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BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016
COMMENCING AT 7:33 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

- STEVEN A. TANELLI, CHAIRWOMAN
- TRACY S. ZUR, VICE CHAIRMAN
- DR. JOAN M. VOSS
- MAURA R. DeNICOLA
- THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

FREEHOLDERS ABSENT:

- JOHN A. FELICE, CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE
- DAVID L. GANZ

KIM O. FURBACHER, CRCL, CCR, RMR
P.O. BOX 213
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213
201-226-9218

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ALSO PRESENT:

LISA SCIANCALEPORE
CLERK TO THE BOARD

DR. DOMINIC J. NOVELLI
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ.
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

JARED LUTZ
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

JOHN DANUBIO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY
and DIRECTOR OF POLICY RESEARCH

KIM O. FURBACHER, CRCR, CCR, RMR
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HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The meeting is
2 called to order.

3 Before we begin our meeting, I'll ask
4 everyone to please take a moment to silence their
5 phones.

6 Thank you.

7 Will the Clerk please read the
8 compliance with the Sen. Byron Baer Open Public
9 Meetings Act.

10 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: In accordance with
11 Section 5 of the Sen. Byron Baer Open Public Meetings
12 Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been
13 provided in the Annual Notice Schedule, which
14 contained the time, date, and location of this
15 meeting, copies of which Notices were forwarded to
16 the official County newspapers, to wit: The Herald
17 News; The Record; and the Star Ledger, and a copy of
18 which was posted on the bulletin board in the Bergen
19 County Justice Center and Administration Building,
20 One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, New Jersey, and
21 filed with the Office of the Bergen County Clerk.

22 ROLL CALL:

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Would the Clerk
24 please call the roll.

25 (At this point in the proceeding roll

1 call is taken with Freeholders DeNicola, Sullivan,
2 Voss, Vice-Chairwoman Zur, and Chairman Tanelli
3 present, with Freeholders Felice and Ganz absent.)

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Evidence of a quorum
5 is present.

6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Would everyone
8 please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

9 Freeholder Voss, would you please lead
10 us.

11 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Please join with me.

12 (At this point in the proceeding all
13 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,
14 led by Freeholder Voss.)

15 INVOCATION:

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Tonight we have an
17 invocation. We would like to welcome Fr. Nony from
18 St. Joseph's Church in Hackensack and ask him to
19 please come forward.

20 FR. NONY: Let us put ourselves in the
21 presence of the Lord.

22 In the name of the Father, of the Son,
23 of the Holy Spirit.

24 (At this point in the proceeding, the
25 Invocation is led by Fr. Nony.)

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, Father.

2 Just one quick announcement.

3 January is Cervical Cancer Awareness
4 Month, and we'd like to take this time to remind
5 people that the County of Bergen offers free HVP and
6 Pap screening to eligible women year-round, and not
7 just in January. People interested can call
8 201-634-2660 to determine eligibility. We have
9 flyers at our information table.

10 MINUTES:

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Will the Clerk
12 please read the minutes to be accepted.

13 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Minutes to be
14 accepted are:

15 November 10, 2015 - Work Session; all
16 present.

17 November 24, 2015 - Work Session; all
18 present.

19 December 2nd, 2015 - Work Session;
20 Freeholders Tanelli and Sullivan absent.

21 December 9, 2015 - Work Session; all
22 present.

23 December 16, 2015 - Work Session; all
24 present.

25 December 21st, 2015 - Work Session; all

1 present.

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: May I have a motion
3 to accept the minutes?

4 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

5 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Just noting that any
7 abstentions due to absence in the individual minutes
8 will be recognized.

9 Please call the roll.

10 (At this point in the proceeding roll
11 call is taken and the minutes are accepted by a vote
12 of five in favor, with Freeholders Felice and Ganz
13 absent, and Freeholder Sullivan and Chairman Tanelli
14 abstaining on the 12/2/15 Work Session minutes.)

15 HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion
17 to open the meeting to the public?

18 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: So moved.

19 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

21 (All present Freeholders respond in the
22 affirmative.)

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it.

1 We will now have a hearing of the
2 general public, with a three-minute time limit in
3 effect. The Board Attorney will keep the time. When
4 the time of that speaker expires, the timekeeper
5 announce the time has expired.

6 Please fill out a card with your name,
7 address, and general topic. If anybody needs one,
8 they're off to the side.

9 Mr. Moretti.

10 MR. MORETTI: Salvatore Moretti from
11 Alpine Drive, Paramus.

12 I have a dated letter to the
13 Freeholders and with several collages attached with
14 respect to the elections which had been held.

