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BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016
COMMENCING AT 7:30 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

- STEVEN A. TANELLI, CHAIRMAN
- TRACY S. ZUR, VICE CHAIRWOMAN
- JOHN A. FELICE, CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE
- DAVID L. GANZ
- DR. JOAN M. VOSS

FREEHOLDERS ABSENT:

- THOMAS J. SULLIVAN
- MAURA R. DeNICOLA

KIM O. FURBACHER, CRCA, CCR, RMR
P.O. BOX 213
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213
201-336-6200

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ALSO PRESENT:

LISA SCIANCALEPORE
CLERK TO THE BOARD

JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQUIRE
ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ.
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

JARED LUTZ
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

KIM O. FURBACHER, CRCR, CCR, RMR
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ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213
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HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Good evening,
2 everybody.

3 This meeting is called to order at
4 7:30.

5 Before we begin, I would please ask
6 everybody if they can silence their phones.

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 Felice, Ganz, Voss,
2 Vice-Chairwoman Zur, and Chairman Tanelli present,
3 with Freeholders DeNicola and Sullivan 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.

9 Councilman Kruk, would you like to lead
10 us.

11 (At this point in the proceeding all
12 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,
13 led by Councilman Kruk.)

14 MOMENT OF SILENCE

15 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I'd ask everyone if
16 you can please remain standing for a Moment of
17 Silence.

18 This Board would have liked to have
19 participated this evening at 7:00, but,
20 unfortunately, because we have a Public Meeting, we
21 had to be in session.

22 I would ask for a Moment of Silence for
23 those battling addiction, and to promote hope and
24 healing to eliminate the stigma associated with
25 addiction.

1 (Whereupon, a Moment of Silence is
2 observed.)

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

4 MINUTES

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion
6 to open the meeting to the public?

7 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

8 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Oh, I'm sorry. Hold
10 on. Sorry about that.

11 Clerk, minutes to be accepted.

12 Would the Clerk please read the
13 minutes.

14 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: August 24, 2016 -
15 Work Session; Freeholder Felice absent.

16 August 24, 2016 - Public Session;
17 Freeholder Felice absent.

18 September 7, 2016 - Work Session;
19 Freeholder Zur absent.

20 September 7, 2016 - Public Session;
21 Freeholder Zur absent.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion?

23 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: September 14, 2016
24 - Work Session; all present.

25 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Move the minutes.

1 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

3 (All present Freeholders respond in the
4 affirmative, with noted abstentions, and Freeholders
5 DeNicola and Sullivan absent.)

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Any opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have the
9 it, the minutes are moved.

10 HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Now can I have a
12 motion to go into the public portion of the meeting?

13 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

14 FREEHOLDER FELICE: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

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

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Any opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it.

21 We'll now have a Hearing of the General Public, with
22 a three-minute time limit in effect, in accordance
23 with the Bergen County Freeholder bylaws.

24 The Board Attorney will keep the time.

25 When the time of the speaker expires, the timekeeper

1 will announce the time has expired.

2 Please fill out a white slip with your
3 name, address, and general topic.

4 We'll start off with Mr. Nickels
5 tonight.

6 MR. NICKELS: Good evening.

7 Paul Nickels, N-I-C-K-E-L-S.

8 First of all, thank you for the support
9 for mental health and addiction.

10 Now, as an advocate, I wanted to say
11 something that I've been talking about for a while.
12 When I went to that press conference and we mentioned
13 the good work that Spring House does, the thing that
14 I wanted to talk about was that there's nothing for
15 men here in Bergen County long-term. And, you know,
16 we need supportive housing. There's people in that
17 gap, you know, that just don't fit in anywhere else,
18 that need help.

19 And let me backtrack back to the
20 fee-for-service thing.

21 That's really going to hurt mental
22 health services. From what I understand, we only
23 have six agencies that support, what do we have,
24 about one million people in Bergen County? Is that
25 correct?

1 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Yes, close.

2 MR. NICKELS: And if one in four have
3 mental illnesses, there's got to be a large
4 percentage that need these services.

5 So, if you could advocate, which I'm
6 not saying you haven't, but if you could, that would
7 be really great, because July 2017 is going to come
8 and, I mean, the state's cutting out some of these
9 hospitals, and, you know, we need help with that.
10 I've said this before. And I know, and I thank you,
11 I know last time when I left, Chairman Tanelli had
12 told me that the mental health services budget was
13 not cut, which I appreciate.

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Actually, it
15 increased.

16 MR. NICKELS: Yes, two percent, right,
17 which is actually a lot. I appreciate that.

18 So all I'm going to say is thank you,
19 and hopefully we can get some more services. And I
20 always talk about Path, which is one of the agencies.
21 If one in four have mental illness, we need more
22 people to go out and outreach to these people that
23 are either homeless or in jeopardy of becoming
24 homeless.

25 I'll end on a good note.

1 If you haven't heard, the DCA vouchers,
2 I actually ran into someone who's getting one who's
3 disabled and on the TRA failing program. So that's
4 really good news.

5 But thanks for advocating for us, and
6 have a good night.

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

8 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Chuck Powers.

10 MR. POWERS: Chuck Powers, Teaneck and
11 Bergen Grassroots.

12 For the first place, this is a very
13 exciting day for Bergen County, I believe. The
14 Governor has signed a bill that will allow the new
15 authority to oversee Bergen Regional Medical with an
16 11 member commission and you, as the Freeholders, and
17 the county administration. So far as I can tell,
18 almost everybody associated with knowing what's going
19 on at Bergen Regional is very excited about the fact
20 that that new authority has just been approved.

21 That's going to make some challenges
22 for the council and administrator to figure out how
23 to relate that to the very tough set of issues
24 associated with the fact that there's now an RFP.

25 We are going to tell you on

1 October 17th, we're going to gather a group of people
2 who are knowledgeable about Bergen Regional to, first
3 of all, review this extraordinary report that the
4 county has developed through the help of an Advisory
5 Committee on which two of your members have sat, and
6 we're going to have a panel of folks, after we do an
7 analysis of that report, to talk about different
8 perspectives on Bergen Regional and the scope and its
9 needs and its future, and then invite the public to
10 participate in that conversation.

