

HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RE:

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

O P E N S E S S I O N

Hudson County
Administration Building,
Commissioners Chambers
567 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
Thursday, December 11, 2025
4:30 p.m.

B E F O R E:

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

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

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

1 (Flag Salute.)

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Call the roll,
3 please, Madam Clerk.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner
5 Aponte-Lipski.

6 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Here.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

8 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

10 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

12 Commissioner Kopacz.

13 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here via Zoom.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

17 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

19 Chairman Romano.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

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

23 Posting notice of Resolution 8-01-2025 on
24 the County Commissioner's Bulletin Board, First
25 Floor, Administration Building Annex, Jersey City,

1 New Jersey.

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

5 May I have a motion to approve the minutes
6 of the Caucus Meeting on November 12, 2025 and the
7 regular meeting on November 13, 2025.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
9 Cedeño.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner
11 Aponte-Lipski.

12 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: 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: First order of business,
4 I have a laudatory. You want me to read that into
5 the record?

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Which one is that?

7 THE CLERK: This is on BAPS. Yes.
8 They're here. They are. They are here.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay.

10 THE CLERK: Thank you. To recognize
11 and commend BAPS Swaminarayan. I hope so. BAPS on
12 the occasion of their 25th anniversary.

13 BAPS is a worldwide Hindu denomination
14 dedicated to fostering faith, stirring service, and
15 promoting better living; and

16 Whereas, His Holiness, Pramukh Swami
17 Maharaj established the BAPS Hindu Mandir in North
18 Bergen, New Jersey on October 8, 2000.

19 Whereas, 2025 marks 25 years of service
20 and faith in the Hudson, in Hudson County for BAPS.

21 Whereas, Mandir offers a welcoming and
22 spiritual space for hundreds of families, as well as
23 worship, fellowship, communal meals, education, and
24 activities for young and old, creating a true home
25 for the faithful; and

1 Whereas, the Mandir offers youth
2 activities that encourage and mold young people to
3 live lives of integrity and character that reflect
4 our highest ideals.

5 Whereas, the Mandir brings His Holiness,
6 Pramukh Swami Maharaj, words in the joy of others
7 lives alone to live through support for those in
8 need, whether through health fairs, food drives, or
9 disaster relief work; and

10 Whereas, the volunteers of BAPS have time
11 and again answered the call to serve humbly,
12 selfishly, and inspirationally; and

13 Whereas, BAPS Mandir has a storied history
14 of helping immigrants to the United States retain
15 their connection to their faith, but fully embrace
16 and join in American civic life.

17 Whereas, the BAPS Mandir adds to the rich
18 tapestry of diversity that makes North Bergen and
19 Hudson County a beautiful place to call home; and

20 Whereas, the BAPS Mandir in North Bergen
21 hopes to serve its congregants and the local
22 community with even greater zeal in the next 25
23 years.

24 Now, therefore be it resolved by the
25 Hudson County Board of County Commissioners that the

1 Board hereby commend BAPS on the organization's
2 commitment over the 25 years to selfless service in
3 communities across the United States, including
4 North Bergen and Hudson County; and extend to BAPS
5 volunteers a sincere appreciation for their
6 meaningful contributions to others.

7 May I have a sponsor and a second?

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sponsor.

9 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner

11 Aponte-Lipski.

12 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

14 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

16 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

20 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

24 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

1 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

4 THE CLERK: We have representatives
5 in the chambers.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, and also every
7 time that any of the Commissioners that come to
8 visit for any of the celebrations, we're all well
9 received with love. And the Mandir is a home of
10 hospitality to all. And I know that so many
11 different holidays that we experienced there, so
12 thank you for the hospitality. Namaste.

13 All right, Bobby.

14 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I just -- I
15 just want to say --

16 THE CLERK: Use the mic.

17 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Thank you for
18 coming. Thank you for your 25 years. You're in my
19 neighborhood. You've been tremendous to all the
20 children, families, holidays, everyone that comes to
21 visit you. I really, truly am blessed because I
22 know all of you and you do a wonderful, your part in
23 our community. And it says here tapestry is exactly
24 what it is, tapestry. Thank you very much.
25 Congratulations.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Come on up for a
2 photo.

3 (Photo Opportunity.)

4 THE CLERK: Do you want to vote on
5 the minutes? Are you going to accept the minutes
6 from November 12 2025 and the regular meeting for
7 November.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah. vote
9 aye.

10 THE CLERK: Okay. Thank you. Before
11 I turn it over to the Administration there is a
12 replacement for No. 1. Please note that.

13 Okay. I'll turn it over to the
14 Administration.

15 MR. AUTUN: Thank you. As was
16 indicated by the Clerk we are presenting a
17 replacement for No. 1, which is the transfer
18 resolution. The reason for the replacement is to
19 transfer money into three additional accounts,
20 Division of Roads and Bridges, \$70,000 in the event
21 that we may need it for inclement weather; the
22 Office of Traffic Signals and Signs, 30,000 to cover
23 the Traffic Signals equipment for the month of
24 December; and then the third one is to the Director
25 of Roads and Public Property, 30,000 to cover bus

1 transportation services that are conducted by the
2 Schools of Technology.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: We need to amend
4 it or no?

5 MR. AUTUN: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I make a motion
7 to amend.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second? Is there a
9 second?

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Commissioner
12 Cifelli.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner
14 Aponte-Lipski.

15 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

16 THE CLERK: 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 MR. AUTUN: And then, Mr. Chairman,
8 we were replacing on No. 16 because the year was
9 incorrect. The resolution that was presented on
10 Tuesday, stated January 1, 2025 to December 31 2025.
11 It should be January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Counsel, do we need
13 to redo that?

14 THE CLERK: But just as a typo.

15 MR. FLORIO: It was a typo. We don't
16 have to do that.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We're good?

18 MR. FLORIO: Yeah.

19 MR. AUTUN: And then the information
20 that was requested on the educational programs, we
21 sent that electronically, but we did provide a hard
22 copy to the Clerk. That's all I have.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Any questions,
24 Billy, with regard to that?

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, I just don't

1 know why you just don't move to amend 16 just in
2 case. I don't know what was posted on the -- on our
3 website or anything like that just takes 30 seconds
4 to do it, right? So I'd make a motion to amend it
5 to reflect the date, that it's now 2026 as opposed
6 to 2025.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. We have
8 a first.

9 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Second.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner
11 Aponte-Lipski.

12 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

14 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

16 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

20 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

24 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

1 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

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

11 At this time the public address the Board
12 on any item on the agenda. Only please keep your
13 comments limited to five minutes. Are there any
14 speakers on the agenda items only?

15 There being none --

16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Motion to
17 close.

18 THE CLERK: Oh, I'm sorry. Well,
19 hold on, hold on.

20 MR. MITCHELL: Speaker on No. 18.

21 MR. FLORIO: Mr. Mitchell.

22 MR. MITCHELL: Yes. I would like to
23 know about this resolution transferring the
24 custodian of the petty cash fund from Esther Suarez
25 to Wayne Mello at the Hudson County Prosecutor's

1 Office, Counselor? And can you tell me how much
2 that is and what it was for. During her term as
3 well, what she used it for.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's -- we want
5 the Law Department, us.

6 MR. DEPIERRO: Well, I -- for me, I
7 don't have -- that's a Finance question. I believe
8 every department needs to have a petty cash person,
9 and it's simply because Prosecutor Suarez is no
10 longer here and whenever you change, you change the
11 custodian.

12 MR. AUTUN: That is correct. The
13 reason why the Prosecutor's office has always had a
14 petty cash. When there is a new person, you need to
15 change the name and right now, it's still under the
16 name of Esther Suarez, and obviously, she is no
17 longer the Prosecutor. So we're just naming Mr.
18 Mello, who is the Acting Prosecutor to be the
19 custodian.

20 And, you know, how they use that is really
21 within the purview of that office. We don't --
22 that's that information isn't shared with us.

23 MR. MITCHELL: So nobody knows the
24 information and how much that she receives on petty
25 cash itemized what she's using it for? The public

1 needs to know. I think that we should definitely
2 know what she's using it for and what is Wayne Mello
3 going to use it for as well. And I think he should
4 not even be prosecutor in Hudson County. He's been
5 covering up a lot of stuff.

6 MR. AUTUN: I can't address that.

7 MR. MITCHELL: Oh, my God. So nobody
8 knows? Craig Guy, does he know? Anybody? Nobody
9 knows anything? Adam, you know, you want to work
10 for the Prosecutor's Office.

11 MR. AUTUN: Mr Chairman, Director
12 Fuller, who's the CFO and oversees the petty cash
13 funds, she may be able to provide some information.

14 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, ma'am.

15 DIRECTOR FULLER: Good afternoon.
16 The petty cash funds, which are available to several
17 departments are generally for small items. We say
18 small, we generally say \$25 or less, where it's not
19 practical to issue a check or to do a purchase order
20 items that you generally would pay cash for.

21 I don't want to misquote the exact amount
22 of the petty cash fund for the Prosecutor's office.
23 I think it's not more than \$1,000, and they do have
24 to report to the Finance Department. The amounts
25 that they spend so that we can charge it to the

1 budget so it's not anything that's not appropriate
2 and subject to, you know, the fiscal laws of the
3 State.

4 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. Any local
5 media, does this get paid out of any local media?

6 DIRECTOR FULLER: The petty cash gets
7 paid out of the County Budget.

8 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. But the local
9 media, do you guys pay the local media with this?

10 MR. AUTUN: No.

11 MR. MITCHELL: Like if you want to
12 put something out there, say on this Hudson County
13 View.

14 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: A separate line
15 item.

16 DIRECTOR FULLER: It's not paid for
17 advertising, but they want to go to a store and buy
18 a newspaper, but, you know, just a hard copy
19 newspaper. You use petty cash for that.

20 MR. MITCHELL: Okay.

21 DIRECTOR FULLER: Doesn't make sense
22 to get a check to buy a newspaper.

23 MR. MITCHELL: Okay.

24 DIRECTOR FULLER: So that's an
25 example of what we would use petty cash.

1 MR. MITCHELL: And everything's
2 documented, right?

3 DIRECTOR FULLER: It's all
4 documented, yes.

5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Mr. Mitchell,
6 can you hear me?

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Al, let him finish.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Let me give
9 you the example.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: He said -- you
11 know, she just gave him for example is let him
12 finish first. Let's go ahead.

13 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. That's
14 everything.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Go ahead,
16 Al.

17 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Let's say that
18 because of your inquiries, the Hudson County
19 Prosecutor went to the Union City Municipal Building
20 to investigate your complaints, and they had to park
21 their car in a private parking lot, and they paid
22 \$10. They would be reimbursed for that, right?
23 That's petty cash.

24 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. So they can use
25 that -- she could go use that to investigate Union

1 City complaints?

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: No. You
3 complain to Wayne Mello and Wayne Mello sends his
4 investigator to the Union City Municipal Building,
5 and that the Union City Assistant Prosecutor
6 Investigator has to park his car, or her car and pay
7 a \$10 parking, wherever it were, because you can't
8 park in the city. You know that, right? You know
9 that, right?

10 MR. MITCHELL: I definitely know.

11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So they'd have
12 to park \$10 parking charge, and that would be
13 reimbursed from petty cash. You don't have a
14 problem with that do you?

15 MR. MITCHELL: Oh, I would like to
16 see where it's really being used for. That's for
17 sure. And all these investigations that's coming
18 out of it that, you know.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay.

20 MR. MITCHELL: All right. Thank you
21 for the information.

22 THE CLERK: Are there any speakers,
23 any other speakers on the agenda items only.

24 MR. TRUTH: Yes, I have. I have one
25 question in regards to Mr Mitchell's inquiry.

1 When's the last time that the petty cash was audited
2 to make sure it isn't sticky fingers cash, and it's
3 being utilized properly? And who -- who did the
4 audit?

5 MR. AUTUN: The petty cash is turned
6 over annually. It's not -- it's not a -- it's not a
7 revolving -- it must -- it must be liquidated every
8 year on a calendar year basis and then it's
9 reestablished in January.

10 MR. TRUTH: How much is the total
11 again?

12 MR. AUTUN: I believe the Director on
13 this particular one, I think the Director said it
14 was about \$1,000, right?

15 MR. TRUTH: Right. Does that ever
16 get checked to make sure it's being utilized for the
17 proper purposes?

18 MR. AUTUN: Well, what happens when
19 they get the information, they review it to make
20 sure that it is being spent in accordance with the
21 petty cash rules, because it has to be replenished.
22 You know, so that it gets back up to whatever the
23 level is once it's been drawn down against.

