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BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
REORGANIZATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2018
COMMENCING AT 6:20 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

- THOMAS J. SULLIVAN, CHAIRMAN
- GERMAINE M. ORTIZ, VICE-CHAIRWOMAN
- MARY J. AMOROSO, CHAIRWOMAN PRO TEMPORE
- TRACY SILNA ZUR
- DR. JOAN M. VOSS
- DAVID L. GANZ
- STEVEN A. TANELLI

FREEHOLDERS ABSENT:

NONE

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.
P.O. BOX 213
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213
201-336-6200

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ALSO PRESENT:

JAMES J. TEDESCO III
BERGEN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

LARA RODRIGUEZ
CLERK TO THE BOARD

JULIEN X. NEALS
ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ.
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

JARED LUTZ
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

MICHAEL SHEINFELD
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.
P.O. BOX 213
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213
201-336-6200

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1 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The meeting is called
2 to order at 6:20 p.m.

3 Before we begin our meeting, I ask that
4 everyone please take a minute to silence their
5 cellphones.

6 Thank you.

7 Reading of Open Public Meetings Act

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

20 Roll Call

21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I will now call the
22 roll alphabetically.

23 (At this point in the proceeding roll
24 call is taken with Freeholders Amoroso, Ganz, Ortiz,
25 Sullivan, Tanelli, Voss, and Silna Zur present.)

1 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With seven ayes,
2 evidence of a quorum is present.

3 Presentation of Colors

4 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Will you please rise
5 for a series of activities.

6 We will ask that you stay standing
7 until we tell you it's the appropriate time to sit.

8 Would you now permit the presentation
9 of colors by the Bergen County Sheriff's Department.

10 (At this point in the proceeding, the
11 presentation of colors is performed.)

12 Pledge of Allegiance

13 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Will Kenzie and Kerrin
14 Sullivan lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

15 (At this point in the proceeding all
16 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,
17 led by Misses Kenzie and Kerrin Sullivan.)

18 National Anthem

19 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Please welcome
20 Antoinette Kassas of Paramus, who will sing our
21 National Anthem.

22 (At this point in the proceeding all
23 rise for the singing of the National Anthem.)

24 Moment of Silence

25 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Please join us as we

1 ask for a Moment of Silence to recognize a Fort Lee
2 native and member of the United States Army,
3 Sgt. First Class Mihail Golin, who was killed in the
4 line of duty on New Year's Day.

5 Sgt. Golin is survived by his daughter,
6 Riga; his mother, Latvia; and his father, David.

7 We keep him in our prayers and silently
8 thank all those who have served this country with
9 selfless courage like Sgt. Golin.

10 (At this point in the proceeding a
11 Moment of Silence is observed.)

12 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

13 Invocation

14 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I will now call on
15 Fr. Paul Prevosto of Holy Trinity Church, Hackensack,
16 for our Invocation.

17 (At this point in the proceeding the
18 Invocation is led by Fr. Prevosto.)

19 MS. RODRIGUEZ: At this point in our
20 proceeding, the color guard is now dismissed.

21 When they have exited the room, you may
22 be seated.

23 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

24 Introduction of Dignitaries

25 MS. RODRIGUEZ: At this time I would

1 like to introduce the many dignitaries attending
2 tonight's ceremony. I hope that I don't miss anyone
3 and that the list is up-to-date, but if anyone else
4 comes in, please alert the staff and you will be
5 included at the end of the swearing-in.

6 Again, I apologize if I missed anyone.

7 Congressman Josh Gottheimer; a
8 representative from Sen. Cory Booker's office; a
9 representative from Congressman Bill Pascrell's
10 office; Sen. Paul Sarlo; Assemblywoman Valerie
11 Vainieri Huttler; a representative from Assemblyman
12 Tim Eustace's office; the County Executive, James
13 Tedesco; Prosecutor Gurbir Grewal and his first
14 Assistant Prosecutor Dennis Calo; Undersheriff Joe
15 Hornak and Undersheriff Brian Smith.

16 We would like to also introduce the
17 former Freeholders: Freeholders Tomas J. Padilla,
18 Bernadette McPherson, Julie O'Brien, and Doug Bern.

19 Announcement of Election Results

20 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I would like to ask at
21 this time that Bergen County Clerk John Hogan
22 announce the formal results of the election.

23 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: Happy new year,
24 everyone.

25 Congressman Gottheimer and I have a

1 challenge tonight, who will speak the shortest.

2 Thank God Steve Rothman is not here.

3 Charles Osgood is a CBS TV news
4 commentator and TV commentator. He lives in Tenafly,
5 and he's retiring.

6 There's been many, many commentaries,
7 some of rhyme, that he prepared his reflections over
8 the years, and someone recently asked him: "What
9 theme do you use when you're preparing your
10 commentaries?"

11 And this is what he said.

12 "Not all is good, but most is good."

13 When we look throughout the world
14 today, when we look at some of the crazy stuff that's
15 happening in Washington, when we look at the
16 challenges that Governor-elect Murphy will be facing
17 this year, we can conclude that not all is good.

18 But when we look to the more local
19 levels, our county government and our local
20 governments, where the real decisions are made about
21 infrastructure, about transportation, about
22 education, we can come to the larger conclusion that
23 most is good.

24 This is a special day, Reorganization
25 Day. It's always been a special day for me from the

1 first time I presented my father the gavel when I was
2 seven-years-old.

3 You have two brilliant Freeholders who
4 successfully sought and won reelection in Joan and
5 David. They are a wealth of knowledge. They're a
6 true value to the Freeholder Board. In addition,
7 Tommy Sullivan is going to be a great Chairman. I
8 just have to watch, he's going to cut me every time
9 we go to say anything.

