board. And we're working through  
14 those issues right now.

15 So you can see that in the e-mail that I  
16 sent. So also the Improvement Authority will enter  
17 into an agreement or an amended agreement with  
18 SciTech, with their commitment of the \$10 million in  
19 funds also. So when the JCRA releases the funds  
20 from that escrow, and I think there's 19 million in  
21 it, Commissioner. Yeah, I believe that's the case.  
22 Yeah, so when that money's released from the escrow  
23 by the JCRA, then 10 million of that will  
24 simultaneously be wired to the Improvement  
25 Authority.

1           So that's how this is structured. As to  
2 whether they have to take a formal action of their  
3 board or not, we're working through that. I can't  
4 confirm it with you. We'll know in the next day or  
5 two. They may have to, I can't speak to that. They  
6 may not; and if they have to, they've committed to  
7 do this, the parties. So that's that.

8           And then in terms of the timeline of how  
9 the Authority awards that design-build contract, the  
10 Authority, once the Board of Commissioners adopts  
11 the amended resolution, excuse me, or amended bond  
12 ordinance, I guess that's later in the month, then  
13 the authority will be able to proceed with the award  
14 of the contract for the design-build because the  
15 funds will be available, you're committed for that.  
16 So that's how that will work.

17           We have 60 days from the time we received  
18 the proposals from the respondents, which was  
19 October 17th. So we're like mid-December. We could  
20 conceivably extend that, but we don't want to do  
21 that. We want to move forward and wrap everything  
22 up.

23           COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So all I would  
24 say is that if, as I suspect, there needs to be a  
25 resolution of the JCRA authorizing the disbursement

1 of the \$10 million off an escrow account, that needs  
2 to happen between now and the next meeting.

3 MR. O'CONNOR: Well, your next board  
4 meeting on --

5 MR. ANTUN: Hold on, hold on. I'm  
6 sorry. Excuse me, Commissioner. The public hearing  
7 on this ordinance is scheduled for December 11th.

8 MR. O'CONNOR: Oh, so there you go.  
9 I apologize. I misspoke.

10 MR. ANTUN: So it's not the  
11 Thanksgiving.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So between now  
13 and December 11th --

14 MR. ANTUN: Correct.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You would agree  
16 that whatever actions that are needed in order to  
17 finalize the \$10 million escrow movement would have  
18 to take place.

19 MR. ANTUN: And that date also works  
20 because it's before the 60 days, and I believe the  
21 Improvement Authority meets on the 10th, and that's  
22 when the Local Finance Board will have their --

23 MR. O'CONNOR: That's correct, and  
24 I'm sorry. I'm not at my desk when we're talking  
25 about this, but yes, that's correct. And I

1 apologize about getting the dates. But  
2 Commissioner, we agree with you.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Just keep us posted  
4 on it, okay? Okay, Mike? Just keep us --

5 MR. O'CONNOR: One hundred percent,  
6 one hundred percent.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Okay.  
8 You're welcome. Madam Clerk.

9 THE CLERK: We have two ordinances  
10 for public hearing. Ordinance A-2, it's an  
11 ordinance amending the Hudson County --

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: We didn't vote.  
13 You can take the vote.

14 THE CLERK: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm  
15 sorry. Commissioner Aponte-Lipski. Commissioner  
16 Baselice.

17 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

19 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.  
21 Commissioner Cifelli.

22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Oh, I couldn't hear.  
24 Commissioner Kopacz.

25 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

4 Commissioner Walker.

5 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Sorry, yes.

7 Yes.

8 THE CLERK: Thank you. Chairman

9 Romano.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been  
12 introduced. We have two ordinances for public  
13 hearing. The ordinance amending the Hudson County  
14 District Solid Waste Management Plan to include the  
15 Advanced Enterprises Recycling Inc., facilities as  
16 the County-designated facilities to which Solid  
17 Waste Types 10, 13, 13C, 23, 25, and 27 are directed  
18 for disposal; 2, incorporate the new solid waste  
19 disposal services agreement by and between the  
20 Hudson County Improvement Authority and AER for the  
21 provision of disposable service for Solid Waste  
22 Types 10, 13, 13C, 23, 25, and 27; and 3, direct all  
23 Solid Waste Types 10, 13, 13C, 23, 25, and 27 to the  
24 AER facilities for disposal pursuant to regulatory  
25 waste flow control.

1           This is the time fixed for the public  
2 hearing of this ordinance, which was introduced at  
3 the meeting of October 23rd, 2025, advertised as  
4 required by law, together with the notice of hearing  
5 for this time. It's been posted on the County  
6 Commissioner's bulletin board and made available to  
7 the general public. Are there any speakers on this  
8 ordinance?

9           Seeing none, I'll ask for a motion to  
10 close the hearing.

11           CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cedeño and Kopacz.

12           THE CLERK: All in favor?

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

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

17           COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

18           THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

19           COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

20           THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

21           COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

22           THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

23           COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

24           THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

25           COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

2 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

4 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been  
8 adopted. A-3, Roads and Public Property  
9 Engineering. Ordinance amending Chapter 200,  
10 Article 27 of the Administrative Code to establish  
11 traffic-calming devices on Bergen Turnpike in the  
12 City of Union City and John F. Kennedy Boulevard  
13 East in the town of Guttenberg.