15 I have misgivings with regard to the
16 fact that at a couple of the hearings, no questions
17 were entertained from the public, and the questions
18 which did get into the record were those which were
19 provided outside of the public's hearing.

20 Additionally, I have placed in this
21 material, which I'm providing now, some specifics
22 which I would like the Board to take cognizance of.

23 I have been living in New Jersey since
24 December of 1939, and my birth is stated as being May
25 of 1940, so there is a distinction here of about five

1 months, when I was in an incubator. And I believe
2 that has affected my Social Security chart, and,
3 therefore, I would suggest that that be entertained
4 by the Board.

5 That's all I have.

6 If someone would take this, dated
7 January 25th to the board (indicating).

8 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
9 Mr. Moretti.

10 MR. MORETTI: Any questions?

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: No.

12 Joseph Dunsay.

13 MR. DUNSAY: Good evening.

14 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Good evening.

15 MR. DUNSAY: A few weeks ago, Bergen
16 County made it to Forbes.com. The website listed
17 Bergen County as No. 10th in its list of most
18 overpriced cities. It's not a great honor to have.

19 The listing was based on the median
20 income and median home prices of the cities. It
21 looked just at American cities, and those cities with
22 comparatively high home prices and lower medium
23 incomes were on the list.

24 Newgeography.com in the fall mentions
25 some reports that came out from the White House

1 economic advisors that blamed excessive land use
2 regulation for both high unemployment and a lack of
3 affordable housing in many American metropolitan
4 areas.

5 The laws of supply and demand shows the
6 connection between land use regulation and the lack
7 of affordable housing. When land use regulation
8 prevents new construction, there's a restriction on
9 the supply, and when there's not enough supply,
10 prices start skyrocketing.

11 The connection between land use
12 regulation and unemployment is less direct.
13 Basically when a new industry comes to a city and
14 starts to grow, employers need to hire employees from
15 out of the region, who then would move to the city.

16 In order for those employees to move to
17 the city, they need to find affordable homes.

18 So the lack of affordable homes makes
19 the economy less flexible and less able to take
20 advantage of rising industries.

21 And I can tell you, when even the Obama
22 administration says there's too much regulation, we
23 definitely have a problem.

24 Now, this year the master plan for the
25 county is going to come before the Board, and that's

1 a great opportunity to address the excessive land use
2 regulation.

3 Now, I know that most of the decisions
4 regarding zoning and building codes are made on the
5 municipal level, but the master plan kind of sets the
6 framework and the attitude that municipalities adopt.

7 So if you include in the master plan
8 the idea that we should have much more home
9 construction and much less regulation, then activists
10 on the municipal level can advocate for those
11 policies in their own towns.

12 Lastly, I think tonight's a great time
13 to remember the need for affordable housing, because
14 today volunteers counted the homeless, and we can
15 tell from the count that we definitely need more
16 affordable homes.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

19 Chuck Powers.

20 MR. POWERS: Chuck Powers, Teaneck.

21 I got here after Lisa read the fact
22 that you were going to be following the Open Public
23 Meetings Act, named for Byron Baer. And I do
24 appreciate the fact that this Board of Freeholders
25 sent a certificate to this year's Byron Baer Award

1 winner, Judge Peter Doyne, and sent by way of Michael
2 Pagan. He appreciated that certificate, as well as
3 the award we gave him that night.

4 The speech, which is available both
5 verbatim and by video, was an extraordinary speech.
6 He was enormously courageous, in my view, because he
7 talked about two cases in which he had been
8 overridden and was looking for solutions to the
9 issues associated with open public meetings and open
10 public records that he had ruled on and in which he
11 was then overruled on. And one of them had to do
12 with what constitutes an appropriate agenda, and one
13 of them had to do with what kind of access the public
14 should have to issues parallel in this county to what
15 actually has been going on in Chicago.

16 I do think it's something that you
17 folks should be watching or at least reading. It was
18 a really quite extraordinary speech.

19 Before we gave him that award, Linda
20 Baer, Judge Linda Baer, talked about her husband and
21 what led him to seek a political career that led him
22 to the state Senate and to the leadership he provided
23 for the Open Public Meetings and the Open Public
24 Records Act. And she talked about the fact that he
25 had begun at the local level and could not figure out

1 why, as a citizen, he could not get adequate
2 information, and decided to become a council member,
3 and then found out that actually as a minority
4 council member, he got no more information than he
5 had been able to get as a resident. So then that led
6 him to the kind of leadership that he provided out of
7 the 37th District, which Joan Voss knows well, that
8 made New Jersey, at least potentially, a place where
9 transparency really is part of the law of the land,
10 though not always part of the practice.

