

HUDSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RE:

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

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O P E N S E S S I O N

Hudson County  
Administration Building,  
County Commissioners Chambers  
567 Pavonia Avenue  
Jersey City, New Jersey  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
4:30 p.m.

B E F O R E:

CERTIFIED ORIGINAL

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

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

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

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner

2 Aponte-Lipski.

3 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

5 Commissioner Cedeño.

6 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Here.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

10 Commissioner O'Dea.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hold on. Hold on,

14 Willie. You're going back. You were fine and now

15 you're also -- hold on, Willie. You're going back.

16 Let me know, Walt, when we can continue.

17 MR. BORACZEK: We can go.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay, go ahead,

19 Willie. Continue.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner Williams.

21 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Here.

22 THE CLERK: Chairperson Romano.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

24 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 1. 2026

25 Emergency Temporary Appropriations N.J.S.A.

1 40A:4-20.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Lipski.

3 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 2.

4 Resolution authorizing application for an acceptance  
5 of funds if awarded from New Jersey Transit  
6 Corporation Section 5310, FFY2025 program and  
7 requesting a combination of five larger  
8 gasoline/electric vehicles to be released to the  
9 County of Hudson January 1, 2026 through December  
10 31, 2026. \$1,205,000.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cedeño-Romano.  
12 Question, Bill O'Dea.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So this is  
14 leasing something going back to January 1. It's  
15 already the end of February. Can somebody explain?  
16 Are we already leasing them, and we're trying to get  
17 the money to pay for it? Who's on from Abe's?

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Who's on from Abe's  
19 office? We're not going to go forward with the  
20 meeting until we get somebody from Abe's office on.

21 MR. ANTUN: Hi, Commissioner. Lisa,  
22 she should be on or someone from her office. If  
23 not, uh, this is an application that we're  
24 submitting. It includes funding for those buses and  
25 also for the operation of the TRANSCEND program.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Abe, Bill's  
2 question is though, if we're applying now, why is it  
3 backdated to January when it's going to be March?

4 MR. ANTUN: Well, this is when I --  
5 this is when the item was presented to me. Again, I  
6 would have to -- I don't know if Lisa is on the -- I  
7 don't know. Walt, is Lisa on that she can -- is she  
8 on that she can be unmuted to explain it?

9 MR. BORACZEK: I don't see her unless  
10 she's not, unless it's one of the iPhones.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Jo-Ann, Jo-Ann  
12 Northgrave or Nicole, they're also on there.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can we come back  
14 to try to get one?

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hold it in -- hold  
16 it in abeyance until we get a response.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'll leave it on  
18 the agenda.

19 MR. BORACZEK: Wait, I got somebody.  
20 Go ahead.

21 MS. PRUSKO: Hello?

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Lisa.

23 MS. PRUSKO: Yes, I'm sorry. What  
24 was the, I didn't hear the full question.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: The question is in

1 regard to the leasing, it's an application that is  
2 in now. Bill's question was, it's dated from January  
3 1st, and it's going to be March. How does that  
4 work?

5 MS. PRUSKO: Was it for the four  
6 buses?

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

8 MS. PRUSKO: Okay. Let me just  
9 find -- let me just find out from Jimmy from  
10 TRANSCEND, and then I'll get back to you with an  
11 answer.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It was five  
13 buses. I guess Lisa, the question is, like, was the  
14 application, did they do a later date to submit an  
15 application? There is some -- there is some  
16 information on it. It just doesn't say that in  
17 the -- in the memo that just says there's a match  
18 money. I don't know if you're allowed to use your  
19 match money first.

20 MS. PRUSKO: Yeah, I think it was the  
21 end of January that we got it in. So I'll  
22 definitely find out from him.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, you know  
24 what it says here? It says the application is  
25 available on January 12th, and the closing date of

1 February 27th. So, obviously, it's probably not  
2 submitted yet because we got to approve the  
3 submittal of it. I just wanted to make sure that  
4 it's allowed to be retro to January 1st.

5 MS. PRUSKO: It is allowed. I know  
6 from New Jersey Transit it is, but I'll definitely  
7 double check on that.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay, thank you.

10 THE CLERK: And for the record,  
11 Commissioner Basalice is on.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

13 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 3.  
14 Resolution approving application for an acceptance  
15 of grant funds to the New Jersey Board of Public  
16 Utilities Clean Fleet EV and EV Charging Program,  
17 \$384,000.