10 And Germaine, who was my running mate
11 too, Germaine is out of this world exceptional.

12 We're going to have a successful year
13 on this Freeholder Board this year for the residents
14 of Bergen County.

15 You know, the election was already
16 certified, so this is a ceremonial certification.

17 This is to certify that at the General
18 Election held on the Seventh day of November in the
19 year of 2017, Joan M. Voss was duly elected to serve
20 as a member of the Board of Chosen Freeholders for a
21 full term of the County of Bergen. The Freeholder
22 received 120,077 total votes.

23 Can I just ask the Freeholder to join
24 me.

25 (Applause.)

1 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: Congratulations.

2 And this is to certify the same
3 election, David L. Ganz was duly reelected to serve
4 as a member of the Board of Chosen Freeholders for a
5 full term in the County of Bergen. Our great
6 Freeholder, who's the dean of the Freeholder Board,
7 received 118,292 total votes.

8 Freeholder, can you please join me.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: Thank you,
11 everyone.

12 Congratulations, again.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: Let me say one
15 thing. I'm going to be leaving a little early
16 tonight. It's not to not be here when Tommy gets
17 sworn in. My son is being appointed to the Northvale
18 Planning Board as an alternate member, the same age
19 that was appointed, 24-years-old, so I want to be
20 there to swear him in.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Congratulations.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. RODRIGUEZ: We will now have our
25 Freehold-elects take their Oath of Office.

1 Oath of Office - Freeholder-Elect David L. Ganz

2 MS. RODRIGUEZ: At this time, I would
3 like to call on our attorney, Ed Florio, to
4 administer the Oath of Office to Freeholder-Elect
5 David Ganz. The bible will be held on his wife,
6 Kathy.

7 Let the record note that Freeholder
8 Ganz is joined by his family, as well as his wife.

9 (At this point in the proceeding the
10 Oath of Office is administered to Freehold-Elect
11 David L. Ganz.)

12 MR. FLORIO: Congratulations.

13 (Applause.)

14 Oath of Office - Freeholder Elect Joan M. Voss

15 MS. RODRIGUEZ: At this time I'd like
16 to call up Freeholder-Elect Joan Voss and County
17 Counsel Julien Neals, who will administer the Oath of
18 Office, and Theodore Paul Voss will hold the bible.

19 (At this point in the proceeding the
20 Oath of Office is administered to Freeholder-Elect
21 Joan M. Voss.)

22 (Applause.)

23 Nominations for Chair

24 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I hereby open
25 nominations for the Chairperson of the Board of

1 Chosen Freeholders.

2 Do we have a nomination?

3 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Madam Clerk, it
4 would be my privilege to nominate Freeholder Tom
5 Sullivan to be the Chairman for 2018.

6 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Do we have a second?

7 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Clerk, I'd like to
8 second that.

9 MS. RODRIGUEZ: All in favor say "aye."
10 (All present Freeholders respond in the
11 affirmative.)

12 MS. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The ayes have it.
15 Are there any other nominations?

16 (No response.)

17 MS. RODRIGUEZ: A motion to close
18 nominations?

19 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

20 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: All in favor say "aye."
22 (All present Freeholders respond in the
23 affirmative.)

24 MS. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The ayes have it.

2 I will now take a roll call to elect
3 Freeholder Sullivan as Chairman of the Freeholder
4 Board.

5 (At this point in the proceeding roll
6 call is taken and the motion is passed by a unanimous
7 vote.)

8 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The vote is 7/0, and
9 the new Chairman will be Tom Sullivan.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I will now ask
12 Congressman Josh Gottheimer to swear in the
13 Chairman-elect. The bible will be held by his wife,
14 Jody, and he will be joined by his family.

15 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER: If I can say
16 one word before we swear you in. I'm going to keep
17 it short.

18 First of all, you all can see that we
19 are a group of elected officials that really get on
20 very well. What's great about that, and I think Jody
21 knows this because she sees it up close, and,
22 congratulations, Jody, for more of this, and Kenzie
23 and Kerrin know it because we see you at all the
24 events too, is that governing starts here at the
25 local level. That's where it happens. So, from my

1 view in Washington, what I get to see is we work on
2 legislation and fight for what happens here, but, at
3 the local level, the people behind me are the ones
4 who make it happen everyday, day in and day out, make
5 sure the roads are paved and that law enforcement has
6 what we need, that we fight terrorism, and make sure
7 our drinking water is clean, and I couldn't be more
8 pleased and lucky, frankly, to have such an
9 incredible group of people, and we've got several
10 other elected officials in the room who do this every
11 single day and make sure the people of Bergen County
12 have what they need to keep us on top.

13 So, to the Freeholder behind me and to
14 David and Joan, congratulations so much, and to the
15 whole Freeholder Board who does such an incredible
16 job working together, I just want to say thank you on
17 behalf of everyone for what you do.

18 Now, the fact that we have got Thomas
19 Sullivan to swear in and the fact that we've got a
20 Clerk who can bear witness to it, then it will be in
21 his calendar for next year, I'm sure.

22 VICE-CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: With a
23 picture.

24 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER: With a
25 picture, you know.

1 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: What are you guys,
2 practicing?

