

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, March 26, 2026
4:30 p.m.

B E F O R E:

CERTIFIED COPY

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:

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

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THE CLERK: Commissioner Aponte-
Lipski.

COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Here.

THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.

THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Here.

THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Here.

THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Here.

THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

THE CLERK: Commissioner Williams.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Here.

THE CLERK: And Chairman Romano.

CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here.

THE CLERK: Stand for the Pledge of
Allegiance.

(Flag Salute.)

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

Posting notice of Resolution No. 8-1-2026

1 on the County Commissioner's Bulletin Board, First
2 Floor, Administration Building Annex, Jersey City,
3 New Jersey.

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

7 May I have a motion to approve the minutes
8 of the Caucus Meeting of February 24th, 2026, and
9 the Regular Meeting of February 26th, 2026?

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Baselice and
11 Cedeño.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner
13 Aponte-Lipski.

14 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

16 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

18 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

20 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

22 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

1 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Williams.

3 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.

4 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: The next order of
7 business is additional discussion on today's agenda,
8 and I turn it over to the Administration.

9 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.

11 MR. ANTUN: May I proceed?

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.

13 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, at
14 Tuesday's meeting, the Board took no action on
15 several of the Purchasing items, and they asked us
16 to review and see how we can proceed for the next
17 two weeks. I have several resolutions that I would
18 like to bring to the Board's attention.

19 The first one that I have is a replacement
20 for No. 15, which is the purchases made under the
21 State contract, and we have the following items that
22 we would like the Board to consider. From Hoffman
23 Services, replacing the vehicle lifts for \$88,529.
24 Director D'Alessandro indicated the necessity of
25 that on Tuesday.

1 We also have the gasoline, \$40,000, broken
2 down between Meadowview at \$15,000 and Motor Pool at
3 \$25,000; WB Mason office supplies, \$10,000; and
4 Xerox copier supplies, \$10,000, for a total of
5 \$148,529.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Commissioner
7 Rodriguez? Carrie?

8 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You have no
10 office supplies?

11 MR. ANTUN: Yes. It's just the
12 general \$10,000.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm just curious
14 why that wouldn't wait two weeks. You wait until
15 there's like no office supplies yet?

16 MR. ANTUN: You know, it may be more
17 than office supplies.

18 MS. MORO: It is.

19 MR. ANTUN: Is the Purchasing Agent
20 here?

21 MS. MORO: Yes.

22 MR. ANTUN: Christine, can you just
23 explain what that is?

24 MS. MORO: All the departments and
25 the divisions order as-needed for all the office

1 supplies that they need. That can include pens,
2 notepads, the extent is, you know, paperclips,
3 folders, anything that they may need to run their
4 day-to-day in the office. And we're down to about
5 \$2,000 two days ago when I checked the account. So
6 if we don't replenish that, then no one's going to
7 be able to order office supplies for the next two
8 weeks.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Carrie, are you
10 okay with this?

11 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.
13 Kopacz.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second, Carrie.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I have a couple
16 more questions.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because it's on
19 the agenda now, I can ask more questions. So in an
20 annual year, how much is spent on the line of
21 supply?

22 MS. MORO: For all of office
23 supplies?

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, those two
25 vendors, in an average year, how much are possibly

1 spent on?

2 MS. MORO: Don't have the total at my
3 disposal at this moment.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Do you think
5 that would be a reasonable question someone might
6 ask?

7 MS. MORO: Yes, that's fine. I
8 didn't know that I was going to be asked how much we
9 spend yearly on that line item.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Isn't it a
11 logical question someone would ask, especially when
12 we're one half budget issues that we're dealing
13 with? How about other issues we've been on the
14 agenda? They're asking, is it 100,000? Is it
15 200,000? Is it 15,000?

16 MS. MORO: It's over 200,000 a year.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's a lot of
18 money.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Chris, also, can
20 you explain to me that that covers the maintenance
21 and supplies for the copy machines?

22 MS. MORO: That's for the Xerox.
23 Yeah, that covers all the parts of it. It includes
24 our lease. It includes all parts of the Xerox
25 leases that we have across the entire County.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: My comment is,
2 as we are told, we are moving to a paperless
3 society. Looks like we're spending a heck of a lot
4 of money on paper. Those numbers should be coming
5 down, right? Documents get put in. They're not
6 made copies. I think it's something you should just
7 overall look at what those things are. People just
8 not doing it because that's more work. Are people
9 not now scanning and saving documents that way?
10 Instead, they're just making copies and filing the
11 books.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Abe, do you have an
13 answer or do you want me to move on?

14 MR. ANTUN: I took that as a comment,
15 not as a question.

16 THE CLERK: I'm going to take the
17 roll call on that placement.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner
20 Aponte-Lipski.

21 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

22 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

23 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

25 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.
2 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.
3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.
4 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.
5 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.
7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
8 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Williams.
10 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.
11 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.
12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.
13 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, the next
14 item that I have is for the Middlesex Cooperative.
15 And there is one recommendation, and that's from
16 Musco, \$650,000 for the lighting in Gregg Park.
17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Romano.
18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, now that
19 it's been brought to our attention that in many
20 cases, little or no oversight occurs on contracts
21 done through co-ops, who will be the staff person
22 assigned to oversight the project, review, review
23 the bids, make sure if it's, I don't know, six
24 inches of turf, it's six inches and not four inches.
25 Who now is going to be the individual

1 assigned to this in light of the fact that we know
2 there have been instances where we did not receive
3 what we were told we were going to receive from
4 co-op contractors.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: If I may comment on
6 that. After having a meeting with the County
7 Executive, he was in the process of creating a
8 construction manager position. Abe, would like to
9 comment on that?