18 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.  
19 Kopacz.

20 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz. Oh, I see  
22 he again. Kopacz and Cedeño.

23 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: No, that was  
24 Yraida.

25 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Thank

1 you, Fannie.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Lipski.

3 Sorry.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Abe, on this  
5 one, we talked a little bit in committee about  
6 whether or not the one for Lincoln Park would be in  
7 the compound or in a place available for the public.  
8 And then, if it's in a place available for the  
9 public, the employees that have the EVs would be  
10 given, like, a card so they don't have to pay.

11 But I would assume, even if it was in the  
12 compound, and maybe Denise could answer this, that  
13 employees would have to have a card. Otherwise,  
14 employees that have their own personal EV will just  
15 bring their own personal EV and not have to pay.

16 MR. ANTUN: Yeah. I mean, again, I  
17 think we can tailor the program so that employees  
18 that have an electric vehicle can access the  
19 charger. But is Denise on? Denise?

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, if you  
21 just could answer it, like, obviously, these things  
22 aren't coming for a while. Wherever you put it,  
23 right? Even if it's in the compound where only  
24 employees can go, then if it's in the compound where  
25 only employees can go, it should only be employees

1 electrically charging the County vehicle they have  
2 and not becoming a place where, Hey, I'm a County  
3 employee, I got my own electrical vehicle. Rather  
4 than me having to pay to charge it somewhere else, I  
5 can come charge it for free. That would be unfair  
6 to the public because the public pays.

7 MR. ANTUN: Bill, I don't disagree.  
8 I mean, that would only be used for County electric  
9 vehicles. You're absolutely right.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay, that's it.

11 MR. ANTUN: Okay.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can I ask a  
13 question about that? With electric vehicles, if I  
14 have a medium-sized electric vehicle and I have to  
15 recharge it, what would the retail price of that be?  
16 If I had to go to a recharging station and put my  
17 credit card in there, what would they charge me to  
18 reload my battery?

19 MR. ANTUN: You know, Commissioner,  
20 we would have to set that fee. Right now, we  
21 haven't set a fee. So, I mean, we would have to  
22 work with, you know, how much the electricity is.  
23 And obviously, there's an administrative charge for  
24 handling the processing of it. But I mean, we would  
25 have to come to the Board, and the Board would have

1 to establish the fee.

2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: And the other  
3 question I had, which I think would have to do with  
4 Bill's comment about the restriction and limitation  
5 on recharging an employee's vehicle, would be only  
6 County vehicles that were allotted to County  
7 employees. Is that Bill's statement, I think?

8 MR. ANTUN: That's correct.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But what  
10 about, is there not a public policy consideration  
11 for our employees who commute using their own  
12 personal vehicles under the auspices of energy  
13 conservation or promotion of EVs? Are we just  
14 totally precluding and foreclosing the idea that a  
15 County employee can bring his or her own personal  
16 vehicle that they commute to employment with us?  
17 Because you can't park anywhere around us anymore.  
18 We realize that.

19 But if a County employee drives his or her  
20 vehicle to work, it's going to be our policy that  
21 they're excluded from this program. Bill?

22 MR. ANTUN: If it's their personal  
23 vehicle, Commissioner, they would have to pay.

24 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. I'm not  
25 saying it's their spouse's vehicle or the kid's

1 vehicle, but their personal vehicle, they would have  
2 to pay. Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And Al, most of  
4 them, many of them, if not all of them, get vehicle  
5 allowances, right? Don't you still have vehicle  
6 allowances?

7 MR. ANTUN: That's correct.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So if they use  
9 the vehicle allowance against the -- and maybe it  
10 gets too complicated for you.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, they just  
12 get the allowance and they pay the bill.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: All right.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. Next.  
15 Go ahead, Will.

16 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 4.  
17 Resolution approving grant application acceptance  
18 funds if awarded from the New Jersey Division of  
19 Highway Traffic Safety 2026 Highway Sustained Safety  
20 Grant, October 1st, 2026 to September 30th, 2027.  
21 \$140,000.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yraida. Who  
23 seconded that? Celeste?