24 MR. TRUTH: And what if say, one
25 month into the year is drawn down and there's no

1 more petty cash. Do they get more?

2 MR. AUTUN: Yeah. What happens is
3 they have to submit, as they spend money, they have
4 to submit that to the Finance Department. And then
5 once this Finance Department sees all that, then
6 they issue them another check. So then, so the
7 account gets replenished. But in December, all of
8 them have to be closed out. Everything gets
9 returned and then it -- and then it reestablishes
10 again in January.

11 MR. TRUTH: All right. So it could
12 be ended up being way more than \$1,000?

13 MR. AUTUN: Yeah, sure.

14 MR. TRUTH: It could be tens of
15 thousand dollars, technically.

16 MR. AUTUN: During the year, I don't
17 think it gets up to that amount, but it could. It
18 could. I mean, the Director may have more
19 information.

20 DIRECTOR FULLER: Right. Yeah, I
21 just got it from my staff. The Prosecutor has two
22 petty cash accounts, but there is called a business
23 petty cash and what is called confidential petty
24 cash. Each of those are \$3,000. They are turned
25 over as they used it up. It's returned over every

1 year and it's audited every year by the County
2 independent auditors. Cash funds are audited every
3 year.

4 MR. TRUTH: I appreciate your
5 answers. This is -- this is excellent. And who
6 does the actual audits and who checks the auditor to
7 make sure that they're auditing properly?

8 DIRECTOR FULLER: The independent
9 auditor that audits all of the County books and
10 records checks that, you know, looks at the petty
11 cash funds along with all other cash. The auditors
12 have what they call peer review, where they look at
13 each other. You know, it's a check and balance on
14 auditing firms to make sure that they're conducting
15 the audit in accordance with auditing standards.

16 MR. TRUTH: I appreciate you. Thank
17 you.

18 DIRECTOR FULLER: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next speaker. Are
20 there any other speakers on the agenda?
21 Commissioner Cifelli, did you say something?

22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Sorry.

23 THE CLERK: Being there no further
24 speakers, may I have a motion to approve all the
25 items on the consent agenda?

1 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Motion.

2 THE CLERK: And a second?

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hold on. Billy,
4 did you say something?

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. I have
6 15. I don't have my -- I don't have my backup with
7 me. What was the -- two questions. What is the
8 daily rate for per juvenile going up to? Is it 436
9 or 536 total amount?

10 MR. AUTUN: Give me a second,
11 Commissioner. I have to go in.

12 MR. DEPIERRO: I think it was in the
13 backup.

14 MR. AUTUN: Yeah, it's in the backup.
15 That's what I'm getting. I believe it was 565. But
16 give me a second here. I could tell you. Okay.
17 The rate, the current rate is for \$465.24. It's
18 going up to \$565.24. So one hundred dollars.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And the
20 education amount is how much?

21 MR. AUTUN: The education amount is
22 \$58.49.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And is that --
24 my question on that is, is that amount every day?
25 So do they have the equivalent of school there on a

1 daily basis when most schools don't have school
2 during the summer? We're charged that every day of
3 the year?

4 MR. AUTUN: I believe we are. It's a
5 daily rate. I don't know if Darice can answer that.
6 She knows the answer.

7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So you don't
8 know if it's spread over like 300 or 280 days of
9 normal --

10 MR. AUTUN: Yeah, I don't know. I
11 don't know.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Or 365 days.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. If every
14 day of juvenile detention center, the education
15 programs for the court.

16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: It's prorated
17 over the actual number of school days, which is
18 probably 280 days.

19 MR. AUTUN: And, you know,
20 Commissioners, the backup says it's prorated. It
21 does say that it's -- but yeah, it does say that the
22 number is prorated. It does say that. But the
23 Director, the Director is at the microphone.

24 DIRECTOR TOON: Right. There's not a
25 lot more I can add to that other than the fact that

1 I suppose it would be in accordance with the regular
2 school year.

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: And you
4 suppose.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You don't know
6 that answer for sure, correct?

7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: You can verify
8 what's an actual answer.

9 DIRECTOR TOON: Yeah, we'll verify
10 that it is based on the, you know, the actual school
11 year.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So I think
13 maybe I'm wrong, but I think that the average public
14 school New Jersey year is about 280 actual calendar
15 days, I think, as opposed to 365 days, full year.
16 Is that with vacations, and is that right?

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So the only
18 point I want to make is that the cost per day for
19 any juvenile that we have there for a 12-month
20 period is \$206,225. Think about that. That's all I
21 have to say.

22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Two hundred.
23 I'm sorry. No, no, Bill. Could you just for my own
24 edification, your number is that for every actual
25 day, calendar day, 365 days a year, correct? One of

1 the juveniles that we have, how much is that per
2 day?

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, no, not per
4 day. If a juvenile goes there and stays there from
5 January 1 to December 31st, of the year for one
6 entire year, the cost is \$206,225.

7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Per day?

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Imagine -- no,
9 no. For the year, for one person for the entire
10 year.

11 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: \$60,000.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: \$206,000 for per
13 year, for a person that -- a juvenile that stays
14 there for the entire year based on --

15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah, but very
16 few juveniles stay there for the entire year.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So but -- but
18 the magnitude of cost is still unbelievable.

19 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I agree. That
20 number is -- that number is rather hefty. But how
21 does that break down to the average, the average day
22 spent by the average young man or woman?

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, I have no
24 idea. We should find that out. I'm just saying
25 \$206,000 a year. I don't know what -- what we --

1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I agree with
2 you. That's -- that's an eye opening amount.

3 THE CLERK: I have a motion and a
4 second on the consent agenda. I'll take the role.

5 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski. This is on
6 the consent agenda.

7 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: I'm
8 sorry. Aye.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.
10 Yeah, yeah, we did. It was already motion.

11 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

15 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

17 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I vote no on 15,
20 and aye on the rest.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

22 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

24 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: We have no ordinances for
3 introduction, but we have five for the public
4 hearing. A-1. Roads and Public Property.
5 Ordinance amending Chapter 200, Article 13 of the
6 Administrative Code for the installation of stop
7 signs in County-Owned Roadways in the City of
8 Hoboken.

9 This is the time fixed for a public
10 hearing on this ordinance, which was introduced at
11 the meeting on November 25th, 2025, advertised as
12 required by law, together with a notice of hearing
13 for this time. It's been posted on the County
14 Commissioners' bulletin board and made available to
15 the general public. Are there any speakers on this
16 ordinance?

17 Seeing none, a motion to close the
18 hearing?

19 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Motion.

20 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Motion.

21 THE CLERK: All in favor? Opposed?
22 (The Board votes unanimously to close
23 the Hearing.)

24 THE CLERK: On the final adoption,
25 Commissioner 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 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Al.
8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.
9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.
10 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.
11 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.
13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
14 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.
16 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.
17 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.
18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. Did you get
19 the sponsor in the second on that?
20 THE CLERK: Sponsored. We've already
21 got that on the introduction. We got that on the
22 introduction.
23 A-2. Ordinance amending the Hudson County
24 Administrative Code pursuant to the applicable
25 provisions of the optional County Charter Law

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

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

10 There being none, a motion to close the
11 hearing?

12 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Sponsor.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Second.

14 THE CLERK: On the final adoption.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Excuse me, you
16 didn't read that one line, just read that after the
17 numbers, so people know the move.

18 THE CLERK: Pardon me on that.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Just read the
20 rest of it.

21 THE CLERK: I'm sorry.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: In other words, you
23 stop that a dash one, read the rest of the benefit
24 of the record.

25 THE CLERK: Right. Moving the Office

1 of Emergency Management from Department of Roads and
2 Public Property to the Sheriff's Office.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Next.
4 Right.

5 THE CLERK: On the final adoption,
6 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

7 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

9 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

11 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

15 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

19 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

21 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been
25 adopted. Ordinance A-3. Roads and Public Property.

1 Ordinance amending Chapter 200, Article 8.11 of the
2 Administrative Code to establish a restricted
3 Parking Space on Willow Avenue, City of Hoboken for
4 James B. Rooney.

5 This is the time fixed for the public
6 hearing of this ordinance which was introduced at
7 the meeting of November 13th, 2025, advertised as
8 required by law, together with a notice of hearing
9 for this time. It's been posted on the County
10 Commissioners' bulletin board and made available to
11 the general public. Are there any speakers on this
12 ordinance?

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Motion to close.

14 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Second.

15 THE CLERK: All in favor?

16 (The Board votes unanimously to close
17 the Hearing.)

18 THE CLERK: On the final adoption,
19 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

20 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Basalice.

22 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

24 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

3 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

7 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

9 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been

13 adopted. A-4. Roads and Public Property.

14 Ordinance amending Chapter 200, Article 27 of the

15 Administrative Code to establish Traffic-Calming

16 Devices, Delineators, on County Avenue in the Town

17 of Secaucus.

18 This is the time fixed for the public

19 hearing of this ordinance which was introduced at

20 the meeting of November 13th, 2025, advertised as

21 required by law, together with a notice of hearing

22 for this time. It's been posted on the County

23 Commissioners' bulletin board and made available to

24 the general public. Are there any speakers on this

25 ordinance?

1 Seeing none, I'll ask for a motion to
2 close the close.

3 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Motion to
4 close.

5 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Second.

6 THE CLERK: All in favor?

7 (The Board votes unanimously to close
8 the Hearing.)

9 THE CLERK: On the final adoption,
10 Commissioner 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: Commissioner Walker.

25 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been
4 adopted. A-5. An Ordinance of the County of Hudson
5 State of New Jersey approving and authorizing the
6 entering into, Execution and Delivery of a Lease and
7 Development Agreement with the Hudson County
8 Improvement Authority for the Liberty Science Center
9 High School Project with an estimated cost not to
10 exceed \$76,000,000, the cost of such project to be
11 financed through the issuance of the County Secured
12 Lease Revenue Bonds of the Hudson County Improvement
13 Authority; and the entering into, Execution and
14 Delivery of a Lease Agreement with the Hudson County
15 Schools of Technology, to provide Science,
16 Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Educational
17 Services for the students of the County; the
18 guaranty of the payment of the principal and
19 interest on not exceeding \$76,000,000 aggregate
20 principal amount of County Secured Lease Revenue
21 Bonds, series issued 2025, Liberty Science High
22 School Project, issued by the Hudson County
23 Improvement Authority for the purpose of providing
24 additional security therefor, consenting to such
25 financing and determining certain other matters in

1 connection therewith.

2 This is the time fixed for the public
3 hearing of this ordinance which was introduced at
4 the meeting of November 13th, 2025, advertised as
5 required by law together with a notice of hearing
6 for this time. It's been posted on the County
7 Commissioners' bulletin board and made available to
8 the general public. Are there any speakers on this
9 ordinance?

10 Seeing none, I'd ask for a motion to
11 close.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Motion to
13 close.

14 THE CLERK: All in favor?
15 (The Board votes unanimously to close
16 the Hearing.)

17 THE CLERK: On the final adoption --

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Quick, quick
19 question.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Billy.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What are the
22 number of students that that the school will
23 accommodate?

24 MR. AUTUN: I recall, Commissioner, I
25 think it's 400.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: 400 students?

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hold on. Is the
3 Superintendent of Schools on? Somebody,
4 representative from the Schools of Technology?

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Somebody from
6 Schools of Technology.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Who we have. I see
8 a hand is up. Okay. Please let the hand in,
9 please. Who is it?

10 MS. ABRAHAM: Hi. It's Alicia
11 Abraham.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hi, Alicia.

13 MS. ABRAHAM: It's 400.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Did you hear that,
15 Billy?

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. 400
17 students. You got a gym, so I hope you have sports
18 there. Thank you. Okay. That was my only
19 question.

20 THE CLERK: Thank you. Commissioner
21 Aponte-Lipski.

22 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner Basalice.

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: Now, I'm going
8 to before I vote, I just want to note that when you
9 include land into the -- into the cost of this
10 project which I estimate at about 15 million, which
11 was donated through the City of Jersey City. That's
12 25 million dollars of a \$91 million project, which
13 is 27.5 percent of the total cost of the project has
14 been made by cash or value of land through the City
15 of Jersey City.

16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So we love
17 Jersey City.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's important
19 to note. It's important to note the -- what the
20 City of Jersey City put into this project.

