

HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RE:

REORGANIZATION 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,
Commissioner Chambers
567 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
Monday, January 05, 2026
4:00 p.m.

B E F O R E:

CERTIFIED COPY

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

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

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ., Board Counsel
DONATO J. BATTISTA, Hudson County Counsel
ABRAHAM ANTUN, Assistant County Administrator
CAROL JEAN DOYLE, County Commissioner Clerk
CARMEN MENDIOLA, ESQ., Board Counsel
Reported by: SHARI CATHEY

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THE CLERK: Commissioner
Aponte-Lipski.
COMMISSIONER APONTE LIPSKI: Here.
THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.
COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.
THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.
COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.
THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.
COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Here.
THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.
COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Here.
THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.
THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Here.
THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.
COMMISSIONER WALKER: Here.
THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.
CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.
THE CLERK: Stand for the Pledge of
Allegiance.
(Flag Salute.)
THE CLERK: The first order of
business is to appoint a Chairperson of the Board of

1 Commissioners.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I have a motion
3 that Jerry Walker would act as Chairperson of the
4 meeting.

5 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Second.
6 Kopacz.

7 THE CLERK: All in favor?
8 (Unanimous aye.)

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner
10 Aponte-Lipski.

11 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

13 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

15 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

17 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: 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: Chairman Walker.

25 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Romano.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. So you know.
3 Walter? Just for those that don't know, this would
4 be Commissioner Walter's last meeting before he
5 ascends to a new position as our outspoken and
6 dedicated member of the New Jersey State Assembly.
7 So I'd like a round of applause for our Assemblyman.

8 (Applause.)

9 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: Before Jerry
10 takes over, I just want to recognize the officials
11 that we have here. The Mayor-Elect of the City of
12 Hoboken, Mayor Emily Jabbour, our town's delegate.
13 Our former Commissioner of Union City, former
14 Commissioner of Hudson County. He wears a lot of
15 hats. El Rey de la Republica Dominicano, Tilo
16 Rivas.

17 And on the roof you have our dynamite
18 Directors, Scott, DiFilippo, D'Alessandro, Gibney,
19 and Hulings. Did I miss anybody? Oh, the one and
20 only. Whoa, I'm going to miss you. Cheryl Fuller.
21 Okay. All right. Frank Larson's running around
22 here. He has to hide from Bill O'Dea, that's why he
23 can't see me.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Jerry's running
25 the meeting. I'll make a motion to throw --

1 CHAIRMAN WALKER: This is great,
2 guys.

3 THE CLERK: Chairman, let me go on
4 with the adequate notice. Adequate notice of this
5 meeting has been provided as follows:

6 Posting notice of Resolution 75-312-2025
7 designated January 6th, 2026 at 4 o'clock p.m. at
8 the Reorganization Meeting.

9 Copies of the above-mentioned resolution
10 have been sent to the County Clerk and the editor of
11 the Kearny Observer. Said notice was posted on the
12 County Commissioner's bulletin board here on the
13 first floor of Administration Building Annex, New
14 Jersey City, New Jersey, and the Commissioner's web
15 page.

16 The next item --

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I make a motion
18 that we defer and start with Item No. 4. Which is
19 appointing a voting member to the New Jersey
20 Association of Counties.

21 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: Second the
22 motion.

23 THE CLERK: The next item is
24 appointing a voting member to the New Jersey
25 Association of Counties for 2026. Is there a

1 motion? Is there a second? Is there a motion?

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I was going to
3 move with Jerry Walker, but he can't anymore so.

4 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: I nominate
5 commissioner Bobby Basalice.

6 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Second.

7 THE CLERK: All those in favor?

8 (Unanimous Aye.)

9 THE CLERK: Be it resolved by the
10 County Commissioners, the County of Hudson, that
11 Commissioner Basalice, a member of the Board of
12 County Commissioners, is hereby appointed a voting
13 member of the New Jersey Association of the County
14 for the year 2026.

15 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

16 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

17 THE CLERK: Commissioner Basalice.

18 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

20 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

24 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

3 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Romano.

5 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: Chairman Walker.

7 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I would move
9 that we just go from 5 to 11, then 3, 2, 1.

10 THE CLERK: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: 5 to 11, then 3,
12 2, 1. That would be the last one.

13 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: 5 is next.

14 THE CLERK: The next item is
15 appointing the Alternate Voting Member of the New
16 Jersey Association of Counties for 2026. Is there a
17 motion?

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yraida. I nominate
19 Commissioner Yraida Aponte-Lipski.