24 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Yraida and

1 Celeste. One second. Hey, Walt, is the County  
2 Executive's hand up or anything? Because I can't  
3 see on this.

4 MR. BORACZEK: No, I think Jonathan  
5 wants to say something though.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez is  
7 trying to get everybody's attention.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Is Carrie on?  
9 Okay. Walt, you've got to handle that with Carrie.  
10 Okay. Continue, Willie.

11 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 5.  
12 Resolution approving grant application acceptance of  
13 funds if awarded from the New Jersey Division of  
14 Highway Traffic Safety FY2027 Pedestrian Safety  
15 Grant, October 1st, 2026 to September 30th, 2027.  
16 \$80,000.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Carrie sponsored  
18 it. Who seconded that? I'll second it then. Go  
19 ahead.

20 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 6.  
21 Resolution authorizing the application of and  
22 acceptance of funds if awarded under the Edward  
23 Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program,  
24 administered by the Department of Law and Public  
25 Safety Division of Administration for the Hudson

1 County Multi-Jurisdictional Gang, Gun and Narcotics  
2 Task Force, July 1st, 2025 to June 30th, 2026.  
3 \$294,933.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano-Celeste.

5 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 7.

6 Resolution accepting grant funds from the New Jersey  
7 Division of Criminal Justice from the 2025 New  
8 Jersey State Body Armor Replacement Fund Program.  
9 Grant, \$65,366.37.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano. And who  
11 seconded that?

12 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I did.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 8.

15 Resolution amending Resolution No. 730-12-2025 to  
16 de-allocate and reallocate funds from the City of  
17 Jersey City to another grantee organization for the  
18 FY2026 Local Arts Program, January 1st, 2026 to  
19 December 31st, 2026. \$5,076.01.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Who sponsored that?  
21 Carrie?

22 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez, and who  
24 was seconded? Fannie?

25 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Williams.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Williams.  
2 Rodriguez and Williams.

3 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 9.  
4 Resolution approving a Non-fair and Open contract  
5 with the Election Systems and Software LLC for  
6 election site support, March 1st, 2026 to February  
7 20th, 2027. \$51,500.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cifelli, and who  
9 was that seconding?

10 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Williams.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cifelli and  
12 Williams.

13 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 10.  
14 Resolution approving a Non-fair and Open contract  
15 with Full Service Mailers Inc., for the provision of  
16 election-related service on behalf of the County  
17 Clerk Postal Computer and Mailing Services, April  
18 1st, 2026 to March 30th, 2027. \$80,000.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and who was  
20 that?

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Cifelli.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and Cifelli.

23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 11.  
24 Resolution amending Resolution 170-03-24 to exercise  
25 the option to renew a Voter Education Portal and

1 Election Night Reporting Service Contract for the  
2 year three of a non-fair and open contract with  
3 SCYTL. and to add additional funds May 1st, 2026 to  
4 April 30th, 2027. \$28,229.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So Celeste Williams  
6 and who was the second on that?

7 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I was first.

8 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 12.  
9 Resolution approving payment to Teel Technology for  
10 the forensic equipment and renewal of existing  
11 licenses and advanced UAV Forensic Training on  
12 behalf of the Prosecutor's office, March 25th, 2026  
13 to July 17th, 2027. \$41,709.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano and Lipski.

15 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 13.  
16 Resolution authorizing payment to J&G Cruise LLC as  
17 a result of the declaration of emergency for the  
18 pickup and delivery of salt for the Hudson -- for  
19 Hudson County, \$73,125.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and  
21 Rodriguez.

22 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 14.  
23 Resolution authorizing payment to Interstate Waste  
24 Services, Inc., as a result of declaration of  
25 emergency for snow removal of the Hudson Street,

1 Garden Street, and Park Avenue County-owned roadways  
2 in Hoboken, \$109,918.75.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Sponsored.

4 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. And  
6 Yraida. Romano-Lipski.

7 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 16.  
8 Approve Purchasing Agent's Awards, purchases made  
9 under State contracts.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So Rodriguez and  
11 Cedeño.