11 We're trying, at Bergen Grassroots, you
12 should know, to invite all of the citizens of this
13 county, through a survey that we have up on our
14 website, to look at their own town and rate their
15 town. That's not a matter of trying to sort of get
16 negative views about anything, we're trying to figure
17 out whether or not there are people in this county
18 whose municipalities are, in the mind of their
19 residents, really making available to public input
20 both the information and the opportunity to influence
21 what they're doing, and there will be people who will
22 be competing to suggest that their towns are the very
23 best --

24 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Mr.
25 Chairman.

1 MR. POWERS: -- and the folks who are
2 not all that excited about what's happening.

3 We suggest you folks take it and
4 suggest folks in your own communities to do so and
5 those folks who are watching tonight.

6 Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

8 Mr. Bienstock.

9 MR. BIENSTOCK: Claude Bienstock,
10 39-11B Broadway, Fair Lawn.

11 I dropped off a letter to you.

12 While I'm here, I want to see something
13 done about the Williams Center. I just want to let
14 you know that my friend, Bobby Memphis, who does the
15 tribute to Elvis, he's willing to perform at the
16 opening of the Rutherford center, and he would
17 appreciate consideration by the Board and the people
18 running the center. The information about him is in
19 that letter.

20 Now, I believe in the right of free
21 speech, and I want to say something about the boycott
22 of the Academy Awards.

23 First I want to speak. I'm a private
24 citizen. I've done a lot of motion picture work in
25 the past 45 years. I am not a member of the Academy.

1 I'm speaking as a citizen. I will be watching the
2 Academy Awards. I will not be boycotting the Oscars.

3 I do respect the right of people to
4 boycott the Academy Awards, but I believe in the
5 right of free speech.

6 I cannot explain the issue of the
7 Oscars in less than three minutes, it would take like
8 three hours.

9 I understand what's going on, and I've
10 worked behind the scenes with actors and actresses in
11 film work. All I can say is, I earned every penny
12 that I made with Hollywood. Nobody handed me
13 anything on a silver platter, I worked for
14 everything, and I believe in what I've done. I have
15 failed with certain projects. I've made money with a
16 few movies that I worked on. I love the industry. I
17 love the art of film. I'm more than just a real
18 estate salesman, I have other interests in life, and
19 I feel strongly about what I've done. But I can't
20 talk about the Oscars in less than three minutes.
21 There's so many issues involved that the public is
22 not aware of.

23 But I do respect the right of people
24 who want to boycott the Oscars and not watch it. I
25 respect their right. They have that right, and, you

1 know, I think I'm right, other people think they're
2 right. We all have different views. Nobody can
3 agree 100 percent with everybody else, and I just
4 wanted to express my opinion about that issue.

5 That's really all I have to say.

6 Thank you for giving me the opportunity
7 to talk about the Oscars. I really appreciate it.
8 Thanks for listening.

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, Mr.
10 Bienstock.

11 MR. BIENSTOCK: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Anyone else?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: May I have a motion
15 to close the meeting to the public?

16 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Second?

18 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

20 (All present Freeholders respond in the
21 affirmative.)

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Any opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 RESOLUTIONS OF UNANIMOUS CONSENT:

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Would the Clerk

1 please read the resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

2 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Resolutions on
3 consent tonight are:

4 #58-16 through #111-16.

5 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: I'll make a
6 motion on the resolutions, Mr. Chairman.

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

8 Second?

9 FREEHOLDER VOSS: I'll second that.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Call the roll,
11 please.

12 (At this point in the proceeding roll
13 call is taken and the Resolutions of Unanimous
14 Consent are passed by a vote of five in favor, with
15 Freeholders Felice and Ganz absent.)

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Any resolutions on
17 Nonconsent, pulled or table?

18 If so, would the Clerk please read
19 them.

20 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: There are none.

21 ORDINANCES:

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We will now go on to
23 ordinance for Second Reading and Adoption.

24 Will the Clerk please read Ordinance
25 16-1 by title only.

1 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Proof of
2 Publication and Ordinance, Notice of Public Hearing
3 was published in The Record and the Herald News on
4 Sunday, January 17, 2016, and is on file in my
5 office.

6 A copy of the Notice of Hearing and
7 Ordinance No. 16-1 was duly posted, pursuant to
8 N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17, on Friday, January 15, 2016.

9 The title is as follows:

10 "ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE
11 CODE TO CREATE A PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS
12 ADVISORY BOARD TO ADVISE ON MATTERS REGARDING 911 AND
13 DISPATCH SERVICES."

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion
15 to open the meeting to the public?