20 THE CLERK: Is there a second?

21 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Second.

22 THE CLERK: Motion to close the
23 nomination?

24 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: Motion to
25 close.

1 THE CLERK: All in favor?
2 (Unanimous Aye.)
3 THE CLERK: Commissioner
4 Aponte-Lipski.
5 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.
6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Basalice.
7 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.
8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.
9 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.
10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.
11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.
12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.
13 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.
14 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.
16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
17 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Romano.
19 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: Yes.
20 THE CLERK: Chairman Walker.
21 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Yes.
22 THE CLERK: Be it resolved by the
23 County Commissioners of County of Hudson that
24 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski, a Member of the Board of
25 County Commissioners, is hereby appointed Alternate

1 Voting Member of the New Jersey Association of
2 Counties for 2026.

3 The next item is appointing the Second
4 Alternate Voting Member of the New Jersey
5 Association of Counties for 2026. Is there a
6 motion?

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I make a motion
8 that we nominate anyone but Abe Antun, that we
9 nominate Abe Antun.

10 THE CLERK: Is there a second?

11 COMMISSIONER APONTE LIPSKI: Second.

12 THE CLERK: A motion to close the
13 nomination?

14 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Motion.

15 THE CLERK: All in favor?

16 (Unanimous Aye.)

17 THE CLERK: Commissioner
18 Aponte-Lipski.

19 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner Basalice.

21 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

23 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

25 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.
2 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.
3 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.
5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
6 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Romano.
8 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: Yes.
9 THE CLERK: Chairman Walker.
10 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Yes, I just wanted
11 to say something. I was on the NJAC meeting, I mean
12 on the Board, and you know, Abe Antun is somebody
13 that we should be really proud of. He's often the
14 guy that they refer to down in Trenton, so I
15 appreciate being down there with you and chairing
16 that conversation.
17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And all I would
18 say is, Abe, I feel bad that all the years I've been
19 here, you've always only been the Second Alternate.
20 I don't understand why you're second.
21 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Hey, he's not that
22 good.
23 MR. ANTUN: I'm fine with that.
24 Yeah, I've never been good.
25 THE CLERK: Next item is the Legal

1 Advertising for 2026. Do I have a sponsor and a
2 second?

3 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.
4 Kopacz.

5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Second.

6 THE CLERK: Thank you. Commissioner
7 Aponte-Lipski.

8 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

10 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

12 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

14 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

16 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I vote yes, but
19 obviously I assume that we would have the ability
20 to, during the year, if there's another paper added
21 in.

22 COMMISSIONER WALKER: That's the
23 Observer?

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Not the
25 Observer. That's what I was going to say. We'll

1 figure it out. It's better you're not here. But I
2 just want to know, I vote yes, but I want to know on
3 the record that we certainly have the ability to
4 amend and add additional publications.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

6 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Romano.

8 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Chairman Walker.

10 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: I'm also going
12 to recognize and represent the County Executive, the
13 Chief of Staff, Jenny Davis.

14 THE CLERK: The next item is the
15 annual notice of schedule of regular and caucus
16 meetings for the Board of County Commissioners for
17 the year 2026. I need a sponsor and a second.

18 COMMISSIONER APONTE LIPSKI: Sponsor.

19 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Second.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner
21 Aponte-Lipski.

22 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baseline.

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: I was going to
8 change the first caucus as well, so Jerry could come
9 one more time. I vote aye. I vote aye.
10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
11 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Romano.
13 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: Yes.
14 THE CLERK: Chairman Walker.
15 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Yes.
16 THE CLERK: Finance and
17 Administration, the 2026 Temporary Appropriation. I
18 need a sponsor and a second.
19 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.
20 Kopacz.
21 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Second.
22 THE CLERK: Commissioner
23 Aponte-Lipski.
24 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.
25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

1 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.
2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.
3 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.
4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.
5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.
6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.
7 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.
8 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.
10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
11 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Romano.
13 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: Yes.
14 THE CLERK: Chairman Walker.
15 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Yes.
16 THE CLERK: Finance and
17 Administration. Cash Management Plan Approval and
18 Adoption for 2026. I need a sponsor and a second.
19 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.
20 Kopacz.
21 COMMISSIONER APONTE LIPSKI: Second.
22 THE CLERK: Commissioner
23 Aponte-Lipski.
24 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.
25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

1 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.
2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.
3 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.
4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.
5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.
6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.
7 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.
8 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.
10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
11 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Romano.
13 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: Yes.
14 THE CLERK: Chairman Walker.
15 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Yes.
16 THE CLERK: County Executive.
17 Resolution Lending Advice and Consent to the
18 Appointment of Eduardo Ferrante, Jr., to the
19 position of Hudson County Emergency Management
20 Coordinator. I need a sponsor and a second.
21 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor
22 proudly.
23 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Second.
24 THE CLERK: Commissioner
25 Aponte-Lipski.

