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BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016
COMMENCING AT 6:00 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
- THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

FREEHOLDERS ABSENT:

- DAVID L. GANZ

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

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ALSO PRESENT:

JAMES J. TEDESCO, III, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MICHELE DI IORGI, CHIEF OF STAFF

LISA SCIANCALEPORE, CLERK TO THE BOARD

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ., COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

DR. DOMINIC J. NOVELLI, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

JOHN DANUBIO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, POLICY & RESEARCH

ACTING PROSECUTOR GURBIR GREWAL

EXE. UNDERSHERIFF JOSEPH HORNYAK

BONNIE J. MIZDOL, AJSC

LOUIS STELLATO, DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CHAIRMAN

STATE SENATOR LORETTA L. WEINBERG

STATE SENATOR ROBERT M. GORDON

STATE SENATOR PAUL A. SARLO

COUNTY CLERK JOHN S. HOGAN

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER VINCENT PRIETO

ASSEMBLYMAN JOSEPH A. LAGANA

ASSEMBLYWOMAN VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HOLLY SCHEPISI

ASSEMBLYMAN GORDON M. JOHNSON

FORMER FREEHOLDER JAMES CARROLL

FORMER FREEHOLDER JULIE O'BRIEN

FORMER FREEHOLDER JOHN DRISCOLL

FORMER FREEHOLDER DOUG BERN

1 ALSO PRESENT (CONT'D):
2

3 FORMER FREEHOLDER BERNADETTE McPHERSON

4 SURROGATE MICHAEL R. DRESSLER

5 COUNCILWOMAN GLORIA OH

6 MAYOR JOHN BIRKNER, JR.

7 MAYOR STEVEN FULOP

8 MAYOR BOB WHITE

9 MAYOR KEVIN J. ROONEY

10 MAYOR FRANK HUTTLE

11 MAYOR LIZETTE P. PARKER

12 FORMER MAYOR KEVIN CLANCY

13 FORMER MAYOR CARLOS AGUASVIVAS

14 FORMER MAYOR TOM RICHARDS

15 FORMER MAYOR MARLIN TOWNES

16 FORMER MAYOR MARC SCHRIEKS

17 FORMER U.S. SENATOR ROBERT TORRICELLI

18 JOE GAUTIER, PRESIDENT LOCAL 755

19 DAN GUMBLE, BUSINESS MANAGER IBEW LOCAL 164
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1 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Good evening.

2 Welcome to the 2016 Bergen County Board
3 of Chosen Freeholders' Reorganization Meeting.

4 My name is Lisa Sciancalepore. I'm the
5 Clerk to the Board and Acting Chair, until I pass
6 over the gavel to our new Chairman.

7 I'd ask that everybody kindly silence
8 your cellphones during the duration of the meeting
9 for us.

10 Thank you.

11 1. Reading of Public Meetings Act

12 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: To start, I will
13 read the Sen. Byron Baer Open Public Meetings Act.

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

1 2. Attendance - Roll Call

2 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: I will now take
3 attendance alphabetically.

4 (AT this point in the proceeding roll
5 call is taken with Freeholders DeNicola, Felice,
6 Sullivan, Tanelli, Voss, and Zur present, with
7 Freeholder Ganz absent.)

8 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Evidence of a
9 quorum is present.

10 3. Presentation of Colors - Bergen County
11 Sheriff's Department

12 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Will you please
13 rise for the Presentation of Colors, which will be
14 led by the Bergen County Sheriff's Department Honor
15 Guard.

16 (Whereupon, the Presentation of Colors
17 is led by the Bergen County Sheriff's Department
18 Honor Guard.)

19 Pledge of Allegiance - led by Misses Kenzie, Jadyn,
20 and Kerrin Sullivan

21 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: As a special
22 request, Freeholder Sullivan asked that his daughters
23 lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

24 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Please come
25 forward, girls.

1 (At this point in the proceeding all
2 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,
3 led by Misses Kenzie, Jadyn & Kerrin Sullivan.)

4 National Anthem sung by Isabel Ulanday

5 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Our National Anthem
6 will be sung this evening at the special request of
7 Freeholder-Elect Thomas Sullivan by Isabel Ulanday.

8 (At this point in the proceeding the
9 National Anthem is sung by Miss Ulanday.)

10 Moment of Silence

11 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Please remain
12 standing as we have a Moment of Silence.

13 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Earlier this week
14 we lost former Waldwick Mayor Frank McKenna,
15 86-years-old, a Marine Corps veteran, 61-year
16 resident of Waldwick, dedicated nearly 40 years of
17 his life to public service, serving as a School
18 Trustee and Board of Education president, a member of
19 the Planning and Zoning Boards, a councilman, and,
20 for one term in the '80s, mayor.

21 After retiring from public office, he
22 remained a vigorous presence in Waldwick, attending
23 school board and council meetings, and driving for
24 the community Meals-on-Wheels program until a few
25 years ago.

1 Mayor McKenna is survived by four
2 children, eight siblings, three grandchildren, and
3 eight great grandchildren.

4 Please join me in a moment of silence.

5 (Whereupon, a Moment of Silence is
6 observed.)

7 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Thank you.

8 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: I ask that you
9 please remain standing as the Bergen County Honor
10 Guard is dismissed.

11 5. Invocation - Monsignor William J. Fadrowski,
12 Queen of Peace Church, North Arlington

13 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: The invocation will
14 now be delivered by Monsignor William J. Fadrowski of
15 Queen of Peace Church in North Arlington.

16 REF. MSGR. FADROWSKI: Let us pray.

17 (At this point in the proceeding the
18 Invocation is led by Ref. Msgr. Fadrowski.)

19 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Please be seated.

20 5. Introduction of Dignitaries

21 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: At this time I
22 would like to introduce the many dignitaries
23 attending tonight's ceremony. I hope I do not miss
24 anyone.

25 This is the most up up-to-date list I

1 have. If anyone else comes in, please alert either
2 John Danubio or Jared Lautz or anyone from my staff,
3 and I will announce you at the end. I can announce
4 the names, and if we can withhold applause until the
5 very end, that would be helpful.

6 First we have Sen. Paul Sarlo is here,
7 New Jersey State Senator.

8 New Jersey State Sen. Loretta Weinberg.

9 New Jersey State Sen. Robert Gordon.

10 Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto.

11 Assemblyman Joseph Lagana.

12 Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi.

13 Assemblywoman Valerie Huttler is here.

14 Assemblyman Gordon Johnson.

15 Our Constitutional Officers:

16 County Clerk John Hogan.

17 Surrogate Michael Dressler.

18 Acting Prosecutor Grewal is here.

19 Undersheriff Joseph Hornyak is here.

20 Former Freeholder John Driscoll is

21 here.

22 Former Freeholder Julie O'Brien is

23 here.

24 Former Freeholder Jim Carroll is here.

25 Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop is here.

1 Mayor John Birkner of Westwood is here.
2 Mayor Bob White of Saddle Brook is
3 here.

4 Mayor Kevin Rooney of Wyckoff is here.
5 Mayor Lizette Parker of Teaneck is
6 here.

7 Former Mayor Carlos Aguasvivas is here.
8 Former Mayor Kevin Clancy is here.
9 Bergen County Democratic Chairman Lou
10 Stellato is here.

11 Assignment Judge Bonnie Mizdol is here.
12 Englewood Mayor Frank Huttler is here.
13 Former U.S. Senator Robert Torricelli
14 is here.

15 And a representative from Congressman
16 Pascrell's office is here as well.

17 And former Freeholder Doug Bern is also
18 here.

19 And if I missed anybody, I apologize,
20 but I want to thank everyone for attending tonight's
21 ceremony.

22 Round of applause for everybody.

23 (Applause.)

24 6. Remarks by County Executive James J. Tedesco, III

25 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: I would now like to

1 introduce our Bergen County Executive, James J.
2 Tedesco, who's had a wonderful year this year, and
3 ask him to please come forward and say a few words to
4 the county as we open our 2016 Reorganization
5 ceremony.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you.

8 To the members of the Freeholder Board,
9 I thank you for a wonderful and prosperous 2015, and
10 look forward to a very successful, a very energetic,
11 and, most of all, a very healthy 2016.

12 To Tom, to Tracy, to Steve,
13 congratulations on your election, your reelection,
14 and also on the positions that you'll hold in a few
15 minutes for the Freeholder Board.

