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BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016
COMMENCING AT 7:35 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

- STEVEN A. TANELLI, CHAIRMAN
- TRACY S. ZUR, VICE CHAIRWOMAN
- JOHN A. FELICE, CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE
- DR. JOAN M. VOSS
- MAURA R. DeNICOLA
- DAVID L. GANZ
- THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

FREEHOLDERS ABSENT:

NONE

KIM O. FURBACHER, CRCA, 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 the meeting, I'd 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: Please call the
24 roll.

25 (At this point in the proceeding roll

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

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

6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Everyone please rise
8 for the Pledge.

9 (At this point in the proceeding all
10 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.)

11 MOMENT OF SILENCE:

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please remain
13 standing as we observe a Moment of Silence in memory
14 of Phyllis Scott, who served in 1981 as the county's
15 Affirmative Action Officer, investigating employees'
16 complaints of bias and monitoring county policies.
17 She was active in organizations ranging from the
18 Coalition of Black Women to the Fair Housing Council
19 of Bergen County to the United Way.

20 (Whereupon a Moment of Silence is
21 observed.)

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

23 I have once one announcement this
24 evening before we begin, that is, in order to give
25 the Freeholders an opportunity to meet with local

1 community members and allow them to participate in
2 our Public Meetings closer to home, I'd like to
3 announce that the Freeholder Board will be holding
4 its first 2016 Freeholder Meeting on-the-road.

5 Our first meeting on the road this year
6 will be on March 9, 7:30 p.m. in Emerson, at the
7 Emerson Council Chambers. This is our first
8 announcement on this meeting. We will, of course,
9 have more announcements and we'll be advertising well
10 in advance to alert the county and the community of
11 this change of location for the Public Meeting.

12 The 4:30 Work Session on that day will
13 be held as usual here in Hackensack in our Caucus
14 Room.

15 MINUTES:

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Will the Clerk
17 please reach read the minutes to be accepted.

18 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: January 6, 2016 -
19 Reorganization Work Session; Freeholder Ganz absent.

20 January 6, 2016 - Reorganization Public
21 Session; Freeholder Ganz absent.

22 January 13, 2016 - Work Session; all
23 present.

24 January 13, 2016 Public Session - all
25 present.

1 January 27, 2016 - Work Session; all
2 present.

3 January 27, 2016 - Public Session;
4 Freeholders Felice and Ganz absent.

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

6 May I have a motion to accept the
7 minutes?

8 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

9 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

11 (All present Freeholders respond in the
12 affirmative, with noted abstentions.)

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Ayes have it.

16 FREEHOLDER GANZ: I abstain as to those
17 in which I am ineligible to vote.

18 FREEHOLDER FELICE: Same here, Mr.
19 Chairman.

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Noted.

21 Thank you, Freeholders.

22 HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: May I have a motion
24 to open the meeting to the public?

25 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

1 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

3 (All present Freeholders respond in the
4 affirmative.)

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it.

8 We will now have a hearing of the general public,
9 with a three-minute time limit in effect.

10 The Board Attorney will keep the time.
11 When the time of the speaker expires, the timekeeper
12 will announce the time has expired.

13 Please fill out a card with your name,
14 address, and general topic.

15 Before we begin, I just want to make
16 two quick announcements, I know people in the
17 audience are here for specific reasons.

18 One is an ordinance that we're
19 introducing on First Reading tonight in regards to
20 the Ridgewood parking deck, which the BCIA has sent
21 an ordinance for us to pass on First Reading tonight
22 guaranteeing the bonding for that project.

23 This Board does not take a position on
24 the merits of that project. The BCIA is our
25 financial arm. There are a lot of things that the

1 Board has been brought up-to-speed on regarding the
2 situation between the public and the Village of
3 Ridgewood. There's a petition going around. There's
4 a chance that it will be put on the ballot as a
5 referendum question, there's also a chance that
6 there's an ordinance passed by the village next week
7 that may make this pretty much void.

8 So we just everyone to know that this
9 Board is not taking a position on the merits of the
10 project, we're just moving our financial arm, which
11 is the BCIA, which bonds for schools, bonds for
12 municipalities, where they save money and at lower
13 rates because of the AAA bond rating. So this is a
14 step that we need to take to further the BCIA's
15 progress on this. So I just want to let everybody
16 know. Everyone will have an opportunity to speak on
17 that.

18 Also an announcement on the open space,
19 because there's some issues on some of the
20 allocations for the open space. That as well, by us
21 passing the resolution tonight, we're giving the open
22 space board the opportunity to publish a public
23 hearing of each of those allocations.

24 So I just want to let everybody know
25 that, before we begin public.

1 So public is now opened.

2 So Anne Loving.

3 MS. LOVING: Anne Loving, Ridgewood,
4 New Jersey.

5 Thank you very much for allowing me to
6 come to speak tonight. And I understand that
7 probably my words are, you know, not even necessary,
8 but I appreciate the ability to vent, so to speak.

9 The guaranty ordinance for the BCIA
10 Village of Ridgewood parking garage project that
11 you're considering tonight, which is Ordinance 16-3
12 is very controversial in our town.

13 There was a non-binding referendum last
14 November that many members of the public feel was
15 quite misleading. And to that end, a number of
16 people who voted for it felt that they were misled on
17 what they were voting for.

18 So now we have private citizens taking
19 out very expensive advertisements in the newspaper
20 with their own money for and against whether this
21 project should be bonded by the county (indicating).

22 Ridgewood is able to bond it itself,
23 but we needed to have four votes of our elected
24 officials, which would have been a supermajority and
25 only three voted.

1 And immediately that same night, our
2 mayor had it on the agenda, what many of us
3 characterize as a circumnavigation of the
4 supermajority rule and immediately was able to get
5 just a three person vote to go to the BCIA for the
6 bond.

7 Now, as Chairman Tanelli mentioned,
8 there is a petition going around. This is not a
9 casual petition. I am part of this grassroots
10 movement. And there will be a binding referendum on
11 the May ballot, if need be. We have all our ducks in
12 a row, and this would be to stop the bonding. We
13 would like to be able to bond within Ridgewood. We
14 feel that this is an in-house problem that we can
15 solve ourselves.

16 As Chairman Tanelli has learned from
17 some of the Ridgewood officials, we're moving towards
18 getting it resolved.

19 So thank you for letting me speak my
20 piece. I understand that if you vote for it tonight
21 this doesn't make it a done deal, but much
22 appreciated.