1 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.
2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.
3 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.
4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.
5 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.
6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.
7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.
8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.
9 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.
10 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.
12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
13 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Romano.
15 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: Yes.
16 THE CLERK: Chairman Walker.
17 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.
18 THE CLERK: Okay, going back.
19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I guess you
20 could do 1, 2, 3, right? Because we've elected
21 Jerry as the Chair for this time here.
22 THE CLERK: Right.
23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: They would take
24 over until the -- until the meeting runs.
25

1 THE CLERK: Yes. Okay. So I'll
2 start at 3.

3 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Great.

4 THE CLERK: The next item is
5 appointing a Chairman Pro-Tempore to the Board of
6 County Commissioners for 2026. Is there a motion?

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I motion --

8 THE CLERK: And a second?

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I motion.

10 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Second.

11 THE CLERK: Motion to close the
12 nomination.

13 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: I make a motion
14 for William O'Dea.

15 THE CLERK: William O'Dea.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: God forgive me,
17 but I'm glad to accept.

18 THE CLERK: Close the nomination.

19 All in favor?

20 (Unanimous Aye.)

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner

22 Aponte-Lipski.

23 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

25 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.
2 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.
3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.
4 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.
5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.
6 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.
7 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.
9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
10 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Romano.
12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.
13 THE CLERK: Chairman Walker.
14 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Yes.
15 (Applause.)
16 THE CLERK: Be it resolved by the
17 County Commissioners of the County of Hudson,
18 Commissioner O'Dea, a Member of the Board of County
19 Commissioners, is hereby appointed Chairperson Pro
20 Tempore of said Board for this year 2026.
21 (Chairman Pro Tempore William O'Dea
22 is sworn.)
23 THE CLERK: The next item is
24 appointing a Vice Chairperson of the Board of County
25 Commissioners for 2026. Is there a motion?

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Motion for Fanny
2 Cedeño.

3 THE CLERK: Is there a second?

4 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Second.

5 THE CLERK: Motion to close the
6 nominations.

7 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Motion to
8 close.

9 THE CLERK: All in favor?

10 (Unanimous Aye.)

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner

12 Aponte-Lipski.

13 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselico.

15 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

17 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

19 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

21 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

25 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Romano.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Chairman Walker.

4 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Be it resolved by the
6 County Commissioners of the County of Hudson, that
7 Commissioner Cedeño, a member of the Board of County
8 Commissioners, is hereby appointed Vice Chairperson
9 of said Board for this year, 2026.

10 (Vice Chairwoman Fanny Cedeño is
11 sworn.)

12 CHAIRMAN WALKER: I would like for
13 Bill to answer the next movement in terms of your
14 new position and panic about that.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All I would say
16 is that Groucho Marx once had a saying. He said he
17 would never -- he's a member, he would never join a
18 club that would have him as a Member. And all I
19 have to say is, I really have no idea what a
20 chairman in the Pro Tempore actually does. I think
21 two people have to be sick or leave or whatever. I
22 guess it's always nice to add one more title.

23 CHAIRMAN WALKER: It's all pollution.
24 Your name will be on the top thing.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And I'll put my

1 picture there. I think your name gets a little
2 higher on the plaque, that's about the only thing
3 that you get. Yeah, the challenge is I have to wear
4 a new pin.

5 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Fanny.

6 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: I just want to
7 say thank you to my colleagues for their support and
8 their vote, and I just want to thank everybody here
9 present and the County Exec. It's a privilege for
10 me to sit on this board and to now be your Vice
11 Chair. So thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Thank you.

13 THE CLERK: The last order of
14 business is to appoint a Chairperson to the Board of
15 County Commissioners for the year 2026. Is there a
16 motion?

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Motion. Is there
18 a second?

19 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Second.

20 THE CLERK: Motion to close the
21 nomination. All in favor?

22 (Unanimous Aye.)

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner
24 Aponte-Lipski.