16 Last year I had the opportunity to
17 stand here only a short time being the County
18 Executive. While I will admit to you that I was
19 quite nervous, I knew that the people behind me were
20 going to be the people that would help me overcome
21 that nervousness, and also work with me to deliver
22 the services that Bergen County wants and deserves.

23 I am here to tell you that I couldn't
24 have asked for a better year and more cooperation
25 than what I received last year from the Board of

1 Chosen Freeholders.

2 While I was their colleague two years
3 ago, it gave me a great perspective as I entered my
4 term as County Executive. And I knew that each and
5 every one of them was going to work on behalf of you,
6 the people of Bergen County, along with me.

7 We opened the doors to this building,
8 we opened the doors on this floor, and we opened
9 those doors for you, the people, for the Freeholders
10 and the Executive Branch to walk and work
11 hand-in-hand, and we accomplished a many great
12 things.

13 While tonight I won't go into detail,
14 I'll save that for my State of the County Address, I
15 want to say how proud I am to stand here and
16 represent almost 1 million people, and to work with
17 such a fine group of people behind me.

18 That's not only the seven members of
19 the Freeholder Board, but that goes for their entire
20 staff and the people that work every day to support
21 them and my office.

22 For it's those people that truly
23 deliver the services that we have here in Bergen
24 County.

25 While I will say that there is no

1 better county than the County of Bergen, I know that
2 many of you that aren't from Bergen County will say
3 that your county is better.

4 However, I will tell you that living in
5 Bergen County or working in Bergen County is a very
6 special place. And while it will be almost 63 years,
7 in less than a month, that I get to say that I've
8 lived in this county, I can truly tell you that I am
9 extremely proud to call myself a resident of such a
10 fine county. And that is because of the hard work of
11 all of you that provide those services and
12 opportunities for the people here in Bergen County.

13 The one thing, and it was in my
14 year-end remarks, that I am extremely proud of, that
15 we accomplished in 2015, that we were able to end
16 homelessness for any veteran that we were aware of
17 that had no place to call home in 2015.

18 By December 31st, we had found --

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: -- homes for
21 every veteran.

22 That is monumental, because that
23 changed people's lives forever. And that's what
24 government is about, government is about helping
25 change people's lives to make them better.

1 So I am proud of the work that we've
2 all done in 2015, and I know that as we move forward
3 in 2016, that will continue.

4 So let me end by saying again, thank
5 you to the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the
6 support that they have not only given me but have
7 given you, the people of Bergen County, this past
8 year. I look forward to even a better and brighter
9 2016 for Bergen County.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 7. Remarks by Acting Prosecutor Gurbir Grewal

13 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: At this
14 time, I have the honor to introduce the acting Bergen
15 County Prosecutor, Gurbir Grewal.

16 Please come forward and have some
17 remarks for the people of Bergen County.

18 (Applause.)

19 PROSECUTOR GREWAL: Thank you, County
20 Executive.

21 Board of Chosen Freeholders,
22 distinguished guests, on Monday I had the tremendous
23 honor and privilege to be sworn in as the acting
24 County Prosecutor.

25 Prior to coming to the Bergen County

1 Prosecutor's Office, I had the opportunity to work
2 with some of the fantastic detectives and
3 investigators and assistant prosecutors from that
4 office. The reputation and experiences that I had
5 with those investigators and APs, the reputation of
6 that office was that it was the standard for the
7 county.

8 I've only been there two days, and I
9 could tell you that reputation is very well deserved.

10 I have worked in several Prosecutors'
11 Offices before. I started my career in the Eastern
12 District of New York as an Assistant U.S. Attorney,
13 and then I spent a number of years more recently at
14 the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark.

15 I had the opportunity to work with some
16 terrific investigators and prosecutors.

17 The welcome that I've received and what
18 I've seen over the last two days has impressed me,
19 and I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the
20 extraordinary leadership of my predecessor, John
21 Molinelli, over the past 14 years. The standard he
22 has set, I hope to maintain over the coming years. I
23 hope to build on it. I hope to enhance it. And I
24 hope to serve the county with the same distinction as
25 the other elected officials here have served the

1 county.

2 I hope you give me a little bit of time
3 to get up-to-speed, it's only been two days, but I'll
4 prove to you that I will work hard and tirelessly,
5 and that I will continue to keep and maintain the
6 standard, and hopefully elevate the standard of the
7 work that the office does.

8 So thank you very much. I look forward
9 to getting to know everyone here in the near future,
10 and I will try to keep an open door as much as
11 possible to everyone, so please reach out to me.

12 Thank you very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 8. Formal Announcement of Election Results

15 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: I would like to
16 invite Mr. Hogan, our County Clerk, to come forward
17 and say a few words, and then announce the formal
18 results of the election.

19 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: Very few words,
20 because this evening I have to shoot out and go to
21 the Borough of Norwood, where, in a bipartisan
22 spirit, the council, which has five Republicans and
23 one Democrat, a Republican mayor, are going to join
24 together and they're going to select the one Democrat
25 on the council as Council President, who happens to

1 be a friend of mine from college. So I'll be
2 shooting over to there.

3 Tonight we come to celebrate our
4 democracy. The campaigns are over. The banners have
5 come down. The signs are gone. And now the business
6 of government begins.

7 The honeymoon, we all know who served,
8 does not last that long. It's probably gone already.

9 But we do know that Steve and Tracy and
10 Tommy, they love Bergen County. And they've proven
11 it by their actions, while already serving on the
12 Freeholder Board.

13 The voters have acknowledged their love
14 for the county, and they've reelected them.

15 And to the three of you, I say that
16 you've served -- confined to Tommy -- you serve with
17 distinction.

18 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: First time
19 everyone ever said that to me.

20 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: You serve with
21 distinction.

22 So I'm going to ask each of you if you
23 come up as we certify the election. Because we all
24 know that unless the Clerk certifies, nothing else
25 happens this evening.

1 Right, judge?

2 Steve Tanelli.

3 As he's heading up, in the interest of
4 time, this is to certify that at the General Election
5 held on the third day of November in the year of our
6 Lord 2015, Steven Anthony Tanelli, was duly elected
7 to serve as a member of the Board of Chosen
8 Freeholders for a full term, County of Bergen, and
9 Steve received 67,723 total votes.

10 Congratulations to you.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: Thanks, Steve.

13 And Tracy.

14 This is to certify the General Election
15 held on the third day of November, year of our Lord,
16 2015 -- when I was a young kid my father was mayor
17 and the clerk used to read everything real fast,
18 because in those days they read everything. I
19 thought that was pretty cool, so I'm trying to do the
20 same thing -- Tracy Silna Zur was duly elected to
21 serve as a member of the Board of Chosen Freeholders
22 for a full term in the County of Bergen, and the
23 Freeholder received 67,628 total votes.

24 Congratulations.

25 (Applause.)

1 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: And Thomas J.
2 Sullivan.

3 This is to certify that the General
4 Election held on the third day of November in the
5 year of our Lord 2015, Thomas Joseph Sullivan was
6 duly elected to serve as a member of the Board of
7 Chosen Freeholders for a one year unexpired term --
8 he's doing this all over again this year -- in the
9 County of Bergen, receiving 67,496 total votes.

10 Congratulations, Freeholder.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: Good night,
13 everyone. Happy New Year.

14 (Applause.)

15 9. Oath of Office - Freeholder Elect Steven A.

16 Tanelli

17 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: I'd like to now
18 call up State Sen. Paul A. Sarlo to please come
19 forward and say a few words before administering the
20 Oath of Office to Freeholder-Elect Steven A. Tanelli.

21 SEN. SARLO: Thank you, Clerk.

22 Good evening, everybody, and happy and
23 healthy new year. I'll be very brief.

24 First of all, to our County Executive,
25 to our Board of Chosen Freeholders, to our

1 distinguished guests, reverend, clergy, residents
2 at-large, thank you for giving me the opportunity
3 here to swear in Steven Tanelli as a Freeholder to
4 this great Freeholder Board.

5 I believe Steve, coming from South
6 Bergen, will represent the southern portion of our
7 county well and represent all 70 towns here in Bergen
8 County. And, as we know, as state government has
9 begun to put caps on local governments throughout the
10 State of New Jersey, the services that the county
11 Freeholders provide and all of their departments are
12 a huge asset to all of our communities and to all of
13 our mayors and councils. We would not be able to
14 survive without the services that are provided by
15 this county, and we count on you at the local level.
16 The state legislators count on you, the local level
17 counts on each and every one of you, to continue to
18 provide these services.