14 This is the time fixed for the public  
15 hearing of this ordinance, which was introduced at  
16 the meeting of October 23rd, 2025, advertised as  
17 required by law together with the notice of hearing  
18 for this time. It's been posted on the County  
19 Commissioner's bulletin board and made available to  
20 the general public. Are there any speakers on this  
21 ordinance?

22 Seeing none, I'll ask for a motion to  
23 close the hearing.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cifelli and Cedeño.

25 THE CLERK: All in favor? Opposed?

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

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

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

15 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

17 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been  
21 adopted. This concludes the items of business for  
22 today's agenda. Are there any comments from the  
23 Commissioners on the business of the Board?

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, two things.  
25 Congratulations to the Prosecutor's office. They

1 caught a wanted murderer, so good job.

2 And number two, Commissioner Cifelli asked  
3 about a Durango yesterday. Alberico spoke with  
4 Undersheriff Conti. Please bring Al up to speed on  
5 what.

6 MR. DEPIERRO: It was basically an  
7 accident that one of our officers got into with  
8 property damage. So right now I'm just waiting for  
9 more documentation. If there's anything that we can  
10 even do on it.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Well, as far as we  
12 know, there's no personal injuries?

13 MR. DEPIERRO: No, thankfully. Thank  
14 God.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Fine. Thank you.  
16 Continue, Madam Clerk.

17 MR. DEPIERRO: You're welcome.

18 THE CLERK: Are there any comments  
19 from the Chief of Staff of the County Executive?

20 MS. DAVIS: No, thank you.

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

1           We do have speakers, Mr. Chairman. First  
2 one is Raymond Mitchell.

3           MR. MITCHELL: How's everybody doing  
4 today? Hope you're all doing well. I just want to  
5 let you know during the early voting, I became a  
6 candidate as a write-in for the governorship.  
7 Statewide, everybody. I would like to pass this  
8 around so everybody see how nice and well.

9           Now is Michael Harper here?

10          CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No.

11          MR. MITCHELL: Is Mikie Sherrill  
12 here? I called both of them to be here today.  
13 Okay. Yeah, Mikie Sherrill. Yeah. Oh no. All  
14 right. So we have neither. Okay. Good. All  
15 right.

16          So the reason is I've been trying to get  
17 ahold of Michael Harper and trying to find out  
18 what's going on with the audits, investigation  
19 inspections on ballots to find out how many votes I  
20 have in Hudson County. He's been ducking me. He  
21 was in Secaucus housing. I stopped over there,  
22 okay? I asked for him. Ron went in and told him I  
23 was outside. I said, I'm going to go run upstairs  
24 real fast, and I'll come back down and bring my  
25 stuff. Five minutes. I was only five minutes and

1 he leaves.

2           So I don't know what's wrong with him.  
3 Michael Harper was a very nice guy before. He  
4 helped me out with some housing issues. And now all  
5 of a sudden he's ducking me on this issue, finding  
6 out what's going on. I called up the warehouse.  
7 You got over maybe 500 machines. They're saying  
8 that it's the technicians that came out. They came  
9 out a lot of times. I'm not sure how that is a lot  
10 of times. I'm not sure if that's a fair, secure and  
11 safe election. Plus there was all these bombs  
12 alerts.

13           And Harrison, who's from Harrison? I  
14 never got anything from them. I called to find out  
15 about reports.

16           COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Saying that  
17 you got right in.

18           MR. MITCHELL: Right in, yeah. So,  
19 and it was early voting and Bergen County already  
20 screwed over and East Rutherford, Bergen County.

21           COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Speak for a  
22 second.

23           MR. MITCHELL: So Bergen County also.

24           CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Can you just let  
25 him finish and then speak?

1                   MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, Bergen County, I  
2 was a right in. I call up, I look for the state and  
3 I was never on to find out what happened to my vote.  
4 That was early voting. My brother also did early  
5 voting for me as well. And I call up and she said,  
6 oh, the personal choice, we wait till the end. And  
7 they were like, why is that? Tuesday was the  
8 election. I should have been in the news. At least  
9 one, two, three, whatever how many votes I had.  
10 That's fair.

11                   I think my name should have been up there.  
12                   And it was not for some reason, so something  
13 happened in Bergen County as well. They will be on  
14 the investigation as well. I got these forms here  
15 to fill out about election investigation request. I  
16 also had to put a complaint with the Secaucus  
17 police, Michael Harper for just leaving. I had to  
18 just document that just so I know. So I'm just  
19 trying to find out who's in charge of Michael Harper  
20 here.

21                   MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Mr.  
22 Mitchell.

23                   MR. MITCHELL: Anybody?

24                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mr. Mitchell,  
25 Commissioner Cifelli wanted this quick, go ahead.

1                   COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So Mr.  
2 Mitchell, your belief is that somewhere in the state  
3 of New Jersey, it's not in Bergen. Well, if you  
4 think about --

5                   THE CLERK: He needs to use the mic.

6                   MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, I can't really  
7 hear him.

8                   COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I'm sorry. So  
9 your belief is that you received personal choice  
10 right in ballots in Hudson, Bergen.