3 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER: In all
4 seriousness about Tom, you'd be very hard-pressed to
5 find somebody who cares more deeply and fights harder
6 for people than he does. I don't care if it's in the
7 labor hall of IBEW, whether it was in Montvale where
8 he did an incredible job on the council, what he's
9 doing with Gurbir fighting opioid abuse, literally
10 every time he calls me -- he starts, of course, with
11 his obligatory height joke -- but then we get past
12 that to what are we doing to solve a problem. And
13 it's never partisan, which I think is great. Because
14 what we have seen tonight, most of the issues that
15 we're fighting for here have nothing to do with
16 political strife, they're about what's best for this
17 area and for our towns and for our county. And
18 that's what I respect the most, and Tom always says
19 what can we do to fight harder, and then he pushes me
20 to fight harder. I'm grateful to him. He's doing an
21 incredible job as a leader with this county with the
22 Freeholders and Jimmy and the whole gang here to
23 really make things happen. So I can't be happier for
24 you, and I'm really happy to be your friend. I
25 really am. Thanks.

1 Okay. Now, I have to swear you in.

2 By the way, the last point, in case you
3 didn't notice, and you got to thank all these people,
4 no tax increase in the 2017 budget. Big deal. Very
5 big deal, because I don't like taxes, because we cut
6 taxes and they deliver here, and that's a very, very
7 big deal. So, congratulations.

8 (Applause.)

9 (At this point in the proceeding the
10 Oath of Office of Chairman to the Board of Chosen
11 Freeholders is administered to Thomas J. Sullivan.)

12 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER:

13 Congratulations.

14 (Applause.)

15 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER: I brought you
16 something from Congress, a Certificate of
17 Recognition, one of the few things we can do
18 officially and laterally in Congress. So I wanted to
19 present this to you.

20 "Freeholder Chairman Thomas J.
21 Sullivan, congratulations on assuming the office of
22 the Chairman of the Freeholder Board in the County of
23 Bergen, who exhibits exemplary public service for
24 improving the lives of others."

25 (Applause.)

1 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER: I have them
2 for everybody else too. I'll give them out.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. RODRIGUEZ: It's my pleasure to
5 turn over the gavel and the proceedings to the
6 newly-elected Chairman.

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

8 Nominations for Vice Chair

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I hereby open
10 nominations for the office of Vice Chair of the Board
11 of Chosen Freeholders.

12 Can I have a nomination?

13 I will nominate Germaine Ortiz to be my
14 Vice Chair for the year 2018. I couldn't think of a
15 better person suited for the position. In just the
16 last year working with Germaine, she has shown
17 tremendous, tremendous strides and is a wonderful
18 advocate for Bergen County, so I'd like to place the
19 name of Germaine Ortiz for Vice Chair.

20 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: And I would like
21 to second that, my dear Germaine.

22 FREEHOLDER ORTIZ: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

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

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: None counted.

4 Are there any other nominations for
5 Vice Chair?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Seeing none, I'll
8 take a motion to close nominations.

9 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

10 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

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

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The eyes have it.
17 Roll call, please.

18 (At this point in the proceeding roll
19 call is taken and the motion is passed by a unanimous
20 vote.)

21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The vote is 7/0, and
22 the new Vice-Chairwoman is Germaine Ortiz.

23 (Applause.)

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: County Executive
25 Tedesco will administer the oath.

1 Wilfredo Ortiz will hold the bible, and
2 his daughters will help him.

3 (At this point in the proceeding the
4 Oath of Office of Vice Chairwoman to the Board of
5 Chosen Freeholders is administered to Germaine M.
6 Ortiz.)

7 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO:
8 Congratulations.

9 (Applause.)

10 Nominations for Chair Pro Tempore

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I hereby open
12 nominations for Chairwoman Pro Tempore of the Board
13 of Chosen Freeholders.

14 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Mr. Chairman, I would
15 like to nominate Mary Amoroso to be the Pro Temp
16 Chair.

17 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Is there a second?

18 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I would like to
19 second.

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

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

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Carried.

1 Are there any other nominations?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I will take a
4 motion to close.

5 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

6 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

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

10 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The ayes have it.

13 Roll call on the motion to elect

14 Freeholder Amoroso Pro Tempore.

15 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The vote is 7/0, and
16 the new Board Pro Tempore is Mary Amoroso.)

17 (Applause.)

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The oath will be
19 administered by our County Executive, James Tedesco
20 III. The bible will be held by her daughter, Maeve,
21 and Michael.)

22 (At this point in the proceeding the
23 Oath of Office of Chairwoman Pro Tempore to the Board
24 of Chosen Freeholders is administered to Mary J.
25 Amoroso.)

1 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO:

2 Congratulations, Chairwoman.

3 (Applause.)

4 Presentations

5 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Do we have any
6 presentations from our legislative representatives or
7 any other groups?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Cristina Cutrone.

10 MS. CUTRONE: Thank you, Chairman, and
11 congratulations.

12 Congratulations to Vice Chair Germaine
13 Ortiz.

14 And to the Chair Pro Tempore, Mary
15 Amoroso, congratulations.

16 Thank you for letting me have the
17 opportunity to be here tonight.

18 My name is Cristina Cutrone. I am the
19 president of WEDO of Bergen County.

20 "WEDO" stands for Women Empowered
21 Democratic Organization. We're a group whose mission
22 is dedicated to empowering, supporting, mentoring,
23 educating Democratic women who are interested in
24 getting involved in public service, as well as those
25 women who are already involved in public service.

1 One of the things that we do every year
2 is we travel from town to town to all the municipal
3 and county reorganization meetings to present a
4 Certificate of Achievement to those women who were
5 successfully elected and reelected to government.

6 So I'm here tonight on behalf of the
7 organization to present this Certificate of
8 Achievement to Freeholder Joan Voss.