19 This is a great board, and I'm proud to
20 call Bergen County my home and where I was raised.

21 I have to sneak out as well, I have to
22 swear in a new police chief, as the mayor of my
23 community, at 7:15. Our police chief retired after
24 38 years, so we have exciting times in Wood-Ridge as
25 well today.

1 But I'm so honored to swear in Steve
2 Tanelli from North Arlington.

3 And, if I may, I want to recognize Lou
4 Stellato for a moment.

5 I know political campaigns have ended
6 and we are all here now to govern in a bipartisan
7 manner, but I will tell you, as someone who has been
8 in the Bergen County Democratic Party for many, many,
9 many years, it's so great to know the stability and
10 leadership we have with Lou Stellato.

11 We may not always agree on everything,
12 but, at the end of the day, Lou is there to bring
13 stability to our party.

14 Thank you, Lou.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: At this time I ask
17 and invite Steven Tanelli's family to come forward
18 and hold the bible as he takes the Oath of Office as
19 he is sworn in by Sen. Sarlo.

20 (At this point in the proceeding the
21 Oath of Office is administered to Steven A. Tanelli
22 by Sen. Paul Sarlo.)

23 SEN. SARLO: Congratulations.

24 (Applause.)

25 10. Oath of Office - Freeholder Elect Tracy Silna

1 Zur

2 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: At this time I
3 would like to invite New Jersey Assembly Speaker
4 Vincent Prieto to administer the Oath of Office to
5 Freeholder-Elect Tracy Zur.

6 Assemblyman, would you like to say a
7 few words for us?

8 ASSEMBLY SPEAKER PRIETO: Thank you so
9 much.

10 I want to wish everybody a happy,
11 healthy new year. It's with great honor and pleasure
12 to be here to swear in Tracy today.

13 I want to acknowledge my good friend,
14 Jimmy Tedesco. I hale from Hudson County, but I
15 represent a sliver of Bergen County, two
16 municipalities, and I got to tell you, a lot of
17 Hudson people somehow make their way to the most
18 populous county.

19 And I got to tell you, Jim, you have
20 done an outstanding job. And I could tell you, this
21 is a jewel, and I guess now you are the jeweler that
22 has to keep it shined and work on it to make it an
23 even better piece of jewelry.

24 I got to tell you, at the state level
25 we have a lot of challenges. And as every one of you

1 who live in Bergen County know that you send a lot of
2 money down to us and a lot of it doesn't funnel back.

3 We have a lot of challenges, but it all
4 starts not only in your hometown, but at the county
5 level, to make sure that all those services are there
6 for you. We want to be able to give you the tools
7 and resources to be able to do, you know, what you
8 can, so that's why we need to work together with all
9 levels of government from the municipal, to the
10 county, to the state, with our federal legislators,
11 to make Bergen County a better place.

12 So it's a great honor for me to be here
13 tonight.

14 Thank you so much, the Freeholder Board
15 and the County Executive. They do a phenomenal job.
16 I want to thank them for all they do for all the
17 residents.

18 As the Speaker of the Assembly, I
19 represent each and every one of you also. So thank
20 you very much.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: I would now like to
23 invite Tracy's family: Her husband, Bobby Zur;
24 children, Coby, Kayla, and Logan; her sister, Amy;
25 and her mother and father, Daniel and Joan Silna.

1 (At this point in the proceeding the
2 Oath of Office is administered to Freeholder-Elect
3 Tracy Silna Zur by Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto.)

4 ASSEMBLY SPEAKER PRIETO:
5 Congratulations.

6 (Applause.)

7 11. Oath of Office - Freeholder Elect Thomas J.
8 Sullivan

9 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Okay. I'd now like
10 to call up Bergen County Executive James Tedesco to
11 administer the Oath of Office to Freeholder-Elect
12 Thomas J. Sullivan.

13 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: It's a tough
14 crowd.

15 But those of you that know me for a
16 period of time, when I was mayor of Paramus and even
17 as a councilman, will know that I can usually come up
18 with a few words.

19 I have the opportunity to swear in the
20 person that actually replaced me. Tom was selected
21 to replace me when I became the County Executive, and
22 I couldn't think of a better person to replace me,
23 from a personal standpoint. Tom is somebody that is
24 one of the most caring people, and when I say that, I
25 mean that across-the-board. Tom is an outstanding

1 husband, father, brother, to an entire Sullivan
2 family. Not only is he a family man, but he's a
3 brother. He's a brother to the men and women that
4 work throughout Northern New Jersey putting the
5 lights on and running the electric in many buildings.
6 And for me, that's somewhat close, as I worked for a
7 large electric utility, Tom worked as an electrician
8 and now as a business manager for Local 164, that
9 happened to put its offices in the town that I was
10 the mayor of in Paramus. I got to know many of the
11 folks at 164, and what a great organization for
12 giving back to the community. And Tom is one of
13 those leaders.

14 Local 164 has given back to the town of
15 Paramus in countless ways. I asked them, when I was
16 the mayor, to come and wire our senior citizens
17 center so that we could have computers installed in
18 our senior citizens center. They had 12 people one
19 Saturday and wired the entire building so that we
20 could install computers so our senior citizens would
21 be able to use the computers to talk to their
22 families throughout the country and around the world.

23 We had an Office of Emergency
24 Management bus that needed to have work done. Local
25 164 came, and over a series of weeks, wired that bus

1 so that we could have that go out and help the men
2 and women of law enforcement and our fire protection,
3 so that we could command scenes with that bus.

4 Those are just small examples of the
5 type of organization Tom works for, but, more
6 importantly, that he's part of. His brothers and
7 sisters there are truly brothers and sisters.

8 Tom said to me, he said, "They told me
9 that I had to get somebody to swear me in that was
10 important."

11 And I said to him, "Then it's not me."

12 (Laughter.)

13 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: But I can't
14 tell you how honored I am to stand here with his
15 family and swear in such a great human being and
16 great gentleman.

17 So, Tom, please come forward with your
18 family, so I can have the honor to swear you in.

19 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: I'd like to call up
20 now Tom Sullivan's family, which is Jody, his wife;
21 their children, Kenzie, Jadyn and Kerrin; and mother
22 and father-in-law, and brother-in-law, Andy Hefner.

23 (At this point in the proceeding the
24 Oath of Office is administered to Freeholder-Elect
25 Thomas J. Sullivan by County Executive James J.

1 Tedesco, III.)

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: I wanted to just
4 mention a few more names.

5 Former Freeholder Bernadette McPherson
6 is here.

7 Former Mayor Marlin Townes is here.

8 Former Mayor Tom Richards.

9 Former Mayor Marc Schrieks.

10 Local 755 president, Joe Gautier.

11 And IBEW 164 business manager, Dan
12 Gumble.

13 12. Oath of Leadership - Freeholder Chairman Steven

14 A. Tanelli

15 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Okay. I hereby
16 open nominations for Chairperson of the Board of
17 Chosen Freeholders.

18 FREEHOLDER VOSS: I would like to
19 nominate Steve Tanelli to be Chairman.

20 FREEHOLDER ZUR: And I would be honored
21 to second that nomination.

22 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Are there any other
23 nominations?

24 (No response.)

25 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: May I have a motion

1 to close the nominations?

2 FREEHOLDER FELICE: So moved.

3 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Second.

4 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: All in favor say
5 "aye."

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

8 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Any opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: I will now take the
11 roll call to elect Freeholder Steven A. Tanelli as
12 Chairman of the Bergen County Freeholder Board.

13 (At this point in the proceeding roll
14 call is taken and the motion is passed by a vote of
15 six in favor, with Freeholder Ganz absent.)

16 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: The vote is 6/0,
17 and the new Chairman will be Freeholder Steven A.
18 Tanelli.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: I will now ask that
21 New Jersey State Assemblyman from District 38, Joseph
22 Lagana, please come forward to swear in our new
23 Chairman and say a few words.

24 ASSEMBLYMAN LAGANA: Thank you.

25 Mr. County Executive, members of the

1 Freeholder Board, friends, it's my honor and pleasure
2 to be here.

3 When Steve asked me about a week ago to
4 swear him in to the chairmanship, he said just make
5 sure you say nice things about me. So I've been
6 thinking ever since.

7 (Laughter.)

8 ASSEMBLYMAN LAGANA: It's coming. It's
9 coming.

10 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Did I say he was
11 my friend earlier?

12 ASSEMBLYMAN LAGANA: But in all
13 seriousness, Steve is a person who's dedicated the
14 last 15 years of his life to public service as a
15 local councilman and here on the Freeholder Board.