11                  MR. MITCHELL: It could be anywhere  
12 in the state, sir. We're in 21 counties.

13                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right, let him  
14 finish, please.

15                  COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: And is it your  
16 position that but for your getting responses, you  
17 think there was irregularities that would have made  
18 a difference in the election?

19                  MR. MITCHELL: Could be. We don't  
20 know how much fraud is out there. And also, Mikie  
21 Sherrill already, she went to the state, Trenton,  
22 and Governor Murphy already passed over the torch,  
23 and she's not even certified.

24                  COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: My question  
25 is, do you have --

1 MR. MITCHELL: That's illegal. I  
2 should be --

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Mr. Mitchell,  
4 just one more. That's it, your speaking is up.  
5 Let's say you have a problem in Union City. We all  
6 know that. That's well documented. But my question  
7 to you is, you're questioning the integrity of the  
8 Hudson County Board of Elections. With respect to  
9 the count, do you think, do you have a reasonable  
10 belief that but for irregularities in the tally or  
11 the tabulation, that you would be the winner?

12 MR. MITCHELL: Hey, you never know.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. You  
14 know, how we know Mikie Sherrill is the winner.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: After you could  
16 talk to Commissioner Cifelli. After the thing.

17 MR. MITCHELL: Okay.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Commissioner Lipski  
19 is here. So get her on the votes, please.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner, for the  
21 Caucus Meeting on October the 7th and the Regular  
22 Meeting on October the 9th, the Caucus Meeting on  
23 the 21st of October and the Regular Meeting of the  
24 10th, October 23rd.

25 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

1 THE CLERK: Thank you. Next speaker  
2 is Courtney Walker.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: While Courtney's  
4 coming up. I just want also, we had Veterans Day  
5 last week and Joanne Northgrave did a great job  
6 along with Director Lisa Prusko and the staff, both  
7 at the Veterans Affairs the County, recognizing so  
8 many distinguished veterans from previous wars and  
9 conflicts. And also she did an amazing job  
10 representing at the Erasmus Cemetery also. So thank  
11 you, Joanne.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can we just ask  
13 Michael Harper to provide us a list of all write-ins  
14 for Governor that were made in Hudson County?

15 MR. ANTUN: We'll get you those.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Just ask him to  
17 provide us a list of all the write-ins that were  
18 done in Hudson County.

19 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, sure.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right there,  
21 Abe. For the elections, yes.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. Okay.  
23 Tell us for the whole County.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Courtney, the floor  
25 is yours.

1 MS. WALKER: All right. Thank you.  
2 Hello, Commissioners. My name is Courtney Walker  
3 and I'm a resident of Jersey City. I have two items  
4 to address today. First, I want to thank you for  
5 passing the resolution in support of the Immigrant  
6 Trust Act in September, as the legislature enters a  
7 busy lame duck session, I urge each of you to  
8 continue advocating for this bill so it can be  
9 passed and signed into law.

10 Second, I want to raise concerns about our  
11 election process here in Hudson County. Now my  
12 concerns differ from Mr. Mitchell's. I don't have  
13 concerns about the overall count. Michael Harper,  
14 I've talked to him before. He's very nice, but I am  
15 concerned that year after year our County ranks last  
16 in voter turnout statewide. And this year appears  
17 to be no different.

18 While many factors influence turnout,  
19 communication from our local government or the lack  
20 of it plays a major role. Research shows that  
21 clear, proactive communication from local agencies  
22 boosts turnout. So let's assume the absence of it  
23 does the opposite. Consistently placing last isn't  
24 bad luck. It's a systematic issue. The recent  
25 November election highlighted several preventable

1 missteps.

2           Sample ballots weren't delivered before  
3 early voting began. Voters received no proactive  
4 communication about the new early voting centers  
5 which were established. And many voters said they  
6 never received their mail-in ballots when I was  
7 doing phone banking.

8           I've previously raised concerns about the  
9 distribution of early voting centers here. While  
10 new sites were eventually added, the process felt  
11 rushed with decisions made at the last minute. This  
12 raises serious questions about our planning and  
13 commitment to equitable voter access. As we look  
14 ahead to next year, I'm asking for a firm commitment  
15 from the County to improve our election processes.  
16 We can't be satisfied with such low participation.  
17 We need real measurable improvements every election  
18 cycle.

19           It's time to stop repeating the same  
20 processes that yields the same poor results. We  
21 need systematic change. Some specific areas for  
22 improvement could be setting a clear coverage  
23 standard of early voting sites. For example,  
24 ensuring every voter lives within a set distance,  
25 like a quarter mile of a site. Increasing public

1 outreach around new voting locations, including  
2 mailings, ads, and community events. And fixing  
3 recurring mailing errors from the County Clerk's  
4 office that continue to frustrate and disenfranchise  
5 voters.

6 For the past year, I've raised concerns  
7 around our low turnout, but haven't seen meaningful  
8 effort to address them. To be clear, we should  
9 never accept being last in the state. We must do  
10 better and strengthen our democracy here in Hudson  
11 County every single day. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Chairman, can  
14 I ask a question?

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sure, go ahead.

16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: You pointed  
17 out one possible problem, which was --

18 THE CLERK: Please use the  
19 microphone.

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So you  
21 highlighted one possible cause for the low voter  
22 turnout from Hudson, and that was that the sample  
23 ballots go out later than the initial vote-in or  
24 mail-by drop-off.