10 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, it was
11 portrayed to me that this is a lighting project.
12 We're just installing lights for a field, but I'll
13 defer to Director DeFilippo.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And again, it
15 could be the density or the amount of illumination
16 that a bulb has. But in any instance, there can be
17 something where what you get, what you pay for is
18 not what you get. I'll use an example of how many
19 inches of soil or turf, but you can get a light
20 that's an inferior brand of light that's installed
21 there. That could cost half of the price. And if
22 there's a hundred lights, and each one you save \$100
23 on, even though you charge us \$200 on, that's
24 \$10,000.

25 DIRECTOR DEFILIPPO: Commissioner,

1 I'm work with engineering to make sure that
2 everything that's in the scope is correct and
3 accurate. I mean, other than that --

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I mean, as long
5 as it's someone who has the expertise to be able to
6 do it, I can't discuss that in the committee over
7 there. You can't ask, you know, you don't ask a
8 construction worker to teach in a calculus class.
9 And you don't ask a calculus teacher to analyze the
10 type of materials and the depth of materials, how
11 much material is put into a box.

12 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay.
13 Question, Al.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But when we put
15 this out, we put out a proposal, whether it's done
16 by a cooperative like Middlesex County or Bergen
17 County or a state contract, but there are
18 specifications, correct? And who does the
19 specifications on our end?

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: The engineer,
21 wouldn't it be? Our engineers.

22 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Well, so if
23 somebody says we need lighting for a baseball field,
24 you just don't say we need lighting. You say
25 specifically what -- what illumination level you

1 need, where it's going to be. I mean, there's a
2 design and there's a specification, correct? Right.
3 So doesn't the engineer oversee that when the
4 contract gets it?

5 I mean, the contracts issued on the basis
6 of those specifications as it's being installed. I
7 think this is what Bill is saying as it's being
8 installed, who oversees the project?

9 DIRECTOR DEFILIPPO: When we go for
10 the project, we speak to like Musco, who's a company
11 that does it. We explain to them, you know, the
12 situation, you know, where the field is. We do a
13 site visit. They give us their proposal, their
14 specs on what is needed to because with sports
15 lighting, I guess there's different angles.

16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Sure.

17 DIRECTOR DEFILIPPO: Right? So, you
18 know, they give us the specs and the proposal.

19 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: They give you
20 their specs and our engineer reviews their specs to
21 see whether it's copacetic.

22 DIRECTOR DEFILIPPO: Yeah. Well,
23 moving forward --

24 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Well, as it's
25 being installed, it's supposedly being installed

1 according to the specs approved. Who oversees the
2 installation to make sure that those specs are
3 physically being installed? I mean, who in our end?

4 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: I think,
5 Chairman --

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Craig.

7 COUNTY EXECUTIVE GUY: Chairman, I
8 think either Dave or Abe or Alberico should explain
9 to the Commissioners what these -- how these
10 policies and procedures are expected to change. So
11 that might help the Commissioner's questions,
12 especially the ones that Commissioner Cifelli is
13 asking now.

14 So, Dave or Abe, please share with them
15 what we spoke about today.

16 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Abe, let me
17 know what you think about baseball lighting. You're
18 a Met fan.

19 MR. ANTUN: As Director DeFilippo
20 stated, we will have the County Engineer review the
21 specs and inspect the work to make sure that it is
22 done according to the specifications. And going
23 forward, we will be utilizing the County Engineer to
24 provide a cost estimate and to oversee the
25 specifications preparation so that we can then

1 prepare a document that we can either bid or if
2 we're going to use a co-op, then we would go to the
3 co-op. We would provide them with the specs and
4 then we would review the quantities, the estimate
5 and -- and to make sure that what we're getting is
6 what we're paying for.

7 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But I think
8 Bill's question is the second phase of that, the
9 construction or installation phase. Assuming that
10 the specs meet the engineers criteria and the
11 professional criteria, what's ever out there in the
12 marketplace for the experts. Let's take this
13 example of a baseball field illumination.

14 They have recommendations. There's an
15 industry standard, I'm sure. Our engineer looks at
16 it, says looks okay. We put that out. But I think
17 the second phase is the actual construction
18 installation. And Bill's question is, if they say,
19 Yes, we're awarding you the contract based upon
20 these specs, who on our end monitors the
21 installation to make sure that the physical
22 improvements are installed in accordance with those
23 specs? Is that, Bill? Is that what you're asking?

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Correct.

25 MR. ANTUN: And for this particular

1 project, someone from the engineer's office will be
2 assigned to do that. But going forward, we would be
3 and it'll be on a case-by-case basis based on the
4 recommendation of the engineer. But we will have a
5 construction manager on site for projects that
6 require complicated management because of the moving
7 parts so that we can check quantities and that
8 things are being delivered appropriately.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So along those
10 lines, is there some kind of a criteria that we use
11 internally that projects above \$100,000 or \$200,000
12 require a quote, construction manager? And if so,
13 who is our construction manager? Do we do that on
14 an ad hoc basis or do we have somebody already on?

15 MR. ANTUN: We're going to do a
16 process to have a list of on-call construction
17 managers. We don't have one yet.

18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Okay. Thank
19 you.

20 MR. ANTUN: And this way, you know,
21 just like we do the on-call architects and the
22 engineers, same thing with the construction manager.

23 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: You'll have a
24 standby consultant?