16 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

17 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

19 (All present Freeholders respond in the
20 affirmative.)

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The public hearing
22 is now open, with a five-minute time limit in effect.

23 The Board Attorney will keep the time.

24 Anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance

25 16-1?

1 Mr. Powers.

2 MR. POWERS: Chuck Powers.

3 As you know, I really think that the
4 role of citizens, as advisors to bodies such as this
5 and to the County Executive, is a very important
6 role. The idea that you are taking on the complexity
7 of the issues associated with how it is that 911 and
8 these dispatch services work in relationship to some
9 of the emergency issues faced -- for example, in my
10 own town in this last week, and several other towns
11 here in the county where issues associated with
12 realizing that there was a threat to our children in
13 schools, and then trying to figure out how it was
14 that information was disseminated about that and who
15 did it. In our town last night, we had a very major
16 discussion about that in our council, and the idea
17 that you're going to form an Advisory Committee, I
18 hope you form it very well, looking for both
19 diversity and competence, to try to figure out ways
20 in which the public officials, you folks, and the
21 County Executive and the Sheriff can be well-informed
22 about those questions, extremely important. I'm very
23 glad to see you forming this committee.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. Anyone else

1 wish to speak?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion
4 to close the public hearing and adopt?

5 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

6 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Any discussion?

8 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Mr. Chairman?

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Sure.

10 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Echoing what
11 Mr. Powers said, this is a wonderful opportunity to
12 gain input. The way that this is divided among fire,
13 police, EMS, bringing all of those stakeholders to
14 the table so that we can have an open and frank
15 discussion on how to provide for public safety is one
16 of the key things that government needs to be doing.
17 I'm very gratified that we're moving forward in this
18 direction tonight.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Anyone else?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the
23 roll.

24 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Do we have a
25 motion on the ordinance?

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The motion was to
2 close the public and adopt.

3 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Oh, okay.

4 Thank you.

5 (At this point in the proceeding roll
6 call is taken and the Second Reading and Adoption of
7 Ordinance 16-1 is passed by a vote of five in favor,
8 with Freeholders Felice and Ganz absent.)

9 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Ordinance is
10 adopted.

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Will the Clerk
12 please read Ordinance 16-2 by title only.

13 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Okay.

14 The Proof of Publication of the
15 Ordinance and Notice of Public Hearing was published
16 in The Record and the Herald News on Sunday,
17 January 17, 2016, and is on file in my office.

18 A copy of the Notice of Hearing and
19 Ordinance No. 16-2 was duly posted, pursuant to
20 N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17, on Friday, January 15, 2016.

21 The title is read as follows:

22 "ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 14-16,
23 SETTING STANDARDS, REGULATIONS AND RATES FOR LAW
24 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REQUESTED AND NON-PREFERENCE MOTOR
25 VEHICLE TOWING AND STORAGE SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF

1 BERGEN."

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion
3 to open the meeting to the public?

4 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

5 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

7 (All present Freeholders respond in the
8 affirmative.)

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The public hearing
12 is now open, with a five-minute time limit in effect.
13 The Board Attorney will keep the time.

14 Ordinance 16-2, if anybody has any
15 comments?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Seeing none, can I
18 have a motion to close the public hearing and adopt
19 the ordinance?

20 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: So moved.

21 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Any discussion?

23 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Mr. Chairman, I
24 just want to make a few comments in that I did have a
25 number of questions on the changes made to the towing

1 ordinance, and, for the record, I'd like to state
2 that they were all answered during our work meeting
3 by Dan Zwillenberg, County Counsel. And those
4 questions were in regard to protecting the county,
5 minimizing liability, and keeping all of our options
6 open for the safety and the efficiency and the cost
7 savings to the taxpayers.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Anyone else?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the
12 roll.

13 (At this point in the proceeding roll
14 call is taken and the Second Reading and Adoption of
15 Ordinance 16-2 is passed by a vote of five in favor,
16 with Freeholders Felice and Ganz absent.)

17 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Ordinance is
18 adopted.

19 COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM FREEHOLDERS:

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We will now have
21 Freeholder committee reports.

22 Freeholder Sullivan.

23 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Thank you,
24 Chairman.

25 Good evening, everyone. Thank you for

1 coming.

2 Happy New Year. I know we're into the
3 new year now.

4 I first want to start off by commending
5 my colleagues on the Freeholder Board for passing
6 Resolution #103-16, awarding a \$55,000 grant to the
7 New Hope Foundation, which will assist us in the
8 county with the heroin epidemic.

9 Everyone on this Board is onboard with
10 that, and it's a wonderful thing, what we're doing
11 here, and it's good to know that everyone is in
12 agreement with what we're doing here.