25 MS. WALKER: I believe that the

1 ballots missed the deadline of when they were  
2 supposed to be sent to voters.

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: And that would  
4 be a problem.

5 MS. WALKER: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But is there  
7 also a problem with the coordination of the dates?  
8 For example, if the proper date for the ballot  
9 notices to go out to the registered voters is 30  
10 days or 20 days before the election. I'm sorry, I  
11 beg your indulgence. I don't know what the cutoff  
12 date is.

13 MS. WALKER: Yeah, that's a great  
14 question. And I know that --

15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: My other  
16 question is it sounds like maybe there's no  
17 coordination between that date and the date that  
18 your early voting starts.

19 MS. WALKER: There could be. I think  
20 there's two issues here. The first, the early  
21 voting period was extended by state law. So maybe  
22 that date wasn't updated with that state law. I  
23 believe Brian Stack sponsored that law. So that  
24 would be something to make sure that that's aligned  
25 with. And second, our Clerk did miss the deadline.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We'll get answers  
2 to those questions.

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Just let me  
4 finish. So would you think it would be a salutary  
5 step on our part as a candidate to prevent the  
6 lowest turnout if we had a proper coordination  
7 between the mailing of the sample ballots and the  
8 initiation date for ballots by mail or drop-off?  
9 You think that they should be, my common sense is  
10 that they should be coordinated to one date.

11 MS. WALKER: Yeah, that's one small  
12 step. That's one small step.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: We'll talk to  
14 the board then.

15 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Clerk.

17 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Chris  
18 Murphy.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Chris? Chris?  
20 No, Chris. No, Chris. Next one is Jonas Stankovich.

21 MR. STANKOVICH: Hello, everyone.  
22 Thank you for letting me speak. I'm here to talk  
23 about getting a bus rapid transit done on JFK  
24 Boulevard. We got a big problem with traffic in  
25 Jersey City.

1           By the way, I'm Jonas. I live on the West  
2 side of Jersey City and I'm an officer in Riverview  
3 Neighborhood Association, which is up in Jersey City  
4 Heights. So I know Jersey City. I know Bayonne. I  
5 know Hudson County. And the traffic's gotten  
6 really, really bad the past year or so. And the 119  
7 Bus, which is the backbone of Bayonne, Jersey City,  
8 Hoboken, and then into the city, it has deteriorated  
9 over about the past year. It's just gotten  
10 noticeably worse.

11           And so we've been getting a lot of  
12 complaints at Riverview Neighborhood Association  
13 about the 119. And so we met five different times  
14 with NJ Transit, and the biggest issue that's kept  
15 coming back is the traffic on JFK Boulevard,  
16 starting at Bayonne, getting up to Journal Square.  
17 And a good example is just the other day, I was  
18 waiting for the 119 in the morning at Communipaw and  
19 JFK going up north and no bus came, no bus came.

20           I waited 10, I think 12 minutes. All of a  
21 sudden, three 119 buses come. One of them is  
22 packed. Two of them are empty. Ugh, what a waste  
23 of resources, right? NJ Transit explained the  
24 reason this happens is because of traffic. The bus  
25 gets stuck in the traffic and other buses pile up

1 behind it. And they say that the most important  
2 thing we could do is a bus rapid transit system on  
3 JFK Boulevard. And this would include three major  
4 things. One would be signal priority. So they get  
5 green lights, the buses, when they're approaching  
6 the traffic lights.

7 Second would be they'd fix some curbs to  
8 make it easier to board, especially for folks who  
9 are disabled have some mobility issues. And then  
10 the third and the most important is a bus lane. And  
11 we worked out how that would be. Would that be just  
12 during rush hour? Would it be all the time? Big  
13 thing is though, the bus lane would help  
14 tremendously to get those buses moving.

15 Now I have family in Queens along Hillside  
16 Avenue and they just built a bus lane there and it  
17 is night and day. I was surprised I moved so fast.  
18 So guys, we're Hudson County. We're losing to  
19 Queens here. Come on. So I heard that Hudson  
20 County had some plans to study bus rapid transit on  
21 JFK bus lane. I'm just wondering what the state of  
22 that is. And I'm here to advocate for that.  
23 Please, please, please. It's getting really, really  
24 difficult to live here. It's hurting our lives.  
25 You've got to help us. Please help us. Thanks.

1                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Jonas.  
2 I think after the meeting, you could talk to the  
3 Director of Roads, let you know what the engineers  
4 where that's at.

5                   MR. STANKOVICH: Okay, cool. Thank  
6 you.

7                   THE CLERK: Kalilah Daly.

8                   MS. DALY: Good evening,  
9 Commissioners. As you know, my name is Kalilah  
10 Daly. I work for Hudson County Department of Family  
11 Services, and I'm a volunteer with Leaders Without  
12 Limits nonprofit organization.

13                   Leaders Without Limits provides food and  
14 supplies for five other pantries, churches, masjids,  
15 senior homes, veteran homes. We do it all. We're  
16 basically trying to help the community during this  
17 time.