12 MR. DEPIERRO: Chairman and Willie, I  
13 think we skipped 15.

14 MR. ANTUN: We skipped 15, Willie.

15 THE CLERK: I apologize. Resolution  
16 No. 15. Resolution authorizing payment to  
17 Persistent Construction as a result of declaration  
18 of emergency snow removal on John F. Kennedy  
19 Boulevard, Jersey City, a County-owned roadway,  
20 \$349,800.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and  
22 Williams. Question, Billy.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So though  
24 obviously in the end, and I know that this -- we're  
25 paying a bill that was initiated, I guess, through

1 Jersey City, and they came up with 150K, and we came  
2 up with the rest. But I'll be honest with you. I  
3 was disappointed that Persistent wasn't able to do  
4 the entire Boulevard in Jersey City.

5 I spoke to Craig earlier, and I'm very  
6 grateful that the County is now engaging someone to  
7 do snow removal on the Boulevard. Do we know what  
8 that company is?

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Denise?

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I think it's  
11 starting Thursday, maybe.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Denise? Denise, is  
13 Denise on?

14 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: Can you hear  
15 me?

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. Go ahead now,  
17 Denise.

18 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: Hi. We're  
19 engaging in Persistent, Anthony Grano, and if he  
20 doesn't do it, it's going to be Interstate.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It could be --

22 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: Grano can't  
23 do Jersey City, so they already agreed with their  
24 scheduling, so we don't want to, you know, mess up  
25 with them. So we have two in place. If we can't use

1 Grano, we'll use Interstate.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. The only  
3 reason I ask is because I think that it's a matter  
4 of dollars and how much they can cover. And I  
5 remember during the last storm, because I raised the  
6 issue, and as a result of it, and Wally could attest  
7 to it, I think we got a lot more done with  
8 Persistent than they had originally represented that  
9 they were going to do.

10 Because if they're not competing with  
11 anybody, how do we know what they're charging and  
12 how much area they're covering per evening?  
13 Because, honestly, we thought we were going to get  
14 the entire City covered. The excuse that people  
15 from that southern end of the city were less  
16 cooperative in moving their vehicles, well then, you  
17 know, give us more notice, and we'll do more to make  
18 them to be there.

19 And obviously, you have the ability to tow  
20 vehicles out when, you know, that are there. And  
21 then you put the vehicles back. I observed that  
22 when they were doing the first part of it from  
23 Communipaw North, you know, I was able to observe  
24 that firsthand, the fact that there were still  
25 trucks towing out vehicles where they needed to be

1 towed.

2 So my concern is just getting the best  
3 bang for the buck. I think it's great. I applaud  
4 the Administration for utilizing this to do the  
5 removal. It's a no-brainer, especially in light of  
6 how bad this storm was. But I just want to make  
7 sure, like, when somebody's not competing with  
8 anybody, like, how do we know?

9 Like, I almost wish Denise, you had both  
10 of them. And then let's see how many streets each  
11 one gets done the first day. And then whoever gets  
12 the most streets done for the same price do the rest  
13 of the street.

14 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: So, Bill, so,  
15 you know, it's basically an hourly rate. So it's a  
16 12-hour span. So they do whatever they can do,  
17 depending on the area, if it's worse than others or  
18 cars or however they figure it out. I've been  
19 dealing, me and Norman have been doing this for like  
20 the last three weeks. And everybody's numbers that  
21 we've gotten, that we've gotten stuff from six  
22 haulers, everybody's numbers are the same. Maybe  
23 they're off by \$25.

24 So it's not like they're trying to gauge  
25 us, right? And also depends, the cost depends on

1    how many trucks.  So if they're using eight dump  
2    trucks and not six, so that's going to be more  
3    money.  So even though they could do, you know, with  
4    the blocks, sometimes less blocks, more equipment  
5    could be the same amount of money.  So it's  
6    basically an hourly rate based on the piece of  
7    equipment they're using and how many dump trucks  
8    we're using.  But the rates are the same.

9                    COMMISSIONER O'DEA:  But the vendors  
10   mark it up.  So a Vendor A can do it in four days  
11   and Vendor B takes five days, then we pay 20-percent  
12   more.  And I just remember because Kenny was the guy  
13   that said a guy quoted a number to do the entire  
14   city of Bayonne.  And then when an issue was raised,  
15   the number was cut, I think almost in half.  I don't  
16   want to speak for Kenny.  Kenny's on.  But I just  
17   remember having a brief conversation with Kenny,  
18   which kind of opened my eyes.