16 I had the opportunity to campaign with
17 him, to knock on doors, and see how he interacts with
18 the residents and his constituents, and he truly does
19 care. And a lot of what he hears out on the campaign
20 trail will translate into good public policy. And I
21 know, you know, the same is true for Tom, who I got
22 to knock on some doors with, and Tracy, and I
23 congratulate them too on their victories. They're
24 great public servants, but even more than that,
25 they're just exceptional people, and we're very, very

1 lucky as residents of Bergen County to have them
2 representing us here on the Freeholder Board.

3 So, Steve, congratulations. It's my
4 honor to swear you in.

5 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: At this time I
6 invite Steve Tanelli's family to come forward as they
7 hold the bible as he takes the Oath of Office.

8 (At this point in the proceeding the
9 Oath of Office is administered to Steven A. Tanelli
10 as Chairman of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.)

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: At this time it's
13 my honor and gratitude that I'm passing on the gavel
14 to Chairperson Tanelli.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Whew!

17 13. Oath of Leadership - Freeholder Vice-Chairwoman

18 Tracy Silna Zur

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I'd like to
20 entertain nominations for the office of Vice
21 Chairperson of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

22 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Chairman, I'd
23 proudly like to nominate one of the best people that
24 I know for the office of Vice Chair, Tracy Silna Zur.

25 FREEHOLDER ZUR: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I'd like to second
2 that.

3 FREEHOLDER ZUR: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

5 MR. FLORIO: You have to call the roll.

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Motion to close the
7 nominations?

8 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

9 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

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

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Roll call, please,
14 on the motion.

15 (At this point in the proceeding roll
16 call is taken and the motion is passed by a vote of
17 six in favor, with Freeholder Ganz absent.)

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: So far so good.

19 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: The vote is 6/0,
20 and the new Vice-Chairwoman will be Freeholder Tracy
21 Zur.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: I would now ask the
24 Bergen County Assignment Judge, the Hon. Bonnie J.
25 Mizdol, to please come forward and swear in

1 Vice-Chairwoman elect Tracy Silna Zur.

2 Will you please say a few remarks
3 first.

4 JUDGE MIZDOL: Thank you.

5 It's my privilege to be here this
6 evening as Assignment Judge of what has been
7 described as this great county, because it is this
8 great county. We have a wonderful Freeholder Board,
9 and Tracy is now Vice-Chairwoman of that board. Just
10 a few short years ago, she and I both served as
11 judges of our Central Municipal Court here in Bergen
12 County. I'd like to say that I mentored Tracy a bit
13 in that process. And I blinked my eyes, and here she
14 is, Vice-Chairwoman of the Freeholder Board. I
15 couldn't be prouder of her accomplishments and what
16 she brings to Bergen County. She brings her spirit,
17 she bring a love of this county, and she undertakes
18 this task with humility and with an enormous amount
19 of dignity. So it's my privilege and my pleasure to
20 swear her in this evening.

21 (At this point in the proceeding the
22 Oath of Office is administered to Tracy Silna Zur as
23 Vice-Chairwoman of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.)

24 (Applause.)

25 14. Oath of Leadership - Freeholder

1 Chairman Pro Tempore John A. Felice

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Now I'd like to
3 entertain nominations for Chairperson Pro Tempore.

4 I'd like to nominate Freeholder John
5 Felice.

6 FREEHOLDER VOSS: I'll second that.

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Are there any other
8 nominations.

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Seeing none, may I
11 have a motion to close nominations?

12 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: So moved.

13 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

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

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Nominations for
18 Chairman Pro Tempore are closed.

19 Would the Clerk please take the roll.

20 (At this point in the proceeding roll
21 call is taken and the motion is passed by a vote of
22 six in favor, with Freeholder Ganz absent.)

23 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: The vote is 6/0,
24 and the new Chairman Pro Tempore is Freeholder John
25 A. Felice.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: I will now ask
3 Freeholder Counsel Edward J. Florio to swear in
4 Chairman Pro Tempore John Felice. Assisting him in
5 holding the bible is his dear friend, Kevin Dourer,
6 and to please come forward as well.

7 MR. FLORIO: Did anybody else notice
8 that she didn't offer me to opportunity to make
9 remarks?

10 I'm going to do it anyway.

11 He needs no intro.

12 The word "great" is tossed around much
13 too cavalierly much too often. I will use it two
14 times. I will apply it greatly for Freeholder John
15 Felice.

16 1. He wears a great suit.

17 And, 2., he's great at doing the right
18 thing.

19 And with that, let's administer the
20 Oath of Office.

21 (At this point in the proceeding the
22 Oath of Office is administered to John A. Felice as
23 Chairman Pro Tempore of the Board of Chosen
24 Freeholders.)

25 (Applause.)

1 15. Remarks by Freeholders

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: At this time I'd
3 like to allow all our Freeholders to make their
4 remarks.

5 I'd like to open the floor first to our
6 Vice-Chairwoman Tracy Zur.

7 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: So, I've been
8 battling this cold, as you all have heard, and, as of
9 yesterday, I had absolutely no voice. And I know,
10 Chairman Tanelli, you were rooting for it to stay
11 that way, so this meeting could be a little bit
12 shorter. I'm sorry that I couldn't cooperate.

13 My running mates can attest that I'm
14 seldom without words, but having just taken the Oath
15 of Office for the second time, with my family
16 standing beside me, with all of you here in this
17 audience to wish us well and to support us, like you
18 have throughout, it really leaves me speechless and
19 it really leaves me without adequate words to express
20 just how grateful I am and how fortunate I feel to
21 have the honor to serve the residents of Bergen
22 County for another three years.

23 There are so many thank you's.

24 Coby, Kayla, Logan, thank you, guys,
25 not only for just having so many nights and the

1 weekends out, but for truly understanding and
2 supporting how passionate I am about the work that I
3 get to do on this Board.

4 You guys are my rocks, and you remind
5 me everyday why it's important to solve the problems
6 of our community, so that I can leave the world, or
7 at least our little corner of it, better for you
8 guys.

9 Bobby, again, there just are no words,
10 you made a crazy juggling act function throughout
11 this campaign and throughout our life. You've been
12 my true partner. Thank you for enabling me to follow
13 my heart and engage in this arena. I couldn't do all
14 this without you.

15 Mom, dad, Amy and Bill, thank you for
16 all your love and your support. I know that this
17 public service part of my life impacts all of you.
18 Thank you for taking up the slack and for loving me,
19 even when I don't have enough time to make you feel
20 like the priorities that you are.

21 Speaker Prieto -- I think he scooted
22 out the back -- but I want to thank him so profoundly
23 for administering the Oath of Office tonight.

24 While he represents, as he said, a
25 small but incredibly important sliver of Bergen

1 County, his leadership in New Jersey is remarkable.
2 The collaboration and communication with all of us
3 ensures the responsiveness to the Legislature to us
4 here in Bergen County. And I hope I can emulate a
5 little bit of his tenacity and insightfulness as I
6 continue to serve as a Bergen County Freeholder.

7 Judge Mizdol, from the first day that I
8 was sworn in as a judge and you pulled me up on the
9 bench beside you, you were in fact the best mentor I
10 could have ever asked for, the most compassionate,
11 the most intelligent. Thank you for swearing me in
12 tonight, for all of your kind words, but also for
13 your friendship. We have some big hurdles that we
14 are going to be facing together in Bergen County, and
15 I know with your judicial leadership we're going to
16 move things in the right direction.

17 To all of my colleagues on the
18 Freeholder Board, I'm so proud of the bipartisan
19 collaboration we have received.

20 To County Executive Jim Tedesco, thank
21 you for the open and inclusive way that you're
22 running government, for treating us like a coequal
23 branch, for embracing and valuing our ideas and
24 perspectives, and for making us proud to be on your
25 team. I am so grateful for the opportunity to

1 continue to work with you and your administration, as
2 we serve the needs of Bergen County residents.

3 To all of our legislators and all of
4 the municipal officials here in the audience, thank
5 you for your guidance and for your support. Most of
6 you spent many hours with us on the campaign trail,
7 but, even more important, you spent so many hours
8 communicating, collaborating, involving us on issuing
9 that impact our mutual communities.

10 Chairman Stellato, you are one heck of
11 a bus driver. Thank you for giving me the privilege
12 to serve, and for working so tirelessly to make sure
13 that we were all able to communicate our message and
14 enable us to be up here to work for the residents of
15 Bergen County.