18                   What we've noticed is that the need has  
19 far outpaced our resources. Our community partners  
20 are overwhelmed. And the sad truth is that we  
21 simply can't keep up with the growing demand. In  
22 the Greenville section, our churches, masjids and  
23 food pantries are facing unprecedented crisis. In  
24 the recent months, we've received dramatic increase  
25 in families, seniors and even working residents,

1 including the government shutdown, employees  
2 affected by the government shutdown, all coming to  
3 us for help. Many have also lost their food stamp  
4 benefits due to theft and no longer being able to be  
5 compensated behind this.

6 Combined with high rents and rising costs,  
7 it's left too many of our neighbors without enough  
8 to eat. And that's why I'm here tonight, because  
9 I'm looking at it. I'm looking at it at work. I'm  
10 looking at food stamp representatives tell people to  
11 go to pantries. I'm looking at the pantries that we  
12 deal with basically become overwhelmed because we're  
13 not -- we don't know what to do really. So we're  
14 working to try to figure out what can be done. And  
15 that's why I'm here tonight.

16 Our pantry has grown from serving 300  
17 families to now close to 1,000. We're doing  
18 everything we can, but funding cutbacks have made it  
19 nearly impossible to meet the need. We're running  
20 out of the most basic supplies like non-perishable  
21 foods, baby formulas, diapers, hygiene products,  
22 cleaning supplies, warm clothing, and blankets. And  
23 as winter approaches, we're especially worried about  
24 the infants, toddlers, children who will be staying  
25 on food lines without hats, gloves, socks, or coats.

1           As a casework, I see the pain behind these  
2 numbers. Elderly people who've worked their whole  
3 lives now standing on food lines. And families are  
4 terrified that they won't be able to feed their  
5 children. Food insecurity is spreading and the  
6 impact is devastating. With the holidays and cold  
7 weather approaching, this need will only grow.  
8 We're looking at it now. The numbers are just  
9 growing.

10           So tonight I'm asking for support and  
11 partnership to help us meet this urgent need. These  
12 are not luxuries. They're essentials that keep  
13 people healthy, safe, and dignified. So what I'm  
14 coming to you tonight is to tell you that the things  
15 that we basically need from bags to give the people  
16 the food, to things that we normally would have in  
17 excess has become depleted almost. So tonight I  
18 want to know what can be done, what can be, you  
19 know, who can help, who you can direct us to help  
20 us, anything.

21           CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Frank Mazza would  
22 be the one for you to speak with. Or Darice. Frank  
23 or Darice. That would be Darice.

24           MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Ms. Daly.

25           COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Thank you.

1 Do you currently get any funding?

2 MS. DALY: No, we get like donations  
3 from people in the community, but nothing major.  
4 But what happened was when we started getting the  
5 masses, when the people started coming in droves,  
6 what we usually gave out to help the families, we no  
7 longer have it to do.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Are you part of  
9 the food, the Community Food Bank of New Jersey?

10 MS. DALY: Yes, we are. But they cut  
11 back. They cut back and the numbers grew. So  
12 that's why we're in the predicament now. Due to the  
13 cutback, and then the increase from when the food  
14 stamps were being stolen from the clients. So on  
15 top of that, the government shutdown came and the  
16 benefits were suspended.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The perfect  
18 storm, so to speak.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: See Darice.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, but  
21 Darice, you need to report back, like keep us posted  
22 on it. Obviously, this has been an issue of  
23 discussion at several meetings. The reality is the  
24 numbers are growing and they're probably going to  
25 continue to grow. We're held at the mercy of

1 Washington and what they're doing down there. We  
2 had a lot of discussion at the last meeting about  
3 what was going to happen with SNAP and the effect  
4 and impact of what was happening with the closing of  
5 the government. I know that Darice has been working  
6 with the County Executive Administration on a plan  
7 to increase our product.

8           So there'd be more whether food products  
9 or other products available because it's the only  
10 way to address it is to do that. Reality is it's  
11 coming at a time when next year, federal money we  
12 received from doing COVID to do this is going away.  
13 So we at least unlike other government jurisdictions  
14 are ahead of the curve in identifying what that is.  
15 Now it's a matter of putting in place a plan to  
16 first replace what we're losing, right?

17           Cause those dollars are going away and  
18 those dollars are at a minimum in the hundreds of  
19 thousands, if not in excess of a million dollars a  
20 year. And then secondly, how do we better plan?  
21 How do we better serve? How do we reach different  
22 targeted populations? So one thing that I had  
23 started a discussion with Darice relates to  
24 individuals that are diabetic.

25           So diabetic individuals go to dialysis.

1 They go to dialysis and we're working, we started a  
2 conversation with one of the dialysis centers of  
3 them putting a small pantry in their location. The  
4 benefit of that is their patients are prescribed  
5 certain diets that they can't afford because they're  
6 on a fixed income. They can't afford the items on  
7 that diet. Then that works against them, and it  
8 works against them staying healthy.

9           So the more we think, the more creative we  
10 get, the more focused we get on that issue, I think  
11 the better. But I agree with you, the problem's not  
12 going away. The problem's only going to get  
13 greater. Anywhere we, through the nonprofit that  
14 I'm involved with distributes to 2,100 individuals  
15 twice a month. I don't know whether after the COVID  
16 money runs out next year, whether they're going to  
17 have the food product for those 2,100 people. If  
18 they don't, I'm going to have to figure out a way to  
19 do it.