13 The foundation will offer men, women,
14 and adolescents, the opportunity to enter 4 or 5-day
15 medical detox, followed by a 25-day short-term rehab.

16 After the rehab period, the individual
17 will be followed up with on an as-needed basis to
18 assist with placement to halfway houses for recovery,
19 like the Spring House program at Bergen Regional
20 Medical Center. Last year, we helped 55 Bergen
21 County residents with the same program and hopefully
22 this year we can expand that.

23 This is all to battle the highly
24 addicted drug - heroin.

25 I want to thank Sue Debiak. She's the

1 Director of the Bergen County Division of Addiction
2 Services, for her service and leadership to the
3 program, along with everyone she works with and her
4 entire staff. It's something that we advocate for
5 here everyday and will continue do so.

6 This morning, along with County
7 Executive Tedesco and Freeholder Zur, I was at the
8 Bergen County Project Homeless Connect. That was the
9 Department of Human Services here in Hackensack. We
10 met with a lot of volunteers, a variety of nonprofit
11 organizations, a representative from other government
12 agencies to help our most vulnerable residents with
13 temporary shelter, job placement training, and also
14 providing meals.

15 I want to thank Julia Orlando and her
16 staff for their extraordinary effort on the
17 outstanding job of running the facility. Freeholder
18 Zur was there, as well as the County Executive. What
19 a phenomenal job that was done today. We do offer
20 services all throughout the year, but today was a day
21 to show everyone and bring extra services, people
22 could get haircuts, they got clothing today. It was
23 a really successful day, and I was proud to be part
24 of that.

25 Also, we attended many Martin Luther

1 King Day ceremonies, including probably the coldest
2 one I've ever been at in my life, at Fairleigh
3 Dickinson University. And then we also went to see
4 the Rev. Jackson's church.

5 Listen, it was so important, that it
6 didn't matter what the temperature was outside. This
7 is a day that we need to remember, we need to learn
8 from, we need to continue the legacy of Dr. Martin
9 Luther King, and I was proud to be a part of that.

10 Lastly, Chairman -- because he's giving
11 me the hook here -- I did attend a Local 755 USWU,
12 the winter gala. Local 755 represents our
13 white-collar workers here in Bergen County. I want
14 to thank president, Joe Guttier and his other
15 officers from Local 755. They work hard every day.
16 This county couldn't run without them. We appreciate
17 their efforts, and we thank them.

18 That's my report.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
20 Freeholder.

21 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Freeholder Voss.

23 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you, Chairman,
24 I also want to say Happy New Year to everyone.

25 I was very, very happy to join with

1 some of my fellow Freeholders at the Martin Luther
2 King Remembrance, it was really cold, but, as you
3 said, it was very worth it. We should remember him
4 and be inspired by Dr. King.

5 I also want to call attention to one of
6 the resolutions, #62-16, where we are transferring
7 funds for Friendship House, which is a grant.
8 Friendship House is a wonderful, wonderful
9 organization, it's right here in Hackensack, and it
10 promises so many wonderful services for young people
11 and old people with disabilities. One of the great,
12 great programs they have, which is going to be
13 enhanced, is their culinary arts program. And I just
14 can't say enough in praise of Friendship House, and
15 we need a lot more organizations like that.

16 Yesterday, I went to my Rotary Club,
17 and a gentleman came, we have people come in to speak
18 to us about different organizations that help people,
19 and this man came in and has an organization called
20 "Driven by Heroes."

21 Now, I am passionate about education,
22 I'm passionate about people with disabilities, but
23 I'm also very passionate about how we treat our
24 veterans. We have over 37,000 veterans here in
25 Bergen County. Many of them need services. I think,

1 fortunately, there are very few homeless veterans,
2 but I want to call your attention to not the county
3 website, but the Bergen County Veterans Services'
4 website, which is on Facebook, and it says so much
5 about the services we provide. We have so many
6 facilities that have housing for homeless veterans.
7 We have many, many veterans over in the homeless
8 shelter, and we're looking for facilities for them.
9 But even more important, there is Bergen County
10 stakeholders group, and here we have people who help
11 not only getting assistance for people who are
12 homeless, but also getting educational assistance.
13 And one of the things I'm most interested in is the
14 disability claim assistance.

15 I have to say that I spent a good deal
16 of time with my assistant, Chris Chapman, down in the
17 veterans office in One Bergen Plaza, and I can tell
18 you, A.J. Luna, who is the person in charge of this,
19 is phenomenal. I mean, he is as passionate about
20 veterans affairs as I am about education. We spent a
21 great deal of time talking about how people who have
22 served in the military, both men and women, can get
23 access to the services they need. No veteran should
24 be without medical assistance, vocational training,
25 education, and stuff. And we have plenty of

1 services, but they need to know how to access it.