21 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: We all love
22 Jersey City.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I don't know.
24 In other schools, we've never had this -- this level
25 of commitment of both land and cash into a project.

1 Just think it's important to put that on the record.
2 But I vote aye.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea, your
4 vote?

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes. I vote
6 aye.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

8 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Walker.

10 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: The ordinance has been
14 adopted.

15 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: We all love
16 Jersey City.

17 THE CLERK: This concludes the items
18 of business on today's agenda. Are there any
19 comments from the Commissioners on the business of
20 the board?

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah. Could either
22 Christine Moro or Harold call me, please, after the
23 meeting? One of them is on, I'm assuming. Harold
24 or Christine, correct? Thank you.

25 THE CLERK: Are there any comments

1 from the Chief --

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: My hand was up.
3 No one noted that.

4 THE CLERK: Oh, I'm sorry.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I just want to
6 note for the record that I believe that the juvenile
7 detention system is woefully broken in the state of
8 New Jersey. The amount of dollars per day that we
9 are being charged to house an individual that in my
10 opinion does not receive a thorough and efficient
11 education.

12 The fact that we know that at this
13 facility we have -- have brought in additional
14 programs for the -- for the youth that are there
15 because Essex doesn't provide it. And we know that
16 that's even created some issues within the juveniles
17 that are there because we're the ones who brought it
18 in. It was for -- it's for our youth.

19 It's a -- it's a huge problem. And I was
20 proud to support Jerry Walker from day one when
21 he -- when he announced he was running for the State
22 Assembly. And I have strong faith that as someone
23 who I know believes, spent his career, spent his
24 athletic career dedicated to youth and helping inner
25 city youth, that he will make this a mantra for what

1 he's going to be remembered as down in the State
2 Legislature. But I need I think we need to know how
3 bad it is, how broken it is and how insanely
4 expensive it is for youth.

5 And we're happy that they don't often have
6 youth detained. But I hate to say they're probably
7 if we had a decent program, the judges would be more
8 willing and apt to allow them to go through if it
9 was going to actually help them as opposed to it.

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can I say
11 something? I think Billy is absolutely right. I
12 think that this expenditure kind of -- we just kind
13 of like lay back and say, Well, that's what it is.
14 We've got to pay it. I don't think we're getting
15 the bang for the buck, and more importantly, the
16 children are not getting the bang for the buck. And
17 my -- and Billy's last comment about the judges is
18 Judge Mainor still involved in Hudson County?

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So is that,
21 Billy, do you know, or Jerry, do you know?

22 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yes. Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So maybe we
24 ought to get her involved and kind of drill down on
25 some of the issues that have been brought up in the

1 last couple of weeks. Drill down on the cost per
2 day for these young people because I think Billy's
3 right. We're not getting our bang for the buck and
4 children not getting it. It's the children are not
5 getting it, and it just seems like one of these
6 things that we just like say, All right, push the
7 button. That's how much it costs, blah, blah, blah,
8 blah, blah. We don't follow up. But I think -- I
9 think Billy's right to bring a spotlight on this. I
10 think so.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah, Bobby.

12 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Having a
13 little background in juvenile justice.

14 THE CLERK: Microphone. You've got
15 to use the microphone.

16 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: With respect
17 to what happened, do you recall we built back in the
18 '90s, a new juvenile detention center, and the State
19 came up with the Juvenile Justice Commission. They
20 put a lot of funding into services within the
21 community, and then we didn't have a need for
22 juvenile detention centers.

23 Unfortunately, those that did keep the
24 juvenile detention centers kind of dictate what they
25 want and what they get when it comes to a bed with

1 regard to services. It's our duty to make sure that
2 our children, wherever there's housed should get the
3 services. It's also our duty to make sure that the
4 State Juvenile Justice Commission or Youth Justice
5 Commission now, they come up with some alternatives
6 because at some point in time we get going to get
7 back to the situation where there are just not many
8 people, not many programs available for the kids,
9 and they're not going to have anywhere to go.

10 So we're in a situation right now where we
11 have to pay what they're asking us to pay. At the
12 same time, we need to make sure that the funding, if
13 they're like we -- they just said now, and NJAC, New
14 Jersey Association of Counties is working towards
15 trying to reinvent the Juvenile Justice System
16 again.

17 So I agree. I did vote yes just because
18 the kids have to go somewhere, and they need to get
19 some kind of service, but I agree we need to work on
20 this, and I am very confident that Jerry Walker
21 who's dealt with children for a lot of years is
22 going to help us get there.

23 COMMISSIONER WALKER: Yeah. So I
24 totally agree with my colleague, Commissioner O'Dea,
25 you're going to lean on me, I'm going to lean on

1 you, and my colleague Baselice. But this is going
2 to be like a top priority of mine, you know I served
3 as a representative of the NJAC from this body here,
4 and it was a big issue. And we've got to come up
5 with some real solutions.

6 And as you know it, you know, most of
7 these kids that do get in trouble like this is lack
8 of education, and that's like one of my number one
9 priorities to educate the youth because I believe,
10 you know, once you do that, they can make better
11 decisions, a pathway to successful life and being a
12 model citizen. That's what we try to create my
13 nonprofit, Team Walker, not always, you know, be a
14 millionaire, but just be a productive citizen in a
15 society, which is a win for me.

16 So this is something that we've got to
17 tackle to something that the State seem not to, I
18 don't know, not care, but pass the ball around a
19 little bit, and our youth is really struggling from
20 this issue. So this is something that's that I'm
21 going to really tackle and really put some eyes on
22 to and -- and Baselice, I would love to talk to you
23 about some legislation that could support this
24 because I know you have a tremendous amount of
25 experience, but just something that's going to be a

1 top priority of mine.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Jerry.
3 Continue, Madam Clerk. Thank you.

4 THE CLERK: Are there any comments
5 from the Chief of Staff to the County Executive.

6 MR. McCARTHY: From the Deputy Chief,
7 we have nothing. Thank you.

8 MS. DAVIS: No, thank you.

9 THE CLERK: This is the time for
10 persons who submitted a timely written request to
11 address the Board on any matter of public interest.
12 Please remember to limit your comments for three
13 minutes.

14 My first speaker is Leroy truth.

15 MR. TRUTH: And before you start my
16 time, I request respectfully five minutes, because I
17 am here to protect children from an alleged
18 assaulter and I have to speak in code. And so I
19 request this because it needs more time for the
20 gravity of the situation so would that be approved.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: What's the point?

23 MR. TRUTH: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: What do you want me
25 to do? Five minutes.

1 MR. TRUTH: I appreciate that. The
2 professionalism here is always awesome. Now,
3 there's three elements I want to address today. The
4 first is my colleague, David Snow, with the Exposure
5 Report, he noted and saw and identified an egregious
6 fire code violation in the Hudson County
7 Prosecutor's Office.

8 And Ester Suarez would do nothing about it
9 for many, many days. Finally she acknowledged it,
10 relocated the Hudson County Prosecutor's intake into
11 the lobby of the building down the street here. It
12 has been a year, and David Snow potentially saved
13 lives and no one acknowledged him. So I asked that
14 he get a commendation for noting that, and it was in
15 the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office. No -- there
16 was no egress out of that lobby, and men, women and
17 children could have died. So I want to put that on
18 record, David Snow and the Exposure Report.

19 Now, the next item is extremely
20 concerning, and this goes directly to Alberico here,
21 is I'm here to protect women from sexual predators,
22 and I'm here to protect children from S-predators.
23 And there is one Lieutenant Fedrow of the Hudson
24 County Sheriff's Officers, who it was sustained in
25 an internal investigation that he, in fact, did send

1 private pictures of his privates, should we say, not
2 private pictures, pictures of his privates, to a
3 female Sheriff Officer. It was sustained. Why
4 isn't he fired?

5 And here's a number of questions to be
6 answered after I'm done, and Mr. Alberico here, and
7 number one is, Internal Affairs found the
8 allegations sustained. Now, Lieutenant Fedrow was
9 supposed to be suspended and terminated by the
10 Sheriff, but the Law Department, Mr. Alberico here,
11 keeps dragging their feet because of politics and
12 his alliance to the new Sheriff coming in town,
13 Jimmy Davis, who is also an alleged sexual harasser
14 and alleged sexual predator.

15 Now, according to the Attorney General
16 guidelines, Internal Affairs is able to serve and
17 suspend an officer even when they are not working,
18 so why are you stalling, Mr. Alberico? Lieutenant
19 Fedrow keeps calling out sick to avoid the
20 suspension, and this is going on for months, and
21 evading accountability, and why is he abusing the
22 sick time to avoid suspension?

23 I am here to protect female officers, and
24 Mr. Romano, I understand you're dating a female
25 Sheriff's Officer, and that's wonderful. How would

1 you feel if Lieutenant Fedrow sent your --

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Mr. Chairman,
3 who's sitting there? Excuse me, sir, who's sitting
4 there? No, the Chairman's coming back, but Mr.
5 Chairman, we're getting into rather substantial
6 personnel issues. I don't think it's appropriate to
7 discuss this in an open meeting.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Three minutes.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: No, I don't
10 care about the three minutes. My point is that --
11 can anybody hear me or no?

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yeah, but I
14 mean, I don't care about the three minutes. The
15 substance of what the discussion is, is extremely
16 personal about personnel, and I don't think it's
17 appropriate to be discussing that in an open meeting
18 without noticing the people involved. So can we
19 just move on? This is crazy.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. That's
21 it. The speaker's done. Three minutes.

22 MR. TRUTH: That is cowardly. I'm
23 here to protect women.

24 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: It's for law.
25 It's not --

1 MR. TRUTH: To protect women from a
2 potential predator.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's it. Done.

4 MR. TRUTH: How dare you?

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. Three
6 minutes is done.

7 MR. TRUTH: So that's noted. I'm
8 going to continue.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next speaker.

10 MR. TRUTH: No, no, no.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's it.

12 MR. TRUTH: You gave me five minutes.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Three minutes.

14 MR. TRUTH: No, no. This is about
15 protecting children. You gave me five minutes, and
16 you said you'd take away my time?

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, three minutes.

18 MR. TRUTH: I'm here to protect
19 children. Edwin Martinez, an alleged S-predator, is
20 teaching in --

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Three minutes,
22 officers. That's it.

23 MR. TRUTH: You gave me five minutes.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Three minutes.

25 Gentlemen, can we move on here?

1 MR. TRUTH: You took that time away
2 because I talked about Lieutenant Matt Fedrow
3 sending pictures of his privates to a female
4 officer.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's it. Three
6 No, we're just asking. That's it. Three minutes.
7 That's it.

8 MR. TRUTH: Why did you take away my
9 five minutes? You gave me five minutes on the
10 clock, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's
12 irresponsible. Three minutes. That's it.

13 MR. TRUTH: Why did you take away my
14 five minutes? Why did you take away my five
15 minutes, sir?

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's it. Next
17 speaker.

18 MR. TRUTH: I'm here to talk about --

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next speaker.

20 MR. TRUTH: Protecting a children in
21 a university from Edwin Martinez.

22 THE CLERK: Is Raymond Mitchell?

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Three minutes.
24 Next speaker.

25 MR. TRUTH: Am I going to be

1 arrested?

2 THE CLERK: Is Raymond Mitchell?

3 MR. TRUTH: I just want him to keep
4 his word. It's a matter to keep his word.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Three minutes,
6 please. Three minutes. Three minutes.

7 MR. TRUTH: So you're protecting
8 Edwin Martinez, sexual -- alleged sexual predator,
9 and Mayor Brian Stack? I'm here to protect
10 children.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Three minutes.
12 Next speaker.

13 MR. TRUTH: Disgusting.

14 THE CLERK: Raymond Mitchell.

15 MR. TRUTH: That is Anthony Romano,
16 chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

17 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. I just, as we
18 all know, I'm here mostly every meeting about what
19 is going on with my father and the mystery of death
20 coming out of North Bergen Harborage owned by
21 Hackensack Meridian. I also had to go to Trenton,
22 okay, to try and speak as well. And it's a disgrace
23 that Hudson County is not doing their job, okay?
24 Esther Suarez wants to say that my dad died of
25 COVID, okay? And I have not received any proof of

1 this, okay, of the cause? And I'm still waiting for
2 Esther Suarez. Now it's Wayne Mello, okay? That's
3 a new assistant prosecutor or whatever he is that
4 Matthew Platkin and the other criminal, okay.

5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: That's
6 obstructing justice.