19                   COMMISSIONER CIFELLI:  At the  
20   beginning of every winter season, we put out a bid  
21   for rock salt, right?

22                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA:  Yes.

23                   DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO:  Yes.

24                   COMMISSIONER CIFELLI:  Okay.  So we  
25   don't put a bid out for snow plowing on County roads

1 at the beginning?

2 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: No, this is  
3 removal.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: This is removing  
5 snow. You only do that when you have a major storm.

6 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So we don't  
7 have a separate contract for that component?

8 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: How many  
10 trucks, how many tons or whatever? I don't know.

11 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: We used to  
12 have a contract for hauling, but the vendors that we  
13 used, the Jersey City used to have the same one as  
14 well, do no longer bid on it because their insurance  
15 and their borrowing requiring is skyrocketing cost.  
16 But the money that they're making since like this,  
17 since every 10 years we get a storm that's over 12  
18 inches of snow, we wouldn't do removal otherwise.

19 So if we do a two-year contract, we never,  
20 never use them in four years or five years. So, you  
21 know what I'm saying? So even with that, that's  
22 usually what happens, but we are going to only for  
23 equipment at a component of it, we're going to  
24 re-look at our bid, add additional stuff to it, so  
25 it's not just for one thing. Because we do have a

1 contract with Murray to do some stuff, but it's not  
2 on that scale. It's for like parks and crosswalks  
3 and like the pathways. It's not on the scale where  
4 you would need 20 pieces of equipment to remove  
5 snow. You got, that's -- that's like those big  
6 companies.

7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: The parks are  
8 very different from the County traffic highways.

9 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. Go  
11 ahead.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Willie.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Look, I just  
14 want to reiterate the point, which is -- which is a  
15 concern that, that we pay groups an hourly wait rate  
16 for 12 hours, and then we are at the mercy of how  
17 many blocks they claim they were able to do during  
18 that 12-hour period. And if, and if -- if there  
19 were two entities and one can do 30-percent more  
20 during the same 12-hour period, we wind up paying  
21 more if we don't use the one that can do more, more  
22 streets.

23 I'm not sure what the answer to it is, but  
24 again, I was told at the end of the day, we were  
25 going to get the entire Boulevard done in J.C. and

1 it stopped at Dwight. And I -- and they -- and the  
2 reasons given, I found -- I found them as not  
3 compelling.

4 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. How do  
5 you know in advance whether it's a 10-inch snowstorm  
6 or a 24-inch snowstorm?

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You know,  
8 they're doing it, they're doing it now. I mean,  
9 they're awarding me after the storm.

10 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: That's the  
11 inherent problem with it.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, they awarded  
13 it after the storm. They're awarding it now.  
14 That's when I went, they got the prices in the last  
15 couple of days.

16 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: Yeah.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. So let's --  
18 if we got any questions, we'll ask Denise offline  
19 again. Denise, send an e-mail out for what you just  
20 said to the Commissioners, okay.

21 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All I'm saying  
23 is I would award the contract to both. Let them  
24 both get started. I'll then defer to, I'll then  
25 defer to the experts, Wally and whoever else Denise

1 has in her shop to monitor how well, how effective,  
2 how quickly they're working. And if one is working,  
3 you know, more efficient than the other, then give  
4 them, you know, give them more of the work, you  
5 know, leave it up to you guys to do.

6 I just worried that when one guy has a  
7 contract and we're at his mercy. And when that guy  
8 originally told us with Jersey City, that it was  
9 going to cover this small area. And then at the  
10 end, he covered a much larger area and represented  
11 that we were going to get the whole city covered.  
12 And then we didn't. I'm just suspicious. That's  
13 all. I'm not, I maybe, maybe it's my nature, but I  
14 know when Kenny told me what Kenny had told me, that  
15 made me even more suspicious.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. All right.  
17 Continue, Willie. Follow up with that, please,  
18 Denise. Go ahead.

19 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 17.  
21 Purchases made under the Bergen County Cooperative  
22 Pricing System.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Cedeño.