16 To my Freeholder Aide, Storm, and to
17 the staff of the office, to all of you, thank you for
18 the often thankless hard work that you do. The
19 office runs so smoothly thanks to Jared, John, Lisa,
20 Lara, Cathy, Stephanie, Diane, Yanni, and Randi, all
21 of you, and, Kim, I promise my New Year's resolution
22 is try to speak slower for you.

23 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Good luck.

24 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Now I was going
25 to segueway to something nice about you.

1 And to my running mates, Steve Tanelli
2 and Tom Sullivan, I'm so grateful to have been on
3 this journey with you. You both are kind of like
4 M&M's, you got the tough, colorful exteriors, but on
5 the inside the sweetest hearts. You care so much
6 about the community, so much about your families, you
7 care with every fiber about the impact that you're
8 going to make for all of Bergen County.

9 Your desire to serve comes from such a
10 truly genuine place, no pretenses, no hidden agendas,
11 you guys exemplify what's good about public service.
12 And I am so lucky to not only have the privilege to
13 work with you, but to really work together throughout
14 this entire campaign. You guys made it fun -- well,
15 most of the time made it fun. We did this not on
16 others' coattails, we are sitting here today because
17 we have a vision, all of us up here, to move Bergen
18 County in the direction forward. But it's also
19 because of the flat-out hard work that all of you
20 guys put in. As a team, no one can outwork us. I'm
21 so appreciative of the fact that we are going, all
22 three, to have the ability to continue to work
23 together to make Bergen County better.

24 So, as I was sitting here trying to
25 think about what to say tonight on this important

1 occasion, I decided to look back and see what I said
2 three years ago. And it was filled with all these
3 hopes and aspirations and goals for the next term.
4 And as I look back on it, it really underscored how
5 much we were really able to accomplish over the last
6 few years.

7 We spearheaded a realignment of the
8 County Police. It was tackled and tossed around like
9 a political football.

10 We built a special needs school in
11 Paramus, which now provides state-of-the-art
12 services, and it will expand our ability to provide
13 continuing services for adults with disabilities as
14 well.

15 We entered into an unprecedented
16 relationship with Rutgers Newark to better facilitate
17 data driven decisionmaking, and using the best and
18 brightest to analyze projects that we may want to
19 tackle.

20 We delivered bipartisan, responsible
21 budgets.

22 We worked with the Workforce
23 Development Board to improve employment opportunities
24 for veterans, for the differently abled, and for
25 at-risk youth.

1 These were all just hopes in 2013, but
2 now they're realities.

3 What stood out from that speech three
4 years ago was a sense of enthusiasm and excitement to
5 take on tasks. And I can tell you for me that has
6 not changed one bit in three years. In fact, I'm
7 even more energized.

8 We have the direction of Bergen
9 Regional Medical Center to chart.

10 A heroin epidemic to tackle.

11 Infrastructure to address.

12 And so much more.

13 You know, the most common question that
14 was asked to me on the campaign trail is: "What is a
15 Freeholder?"

16 I want to tell you, I am so proud to be
17 sitting up here as your Freeholder, to serve at the
18 county level of government, to work with our state
19 legislators and our municipal leaders, because
20 together we work on issues that matter, and we do so
21 without the gridlock of Washington or Trenton. We
22 work on on education and parks for our children,
23 transportation and workforce development and all else
24 in between.

25 It's truly a privilege. So thank you,

1 Bergen County, for giving me the chance to serve you
2 again.

3 (Applause.)

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Freeholder Sullivan.

5 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Let me just
6 crumble up my speech now.

7 (Laughter.)

8 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: As usual, Tracy
9 did an outstanding job of relaying all the great
10 things that we plan to do here at the county, but, of
11 course, I need to thank a few people before I say
12 anything else.

13 Obviously, I need to thank my wife and
14 my three children, who, like Tracy said, they are my
15 rock. Without them, I could never do this. I have a
16 busy schedule as president of my union, and it's just
17 something that, without the support at home, this
18 could never be possible. And I thank them from the
19 bottom of my heart.

20 My wife and I are married for 21 years,
21 been together for 31 years, and I couldn't think of
22 anybody that I would like to stand by me, guide me on
23 this journey, than my wife, Jody. Thank you very
24 much, sweetheart. I love you.

25 There's also a lot of people I want to

1 thank.

2 I want to thank all the dignitaries for
3 coming here this evening, for coming out to support
4 us.

5 I'd like to thank the people of Bergen
6 County for coming out to vote. And when everyone
7 said it was a low turnout year, we were all worried
8 about it, but the people that came out, they
9 supported my running mates and myself, and I want to
10 thank them for that. Obviously, I wish there was a
11 higher voter turnout in our country, where people die
12 to have the right to vote. This is something we
13 really need to start making sure people understand
14 how important that right is. But I want to thank the
15 people of Bergen County for electing me, like John
16 Ensslin always said, "to allow me to do this again
17 next year."

18 We will do that again next year.

19 I also want to thank all the people
20 that I work with here in the county, all the people
21 on all the boards, with the heroin epidemic, with the
22 staff, my aide, Oren, I couldn't do it without all of
23 these people. This is a team effort. Everybody has
24 to be involved, and we have tremendous bipartisanship
25 here with all our Freeholders.

1 Our County Executive is second to none.
2 I can't tell you how much I've learned from the man
3 in just a short year or so, but I actually had the
4 pleasure of dealing with him as a union official when
5 he was the mayor of Paramus. And the compassion he
6 has for people and the understanding he has for
7 people, and he has really brought that to the county.
8 And the way he's led us here and the way he'll
9 continue to lead us here, Jim, I thank you very much
10 for that.

11 Again, speaking of my roots, of my job,
12 our business manager, Dan Gumble, is here. And
13 without the support of the union, without his
14 support, I couldn't do what I do. And, you know, Dan
15 has allowed me to do this, to represent our workers.

16 But I also want to thank all the unions
17 that have come out to vote. We look at the
18 healthcare crisis in the United States of America,
19 and you look at the decline of unions, and it's no
20 coincidence why we have a healthcare crisis. And
21 hopefully my message can get out to people and our
22 message, the union's, can get out to people. The
23 days of the union thugs are over. We understand what
24 life is all about, but when we unionize and we get
25 together, people get taken care of and people get

1 their fair share. And hopefully going forward, the
2 country will, in my opinion, wake up and we all will
3 have health care for everybody.

4 The lastly I just want to say that when
5 I first took office, the quote in the paper that I
6 had was that I will continue to work hard and I will
7 work in a bipartisan way for the residents of Bergen
8 County, and that hasn't wavered. I've done numerous
9 things with Freeholder DeNicola and Freeholder
10 Felice, along with the entire board. I stood by what
11 I said, and I will continue to say and I will
12 continue to do, because to me it doesn't matter what
13 letter you have at the back of your name, you were
14 elected to serve every single person in this county
15 regardless of how you feel about what they think or
16 what we think. We need to come together. We've come
17 together over my first year. Hopefully, it
18 continues. And, you know, we're all going to have
19 elections, but it's time to get down to the business
20 of taking care of the residents of Bergen County.

21 I also want to thank Lou Stellato, who
22 gave me the opportunity to sit here and to do what we
23 do.

24 Thank you, everyone, for coming. I
25 look forward to a wonderful, wonderful year.

1 I know I wasn't as eloquent as Tracy,
2 but I never will be.

3 Thank you, everybody, and Happy New
4 Year.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Chairman Pro
7 Tempore.

8 FREEHOLDER FELICE: Thank you, Mr.
9 Chairman.

10 First, I would like to congratulate
11 Steve and Tracy and Tom for their election and
12 reelection to the board, and for Steve Tanelli's
13 election as Chairman, congratulations, Steve, and
14 Tracy, as Vice-Chairwoman.

15 I'd like to thank Ed Florio, my good
16 friend, and also my dear friend, &Kevin Dourer, who
17 held the bible for me.

18 I'm very humbled by my colleagues on
19 this Freeholder Board for their faith in voting me
20 for the fourth straight year Chair Pro Tempore and
21 for the second year in a row Budget Chair.

22 This coming year, I will continue my
23 efforts on behalf of the residents of Bergen County
24 to adopt a budget with my fellow Freeholders that
25 will both be responsible to the taxpayers, while

1 meeting the needs of the residents.