7 MR. MITCHELL: Attorney General.
8 What? What?

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue.
10 Continue. Somebody just continue.

11 MR. MITCHELL: He's an attorney
12 general. Oh, that was him? Good. I don't care
13 about him. He knows what he did, him and Brian
14 Stack, okay? Now, I want to know how that we need
15 to get rid of Wayne Mello for not doing his job and
16 giving me my information about my father that died
17 of COVID. I asked him also to arrest Esther Suarez,
18 okay, for covering up my father's mystery death
19 coming out of North Bergen Harborage.

20 I got nothing. I go up and down the chain
21 and you get nowhere. Now, is Brian Stack blocking
22 me? I think he is for some reason because he's the
23 chairman of the judiciary. It doesn't make sense
24 what is happening to me. I go to Trenton and I show
25 everybody the picture. Everybody sees the strangle

1 marks, but for some reason here in Hudson County
2 doesn't. Adam was supposed to help out in the
3 beginning of all this. You know, and I don't want
4 to put him onto this. I don't want anybody here to
5 do any of this investigation. It was supposed to be
6 Esther Suarez, and she just left and retired, and
7 she goes to another law firm, and it's not fair to
8 me that I've got to continue this in this pandemic.

9 What happens if this all happened to your
10 family? How would you feel? And the Prosecutor's
11 Office doesn't do anything. I don't understand
12 what's the law. Is there any rule of law here? Is
13 there anything like, well, there is none. I just
14 don't understand. How many more times I've got to
15 come to these meetings and express myself? Nobody
16 has an answer, nothing? Everybody's a public
17 servant supposed to be taking an oath to allegiance
18 and protecting everybody's rights. I don't
19 understand. Even Dennis Miller, the chief,
20 fabricated lies about me and Mr. Gonnelli and
21 falsified statements. Esther Suarez, just
22 obstructing them.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Mr.
24 Mitchell.

25 THE CLERK: The next speaker is

1 Courtney Walker.

2 MS. WALKER: Before my time starts,
3 can I ask a clarifying question on one of the items
4 I missed coming up for; is that okay?

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: At the end, after
6 you finish speaking.

7 MS. WALKER: Okay. All right.
8 Hello, commissioners. My name is Courtney Walker,
9 and I'm a resident of Jersey City. I have two items
10 to address today. First, regarding the Immigrant
11 Trust Act discussion from September.

12 After that meeting, the Undersheriff told
13 several members of the public that the Sheriff's
14 Office is now required to document any encounters
15 with federal agencies like ICE in their day-to-day
16 work. I understood that to include anytime ICE is
17 present on County property such as Braddock Park.
18 He encouraged us to file OPRA requests for these
19 reports. However, over the past few months, my OPRA
20 requests have consistently come back with no
21 records.

22 This past week when I followed up, the
23 Undersheriff did provide one report from September
24 13th, which was very helpful. I just want to
25 reiterate to this group how important these reports

1 are. When federal agents appear in our parks or
2 community spaces, it's alarming. These records help
3 residents understand what's happening and they
4 support the spirit of the Immigrant Trust Act, which
5 so many community members voiced support for in
6 September.

7 Second, I'd like to follow up on our
8 discussion from last month about Hudson County's
9 election process on sample ballots arriving late. I
10 checked if the deadline for mailing sample ballots
11 was after early voting had started or didn't give
12 enough time as it had in prior years. This was a
13 point Commissioner Cifelli raised. It doesn't look
14 like this was the case, and it shouldn't have been
15 an issue with the extra early voting days this year.

16 On early voting access, the disparities
17 remain significant still. Going back to the June
18 primary, Union City had eight percent of the
19 County's voters but received 10 early voting sites.
20 Jersey City had nearly 40 percent but only received
21 seven. As a result, over 90 percent of Union City
22 voters lived within a quarter mile of a site
23 compared to just 16 percent in Jersey City. And in
24 Harrison and East Newark, no residents lived within
25 half a mile of a site.

1 Proximity to these sites matters. Turnout
2 reached 26 percent for voters within a quarter mile
3 of a site, but only 16 percent for those who lived
4 more than a mile away in the June primary. When
5 access improves, participation improves. To the
6 County's credit, more sites were added for the
7 November election. Jersey City increased from seven
8 to 12, and Hoboken gained a second site. That's
9 progress, but one cycle isn't enough to resolve
10 longstanding gaps, especially when the sample
11 ballots informing voters of these new locations
12 arrived late.

13 To ensure a fair and equitable election
14 process, continued improvements are needed,
15 including reliable and timely mailings from the
16 Clerk's office, a transparent population-based
17 process for selecting early voting locations, a
18 public voter education and outreach plan, and
19 routine reporting on turnout gaps and steps to close
20 them. Thank you.

21 And then one clarifying question. On A-2,
22 we're moving the Office of Emergency Management from
23 Department of Roads and Public Property to the
24 Sheriff's Office. I just want to clarify what that
25 entails, like what the Office of Emergency

1 Management is and why it's moving from Roads to
2 Sheriff.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Alberico or
4 Adam?

5 MR. DEPIERRO: I can only speak to as
6 to the reason why, and just let me pull it up for
7 the backup documentation. So we looked in line with
8 what the rest of the state does, and in the rest of
9 the state, the other 20 counties, there are no other
10 counties that have it under the Department of Roads
11 and Public Property.

12 So in the interest of organizing this
13 separate department correctly, as we've done in
14 recent other administrative changes as well, five of
15 the other 20 counties in New Jersey have the OEM
16 under the Sheriff's Office, whereas the remaining 15
17 all have it under a department that doesn't exist as
18 a department in Hudson County, the Department of
19 Public Safety and Health.

20 Now, other reasons why that I can
21 highlight, and obviously the Sheriff's Office and
22 OEM can speak better to that, is that key elements
23 of the Office of Emergency Management are the 911
24 Center, the Patrol Bureau, and they also have -- the
25 OEM has overlap with municipalities that is needed

1 in order to have an effective Office of Emergency
2 Management. Those are some of the reasons.
3 Obviously, Emergency Management and the Sheriff's
4 Office can speak more about it, but to be more in
5 line with the state, which we are the only state
6 that had it this way, it was just an administrative
7 change that we looked into as a whole.

8 MS. WALKER: Okay. That makes sense.
9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can I make a
11 comment about the speaker?

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Al.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I totally get
14 her comments about the -- this propriety of the
15 ballot spaces for automatic ballots -- not to say
16 automatic, but ballots by drop-off. That why does
17 one municipality have an extremely efficient ratio
18 and other municipalities, like in my district, which
19 she mentioned, Kearny, Harrison, East Newark,
20 Secaucus, has a low level compared to the registered
21 voters. I think that's where she's getting her
22 figures from. And I totally get it.

23 I went to the last election, when I walked
24 around, I saw that there weren't, like in Harrison,
25 I think there was one drop-off in front of the

1 municipal building. Kearny maybe had two drop-offs,
2 but East Newark, they may have had one in front of
3 the borough hall. But in other municipalities-

4 MS. WALKER: Can I clarify my point
5 really quick? I'm sorry, Commissioner Cifelli, but
6 I'm speaking about early voting sites. I think
7 you're speaking of ballot drop-off.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Oh, no. I'm
9 sorry. Maybe I conflated those two. You're right.

10 MS. WALKER: Yeah, like Harrison
11 doesn't have any early voting sites.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But I agree
13 with you. That's my point. I agree I conflated the
14 drop-off sites with the boxes, but I think you're
15 absolutely right. Why don't we have a -- like, you
16 know, one man, one vote? Like, why don't we have a
17 proportional site for these things? We seem to --
18 some districts seem to get more favorable treatment
19 than my districts, my towns. So I agree with that.
20 I think you're absolutely right.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay, thank you.
22 Next speaker.

23 THE CLERK: Chairman, one more item.
24 We have no other speakers. One more item. I just
25 want to remind the Commissioners to look at the

1 dates for next year's meetings so that we can move
2 them at the Reorganization Meeting.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I've just, on
4 the prior speaker, two points.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Billy.
6 Go ahead, Billy.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: On the first
8 point that the speaker made, why can't we set up a
9 protocol where all of the reports filed by the
10 Sheriff's Department related to ICE at any County
11 property are automatically forwarded to either the
12 chair of the Public Safety Committee or the members
13 of the Public Safety Committee? That way, the
14 ability to share that information would be easier.
15 But beyond that, the Board would be conscious or
16 always aware of what type of activities may be going
17 on with ICE officers. And I think that's important
18 for us to know.

19 And on the last point about early voting
20 locations, can we request that the appropriate
21 election officials provide us a report that would
22 show us where and how, and I guess at what cost it
23 would be if we provided all parts of the County to
24 an early voting location within, we use a quarter of
25 a mile and then a half mile of where individuals

1 live. I think that would be at least important for
2 us as we look to see how it may be possible to
3 expand that.

4 And I would note that with Union City,
5 it's fairly extraordinary because I believe for the
6 most part, they're actually trailers. They're
7 actually trailers that are bought in order to
8 accommodate the ability to have early voting. And I
9 compliment the Mayor for wanting to do that, but I
10 think that we need to be able to do that everywhere
11 throughout the County.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Billy, I
13 totally agree with you. Mayor Stack is a great
14 proponent of getting a vote out. But I think that
15 should filter out through the rest of the town in
16 our municipality. And whatever we need to do to
17 proximate Mayor Stack's civic endeavors, we should
18 do throughout the County.

19 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, there's no
20 other business before the Board.

21 MR. TRUTH: Alberico did not answer
22 the question. And I said at the end, Alberico,
23 what's the answer?

24 THE CLERK: We are adjourned.

25 (Whereupon the proceeding is then concluded at 5:42 p.m.)

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

I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No.
30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New
Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein
are from the notes taken by me of a Regular Meeting
of the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners,
held on Thursday, December 11, 2025; and that this
is a correct transcript of the same.



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

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1	2026 10:11,11 11:5 206,000 24:12 24:25 206,225 23:20 24:6 2283786 60:14 25 4:19 5:22 6:2 7:18 14:18 36:12 25th 4:12 26:11 28:4 26 54:2 27 31:14 27.5 36:13 280 22:8,18 23:14	400 34:25 35:1 35:13,16 436 21:8 465.24. 21:17 4:30 1:10	a
1 8:12,17 10:10 10:11 24:5 26:4 28:1 1,000 14:23 18:14 19:12 10 16:22 17:7 17:12 53:19 11 1:9 60:8 12 3:6 8:6 23:19 54:8 13 3:7 26:5 13th 30:7 31:20 34:4 52:24 15 21:6 25:19 36:10 55:16 16 10:8 11:1 53:23 54:3 18 12:20	3	5	ability 58:14 59:8 able 14:13 45:16 59:10 above 3:2 abraham 1:23 35:10,11,13 absolutely 39:11 57:15,20 abusing 45:21 accept 8:5 access 53:16 54:5 accommodate 34:23 59:8 accordance 18:20 20:15 23:1 account 19:7 accountability 45:21 accounts 8:19 19:22 acknowledged 44:9,13 act 52:11 53:4 acting 13:18 activities 4:24 5:2 58:16 actual 20:6 22:17 23:8,10 23:14,24
2	3 29:25 3,000 19:24 30 11:3 30,000 8:22,25 300 22:8 30xi00234700 60:4 31 10:10,11 31st 24:5 365 22:12 23:15,25	60,000 24:11 7 70,000 8:20 76,000,000 33:10,19	
2 27:23 54:21 2/4/27 60:15 20 55:9,15 200 26:5 30:1 31:14 2000 4:18 2025 1:9 3:6,7 4:19 8:6 10:10 10:10 11:6 26:11 28:4 30:7 31:20 33:21 34:4 60:8	4	8	
	4 31:13 40 53:20	8 4:18 8-01-2025 2:23 8.11 30:1	
		9	
		90 53:21 9078 60:12 90s 40:18 91 36:12 911 55:23	