24 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 18.  
25 Purchase is made under the Educational Service

1 Commission of New Jersey Pricing System, formerly  
2 known as the Middlesex Regional Educational Service  
3 Commission.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Cedeño.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And then we just  
6 asked a question from Jonathan. One of them is  
7 installing portable fencing to just get us an idea  
8 of well, one, where they were going to put, we'll  
9 store it, which he thinks is going to be closed up  
10 physically on site. And then two, the amount of  
11 time it takes to install and then remove the fencing  
12 since literally in some cases, they may have to put  
13 it up and take it down on a daily basis since it's a  
14 multi-purpose field that this fencing is for  
15 baseball, but also that same area is used for soccer  
16 and football.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Continue,  
18 Willie.

19 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 19.  
20 Purchases made under --

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Jonathan.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, no. We  
23 asked him to get us information. We don't need it  
24 now. We asked him in the committee. He's got to go  
25 back and talk about it. it's not needed for today.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay.

2 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 19.

3 Purchase is made under the Sourcewell National  
4 Co-op, formerly known -- formerly the National Joint  
5 Powers Alliance Cooperative Purchasing.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez-Cedeño.

7 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 20.

8 Approved Purchasing Agent's awards.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Who was that?

10 Rodriguez and Williams.

11 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 21.

12 Resolution amending Resolution 323-05-2023 to add  
13 additional funds for the purpose of payments for the  
14 2025 general election to A. Pensa Modern Movers on  
15 behalf of the Superintendent of Elections. June  
16 1st, 2023 to May 31st, 2028. \$91,598.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That was Lipski and  
18 Williams.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can we have the  
20 superintendent available for Thursday?

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah. I'm going to  
22 put out an e-mail. We're going to have briefings  
23 tomorrow, broken up into three different groups with  
24 times. I'll send out an e-mail afterwards, okay?  
25 We'll get a briefing then. And then we're going to

1 come to the meeting Thursday also.

2 THE CLERK: Okay. Resolution No. 22.  
3 Resolution authorizing a non-exclusive access  
4 agreement with Pilot Fiber LLC, granting permission  
5 to install telecommunication facilities along and  
6 over the County right-of-ways.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So that was like  
8 Rodriguez and Cedeño. What's that? Okay. Romano  
9 O'Dea then?

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Romano-O'Dea.

11 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 23.  
12 Resolution authorizing contributions to the Omelly  
13 Dominguez Foundation. \$250.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

15 THE CLERK: I will use the prior  
16 sponsors for the ordinance for adoption. I will now  
17 turn it over to the Administration.

18 MR. ANTUN: I have no additional  
19 items.

20 THE CLERK: We have three additional.  
21 Resolution No. 24. Resolution supporting the New  
22 Jersey Assembly Bill 1743 requiring the law  
23 enforcement to reveal the facial identity during  
24 certain public interactions and to present  
25 sufficient identification prior to arrest or

1     detaining person.

2                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Board as a  
3 whole?

4                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

5                   THE CLERK: Resolution No. 25.  
6 Resolution supporting New Jersey Assembly Bill 4071  
7 codifying the Attorney General's Directive  
8 strengthening trust between law enforcement and  
9 immigrant communities.

10                  COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Again, I'll  
11 sponsor unless it's Board as a whole.

12                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.

13                  THE CLERK: Resolution No. 26.  
14 Resolution supporting New Jersey Assembly Bill 4070  
15 establishing the Privacy Protection Act concerning  
16 the collection and sharing of personal information.

17                  COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Board as a  
18 whole.

19                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I think Craig is  
20 trying to come on.

21                  THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, I have  
22 nothing further.

23                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Hold on. Hold on.  
24 Craig's on. Craig, go ahead.

25                  COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Chairman, can

1 you hear me?

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. Go ahead,  
3 Craig.

4 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Thank you.  
5 Thank you for giving me two minutes. Chairman and  
6 the Commissioners, I know the Chairman just  
7 mentioned that we'll get on a conference call  
8 tomorrow with the segments of the Commissioner Board  
9 to have the School of Technology hierarchy explain  
10 the predicament of the budget.

11 I know I spoke to several Commissioners  
12 today. It is on the administration, so we know that  
13 when I met with all the Mayors on Friday, my goal  
14 was to get on the phone and meet with some of the  
15 Commissioners Saturday and Sunday. And then, you  
16 know, we lost Sunday, Saturday into the storm, so I  
17 apologize for the delay.