20           Because you just can't, because they're  
21 not people that are -- they're not people taking  
22 that food and selling it anywhere, trust me. Those  
23 people that throw that myth out there, they need to  
24 look a little bit. But to the County's credit, they  
25 are helpful and step up. There was, well, I guess

1 maybe two weeks ago, the BITE organization had an  
2 opportunity to pick up product from a location, and  
3 they had to pick it up the next morning. And at six  
4 o'clock the night before, they reached out to me and  
5 I was able to reach out to Denise and she got them  
6 the trucks to pick them up the night before and get  
7 them delivered.

8           And then on that Saturday, when they  
9 distributed all of the food, the machinery that  
10 condenses all the boxes was broken. And between rows  
11 and parks, they were able to send a crew to take  
12 care of that because it was the parking lot of a  
13 church and you couldn't leave in a church parking  
14 lot all of those boxes when services are going to be  
15 on Sunday. So I think that the County is in a  
16 better place than most when it comes to the issue.  
17 But obviously we have to improve on that and we have  
18 to plan on it.

19           And I have faith in Denise and I have  
20 faith in Frank and obviously in the County Exec in  
21 moving in that direction, but I'm with you.

22           MS. DALY: Thank you.

23           COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm with you. I  
24 mean, we did a resolution as it related to food  
25 stamps asking the government to simply make the

1 changes so people, it wasn't so easy to steal. And  
2 I doubt that that's been done yet, Frank. Has  
3 anything happened with that?

4 MS. DALY: No.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So you know,  
6 it's just going to get worse, right? And now  
7 knowing what Washington is, they're going to say, if  
8 yours gets stolen, then you're out forever. We're  
9 just taking you out.

10 MS. DALY: Are they ever talking  
11 about bringing back in the money when people lose  
12 their food stamps?

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I'd have to refer  
14 to Frank. You can refer to Frank later and to  
15 Denise, okay? Frank Mazza and Darice over there.

16 MS. DALY: Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And then stay in  
18 touch.

19 THE CLERK: Okay. The next speaker  
20 is Beverly Murphy. Can I ask a question of the  
21 speaker? And maybe Darice is here. How many  
22 families in Hudson are SNAP recipients?

23 DIRECTOR TOON: I don't have that  
24 number to name. He does.

25 DIRECTOR MAZZA: So there's 53,000

1 food stamp cases. There are 93,000 --

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So that's a  
3 family unit?

4 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Families is about  
5 3,000. The rest are individuals without dependents.  
6 But overall, it's 93,000 individuals get food  
7 stamps.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. And  
9 what percentage of that is the constituency of  
10 Hudson County, the census? 15 percent?

11 DIRECTOR MAZZA: Probably, yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So even before  
13 the shutdown, even before the shenanigans that  
14 Washington's been playing with SNAP, I'm getting the  
15 impression that even at a hundred percent on the  
16 system, the SNAP benefits aren't enough to pay  
17 nutrition for the average family?

18 MS. DALY: Yes, and I would like to  
19 voice that a lot of people have health conditions.

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I had another  
21 question. The other question is from the County, is  
22 there any funds that we as a County have available,  
23 because money's tied all over, to supplement those  
24 SNAP benefits for some emergency purposes? Do we  
25 have a reserve to --

1 DIRECTOR MAZZA: No.

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. All  
3 right. So that answers that question. The second  
4 question I had, and maybe Darice can answer this, is  
5 if we as a County could find that money, and we  
6 wanted to channel that money into food banks,  
7 community food banks, is there a way that we have to  
8 vet the food banks to say that --

9 DIRECTOR TOON: No, we have the list.

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Correct. I  
11 mean, but are they vetted and everybody?

12 DIRECTOR TOON: Yeah.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So food bank  
14 in Harrison or Kearny or Jersey City or North Bergen  
15 is already recognized as a legitimate repository for  
16 whatever benefits we can give. Okay. Thank you.

17 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Beverly  
18 Murphy.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: See Darice, though,  
20 and she'll give you the guidance.

21 THE CLERK: Beverly Murphy. Ms.  
22 Murphy. Hold on. The next one is Eve Taylor.

23 MS. TAYLOR: Good evening,  
24 Commissioners. My name is Eve Taylor, and I'm a  
25 former finance director, now legally disabled. I'm

1 here to speak about homelessness, food insecurity,  
2 and government failure in Hudson County.

3 Yesterday, I filed federal civil rights  
4 case 22:5-CB-17393-MCA-MAH against the City of  
5 Jersey City, Stephen Fulop, and former Hudson County  
6 prosecutor, Esther Suarez, and others for six years  
7 of systematic non-enforcement of rent control,  
8 housing, and consumer protection laws.

9 Under Civil Rights Law 42 USC 1985, the  
10 Fair Housing Act, 42 USC 3601, and N.J.S.A.  
11 2A:42-10.10, these agencies had a duty to protect  
12 disabled and resident tenants, and from retaliation,  
13 unsafe housing, and fraud. Instead, they enable it.  
14 Because of that failure, I now live with a permanent  
15 disability from carbon monoxide, have no income for  
16 16 months while waiting for social security  
17 disability, which my claim decision was frozen  
18 during the federal shutdown, and my SNAP food  
19 assistance was blocked for a week.