actually 39:9 59:6,7 adam 14:9 51:2 55:4 add 22:25 added 54:6 additional 8:19 33:24 38:13 address 12:11 14:6 43:11 44:3 52:10 adds 5:17 adequate 2:21 adjourned 59:24 administration 1:7 2:25 8:11 8:14 administrative 26:6 27:24 30:2 31:15 55:14 56:6 administrator 1:23 adopted 29:25 31:13 33:4 37:14 adoption 26:24 28:14 29:5 30:18 32:9 34:17 advertised 26:11 28:4 30:7 31:20	34:4 advertising 15:17 affairs 45:7,16 afternoon 14:15 agencies 52:15 agenda 12:7,12 12:14 17:23 20:20,25 25:4 25:6 37:18 agents 53:1 aggregate 33:19 agree 24:19 25:1 41:17,19 41:24 57:12,13 57:19 59:13 agreement 33:7 33:14 ahead 16:12,15 56:12 58:5,6 al 16:7,16 27:7 56:12 alarming 53:2 alberico 1:22 44:20 45:6,10 45:18 55:3 59:21,22 albert 1:15 alicia 35:10,12 allegations 45:8	alleged 43:17 45:13,14 47:19 49:8 allegiance 51:17 alliance 45:12 allow 39:8 alternatives 41:5 amend 9:3,7 11:1,4 amending 26:5 27:23 30:1 31:14 american 5:16 amount 14:21 19:17 21:9,20 21:21,24 25:2 33:20 38:8 42:24 amounts 14:24 annex 2:25 anniversary 4:12 announced 38:21 annually 18:6 answer 22:5,6 23:6,8 51:16 59:21,23 answered 5:11 45:6 answers 20:5	anthony 1:13 49:15 antun 1:23 anybody 14:8 46:11 51:4 anytime 52:16 aponte 1:14 2:5 2:6 3:11,12 6:11,12 9:14 9:15 11:11,12 25:5,7 26:25 27:1 29:6,7 30:19,20 32:10 32:11 35:21,22 appear 53:1 applicable 27:24 appreciate 20:4 20:16 44:1 appreciation 6:5 appropriate 15:1 46:6,17 58:20 approve 3:5 20:24 approved 43:20 approving 33:5 apt 39:8 arrest 50:17 arrested 49:1 arrived 54:12
---	--	---	--

arriving 53:9	automatically 58:11	background 40:13	beginning 51:3
article 26:5 30:1 31:14	autun 8:15 9:5 10:7,19 13:12 14:6,11 15:10 18:5,12,18 19:2,13,16 21:10,14,21 22:4,10,19 34:24	backup 21:6,13 21:14 22:20 55:7	believe 13:7 18:12 21:15 22:4 38:6 42:9 59:5
asked 12:6 44:13 50:17	available 14:16 26:14 28:7 30:10 31:23 34:7 41:8	bad 39:3	believes 38:23
asking 41:11 48:6	avenue 1:8 30:3 31:16	balance 20:13	benefit 28:23
assaulter 43:18	average 23:13 24:21,21,22	ball 42:18	bergen 4:18 5:18,20 6:4 49:20 50:19
assembly 38:22	avoid 45:19,22	ballot 56:15 57:7	better 4:15 42:10 55:22
assistant 17:5 50:3	aware 58:16	ballots 53:9,10 54:11 56:15,16	beyond 58:15
association 41:14	awesome 44:2	bang 39:15,16 40:3	big 42:4
assuming 37:23	aye 3:12 6:12 8:9 9:15 11:12 25:8,20 27:1 29:7 30:20 32:11 35:22 37:2,6	baps 4:7,11,11 4:13,17,20 5:10,13,17,20 6:1,4	bill 23:23
athletic 38:24	b	based 23:10 24:14 54:16	billy 10:24 21:3 34:20 35:15 39:11,21 58:5 58:6 59:12
attorney 45:15 50:7,11	back 18:22 39:13 40:17 41:7 46:4 52:20 53:17	baselice 1:14 2:7,8 3:13,14 6:13,14 7:14 7:17 9:16,17 11:13,14 25:9 25:11 27:2,3 29:8,9 30:21 30:22 32:12,13 35:23,24 40:12 40:16 42:1,22	billy's 39:17 40:2,9
audit 18:4 20:15		basis 18:8 22:1	bit 42:19
audited 18:1 20:1,2		beautiful 5:19	blah 40:7,7,7,8 40:8
auditing 20:7 20:14,15		bed 40:25	blessed 7:21
auditor 20:6,9			blocking 50:21
auditors 20:2 20:11			board 1:1,4,21 2:24 5:25 6:1 12:5,11 26:14 26:22 28:7 30:10,16 31:23 32:7 34:7,15 37:20 43:11 49:16 58:15
audits 20:6,9			
authority 33:8 33:13,23			
authorizing 33:5			
automatic 56:15,16			

<p>59:20 60:7 bobby 7:13 40:11 body 42:3 bonds 33:12,21 books 20:9 borough 57:3 bought 59:7 boxes 57:14 braddock 52:17 break 24:21 brian 49:9 50:13,21 bridges 8:20 bring 40:9 brings 5:5 broken 38:7 39:3 brought 38:13 38:17 39:25 buck 39:15,16 40:3 budget 15:1,7 building 1:7 2:25 16:19 17:4 44:11 57:1 built 40:17 bulletin 2:24 26:14 28:7 30:10 31:23 34:7</p>	<p>bureau 55:24 bus 8:25 business 4:3 19:22 37:18,19 59:20 button 40:7 buy 15:17,22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c</p> <p>c 60:1,1 calendar 18:8 23:14,25 call 2:2 5:11,19 20:12 37:22 called 19:22,23 calling 45:19 calming 31:15 car 16:21 17:6 17:6 care 42:18 46:10,14 50:12 career 38:23,24 caridad 1:17 carol 1:24 case 11:2 53:14 cash 12:24 13:8 13:14,25 14:12 14:16,20,22 15:6,19,25 16:23 17:13 18:1,2,5,21 19:1,22,23,24 20:2,11,11 36:14,25</p>	<p>cathey 1:25 60:3,13 caucus 3:6 cause 50:1 ccr 1:25 60:3 60:13 cedeno 1:15 2:9 2:10 3:9,15,16 6:15,16 9:18 9:19 11:15,16 25:14,15 26:19 27:4,5 29:10 29:11 30:23,24 32:14,15 35:25 36:1 celebrations 7:8 center 22:14 33:8 40:18 55:24 centers 40:22 40:24 certain 33:25 certify 60:5 cfo 14:12 chain 50:20 chair 58:12 chairman 1:13 2:2,19,20 3:8 4:1,2,6,9 6:8 7:2,3,6 8:1 9:8 9:11 10:5,6,7 10:12,17,23 11:7 12:2,3</p>	<p>13:4 14:11 16:7,10,15 17:19 20:19 21:3 25:25 26:1 27:7,17 27:18 28:22 29:3,22,23 30:13 31:10,11 33:1,2 34:20 35:2,7,12,14 37:11,12,21 40:11 43:2,22 43:24 46:2,5,8 46:20 47:3,5,9 47:11,13,17,21 47:24 48:5,11 48:16,19,23 49:5,11,16 50:9,23 51:23 52:5 55:3 56:12 57:21,23 58:5 59:19 chairman's 46:4 chambers 1:8 7:5 change 13:10 13:10,15 56:7 changes 55:14 chapter 26:5 30:1 31:14 character 5:3 charge 14:25 17:12</p>
---	---	--	---

charged 22:2 38:9	36:2,3,16,21 37:15 39:10,20	11:10,13,15,17 11:19,21,23,25	34:13,15 54:19
charter 27:25	39:23 46:2,9	12:2,4,18	closed 19:8
check 14:19 15:22 19:6 20:13	46:13,24 50:5 53:13 56:10,13 57:5,8,12 59:12	17:22 20:23 21:2 25:3,9,12 25:14,16,18,21 25:23,25 26:2 26:21,24 27:2 27:4,6,9,11,13 27:15,17,20 28:14,18,21,25 29:5,8,10,12,14 29:16,18,20,22 29:24 30:15,18 30:21,23,25 31:2,4,6,8,10 31:12 32:6,9 32:12,14,16,18 32:20,22,24 33:1,3 34:14 34:17 35:20,23 35:25 36:2,4,6 37:3,7,9,11,13 37:17,25 38:4 40:14 43:3,4,9 48:22 49:2,14 51:25 57:23 59:19,24	code 26:6 27:24 30:2 31:15 43:18 44:6
checked 18:16 53:10	citizen 42:12,14	25:23,25 26:2 26:21,24 27:2 27:4,6,9,11,13 27:15,17,20 28:14,18,21,25 29:5,8,10,12,14 29:16,18,20,22 29:24 30:15,18 30:21,23,25 31:2,4,6,8,10 31:12 32:6,9 32:12,14,16,18 32:20,22,24 33:1,3 34:14 34:17 35:20,23 35:25 36:2,4,6 37:3,7,9,11,13 37:17,25 38:4 40:14 43:3,4,9 48:22 49:2,14 51:25 57:23 59:19,24	colleague 41:24 42:1 44:4
checks 20:6,10	city 1:9 2:25 16:19 17:1,4,5 17:8 26:7 30:3 36:11,11,14,15 36:17,20,20,22 37:16 38:25 52:9 53:18,20 53:21,23 54:7 59:4	26:21,24 27:2 27:4,6,9,11,13 27:15,17,20 28:14,18,21,25 29:5,8,10,12,14 29:16,18,20,22 29:24 30:15,18 30:21,23,25 31:2,4,6,8,10 31:12 32:6,9 32:12,14,16,18 32:20,22,24 33:1,3 34:14 34:17 35:20,23 35:25 36:2,4,6 37:3,7,9,11,13 37:17,25 38:4 40:14 43:3,4,9 48:22 49:2,14 51:25 57:23 59:19,24	come 7:7 8:1 41:5 42:4 51:15 52:20
chief 38:1 43:5 43:6 51:19	civic 5:16 59:17	30:21,23,25 31:2,4,6,8,10 31:12 32:6,9 32:12,14,16,18 32:20,22,24 33:1,3 34:14 34:17 35:20,23 35:25 36:2,4,6 37:3,7,9,11,13 37:17,25 38:4 40:14 43:3,4,9 48:22 49:2,14 51:25 57:23 59:19,24	comes 7:20 40:25
children 7:20 39:16 40:4,4 41:2,21 43:17 44:17,22 47:15 47:19 48:20 49:10	clarify 54:24 57:4	30:21,23,25 31:2,4,6,8,10 31:12 32:6,9 32:12,14,16,18 32:20,22,24 33:1,3 34:14 34:17 35:20,23 35:25 36:2,4,6 37:3,7,9,11,13 37:17,25 38:4 40:14 43:3,4,9 48:22 49:2,14 51:25 57:23 59:19,24	coming 7:18 17:17 45:12 46:4 49:20 50:19 52:4
christine 37:22 37:24	clarifying 52:3 54:21	30:21,23,25 31:2,4,6,8,10 31:12 32:6,9 32:12,14,16,18 32:20,22,24 33:1,3 34:14 34:17 35:20,23 35:25 36:2,4,6 37:3,7,9,11,13 37:17,25 38:4 40:14 43:3,4,9 48:22 49:2,14 51:25 57:23 59:19,24	commend 4:11 6:1
cifelli 1:15 2:11 3:17 6:17,18 8:8 9:10,12,20 9:21 11:17,18 12:16 16:5,8 16:17 17:2,11 20:21,22 22:7 22:12,16 23:3 23:7,12,22 24:7,11,15,19 25:1,12,13 27:6,8 28:13 29:12,13 30:25 31:1 32:3,16 32:17 34:12	clerk 1:24 2:3,4 2:7,9,11,14,16 2:18,21 3:3,10 3:13,15,17,20 3:22,24 4:1,3,7 4:10 6:10,13 6:15,17,19,21 6:23,25 7:2,4 7:16 8:4,10,16 9:13,16,18,20 9:22,24 10:1,3 10:5,14,22	30:21,23,25 31:2,4,6,8,10 31:12 32:6,9 32:12,14,16,18 32:20,22,24 33:1,3 34:14 34:17 35:20,23 35:25 36:2,4,6 37:3,7,9,11,13 37:17,25 38:4 40:14 43:3,4,9 48:22 49:2,14 51:25 57:23 59:19,24	commendation 44:14
		clerk's 54:16	comment 39:17 56:11
		clock 48:10	comments 12:6 12:13 37:19,25 43:4,12 56:14
		close 12:17 26:17,22 28:10 30:13,16 32:2 32:2,4,7 34:11	commission 40:19 41:4,5 60:15
			commissioner 1:14,14,15,15 1:16,16,17,17 1:24 2:4,6,7,8,9 2:10,11,12,13 2:14,15,16,17