25 MR. ANTUN: Correct.

1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But we don't
2 have that now?

3 MR. ANTUN: No, not the construction
4 manager. But it'll be, to answer your question,
5 instead of setting a threshold, the engineer will
6 give me a recommendation and say, This one requires
7 a construction manager.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Because of the
9 complexity?

10 MR. ANTUN: Right. Right. This one
11 is not that complicated. We can just have someone
12 from our office take a look to see what's going on.
13 It'll be on a case-by-case basis.

14 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Two-thirds of
15 a million dollars.

16 MR. ANTUN: Well, no.

17 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: To me, that's
18 complicated.

19 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, it's something at
20 that magnitude, yes.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And the advantage
22 is you're not having a County employee doing it,
23 you're having this construction manager on call.
24 So that's advantage.

25 MR. ANTUN: Yes. You know, there's

1 nothing wrong with a County employee if they have
2 the qualifications. The concern that Commissioner
3 O'Dea had is that at that time, there was no one
4 qualified to really look at what was going on there.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Correct. And
6 the reality of it is, to use an analogy, if you
7 were -- if you put -- if you're supposed to put
8 eight inches of asphalt, and you only put five
9 inches of asphalt, the quality of that road could be
10 damaged, hampered, ripped up sooner rather than
11 later, because you didn't do eight inches of
12 asphalt. And unless somebody was there to check to
13 make sure it was eight inches of asphalt, who the
14 hell would know?

15 A park worker doesn't know, doesn't go out
16 and measure how much asphalt's being put in, or how
17 much the contract even says the asphalt's being put
18 in. It doesn't seem like a big difference. If you
19 look at wear and tear on roads, that is a big
20 difference.

21 MR. ANTUN: I agree.

22 THE CLERK: The vote on that,
23 Chairman?

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, please.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner

1 Aponte-Lipski.

2 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

4 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

6 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

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 Williams.

16 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

19 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, the next
20 one that I have is the regular Purchasing Agent
21 award. The first item that we have on the agenda on
22 that particular resolution is to extend the contract
23 with Capozzi to maintain the overhead doors.
24 There's no dollar amount. They've agreed to the
25 2.5-percent increase.

1 The second item is Bugging Out Pest
2 Control, and we reduced the amount, so we're now
3 requesting \$10,000.

4 And then the last item that I have is
5 requesting additional funds for Atlantic Salt for
6 \$240,000 so that we can pay the bill for the salt
7 that we purchased during the snowstorm.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. What was the
9 first one you said again?

10 MR. ANTUN: Capozzi, overhead doors,
11 maintenance of the overhead doors. That's just
12 extending the contract for the second year.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: For the same amount
14 with the 2.5-percent increase?

15 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Right,
16 the 2.5-percent increase.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Call the
18 roll.

19 THE CLERK: We need a sponsor and a
20 second.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Cedeño-Romano.

22 THE CLERK: Thank you. Commissioner
23 Aponte-Lipski.

24 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

1 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.
2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.
3 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.
4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.
5 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.
6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.
7 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.
8 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No. I'm going
10 to vote no. I think these items could have waited
11 two weeks.
12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
13 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: No.
14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Williams.
15 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.
16 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.
17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.
18 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, the final
19 item that I have, there is no change to the
20 resolution, but I wanted the -- it was brought to my
21 attention that the award letter that came from HUD
22 had the wrong address and it did not contain the
23 recipient's unique entity identifier. So that's why
24 you received the replacement.
25 THE CLERK: We've already had a

1 sponsor and a second on that one and a vote.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Call it.

3 THE CLERK: I have one additional. It
4 will be Resolution 28. It's a resolution in support
5 of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer,
6 a/k/a LGBTQ individuals in Hudson County and
7 affirming the County's commitment to equality,
8 dignity, and non-discrimination and recognizing the
9 importance of the LGBTQ Advisory Task Force.

10 I need a sponsor and the second -- is the
11 Board as a whole, right?

12 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

13 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioner Basalice.

15 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

17 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

19 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

21 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

25 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Williams.

2 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Chairman, I have a
6 proclamation. I think there's somebody here that
7 can represent.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, please. Bring
9 them up.

10 MS. DAVIS: Everyone, I'd like to
11 introduce you to Michelle Dupey who is our chair of
12 our LGBTQ task force. It is the year anniversary of
13 the formation of this County task force. And I'm
14 gonna ask Michelle to accept this.

15 MS. DUPEY: Hi, thank you for
16 acknowledging our community. Just to give you a
17 little background because I only know two
18 Commissioners personally. I used to work for county
19 government back in 1988 to 2000, so it's a while.
20 And I worked in the Januszewski administration as
21 assistant communications director and then went over
22 to the legislative branch as a public information
23 officer.

24 And during that time, people may not be
25 aware, but in 1992, Asbury Park had its first gay

1 pride festival. So I went to County Executive and
2 said, I'll write the proclamation if you'll present
3 it at the first festival. He said, No, you can
4 write it and you can present it. So I did on June
5 6th, 1992. And then it occurred to me, he came out
6 in acceptance of the community statewide, but he
7 couldn't do it in Hudson County. And I always
8 thought that was really funny.

9 So with that in mind, I appreciate the
10 fact that Hudson County government is now
11 full-fledged coming out in force in supporting the
12 LBGTQ community as part of the advisory task force
13 that I now chair. And with that in mind, I would
14 like to appreciate someone who can't be here because
15 of work commitments, Hannah Barchez(ph), I hope I'm
16 saying her last name right. She's the one that
17 actually wrote the resolution and was her idea.