11 The night is the 17th of October. It's
12 a Monday night. And it will begin at 7:30 at the
13 library auditorium in Teaneck on Teaneck Road.

14 You may or may not know that in
15 addition to what you are doing with September as the
16 National Alcohol and Drug Recovery Month, the
17 President last week announced a Prescription Opioid
18 and Heroin Awareness Week, announced it on the 16th
19 of September. And, as many of you know, the place
20 where this county works hardest on that question for
21 people who have long-term care needs is in fact
22 Bergen Regional.

23 In addition to that, I want to draw
24 your attention to the fact that we now have set the
25 candidates' timeframes for the forum Bergen

1 Grassroots will be sponsoring again, Teaneck
2 auditorium, beginning at 7:30, on the nights of the
3 26th of October, that's a Wednesday, with seven of
4 the eight Freeholder candidates participating in that
5 night. Then on the 27th, there is the three sets of
6 two candidates each participating from the major
7 parties for the selection of the Sheriff, the Clerk,
8 and the Surrogate. The 26th and 27th, but also it
9 must begin with the 17th.

10 And, again, congratulations for this
11 county having taken the lead again and figuring out
12 how to manage the state's largest hospital.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
15 Mr. Powers.

16 Next I have quite a few people that
17 wanted to speak on mental health. Do you each want
18 to come up one at a time or would you all want to
19 come up as a group?

20 One at a time?

21 AUDIENCE VOICES: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay.

23 Judy Banes.

24 MS. BANES: Hello.

25 I just want to say, for my whole life,

1 I've had mental illness and dealt with that. It
2 started when I was 18; 20 years ago.

3 For 41 years, I've been a social worker
4 working in the mental health field in Bergen County.

5 I just want to thank you all in
6 advance, I guess. I appreciate it, on behalf of
7 people who have mental illness. I appreciate the
8 effort and the time you've put into helping to be
9 sure that Bergen County has the resources to provide
10 the care for folks. We need that help,
11 unfortunately. None of us ask for it and none of
12 us -- well, I guess there are some -- most of us
13 can't get rid of it or can't control it without help
14 from the people out here who provide the services for
15 Bergen County people. So I ask that you continue,
16 please, with your efforts, many will be grateful.

17 And I guess that's it. Thank you so
18 much for what you do.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

20 Jose Ortiz.

21 MR. ORTIZ: Good evening. My name is
22 Jose Ortiz, a Teaneck resident, and I'm also the
23 Chairman of the Mental Health Board.

24 The author, Shannon Adler, once wrote,
25 "Never give up on someone with mental illness. When

1 'I' is replaced by 'we,' illness becomes wellness."

2 We are immensely blessed here in Bergen
3 County that every day we are working together to try
4 to achieve mental wellness for those suffering from
5 mental illness.

6 Thank you, Freeholders, for passing our
7 Aid to Mental Health Resolution.

8 The fact that this budget reflects an
9 increase of about two percent is significant at a
10 time when the global fiscal environment is bleak.

11 The Mental Health Board, the county
12 Department of Health, and our partners are truly
13 grateful that the County of Bergen's elected
14 officials recognize the vital role our community
15 mental health system plays in supporting the needs
16 and treatment of residents and promoting wellness and
17 recovery.

18 The direct investment of dollars by
19 Bergen County into the local system of care sends a
20 strong message to all that our leaders understand the
21 issue of mental health, are committed to making life
22 better for those who live with the disease of mental
23 illness, and that no one falls behind, we all rise up
24 together.

25 Individuals suffering from mental

1 illness many times described it as "living in
2 darkness."

3 What our mental health providers do
4 every day is to try to be that shining light leading
5 individuals with mental illness to safe harbor.

6 However, a dark cloud looms over that
7 shining light. The future of our system is in
8 danger.

9 In 2017, state funding practices were
10 shifted to a Medicaid fee-for-service system.

11 What this shift will mean for all
12 Bergen County residents who are not Medicaid eligible
13 or who are insured but not able to pay deductibles to
14 secure mental health treatment, it's not really
15 clear.

16 With the shift in state funding, there
17 will likely be holes in our mental health safety
18 network system.

19 As the chairperson and members of our
20 Mental Health Board and our local system of care, we
21 want to invite you to a breakfast on October 19th at
22 8:30 a.m. at the Seasons Restaurant in Washington
23 Township, where we're trying to gather all elected
24 officials from throughout the state to explore what
25 steps we can all take to prepare for the impact of

1 funding shifts that none of our residents really know
2 what's going to happen and may be harmed in the
3 process.

4 We've made some strides in Bergen
5 County eliminating the stigma of mental illness so
6 that people who have the disease feel supported and
7 comfortable in seeking treatment. So much so, that
8 many other counties, states and even countries have
9 reached out to us on how to do it. We are the
10 models.

11 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes.

12 MR. ORTIZ: So what I want to say is, I
13 wear this shirt and it says "Bergen County is proud
14 to be Stigma-Free." I don't want to add another line
15 that says "Stigma-Free and nowhere to go."

16 So we're asking you, please, continue
17 to be our champions, continue to be our leaders in
18 providing mental health treatment to all.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Sue Devlin.

21 MS. DEVLIN: Hi. Sue Devlin. I am the
22 Associate Executive Director of Comprehensive
23 Behavioral Healthcare, and I currently serve as the
24 Chair of the Professional Advisory Committee.

25 I'm here to thank you for your

1 anticipated passing of our Aid to Mental Health
2 Resolution.

3 We appreciate that you've recognized
4 the important work that we do for the most vulnerable
5 here in Bergen County, and, certainly, the two
6 percent is an indication that you get it, you
7 understand what we're doing, what we want to continue
8 to do.

9 Moving into this new fee-for-service
10 world, we don't know what our system will look like a
11 year from now. We have been working diligently, and,
12 as Jose mentioned, the breakfast is just the
13 beginning of our campaign to make sure that we are
14 here, that our agencies are suitably funded so that
15 we can continue to provide the services for those
16 residents here in Bergen County, but, again, thank
17 you for your support.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Vicki Sidrow.

21 MS. SIDROW: Hi. Good evening and
22 thank you.

23 Yes, so, also, like Sue Devlin and
24 other speakers before me said, we want to thank you.
25 We're obviously optimistic that you're going to pass

1 that resolution. It is September, and we have all
2 been delivering services to Bergen County residents
3 all year long, so we thank you.