2:18 3:10,12	27:13,14,15,16	26:14 28:7	confidential
3:13,14,15,16	28:12,13,15,19	30:10 31:23	19:23
3:17,18,19,20	29:6,7,8,9,10	34:7 37:19	conflated 57:9
3:21,22,23,24	29:11,12,13,14	49:16 52:8	57:13
3:25 6:9,10,12	29:15,16,17,18	57:25 60:7	congratulations
6:13,14,15,16	29:19,20,21	commitment	7:25
6:17,18,19,20	30:14,19,20,21	6:2 36:25	congregants
6:21,22,23,24	30:22,23,24,25	committee	5:21
6:25 7:1,14,17	31:1,2,3,4,5,6,7	58:12,13	connection
8:8 9:3,6,10,11	31:8,9 32:3,5	communal 4:23	5:15 34:1
9:13,15,16,17	32:10,11,12,13	communities	conscious
9:18,19,20,21	32:14,15,16,17	6:3	58:15
9:22,23,24,25	32:18,19,20,21	community	consent 20:25
10:1,2,3,4,25	32:22,23,24,25	5:22 7:23	25:4,6
11:9,10,12,13	34:12,18,21,24	40:21 53:2,5	consenting
11:14,15,16,17	35:1,5,16,20,22	compared	33:24
11:18,19,20,21	35:23,24,25	53:23 56:20	consistently
11:22,23,24,25	36:1,2,3,4,5,6,7	complain 17:3	52:20
12:1,16 15:14	36:16,18,21,23	complaints	continue 43:3
16:5,8,17 17:2	37:3,5,7,8,9,10	16:20 17:1	47:8 50:9,10
17:11 20:21,22	37:15 38:2,5	compliment	50:10 51:8
21:1,5,11,19,23	39:10,19,20,22	59:9	continued
22:7,12,13,16	39:23 40:12,16	concerning	54:14
23:3,5,7,12,17	41:23,24 43:21	44:20	contributions
23:22 24:3,7,8	46:2,9,12,13,24	concluded	6:6
24:11,12,15,17	50:5 53:13	59:25	copies 3:2
24:19,23 25:1	56:10,13 57:5	concludes	copy 10:22
25:5,7,9,11,12	57:8,12 58:3,7	37:17	15:18
25:13,14,15,16	59:12	conclusion 12:8	correct 13:12
25:17,18,19,21	commissioner's	conducted 9:1	23:6,25 37:24
25:22,23,24	2:24	conducting	60:9
26:19,20,25	commissioners	20:14	correctly 55:13
27:1,2,3,4,5,6,8	1:1,4,8 5:25	confident 41:20	cost 23:18 24:6
27:9,10,11,12	7:7 12:5 22:20		24:18 33:9,10

<p>36:9,13 40:1 58:22 costs 40:7 counsel 1:21,22 10:12 counselor 13:1 counties 41:14 55:9,10,15 county 1:1,1,4 1:4,7,22,23,24 2:24 3:3 4:20 5:19,25,25 6:4 12:5,25 14:4 15:7,12 16:18 20:1,9 26:7,13 27:23,25 28:6 30:9 31:16,22 33:4,7,11,12,14 33:17,20,22 34:6 39:18 43:5 44:6,10 44:15,24 49:23 51:1 52:17 55:18 58:10,23 59:11,18 60:7 60:7 county's 53:8 53:19 54:6 couple 40:1 court 22:15 courtney 52:1,8 cover 8:22,25 covering 14:5 50:18</p>	<p>covid 49:25 50:17 cowardly 46:22 craig 14:8 crazy 46:19 create 42:12 created 38:16 creating 4:24 credit 54:6 criminal 50:4 current 21:17 custodian 12:24 13:11,19 cycle 54:9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">d</p> <p>dad 49:24 daily 21:8 22:1 22:5 dare 47:4 darice 22:5 dash 28:23 date 11:5 dates 58:1 dating 45:24 david 44:4,12 44:18 davis 43:8 45:13 day 21:24 22:2 22:14 23:18,25 23:25 24:2,4,7 24:21 38:8,20 40:2 52:15,15</p>	<p>days 22:8,12,17 22:18 23:15,15 23:25 44:9 53:15 de 1:22 deadline 53:10 dealt 41:21 death 49:19 50:18 december 1:9 8:24 10:10,11 19:7 24:5 60:8 decent 39:7 decisions 42:11 dedicated 4:14 38:24 definitely 14:1 17:10 delineators 31:16 delivery 33:6 33:14 dennis 51:19 denomination 4:13 department 13:5,8 14:24 19:4,5 29:1 45:10 54:23 55:10,13,17,18 55:18 58:10 departments 14:17</p>	<p>depierro 13:6 21:12 55:5 deputy 43:6 detained 39:6 detention 22:14 38:7 40:18,22 40:24 determining 33:25 development 33:7 devices 31:16 dictate 40:24 died 44:17 49:24 50:16 different 7:11 directly 44:20 director 8:24 14:11,15 15:6 15:16,21,24 16:3 18:12,13 19:18,20 20:8 20:18 22:23,23 22:24 23:9 disaster 5:9 discuss 12:9 46:7 discussing 12:7 46:17 discussion 46:15 52:11 53:8 disgrace 49:22</p>
--	---	--	--

disgusting 49:13	early 53:11,15 53:16,19 54:17	elements 44:3 55:22	established 4:17
disparities 53:16	57:6,11 58:19 58:24 59:8	embrace 5:15	ester 44:8
district 56:18	easier 58:14	emergency 29:1 54:22,25	esther 12:24 13:16 49:24
districts 57:18 57:19	east 53:24 56:19 57:2	55:23 56:1,3	50:2,17 51:6 51:21
diversity 5:18	edification 23:24	encounters 52:14	estimate 36:10
division 8:20	editors 3:3	encourage 5:2	estimated 33:9
document 52:14	educate 42:9	encouraged 52:18	evading 45:21
documentation 55:7	education 4:23 21:20,21 22:14	endeavors 59:17	event 8:20
documented 16:2,4	38:11 42:8 54:18	ended 19:12	everybody 50:25,25
doing 49:23 50:15	educational 10:20 33:16	engineering 33:16	everybody's 51:16,18
dollars 19:15 21:18 36:12 38:8	edward 1:21	ensure 54:13	everything's 16:1
donated 36:11	edwin 47:19 48:21 49:8	entails 54:25	exact 14:21
doyle 1:24	effective 56:1	entering 33:6 33:13	exactly 7:23
dragging 45:11	efficient 38:10 56:17	entire 24:6,9,14 24:16	example 15:25 16:9,11
drawn 18:23 18:25	egregious 44:5	equipment 8:23	exceed 33:10
drill 39:24 40:1	egress 44:16	equitable 54:13	exceeding 33:19
drives 5:8	eight 53:18	equivalent 21:25	excellent 20:5
drop 56:16,25 57:1,7,14	either 37:21 58:11	especially 54:10	excuse 28:15 46:3
duty 41:1,3	election 53:9 54:7,13 56:23 58:21	esq 1:21	execution 33:6 33:13
e	electronically 10:21	essex 38:15	executive 43:5
e 1:6,6,11,11,20 1:20 60:1		establish 30:2 31:15	exist 55:17
			expand 59:3
			expenditure 39:12

<p>expensive 39:4 experience 42:25 experienced 7:11 expires 60:15 exposure 44:4 44:18 express 51:15 extend 6:4 extra 53:15 extraordinary 59:5 extremely 44:19 46:15 56:17 eye 25:2 eyes 42:21</p>	<p>families 4:22 7:20 family 51:10 fanny 1:15 father 49:19 50:16 father's 50:18 favor 26:21 30:15 32:6 34:14 favorable 57:18 federal 52:15 53:1 fedrow 44:23 45:8,19 46:1 48:2 feel 46:1 51:10 feet 45:11 fellowship 4:23 female 45:3,23 45:24 48:3 figures 56:22 file 52:18 filed 58:9 filter 59:15 final 26:24 28:14 29:5 30:18 32:9 34:17 finally 44:9 finance 13:7 14:24 19:4,5</p>	<p>financed 33:11 financing 33:25 find 24:24 fingers 18:2 finish 16:7,12 52:6 fire 44:6 fired 45:4 firm 51:7 firms 20:14 first 2:24 4:3 11:8 16:12 43:14 44:4 52:10 58:7 fiscal 15:2 five 12:6,13 26:3 43:16,25 47:12,15,23 48:9,9,14,14 55:14 fixed 26:9 28:2 30:5 31:18 34:2 flag 2:1 floor 2:25 florio 1:21 10:15,18 12:21 follow 40:8 53:7 followed 52:22 follows 2:22 food 5:8 forwarded 58:11</p>	<p>fostering 4:14 found 45:7 front 56:25 57:2 full 23:15 fuller 14:12,15 15:6,16,21,24 16:3 19:20 20:8,18 fully 5:15 fund 12:24 14:22 funding 40:20 41:12 funds 14:13,16 20:2,11 further 20:23</p>
<p>f</p>	<p>f 1:11 60:1 fabricated 51:20 facility 38:13 fact 22:25 38:12 44:25 fair 51:7 54:13 fairly 59:5 fairs 5:8 faith 4:14,20 5:15 38:22 faithful 4:25 falsified 51:21</p>	<p>g</p>	<p>gained 54:8 gaps 54:10,19 general 26:15 28:8 30:11 31:24 34:8 45:15 50:7,12 generally 14:17 14:18,20 gentlemen 47:25 getting 21:15 39:14,16 40:3 40:4,5 46:5 56:21 59:14</p>

give 16:8 21:10 21:16 53:11	h	31:21 32:8 34:3,5,16	hudson 1:1,4,7 1:22 4:20,20 5:19,25 6:4 12:25 14:4 15:12 16:18 27:23 33:4,7 33:12,14,22 39:18 44:6,10 44:15,23 49:23 51:1 53:8 55:18 60:7
giving 50:16	hackensack 49:21	hefty 24:20	huge 38:19
go 15:17 16:12 16:15,25 21:11 39:8 41:9,18 49:21 50:20,24 56:12 58:5,6	half 53:25 58:25	held 60:8	humbly 5:11
god 14:7	hall 57:3	hello 52:8	hundred 21:18 23:22
goes 24:4 44:20 51:7	hand 35:8,8 38:2	help 39:9 41:22 51:2 53:2	hundreds 4:22
going 8:5 14:3 21:8,18 36:7 39:1,9 41:6,9 41:22,25,25 42:1,21,25 45:20 47:8 48:25 49:19 53:17 58:16	happened 40:17 51:9	helpful 52:24	i
gonnelli 51:20	happening 50:24 53:3	helping 5:14 38:24	i.d. 60:14
good 10:17 14:15 50:12	happens 18:18 19:2 51:9	hi 35:10,12	ice 52:15,16 58:10,17
gravity 43:20	happy 39:5	high 33:9,21	idea 24:24
great 59:13	harasser 45:13	highest 5:4	ideals 5:4
greater 5:22	harborage 49:20 50:19	highlight 55:21	identified 44:5
group 52:25	hard 10:21 15:18	hindu 4:13,17	imagine 24:8
guaranty 33:18	harold 37:22 37:23	history 5:13	immigrant 52:10 53:4
guess 58:22	harrison 53:24 56:19,24 57:10	hoboken 26:8 30:3 54:8	immigrants 5:14
guidelines 45:16	hate 39:6	hold 12:19,19 21:3 35:2	important 36:18,19 37:1 52:25 58:17 59:1
guy 14:8	health 5:8 55:19	holidays 7:11 7:20	
guys 15:9	hear 16:6 35:14 46:11	holiness 4:16 5:5	
gym 35:17	hearing 26:4,10 26:12,18,23 28:3,5,11 30:6 30:8,17 31:19	home 4:24 5:19 7:9	
		hope 4:11 35:17	
		hopes 5:21	
		hospitality 7:10 7:12	
		house 38:9	
		housed 41:2	

importantly 39:15	installation 26:6	item 12:12 15:15 44:19 57:23,24	judges 39:7,17
improvement 33:8,12,23	intake 44:10	itemized 13:25	judiciary 50:23
improvements 54:14	integrity 5:3	items 12:7,14 14:17,20 17:23 20:25 37:17 52:3,9	june 53:17 54:4
improves 54:5 54:5	interest 12:10 33:19 43:11 55:12		justice 40:13,19 41:4,4,15 50:6
inclement 8:21	internal 44:25 45:7,16	j	juvenile 21:8 22:14 23:19 24:4,13 38:6 40:13,18,19,22 40:24 41:4,15
include 36:9 52:16	introduced 26:10 28:3 30:6 31:19 34:3	j 1:21	juveniles 24:1 24:16 38:16
including 6:3 54:15	introduction 26:3 27:21,22	james 30:4	k
incorrect 10:9	investigate 16:20,25	january 10:10 10:11 18:9 19:10 24:5	kearny 3:4 56:19 57:1
increased 54:7	investigation 44:25 51:5	jean 1:24	keep 12:12 40:23 49:3,4
independent 20:2,8	investigations 17:17	jerry 1:17 38:20 39:21 41:20 43:2	keeps 45:11,19
indicated 8:16	investigator 17:4,6	jersey 1:9,9 2:25 3:1 4:18 23:14 33:5 36:11,15,17,20 36:22 37:16 38:8 41:14 52:9 53:20,23 54:7 55:15 60:5,14	kenneth 1:16
individual 38:9	involved 39:18 39:24 46:18	jimmy 45:13	key 55:22
individuals 58:25	irresponsible 48:12	job 49:23 50:15	kids 41:8,18 42:7
information 10:19 13:22,24 14:13 17:21 18:19 19:19 50:16 58:14	issued 33:21,22	join 5:16	kind 39:12,12 39:24 40:24 41:19
informing 54:11	issues 38:16 39:25 46:6	joy 5:6	know 7:10,22 11:1,2 12:23 13:20 14:1,2,8 14:9 15:2,18 16:11 17:8,8 17:10,18 18:22 20:10,13 22:5 22:8,10,11,19
inner 38:24		judge 39:18	
inquiries 16:18			
inquiry 17:25			
insanely 39:3			
inspirationally 5:12			