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

24 Saurabh Dani.

25 MR. DANI: Good evening, Honorable

1 Freeholder of Bergen County.

2 It is my understanding that the Bergen
3 County Improvement Authority was chartered to assist
4 municipalities who are unable to raise significant
5 capital funding themselves or when it will be more
6 expensive for them to raise money because of their
7 lower credit rating.

8 In this instance, the Village of
9 Ridgewood has AAA bond rating, and the comparison
10 report created by BCIA's bond counsel demonstrates
11 that Ridgewood taxpayers would save money if we bond
12 it ourselves instead of bonding through BCIA. So,
13 clearly the Village of Ridgewood is not requesting
14 BCIA to help with funding because it is going to be
15 cost effective or because the village cannot do it on
16 its own. Some members of our village council are
17 requesting you to help with their own agenda and to
18 circumnavigate a democratic process which is working
19 so far and will eventually work, if you do not
20 interfere in that process.

21 The proposed garage does not fit on the
22 lot proposed for its construction. We all agree we
23 need parking, but there's a significant disagreement
24 over how many zoning rules should we break to put the
25 garage. Although the village is not required to

1 follow its own zoning rules, it seems extreme that
2 several will be completely disregarded for the
3 construction of the proposed garage.

4 Some counsel members are okay with
5 encroaching over the street and reducing the public
6 roadway by half, and also constructing a building to
7 a height that's never done since World War II in
8 Ridgewood. Some council members (and most residents)
9 want a moderately high building and less encroachment
10 into the street. Most residents also want a garage
11 that's appropriately sized for that lot. And there
12 are some residents who steadfastly claim that they
13 never have trouble parking in Ridgewood and do not
14 want any garage at all.

15 We have been working on the design
16 discussions, and we have enough council members to
17 vote for a Ridgewood issued bond, provided you do not
18 interfere in this process by helping some council
19 members to shortcut their negotiation process at the
20 municipal level.

21 I'm attaching January 6th meeting
22 minutes, where at the same meeting we had Ordinances
23 3515 and 3519 on the agenda. The three council
24 members had pressured the two other council members
25 that either you vote in favor of Ordinance 3515 to

1 self bond tonight, for the design we are proposing or
2 we have an alternative to go to BCIA with Ordinance
3 3519. Allowing the circumnavigation by you does not
4 help in good faith efforts to compromise on the
5 design and make two council members irrelevant in
6 this process.

7 Local municipal law of Ridgewood
8 requires a supermajority to issue bond. If Ridgewood
9 never tried this ordinance at the local level and if,
10 it never failed at the local level, then probably you
11 could have assumed that supermajority may exist in
12 Ridgewood. Since the self funding option was voted
13 down on January 6th, due to difference in design, if
14 you agree to fund this project you will be allowing
15 circumnavigation of supermajority requirement for a
16 bond.

17 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Mr. Dani.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can you please wrap
19 it up?

20 MR. DANI: Okay.

21 Please do not set this precedent.
22 Please do not encourage circumnavigation of municipal
23 laws. Please do not participate in finding ways
24 around the municipal laws. You are not issuing a
25 bond that is connected to revenues generated from

1 this garage, you're issuing a bond which puts
2 Ridgewood taxpayers on the hook, and that should be
3 done at the local level.

4 Thank you very much for allowing extra
5 time.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Jacqueline Hone.

8 MS. HONE: Hi. Jacqueline Hone,
9 Ridgewood, New Jersey.

10 I was going to help Mr. Dani finish his
11 statement, but he got through it, so I'm going to
12 withdraw my statement.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Sure.

15 Jim McCarthy.

16 MR. DANI: He's not here yet.

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. Well, I'll
18 give him a chance.

19 Chuck Powers.

20 MR. POWERS: Chuck Powers, Teaneck.

21 I'm not actually representing any
22 organization tonight but only myself.

23 I listened very interestedly to your
24 discussion this afternoon about the rise in health
25 care costs. And you may remember that in a recent

1 Work Session, I suggested that the way in which what
2 you were doing, in trying to control some of them,
3 might be really important to what actually was going
4 on in municipalities, which are struggling with this.

5 What I listened to this afternoon
6 suggested to me -- I've been watching things and some
7 discussions with state legislators, as they are
8 wrestling with certain changes in the HIPAA law,
9 which may affect health issues and to whom they're
10 available, particularly among public employees. I
11 listened to you folks talking about the county's
12 particular problems and the sharp rise, in fact
13 you're looking at a \$25 million commitment tonight.
14 And also watching what has been happening in
15 municipalities.

16 And what I felt this afternoon was that
17 there's not sufficient thought going into the
18 interrelationship among all of those elements.

19 Let me give you just one simple
20 example.

21 There are still about 18 townships or
22 municipalities in the county who provide waivers or
23 health care for part-time elected officials. And
24 that number is dropping relatively quickly. But the
25 waiver issue itself presents a kind of interesting

1 issue.

2 There are a lot of folks in Bergen
3 County who don't have any health insurance, and what
4 this is program does has been encouraging people to
5 not only take it one place but get a waiver from it
6 in some other.

7 What you think you ought to think
8 about, whether or not your own framework for how your
9 employees have opportunities to seek waivers in other
10 situations, may actually be encouraging your
11 employees to take your insurance, because if they
12 happen to be functioning in a state health benefits
13 program situation, those folks are not allowed
14 actually to jump out and find some other service.

15 I think it's a very important set of
16 conditions. I'm not suggesting I have a solution to
17 this tonight, but I am saying that a very careful
18 thought process, watch what's going on in the state
19 Legislature, it's almost certain to happen within the
20 next six months. Think about what's going on in
21 municipalities, but particularly think about the
22 waiver situation, because, in my judgment, a public
23 process that somehow benefits a public employee by
24 being able to get compensated for a second health
25 insurance, while having opportunity to take it

1 through their own place of employment, is problematic
2 and that set of relationships, and I'm happy to think
3 through this issue with anyone who is interested in
4 doing so, is an important set of issues. I think it
5 might turn out that the county can save some money,
6 but the taxpayer overall might really save some money
7 and we might actually have more money to deliver
8 health care to those who most need it.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

11 Joseph Dunsay.

12 MR. DUNSAY: Good evening. I'll start
13 with some housekeeping.

14 Several days ago I was at the River
15 Edge Environmental Commission meeting. Everyone
16 there liked the idea of extending the Hackensack
17 River walk up to the border with Hackensack and River
18 Edge, and Council rep Murphy encouraged me to report
19 that.