4 I'm the CEO of Vantage Health Systems,
5 which is one of the four mental health systems in
6 Bergen County. We'll be 60 next year, not me
7 personally, but we'll be 60. We're actually the
8 oldest one in the county. We were the first
9 federally funded one here in Bergen County, in
10 Dumont, way back when. We serve over 4,000 a year,
11 with all sorts of mental health, addiction,
12 developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's, and all
13 sorts of mental illness and addictions.

14 Your help is really very important.
15 You're the leadership of the county. I'm around
16 30 years in this business, and you've always been
17 very supportive, and we're hoping that that will
18 continue.

19 And there's been reference to the
20 fee-for-service shift is going to occur.

21 On October 19th, I really hope you can
22 all attend. You're going to hear some really
23 shocking data. Vantage alone, and I didn't know that
24 I'd share this tonight, but we're going to lose
25 \$2 million in our outpatient department, which will

1 mean basically loss of psychiatrists, social workers.
2 There's no way to replace that money. The state is
3 pulling out contract dollars that have supported the
4 safety net of residents in this county for over
5 40 years.

6 So we thank you on behalf of your
7 leadership and really your financial support and
8 other support for all these years, and hopefully
9 going forward, because it has always been important
10 and crucial, and it's going to be even more so, so
11 thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Peter Scerbo.

15 MR. SCERBO: My name is Peter Scerbo.
16 I'm the Executive Director of Comprehensive
17 Behavioral Healthcare.

18 I want to thank the Freeholder Board
19 for their support to the Aid to Mental Health.

20 I've worked in Bergen County for
21 46 years, and in that time period, those 46 years,
22 the Freeholders have always supported mental health.
23 And this year, going into the next fiscal year, it's
24 become more critical that we have your support.

25 As you heard, we're going into a

1 fee-for-service system. And the effect of this
2 fee-for-service system is that our agencies
3 collectively just on outpatient services alone are
4 going to lose about \$6 to \$8 million in funding. So
5 what that's going to mean is that there are going to
6 be a lot less consumers that are going to be served.
7 The ripple effect to this is that if people don't get
8 served that need help, it's going to impact the
9 hospitals, it's going to impact the jails, it's going
10 to impact the streets.

11 We need your help in terms of the
12 funding, which we greatly appreciate, but we also
13 need your help in terms of the advocacy effort. We
14 believe that there's still time to turn this thing
15 around or at least get a better deal. Even though
16 the Governor says it's a done deal, but we still feel
17 there's an opportunity here to slow this process down
18 to get better rates, so we continue to do the job
19 that we've done over the years.

20 I think that in Bergen County, we
21 probably have the best mental health system in the
22 state. We'd like to keep that, and continue to serve
23 the consumers that we've been serving over the years.

24 I want to once again thank you for your
25 support.

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Joe Masciandaro.

4 How bad was that?

5 MR. MASCIANDARO: Not bad.

6 I'm just going to echo my colleagues'
7 words about gratefulness for the passage of the
8 resolution, increasing mental health aid for this
9 year. We really appreciate it.

10 We provide a safety net for the county.
11 And what Vicki, Pete, and Judy said is very true.

12 There's a number of things that I'd
13 like to kind of elucidate.

14 One, there's a big lie here that the
15 State of New Jersey is expanding mental health and
16 substance abuse services by \$100 million.

17 It's not true.

18 What is happening is the state is
19 reducing state aid to mental health by \$127 million.
20 That's what's going on.

21 So Care Plus, we're a 262 provider,
22 we're an emergency screening program for Bergen
23 County, we see about 20,000 people a year, our
24 caseload is 4,500 active at any one time.

25 Among those, 2,200 come to us for

1 medication maintenance, meaning they're doing well,
2 they're getting better, they need to come and be seen
3 by their doctor and take care to be followed up on.

4 That rate, and this is the second big
5 lie, is not being changed. So without the state
6 money, we're expected to provide the same type of
7 service.

8 The other lie is that the services are
9 going to apply to everyone.

10 If you have insurance now, state aid
11 will not apply under the fee-for-service. So someone
12 with a high deductible, the inability to pay will not
13 be able, under the state's, for state subsidy, which
14 has been the case since 1977, when I became the
15 director of what was then Mid Bergen Mental Health
16 Center.

17 John Felice's dad used to be very in
18 touch with our organization, and David Ganz was on
19 the board for a number of years, so we're a
20 grassroots organization.

21 You know, today we had six walk-ins at
22 the center, four of them had Medicare.

23 So if you have Medicare, the state pay
24 will not cover you. But, on the other hand, if you
25 provide a service to anyone on Medicare, you need to

1 be paneled on the Medicare panel. This is why you
2 need to have psychiatrists who can provide the
3 services.

4 Our schools have embraced the wellness
5 program and awareness program about mental health.

6 If somebody needs a referral, where are
7 they going to go?

8 So the county has made great strides in
9 becoming stigma-free, but I think the thing we're
10 afraid of, in July 2017 we'll be Stigma-Free but
11 there will be nowhere to go.

12 So thank you very much.

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

14 Carmen Hernandez.

15 MS. HERNANDEZ: Good evening, everyone.
16 I just want to read a letter that I wrote personally
17 myself.

18 On Our Own opened their doors January
19 of 1982. It is now closed, the doors, August 31,
20 2016.

21 I want to say a few words about the
22 place. People only see the negative that happens in
23 the past. I want you guys to hear what I have to
24 say. On Our Own made me a better person than
25 yesterday, made me come out of my shell. It also

1 allowed me to help one person at a time. We walked
2 the walk, we came up with our addictions, our
3 illnesses, and our homelessness, but we showed up.

4 I can't tell you how many times I've
5 helped someone to get into the shelter, talk
6 one-on-one.

7 Prior to getting the news that we were
8 closing, we helped two people stay sober.

9 And if I can say one more thing about
10 On Our Own Wellness Center, we'll prosper wherever we
11 end up. And if I also can say, let's stay sober
12 today and every day, let's stay clean today and every
13 day, and with that being said, don't stop believing.

14 Thank you for all your help.

15 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

16 MS. HERNANDEZ: You're welcome.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. HERNANDEZ: I'm going to shake
19 everybody's hand.