18 The other thing is I hope to have a  
19 document to give the Board ASAP, whether it's going  
20 to be an overall draft or a summary or the whole  
21 audit. I'm pushing, spoke to Commissioner O'Dea a  
22 couple hours ago, and I told him that I'm pushing to  
23 have that complete audit, forensic audit, in the  
24 hands of every Commissioner before tomorrow.

25 I understand that this is a hot topic that

1 Commissioners get calls on, and rightfully so. It's  
2 the obligation of the administration of the school  
3 to quantify and qualify, you know, the circumstances  
4 to what is in front or what the public is concerned  
5 about. So full transparency, forensic audit, that  
6 was done on a recommendation of the County  
7 Superintendent School Organization Board. I can't  
8 even tell you the name of the -- of the auditing  
9 firm, but they kept, again, they came from the  
10 statewide president or commissioner president.

11 So we will have as much information to the  
12 Board, if not tonight, tomorrow morning, and then  
13 the hierarchy of the school will be open for any and  
14 all questions tomorrow.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. Can we  
16 reserve the right to have them available Thursday to  
17 go to closed session? We do that at the beginning  
18 of the meeting?

19 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Sure. Sure.  
20 Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Thank  
22 you, Craig. Thank you for doing that, for  
23 clarifying, you know, to us.

24 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Yeah, I know  
25 there's going to be Commissions -- I know there's

1 questions, and I spoke to a very passionate  
2 Commissioner Kopacz, a couple hours ago. You know,  
3 so we believe that any questions you have, we should  
4 have some, or the board, the school should have some  
5 real solid answers. So I encourage every Board  
6 Member to, you know, read the document that you'll  
7 have, and then, you know, dig into whatever  
8 questions you need to ask.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Craig, thank you  
10 too, for giving us that heads up, because from what  
11 I've heard from, you know, from not only your  
12 sources, though, from Dominic and all, how much of a  
13 hole that we were dug into.

14 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Yeah, it's  
15 something that's just not related to, like, the  
16 increase that every one of us know about health  
17 benefits. You know, we all, every town and state is  
18 suffering that health benefit pain, but there are  
19 things that, you know, we could talk about  
20 legislatively. I spoke to Commissioner O'Dea, and  
21 some other ways where we can think out of the box,  
22 where we can accomplish, you know, get more for a  
23 bang for a buck, because what we're presenting is  
24 not the answer. We have to come up with some  
25 solutions.

1                   COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Absolute  
2 ly agree.

3                   COMMISSIONER BASELICE: County Exec,  
4 Bob Baselice. How are you? I just want to say,  
5 again, every time we come within a budget shortfall  
6 anywhere, it's our duty, all of our duties, to try  
7 and help the sister agencies out. I tried doing  
8 that last year with Secaucus.

9                   COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Yep.

10                  COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I'll try  
11 doing that this year, and I'll continue to try to do  
12 that. We have to tighten our belts. We have to  
13 figure out different ways of doing it, but it's all  
14 of our responsibility, and we definitely have to sit  
15 down, and the transparency is the best thing. I  
16 mean, I know that we advocated for money to come in  
17 from the legislature to fill a hole, and now we are  
18 seeing some more.

19                  If we had a better understanding, and I  
20 think that this meeting tomorrow and Thursday will  
21 be about understanding of where we're at, maybe we  
22 can try and collectively come together with coming  
23 to fill some of those holes, whether it be through  
24 grants, et cetera, or different ways, but  
25 collectively come together and fill the gaps,

1 because some of the municipalities, we get  
2 double-banged. We're going to get hit with the  
3 taxes. If this goes through, we get hit with this,  
4 and then some are not as fortunate to have the  
5 funding when it comes to Abbott Districts. Abbott  
6 Districts had the ability to put in place additional  
7 schooling and funding.

8 And again, I'm not saying we all need  
9 everything we can get. I'm pro-Hudson County with  
10 everything we do. If we know what we have to deal  
11 with up front, I think we can all deal with it in a  
12 better way, and that's why I appreciate you calling  
13 me and letting me know that we're going to get  
14 something up front to look at.

15 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Yeah, you  
16 know, Commissioner, until we were able -- and again,  
17 not for this call, but for maybe Thursday, until the  
18 Administration was able to look under the hood of  
19 that school, these things were kept in the  
20 underbelly of the whole school district.