20 I'll have to give more details at
21 another meeting, because something a bit more
22 pressing came up at an On Our Own meeting a few days
23 ago.

24 It came to my attention that more
25 people are being kicked out of the shelter on shaky

1 grounds, and that led to a discussion on our own, and
2 we decided that it's important for a lot of members
3 to talk about their experiences. So as reluctant as
4 I am to bring my personal life to the forum, I'd like
5 to talk about what happened to me last spring.

6 When you're a mad person, it only takes
7 a phone call to have you locked up in a hospital for
8 two weeks, before you even get to see a judge or be
9 told what the accusation is, why you got locked up.
10 And it's possible for people you know to abuse that
11 route. And so, as a result, sometimes you live in
12 frequent fear of just having your rights violated
13 like that.

14 So last spring, one night I was on my
15 way home back to my mom's house, and I saw flashing
16 lights on top of a vehicle at the bottom of the hill
17 where her house is, and I just kind of panicked, I
18 didn't even go down the block, I just made a right
19 and went to the shelter, because I figured at least
20 that would be a safe place to spend the night.

21 Well, I got there -- and because I had
22 been told by other people that, you know, if you need
23 a place, the shelter takes you in.

24 Well, I got there and the receptionist
25 said there was no way that I could be in.

1 I figured, well, you know, most places
2 have a process for complaining if you don't like a
3 decision, so I said I wanted to, you know, follow the
4 route for complaining. And she said there was no
5 possibility.

6 Well, it took some cajoling, but she
7 finally called her supervisor, and I talked to the
8 supervisor and, you know, said my situation.

9 And then things got much worse, because
10 the receptionist and the security guard decided to
11 retaliate because I had filed a complaint, and the
12 security guard actually said flat out, "You're in
13 trouble now, because you complained."

14 And so I was rather distraught. The
15 Bergen County Police were on their way. Fortunately,
16 there was a social worker there on staff that night
17 who was very good at her job. She heard my story,
18 realized that it was a temporary situation, a natural
19 need, so I stayed as a sit-up resident just that one
20 night.

21 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Mr. Dunsay.

22 MR. DUNSAY: To make a long story
23 short, there are some good people working at the
24 shelter, there are some bad actors working at the
25 shelter, and you have to keep a closer eyes at things

1 there.

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

3 Michele Talamo.

4 MS. TALAMO: Good evening, everyone.

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Good evening.

6 MS. TALAMO: I want to bring something
7 to your attention that I just found out about, so I
8 did a little bit of that research, so I hope it's
9 adequate for discussion.

10 I understand that HUD's Affirmatively
11 Furthering Fair Housing is the federal government's
12 broadest attack ever on property right and home rule.
13 AFFH is a decades old term that HUD translated into a
14 package of mandates governing how communities must
15 use new grant money. Acceptance of funds through
16 familiar programs such as CDBGs suddenly triggers the
17 revised AFFH "obligation."

18 HUD now enforces their will on
19 communities through its insidious Assessment of Fair
20 Housing. The lengthy survey establishes a basis for
21 lawsuits fueled by special interest groups that pit
22 community members against one another and the federal
23 government.

24 This chilling tactic allows HUD to take
25 control of local zoning, reverse voters' decisions,

1 and even annex your hometown into a region.

2 Recently, HUD forced the citizens of
3 Rockland, Illinois to abandon their vote to build 49
4 affordable housing units and instead accept 69 units.
5 Neither the mayor, the council, nor the community
6 wanted the larger number of homes. It didn't matter.
7 HUD struck like a sledgehammer.

8 There have been many problems in
9 Westchester related to this as well.

10 Once a community accepts the HUD's
11 funds, AFFH rules, govern any monies they receive,
12 public or private, that HUD concludes may affect fair
13 housing or urban development.

14 It's generally true that HUD grants
15 have not changed; however, AFFH creates an additional
16 layer of updated procedures and terms that sharply
17 govern what you can and cannot do with a grant money.

18 The term "AFFH" has been used for
19 decades, but do not mistake that for the new rule,
20 nor think that when accepting grant money it will be
21 business as usual.

22 Grants, such as HUD's Community
23 Development Block Grant, contain many strict
24 requirements that HUD has been lax about enforcing in
25 prior years. That is changing.

1 Simply completing the AFH leaves you
2 obligated, even if you're not approved for the grant.

3 In July 2003, HUD Sec. Shaun Donovan
4 made it clear that HUD will be stepping up the fair
5 housing enforcement.

6 And according to Law 360, HUD is
7 setting the stage for false claims lawsuits against
8 jurisdictions that fail to comply with the agency's
9 requirements. HUD charged more cases of all legal
10 violations in 2011 than in the preceding decade, and
11 the number's increasing. The fault claims liability
12 stems from a certification recipients must sign to
13 receive the funds. The recipient certifies they
14 shall take "no action that is materially inconsistent
15 with its obligation to affirmatively further fair
16 housing.

17 However, to receive the funds,
18 applicants must develop a plan that addresses each of
19 the potential areas of discrimination to HUD's
20 satisfaction, but not necessarily that of the
21 community.

22 Once a jurisdiction or public housing
23 accepts a new grant --

24 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Mr. Talamo.

25 MS. TALAMO: -- that effects fair

1 housing or urban development, the agency uses the
2 threat of lawsuits and forfeiture of the grant money
3 to gain control of local zoning laws. HUD can then
4 direct local officials' decisions, and coerce the
5 community to join a region.

6 No one knows their town or county
7 better than the officials in that town or county;
8 having the latitude to make the decisions for their
9 community may be taken away, if officials do not
10 realize that HUD's coercion and high-handed methods
11 are on the horizon.

12 I share this information in the spirit
13 of community.

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

15 Mr. Bienstock.

16 MR. BIENSTOCK: Claude Bienstock, Fair
17 Lawn.

18 Good evening, everybody.

19 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Good evening.

20 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Good evening.

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Good evening.

22 MR. BIENSTOCK: First, we need progress
23 on the William Carlos Williams Center in Rutherford.
24 We need a Performing Arts Center.