9 Joan and I are kind of kindred spirits
10 in that we're both history teachers and we both have
11 an affinity for Machiavelli, so we've always gotten
12 along very well, and so it's a real honor and
13 pleasure for me to be here tonight to present this
14 certificate to Freeholder Joan Voss.

15 (Applause.)

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Congressman, did
17 you have other presentations you wanted to make?

18 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER: I did.

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Why don't you just
20 step up.

21 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER: Thank you.

22 Congratulations.

23 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Thank you.

24 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER:

25 Congratulations.

1 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you, Josh.
2 Thank you so much.

3 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thanks.

4 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER: I am very
5 proud of you.

6 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

7 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER: Freeholder.

8 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We are lucky to
10 have our Prosecutor in the room.

11 Would you like to make any statements
12 or presentations?

13 Why don't you get up to speak. We're
14 not going to have you for much longer.

15 For those of you who don't know, he
16 will be going to Trenton shortly. It will be a
17 tremendous loss for Bergen County, but a tremendous
18 gain for the State of New Jersey.

19 Mr. Prosecutor.

20 PROSECUTOR GREWAL: Well, thank you,
21 Freeholder Chair. I don't have any presentations,
22 I'm sorry.

23 (Laughter.)

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: That's all right.

25 PROSECUTOR GREWAL: It is a bittersweet

1 moment for sure.

2 I was just thinking, as I was sitting
3 here, January 3rd, two years ago, it was a Sunday
4 night and I was getting ready to come in to my
5 current role as the County Prosecutor on January 4th
6 of 2016, and I didn't know what I was walking into
7 and I didn't know how I'd be received coming in as an
8 outsider in a number of ways, coming from the federal
9 system, coming to the county, and never having worked
10 in local government, never having worked as a County
11 Prosecutor, and what I can say is that everyone on
12 this Board, everyone in this county, everyone in
13 county law enforcement really embraced me with open
14 arms, and whatever successes we were able to achieve
15 and will continue to achieve in the years to come,
16 over the last two years in particular, our efforts,
17 as was mentioned by Congressman Gottheimer on the
18 opioid crisis, was done in partnership with the
19 Freeholders behind me, in partnership with the 70
20 plus departments in this county, in partnership with
21 the Sheriff's Department, in partnership with Bergen
22 Regional, all of us coming together in a very strong
23 collaboration to make a difference in people's lives
24 and putting into place programs that work. And
25 that's just one example with respect to addiction.

1 And we did the same thing when it comes to training
2 law enforcement in mental illness, when it comes to
3 training law enforcement about implicit bias, it's
4 through the strong support and partnerships of the
5 people behind me and across the county that we have
6 achieved whatever successes we have achieved in this
7 county, and I'm confident that's where we're heading
8 in the future.

9 So I want to thank you all of your
10 support and partnership and your friendship. I want
11 to congratulate you all on your new positions this
12 evening and on you electoral wins. It really is a
13 bittersweet moment for me, but this was an
14 opportunity I really couldn't pass up on. You know,
15 although my wife still thinks I'm going to take the
16 dog out in the morning and drop the kids off at
17 school, I think some things might have to change, but
18 I'm incredibly excited. I'm thankful, again, for
19 everything that Bergen has done for me. This is home
20 for me, so I'm not going anywhere, and I hope to work
21 with everyone in the days and weeks and months to
22 come and continue the progress we've made at the
23 Prosecutor's Office in the county. So thank you very
24 much.

25 (Applause.)

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you, sir.
2 You certainly will be missed.

3 I did speak at his last function and I
4 said similar to what he said, coming in here we
5 didn't know what to expect from our new Prosecutor.
6 He's not a partisan person. He gets things done.
7 And I said, as a Freeholder and as everyone on the
8 Board, he's far exceeded our expectations, but I know
9 he didn't even come close to exceeding his own
10 expectations, because that's the kind of guy he is.
11 He'll do a wonderful job. And from our board, I know
12 I speak for all of us, we wish you the best of luck.

13 Thank you very much.

14 Assemblywoman Huttler, would you like to
15 say a few words?

16 ASSEMBLYWOMAN HUTTLER: Yes, because I
17 have no gifts, I only have words. I apologize.

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: That's a gift.

19 ASSEMBLYWOMAN HUTTLER: First of all,
20 happy and healthy new year to everyone here.

21 Secondly, I have to do this, because I
22 want to congratulate the dean of the Freeholder
23 Board, David Ganz. You were here when I served with
24 you and you continue to serve, and, man, you're
25 committed and passionate and you never give up, and

1 we appreciate that. Congratulations, David.

2 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 ASSEMBLYWOMAN HUTTLE: And to my former
5 colleague in the Assembly, I told you, Joan, you'd be
6 in a better place, and you are.

7 (Laughter.)

8 ASSEMBLYWOMAN HUTTLE: Congratulations,
9 Dr. Joan Voss.

10 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you so much.

11 (Applause.)

12 ASSEMBLYWOMAN HUTTLE: And, Tommy,
13 congratulations to you as Chair of the Freeholder
14 Board. It's a wonderful, wonderful position, and you
15 have a lot in your hands, and we all know that you
16 are well deserving and that you can continue the
17 accomplishments of the Board.

18 Germaine, congratulations to you as
19 Vice Chair.

20 And I guess, Mary -- is that a new
21 title, Chair Pro Tempore? I don't know if we had
22 that back in the day? We did? We always had that?
23 I apologize.