18 Because when I took the chairmanship, I
19 went, Oh my God, and I have to like lead an
20 organization. We had to find our footing as the
21 organization would develop. So I was forgetting
22 what I used to do for a living. And therefore she's
23 the one that really suggested it. And I'm really
24 glad she did. And that's why you just voted on it.
25 So with that in mind, thank you very much. And we

1 hope to be able to give you certain advice that will
2 be helpful to county government and the community
3 itself.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Jenny.
5 Do you or Craig wanna speak on behalf of the
6 executive branch?

7 MS. DAVIS: We also have a
8 proclamation from the County Executive, but I'll
9 save everyone's ears reading the whole thing.
10 Michelle is very capable of reading herself. I will
11 just say that we are delighted that this task force
12 is still going. I know sometimes when you stand up
13 task force with volunteers who don't get paid,
14 sometimes they fizzle out quickly. And this one's
15 not fizzling out.

16 If you can tell from her spunk and her
17 pizazz, we are not fizzling this one out anytime
18 soon. And we are delighted, delighted that we're at
19 one year anniversary and look forward to spending
20 many more anniversaries together.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Oh, Jenny, take a
22 picture with the Board, please. We'll come down.

23 (Photo opportunity.)

24 MS. DAVIS: We should correct the
25 record. Michelle knows three Commissioners

1 personally. She also knows Bob Baselice personally.
2 So can we correct that record?

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: One second before
4 you continue. Commissioner Rodriguez, go ahead.

5 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I would like
6 to make a motion to pull No. 19.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Second.

8 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Please.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. A motion by
10 Commissioner Rodriguez to pull No. 19 on the agenda.
11 Seconded by Commissioner O'Dea. For the benefit of
12 the Board, No. 19 is a Purchasing Agent award. 19
13 what, Caridad? Sorry.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: 19, the entire
15 thing?

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: 19 as a whole.

17 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: 19 as a
18 whole.

19 MR. ANTUN: Can we at least consider
20 the bugging?

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Excuse me. Talk
22 up. We couldn't hear you.

23 MR. ANTUN: I said, can we at least
24 consider leaving the bugging for \$10,000 on? That's
25 for the pest control.

1 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: All right,
2 Abe. Leave the bugging on.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. So now we do
4 that. It's going to be --

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I make a motion
6 to amend 19, okay? That's what I meant. Make a
7 motion to amend 19, remove two items, leaving only
8 the Bugging Out.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: On the agenda.
10 It would be 19B. 19B stays on.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So leave 19A and
12 19C.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Call a vote on the
14 adjustment.

15 MR. ANTUN: Leave 19B on the agenda.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's what I
17 said. Delete 19A. Delete 19C. Leave only 19B.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's for the next
19 meeting. You do that, bring it back.

20 Okay. Call on a vote.

21 THE CLERK: On the amended
22 replacement, Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

23 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

25 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.
2 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.
3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.
4 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.
5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.
6 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.
7 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.
8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.
9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
10 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Williams.
12 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.
13 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.
14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes.
15 THE CLERK: According to the policy
16 set by the --
17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead. Time
18 out. Go ahead.
19 MR. ANTUN: Excuse me, Madam Clerk.
20 THE CLERK: Go ahead.
21 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I forgot to
22 mention, it's not an agenda item. I forgot to
23 mention Mr. Sisk from the community college and the
24 two coaches. I know one of them is on Zoom. You
25 wanted them to come to the --

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah. Just for the
2 benefit, let them do it.

3 MR. ANTUN: They have to go back.
4 I'm sorry about that.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's all right.
6 Community College, sir, introduce your coaches for
7 the benefit of the Board. And Kopacz is not going
8 to grill them on strategy because don't worry about
9 it.

10 MR. SISK: He's ready, go for it.

11 MR, CUETO: I'm not going to listen
12 to anybody from Bayonne anyways.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's right.
14 That's what I want to hear. They can't beat Hoboken
15 anyway. Go ahead.

16 MR. SISK: Hello, everyone. Good to
17 see everyone again. I'm Jonathan Sisk, the Director
18 of Athletics at Hudson County Community College.
19 I'm here to introduce you to our new head men's and
20 head women's basketball coaches who we hired several
21 months ago, and they've been hitting the floor
22 running. I'll introduce Ethan first since he's on
23 Zoom.

24 Ethan is coming to us from the NBA. He
25 works in basketball operations in Secaucus. He has

1 over 10 years of experience with NCAA Division II
2 and III schools and head coaching experience with
3 high schools in New York City. If we could allow
4 him to speak, he's on Zoom.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Ethan.

6 MR. NARDONE: Hey, everyone. Thanks
7 for the introduction, Jonathan. Thanks everyone for
8 having us.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I think I just on
10 behalf of the County Executive and the Executive
11 Branch and our colleagues here in the Legislative
12 Branch, we'd just like to know who the personnel is
13 that we consider an important part of the community
14 college's balance of academics and athletics.

15 So we welcome you to your new positions.
16 We look forward to working with you. I think that
17 the board should be provided schedules for both
18 teams. So if one of the Commissioners would like to
19 go to a game, that we're able to do that.

20 MR. SISK: A hundred percent.

21 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: I couldn't be
22 happier about the girls' side. I mean, Carlos --
23 Carlos and I coached baseball together probably 20
24 years ago when he was coaching JV baseball for Union
25 City. Carlos was Mr. Bitty for the Boys and Girls

1 Club back in I don't know what year. But he went on
2 to play at St. Anthony's, played at University of
3 Richmond. One of the finest coaches. He coached
4 the boys at Union Hill, won some county
5 championships and state championships there, and
6 then went on to Union City.