25 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.
2 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.
3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.
4 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.
5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.
6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.
7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.
8 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.
9 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.
11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
12 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Romano.
14 COMMISSIONER ROMANO: Yes.
15 THE CLERK: Chairman Walker.
16 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Yes.
17 THE CLERK: Be it resolved by the
18 County Commissioners of the County of Hudson that
19 Commissioner Anthony Romano, a member of the Board
20 of County Commissioners, is hereby appointed
21 Chairperson of said Board of the year 2026.
22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: For those of you
23 who don't know, this is the newly elected
24 Councilwoman in the City of Hoboken, my goddaughter,
25 highest vote getter for Council, Caitlin Layson.

1 (Chairman Romano is sworn.)

2 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I'm going to
3 keep everybody here for another hour, get me? I'm
4 running to beat you down, guys, but no. No, no, no,
5 I'm kidding.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: We wanted to
7 know that does he get the higher pay for the hour or
8 two that he's here?

9 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Right, yeah,
10 you're going to make that better for you, though.
11 I'll give you a question to ask. So we're going to
12 give our honorable Chair to say a few words. We're
13 going to close it out.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: First and foremost,
15 it's an honor for my colleagues and to me, the duty
16 of the Office of Chair is to ensure that my
17 colleagues are able to get any information that they
18 may need or to be able to work with them, that's the
19 most important thing, to keep the team together.
20 And I can't tell you, everybody, anything special.

21 As we said, Jerry Walker's moving on.
22 He's the definition of team, kind of a friend.
23 Kenny Kopacz, likewise. Mentors Al Cifelli and Bill
24 O'Dea, you couldn't get more wiser than they are.
25 And my Aunt Carrie. Fanny and I have become so

1 close working together. And Bobby Baselice, for a
2 wealth of knowledge in so many different areas. I
3 think that's what makes the team go.

4 To those directors out there and their
5 staff, and to the wonderful offices of the Hudson
6 County Sheriff's Department and Corrections and
7 Prosecutor's Office, I thank you for always helping
8 us, being there for us. You do have an awesome,
9 awesome group.

10 To the mayors, we look forward to always
11 working for the mayors. Thank you for being here,
12 and I appreciate that, Mayor. Thank you. But it's
13 essential that we serve those that elected us and
14 never forget that.

15 And all the workers that work for the
16 County, we always want to be there to help you in
17 any way we can. All our constituents, the Directors
18 that do a great job. Our parks, I think the finest
19 in the state. We challenge anyone to anything
20 different. Our road is constantly being upgraded
21 and on top of things. And we work together with the
22 executive branch, the County Executive, Craig Guy,
23 and all the other department heads.

24 So thank you again. God bless each and
25 every one of you. We want to have a good year,

1 2026, for all the people that we serve. Jerry,
2 again, not to make it redundant, but we need you
3 there. You're going to do a great job, and please
4 don't take away my Seton Hall tickets. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER WALKER: I'd just like
6 to echo what my colleagues are saying. When I first
7 came on Board here, I had the pleasure of sitting
8 next to Al. Nobody really gives a script on what's
9 going on here. You don't get no tutor or anything
10 like that. You just hit the ground running, and Al
11 was very, very gracious. I would lean to him often
12 and say, you know, what's going on here? He was
13 very gracious in sharing information. So I want to
14 say I appreciate that.

15 Also, when I became a Vice Chair, I sat
16 next to another guy. My grandfather was born with
17 knowledge of Bill O'Dea. And Bill obviously got a
18 tremendous amount of experience. Bill loves Jersey
19 City. Bill is somebody that I admire in his
20 tenacity. He's somebody that don't back down.
21 He'll often keep us here a little bit later than we
22 want to be here. It's okay. It's okay.

23 But I also want to, you know, say I want
24 to give a special shout-out to the Directors of the
25 different departments and working with you all. And

1 I never was the type of guy that tried to do it in
2 front of a crowd. If I had any issues with you all,
3 I would call you directly and try to work things
4 out. And not that I'm -- you know, I'm moving down
5 to the state, but I'm not. I'm going to be here.
6 And I'm going to be representing you guys on a high
7 level.

8 And I also want to just point out also on
9 the stands, my aide, Shirley Mills. She's here.
10 Come on, give it up for Shirley Mills. We have this
11 wonderful organization called Seniors on the Move.
12 And they're very active. And they, you know, I
13 wanted them to be here tonight because, you know,
14 they paved the way. I'm going to be a little
15 emotional. You know, I'm traveling right now.

16 But anyway, but I appreciate you guys.
17 And I'm going to make y'all proud down in Trenton.
18 The big thing that's going on down in Trenton, and I
19 will talk a lot about this, is juvenile justice.
20 And Bob Baselice, I'm going to lean on you on that
21 because I know it's a big problem. So we've got to
22 figure out things for all of you.