25 What should be done? I don't know. I

1 don't have the answers.

2 Can I talk about Ridgewood?

3 I attend the council meetings in
4 Ridgewood, even though I live in Fair Lawn. I'm
5 trying to help the council and the public there to
6 continue progress.

7 I have to say a few words about
8 Ridgewood. I work there at the polls on Election
9 Day. Ridgewood is a very lovely town, but it has a
10 problem with parking.

11 For over 75 years, parking has been a
12 major problem in Ridgewood. Something has to be
13 done. The people voted in Ridgewood to have a
14 parking garage.

15 What kind of parking garage or parking
16 lot should be done?

17 I don't have the answers. I'll not an
18 engineer or an architect.

19 How you help Ridgewood with the BCIA?
20 I don't have the answers, that's up to you.

21 Leaders have to make decisions, and
22 whatever decisions you make, I'm sure the people in
23 Ridgewood will go along with you.

24 The council and the mayor of Ridgewood
25 recognize that there's a problem. They wanted input

1 from the public, and the majority of the public wants
2 a garage.

3 What type of garage; whether three
4 stories or four stories or two stories, that's not up
5 to me, that's up to the government in Ridgewood to
6 make those decisions and you, and if you want the
7 BCIA to get involved, that might be a good decision,
8 that's not up to me, that's up to you.

9 But I'm just letting you know, from
10 working as a real estate salesman in Ridgewood, that
11 Ridgewood has a definite parking problem and
12 something has to be done about it, because people
13 cannot find a parking space in Ridgewood. Something
14 has to be done. The times have to change and you
15 have to look to the future.

16 So thank you for allowing me to say a
17 few words. I hope I was of some help.

18 Thank you very, very much. Bye.

19 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Thank you, Mr.
20 Bienstock.

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, Mr.
22 Bienstock.

23 Mr. Erwin.

24 MR. ERWIN: Good evening, everyone.
25 Happy New Year.

1 James Erwin, 40 Jefferson Street,
2 Hackensack, New Jersey.

3 For the record, I work for North Jersey
4 Media Group, which is the parent company of The
5 Record, also the parent company of the Hackensack
6 Chronicle. The Hackensack Chronicle does business
7 with the county and this town. And I'm the account
8 executive for that entity. I am here on my own
9 accord, has nothing to do with my job. I'm here for
10 personal reasons.

11 When I was last here last year, I spoke
12 about the tobacco issue as well as pedestrian deaths.

13 So, again, when I was last here I spoke
14 about pedestrian deaths in New Jersey, in this
15 county, and about tobacco 21, which should be
16 limited.

17 When I left that meeting and went home,
18 I came home to some news that shook me, changed my
19 life. I came home to get a message from my aunt that
20 her sister, my other aunt, had cancer and was going
21 to be passing soon.

22 That same aunt also told me that she
23 was in an accident a couple of days before and she
24 was involved in a fatal accident. The car that she
25 was in struck a young man, and the young man was

1 killed.

2 Now, I'm a very spiritual person and
3 that. It shook me to the core, because I questioned
4 what I was doing and why was I.

5 Hearing this news upon coming when I
6 spoke about those two issues, so I had to get some
7 counseling from one of the associate ministers at my
8 church.

9 I took from that that I have been
10 charged to go forward with this movement and take
11 that movement to a whole other level. I have to take
12 it extremely seriously. I have to be armed with the
13 equipment in order for these issues to be addressed.

14 So, I know I have three minutes. I'm
15 asking the county as a body, the county Freeholders
16 themselves, Chairman, to look at passing legislation
17 to raise the age to buy cigarettes and tobacco,
18 nicotine products in Bergen County from 19 to 21.

19 The movement did pass the Legislature
20 in the state, and we know that Governor Christie
21 pocket vetoed it. The legislation currently has also
22 been reintroduced both in Assembly and in the Senate.

23 Pedestrian deaths, I read the article
24 that they were down two percent in New Jersey and
25 that's beautiful, because they were up nationwide.

1 And last week a gentleman was struck and killed on
2 Route 46.

3 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Mr. Erwin.

4 MR. ERWIN: I know you're doing
5 everything you can, I ask you to continue to do the
6 efforts to bring that to night.

7 Last thing, 30 seconds, I'm also upon
8 another initiative. I love people, right. There's a
9 crisis going on in Flint, Michigan. And I, along
10 with my partner who has had and surviving breast
11 cancer, we're going to have an initiative called
12 "Bergen for Flint," Bergen County for Flint, and
13 we're going to produce a drive in the month of March
14 to get necessary items for the people in Flint,
15 Michigan during this disastrous water crisis. And I
16 would just ask the county's support in that as well.

17 So I'm going to be asking the towns,
18 the city officials, houses of worship, business
19 owners and individuals to donate bottled water,
20 formula, baby wipes. They have a serious issue with
21 rashes. And we're going to be collecting those
22 donations and taking them down to Flint the first of
23 April.

24 Thank you. God bless.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. Thank you.

1 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Anyone else?

3 (No response.)

4 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Motion to close.

5 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

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

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 RESOLUTIONS OF UNANIMOUS CONSENT:

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Will the Clerk
13 please read the resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

14 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Resolutions on the
15 Consent Agenda:

16 159-16 through 172-16, 174-16 through
17 190-16, and 192-16 through 195-16.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion?

19 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Motion to move the
20 Consent Agenda.

21 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Freeholder Ganz.
23 Seconded, Freeholder DeNicola.

24 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Roll call.

25 (At this point in the proceeding roll

1 call is taken and the Resolutions of Unanimous
2 Consent are passed by a unanimous vote.)

3 NONCONSENT RESOLUTIONS:

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Are there any
5 resolutions of nonconsent, pull or tabled?

6 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: There is one,
7 191-16, which is a "Resolution authorizing fourth
8 Amendment to Professional Services Agreement awarded
9 to Gilbane Building Company Inc. regarding New Agency
10 Building/Parking Deck."

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion
12 to introduce?

13 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

14 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Call the roll,
16 please.

17 (At this point in the proceeding roll
18 call is taken and Resolution 191-16 is passed by a
19 vote of six in favor, with Freeholder DeNicola voting
20 nay.)

21 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Resolution passes.