24 But I would just like to say this: I
25 see Bernadette, I see Tommy, Doug is here, I thought

1 we had a great Freeholder Board, we did, but I think
2 this Freeholder Board has met the expectations well
3 beyond what we did. I really do. And I really mean
4 that. Because we have TVs that we never had, you
5 have come a long way, and I think that now we can't
6 just come out in our pajamas sometimes, we have to
7 really get dressed up with the TVs.

8 But with all seriousness, County
9 Executive, together, you know, we all say this is
10 nonpartisan and bipartisan and partisan, we have no
11 choice, it's 7/0. We have accomplished so much
12 together.

13 When I see what you have done with the
14 New Bridge facility, conquering homelessness, we
15 started some of those seeds, but you have certainly
16 brought those seeds to success and fruition. And I
17 think we in Bergen County cannot have had and not
18 have a better unified board to really meet the
19 challenges. I think with Governor-elect Murphy,
20 we're going to do great things for the county. I
21 know that we in the district appreciate having such a
22 wonderful county and that the constituents here
23 appreciate it, because you can tell by the outpouring
24 of love. And this is really love and friendship
25 tonight.

1 So, congratulations. I don't have
2 commendations. You don't need them, because you make
3 your own, so just best of luck and best of health,
4 and happy 2018 to the County Executive and the new
5 Freeholder Board and continued success.

6 And, Kim, we love you too.

7 (Applause.)

8 ASSEMBLYWOMAN HUTTLE: Some things
9 never change. Kim is still typing away.

10 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
11 Assemblywoman.

12 I'd like to acknowledge the Mayor of
13 Elmwood Park, walked in the room, Frank Caramagna.

14 Frank, how are you?

15 I'd also like to acknowledge our
16 Chairman of the Bergen County Democratic
17 organization, Lou Stellato.

18 (Applause.)

19 Remarks from Freeholders

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: At this time I will
21 ask our Freeholders if you'd like to say a few words.

22 Freeholder Amoroso.

23 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Okay. Thank you.

24 I spent most of my professional life as
25 a reporter covering politicians and elected

1 officials. I enjoyed watching their high-wire act,
2 being a good enough talker, and trustworthy enough,
3 as they asked for our vote, and then, when they were
4 elected, having to deal with the reality of the
5 government they had disparaged on the campaign trail
6 and figuring out how to fulfill their campaign
7 promises, keep taxes reasonable, and keep services
8 robust.

9 I have been an elected official for
10 three years now, two on the Mahwah Council and the
11 past year on the Freeholder Board, responsible for
12 government of nearly a million people. I deeply feel
13 the sacred compact between the people and the
14 government. And having recently been involved in
15 contract negotiations, I understand the wisdom of the
16 statement that a good contract or compact is one in
17 which neither side is deliriously happy but both are
18 satisfied.

19 Under Tracy Zur and Jim Tedesco's
20 guidance, we had a great year in the county last
21 year: A new operator, a new mission for New Bridge
22 Medical Center; an end to veterans homelessness and
23 chronic homelessness in Bergen; \$15 an hour minimum
24 wage for full-time county employees; Project Search
25 graduating its first class of differently abled

1 students to good jobs.

2 I am forever grateful to my colleagues
3 on the board for showing me and Germaine the ropes,
4 and grateful to the County Executive and his
5 excellent staff; the Treasurer and Mike Bellucci for
6 walking us through the budget; and our Freeholder
7 staff for their many kindnesses, especially my own
8 aide, Pat Fallon; and my family of mostly sons and
9 daughter, Maeve, but the boys are all feminists.

10 2018 is going to be a great year.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Freeholder Ganz.

14 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Thank you, Chairman.

15 Good evening, everyone.

16 This is the time to say thank you and
17 to express my gratitude to each of you for your
18 participation in the campaign of 2017 and our
19 electoral success.

20 This now makes me the longest-serving
21 Democratic Freeholder in the 320-year history of
22 Bergen County.

23 (Applause.)

24 FREEHOLDER GANZ: I want to thank my
25 wife, Kathy, for giving me up all those evenings and

1 all those mornings and all the driving and the
2 driving you crazy, which you too readily admit. But,
3 honey, I could not have done this without you, and
4 thank you so much for indulging me.

5 To my daughters, Pamela and Elyse, and
6 my granddaughter, Sadie, who is remarkably well
7 behaved, I thank you for your participation in the
8 parades, in the advertising, and I have to say that
9 Adam Silverstein created a commercial that allowed me
10 to do the most that I was able to do with deep brain
11 stimulation just coming a couple of weeks before the
12 election. I think it was a wonderful commercial, and
13 I think it said it all that my daughter, as a
14 constituent, was proud that I was her father.

15 I want to say that in Joan Voss, I had
16 a magnificent running mate who not only covered for
17 me but we think in like minds, she could complete my
18 thoughts, which, on many occasions, you were called
19 on to do.

20 (Laughter.)

21 FREEHOLDER GANZ: I thank each of you
22 for your participation in the election. I also want
23 to express my gratitude to the Freeholder aides who
24 have worked for me through the years, because this is
25 something that has been really going on, you build

1 upon yourself, you stand on the shoulders of others
2 and the unsung heroes, who are the people that work
3 as Freeholder aides and who perform services for all
4 of us.

5 I would be remiss if I didn't say that
6 one person who has made a critical difference is the
7 County Executive, Jim Tedesco, who has done an
8 absolutely outstanding job. I'm not going to say
9 that some of us doubted Jim, and I was certainly one
10 of the doubters, I didn't think it was possible to
11 achieve all that you have achieved. You've done an
12 exquisite job, and I'm very aware that there's an
13 election in just 11 months. But if you think about
14 the accomplishments, and I left room in the prior
15 record to deal with them, that was just to make it so
16 it wasn't a day about you, but you are truly the
17 reason why we've been so successful as a Freeholder
18 Board. You've been the cohesiveness that even a
19 Chairman can't hold together. You've been there for
20 us, you've appeared before us, and you've treated us
21 as equals. For that, I thank you.