<p>23:5,10 24:25 28:17 36:23 38:12,15,23 39:2,21,21 42:2,6,6,10,13 42:18,24 49:18 50:14 51:3 57:16 58:18 knows 13:23 14:8,9 22:6 50:13 kopacz 1:16 2:12,13 3:18 3:19 6:19,20 9:22,23 11:19 11:20 15:14 25:16,17 27:9 27:10 29:14,15 30:14 31:2,3 32:18,19 36:4 36:5</p>	<p>laws 15:2 lay 39:13 lean 41:25,25 lease 33:6,12 33:14,20 ledger 3:4 left 51:6 legislation 42:23 legislature 39:2 leroy 43:14 level 18:23 36:24 56:20 liberty 33:8,21 license 60:3 lies 51:20 lieutenant 44:23 45:8,18 46:1 48:2 life 5:16 42:11 limit 12:6 43:12 limited 12:13 line 15:14 28:16 55:7 56:5 lipski 1:14 2:5 2:6 3:11,12 6:11,12 9:14 9:15 11:11,12 25:5,7 26:25 27:1 29:6,7 30:19,20 32:10 32:11 35:21,22</p>	<p>liquidated 18:7 little 40:13 42:19 live 5:3,7 59:1 lived 53:22,24 54:3 lives 5:3,7 44:13 living 4:15 lobby 44:11,16 local 5:21 15:4 15:5,8,9 location 58:24 locations 54:11 54:17 58:20 longer 13:10,17 longstanding 54:10 look 20:12 53:13 57:25 59:2 looked 55:7 56:7 looks 20:10 lot 14:5 16:21 22:25 40:20 41:21 love 7:9 36:16 36:21 37:15 42:22 low 56:20</p>	<p>m ma'am 14:14 madam 2:3 43:3 made 26:14 28:7 30:10 31:23 34:7 36:14 58:8 magnitude 24:18 maharaj 4:17 5:6 mailing 53:10 mailings 54:15 mainor 39:18 make 9:6 11:4 15:21 18:2,16 18:19 20:7,14 23:18 38:25 41:1,3,12 42:10 50:23 56:10 makes 5:18 56:8 man 24:22 57:16 management 29:1 54:22 55:1,23 56:2,3 mandir 4:17,21 5:1,5,13,17,20 7:9</p>
I			
<p>I 1:20 lack 42:7 land 36:9,14,25 late 53:9 54:12 laudatory 4:4 law 13:5 26:12 27:25 28:5 30:8 31:21 34:5 45:10 46:24 51:7,12 51:12</p>			

mantra 38:25	17:3,3 50:2,15	15:11,20,23	municipalities
marks 4:19	members 12:5	16:1,5,13,24	55:25 56:18
51:1	52:13 53:5	17:10,15,20	57:3
martinez 47:19	58:12	48:22 49:2,14	municipality
48:21 49:8	men 44:16	49:17 50:7,11	56:17 59:16
mathematics	mentioned 3:2	51:24	mystery 49:19
33:16	56:19	mittell's	50:18
matt 48:2	meridian 49:21	17:25	n
matter 43:11	mic 7:16	model 42:12	n 1:6,6,20 60:1
49:4	microphone	mold 5:2	n.j.s.a.40:41a
matters 12:9	22:23 40:14,15	money 8:19	28:1
33:25 54:1	mile 53:22,25	19:3	namaste 7:12
matthew 50:4	54:2,4 58:25	month 8:23	name 13:15,16
mayor 49:9	58:25	18:25 23:19	52:8
59:9,13,17	miller 51:19	53:8	naming 13:17
mccarthy 43:6	million 36:10	months 45:20	nearly 53:20
meals 4:23	36:12,12	52:19	need 5:8 8:21
mean 19:18	millionaire	moro 37:22	9:3 10:12
46:14	42:14	motion 3:5 9:6	13:14 39:2,2
meaningful 6:6	mine 42:2 43:1	11:4 12:16	40:21 41:12,18
media 15:5,5,9	minutes 3:5 8:5	20:24 21:1	41:19 50:14
15:9	8:5 12:7,8,13	25:3,10 26:17	59:10,16
meeting 1:3	43:13,16,25	26:19,20 28:10	needed 54:14
2:22 3:6,7 8:6	46:8,10,14,21	30:13 32:1,3	55:25
12:8 26:11	47:6,12,13,15	34:10,12	needs 13:8 14:1
28:4 30:7	47:17,21,23,24	move 11:1	43:19
31:20 34:4	48:6,9,9,12,14	28:17 46:19	neighborhood
37:23 46:7,17	48:15,23 49:5	47:25 58:1	7:19
49:18 52:12	49:6,6,11	moving 28:25	never 36:24
58:2 60:6	misquote 14:21	54:22 55:1	new 1:9 3:1
meetings 51:15	missed 52:4	municipal	4:18 13:14
58:1	mittell 12:20	16:19 17:4	23:14 33:5
mello 12:25	12:21,22 13:23	57:1	38:8 40:18
13:18 14:2	14:7,14 15:4,8		

41:13 45:12 50:3 54:11 55:15 60:4,14 newark 53:24 56:19 57:2 newspaper 15:18,19,22 njac 41:13 42:3 nonprofit 42:13 normal 22:9 north 4:17 5:18 5:20 6:4 49:20 50:19 notary 60:4,13 note 8:12 36:8 36:19,19 38:6 59:4 noted 38:3 44:5 47:7 notes 60:6 notice 2:21,23 26:12 28:5 30:8 31:21 34:5 noticing 46:18 noting 44:14 november 3:6,7 8:6,7 26:11 28:4 30:7 31:20 34:4 54:7 number 22:17 22:22 23:24	24:20,20 34:22 42:8 45:5,7 numbers 28:17 o o 1:6,6,11,20 60:1 o'dea 1:16 2:14 2:15 3:20,21 6:21,22 9:3,6 9:24,25 10:25 11:21,22 21:5 21:19,23 22:13 23:5,17 24:3,8 24:12,17,23 25:18,19 27:11 27:12 28:15,19 29:16,17 31:4 31:5 32:20,21 34:18,21 35:1 35:5,16 36:6,7 36:18,23 37:3 37:5 38:2,5 39:19 41:24 43:21 46:12 58:3,7 oath 51:17 observer 3:4 obstructing 50:6 51:22 obviously 13:16 55:21 56:3	occasion 4:12 october 4:18 oem 55:15,22 55:25 offers 4:21 5:1 office 8:22 13:1 13:13,21 14:10 14:22 28:25 29:2 44:7,15 51:11 52:14 54:16,22,24,25 55:16,21,23 56:1,4 officer 45:3,17 45:25 48:4 officers 44:24 45:23 47:22 58:17 officials 58:21 offs 57:1 oh 12:18 14:7 17:15 38:4 50:12 57:8 okay 4:9 8:10 8:13 15:4,8,20 15:23 16:13,15 16:24 17:19 21:16 29:3 35:8,16,18 49:17,22,23,25 50:1,2,4,14,18 52:4,7 55:3 56:8 57:21	old 4:24 once 18:23 19:5 42:10 ones 38:17 open 46:7,17 opening 25:2 opinion 38:10 opportunity 8:3 opposed 11:5 23:15 26:21 39:9 opra 52:18,19 optional 27:25 order 4:3 14:19 56:1 59:7 ordinance 26:5 26:10,16 27:23 28:3,9 29:24 29:25 30:1,6 30:12 31:12,14 31:19,25 33:3 33:4 34:3,9 37:13 ordinances 26:2 organization's 6:1 organizing 55:12 ought 39:24 outreach 54:18 overlap 55:25
--	---	--	--

oversees 14:12 own 23:23 owned 26:7 49:20	peer 20:12 people 5:2 28:17 40:2 41:8 46:18	49:6 point 23:18 41:6 43:22 46:10 53:13 57:4,13 58:8 58:19	prior 53:12 58:4 priorities 42:9 priority 42:2 43:1 private 16:21 45:1,2 privates 45:1,2 48:3 probably 22:18 39:6 problem 17:14 38:19 proceeding 59:25 proceedings 1:4 60:5 process 53:9 54:14,17 productive 42:14 professional... 44:2 program 39:7 programs 10:20 22:15 38:14 41:8 progress 54:9 project 33:9,10 33:22 36:10,12 36:13,20,25 promoting 4:15 proof 49:25
p	percent 36:13 53:18,20,21,23 54:2,3 period 23:20 person 13:8,14 24:9,13 personal 46:16 personnel 46:6 46:16 persons 12:8 43:10 petty 12:24 13:8,14,24 14:12,16,22 15:6,19,25 16:23 17:13 18:1,5,21 19:1 19:22,23,23 20:10 photo 8:2,3 picture 50:25 pictures 45:1,2 45:2 48:3 pierro 1:22 place 5:19 plan 54:18 platkin 50:4 please 2:3 8:12 12:12 35:8,9 37:22 43:12	possible 59:2 posted 11:2 26:13 28:6 30:9 31:22 34:6 posting 2:23 potential 47:2 potentially 44:12 practical 14:19 pramukh 4:16 5:6 predator 45:14 47:2,19 49:8 predators 44:21,22 present 52:17 presented 10:9 presenting 8:16 primary 53:18 54:4 principal 33:18 33:20	

proper 18:17	proud 38:20	put 15:12 36:20	57:5
properly 18:3	provide 10:21	37:1 40:20	reason 8:18
20:7	14:13 33:15	42:21 44:17	13:13 50:22
property 8:25	38:15 52:23	51:4	51:1 55:6
26:4 29:2,25	58:21	q	reasons 55:20
31:13 52:17	provided 2:22	quarter 53:22	56:2
54:23 55:11	58:23	54:2 58:24	recall 34:24
58:11	providing	question 13:7	40:17
proponent	33:23	17:25 21:24	receive 38:10
59:14	provisions	34:19 35:19	received 7:9
proportional	27:25	52:3 54:21	49:25 53:19,20
57:17	proximate	59:22	receives 13:24
propriety	59:17	questions 10:23	recent 55:14
56:14	proximity 54:1	21:7 45:5	recognize 4:10
prorated 22:16	public 8:25	quick 34:18,18	record 4:5
22:20,22	12:6,10,11	57:5	28:24 37:1
prosecutor	13:25 23:13	r	38:6 44:18
13:9,17,18	26:3,4,9,15	r 1:11,20 60:1	records 20:10
14:4 16:19	28:2,8 29:2,25	raised 53:13	52:21 53:2
17:5 19:21	30:5,11 31:13	rate 21:8,17,17	redo 10:13
50:3	31:18,24 34:2	22:5	reestablished
prosecutor's	34:8 43:11	rather 24:20	18:9
12:25 13:13	51:16 52:13	46:5	reestablishes
14:10,22 44:7	54:18,23 55:11	ratio 56:17	19:9
44:10,15 51:10	55:19 58:12,13	raymond 48:22	reflect 5:3 11:5
protect 43:17	60:4,13	49:2,14	regard 10:24
44:21,22 45:23	pull 55:6	reached 54:2	41:1
46:23 47:1,18	purchase 14:19	read 4:4 28:16	regarding
49:9	purpose 33:23	28:16,19,23	52:10
protecting	purposes 18:17	real 42:5	regards 17:25
47:15 48:20	pursuant 27:24	really 7:21	registered
49:7 51:18	purview 13:21	13:20 17:16	56:20
protocol 58:9	push 40:6	42:19,21,21	regular 1:3 3:7
			8:6 23:1 60:6