20 Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

21 Have I seen you before?

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Sure you have.

23 Really quickly, that concludes all the
24 speakers that want to speak on mental health. I just
25 want to reassure everyone out there that has spoken

1 on behalf of mental health and the resolution we're
2 passing tonight is this Board, as long as I've been
3 here, every member that sits up here takes it very
4 serious, and you can count on us standing up for you
5 and advocating with our state legislature to make
6 sure if there is anything that can be done, we
7 certainly will be advocating it on your behalf and on
8 behalf of the most vulnerable in Bergen County,
9 because we know just how serious an issue that is.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We have some very
12 patient people in the audience, so we're going to
13 move to Mr. Nuckel.

14 MR. NUCKEL: Hi, Mr. Tanelli. How are
15 you?

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Would you like to
17 come up to speak?

18 COURT REPORTER: Please state your name
19 and address.

20 MR. NUCKEL: Donald Nuckel,
21 N-U-C-K-E-L, 10 River Street, Apt. 176, Little Ferry,
22 New Jersey. All my life.

23 Well, Freeholders, how are you? Ladies
24 and gentlemen of the public. Our wonderful
25 cheerleaders here from Wallington. The coach, all

1 the parents are here, a lot of great people. I can
2 tell you, I could say a lot of things, but I'm going
3 to do this in two parts, No. 1, so that you can all
4 pay attention here, this Freeholder Board, okay,
5 every day of their life -- my father taught me and I
6 find in common with Dr. Voss on something, but my
7 father told me two things. He said, during your
8 lifetime, make this world a better place than the one
9 you came into. And Joan Voss' dad told her the same
10 thing. And I can tell you, Joan Voss is making this
11 world a better place than when she came into it, no
12 doubt.

13 FREEHOLDER VOSS: And you too.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. NUCKEL: My dad also told me, and I
16 miss him dearly, he's gone 33 years, he also told me
17 that if you improve a person's life and make it
18 better, then you truly have changed the world.

19 Now, this Freeholder Board changes the
20 lives everyday for the better of hundreds of
21 thousands of people, and I know that for a fact.

22 I have a lot of inventory in housing.
23 We're in the real estate business. We invest in
24 solid, strong communities. And I have to tell you,
25 Bergen County is a great place to be, and it's a nice

1 place to be, and you guys have done a great job for
2 us, and I'm proud of you. So I say thank you.

3 Now I'll shift gears to Wallington.
4 Wallington is a little town in southwestern Bergen
5 County. It's a gem of a community. It's produced a
6 lot of great people, but one nice thing tonight,
7 we're going to honor all you nice cheerleaders who
8 have won the state championship, a national title.
9 What a great thing! And today, with all the things
10 that are going on, we all know what's going on in the
11 press, it's so different, what a nice, wholesome
12 thing for the American families in town. You girls
13 won it! Congratulations! I think you've done a
14 great job. I really do.

15 Now, this one lady, Hernandez, she grew
16 up in a place called Jasontown II. It's the first
17 affordable housing property in the State of New
18 Jersey. And this place has produced great people.
19 You hear a lot of things about different things, what
20 a great girl she is, she's doing well, what a shining
21 example of a solid thing for this country, this girl.
22 She's a teacher. She got a master's degree in
23 teaching. She's teaches over in Paterson, little
24 kids, and we got a few others in the town of
25 Wallington that do it.

1 So in honor of all that, last year I
2 started a thing in Little Ferry, I started a new STEM
3 program. We put hundreds of thousands of dollars
4 into it using Ramapo and their STEM people and
5 teaching the people in Little Ferry. It's a lot of
6 fun.

7 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Mr. Nuckel.

8 MR. NUCKEL: I've asked Joan Voss to
9 help me out.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please wrap it up or
11 I'm going to get yelled out by this lawyer.

12 MR. NUCKEL: This is for the kids.
13 Come on, this is the best thing in the world. You
14 guys give me another minute?

15 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Sure.

16 MR. NUCKEL: But, anyway, I know, thank
17 you, I'll talk to you soon, we're bringing the STEM
18 program now to Wallington.

19 And, by the way, one last thing, my
20 sister now is the Acting Chairwoman of the New York
21 Botanical Gardens, and they're opening up their
22 facilities to us. I said, Lou, I got to deal with
23 you, my sister deals with the head of the Hayden
24 Planetarium. I got you and I got Mauro in Little
25 Ferry.

1 Have a good night. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, Mr.
3 Nuckel.

4 MR. NUCKEL: Girls, congratulations.
5 (Applause.)

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Wallington
7 Councilman Roman Kruk.

8 COUNCILMAN KRUK: Good evening,
9 everyone.

10 Freeholders, thank you for having us
11 and honoring our cheerleaders today. It's a very
12 proud moment for our little town of Wallington. The
13 fact that these girls work so hard and they get --

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: And boys. Let's put
15 that on the record, young men and women.

16 COUNCILMAN KRUK: I was going to get
17 there, and I was going to correct Mr. Nuckel. One of
18 them is my son, he's the ringleader.

19 So, anyway, boys and girls, they work
20 very hard, they've been together a long time, since
21 second grade, and they do work hard at it.

22 We've tried a coed team a few times.
23 We didn't have it one year, two years ago, and then
24 this past year, some of these kids that were in high
25 school missed it. So they asked some of the coaches

1 if they could put together a coed team last minute
2 and go to nationals, and two months before, they
3 worked hard and they dedicated their time and they
4 were successful.

5 The most thing that I'm proud of is the
6 hard work that these kids all do with all their
7 studies and their responsibilities at home with their
8 families, they still manage to do all this.

9 The other what I'm really proud of is
10 our volunteers. They don't get paid for any of this.
11 They work hard. And the amount of time, the
12 countless hours that they spend is unmatched. And
13 not only in Wallington, any community.

14 But I see it for myself in our town, in
15 our community. And there are times where you get
16 text messages from coaches at midnight, 12:30, asking
17 about this person or how you do this, and it's
18 amazing. We have great support from our parents.
19 Our parents are second to none. They work hard, we
20 debate, we sometimes even argue, but at the end of
21 the day, we're doing it for our children. And the
22 best part about it is, you know, when you see them
23 perform, it's all worth it.