7 And I'm telling you, from Bayonne, we're
8 happy you're taking this job. So we're getting out
9 of the girls' job at Union City, but we couldn't
10 find a better candidate. And if anyone's Hudson
11 County, it's Carlos Cueto. So congratulations,
12 Coach. I'm really so happy that you took this on.
13 And if you need anything from us, you got our
14 hundred percent support.

15 MR, CUETO: And the four girls in
16 Bayonne that we're recruiting right now.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Let me ask you
18 something. You said you were a Sisk, a Sisk?

19 MR. SISK: Sisk, S-I-S-K.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Not from the big
21 Sisk family, are you?

22 MR. SISK: Probably not. I'm
23 actually the only Sisk in my family.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Everybody's name is
25 Bayonne's name, Zisk.

1 MR. SISK: No, maybe they changed it
2 for me. I don't know.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay.
4 Congratulations. We look forward to your success
5 working together with you all. And now that we've
6 seen faces, we'll be there rooting for you all and
7 make the County proud. And thank you for the
8 service you're going to provide.

9 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Can I ask a
10 question?

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Go
12 ahead, Al.

13 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Is there a
14 recognized conference? Used to be a New Jersey
15 Junior College Conference. Is that still in
16 existence?

17 MR. SISK: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: But we haven't
19 been involved in it until now. You want to take
20 that?

21 MR. SISK: That's correct. Way back
22 in the 90s, we were involved in the NJCAA. It was a
23 different thing.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: It was a recruiting
25 issue, that's why.

1 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: So Carlos,
2 you're a Richmond Spider?

3 MR, CUETO: I'm a Spider.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Well, thank you
5 again.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman?

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, go ahead,
8 Billy.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I just want to
10 note for the record while I'm excited to have
11 athletic programs now at Hudson County Community
12 College, I remain dissatisfied over the fact that
13 the Hudson County Schools of Technology don't have
14 any athletic programs for the boys and girls that
15 attend those schools. And I think this is great,
16 but I think we need to revisit that.

17 When those programs were done away with,
18 they were done away with for the wrong reason. I
19 think we need to bring those programs back.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Noted.

21 MR. JAGER: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you, Carlos.
23 Buena verte, como siempre.

24 MR, CUETO: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Continue,

1 Madam Clerk.

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

9 At this time, the public may address the
10 Board on any item on the agenda only. Please keep
11 your comments limited to five minutes. Are there
12 any speakers on the agenda item only?

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: If you want to
14 speak on the agenda?

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Adam.
16 Make sure you introduce yourself to those coaches
17 too.

18 MR. JAGER: Yeah. Oh, we know
19 Carlos. MVP National AAU Champion for Boys and
20 Girls Club.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Adam, please
22 identify yourself for the members of the audience.

23 MR. JAGER: Adam Jager, Boys and
24 Girls Club. Greg Reinholdt, Jerry Harley.
25 Commissioners, Chairperson Romano, thank you for

1 having us here once again. Our annual summer
2 basketball leagues, Lincoln Park, Washington Park,
3 and in Hoboken. Questions?

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We just want to
5 make sure that as always, that you register all the
6 participants and that list is forwarded to both the
7 County Executive's Office and also to our Clerk so
8 that the Commissioners know who played from where
9 and that we --

10 MR. JAGER: Absolutely.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Where the money is
12 being spent. Billy or Kenny, any comment?
13 Anything, anyone?

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: We're glad to
15 have it. Every year at Lincoln Park, it's a very
16 vibrant, well-attended, well-recruited program.

17 MR. JAGER: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Gets kids off
19 the street and gets kids working together,
20 interacting together, socializing together, and we
21 need to do more, as much of that as we possibly can,
22 not more than that.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And also when you
24 do your ceremony like we do every year, you include
25 the County Executive's Office and the Commission

1 Board. So we want to be partaking into the success
2 that your program does to keep our youth completely
3 absorbed into sports, which is very important.
4 Could you introduce the two titles of the two
5 gentlemen too? Because is that the successor to Mr.
6 Greenberg?

7 MR. REINHOLDT: Greg Reinholdt. I'm
8 the Interim Executive for the Boys and Girls Club.
9 And then Jerry is our basketball guru. So everybody
10 knows Jerry.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Just forward your
12 numbers, please, to both the County Executive's
13 Office and to our Clerk so we have the numbers if
14 anybody has a question. And along with schedules,
15 please.

16 MR. JAGER: Absolutely.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Because you know
18 how it is also in Hoboken.

19 MR. SISK: Yeah, we'll forward
20 everyone's info. And of course, invite everybody to
21 the grand finale and the championship games that we
22 do.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Thank you,
24 coaches. And Greg, congratulations. Keep up the
25 legacy and mantle that you're having.

1 Bobby, go ahead.

2 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: There are
3 other -- you mentioned Washington, Lincoln and?

4 MR. JAGER: Hoboken. Hoboken Boys
5 and Girls Club is the most advantageous. We have
6 the indoor court and outdoor court, and it's close
7 in proximity to the youth that we serve.

8 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: You do
9 anything and don't do anything --

10 MR. JAGER: The County parks are
11 tough. Columbus Park is just a hoop. And under the
12 viaduct is too far for our kids. And it's just the
13 one court as well. So Hoboken Boys and Girls Club,
14 like I said, indoor court, outdoor court, and the
15 best location.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Well, if you have
17 any questions with both those sites, see Jonathan
18 DeFilippo. If you need to adjust something, he's
19 excellent at that. And he's very in tune to the
20 needs of the youth.