22 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you,
23 David.

24 FREEHOLDER GANZ: And I thank each of
25 you.

1 (Applause.)

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
3 Freeholder.

4 Vice-Chairwoman Ortiz.

5 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Good evening.

6 I'd first like to wish everyone a happy
7 and healthy new year, and thank you for coming out in
8 this frigid cold. Not fun.

9 I'm extremely humbled to have been
10 given this opportunity to serve as Vice-Chairwoman.
11 My first year as a Freeholder has been filled with
12 achievements for the people of Bergen County.

13 I have both learned and been supported
14 by my colleagues on this Board, and for that I thank
15 you all. Thank you.

16 I would like, in particular, to thank
17 County Executive Jim Tedesco and Freeholder Zur for
18 all the leadership and accomplishments they brought
19 to the County of Bergen.

20 I couldn't have asked for better
21 leaders in my first year on the board.

22 I've learned so much about Bergen
23 County, from its agencies, to the professionals
24 behind the scenes, which give us the ability to
25 deliver on our promises to provide the necessary

1 services to the residents of Bergen.

2 I'm ready and excited to apply this
3 knowledge to help Jimmy and Tom continue the success
4 the county has been experiencing these past three
5 years and to make it an even better place to live.

6 I would also like to thank Julien,
7 Michael, Joe, Michele, and the rest of the
8 administration for all your guidance and assistance.

9 I don't think I could have gotten past
10 those budgets without you guys. I learned a lot.

11 Also our Clerk, Lara; our attorney, Ed,
12 who are always assisting and accommodating the Board;
13 and to our amazing staff and aides. I especially
14 thank my aide, Rodyn, who's my right hand. I can't
15 imagine getting the job done without his help. It
16 really does take a village to get things done.

17 Finally, I'd like to thank my family,
18 mom, Tony, Eric, thank you for all for always being
19 here for me. You have always supported me.

20 My husband, Willy. My daughters,
21 Alexandra and Daniella, who have forgiven me for the
22 missed dinners, practices, games, even holidays, but
23 they always tell me to do the right thing for the
24 people of Bergen County, and I want them to know I
25 love you, you're my inspiration.

1 Thank you, once again, and God bless.
2 2018 will be a great year.
3 (Applause.)

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
5 Vice-Chairwoman.

6 I was also just told that Oakland
7 mayor, Linda Schwager, has just walked in the room.

8 Hi, Linda.

9 Thank you.

10 Freeholder Tanelli.

11 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Thank you,
12 Chairman.

13 First, I'd like to start by wishing
14 everybody a happy and healthy 2018.

15 As we sit up here and we look at the
16 room, most of this room is filled with friends and
17 family, people we see weekly, sometimes daily. I
18 just want to thank you guys for taking the time out
19 for supporting us on one of the most important days
20 of the year, it's the day we get to start our year
21 all over again.

22 I want to congratulate David and Joan
23 for their successful campaign this year. This is
24 really the A Team, as far as I'm concerned. Working
25 with my colleagues up here, we've been able to do

1 some spectacular things in conjunction with working
2 with the administration and the County Executive.

3 You'll hear from people little tidbits
4 about what we've accomplished this year, and it's
5 really astounding how people say when you're all from
6 the same party, it gets tough.

7 We all have our own personalities. We
8 all have our own feelings about things. It's not all
9 Kumbaya. When we come out here, we've already had
10 the backroom fights and the backroom discussions to
11 get to where we can come to a compromise. That's
12 what government is all about. That's the way it's
13 supposed to be at the federal level, that's the way
14 it's supposed to be at the state level. It's working
15 here in Bergen County, and the results speak for
16 themselves.

17 (Applause.)

18 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Having sat in that
19 chair, I want to thank Tracy for an absolutely
20 outstanding job. Tracy does nothing at 50 percent,
21 she does everything at over 100 percent. Having run
22 with her twice, it's like joining the gym trying to
23 keep up with her. I'm ready to get going this year,
24 so I'm looking forward to a spirited eleven months.

25 I want to congratulate Tom, Germaine,

1 and Mary for taking over the leadership roles this
2 year. I'm sure we're in great hands. I'm sure if
3 there's any questions, there are plenty of people on
4 the board who know the answers to those questions,
5 David.

6 (Laughter.)

7 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: I want to just
8 wish you guys the very best, and we're here for
9 everyone.

10 I want to tell everybody Happy New
11 Year.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
15 Freeholder.

16 Freeholder Voss.

17 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you, Chairman.

18 I always say I get by with the help of
19 my friends, and the people here at One Bergen are
20 really like a great big family of family and friends.

21 I thank everyone for giving me the
22 opportunity again to continue to serve. I absolutely
23 love being a Freeholder.

24 Thank you, Valerie, if you're still
25 here.

1 It is such a rewarding position, and it
2 gives me an opportunity to speak for the causes that
3 I really truly care about. And, of course, my main
4 one is education, and, of course, veterans and senior
5 citizens and people with various issues, but I
6 absolutely am in love with the Bergen County Animal
7 Shelter. So thank you for letting me be a
8 spokesperson for these groups.