24 So now I'm going to close it really
25 quick, because I feel like I'm getting the evil eye.

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Not yet. You're
2 good.

3 COUNCILMAN KRUK: Mr. Nuckel ran into
4 my time.

5 MR. NUCKEL: No, I didn't.

6 COUNCILMAN KRUK: We have some really
7 good support from our school system. The Board of
8 Education's Superintendent is here, Mr. Albro. Thank
9 you for your support. Our cheerleader high school
10 coach is here as well supporting us. So I'll leave
11 it there, and thank you to our coaches and our
12 parents, you did a great job, and hopefully we will
13 do wonderful things again this coming year.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: One more, I promise.
17 Mr. Moretti.

18 MR. MORETTI: Salvatore Moretti, Alpine
19 Drive, Paramus.

20 I've brought today a letter dated
21 September 19th, which is directed to the Eli Wiesel
22 Foundation for Humanity.

23 I had something in common with
24 Mr. Wiesel, I also was in the Holocaust, and, of
25 course, as the first paragraph notes, I was shot in

1 the brain and an artificial heart was required to keep
2 me alive, which was done in Washington, D.C., almost
3 a half a century ago.

4 Mr. Wiesel has, of course, passed away
5 June of this year. And I have carbon copied a
6 Federal District Court Judge and the Tax Court of New
7 Jersey with respect to this letter, which I provide
8 for your perusal.

9 I would note in the letter that I note
10 the police officer, top cop, was involved in a
11 \$100,000 kickback, according to the June 26th Record
12 newspaper, in the Teterboro crash. Apparently, a
13 referral to Mr. Weiner, a lawyer, resulted in a
14 decision on behalf of the litigant, and the police
15 officer was cut in for \$100,000.

16 I find this to be a form of ambulance
17 chasing and referral, which is illegal, of course,
18 and especially important because I happen to know
19 Mr. Mordaga, met him many times, and had a brief
20 respite with him in Hackensack, when I was operating
21 Park Court Apartments.

22 You'll get more from that paper.

23 Also, 73 years ago, of course, I was in
24 Carl Jung's care briefly, and in the Vatican Library
25 with Ezra Pound, so I have some background in

1 psychology, and I graduated in psychology from George
2 Washington University.

3 I'll wind it up rapidly for your time.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion
8 to close the meeting?

9 FREEHOLDER FELICE: So moved.

10 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

12 (All present Freeholders respond in the
13 affirmative.)

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Any opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it.

17 We're now closed.

18 PRESENTATION TO WALLINGTON CHEER TEAMS

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Now what you've all
20 been waiting for.

21 We're proud tonight to have members of
22 the Wallington Junior Panthers Cheerleading
23 Competition Team, both the 12th grade and under, and
24 the 8th grade and under, both held earlier this
25 season, and start this school year as the reigning

1 champions.

2 So I'd like to welcome you and thank
3 you all for your patience, but before I invite my
4 colleagues down and bring you all up for
5 commendations, I'd first like to ask the volunteer
6 coaches to stand so we can all give you a round of
7 applause.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Having coached, like
10 the Councilmen and many of us are involved in our
11 communities, we know the time and effort that it
12 takes and what it takes you away from, your family,
13 to give to other children in the community.

14 Lastly, I'd like to ask the parents
15 that are here with us, I would ask you to also stand
16 for your support of your children.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: As was mentioned
19 earlier, with all the terrible things going on,
20 that's all you hear about, I'm a firm believer that
21 it takes a village to raise our children. Just by
22 the show of the parents that are here supporting our
23 kids, that's why these kids are successful. You
24 should all be congratulated. So I'd ask all my
25 colleagues if you'd please come down so we can

1 present to the young men and women.

2 Some of you will be getting two,
3 because we also understand that some of the younger
4 participants participated not only on the 8th and
5 under, but on the 12th and under, so not only are you
6 good enough to go with your own age group, you're
7 also good enough to go with the older kids and be
8 successful.

9 So first please, Karolina Telma.

10 I just want to let you know, you're
11 getting one also from the County Executive.

12 Unfortunately, the County Executive of
13 Bergen County, James Tedesco, could not make it
14 tonight, he had another commitment, but he's also
15 giving you a certificate and he also wanted us to
16 congratulate you as well.

17 Ania Rapacz.

18 Alyson Gorski.

19 Alyssa Rawashda.

20 Alex Mludzik.

21 Elleniz Caban.

22 Julianna Lesiczka.

23 Angelica Jablecki.

24 Victoria Kurpiewski.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Councilman Kruk will

1 continue.

2 Lauren Turci.

3 Madison Kruk.

4 Emily Kruk.

5 Julia Gancarz.

6 Savannah Ray.

7 That is our 8th and under team, minus a
8 few absent.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCILMAN KRUK: I'm tempted not to
11 call this name.

12 Joseph Kruk.

13 Joseph Madonia.

14 Samantha Kruk is not here, she's at
15 college, but her sister will take it.

16 Jessica Kosinska, not here.

17 Nina Delgado.

18 Sarah Kuczek.

19 Alexandra Kurpiewski.

20 Wiktoria Domagala, not here.

21 Jaylin Roman is not here.

22 Michelle Kosinska, not here.

23 Okay, Patrick, come on up.

24 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Congratulations.

25 COUNCILMAN KRUK: There's no

1 cheerleader sitting that we didn't call.

2 Congratulations.

3 If you wouldn't mind, would you take a
4 picture with us.

5 (Short pause in meeting.)

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I know you guys
7 would love to stay for the rest of this meeting, but
8 you absolutely can go, if you want, don't shake your
9 head no, it's not that hard.

10 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: They have school
11 tomorrow.

12 RESOLUTIONS OF UNANIMOUS CONSENT

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Will the Clerk
14 please read the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

15 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Resolutions of
16 Unanimous Consent are: #983-16 through #989-16, and
17 #991-16 through #1021-16.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion
19 to accept the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda?

20 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: So moved.

21 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

22 FREEHOLDER FELICE: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the
24 roll.

25 (At this point in the proceeding roll

1 call is taken and the Resolutions of Unanimous
2 Consent are passed by a vote of five in favor, with
3 Freeholder DeNicola and Sullivan absent.)