23 And I've got to tell you some of the
24 things that I'm not going to forget. There's only
25 one thing in particular that I'm not going to miss,

1 okay? And it's going home after these meetings and
2 debating with my wife. All right, so are you all
3 right? So we're going to have a different little
4 strategy now, don't we? Okay? You know, because
5 she had a different opinion about me. But no, no, I
6 love you, Sharonda, and I wish you the best. See,
7 I've got to take care of my wife when I'm not here
8 right now.

9 But for the most part, Craig Guy, to the
10 administration, Jenny, Cheryl, you guys have been
11 great. And like I said, I'm not going anywhere.
12 I'm just here to try to bring back resources, and
13 particularly in the three cities that I'm going to
14 be working for.

15 And Mayor Doyle so graciously to let me
16 use her office. I was trying to figure out how to
17 get more money out of Trenton to have a satellite
18 office over at Kearny, New Jersey. And I called the
19 mayor up. I said, you know, I'm going to be here
20 with the constituent services. I'm going to be
21 boots on the ground. I'm going to be able to talk
22 to the residents in Kearny. And she said, you know,
23 Jerry, I don't need my office, I'm here. So you can
24 use my office.

25 So I appreciate you for doing that. I

1 appreciate that. Because Kearny is one of my
2 cities. And I'm going to be working with my
3 colleague, Kenny Kopacz. Me and Kenny have got a
4 great relationship with great chemistry, and I'm
5 looking forward to bringing resources back to
6 Bayonne, New Jersey. Because Bayonne is part of my
7 home now, too. And I just appreciate you all.

8 And I'm not going to be too long with one
9 of you. And, you know, God bless this Board. And I
10 know you guys are going to continue the success. I
11 know Fanny comes to do this. Fanny overnight became
12 one of the most powerful ladies in the state of New
13 Jersey. Yeah. She's also a Secaucus girl. So I'll
14 pride myself on that. Yeah, she's a Pirate. That's
15 right. She's also going to be representing us at
16 the Port Authority, which is a huge situation.

17 So, Fanny, I'm going to be working with
18 you in terms of trying to figure out what's going to
19 go on with the Gateway, bring back resources, the
20 training dollars, et cetera. So I'm going to be
21 leaning on you on that. I know Bill will do this as
22 well. So with that being said --

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Jerry, we forgot
24 when we mentioned the officials that are here. But
25 we have a distinguished, recently elected, also

1 Mayor of Kearny, who will be the Clerk of the Board
2 of Commissioners, Carol Jean Doyle. Everybody knows
3 that obviously this is the most diversified County,
4 definitely in the state, probably one of the top in
5 the country. And the representation we have here on
6 the Board as you look around, and they keep
7 representing the people we serve.

8 So the ladies out there, between the
9 Directors, the wonderful women on this Board, the
10 women mayors that are here, your time has come.
11 Women are well represented here. They do a great
12 job as Directors and the Commissioners for all they
13 do. So I just wanted to make sure we emphasized
14 that. And it is a diverse Board, both ethically and
15 in every other way.

16 Just so you also know, our Department of
17 Corrections and Rehabilitation is probably, in the
18 country, the forefront of so many different
19 innovative rehabilitation and techniques to make
20 sure that those staff, when they leave the facility,
21 they commit to the world. And I know that there's a
22 big push on that with the reentry program and
23 juries. This County does need to be proactive and
24 is in the forefront of trying to keep up with things
25 that are good for their constituents.

1 COMMISSIONER WALKER: And Mayor, I've
2 got to tell you, you know, Mayor's a few years older
3 than me, and she -- you know, I had the pleasure of
4 campaigning with her, and I've got to tell you, she
5 has so much energy. You can see her going up and
6 down the steps, and I'm trying to keep up with her.
7 I had the pleasure of having that great experience
8 with you, and we're going to do a lot for Kearny,
9 and you know, Kearny's like a second home of mine.
10 We did a lot so far in Kearny. So I'm looking
11 forward to working with you.

12 So, no further ado, motion to adjourn.

13 COMMISSIONER APONTE LIPSKI: Motion
14 to adjourn.

15 THE CLERK: All in favor? Opposed?
16 Thank you.

17 (Whereupon the proceeding is then
18 concluded at 4:47 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 Reorganization
Meeting of the Hudson County Board of County
Commissioners, held on Monday, January 05, 2026; 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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