2 And I assure you, Freeholders, it's
3 going to be five days, and, 8:00, coffee and donuts.

4 And I just want to say that I look
5 forward to working with Jim Tedesco. It's really
6 truly an honor and privilege to work with Jim. I've
7 gotten to be friends with Jim, and it truly is an
8 open door policy. We have worked very well together
9 for the people of Bergen County and continue do so
10 this year.

11 Also, I'm looking forward to working
12 with the other members of the boards I'll be serving
13 on, such as the Bergen Regional Medical Center Task
14 Force, which is going to really impact the lives of
15 residents of this county and New Jersey for the next
16 50 years; the Body Camera Advisory Board, Health
17 Services; Human Services; Solid Waste Advisory;
18 Shared Services; all that benefit the people of
19 Bergen County.

20 I'd like to thank all the dignitaries
21 and the families of the elected officials that have
22 been sworn in that are up here tonight. And, again,
23 thank you very much for the privilege, and God bless
24 you all.

25 Thank you very much.

1 (Applause.)

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Freeholder DeNicola.

3 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Thank you, Mr.

4 Chairman.

5 First I'd like to thank Lou Stellato --

6 no.

7 (Laughter.)

8 (Applause.)

9 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Nothing against

10 Mr. Stellato.

11 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: That's why we

12 work good together.

13 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Actually I'm

14 going off. Mr. Florio said I have to be brief.

15 MR. FLORIO: That's okay.

16 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: I just want to

17 thank all of the elected officials and our honored

18 guests and clergy and everyone who is here this

19 evening with us, all of you who do so much for the

20 taxpayers of Bergen County. We truly are in this

21 together.

22 Over the last several days, I know I've

23 been with a lot of you at swearing-in ceremonies and

24 reorganization meetings. Some that have been warm

25 and wonderful, and some that have been very

1 interesting. And I'm glad that this is the former.
2 And that's important, that is important for the
3 taxpayers of Bergen County.

4 Do we always agree, Mr. County
5 Executive? No, but that's good, we shouldn't always
6 agree. Debate and discussion is a healthy part of
7 decisionmaking. It makes our decisions stronger and
8 their substance broader, and I'm very proud to be a
9 part of this Board and the work that we've
10 accomplished over the last year, and I look forward
11 to continuing that, as long as our discussions are
12 always with the respect and the dignity that Bergen
13 County deserves, because we are the best county,
14 present company excepted here.

15 We've done a lot, as was said by a lot
16 of my colleagues already. We've done so much for
17 veterans, for those with special needs and those with
18 disabilities, for our schools, for municipalities.
19 It doesn't matter how we save tax dollars, if it
20 comes from your state or your municipal budget, as
21 long as taxpayers save that money. The pockets all
22 belong to them.

23 And one other thing I wanted to say.
24 Last night was Fair Lawn's Reorganization Meeting.
25 One nice thing was we were all handed small American

1 flags at that meeting. It was just a token to
2 remember the active duty military and the veterans,
3 who really made this celebration of democracy
4 possible.

5 So many of you know that my oldest son
6 is serving in the military. Last year, he came back
7 after ten months fighting ISIS in the Middle East. I
8 am so grateful he's here again. He's just been
9 assigned test pilot at a weapons facility in the
10 Mohave Desert and his duty is, in his words,
11 "something you don't talk to your mother about."

12 But he, like all of the young men and
13 women who are serving in this nation, are doing it
14 for the right reasons and to keep this country safe
15 and great.

16 So I hope that we all have a very happy
17 and healthy new year. God bless Bergen County, and
18 God bless this great nation.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Freeholder Voss.

22 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you, Chairman.

23 2015 has been a great year for many,
24 many reasons.

25 First of all, we all get along like a

1 family up here, which I am so pleased about. We have
2 great leadership with our Chairman, Lou Stellato, and
3 with our County Executive, Jimmy Tedesco. I can't
4 thank you enough for the wonderful relationship that
5 the Freeholders have with your office. It's been
6 terrific. And I know that in the future, it's going
7 to get even better.

8 I had an absolutely wonderful year
9 being chairman, and I hope you have as much of a
10 wonderful year as I had. I've been in government now
11 for over 25 years, and I think this last year has
12 been one of the most productive and happy. As some
13 of us pointed out, sometime politics can get very
14 contentious, but it has never been contentious up
15 here. We have always been able to sit down and talk
16 about what we need to do for the people of Bergen
17 County.

18 I have to say that when you became
19 chair of the budget, and I worked on budgets for
20 years -- when he said we're going to get this budget
21 finished in like six days, I said you're out of your
22 mind, we have a \$530 million budget, and we were
23 going to do it in six days?

24 And he did it. It was terrific. And
25 so he's also going to be Budget Chair again. Five

1 days this time.

2 FREEHOLDER FELICE: Do I hear four?

3 FREEHOLDER VOSS: But he's a slave
4 driver, 8:00 in the morning you come in here. That's
5 probably our most important job, that we spend the
6 money of the people of Bergen County in the most
7 effective, efficient way. And, as I said, we work
8 together, there's no contention when it comes to
9 them.

10 I have to thank all of the young people
11 that work in our office, but I especially have to
12 thank Chris Chapman, who is my aide. When you're
13 Chair, your aide really does a tremendous amount of
14 work, and I could not be happier. We're on the same
15 wavelength, we're both not morning people, we do our
16 best work at night. So it has been a pleasure, and
17 I'm certainly glad that I'll be working with him in
18 the future.

19 I want to say congratulations. This
20 year was a tough year in terms of the election,
21 because we knew it was going to be a low turnout.
22 And Steve, Tracy, and Tom worked like the proverbial
23 Trojans, I don't think they had a day off, and it
24 paid off. So, congratulations.

25 I'm very happy, Steve, that you are the

1 Chair; Tracy, the Vice Chair; and that we're going to
2 have a very, very good year.

3 I have a few hopes, because many of my
4 colleagues have stated all of the things that we have
5 accomplished and that we hope to accomplish. But one
6 of the things that I hope will be able to come to
7 fruition is that everyone of the 70 towns in Bergen
8 County will eventually build housing for people with
9 disabilities. That's my ultimate dream. I know that
10 my town, Fort Lee, is doing it. As this point,
11 Allendale has two wonderful facilities. We just
12 opened one in Teaneck not too long ago. And if every
13 town did this, just as we want to make sure there are
14 no homeless veterans, we want to make sure that all
15 people with disabilities are also taken care of.

16 As an educator, I am so, so proud of
17 the educational facilities that we have here in
18 Bergen County and our Academy, which we were very,
19 very pleased to find out was rated one of the top
20 five schools in the United States; not just in Bergen
21 County, not just in New Jersey, the United States.
22 We're doing wonderful things in education, and I know
23 we're going to continue.

24 We've spoken pretty much about all the
25 things that we had done and that we hope to do, and

1 I'm very happy for your leadership, and you know that
2 anything I can do to be of assistance, I will be
3 there for you.

4 I will conclude by saying have a very
5 happy and very healthy new year, and God bless you
6 all.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I guess I get to
10 wrap up.

11 So, honored guests, fellow members of
12 the Board of Chosen Freeholders, residents of Bergen
13 County, I stand before you to accept the
14 responsibility of serving as your advocate on the
15 Board of Chosen Freeholders. My reelection was not
16 just a victory of party, but a mandate for us to
17 continue providing responsible governance the
18 taxpayers want and deserve.

19 I'm humbled by this privilege to
20 continue to serve, and I have many people to thank
21 who assisted me along the way.

22 Campaigning and being involved in
23 government is time-consuming and takes you away from
24 normal family life.

25 So I'd like to first thank my wife,

1 Sharon, along with my three sons, Nicholas, Brian,
2 and Danny; my daughters-in-law, Stephanie and
3 Therese, my new main man, my grandson, Jackie.

4 Unfortunately my daughter-in-law is
5 ill, so my grandson isn't here. I would have loved
6 to have him be here torturing everybody and running
7 around on the floor.

8 And to my extended family and friends
9 who are here tonight supporting my public service.

10 I'd like to mention how proud I am of
11 my two sons, who have both chosen to serve the public
12 as police officers. Now, more than ever, we need to
13 support those who keep us safe. May God bless you
14 both and please be safe.

15 I want to thank the leadership of my
16 party, Bergen County Chairman Lou Stellato, for his
17 guidance and unwavering support. I'd also like to
18 thank my Municipal Chairman, Anthony Sullivan, whose
19 support started this train back in 2003.