22 There are two resolutions, one is
23 pulled, 173-16.

24 That's it.

25 ORDINANCES:

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. Introduction
2 and First Reading of Ordinance 16-3.

3 Will the Clerk please read the
4 ordinance by title only.

5 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: "GUARANTY ORDINANCE
6 SECURING THE BERGEN COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY'S
7 LEASE REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2016 (VILLAGE OF
8 RIDGEWOOD PROJECT) IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT
9 NOT TO EXCEED \$12,300,000."

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: May I have a motion?

11 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Second?

13 FREEHOLDER FELICE: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Call the roll,
15 please.

16 (At this point in the proceeding roll
17 call is taken and the Introduction and First Reading
18 of Ordinance 16-3 is passed by a unanimous vote.)

19 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Ordinance passes
20 First Reading.

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Introduction and
22 First Reading of Ordinance 16-4.

23 Will the Clerk please read the
24 Ordinance 16-4 by title only.

25 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: "BOND ORDINANCE OF

1 THE COUNTY OF BERGEN APPROPRIATING \$24,880,000 AND
2 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$23,650,000 BONDS OR
3 NOTES OF THE COUNTY TO FUND RESERVES FOR THE COUNTY
4 OF BERGEN SELF INSURANCE FUND."

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion?

6 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: So moved.

7 FREEHOLDER FELICE: I'll second it.

8 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Before I call the
9 roll, I'd like to give the floor to Freeholder Felice
10 for a moment.

11 FREEHOLDER FELICE: Thank you, Mr.
12 Chairman.

13 I know this is an exception for one to
14 speak during a First Reading, but I think it's very,
15 very important for us as a body to recognize the
16 rising health care cost and the impact of our
17 employees' and their families' health, as well as the
18 exploding cost of it. And as a result of this being
19 an example of those rising costs, that I would
20 through the Chair ask that I meet with the
21 administration to talk about looking at disease state
22 management and ways to not just save money but to
23 save the health and improve the health of the
24 employees and their families of our great county.

25 So I would like that to happen.

1 Administrator, Mr. Novelli, I would
2 like that to occur. So I look forward to my aide
3 working with your office to schedule something.

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
5 Freeholder.

6 FREEHOLDER FELICE: Thank you very
7 much, Mr. Chairman.

8 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the
9 roll.

10 (At this point in the proceeding roll
11 call is taken and the Introduction and First Reading
12 of Ordinance 16-4 is passed by a vote of six in
13 favor, with Freeholder Ganz abstaining.)

14 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Ordinance passes
15 First Reading.

16 COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM FREEHOLDERS:

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We'll now have
18 Freeholder committee reports.

19 We will start with Freeholder Sullivan.

20 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Thank you,
21 Chairman Tanelli.

22 Good evening, everyone. I'll be very
23 brief. I just want to point a few things out here.

24 This week the Freeholder Board,
25 tonight, we just approved the Resolution 170-16,

1 which will accept a matching grant from the New
2 Jersey Department of Human Services to Bergen County
3 to provide the funding for three beds for our drug
4 court program at Spring House.

5 Spring House, as many of you know, is a
6 halfway house for women who need assistance with
7 substance abuse.

8 Fighting the heroin epidemic, with all
9 my colleagues on this Board and the County Executive,
10 is very important to all of us.

11 Heroin abuse affects all, and it's a
12 growing problem, and we need to continue to support
13 our county programs and the staff who are on the
14 front lines of combating this terrible epidemic.

15 Also this week the Freeholder Board
16 approved to accept grant money from drunk driving
17 enforcement funds to help Sheriff Saudino and the
18 Bergen County Sheriff's Office to keep our
19 communities safe.

20 Lastly I just want to point that out
21 that next week I will be participating, as most of my
22 colleagues here, will be in "Read Across America"
23 throughout Bergen County to celebrate the life of Dr.
24 Seuss. I know it's very near and dear to my
25 colleague here, and it's great to get out and see the

1 children and read the literature and get them engaged
2 in reading.

3 I also look forward to, and if I don't
4 say this on record, I won't be allowed home tonight,
5 I look forward to going to my wife's school in
6 Bergenfield, as well as other schools throughout the
7 county, to read to her second grade class and other
8 classrooms in her school.

9 So thank you, Chairman Tanelli, and
10 that's my report.

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
12 Freeholder.

13 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Is that brief
14 enough?

15 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: It's perfect.
16 Freeholder Voss.

17 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you, Chairman.
18 February is Black History Month, and a
19 couple of days ago we had a really wonderful program
20 presented here in our Meeting Room. The woman who
21 was the keynote speaker taught us so many things that
22 we didn't know, and if you get an opportunity to go
23 out into the hall and see the exhibits, because those
24 were the things that she was talking about, and to
25 many of us, the information was very, very new. So,

1 it was a wonderful program.

2 As my colleague over here knows, I love
3 teaching, and I had the opportunity to go to the
4 Academy last week and speak to some of the students
5 there.

6 Unfortunately, most of our schools do
7 not really teach government anymore, and so I
8 volunteer to go to anybody who wants me to talk about
9 government, whether it's federal, state, local,
10 municipal, because young people really need to have a
11 better understanding of how government works so they
12 can participate in it. It was a great experience,
13 and I look forward to doing it again.

14 Last Monday, many of us attended an
15 Interfaith Breakfast at the Hilton in Hasbrouck
16 Heights. Eight major religions were represented
17 there. It's the 30th anniversary of this breakfast,
18 and each year it gets bigger and better, and it
19 really does promote understanding between the various
20 religions. And each year one of the major religions
21 sponsors the program, and this year it was the Roman
22 Catholic Church that was the sponsor, and again a
23 very, very good speaker.

24 March is Women's History Month. One of
25 the things that I have tried to do throughout my

1 career is to get more women involved in government.
2 And I've heard all kinds of excuses, I'm too old and
3 stuff like that. Believe me, ladies, you're never
4 too old to get involved until you're six feet under,
5 so keep going.

6 This year, the theme for Women's
7 History Month is "Working to Form a more Perfect
8 Union," honoring women in public service and
9 government.

10 Every year I try to have a program that
11 I honor women who have been outstanding in terms of
12 our county and our community. And I honored several
13 people, many of whom were not in politics but had
14 done very, very good things. And I particularly want
15 to mention Lisa, who is one of my honorees who has
16 done so many wonderful things for her community, and
17 a lady that runs the Animal Shelter, and her name is
18 Deb Yankow.