20 My rental assistance case, I have Hudson  
21 County rental assistance, but the landlord is  
22 attacking it. Again, Attorney Roberta Tarkin and  
23 landlord Mohammad Shaheed, and their crimes, former  
24 prosecutor Esther Suarez, Jake Hudnut, and Rami Eid  
25 have ignored for six years. Hudson County law

1 enforcement's refusal to enforce basic housing law  
2 is what is creating the escalation of homelessness  
3 and starvation. Hudson County Prosecutor's office  
4 and Fulop administration have turned housing and  
5 code enforcement into a political favor system.  
6 Tenants who report hazards lose their homes.

7           The food pantries are open only once a  
8 week, often at the same hour, requiring residents to  
9 arrive sometimes at 6 a.m. and wait outdoors. And  
10 those who are disabled or homeless cannot  
11 necessarily get there or do that. Cash general  
12 assistance is less than \$200 a month, and the  
13 welfare office, if you have rental assistance, they  
14 confiscate 30-percent of your cash assistance,  
15 calling it income, and they take it towards rent.  
16 So that doesn't leave enough money for basics such  
17 as hygiene supplies, phone, clothing, or laundry.

18           The growing humanitarian disaster is due  
19 to structural negligence and public corruption. The  
20 city and County must prosecute housing crimes such  
21 as rent price, gouging, tenant harassment, and fire  
22 code-related vandalism. They continue to fail to do  
23 so. The human cost of Stephen Fulop, Jacob Hudnut,  
24 and Esther Suarez's policy failures are visible on  
25 every Jersey City block tonight. Thank you.

1 THE CLERK: Thank you, Eve. Next  
2 speaker is Emmanuelle Morgan.

3 MS. MORGAN: Hi, Commissioners. It's  
4 good to see all of you. I'm not sure if you heard,  
5 but with my colleague, we're just celebrating a  
6 pretty big PATH win. They just announced  
7 significant service increases, no more stopping in  
8 Hoboken on the 33rd Street line, and a lot of other  
9 wins. Have a look at their press release when you  
10 have the chance.

11 But I'm actually here to talk about buses  
12 in support of my colleague at RNA, Riverview  
13 Neighborhood Association. About 12 of us advocates  
14 met with NJ Transit two weeks ago, October 23rd, I  
15 think it was, right before the Commissioner meeting.  
16 And we just are really here to support them, and you  
17 and the County Executive in implementing bus rapid  
18 transit on JFK.

19 So I'm here on behalf of Hudson County  
20 Complete Streets as co-founder, and I just, I want  
21 to thank the County Executive for his public  
22 statement, his public commitment to a BRT study over  
23 the summer in July. And I just wanted to make sure,  
24 we have heard from some of our leadership that  
25 they're not really sure what BRT means.

1           So as defined by the Federal Transit  
2 Administration, BRT is a high-quality bus transit  
3 system that delivers fast and efficient buses. And  
4 it may include dedicated bus lanes, traffic signal  
5 priority, elevated platforms, payment before  
6 boarding, and enhanced stations. And the FTA likes  
7 to compare BRT to LRT or light rail, which is the  
8 other big major transit system here in Hudson  
9 County. Light rail carries 60,000 passengers per  
10 day.

11           Hundreds of cities all over the world from  
12 New York to Marrakesh to Manila have implemented BRT  
13 to get millions of people where they need to go with  
14 great efficiency. And speaking of millions of  
15 people, bus here in Hudson County, we have 5 million  
16 rides per year between the 119, the 88 and the 10  
17 alone. When NJ Transit rescued the 88 and the 10  
18 last year, they made buses significantly more  
19 reliable and on time. When NJ Transit increased  
20 service on the 119 in 2023, ridership increased 50  
21 percent, and then 50 percent again. So ridership on  
22 the 119 has tripled in eight years.

23           Millions of unseen and unheard people ride  
24 buses in Hudson County every day. But what's  
25 remarkable is how little we have valued them

1 historically. It's not unusual to see 50 people on  
2 a bus stuck behind 12 people in cars, in 12 cars, or  
3 70 people on an articulated bus stuck at the red  
4 light. What BRT can do is to give bus riders the  
5 priority that they deserve.

6 I urge you to begin talking about BRT with  
7 your constituents and local leaders, reach out to  
8 learn more, watch the film made by NJCU professor  
9 right here in Hudson County called the Number One  
10 Bus Chronicles. And most of all, at some point,  
11 ride the bus.

12 Thank you Commissioners and to the County  
13 Executive for your commitment to Vision Zero, which  
14 is so sorely needed to address the issue of safety  
15 and inequity on our streets. Thank you so much.

16 THE CLERK: Next speaker.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Oh, I'm sorry. Did  
18 you say PATH is not going to Hoboken anymore?

19 MS. MORGAN: So the PATH, the Port  
20 Authority just announced that PATH service is going  
21 to be significantly increased, especially on  
22 weekends, which is something that we've been asking.  
23 Commissioner O'Dea has been to the board meetings,  
24 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski, a lot of you have  
25 advocated for better PATH service, and they just

1 today at their board meeting made an announcement  
2 about significantly improved service thanks to all  
3 of you and so many advocates who have gone to those  
4 board meetings. So we're going to get great, much  
5 better service.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

7 MS. MORGAN: They are going to raise  
8 fares though, but read the press release.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, so that  
10 guy, Zach McHugh has been trying to reach me for two  
11 days. I didn't realize he actually had good news  
12 for the change.