21 MR. HARLEY: Yeah, we used to do the
22 viaduct, and I used to run the whole viaduct
23 program. I'd go out and recruit, go out there and
24 recruit players, go out there, spread the word out
25 in the community.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Well, as much as --
2 as many courts as we could use, it's important.

3 MR. JAGER: Yeah.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Bobby, does
5 that answer your question?

6 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I'm looking
7 towards West Hudson, Secaucus, North Hudson. If you
8 could plan for the future, probably do something in
9 some of those, if you'll see what's happening up
10 there and see if it's possible.

11 MR. JAGER: Yeah, no, we'd certainly
12 be open to talking about that. There's so many
13 families in Jersey City who could benefit from our
14 summer basketball program. And we've seen an
15 increase in attendance each year, as you can see the
16 numbers that we send. So we'd love to get further
17 up to North Hudson and --

18 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go get them, Adam.

20 MR. JAGER: Yeah. No. We're ready.
21 Beautiful day outside. The summer's going to be
22 great. Thank you everybody so much. Okay? And
23 enjoy the rest of your night.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah. Billy O'Dea,
25 Jerry.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I don't need his
2 Jersey, but you know what I would suggest that we
3 do? I would suggest that we call it the Gary
4 Greenberg Summer Basketball Program.

5 MR. JAGER: Oh, we had banners made
6 last year.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Officially,
8 whatever promotional flyers you put out to get young
9 people to sign up, whatever shirts and things we do,
10 I think it's one of many appropriate ways to
11 remember somebody who cared about kids and young
12 kids in basketball to get them out of trouble.

13 MR. JAGER: Absolutely. We had his
14 initials and the year he was born and then passed on
15 all of our jerseys last year that the kids got, and
16 we got nice signage like Jersey City's Greatest
17 Basketball Ambassador and so on.

18 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Do the trophies
19 with you again if you want.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So I'm going to
21 make a motion that on number 24, we change the title
22 to note what I just said.

23 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I'll second.
24 I second.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So it will say

1 Resolution Awarding Grant Funds to the Boys and
2 Girls Club of Hudson County for the Gary Greenberg
3 Summer Basketball Program, et cetera, et cetera, et
4 cetera.

5 MR. JAGER: That makes our day.
6 Thank you about that. Thank you for remembering all
7 the important work that he's done, decades and
8 decades.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay.

10 THE CLERK: That's a form of a
11 motion?

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I got a motion.
13 Seconded by Baselice.

14 THE CLERK: He's a second? Okay. I
15 need a roll call.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.

17 THE CLERK: Roll call on the amended
18 Resolution 24.

19 Commissioner Aponte-Lipski.

20 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

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 Williams.

9 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes. And an add

12 to, you know, Legal Florio over there was a Prep
13 basketball star. Not passing, just shooting, but
14 see if you can get him to coach. The Silver Fox.

15 MR. JAGER: We'll talk.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Get him out there.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. JAGER: Thank you.

19 THE CLERK: Are there any other
20 speakers on the agenda items only? Speakers?

21 Being none, may I have a motion for the
22 consent agenda.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's Kopacz and
24 Cedeño.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner

1 Aponte-Lipski.

2 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

4 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

6 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.

8 COMMISSIONER CIFELLI: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kopacz.

10 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm going to
13 abstain on the office supplies. I guess that's
14 what, 15C? Aye on the rest.

15 THE CLERK: 15C?

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yep.

17 THE CLERK: We'll take that out.

18 Commissioner Williams

19 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: And Chairman Romano.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yes, I just want to
22 make one comment in regard to Item No. 1. Oh, you
23 forgot --

24 THE CLERK: Oh, I'm sorry,

25 Commissioner Rodriguez. So sorry.

1 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Just want to make
3 one comment with regards to number one on the
4 agenda. I think that Mark Smith is going to make a
5 wonderful addition to the office of the adjuster,
6 especially relying on his experience as the former
7 chief executive of the municipality of Bayonne. And
8 I'm sure that Alberico has done all to ensure that
9 Mr. Smith has all the tools to succeed at his
10 position.

11 MR. DEPIERRO: He hit the ground
12 running on day one already. Excellent addition.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And I received a
14 call from one of the former adjusters last night,
15 and he gave a strong recommendation. So that was
16 good enough for me.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Is that Neil
18 Carroll?

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No comment on
20 who it was, I don't know. I would ask their
21 personnel, can they please change in the records of
22 Anthony Delfino to Anthony Defino?

23 MR. DEPIERRO: Don't have the records
24 yet, so I have to confirm that.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Okay. Thank

1 you.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Continue.

3 THE CLERK: Chairman, we have no
4 ordinances for introduction or any for second
5 reading. So that concludes the items on the
6 business on today's agenda.

7 Are there any comments from the
8 commissioners on the business?

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Commissioners, go
10 start off down the line. Bobby Bass.

11 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I just want
12 to reinforce what you just said. Mark Smith, I've
13 had the pleasure of working with him over the years.
14 Outstanding person, outstanding. Whenever he takes
15 on a job, he takes it on well. Good luck, Mark.