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Are there any
5 Resolutions of Nonconsent, pulled or tabled?

6 If so, will the Clerk please read them.

7 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: There are.

8 Resolution #990-16 was pulled as per
9 administration.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

11 ORDINANCES

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We'll now go on to
13 our Ordinances for First Reading and Introduction,
14 Ordinances 16-20, 16-21, and 16-22.

15 Will the Clerk please read Ordinance
16 16-20 by title only.

17 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: By title only:

18 "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS
19 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BY THE COUNTY OF BERGEN,
20 APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$13,461,000
21 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$11,867,000
22 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE COUNTY TO FINANCE PART OF THE
23 COST THEREOF."

24 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion
25 to introduce Ordinance 16-20 as read by the Clerk?

1 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

2 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the
4 roll.

5 (At this point in the proceeding roll
6 call is taken and the Introduction and First Reading
7 of Ordinance 16-20 is passed by a vote of five in
8 favor, with Freeholders DeNicola and Sullivan
9 absent.)

10 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Ordinance 16-20
11 passes First Reading.

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Introduction and
13 First Reading of Ordinance 16-21.

14 Will the Clerk please read Ordinance
15 16-21 by title only.

16 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: The title is as
17 follows:

18 "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS
19 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BY THE COUNTY OF BERGEN,
20 APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000
21 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,857,000
22 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE COUNTY TO FINANCE PART OF THE
23 COST THEREOF."

24 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: May I have a motion
25 to introduce Ordinance 16-21 as read by the Clerk?

1 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: May I have a second?

3 FREEHOLDER FELICE: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the
5 roll.

6 (At this point in the proceeding roll
7 call is taken and the Introduction and First Reading
8 of Ordinance 16-21 is passed by a vote of five in
9 favor, with Freeholders DeNicola and Sullivan
10 absent.)

11 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Ordinance 16-21
12 passes First Reading.

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Introduction and
14 First Reading of Ordinance 16-22.

15 Will the Clerk please read Ordinance
16 16-22 by title only.

17 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: The title is as
18 follows:

19 "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS
20 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BY THE COUNTY OF BERGEN,
21 APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$145,000
22 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$138,000
23 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE COUNTY TO FINANCE PART OF THE
24 COST THEREOF."

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: May I have a motion

1 to introduce Ordinance 16-22 as read by the Clerk?

2 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

3 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

4 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the
6 roll.

7 (At this point in the proceeding roll
8 call is taken and the Introduction and First Reading
9 of Ordinance 16-22 is passed by a vote of five in
10 favor, with Freeholders DeNicola and Sullivan
11 absent.)

12 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Ordinance 16-22
13 passes First Reading.

14 COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM FREEHOLDERS

15 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We'll now have
16 Freeholder Committee Reports.

17 Freeholder Felice.

18 FREEHOLDER FELICE: Thank you, Mr.
19 Chairman.

20 I just want to say that it is nice to
21 hear of the good deeds of my father, Nick Felice,
22 over the last 50 years or so working in Fair Lawn for
23 the Mental Health Center, Opportunity Center. He
24 continues to serve the people of Bergen County and
25 New Jersey. I'm proud that I am his son.

1 I'm just really proud also of the county
2 budget that we passed collectively. Bergen County is
3 a great place to live, because of the services that
4 we provide. And if it means increasing the average
5 household by \$35 or \$32, then so be it.

6 That gets me to the bill that Chris
7 Christie signed today regarding the oversight
8 authority for Bergen Regional. Freeholder Zur and
9 myself being representatives of this Freeholder Board
10 on that committee made a concerted effort with
11 everyone on that committee to make sure that the
12 mistakes made over the last 17 years in construction
13 of this contract would not occur again.

14 And with this Oversight Board, there
15 were some changes to it that the Governor signed into
16 law. I think that will move this process along in a
17 very positive way.

18 Now, obviously the nuts and bolts of
19 this are ongoing, and the selection of the
20 organization that is going to serve and provide
21 services to the County of Bergen with Bergen
22 Regional, but, nevertheless, this was an integral
23 part, this Oversight Board, to provide that continuum
24 of care and oversight and greater transparency and be
25 able for this Board and the County Executive to make

1 sure that the services they provide are in line with
2 the mission statement of Bergen Regional.

3 And, lastly, we talk about mental
4 health, we talk about the actions like the Board of
5 Social Services, and I want to thank Freeholder Zur
6 and the folks that have taken on, after I started on
7 that board, the changes that have been implemented
8 and continue to be, because it's all one thread of
9 care, whether it be people that are in financial
10 distress or people that are in mental distress or
11 family crisis, it's all one. And whether you pay for
12 it now or you pay for it later in the area of
13 correctional facilities, we're going to pay for it.
14 I'd rather do it before it gets to that point.

15 So I'm glad that the Governor signed
16 the bill. I'm glad that we were able to work the
17 budget out in a way that provided increased support
18 for mental illness and, you know, I'm really happy
19 that we were able to continue with my colleagues up
20 here the activities of the Board of Social Services
21 and I'm glad to be Nick's son.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
23 Freeholder.

24 Freeholder Voss.

25 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you, Chairman.

1 I'm always so proud when I see some of
2 my former students, because I am overjoyed that so
3 many of them have become so successful, and one of
4 them is the Superintendent of Schools in Wallington.
5 I just burst with pride whenever I see some of them.

6 Last Wednesday we had the Bergen County
7 senior citizens picnic. There was a very, very good
8 turnout. It's always so important for people to
9 realize all of the services that are available.

10 You heard this evening, when they were
11 talking about mental health issues and how many
12 things we have here in the county that can give
13 assistance to people who are in need.

14 I think this Sunday they'll be another
15 large senior citizens picnic. We have to say thank
16 you to the seniors for all that they have done for us
17 and for this country.

18 Last week we had a POW/MIA recognition
19 ceremony. It's so important to remember the people
20 who were prisoners of war. Over 1,700 people are
21 still missing in action, and they can never be
22 forgotten.

23 One of my uncles was captured during
24 World War II. He was in a prisoner of war camp in
25 Romania, and he never talked about it. I think that

1 the experiences they had were so horrible, but two of
2 the gentlemen that were at our POW/MIA observance
3 were people who had been captured, and we cannot
4 forget. We cannot forget. I always use the old
5 cliché, "He who doesn't remember history shall be
6 condemned to relive it."