9 Bergen County is a wonderful place to
10 live and raise a family. As everybody has said, and
11 I don't want to be redundant, our County Executive
12 has done an absolutely outstanding job, and I know
13 that we're going to be doing great things this year.
14 But, of course, New Bridge is something that all of
15 us have dreamt about, and, Jimmy, you did it, and you
16 did it grandly, you really, really did.

17 I have to say, the people that are
18 sitting up here, every single one of us loves what we
19 do, and we put our whole heart and soul into it. You
20 can't imagine the -- what shall I say -- how good it
21 feels to be able to help people, and Bergen County
22 has so many services that one of our jobs is to let
23 people know the services that we have that can help
24 them.

25 I want to thank very, very much my son,

1 who is my inspiration in life.

2 (Applause.)

3 FREEHOLDER VOSS: He's like his mother,
4 not a shy bone in his body.

5 (Applause.)

6 FREEHOLDER VOSS: And I want to thank
7 my running mate, David Ganz. We have run together
8 now three times, and, fortunately, have been
9 successful. He is like the oldest member -- or the
10 longest serving, not the oldest, I'm the oldest, the
11 longest serving Democratic Freeholder.

12 I don't want to go and thank every
13 single person who I know has helped us all so very
14 much, but I want to say a special thanks to Julien
15 Neals for swearing me in. He is a man of many, many
16 talents, who is not only our County Counselor, but
17 our Administrator. And, again, thank you, Julien,
18 for swearing me in.

19 I have to say a special thanks to
20 Chris, who is my aide.

21 (Applause.)

22 FREEHOLDER VOSS: I am technologically
23 impaired; however, this young man guides me through
24 everything. When I say he's like my right-hand man,
25 he's not only my right hand, he's my left hand as

1 well. So thank you, Chris, for all you do for me.

2 I just want to say, I think we're going
3 to do great things next year. I want to wish
4 everybody a happy and a healthy, mostly healthy new
5 year, and God bless you all.

6 Thank you so much.

7 (Applause.)

8 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
9 Freeholder Voss.

10 Freeholder Zur.

11 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Thank you,
12 Chairman.

13 Happy 2018 to everyone.

14 First, I want to start by
15 congratulating David and Joan both. I am so thrilled
16 to have you both sitting on this Board this year and
17 for continuing to lend this county your wisdom and
18 your guidance and your energy. Thank you for your
19 continued service and for your continued dedication
20 to Bergen County.

21 I'm also so thrilled for this year's
22 leadership team. I know they're going to competently
23 and capably guide all of us up here to deal with the
24 many challenges.

25 Tom, you're going to do a great job,

1 and I am so thrilled. You know, Josh mentioned your
2 passion. You always speak right from your heart,
3 usually without a filter, but right from your heart.

4 (Laughter.)

5 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: And as Steve
6 alluded to, everyone thinks that having a 7/0 board
7 is easy, it's actually one of the most challenging
8 tasks, because we argue, we disagree. We strive to
9 come to a consensus and we fight, as Steve said, in
10 the back rooms from our different perspectives so
11 that we can make sure that we're delivering the best
12 result for the residents of Bergen County.

13 I know that you're going to oversee the
14 continuation of this and making sure that all of us
15 continue to work towards the goals of providing the
16 best result for all the residents of Bergen County.

17 In partnership with the County
18 Executive and with all of the department heads and
19 the amazing staff that we have here in Bergen County,
20 I know that Tom and Germaine and Mary are going to
21 continue to lead this Board on to great things.

22 You've heard so many of us talk about
23 the things we have accomplished this year. We
24 delivered a reduction in the tax rate in Bergen
25 County. We ended veterans homelessness and chronic

1 homelessnes this year. We oversaw Winter Wonderland
2 and expanded it to provide increased recreational
3 opportunities in Bergen County. I can go on and on
4 and on, but you're going to listen to me doing that
5 in the next 11 months. So I just want to say thank
6 you to my staff, to Storm Wyche, to Tara, to Jared,
7 to Michael, and to all of us who really act as a team
8 up here.

9 Even though they're not in the audience
10 tonight, I want to thank my family for enabling me to
11 do this.

12 And, Jody, thank you for putting up
13 with two campaigns back-to-back with this guy, and
14 this year as Chairman is going to be a challenging
15 one. Thank you, guys, for sharing him with us.

16 And thank you all for so many of you
17 out in the audience who work so hard every single day
18 for Bergen County. We look forward to a great 2018.

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
20 Freeholder.

21 (Applause.)

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: So now I have a
23 chance to speak, and, Tracy, we said some wonderful
24 things about you at Sine Die and you're going to have
25 to listen to the tape.

1 No, it is a tough act to follow. Tracy
2 Zur is one of the most passionate people I've ever
3 met. She's done a wonderful job working in
4 conjunction with our County Executive and his staff,
5 who does a phenomenal job. I only hope that I can
6 continue the great work that you've done in the past
7 year.

8 I'd like to start off after that now by
9 thanking my family, who I could not do this without.
10 My wife is with me every step of the way; whether
11 she's here or not, she's with me every step of the
12 way, and I couldn't ask for a better partner in life.
13 I love you. Thank you very much.

14 I have two of my three daughters here
15 tonight. My oldest, who will be graduating in June
16 from college, we're very proud of, my first born, who
17 does no wrong.

18 (Laughter.)

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: And then I have my
20 youngest, who's making a face about doing no wrong.

21 (Laughter.)

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Guys, you are my
23 life, and, thank you, I couldn't do it without you.

24 And my brother-in-law who's always
25 here, Andy, thank you for being here. He hasn't

1 missed one yet. And it's just wonderful to have
2 family behind you, because, as we all know, that's
3 what it takes to do this.