16 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Yes, Smitty.
17 Welcome to your new job. There's not a job in this
18 County, in any department that you couldn't do. I'm
19 positive about that. I know you'll be a success.
20 Anything you need, you got up. We'll support you a
21 hundred percent.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Billy.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. I have a
24 couple of things, but on Mark, I couldn't help the
25 other day. Your families become like my family, so

1 I had to have a little fun at the caucus meeting.
2 And I did enjoy the call I got from your
3 brother-in-law last night. It was quite
4 entertaining. But you'll do a great job.

5 Two other items. One, when are we going
6 to get to Schools of Technology forensic audit? I
7 saw today there was a meeting of the Board of --

8 MR. ANTUN: I sent it to you.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: When did you
10 send it?

11 MR. ANTUN: Late this afternoon. You
12 probably haven't checked it.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, I haven't
14 checked it, yeah.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: The audit, but the
16 budget has to be held off. There was a computer
17 glitch at the State, so.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So you didn't
19 adopt it today?

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No, we're going to
21 have another meeting on April 1st.

22 MR. ANTUN: April 1st at 4 p.m. will
23 be --

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's an
25 appropriate day. Definitely an appropriate day for

1 that issue.

2 MR. ANTUN: Forensic audit, it was
3 sent to all of you.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All right. I'll
5 print it out tomorrow. I'll have plenty of
6 questions, I'm sure, for the next meeting.

7 And then lastly, I saw, who's here from
8 the HCIA?

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Michael O'Connor.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Hey, Mike, and I
11 don't need you to answer that. Just go, if you know
12 it, fine. So we voted on for -- I guess, tax
13 exempt, or not even tax -- bonding related to, it
14 was the same gentleman who did the teacher's
15 village?

16 MR. O'CONNOR: Yeah, he hasn't -- we
17 haven't closed on that. My understanding is he's
18 still working to try to make it work. It's a
19 difficult financial project for him. There's no
20 County guarantee with a conduit lender. We needed
21 your approval just as a quirk in the law.

22 But my understanding is he's still trying
23 to do it. I think there's a funding gap. The
24 property has full taxes. There's no pilot on that
25 property. So he's struggling with it, but my

1 understanding is it's not dead. I mean, we spoke
2 about it the other day. I'm going to reach back out
3 to him to see what it's going to take.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But he's buying
5 existing -- buying buildings that have been built
6 already.

7 MR. O'CONNOR: He is, he's buying
8 buildings. The project is, and to keep it short, it
9 was to buy an existing building near McGinley
10 Square. And add more affordable housing into that
11 building. That was the project.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I thought there
13 was more than one building.

14 MR. O'CONNOR: There were two. There
15 was one next to the Astor Bar. I'm not sure if he's
16 still in that. And there was one on Jordan.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I mean, so the
18 one on the Astor Bar looks like it's almost fully
19 occupied.

20 MR. O'CONNOR: They're both occupied,
21 but his concept was to, as with turnover, to
22 populate them with teachers, actually, and low and
23 moderate income individuals as the units became
24 available since they turn over quickly in this area
25 and that area. So we'll give you an update on where

1 it is because we reached back out to him also. But
2 his professionals are still working on it. We're
3 still, it's available to him if he can put the deal
4 together.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because Mr.
6 Administrator, when it was presented to us, I don't
7 think the buildings were fully leased. Now they're
8 fully leased. So the ability to get those workforce
9 units are going to be later rather than sooner. So
10 I'll be honest with you. I'm not sure I would have
11 voted for it if I knew the buildings were going to
12 be fully occupied before the guy ever closed them.
13 All right, that was it.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. And
15 just two comments there also to all the directors
16 and their staffs for coming. As you can see that
17 when questions need to be asked, it's very
18 comforting to the Members of the Board to know that
19 there's representatives from each different agency,
20 not just on a Zoom screen that you're here.

21 Continue.

22 THE CLERK: Are there any comments
23 from the Chief of Staff to the County Executive?

24 MS. DAVIS: No, thank you.

25 THE CLERK: This is the time for

1 persons who submitted a timely written request to
2 address the Board on any matter of public interest.
3 Please remember to limit your comments to three
4 minutes.

5 The first one that submitted it was
6 Raymond Mitchell.

7 MR. MITCHELL: I just want to thank
8 everybody here today that came out and all the
9 Commissioners here as well. Today is March 26th of
10 2026. My father's strangle was March 30th of 2026.
11 This will be six years that I'm fighting for this
12 justice to find out what happened to my father at
13 the North Bergen Nursing Home owned by Hackensack
14 Meridian Hospital.

15 As we all know, as Ester Suarez said that
16 my dad died of COVID now, still haven't received
17 anything. I just wanted to say if we could just
18 take a moment of silence just for a couple of
19 seconds for my father and for all the other loved
20 ones that passed away in a pandemic as well.

21 (Moment of Silence.)

22 So as this continues on, there have been
23 retaliation against me and my family as well. I had
24 court today in Bergen County because they said I
25 obstructed justice when I'm being obstructed in

1 justice. But my father's struggle not received
2 anything. I went to the state, the counties and the
3 federal, everywhere. I go up the chain, nothing has
4 happened. Looks like I'm not even a citizen in
5 America because I don't get any privilege or
6 anything for this to even have an investigation and
7 figure out what's going on.

8 I have three different stories, a natural
9 death from the nursing home, the strangled face of
10 pictures, and Ester Suarez said my dad died of COVID
11 and then she retires, and I never got anything. I
12 don't know what else to do here. Like how do I
13 continue on? And Bergen County retaliates. And
14 then my little nephew had an issue yesterday. There
15 was a warrant come out of Hoboken for him. I'm not
16 sure why. I'm trying to figure that out as well. I
17 called today for that.