7 I think we have to keep remembering
8 those words.

9 On Saturday, the Korean American
10 Association will recognize Chusok, which is the
11 Korean Thanksgiving. They'll be a very big party, if
12 you will, at Overpeck Park, and it will begin at
13 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

14 We have very large Korean population in
15 Bergen County, and we are invited to engage and enjoy
16 their celebration. So hopefully we'll see a lot of
17 people there.

18 On Sunday, Disability Awareness Day
19 will be at the zoo at Van Saun Park. The program
20 will begin at noontime, and everything is for free.
21 So people who have disabilities are encouraged to
22 come and see the wonderful facilities that we have at
23 Van Saun Park and enjoy the day.

24 Sunday also will be the observation of
25 the Gold Star Mothers. And for many people who lived

1 through World War II and the Korean War and the
2 Vietnam War, the Gold Star says the family has lost a
3 member, either male or female, in the service of this
4 country. Unfortunately, there have been many Gold
5 Stars. We cannot forget the ultimate sacrifices that
6 they made to keep us safe. I think it's our
7 patriotic duty to observe all of these holidays that
8 commemorate our veterans and the service they have
9 given.

10 September is Adult Literacy Month.
11 I'll be speaking about this a great deal, because
12 many people are not aware of it. And I brought it up
13 before, that in this wonderful country with our
14 wonderful education system, over 36 million people,
15 adults, cannot read.

16 We have a wonderful program here in
17 Bergen County called "Project Literacy," where people
18 who cannot read who are adults can have one-on-one
19 instruction. It's for free. I'll be telling you a
20 lot more about this, because in Bergen County we
21 probably have in excess of 100,000 people who are
22 either illiterate or functionally illiterate.

23 So, again, we have so many services in
24 this county that people have to be made aware of,
25 because if they don't know about them, they can't

1 utilize the services. And that's one of our jobs as
2 Freeholders, is to inform people of the things that
3 are available.

4 Thank you, Chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
6 Freeholder.

7 Before I move on, I just want to read a
8 brief statement.

9 Unfortunately, Freeholder Sullivan
10 wasn't able to make it tonight. He felt it
11 important, being that this Board was passing
12 resolutions increasing funds for mental health and he
13 sits on the board, that he at least have a brief
14 statement. So if everybody would just bear with me.

15 "Tom Sullivan's statement on Mental
16 Health Funding:

17 "I apologize for not being able to be
18 here to vote on a number of historic resolutions that
19 the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders is
20 voting on tonight.

21 "I want to thank my colleagues on the
22 Board for voting on a number of resolutions which
23 will increase grant funding for mental health care
24 and services this year. We must remove the stigma
25 from providing this service in our county and should

1 continue to support these initiatives by our
2 non-profit partners in the community.

3 "As I serve on the Board, supporting
4 mental health has been one of my most important
5 priorities.

6 "Thank you,

7 "Freeholder Tom Sullivan."

8 I'd like to enter that into the record,
9 Kim, please.

10 Freeholder Ganz.

11 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Thank you, Chairman.
12 Some very brief comments, if I may.

13 The passage and signing by Gov.
14 Christie of the legislation affecting Bergen Regional
15 Medical Center is one of the most important things
16 that has been accomplished by the political parties
17 working together.

18 When I joined this Board 14 years ago,
19 Bergen Regional reversion was so far in the future
20 that nobody even talked about it, and here we are six
21 months from now we're taking it back, and we're going
22 to start a new future tomorrow for those who are
23 among our most challenged citizens.

24 We are up to this challenge. The
25 County Executive is ready to proceed. And I believe

1 that with the brightest minds of the county working
2 towards it, we're going to come up with some
3 innovative solutions to problems that were created
4 19 years ago and never really resolved.

5 A lot of this had to do with funding.
6 Imagine, that we are out of the day-to-day operations
7 at the Regional Medical Center and yet we're
8 responsible for all capital repairs. Millions of
9 dollars not going to patients, but going to
10 maintaining a structure that in some cases is more
11 than 75-years-old.

12 Maintaining a structure that is more
13 than 200-years-old is the other topic that I'd like
14 to talk about tonight, and that structure is the
15 American Constitution, which gives the President the
16 right to nominate United States District Court
17 Judges, and the miserable job that Congress has done
18 in confirming highly qualified individuals such as
19 our County Counsel.

20 He was nominated by President Obama
21 February 15, 2015. And, amazingly, he is still
22 waiting with his career on hold for action to be
23 taken by the United States Senate.

24 The Senate Majority Leader, Mitch
25 McConnell of Kentucky, talks about ratios of judges

1 that are nominated in prior administrations, talks
2 about numbers, doesn't talk about people and the
3 great skills that this man, who I have known for a
4 number of years, brings to the bench.

5 He is highly qualified, and I will tell
6 you that I have often said, when he made an
7 appearance before us to just tell us what the facts
8 were on outside cases the county had him handling,
9 that his analysis was supreme, superior, direct and
10 to the point, even when I disagreed with him, which
11 was seldom.

12 This is disgraceful that the Senate is
13 holding nominations hostage for some formula based
14 upon events that took place a generation ago during
15 the Johnson administration and during the
16 administration of other American Presidents from both
17 sides of the aisle.

18 If I thought it would do any good, I
19 would call upon the President to make recess
20 appointments of all of the judges that are being held
21 up by this. I don't want to do anything to damage
22 Julien's chances, but as each day goes by, it's clear
23 that this is going to be a test of what the
24 administration's remaining power is going to be
25 between now and January 20th.

1 I intend to send a letter tomorrow to
2 the White House and to Capitol Hill demanding that
3 the American people be given the representation in
4 the judiciary that they are entitled to. And lest
5 them suffer the consequences of not doing it and lest
6 them lose a man like Julien Neals, I say if that were
7 to happen, it would be a tragedy.

8 I'm not even going to talk about Bergen
9 Wellness tonight.

10 MR. FLORIO: How about judiciary
11 wellness instead, you talked about?

12 FREEHOLDER GANZ: But I do want to say,
13 as a final comment, that Nick Felice is a wonderful
14 public servant who I knew for many years, 19 of them
15 as my Assemblyman in Fair Lawn. He raised a
16 wonderful family, and he's a good friend of mine
17 going all the way back to when he signed my
18 application to become a notary public of the State of
19 New Jersey.