20 I'd also like to thank the many elected
21 officials across the State of New Jersey for their
22 help.

23 I'd like to thank the labor union for
24 their confidence in us and their support of good
25 government.

1 I'd like to thank our campaign staff;
2 my aide, Paul Park, and, most importantly, my running
3 mates, Freeholder Tracy Zur and Freeholder Tom
4 Sullivan.

5 Tracy and Tom are both tremendous
6 resources, colleagues, and friends.

7 In our travels over the campaign, the
8 people of Bergen County want a government of
9 competent consensus.

10 Democrats have provided that, with the
11 leadership of Chairman Ganz and Chairwoman Voss.

12 We have reached across the aisle with
13 our Republican friends to do what's best for
14 homeowners. As your Chairman, that's what we will
15 continue to do.

16 I would like to thank my colleagues for
17 their support and confidence in allowing me to chair
18 this prestigious board in 2016.

19 Government by consensus and mutual
20 support means stable taxes, reliable services, and a
21 safety net for those who can't take care of
22 themselves.

23 Government by consensus means a
24 community college system that prepares our kids for a
25 better future and a county infrastructure that keeps

1 our roads clean, paved and plowed; a government that
2 offers our parents and children the kind of open
3 space and recreation destinations that make Bergen
4 County so special and unique.

5 The campaign is now over. Democrats
6 have again been charged with the responsibility to
7 lead, and that's exactly what we will do. We will
8 lead and work together with our Department Heads, our
9 employees, our Constitutional Officers, as well as
10 the County Executive, to ensure Bergen County
11 continues to be the envy of New Jersey. That's good
12 politics as well as good government.

13 Thank you all for this opportunity to
14 serve. May God bless the great County of Bergen to
15 provide us with the wisdom and good judgment to
16 ensure that taxpayers are always first, and may you
17 all have a happy, healthy and safe 2016.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 16. Presentations & Public Comment

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: At this point I'd
22 like to offer the opportunity for any dignitaries who
23 would like to come up and say a few words.

24 SEN. WEINBERG: Thank you very much.

25 Good evening, congratulations,

1 particularly to Tom and to Steve and to Tracy, on
2 being sworn in tonight.

3 I know we've talked a lot about the
4 great County of Bergen. Well, Valerie and Gordon and
5 I would like to welcome you to the great Legislative
6 District 37.

7 We also wanted to take this opportunity
8 to thank Bob Yudin for everything that he has done --

9 (Laughter.)

10 SEN. WEINBERG: -- to bring us to where
11 we are tonight.

12 Really a moment of seriousness. This
13 is a great Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders,
14 and to see the kind of bipartisan support that is
15 shown here, we probably could use a little of it in
16 Trenton.

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Yes.

18 SEN. WEINBERG: But it is great to be a
19 resident of District 37, to be -- now I just added it
20 up -- 51 years in April since I moved to Bergen
21 County. And I am so proud of the work that all of
22 you have done and of our County Executive, Jim
23 Tedesco. So I want to thank you all for being here,
24 for lending yourselves, really, to public service.

25 And, again, on behalf of both Valerie

1 and Gordon, who I think is still here someplace,
2 hopefully, to welcome you all to our legislative
3 district, to the county seat of Hackensack.

4 Thank you very much.

5 (Applause.)

6 ASSEMBLYWOMAN HUTTLE: Well, first,
7 happy and healthy new year to the residents of Bergen
8 County.

9 I'd like to direct my remarks to the
10 Freeholder Board.

11 First of all, Joan, congratulations on
12 your tenure for your year as Chair. So we
13 congratulate you for that.

14 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you.

15 ASSEMBLYWOMAN HUTTLE: Secondly,
16 congratulations of course to the three new
17 Freeholders and to the entire Freeholder Board. But
18 as I sat here and listened to all of the comments,
19 you make really all of us proud, because lately in
20 the news we have heard several outbreaks of fighting
21 at council meetings, not just in Bergen but across
22 the United States, quite frankly, and as Maura said,
23 yes, there have been some reorgs that have been
24 interesting and some that have been wonderful. We
25 have been to many reorgs this past week. This has

1 probably been the best reorganizational meeting that
2 I have ever attended, probably in my ten years plus
3 of public service. I always say we had the best
4 Freeholder Board, but you're getting pretty close to
5 when I was a Freeholder.

6 (Laughter.)

7 ASSEMBLYWOMAN HUTTLE: But, seriously,
8 it shows that when you put good public policy in
9 front of politics, how we can get things done. And
10 it also shows that when a leader is present, like our
11 County Executive, there is leadership and
12 cohesiveness to the board.

13 So politics is one thing when we're
14 campaigning; however, this campaign really was a
15 wonderful campaign.

16 And, Tommy, for everything we're saying
17 about Bergen County, your next election, you should
18 have it made, because we are giving you many
19 accolades and this is fact, not fiction, and so when
20 we talk about --

21 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Wait a minute!

22 (Laughter.)

23 ASSEMBLYWOMAN HUTTLE: Wait a minute,
24 there's three seats up. Maura, I'm only talking
25 about one seat at this point. And then we can thank

1 Bob Yudin next year.

2 However, let me just in closing say
3 this, all of the issues that you have brought to our
4 attention, heroin addiction, housing for the
5 disabled, the school systems, we have won so many
6 interesting things here in Bergen County that we
7 should be proud of, and these are the issues that you
8 always resonate being in office, because all of us
9 are participating and recipients.

10 Congratulations. We're so proud.

11 And, Chairman, best of luck to you.

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: At this point I'd
15 entertain a motion to open the meeting to the public.

16 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: So moved.

17 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

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

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The public is now
22 invited to speak. If anyone would like to come to
23 the mic.

24 We ask you to please keep it brief,
25 there's a big crowd, so anyone that comes up, please.

1 MS. STRONE: Good evening. My name is
2 Christina Strone. I'm the president of an
3 organization called "WE DO." "WE DO" stands for
4 Women Empowered in the Democratic Organization. And
5 our mission is to help and support and encourage
6 women at all levels of public service, particularly
7 for the local and county level.

8 So I am here tonight with two members
9 of our executive board, Randi Duffy, who is our
10 treasurer; and vice president, former Freeholder,
11 Julie O'Brien. We're here to present a Certificate
12 of Achievement, and to applaud and congratulate
13 Vice-Chairwoman Tracy Zur this evening.

14 Tracy is and continues to be an
15 inspiration, not only to women across the county, but
16 really to all the residents that she represents. So
17 it's our honor to present this certificate to her and
18 a free year's membership.

19 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. REINER: Good evening, everyone.

22 Members of the Freeholder Board and
23 guests, my name is Hazel Reiner, a recent Teaneck
24 resident, for the last three years.

25 I'm here to ask that a petition be

1 considered to place an African-American on the board
2 of Bergen Community College.

3 Last year, I had an opportunity to
4 complete a leadership program where our Assemblyman,
5 Mr. Gordon, spoke and challenged us as residents to
6 stand up and speak out. And one of the things I did,
7 and I'll be very short, I decided to look to see how
8 I, as an individual, could get involved in the
9 community. And one of the things that I began to see
10 was you have such a great institution, and with the
11 cloud that is hanging over our nation, our community,
12 I have not seen an individual representing the masses
13 with such a beautiful and strong -- and I'm
14 nervous -- such a beautiful and strong community
15 program, yet our African-American young men do not
16 have an individual that reflects them and their
17 values on the board. And the last time that we had
18 anyone was somewhere back in 1986, between 1986 and
19 1990.

20 And with that, I would like to present
21 to the Board of Freeholders 13 pages of signatures to
22 give some consideration to appointing an
23 African-American, someone who represents our brown
24 brothers and sisters at one of your most stellar
25 community programs in New Jersey.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. EISEN: Good evening, everyone. My
4 name is Larry Eisen. I grew up in Teaneck. I now
5 live in Hackensack.

6 I appreciate everything in the county
7 is working right. Why can't you get your clock
8 working? Is it so difficult, with a \$500 million
9 budget, that you can't get one clock to work?

10 (Applause.)

11 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: For the record,
12 Freeholder DeNicola was in charge of that.

13 (Laughter.)

14 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: And so it begins,
15 Freeholder Sullivan, my friend.

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Anybody else?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Being no other
19 person from the public wishing to speak, I will take
20 a motion to close -- I saw Gerry. Gerry is here.

21 MR. DRUMMOND: Welcome, everybody.
22 Congratulations to everybody here. I won't name
23 everybody.

24 I'm Gerry Drummond, former president of
25 Local 755.

1 I'm glad you gave recognition to Joe
2 Gautier, currently the president of Local 755. And
3 I'm glad that Tom Sullivan spoke about the importance
4 of unions these days and very important, all the way
5 to the Supreme Court. I think, as you know, a lot is
6 going on that's going to impact on the whole future
7 of this country.