18 So it's just retaliation that keeps
19 occurring with me and my family as well. Besides my
20 father and his mystery death out of North Bergen
21 Harborage Nursing Home during the pandemic of March
22 30th of 2020. Is there any like public safety or
23 anything national, anything that could figure this
24 out? I went all the way up the chain, like
25 Department of Justice, Inspector Generals, FBI. The

1 only one I haven't went is to the President. I
2 don't know what he would do, but just to understand
3 why.

4 All right, well, thank you everybody.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can I just ask a
6 question?

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I was going to ask
8 the same thing. Go ahead.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Do you know at
10 the time of your father's death, whether they did an
11 autopsy?

12 MR. MITCHELL: No, there was no
13 autopsy during the pandemic. They refused me. My
14 dad was in the funeral home for a week trying to get
15 an autopsy.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You can request on
17 your own an exhumation. They don't need anybody's
18 permission. That's for you to go to the funeral
19 home.

20 MR. MITCHELL: I can't even get the
21 medical records from North Bergen Harborage because
22 they sold the nursing home.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: After the meeting,
24 we'll talk to you about it after the meeting. Next
25 speaker, please.

1 MR. MITCHELL: They sold the nursing
2 home, believe me.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The thought, and
4 a couple of us spoke about this at one of the prior
5 meetings after the meeting, is that the only way to
6 determine it would be to exhume your dad's body and
7 to do an autopsy. That's the way you would
8 determine it.

9 MR. MITCHELL: And I fought for that
10 in the beginning of the pandemic, and I could not
11 receive it.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: After the meeting,
13 okay, we have next speaker.

14 Go ahead, next speaker, please.

15 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Leroy
16 Truth. I don't see him.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mr. Truth's not
18 here. Next speaker.

19 THE CLERK: Charles Pratt.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Charles, Mr. Pratt.

21 THE CLERK: Not here. Stephanie
22 Wilson.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Stephanie Wilson,
24 please.

25 MS. WILSON: Stephanie Glover Wilson

1 from Hunger Free. Just want to say thank you to
2 Kenny Kopacz and Bill O'Dea for helping me get a
3 temporary spot back in Bayonne so we can have, and
4 thank Frank Mazza for also letting staff come back
5 into Bayonne to do the food stamp applications and
6 the Medicaid applications, because Bayonne
7 residents, it's hard for them to get to Cornelison
8 Avenue.

9 So hopefully, with the work with me and
10 Jonathan, Kenny and Jackie, we should have that
11 office back open by April 15th. I just need an
12 address so I can know what to put on the information
13 so people can know where to come to. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: See Carol Jean and,
15 yeah, she'll put it there. Thank you very much,
16 appreciate it.

17 MS. WILSON: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Thank you. Keep
19 up the great work.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Next speaker.

21 THE CLERK: And my last speaker is
22 Courtney Walker. I think Commissioner O'Dea has a
23 statement.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. She had
25 an emergency that came up and she asked if I would

1 read her statement. Actually, she'd asked Carol
2 Jean, but I volunteered.

3 Hello, County Commissioners. My name is
4 Courtney Walker, a resident of Jersey City. I have
5 two topics to address today. First is the external
6 facing task force this body set up in February. I'm
7 encouraged by progress so far, and it's been helpful
8 in connecting the County, community members, and key
9 organizations working to support residents impacted
10 by the horrific federal immigration policies and
11 tactics.

12 Just yesterday, Director Mazza took time
13 to speak with me and another advocate about how we
14 can better refer families in need of rental
15 assistance. In addition, the Legal Services
16 Subcommittee is exploring ways to expand access to
17 immigration attorneys. While the task force is
18 still taking shape, it has already proven to be
19 valuable.

20 That said, the primary goal of advocates
21 involved in the effort is to secure additional
22 funding for rental and legal assistance program.
23 These conversations continue to highlight the very
24 real humanitarian challenge facing families in our
25 community. Just last week, a father sought help

1 finding low-cost mental health services for his
2 eight-year-old son who has been struggling in school
3 since a family member was detained. As budget
4 discussions move forward, it's critical that these
5 programs are fully funded. Where state funding
6 falls short, the County must step in. The need is
7 urgent, and we must meet this moment with meaningful
8 investment.

9 Second, I want to address a reported ICE
10 presence at the County courthouse on March 2nd. A
11 report came into the dire hotline that morning,
12 which I shared with Alberico, who quickly, I think
13 it was addressed, it said, quickly escalated it. I
14 think it meant addressed it. Thank you for doing
15 that.

16 I also went to the courthouse with other
17 responders. We determined there was no ICE
18 presence, only a significant police presence that
19 may have caused confusion. However, while there, we
20 observed a vehicle that raised concerns. It
21 displayed a sign reading Official Business Office of
22 Hudson County Sheriff, along with visible political
23 messaging. I fully support freedom of speech and
24 expression. However, I'm concerned about political
25 messaging appearing alongside signage suggesting

1 official County business.

2 To clarify, I respectfully ask, is this
3 vehicle authorized for use by the Sheriff's office?
4 Are there policies governing political messaging on
5 vehicles used for official business? And if this is
6 not an official vehicle, why is such signage
7 permitted? Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Continue.

9 THE CLERK: There being no further
10 business to come before the Board, may I have a
11 motion to adjourn?

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Yraida.

13 THE CLERK: All in favor? Meeting is
14 adjourned.

15 (Whereupon the proceeding is then
16 concluded at 5:35 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 Thursday, March 26, 2026; and that this is a
correct transcript of the same.



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

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