20 Thank you, Chairman. That concludes my
21 report.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
23 Freeholder.

24 Freeholder Zur.

25 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Thank you,

1 Chairman.

2 When we pass a Consent Agenda, we don't
3 have an opportunity to discuss and bring to the table
4 here some of the amazing resolutions that we have,
5 but I want to highlight a couple, because I think
6 that it's important that the residents of Bergen
7 County understand some of these things that we're
8 voting on.

9 Resolution #983 and Resolutions #1005
10 through #1009 all involve work that's being done by
11 the Workforce Development Board.

12 I just want to crow about the
13 tremendous work that this Board is doing. Not only
14 in Resolution #983 are we allocating more funds for
15 another pod of Project Search, which has gotten off
16 to a wonderful start, and the feedback that we're
17 hearing from both Hackensack Hospital and Holy Name
18 Hospital, who are our partners in this, about our
19 strides that our young adults with developmental
20 disabilities are having and the impact that this is
21 having to gain meaningful employment throughout their
22 lives is really incredible.

23 I know we're going to have an
24 opportunity for the press to come and visit on
25 October 13th, and we'll be hearing about how this is

1 unfolding.

2 We're looking for another business to
3 partner with for this third pod, so if there are
4 other businesses that would like to be involved in
5 this, please feel free to reach out and really make
6 an impact for more young people.

7 In addition to all of that, the
8 Workforce Development Board has helped 633 displaced
9 individuals through individualized training;
10 73 percent of those trained entered employment; 282
11 out-of-school youth were served; and 147 of them
12 obtained their high school equivalency; 368 in-school
13 youth were served; 214 TANIFF clients attended career
14 readiness programs; 155 students were served on the
15 Workforce link with literacy labs for basic and soft
16 skills training.

17 All of these efforts exceeded the
18 performance objectives that were set forth by the
19 Department of Labor, and the Board continues to
20 innovate in this approach to make more individuals
21 work-ready here in Bergen County, as you all heard.

22 Thank you for all being here to testify
23 this evening. In Resolution #987, we increased our
24 Aid to Mental Health. And, you know, in previous
25 administrations, we saw attempts to slash mental

1 health funding by 25 percent.

2 That was always something that this
3 Board fought back against and made sure that we did
4 not go through that pennywise and pound foolish
5 approach. You guys are on the front lines in dealing
6 with mental illness, you need the resources. This is
7 something vitally important.

8 I see Michele Hart-Loughlin. She is
9 the Mental Health Humanitarian of the Year.

10 All of your efforts are so appreciated
11 in providing these tremendously vital services.

12 I went this weekend to the Spring House
13 alumni picnic. It is this event and others like it
14 that remind me everyday of why I'm doing the job that
15 I am and we, as Freeholders, our role here is
16 important, because those 200 people there, their
17 lives were lives that were saved by intervention and
18 mental health in this county. So I applaud all of
19 you for your efforts, and we on this Board will
20 continue to support them.

21 Shared services: We had many
22 resolutions on this evening that provide maintenance
23 agreements with engaging diverse services, such as
24 sharing equipment, road plowing, with school boards,
25 with towns. This has been an amazing effort by our

1 county to share services, make the provision of those
2 services more efficient, and save municipalities
3 money in the process.

4 If you are a municipality or a school
5 board who wants to partner with the county, please
6 feel free to reach out to me as Chair of the Shared
7 Services Committee or Tom Richards in the
8 administration, who is working day and night to make
9 sure we can continue to save taxpayers dollars by
10 providing more shared services.

11 Just to echo what Freeholder Felice
12 said regarding the signing of the BRMC legislation.
13 This was vitally important. And I want to just give
14 an extra thanks to our entire Legislative delegation,
15 who worked tirelessly to make sure Freeholder Felice
16 and I went down to Trenton to testify before the
17 Health Committee on this legislation, advocating for
18 the improvements that this is going to make in the
19 oversight. It was an important effort, and it was an
20 important bipartisan effort on all our parts. So I'm
21 very pleased to see that occur.

22 One of the other things I'm excited
23 about is we're having this program called "Get Fit in
24 Bergen" in our county parks. This is one that I
25 championed for a number of years. There are exercise

1 classes that are offered every single day of the week
2 in every single one of our county parks. Please
3 check out our county website and participate. This
4 is a public/private partnership at its best to make
5 sure that our residents' wellness is at the forefront
6 and that we are utilizing our parks to the utmost.

7 Please go out, it continues to October
8 11th.

9 That's all I have for you tonight,
10 Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
12 Freeholder.

13 We all go to quite a few events and
14 meetings. Just one I want to mention tonight,
15 actually in my hometown, just to show you how small
16 businesses can succeed, it's a small business success
17 story, second generation, in North Arlington. They
18 won the Good Neighbor Pharmacy of the Year national
19 award. So I actually dropped in with Assemblyman
20 Gary Schaer last Saturday, which was the ending of
21 their week where they brought people from the
22 community, they shared food, they shared gifts, just
23 to bring the community in so they felt more welcome.
24 And it just goes to show that small businesses can
25 survive, if it's done right and if they get the

1 proper support. I can't tell you how proud I was to
2 be there.

3 Just one or two quick things on Bergen
4 Regional Medical Center.

5 One is something that this board has
6 been screaming about as long as I've been here, and
7 that's better oversight. If we have better
8 oversight, we can't make the same mistakes that were
9 made 19 years ago. We all know that. We're all
10 conscious of that. And as we move through the next
11 few months, we're not hurrying anything, because we
12 have to have our eye on the prize, and the prize is a
13 much better agreement between the county and that
14 facility, whoever the new operator will be.

15 So we want to reassure all the
16 communities out there that this Freeholder Board is
17 taking this very, very serious, and we're going to
18 learn from what was done in the past.

19 So that concludes my report.

20 So with nothing further to come from
21 this board, I will take a motion to adjourn.

22 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

23 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

24 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

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(All present Freeholders respond in the affirmative.)

CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Any opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it.
We are adjourned at 8:42.

(Whereupon, the Public Meeting is adjourned at 8:42 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