13 MS. MORGAN: Oh yes, and there will  
14 be a public Q & A with PATH on November 20th, at  
15 Hudson County Community College at between 6 p.m.  
16 and 8 p.m. All are welcome. And I think we  
17 announced it on Instagram earlier this week and the  
18 PATH will also be making, Port Authority will be  
19 making announcement.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Next  
21 speaker.

22 THE CLERK: Our next speaker is Eric  
23 Cohen.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So where are we  
25 with putting out for the proposals to do the BRT

1 study? I know we discussed it a couple of Public  
2 Resources committees ago.

3 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: Hi,  
4 Commissioner D'Alessandro. We are in the stages of  
5 going out for an RFQ. So we're putting specs  
6 together and we should be going out by the beginning  
7 of 2026.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. I think  
9 you should just keep us updated. And then obviously  
10 we keep the advocates updated by you keeping us  
11 updated. But we had discussed it, I think two  
12 Public Resources Committees ago as to what the  
13 timeline was.

14 THE CLERK: Our next speaker is Eric  
15 Cohen.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Eric? No, Eric.

17 THE CLERK: Paul Kuh.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Paul Kuh? No,  
19 Paul. No, Paul.

20 THE CLERK: Jack McKee.

21 MR. MCKEE: Good evening,  
22 Commissioners. Can you hear me?

23 THE CLERK: Yes.

24 MR. MCKEE: There we go. I am  
25 also -- my name is Jack McKee. I'm here as a Jersey

1 City resident, Hudson County resident, member of  
2 Hudson County Complete Streets to advocate for JFK  
3 BRT. Pick your reason. It will improve that. If  
4 you're talking about safety, it is absolutely a plan  
5 that will improve the safety for all parties, for  
6 cyclists, for pedestrians, for drivers, for bus  
7 drivers.

8 I think the unsung hero in the bus lanes,  
9 bike lanes, safe streets situation is the drivers  
10 themselves. Because I know as a driver, when I'm  
11 going down a road with no delineation, no concrete  
12 barriers, I am constantly living in the fear that  
13 someone will come into my lane. And so that is one  
14 reason why I support JFK BRT.

15 Second, I believe that it opens up  
16 different areas of this County to positive  
17 transit-oriented development. This is something  
18 that, you know, I've yet to meet someone who doesn't  
19 support the idea of building homes and then creating  
20 transportation infrastructure to allow those people  
21 to get to and from work to the things they love to  
22 do. But I encourage you to push forward with it.  
23 Environmentally, it helps us, you know, reach our  
24 environmental goals.

25 So I could keep going, you know, if you

1 could pick a topic, I could find a way to make BRT a  
2 way to achieve that, and I wouldn't be lying. Good  
3 transit, good planning is one of those things that  
4 really does help us achieve. It helps you achieve  
5 your goals, and I don't need to know what your goals  
6 are up top. This is, again, so this is one of those  
7 topics that everyone is for, you know, but whatever  
8 needs to be done to push it along, I encourage that.

9 I look at the Secaucus loop, you know,  
10 that extension to the New Jersey Transit. So trains  
11 can come from New York City and go to the  
12 Meadowlands Stadium. That was an example of when  
13 there is a will, there is a way and magically,  
14 something that would have taken years was just done,  
15 you know, decisions were made immediately because  
16 there was a need. The World Cup is coming here and  
17 politicians in New Jersey didn't want to be  
18 embarrassed when a train had to transfer at  
19 Secaucus.

20 I would say that is the most accurate  
21 reason, but it was a great example to me, great  
22 evidence that when there is a desire to do something  
23 like the Secaucus loop or JFK BRT, it can be done.  
24 It is our desire to do so. And fortunately, it's  
25 not one of those topics that you have to convince.

1 You don't have to convince anyone, really. It's  
2 just a willingness to work together with our  
3 counterparts at, you know, County, County Executive,  
4 whatever legislators, the New Jersey Transit  
5 community groups. It is almost entirely the  
6 willingness to meet with people and then doing it.

7 So I won't ramble on. I think JFK BRT is  
8 a great idea for everyone, for every reason. And  
9 when I look at places in the world that are good,  
10 well-planned, they develop, they allow residents,  
11 they allow tourists, they allow my 74 and  
12 72-year-old mother and father to come up from Long  
13 Branch to visit me. They have a way to get around  
14 rather than that perpetual, so where do I park?  
15 Because I always tell them to go to park and ride,  
16 anyway. Thank you very much, guys. Enjoy your  
17 evening.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, sir.

19 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, there are  
20 no further speakers. There being no further  
21 business --

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Question, is that  
23 air system ever going to get repaired?

24 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: No, they're  
25 waiting for a part.

1                   COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Motion to  
2 adjourn. Kopacz.

3                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second.

4                   THE CLERK: All in favor? Opposed?  
5 Meeting is adjourned.

6                   (Whereupon the proceeding is then  
7 concluded at 5:31 p.m.)

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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 Thursday, November 13, 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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