19 These are unsung heroes. Those of us
20 who are in elected office get a lot of note for what
21 we do, but people who do great things sometimes
22 don't.

23 I just want to do, because I'm a
24 history teacher and I have to do this, and it is
25 Women's History Month.

1 Less than 20 percent of the people in
2 our federal government, House of Representatives and
3 Senate, are women. Less than 20 percent.

4 In New Jersey, we only have one female
5 member of Congress out of 12 representatives. In the
6 New Jersey Legislature, less than 24 percent of the
7 members are women, and New Jersey is a pretty
8 progressive state.

9 And this I found particularly
10 interesting, you know that here in Bergen County we
11 have almost 600 towns. There are 562 mayors in the
12 State of New Jersey, only 69 of those towns have a
13 lady mayor. And here in our very progressive Bergen
14 County, where we have 70 towns, only seven towns have
15 lady mayors. So my admonition to you is, we love
16 men, don't get me wrong, but ladies get out there and
17 make your voices heard.

18 Thank you, Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
20 Freeholder.

21 Freeholder Felice.

22 FREEHOLDER FELICE: Thank you.

23 I look forward to getting the budget
24 from the County Executive. I look forward to
25 replicating the schedule like we had last year,

1 different dates but the same format. I look forward
2 to having a very transparent process by which the
3 elected officials will pass through my office any
4 questions to the administration, so they could be
5 answered beforehand. And I hope to get this process
6 done in about 5 to 6 days, maybe five this time.

7 I also look forward to being charged to
8 be on the Bergen Regional Task Force to continue our
9 efforts to shape the future for Bergen Regional,
10 shape the future for our residents, and for the
11 people outside of Bergen County, in which many of
12 those patients reside. And what we do in the next
13 few months will really shape the future of health
14 care in Bergen County for the people that need it
15 most for the next 50 years.

16 So I hope to continue in that process,
17 and to ask the tough questions and to get the answers
18 and move forward.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
21 Freeholder.

22 Freeholder DeNicola.

23 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Thank you, Mr.
24 Chairman.

25 First, I want to start with a few

1 things that we touched on briefly in our Public
2 Meeting, but as many of you know or may not know,
3 before the 7:30 meeting, we have our 4:30 work
4 meeting, and that's when all of the hard questions
5 are asked and the real discussion takes place, before
6 our formal vote here this evening.

7 And in regard to those two ordinances,
8 we did all agree that, as far as Ridgewood is
9 concerned, they have a meeting next week, and
10 hopefully we'll get some more information, but as the
11 Chairman had stated, as a governing body, we are
12 giving our initial approval, the ordinance won't
13 become law until the next time it comes up for a vote
14 and it's adopted and there's a public hearing.

15 We're giving our initial approval to
16 lending or having Ridgewood use the Bergen County
17 Improvement Authority as the agency for which they
18 will borrow money to hopefully save money for
19 Ridgewood. All of their application requirements are
20 in place. So our vote is not on the merits of the
21 project itself, but on that.

22 As to our second ordinance, the almost
23 \$25 million to help our reserve for the
24 self-insurance fund, as we talked about briefly now
25 and discussed during our work meeting, we are looking

1 at exorbitant rises in costs to the county for health
2 benefits. And we have a new risk manager now, and
3 they're going to be performing two very, very
4 important audits that hopefully will give us some
5 information as to what exactly is going on on our
6 users and also what the reimbursements are for, and
7 that should help us moving forward make better
8 decisions about cost efficiencies in regard to
9 benefits.

10 I wanted to mention a couple of things
11 that happened. I know Freeholders who spoke before
12 me talked about a lot of the great things that we
13 did, the Interfaith Breakfast.

14 The 200 Club reception, I don't know if
15 anyone mentioned that, that was also held last week.

16 I want to say too, I was in your fair
17 city, Freeholder Ganz, for the Knights of Pythias
18 charity donation event, an excellent organization
19 that raises tens of thousands of dollars and
20 distributes it to worthy organizations both in their
21 towns, supporting their emergency services and also
22 other nonprofits to which many of their knights are
23 connected.

24 I was lucky enough to be asked to give,
25 I'll say "lucky enough," the trophies to the winners

1 of the Community Options Cupid Chase 5K Run.

2 That was on February 13th, that
3 Saturday, when it was negative degrees out there, and
4 still had so many participants who came out early in
5 the morning. They ran that 5K starting at the pool
6 in Glen Rock, and, in the end, after all the awards
7 were given and I was walking back to my car, they
8 still had the finish line with the balloons set up
9 and there was, I don't want to say an older woman, a
10 more experienced woman who came across the finish
11 line in feathers and all dressed up with a lot of
12 warm layers as well, and we applauded her heartily.
13 She was saying it was as if she was in that dream
14 where you're running and running and you're not
15 moving anywhere. And we offered to walk her to her
16 car, but no, she had to stay there because she needed
17 to wait for her husband.

18 (Laughter.)

19 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: So shortly after
20 that, he did come by and he finished as well. So it
21 was a great thing.

22 Also Black History Month, as was said.

23 And just this past week, I attended the
24 Mental Health Advisory Board meeting.

25 I know we're all going to be invited,

1 as elected officials to a roundtable, which was moved
2 again to May, but I have to say, I've been to a
3 number of their meetings, they are so well attended
4 by all of the stakeholders, a lot of the providers
5 throughout our county, and the Bergen County Division
6 of Mental Health Services as well.

7 There were a number of things that were
8 discussed, in addition to the importance of getting
9 us altogether to talk about new legislation, new
10 reimbursement; of course, declining grant funding for
11 programming, as the need continues to grow. Because,
12 so importantly, we cannot forget that mental health
13 very often is the source of the issues we find with a
14 lot of other groups in our communities, our veterans,
15 the drug addicted and the homeless as well.

16 What we're going to work on and
17 hopefully all of us together is communication,
18 because there are a tremendous number of services out
19 there, but not everybody knows where to go, who to
20 call to find out, what is offered where.

21 We have 211, but similar to what we're
22 doing, Freeholder Sullivan, with heroin addiction and
23 all of these good people, these good program, these
24 non-profits, in addition to Bergen County, sometimes
25 work in silos, not purposefully, it just happens, so

1 we want to create a much stronger network and build
2 that fabric in the mental health community as well.