21 So until a forensic audit, until people  
22 had no boundaries, when I say no boundaries, until  
23 we did the due diligence that every one of us should  
24 do, and with the transparency there, you know,  
25 again, I said this to Bill O'Dea earlier, you know,

1 every question is a great question here, because if  
2 we, meaning the schools, can't substantiate why  
3 we're at where we're at, well, then we need to deal  
4 with that. But for transparency, there was a whole,  
5 the handcuffs were taken off the administration in  
6 that school, and with the forensic audit, I don't  
7 know if an aide can speak to the history, maybe  
8 Billy and Al Cifelli can.

9 You know, when you ask for a forensic  
10 audit of yourself, that's to me, that is taking that  
11 step that says, Listen, you know, we work for the  
12 public, and whatever is not doing well; well, we  
13 damn well better do it better. So more to follow,  
14 but thank you for taking the time.

15 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Thank  
16 you.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Okay.  
18 Continue, Willie.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So my question  
20 is, Mr. Chairman, so who's going to schedule it for  
21 tomorrow? Who's asking?

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I'm going to --  
23 it's going to be two, three, four. I broke it into  
24 groups. It's you, Al, and Celeste into one group.  
25 It's Kenny, Yraida and Carrie in another group, and

1 it's me, Fanny, and Bobby in another group. I got  
2 you. What do you like, four o'clock or three  
3 o'clock?

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, I don't  
5 know. Can we all check now?

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah, and then  
7 we're keeping the groups together, so we just get  
8 the times. So I don't go crazy moving people  
9 around.

10 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Four  
11 o'clock is better for me.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay, is that good  
13 for you, Billy?

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, but what  
15 group is you --

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yraida is with  
17 Kenny, because Kenny goes -- Kenny doesn't get out  
18 of school till three, so I figured, and you get out,  
19 you work too so, and I know.

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: I have to be  
21 in Superior Court in Paterson until four o'clock, so  
22 I can do it on the phone, but I'm only going to get  
23 out at four o'clock. We're doing things. You know  
24 what? You, Billy, and then Celeste, definitely four  
25 o'clock is the best.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's good for  
2 me.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. And then  
4 Carrie, Yraida, and Kenny, I would think three  
5 o'clock is good. Is that good, Yraida?

6 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: I could  
7 squeeze it in.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Good. So that's  
9 you guys, and Fanny and Bobby, us three at two  
10 o'clock then?

11 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Okay. That's  
12 fine.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Let's get those  
14 Zoom links or whatever they are out.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Walter's going to  
16 set it up after the meeting with Carol.

17 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Fanny, can we  
18 do it -- fanny and Anthony, can we do 1:30? Because  
19 I have a Gateway meeting at 2:30.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. All right.  
21 All right. You okay with that, Fanny?

22 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yeah, that's  
23 fine.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay, is that good,  
25 guys?

1                   COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, 1:30,  
2 three and four, that works.

3                   COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Three  
4 o'clock, yes.

5                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All right. And  
6 then we'll get Carol, Carol will memorialize it with  
7 Walter to give us a Zoom link, and then we'll be on  
8 the way to the races. And then Thursday, we'll  
9 have --

10                  MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, so that,  
11 you know, a lot of back and forth here. If Carol  
12 can send the times for each group, that would help  
13 us in setting things up.

14                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah, I'm going to  
15 do it right after the meeting because I just got the  
16 call right before we were going to start at four.  
17 So, I just put it together.

18                  MR. ANTUN: All right. Okay. All  
19 right.

20                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Continue,  
21 Willie.

22                  THE CLERK: I have nothing further,  
23 Mr. Chairman.

24                  CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Any other  
25 Commissioners? Patty McCarthy?

1 MR. MCCARTHY: I am all good there.  
2 Thank you, Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Any directors?  
4 Going once? Okay. Motion, Willie.

5 THE CLERK: Motion to adjourn?

6 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.

7 THE CLERK: All in favor? We are  
8 adjourned.

9 (Whereupon the proceeding is then  
10 concluded at 5:13 p.m.)

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

I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No.  
30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New  
Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein  
are from the notes taken by me of a Caucus Meeting  
of the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners,  
held on Tuesday, February 24, 2026; and that this is  
a correct transcript of the same.



SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR

A NOTARY PUBLIC of the

State of New Jersey

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Commission Expires 2/4/27

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