2 Just to get back to what I was talking
3 about, Driven by Heroes. We have the VA, where
4 people can go who are veterans for medical
5 assistance, but many of them cannot get there, and so
6 this organization, Driven by Heroes, is just
7 beginning, it's in a fledging thing, and these are
8 going to be volunteers, it's a 501(c)(3), I think,
9 and they're going to be driving people who need their
10 medical care to the hospital, to doctors'
11 appointments, free of charge from door-to-door. As I
12 said, this is a very important thing. As I said,
13 it's just getting off the ground. And, anyway, if
14 you want to donate money to this, because they need
15 gas and they need cars, they have volunteers to
16 drive, you can go to wwdrivenbyheroes.org, and they
17 would appreciate any assistance. And this is some
18 service that our veterans really, really, really
19 need, and so I'll be telling you more about their
20 activities and other activities that are going to
21 assist our veterans, because less than one percent
22 out of the 350 million Americans serve in the
23 military, and we owe them a tremendous debt of
24 gratitude. I know Maura feels the same way about
25 this as I do. We'll be talking a great deal about

1 this in the future.

2 Thank you, Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
4 Freeholder.

5 Freeholder DeNicola.

6 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Thank you, Mr.
7 Chairman.

8 Just picking up on what Freeholder Voss
9 was talking about in regard to our veterans and our
10 active duty military, today that young veteran --
11 well, 46-years-old, that's young to me, but sadly he
12 was the one who blew the whistle on the backlog of
13 veterans services, and today he passed away. He had
14 abdominal pain, and he waited months for his testing.
15 By the time he got the diagnosis of colon cancer, he
16 was in a stage four situation. But he turned an
17 absolutely horrendous terminal situation into a
18 mission to change things for all other veterans, and
19 he certainly did that.

20 We are very lucky in New Jersey that
21 our waiting times are not as long as the rest of the
22 nation. We do a lot here in Bergen County, but
23 there's still so much more that needs to be done.

24 I do want to recognize our DPW, given
25 the past snowstorm.

1 I was out of things with the flu, as my
2 colleagues know, but I'm much better. We share a lot
3 of things here. It's that time of year. Lots of
4 hugs and handshakes lately.

5 But I received a lot of calls from
6 municipal leaders and officials, and our DPW didn't
7 miss a beat. They were right there, not only for the
8 county and county roads and facilities, but also for
9 municipalities in filling the gap. And I truly want
10 to commend them and Ray Dressler, the Department
11 Head, for the job that they did.

12 As Freeholder Sullivan had mentioned,
13 Local 755 had their annual dinner on Friday night,
14 and my office was well represented, and apparently on
15 the dance floor with Freeholder Sullivan, while I
16 couldn't be there myself.

17 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I'm sure you got
18 video.

19 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Yes.

20 I want to communicate a thank you to
21 all of our employees, both the white-collar and the
22 blue-collar locals, for the incredible job that they
23 do on behalf of the county and all of the different
24 departments here.

25 My office was also at Project Homeless

1 Connect. We've done that every year. This is the
2 sixth year now. And it's so, so important. And it's
3 startling to see the numbers of homeless that are
4 here in Bergen County.

5 It is another cold day, and all of the
6 volunteers who were out there talked about the cold.
7 And yet this is the environment that our homeless
8 live in day in and day out, and then of course during
9 the winter months.

10 I do want to commend Alvera Castro, Sue
11 Nottingham, and, of course, Julia Orlando who was
12 mentioned before.

13 I want to bring up what Freeholder
14 Sullivan had discussed already too, and that is the
15 fight against addiction, particularly opiates and
16 heroin addiction, in Bergen County. We had received
17 the numbers from Sue Debiak for 2015, and sadly we're
18 a third over, year over year, over the previous year
19 in terms of deaths from our residents. And it's so
20 unbelievable to read the ages, the towns, and the
21 drugs associated with these overdose deaths. We've
22 increased our programs, our communications. As
23 you've heard, we're also increasing our resources and
24 the focus on this issue, and still it's growing.
25 There's still a lot more that we have to do. We are

1 arranging for another meeting, Freeholder Sullivan
2 and myself, with the head of the Office of Drug and
3 Alcohol Dependency, so we can look at additional
4 things that we may be able to do this year. And, of
5 course, we will include the new Acting Prosecutor and
6 follow up on that.