3 We're doing great with Stigma-Free and
4 acceptance, and now we need to move into the next
5 phase, actually communicating and make those who need
6 it aware of the treatment that is there.

7 The last thing I wanted to mention is
8 second grade. I taught for a long time. My favorite
9 grade was second grade. Because they're still young
10 enough that they believe you know all the answers,
11 but they're just on the verge of taking off on their
12 own, because they are learning to read with more
13 fluency, and that's why it will be fun to Read Across
14 America in Bergen County with my colleagues starting
15 this Friday, actually, and I look forward to that as
16 well.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
19 Freeholder.

20 Freeholder Ganz.

21 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Thank you. I have a
22 number of quick items to talk about.

23 I've been away for three weeks, and,
24 unlike others who have seen feathers in a different
25 context, the feathers that I saw were of king

1 penguins and other penguins, such as the gentoo and
2 the emperor penguins. I was in Antarctica, the great
3 unknown continent, and I came by way of Buenos Aires,
4 Islas Malvinas, or the Falkland Islands.

5 And that brings me to a point that I
6 want to just chat about for a moment.

7 When the Falklands were invaded by the
8 Argentinians who followed them on Malvinas Island,
9 the Argentinians planted more than 25,000 land mines
10 that were all tagged and identified so that they could
11 be catalogued and removed.

12 Before the Argentinians left the
13 islands, they removed all the metal tags, so that the
14 mines that are presently there, 25000, are all in
15 plastic, which can't be X-rayed and can't be found in
16 any way other than doing it manually, mine by mine,
17 minefield by minefield, bayonet by bayonet, inch by
18 inch.

19 Remarkably, this is what my son Scott
20 did for the United States Army as a combat engineer.

21 Just as hazardous for the people of
22 Zimbabwe who have been imported into the Falklands to
23 solve this problem, as it is for the U.S. Army when
24 our guys do it.

25 I get a little bit emotional about

1 this, because it brings back memories of three years
2 ago when my son was wounded and ultimately committed
3 suicide as a result of the injuries that he
4 sustained.

5 But here is two civilized countries in
6 the world, and they had a war, they invaded the
7 other, they sank a battleship and a destroyer, one
8 each, and they left a present of 25,000 mines for the
9 8,000 people of the Falklands to deal with and walked
10 away.

11 I think we should at a minimum express
12 our outrage about it, and I haven't thought of what
13 else we should do.

14 Read Across America. I love Read
15 Across America. I sit on the floor with the kids and
16 I read to them whatever books they have. And we do
17 it, I first ask how many kids in the class speak
18 Spanish, inevitably it's more than half, and I
19 translate it as we're going along, so we do it in
20 English and Spanish, and they get a kick out of the
21 fact that other people besides them speak the Spanish
22 language.

23 I suggest that if any of you know
24 Spanish or some Spanish, you can really get a rise
25 out of your kids when you Read Across America when

1 you do that.

2 Also, if you have a Dr. Seuss hat, it
3 looks completely ridiculous and they seem to think
4 that's funny.

5 Black History Month. I was so pleased
6 to be able to be here and hear the remarkable address
7 that was before us.

8 Chairman, I want to make the
9 suggestion, I think that these addresses are so good
10 that we ought to film them and we should put them on
11 the county website so that it can be shared with
12 everybody that wants to look at it. I thought of it
13 as I was sitting here tonight, and I thought that it
14 would be a good idea. I hope you will send it to the
15 right committee to look at, that we can find a way to
16 fund it this year.

17 I want to also say that the Martin
18 Luther King Birthday Committee is looking for an
19 additional \$40,000 in contributions from the public
20 at-large to finish off, not the statue, which they
21 raised a quarter of a million dollars for, but the
22 wall that has or intends to have inscriptions on it.
23 I want to say that Dr. Arnold Brown called me this
24 evening to tell me that he had gotten a contribution
25 from John Hogan, who is our County Clerk, and then he

1 said to me, "And what are you giving?"

2 And I wrote a check for \$500, which I
3 am sending to him tomorrow, as my small contribution
4 on a personal basis, not from reelection funds, to
5 pay homage to a great man and a great project that we
6 got involved in as a county and as Freeholders, and
7 it's a beautiful memorial. If you haven't seen it,
8 please go out to Fairleigh Dickinson University, it's
9 on the Hackensack side of the river, and it gives you
10 a moment to pause and reflect on this truly great
11 man, who would have been 87-years-old this year, also
12 hard to believe.

13 Okay. Now, one of the things that was
14 mentioned a little bit earlier today, and this will
15 be the last thing that I'll talk about tonight, is
16 that it's necessary to repeat things for people to
17 learn about it and you have to tell them about it.
18 That's why I talk about Bergen Wellness all the time.
19 I talk about it because there are still people who
20 don't know what a great program it is. It gives you
21 the ability to use a card, which I have a copy of it
22 here, maybe Freeholder Zur would be kind to hold it
23 up.

24 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: The pet one.

25 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Either one.

1 You can use this for your pets. You
2 can use it for yourself. It gives you a discount on
3 drugs that otherwise many people can't afford.
4 30 percent discount for pets, 42 percent maximum for
5 individuals, and this is the best part, now for
6 horses. You can use this for horses.

7 If you happen to have a cat that needs
8 tuna-favored amoxicillin, you can have this brought
9 to your pharmacy. The Glen Rock Pharmacy has their
10 own compounding method, complete with the
11 tuna-flavored amoxicillin, and you get a 30 percent
12 discount on it, which is right off the top.

13 More than \$14 million has been saved by
14 Bergen County residents who have used this, and I
15 will tell you that former Freeholder McPherson took
16 her mother for hearing aids in Philadelphia, and
17 she's been carrying the Bergen Wellness card for ten
18 years and never had the opportunity to use it. Her
19 mother picked up \$2,800 hearing aid to be used, and
20 she took out the card, gave it to the person, because
21 this works at 55,000 pharmacies, Mr. Florio.

22 MR. FLORIO: I was unaware of that.
23 Amazingly, I was unaware of it.

24 FREEHOLDER GANZ: And Bernadette's mom
25 bought this for 900 bucks, a \$2,800 hearing aid, just

1 by using the Bergen Wellness card.