reimbursed 16:22 17:13	representatives 7:4	revenue 33:12 33:20	32:23 37:7,8
reinvent 41:15	request 12:9 43:10,16,19	review 18:19 20:12	role 25:4
reiterate 52:25	58:20	revolving 18:7	roll 2:2
related 58:10	requested 10:20	rich 5:17	romano 1:13
reliable 54:15	requests 52:18 52:20	rid 50:15	2:2,19,20 3:8
relief 5:9	required 26:12 28:5 30:8	right 7:13 11:4 11:7 13:15	4:1,2,6,9 6:8
relocated 44:10	31:21 34:5	16:2,22 17:8,9	7:2,3,6 8:1 9:8
remain 53:17	52:14	17:20 18:14,15	9:11 10:5,6,12
remaining 55:16	resident 52:9	19:11,20 22:24	10:17,23 11:7
remember 43:12	residents 53:3 53:24	23:16 28:25	12:2,3 13:4
remembered 39:1	resolution 2:23 3:2 8:18 10:9	29:4 39:11	16:7,10,15
remind 57:25	12:23	40:3,6,9 41:10	17:19 20:19
reorganization 58:2	resolve 54:9	46:20 47:5	21:3 25:25
replacement 8:12,17,18	resolved 5:24	52:7 57:9,15	26:1 27:7,17
replacing 10:8	respect 40:16	57:20	27:18 28:22
replenished 18:21 19:7	respectfully 43:16	rights 51:18	29:3,22,23
report 14:24 44:5,18 52:23	rest 25:20 28:20,23 55:8	roads 8:20,25 26:4 29:1,25	30:13 31:10,11
58:21	55:8 59:15	31:13 54:23	33:1,2 34:20
reported 1:25	restricted 30:2	55:1,10	35:2,7,12,14
reporting 54:19	result 53:21	roadways 26:7	37:11,12,21
reports 52:19 52:25 58:9	retain 5:14	robert 1:14	40:11 43:2,22
representative 35:4 42:3	retired 51:6	rodriguez 1:17 2:16,17 3:8,22	43:24 45:24
	returned 19:9 19:25	3:23 6:23,24	46:8,20 47:3,5
		10:1,2 11:23	47:9,11,13,17
		11:24 21:1	47:21,24 48:5
		25:21,22 26:20	48:11,16,19,23
		27:13,14 28:12	49:5,11,15
		29:18,19 31:6	50:9 51:23
		31:7 32:5,22	52:5 55:3
			56:12 57:21
			58:5
			rooney 30:4
			routine 54:19

rpr 1:25 60:3 60:13 rule 51:12 rules 18:21 running 38:21 <hr/> s <hr/> s 1:6,6,6,20,20 44:22 47:19 safety 55:19 58:12,13 salute 2:1 sample 53:9,10 54:10 saved 44:12 saw 44:5 56:24 saying 24:24 says 7:23 22:20 school 21:25 22:1,17 23:2 23:10,14 33:9 33:22 34:22 schools 9:2 22:1 33:15 35:3,4,6 36:24 science 33:8,15 33:21 secaucus 31:17 56:20 second 6:7,9 9:8,9,10 11:9 21:2,10,16 25:4 27:19 28:13 30:14	32:5 53:7 54:8 seconds 11:3 secured 33:11 33:20 security 33:24 see 17:16 35:7 59:2 seeing 26:17 32:1 34:10 seem 42:17 57:17,18 seems 40:5 sees 19:5 50:25 selecting 54:17 selfishly 5:12 selfless 6:2 send 44:25 sending 48:3 sends 17:3 sense 15:21 50:23 56:8 sent 3:3 10:21 46:1 separate 15:14 55:13 september 52:11,23 53:6 series 33:21 servant 51:17 serve 5:11,21 45:16 served 42:2 service 4:14,19 6:2 41:19	services 9:1 33:17 40:20 41:1,3 set 12:5 58:8 seven 53:21 54:7 several 14:16 52:13 sexual 44:21 45:13,14 49:8 49:8 share 58:14 shared 13:22 shari 1:25 60:3 60:13 sheriff 45:3,10 45:12 55:2 sheriff's 29:2 44:24 45:25 52:13 54:24 55:16,21 56:3 58:10 show 50:24 58:22 sick 45:19,22 signals 8:22,23 signature 60:12 significant 53:17 signs 8:22 26:7 simply 13:9 sincere 6:5 sir 46:3 48:10 48:15	site 53:22,25 54:3,8 57:17 sites 53:19 54:1 54:6 57:6,11 57:14 sitting 46:3,3 situation 41:7 41:10 43:20 small 14:17,18 snow 44:4,12 44:18 society 42:15 solutions 42:5 somebody 35:3 35:5 50:10 sorry 12:18 20:22 23:23 25:8 28:21 38:4 57:5,9 space 4:22 30:3 spaces 53:2 56:15 speak 43:18 49:22 55:5,22 56:4 speaker 12:20 20:19 43:14 47:9 48:17,19 48:24 49:12 51:25 56:11 57:22 58:4,8 speaker's 46:21 speakers 12:14 17:22,23 20:20
--	---	---	--

20:24 26:15 28:8 30:11 31:24 34:8 57:24 speaking 52:6 57:6,7 spend 14:25 19:3 spent 18:20 24:22 38:23,23 spirit 53:4 spiritual 4:22 sponsor 6:7,8 27:19 28:12 sponsored 27:20 sports 35:17 spotlight 40:9 spread 22:8 stack 49:9 50:14,21 59:13 stack's 59:17 staff 19:21 43:5 stalling 45:18 standards 20:15 star 3:4 start 43:15 started 53:11 starts 52:2 state 15:3 33:5 38:7,21 39:1 40:18 41:4 42:17 55:8,9	56:5,5 60:4,14 stated 10:10 statements 51:21 states 5:14 6:3 stay 24:16 stays 24:4,13 steps 54:19 sticky 18:2 stirring 4:14 stop 26:6 28:23 store 15:17 storied 5:13 strangle 50:25 street 44:11 strong 38:22 struggling 42:19 students 33:17 34:22 35:1,17 stuff 14:5 suarez 12:24 13:9,16 44:8 49:24 50:2,17 51:6,21 subject 15:2 submit 19:3,4 submitted 12:9 43:10 substance 46:15 substantial 46:5	successful 42:11 summer 22:2 superintendent 35:3 support 5:7 38:20 42:23 53:4,5 suppose 23:1,4 supposed 45:9 51:2,5,17 sure 17:17 18:2 18:16,20 19:13 20:7,14 23:6 41:1,3,12 suspend 45:17 suspended 45:9 suspension 45:20,22 sustained 44:24 45:3,8 swami 4:16 5:6 swaminarayan 4:11 system 38:7 41:15	takes 11:3 talk 42:22 48:18 talked 48:2 tapestry 5:18 7:23,24 teaching 47:20 team 42:13 technically 19:15 technology 9:2 33:15,16 35:4 35:6 tell 13:1 21:16 tens 19:14 term 13:2 terminated 45:9 thank 4:10 7:12 7:17,18,24 8:10,15 14:14 17:20 20:16,18 35:18,20 37:24 43:2,3,7,8,23 51:23 54:20 56:9 57:21 therefor 33:24 therewith 34:1 things 40:6 57:17 think 14:1,3,23 18:13 19:17 21:12 23:12,13 23:15,20 34:25
		t	
		t 1:20 60:1,1 tackle 42:17,21 take 25:4 47:16 48:8,13,14 taken 60:6	

<p>37:1 39:2,11 39:12,14 40:2 40:8,9,10 46:6 46:16 50:22 56:21,25 57:6 57:14,20 58:17 59:1,10,14 third 8:24 thorough 38:10 thousand 19:15 three 8:19 12:7 43:12 44:3 46:8,10,14,21 47:5,13,17,21 47:24 48:5,6 48:12,23 49:5 49:6,6,11 thursday 1:9 60:8 time 5:10 7:7 12:11 18:1 26:9,13 28:2,6 30:5,9 31:18 31:22 34:2,6 41:6,12 43:9 43:16,19 45:22 47:16 48:1 52:2 53:12 timely 43:10 54:15 times 51:14 today 44:3 52:10</p>	<p>today's 37:18 together 26:12 28:5 30:8 31:21 34:5 told 52:12 took 48:1 toon 22:24 23:9 top 42:2 43:1 total 18:10 21:9 36:13 totally 41:24 56:13,22 59:13 towards 41:14 town 31:16 45:12 59:15 towns 57:19 traffic 8:22,23 31:15 trailers 59:6,7 transcript 1:3 60:9 transfer 8:17 8:19 transferring 12:23 transparent 54:16 transportation 9:1 treatment 57:18 tremendous 7:19 42:24</p>	<p>trenton 49:21 50:24 trouble 42:7 true 4:24 truly 7:21 trust 52:11 53:4 truth 17:24 18:10,15,24 19:11,14 20:4 20:16 43:14,15 43:23 44:1 46:22 47:1,4,7 47:10,12,14,18 47:23 48:1,8 48:13,18,20,25 49:3,7,13,15 59:21 try 42:12 49:22 trying 41:15 tuesday 10:10 turn 8:11,13 turned 18:5 19:24 turnout 54:1 54:19 two 19:21 21:7 23:22 52:9 57:1,9 58:4 type 58:16 typo 10:14,15</p>	<p>u unanimously 26:22 30:16 32:7 34:15 unbelievable 24:18 under 13:15 55:10,16,17 undersheriff 52:12,23 understand 45:24 51:11,14 51:19 53:3 understood 52:16 unfortunately 40:23 union 16:19,25 17:4,5 53:18 53:21 59:4 united 5:14 6:3 university 48:21 use 7:16 13:20 14:3 15:19,25 16:24,25 40:15 58:24 used 13:3 17:16 19:25 using 13:25 14:2 utilized 18:3,16</p>
--	---	---	--

v	29:21 31:8,9 32:24,25 37:9 37:10 38:20 39:22 41:20,23 42:13 52:1,2,7 52:8 56:8 57:4 57:10	when's 18:1 william 1:16 willing 39:8 willow 30:3 win 42:15 woefully 38:7 woman 24:22 women 44:16 44:21 46:23 47:1 wonderful 7:22 45:25 word 49:4,4 words 5:6 28:22 work 5:9 14:9 41:19 52:16 working 41:14 45:17 worldwide 4:13 worship 4:23 written 12:9 43:10 wrong 23:13	57:10 year 10:8 18:8 18:8,25 19:16 20:1,1,3 22:3 23:2,11,14,15 23:25 24:5,6,9 24:10,13,14,16 24:25 44:12 53:15 year's 58:1 years 4:19 5:23 6:2 7:18 41:21 53:12 young 4:24 5:2 24:22 40:2 youth 5:1 38:14 38:18,24,25 39:4,6 41:4 42:9,19 yraida 1:14
w	want 4:4 7:15 8:4 13:4 14:9 14:21 15:11,17 23:18 36:8 38:5 40:25 43:24 44:3,17 49:3 50:14 51:3,4 52:24 54:24 57:25 wanting 59:9 wants 49:24 way 19:12 56:6 58:13 wayne 12:25 14:2 17:3,3 50:2,15 we've 27:20 36:24 39:14 42:4,16 55:13 weather 8:21 website 11:3 week 52:22 weeks 40:1 welcoming 4:21 went 16:19 56:23	y	z
	waiting 50:1 walked 56:23 walker 1:17 2:18 3:24,25 6:9,25 7:1 10:3 10:4 11:9,25 12:1 25:23,24 27:15,16 29:20	yeah 8:8 10:18 19:2,13,20 21:5,14 22:10 22:13,21 23:9 24:15,23 25:10 25:10 37:21 40:11 41:23 43:21 46:13	zeal 5:22 zoom 2:15