7 I do want to say that in Bergen County,
8 we have so much that is available, and very often our
9 job is just connecting that parent or that addict or
10 that family member, who has no idea where to go, to
11 those services. So if you go to our Bergen County
12 website, and the second column you see "Services,"
13 next to "Government," then under Health Services, the
14 first click is on "Addiction Services." It lists
15 everything that's available, with all of the contact
16 information for what we have here in Bergen County
17 for a continuum of services, not only the treatment,
18 but also the transitioning and the maintaining the
19 sobriety, and truly the lifelong fight that it's
20 going to be battling these addictions.

21 The last thing I want to mention is we
22 received an email this week from FEMA. FEMA is
23 exploring having disaster deductibles for counties
24 and municipalities, which means to us less money.

25 New Jersey gives so much money, and our

1 return is so much less than what it should be, just
2 as Bergen County gives so much money to Trenton and
3 our return is much less than it should be.

4 What they are saying is, in a state of
5 emergency, you can, as a government entity, begin to
6 list all of the extraordinary services that you need
7 to deal with that emergency, be it a snowstorm, a
8 hurricane, flooding, whatever it may be, and then
9 those services are reimbursed through FEMA.

10 Now they're exploring the idea of
11 having a deductible, before you can seek
12 reimbursement. And many people don't know that it's
13 that reimbursement process that comes after the
14 disaster, that is so important to us as elected
15 officials and also to our taxpayers. Bergen County's
16 office of OEM has an extraordinary record in
17 recouping the highest percentage of those monies that
18 are due to us here.

19 I know that the last day for comment is
20 March 21st. And through our Chairman and through the
21 Administrator, I think it would be a good idea if we
22 came together with a joint statement as a county and
23 submitted that statement to FEMA, because certainly
24 on the face of it, it seems like we give more, and,
25 once again, we get less.

1 And that's the conclusion of my report.

2 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,

4 Freeholder.

5 Freeholder Zur.

6 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Thank you, Mr.

7 Chairman.

8 To pick up on one of the threads that
9 Freeholder DeNicola and Freeholder Sullivan touched
10 on regarding the heroin addiction, one of the good
11 bits of news that I received this week, we received
12 notification from Bergen Regional Medical Center that
13 they completed the addition of the 10 beds that they
14 had promised that they would add to the 52 detox beds
15 that already existed. This was something that
16 Freeholder Voss, Freeholder Sullivan, and I had
17 joined in requesting, and Freeholder Sullivan and I
18 went up and toured the facility. They promised to
19 work with us on an additional 12 beds, and we're
20 going to continue for push for additional detox beds,
21 because the one thing that we don't want to happen is
22 when an addict is ready to get help from them, to
23 find there's no room at the inn, that there's no
24 place for them to go, and that that bed does not
25 exist for them when they want and are ready to turn

1 that corner. Because if they are there at that time,
2 there may not be another opportunity, you may miss
3 that window, and that could be a life that is lost.

4 So we're going to continue, all of us,
5 with our efforts towards pushing for additional
6 resources being allocated in that direction.

7 One of the big events that we went to
8 this week, Freeholder Tanelli and I were at the
9 Mayors Matter Conference, which took place at MetLife
10 Stadium. Over 50 mayors, there was so many different
11 municipalities were represented, and there were
12 presentations from both our Economic Development
13 folks and our Workforce Development people, briefing
14 the mayors on all the resources that are available,
15 not only within the county, but from the state,
16 because very often they're the ones with the feet on
17 the ground, who know the challenges the businesses
18 within their communities are having, and can then
19 network and get back out the resources that we have,
20 to provide training dollars, to provide opportunities
21 for incentives, to really communicate and meet the
22 needs of business within our community.

23 It was a wonderful dialogue. I look
24 forward to more of those dialogues going forward
25 between the mayors and the county on so many of these

1 issues and import.

2 My colleagues also spoke about Martin
3 Luther King Day. While they were freezing, I was at
4 an interfaith service in Ridgewood. I believe I got
5 the better straw on that one, but it was a wonderful
6 celebration. And both there and in Teaneck, there
7 was some really beautiful interfaith celebrations,
8 really driving home the purpose of the day, and, most
9 importantly, involving our young people. This is
10 just not a day off of school, this is a day that is
11 meaningful, that is about service and is about what
12 we need to do to play it forward.

13 Freeholder Sullivan, you're so eloquent
14 regarding Project Homeless Connect, but I also want
15 to give a special thank you to Parisian and Suez.
16 Parisian provided all the makeovers, which really
17 boosted the self esteem of so many people at the
18 homeless shelter, and Suez donated so many goods, the
19 socks, the underwear, all of the takeaways, to really
20 give the homeless the supplies that they need, but
21 you couldn't underscore enough the big shout-out that
22 needs to go to all of those.