2 There's nothing in it for the county,
3 there's just everything in it for you. So I
4 encourage you to sign up for it. You can get it at
5 the website. We can all hold our hands up right now
6 so that Frank can point to anybody. You're getting
7 the idea now. And you can do that or you can go up
8 to any Freeholder and just say Freeholder Felice
9 keeps these, told me that I can use one, and you just
10 ask for it, he'll give it to you or you can go on the
11 website and use it.

12 So, as we now get into what is going to
13 be a very intense period for us, I tell you that I
14 look forward to your chairmanship, Freeholder Felice,
15 and I'm delighted that you're going to make this a
16 full contact sport.

17 FREEHOLDER FELICE: I hope to.

18 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Thank you very much,
19 Freeholder.

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Before you start,
21 Freeholder Zur, this side of the dais is very time
22 heavy, so possibly limit your time.

23 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Chairman, I just want
24 to say I was at another event on Saturday night where
25 everybody was complaining about how long the speeches

1 were. I gave the shortest speech of the night.

2 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: And made up for
3 it tonight.

4 FREEHOLDER GANZ: I did. I did. But
5 what I said was, my whole speech, "Congratulations to
6 the nominees," and I sat down.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. Freeholder
9 Zur.

10 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: I can't believe I
11 got to the end and no one has mentioned the State of
12 the County Address, which we were all at.

13 In that address, the County Executive
14 laid forth not only the accomplishments and
15 highlighted so many of the things that we have been
16 working on collaboratively, but also pointed to the
17 direction that we're going to be going. As you was
18 set forth in the address, we have a lot of work ahead
19 of us, I think we're already to roll up our sleeves
20 and continue to move Bergen County forward.

21 So one of the things that, you know,
22 being at the end of the line, all the events that
23 everyone goes to gets taken.

24 But one of the things we all do and we
25 all deal with every single week that we often don't

1 take about on this dais is the casework that comes
2 into our office. This week for some reason for me
3 seemed like a really heavy casework week. And what
4 that means is there are individuals who are having
5 problems, whether it be with the homeless shelter or
6 with their Medicaid benefits or the food stamps and
7 the different programs that the county administers.

8 We, as Freeholders, are all here to be
9 your advocates to help navigate those challenges. I
10 encourage anyone who is having any issues, whether
11 it's a county agency, a state agency, reach out to
12 us, we can help guide you in the right direction and
13 perhaps help you solve some of the problems that
14 you're facing.

15 One of the problems we were facing
16 that's addressed in the resolutions this week,
17 addressed in Resolution #164 was the building of
18 Friendship House, which is something that's very near
19 and dear to my heart.

20 Friendship House is a tremendous
21 organization which is really on the forefront of
22 highlighting the abilities of individuals with
23 disabilities and making sure that they're getting the
24 training and the skills and so they can have, not
25 only just a productive day, but meaningful work

1 experience. I'm very happy that we're able to give
2 them this grant through the Community Development
3 Block Grants, so that they can continue to expand the
4 programs that they provide to make sure that adults
5 with disabilities continue to thrive within our
6 community.

7 Last but not least, I also went to
8 Operation Goody Bag, which was a tremendous thing for
9 our veterans, where it took place in Paramus right
10 before Valentine's Day. They send notes and sweets
11 to our soldiers. It was a wonderful thing to see the
12 community outpouring to make sure that we're
13 supporting our troops, which is something that we
14 should also be doing everyday.

15 Thank you, Chairman.

16 Shortest report of the night, right?

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Yes, I think so.

18 She's going on a working vacation after this.

19 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Vacation? It's a
20 working thing.

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: So I'm going to try
22 to be quick.

23 Tonight we passed Resolution 165-16.

24 I'm proud to say that we just awarded
25 \$300,000 for homeless disabled veterans housing

1 project in Emerson, which will be used to build 14
2 units that will house homeless and/or disabled
3 veterans. The Bergen County Division of Community
4 Development will serve as a pass-through with grant
5 funding from United States Department of Housing and
6 Urban Development.

7 The Emerson veterans supportive housing
8 project is a partnership between Emerson American
9 Legion, who owns the property, and the Bergen County
10 Housing Authority, who will lease and operate the
11 housing.

12 Additionally, Social Services for the
13 veterans that are eventually housed there will be
14 provided by Catholic Charities Diocese of Newark.

15 You hear a lot of repetitive things,
16 because we attend a lot of things together, but the
17 beauty of this is you're getting different points of
18 view.

19 I also attended the 30th annual
20 Interface Brotherhood. And my take on it, now more
21 than ever, is communities need to come together,
22 communicate and share ideas and work together for
23 peace and harmony, and nothing better than to show up
24 there on a morning of freezing cold out and it was
25 packed. I mean, full room, everybody's attention,

1 guest speakers, people walking around the rooms to
2 help communicate where this, I guess, was my fourth.
3 Every year I take a little bit more away from it,
4 because there's different people that actually run
5 it.

6 Lastly, last Thursday we did celebrate
7 Black History Month here. Freeholder Ganz actually
8 read my mind, we did speak with Dr. Jeffries, and,
9 unfortunately, due to time restraints she wasn't able
10 to give her full presentation, but I can tell you, in
11 the speeded up, abbreviated version, it was
12 absolutely amazing the correlation between art and
13 artifacts all over the globe. How different cultures
14 have used them for different messaging and how one
15 had fed off another.

16 Freeholder Zur and I had spoken to her
17 and asked her if we could arrange to have her come
18 back and give her full presentation, which I would
19 very much like to video and put up on the website so
20 people can actually see it. Very, very informative.
21 It tells us where we came from, it helps us
22 understand what people, I'm not going to say
23 struggled, but what people did to communicate,
24 because we didn't always have the communication
25 opportunities that we have now available to us.

1 So that concludes my report.

2 I just want to close by thanking our
3 camera operators tonight, Jessica Schlimmer and Gina
4 Chun.

5 Thank you so much.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: And such a great
8 program, and this Freeholder Board is very
9 appreciative of your time and effort.

10 So that being said, with no further
11 business before this Board, I'll take a motion to
12 adjourn.

13 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: So moved.

14 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

16 (All present Freeholders respond in the
17 affirmative.)

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Ayes have it, we are
21 adjourned.

22 (Whereupon, the Public Meeting is
23 adjourned at 8:39 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