8 Anyway, I wrote a poem. You know, I
9 was inspired by what was going on, so it's a poem
10 incomplete while we meet.

11 A form of government pro tempore, pro
12 attorney contact, County Executive and Freeholder
13 legislator.

14 I'll focus just on the Freeholders
15 right now.

16 The Freeholder Chair Tanelli is not
17 without good vice.

18 While the good vice, for sure, is
19 called couture.

20 But absent both and strictly under oath
21 the Chair Pro Tempore is Felice, not Navidad, but
22 John, the budget voice, hopefully not crying in the
23 desert.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, Gerry.

1 (Applause.)

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Maria Organ.

3 MS. ORGAN: Good evening, everyone.

4 Congratulations to all of you.

5 Talking about, my face will tell you
6 that I'm an immigrant. When I came to the United
7 States, my inspiration is called William Jefferson
8 Clinton. I remember to ask the president of the
9 company that I was represented in saying, "Who is
10 this guy?"

11 So he repeat to me exactly that name
12 that I already told you. And I say if I ever come to
13 be a U.S. citizen in this country, I'm going to be
14 from the party where this guy is, what party he is.
15 So he told me.

16 And since then, when I become a citizen
17 in 1997, I register myself as a Democrat, just
18 because of the inspiration of what William Jefferson
19 Clinton did to me.

20 And I will say, Tracy, you and Ms. Voss
21 are the inspiration of women.

22 And Steven, love you, you got my
23 respect and my love.

24 James, oh, my God, I was very proud to
25 be working for you, to be sitting there, and I

1 couldn't be more proud right now.

2 For you especially, Tom Sullivan, I've
3 been working with you in this government for a long
4 time, and I could not be more proud than I am right
5 now to be seeing you sitting there and being sworn
6 in. And you know you can come to me from now to all
7 my life.

8 And to you guys, I would say to keep
9 doing the good work for this county to be always the
10 best county in the United States.

11 And to you, Mr. Stellato, thank you so
12 much for keeping the inspiration going on.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. POWERS: Mr. Chairman, I'm supposed
15 to face you or face them?

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Whatever you like.

17 MR. POWERS: I'll stand sideways and
18 look at our 37 representatives.

19 In the first place, I want to say Happy
20 New Year and, you know, it is really quite
21 extraordinary to have watched the evolution of this
22 Board of Freeholder and its capacity to work
23 effectively.

24 We were very worried about issues
25 associated with Sunshine and its disinfectant effects

1 for several years here, and watching you folks sort
2 of overcome that, both at the executive and also at
3 the legislative level, has been really something that
4 Bergen Grassroots has been very appreciative of. It
5 is something we'll keep on watching you about, you
6 can count on that, but it is something we can be very
7 happy it is going on.

8 I also want to draw your attention just
9 for a minute to the fact that next Wednesday at the
10 library in Teaneck in the auditorium we're going to
11 be honoring a former administrative judge of the
12 Bergen County courts, the third branch where these
13 issues, no matter what it is that you folks pass in
14 terms of legislation, in terms of what you implement
15 as executives, the tough issues that come before a
16 judiciary in trying to figure out just exactly how
17 the issues of openness and transparency actually do
18 get translated into how it is that the county moves
19 forward through judicial decision. And we're going
20 to be very happy to be honoring Peter E. Doyne, the
21 former head, your predecessor, and we're very happy
22 to be doing that as part of the Byron Baer Award for
23 Public Service.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 ASSEMBLYMAN JOHNSON: Good evening,
2 everyone, and I shall be brief, because I'm wearing
3 my bowtie, sort of special tonight.

4 But I listened to all the speeches this
5 evening and accolades that went out to the victory of
6 the Democrats in government and what have you, but I
7 would like to recognize the spouses and families of
8 these people who sit up here. So I think the spouses
9 and the family members, give yourselves a hand.

10 (Applause.)

11 ASSEMBLYMAN JOHNSON: It's because of
12 what you do at home that these individuals can be
13 here doing what they are doing, campaigning and doing
14 good county government. So I just want to say that.

15 I think we're very fortunate to have a
16 first responder running this county. He understands
17 fire, police, and EMS. He understands the importance
18 of providing that type of service.

19 Also, I would like to make one other
20 comment, and that's regarding the transportation for
21 seniors and disabled in this county, funded by funds
22 from the casinos, which had dropped.

23 This administration chose to make up
24 that shortfall for the people of Bergen County, for
25 those individuals who really need that assistance to

1 get around. So thank you for what you've done there.
2 I'll close with that, and let's have a good evening.

3 (Applause.)

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: So seeing no other
5 speakers from the public, I'll now entertain a motion
6 to close the meeting.

7 FREEHOLDER FELICE: So moved.

8 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

10 (All present Freeholders respond in the
11 affirmative.)

12 17. Resolutions

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: In our public
14 session earlier today, at the Reorganization Work
15 Session, the Board passed by unanimous consent the
16 first seven resolutions of 2016 involving our
17 reorganization for the new year.

18 The Clerk will now go through the
19 resolutions passed earlier today by unanimous
20 consent, it's your agenda list. Copies of the
21 resolutions are available at the front table.

22 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Resolution #1-16 is
23 a "Resolution authorizing Work Session and Public
24 Meeting Schedule."

25 #2-16 is a "Resolution authorizing

1 Official Newspapers of the County of Bergen for the
2 publication of legal advertisements and notices."

3 #3-16 is a "Resolution appointing
4 Edward J. Florio, Esquire, as Counsel to the Board of
5 Chosen Freeholders."

6 #4-16 is a "Resolution adopting the
7 2016 Bylaws of the Board of Chosen Freeholders."

8 #5-16 is a "Resolution authorizing 2016
9 Temporary Budget."

10 #6-16 is a "Resolution authorizing Cash
11 Management Plan."

12 And #7-16 is a "Resolution authorizing
13 appointment of Auditor, awarding contract to
14 Ferraioli, Wielkocz, Cerullo & Cuva, PA, Certified
15 Public Accountants, for the 2016 Annual Audit."

16 And the resolutions passed unanimously
17 6/0 this afternoon.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Are there any other
19 announcements?

20 MS. SCIANCALEPORE: Our schedule is
21 available at the back table, the Freeholder table,
22 and at our desk.

23 Also, I have the committee assignments
24 that were assigned earlier this afternoon that are
25 also available in the back Freeholder table and also

1 at our desk.

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I'd like to remind
3 everybody that, following this, there will be a
4 reception in the back lobby. I welcome all of you to
5 please stay and join us for coffee and refreshments.

6 18. Benediction by Rabbi David Fine of Temple
7 Israel, Ridgewood

8 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: At this point in the
9 program, I'd like to ask Rabbi David Fine to offer
10 the benediction.

11 RABBI FINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
12 after all the speeches, of giving me the final word.

13 It's not my word, I should say.

14 This past week in synagogues around the
15 world, we read the first opening chapters of Exodus,
16 it includes the accounts of God's swearing in of
17 Moses as a leader, and it was a bit more dramatic
18 than these proceedings here. Moses resisted and he
19 came up with many reasons, excuses, he wouldn't do it
20 well, he wasn't quick with speech and wouldn't know
21 what to do, what to say. And finally God says to
22 Moses, "You misunderstand me, I'm not asking you, I'm
23 calling you and commanding you."

24 And the lesson of this passage is that
25 an authentic leader is not a leader who leads because

1 he or she wishes to, but a leader who leads despite
2 not wishing to, but in answer to a call.

3 (At this point in the proceeding, Rabbi
4 Fine offers the Benediction.)

5 ALL: Amen.

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, Rabbi.

7 The Rabbi was here by special request
8 from Vice Chair Zur, so we'd like to thank you for
9 taking the time out of your schedule.

10 I'd like to just remind everybody that
11 our next scheduled meeting will be next Wednesday,
12 the 13th, followed by the public session in this
13 chambers at 7:30.

14 There are copies of the 2016 calendar
15 and schedule at the table in the front of the room
16 for you to take.

17 19. Adjourn

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: There being no
19 further business for this Reorganization Meeting, I'd
20 take a motion to adjourn.

21 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

22 FREEHOLDER DeNICOLA: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

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

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CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We are adjourned.

(Whereupon, the Reorganization Meeting
is adjourned at 7:53 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