23 Maura, you talked about the DPW. The
24 homeless shelter was on full staff alert throughout
25 this snowstorm, as were so many of our Human Services

1 personnel, providing resources for all of our
2 residents.

3 So all of our employees deserve a huge
4 round of applause for the herculean efforts that they
5 put forth in this snowstorm.

6 Finally, I also want to touch on
7 Resolution #62-16, the Community Development Block
8 Grant.

9 Freeholder Voss is right, Friendship
10 House is a tremendous asset to our community for what
11 they are doing to really focus on an individual's
12 abilities, not just their disabilities, and train
13 them in skills.

14 This Block Grant will provide ADA
15 accessible bathrooms, ADA accessible parking lots,
16 and really allow them to rehab their kitchen. But,
17 more importantly, it will continue to allow them to
18 provide tremendous skill sets so that individuals in
19 our community with disabilities have the ability to
20 have meaningful employment as they move forward in
21 their lives.

22 So it was really something that we
23 need, such a wonderful utilization of our Community
24 Development Block Grants.

25 Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
2 Freeholder.

3 I am starting to get the feeling that
4 this year, doing the wrap-up, everything is going to
5 be covered, so we're going to end up repeating each
6 other quite a bit.

7 The Martin Luther King Remembrance, we
8 joked about it being so cold that morning, but I will
9 tell you, there is no more fitting place to be to
10 celebrate than at that monument at Fairleigh
11 Dickinson University. And as cold as it was this
12 year, there seemed to be four times more the number
13 of people that actually came out to observe, in
14 comparison to previous years. So the cold certainly
15 didn't keep people away.

16 And one of my comments was every year
17 we have to continue to remember where we were and
18 there is so much more work still left to do, and the
19 fact that there was so many people present there is
20 very encouraging to know that the message is still
21 being passed forward. And there were people from all
22 different walks of life. We had the Sheriff there.
23 Our Clerk was there. We had clergy. We had
24 residents from multiple towns, all making sure that
25 they were there for that service, and it was a very

1 moving service.

2 As far as the storm, I'd like to thank
3 not only DPW, but all the Department Heads, all the
4 county employees, all the volunteers, all our first
5 responders all over the county, not just county first
6 responders, but in storms like that, maybe the second
7 worst snowstorm we've ever experienced, I can tell
8 you that everybody performed amazingly.

9 When you're talking about local towns
10 need to get in to help people, first responders that
11 have to get into homes that need to be shoveled, I've
12 seen it firsthand as a councilman, when they come
13 there with shovels and dig their way in to get people
14 out.

15 This storm, in particular, when you
16 drive around, which I did, around the county, you
17 look at county roads and parks, and you hear feedback
18 from municipalities in which I've gotten many calls
19 about not just the job that the county did on the
20 county properties and county roads, but the
21 assistance that they lent to the municipalities.

22 We just heard in the Work Session today
23 that the County Executive put an email out to all the
24 municipalities, mayors and administrators, asking if
25 there was anything the county could do the help them

1 dig out of this mess.

2 We did get some responses for
3 equipment, where they had problems with their
4 equipment, and the county was quick to respond. And
5 I don't recall that ever being in effect, where the
6 county responded, not only so quickly, but has helped
7 so many municipalities with the storm.

8 So I would just like to sincerely thank
9 everybody that helped that and made that possible:
10 Our Administrator, County Executive, and all the
11 Department Heads.

12 And that's going to conclude my report.

13 Before we take a motion to adjourn, I
14 would like to welcome and congratulate Frank Salerno,
15 from our Bergen Technical Teterboro campus, for
16 running one of our cameras tonight. Thank you so
17 much.

18 At this moment, I will take a motion to
19 adjourn.

20 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

21 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

23 (All present Freeholders respond in the
24 affirmative.)

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All opposed?

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(No response.)

CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We are adjourned.

(Whereupon, the Public Meeting is
adjourned at 8:22 p.m.)

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

I, KIM O. FURBACHER, License No. XIO1042, a Certified Court Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Realtime Court Reporter, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the foregoing is a verbatim record of the testimony provided under oath before any court, referee, board, commission or other body created by statute of the State of New Jersey.

I am not related to the parties involved in this action; I have no financial interest, nor am I related to an agent of or employed by anyone with a financial interest in the outcome of this action.

This transcript complies with Regulation 13:43-5.9 of the New Jersey Administrative Code.

KIM O. FURBACHER, CRCR, CCR, RMR
License #XIO1042, and Notary Public
of New Jersey

My Commission Expires:
7/11/19