4 I'm going to read some remarks that I
5 just wrote down.

6 It's just an honor for me to be sitting
7 here as the Chairman of the Freeholder Board for
8 2018. Today is a culmination of the last three years
9 of work that I have put on this Board. Every single
10 person that I've come in contact with is the reason
11 why I'm here. It's not just the people that are
12 here, the past Freeholders, the past Clerks, everyone
13 I've worked with has had a hand in helping this
14 country grow, and I'm forever grateful to them.

15 To our current Freeholders, our current
16 Clerks, our administration, our lawyers, you guys are
17 just wonderful and you really make this a lot easier
18 on us, but that's what teamwork is all about. You
19 can't go in there and want to be batting cleanup
20 every game. We all have a role and we know our
21 roles, and we do things and get things done.

22 For that, I just want to say thank you.

23 We can take a great example from our
24 Congressman Josh Gottheimer, who had a victory here
25 in the Fifth Congressional District, they said he

1 couldn't do it, but the easy thing for Josh to do
2 would have been to go there and just play partisan
3 politics, and he hasn't done it. He's shown that
4 leadership takes more than just following a line. It
5 takes guts, like we have in our County Executive. It
6 takes determination, like we have here on this Board.
7 And, Josh, you're a great example. And all kidding
8 aside, I couldn't ask for a better friend, I couldn't
9 ask for a better Congressman to represent me where I
10 live, and thank you very much.

11 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER: You're
12 welcome.

13 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you very
14 much.

15 (Applause.)

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I want to thank my
17 aide, Brian Clancy. And I see my old aide is in the
18 audience, Oren Auslin. No one can miss him, he's
19 6-foot 7. Definitely, an extended family. You are
20 all my extended family, and thank you.

21 I just want to highlight some of our
22 accomplishments that we did last year:

23 The introduction of dozens of shared
24 services agreements with every municipality in Bergen
25 County.

1 I just picked up on something that I
2 talked about in my campaign with the County Executive
3 leading the charge from day one. We all know that in
4 the County of Bergen, in the State of New Jersey, if
5 we don't share services we're just going to be paying
6 up the nose, and we can't have that. We're here to
7 be as responsible as possible, and that's why we go
8 this extra mile, and heres our example right here on
9 the right, thank you very much, County Executive.

10 The founding of the New Bridge Medical
11 Center in Paramus, the largest public hospital in the
12 state. It's a safety net for Bergen County, it's a
13 safety net for New Jersey. This is one of our
14 greatest accomplishments. When we passed this, I
15 said I don't think we realize the magnitude of what
16 we have done, and I still don't. It is a phenomenal,
17 phenomenal achievement to get out of such a bad
18 contract that we had that really didn't take patient
19 care into consideration, the bottom line was dollars.
20 But our County Executive, Julien Neals, Tracy Zur,
21 everyone on that board, John Felice, a former
22 Freeholder, was on that board, everybody on that
23 board worked to make this work, and it's working and
24 it's going to work, and I want a special round of
25 applause just for that.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Moving right along,
4 the adoption of a fiscally responsible budget this
5 year, where we reduced the tax rate and reduced the
6 savings to the residents of Bergen County.

7 The list goes on and on, and Freeholder
8 Tanelli mentioned it, we can continue on and on, but
9 this is just some of the highlights.

10 Looking ahead in 2018, my goal as
11 Chairman is to continue all this progress and
12 recognize there are still more challenges ahead. Our
13 job is never done.

14 A few of the goals that I have for this
15 year. I want to continue our push for shared
16 services. We can do better. The municipalities can
17 do better. As Chairman, I will be going to many
18 municipalities this year and letting them know that
19 the county is here to help. We are all in this
20 together, every one of the 70 municipalities and us.
21 We can help you, you can help us, and in turn we help
22 the taxpayers, and that's the way to do things.

23 I want the Board to continue to support
24 the fight for opioid addiction. Our Prosecutor was
25 just topnotch with that, and I hope that our next

1 Prosecutor continues that fight.

2 Really, it's not just the Prosecutor,
3 though. We have the Sheriff, our other law
4 enforcement, our mental health, and our medical
5 professionals. We're all in this together, and it
6 shows. People think, like as has been mentioned
7 here, it's 7/0; it doesn't matter that it's 7/0, if
8 people care about their communities and people want
9 to do what's right, we can have our disagreements,
10 but the bottom line is, there are people out there
11 that need help and we need to help them. Whether you
12 believe in more government or less government, the
13 fact remains that there are people there that need
14 help, and I plan on continuing to help.

15 In 2018, I look forward to working with
16 our new Governor to finish the Bergen County part of
17 the light rail.

18 How many times have we heard that?

19 We're going after it. We are not
20 stopping. Sen. Sarlo was here earlier. He's been
21 championing the effort to keep Bergen County in the
22 loop. We need to make that Bergen Hudson light rail
23 the Bergen Hudson light rail, not the Hudson light
24 rail.

25 Obviously, Route 17 we can talk about

1 till we're blue in the face. That doesn't mean we
2 stop trying. Transportation is another thing that I
3 plan on doing our best to address in the coming
4 future.

5 Also, I want to take a moment to
6 recognize all the members of law enforcement who work
7 to protect us all. I'd like to recognize all of my
8 brothers and sisters in labor, who are in attendance
9 today, especially Danny Gumble, who's the Business
10 Manager of my local, IBEW Local 164.

11 There is something to say about
12 leadership, and, like I said earlier, I've taken
13 parts of leadership from everybody on this Board,
14 past and present, and I take some of my leadership
15 cues from Dan Gumble, who serves over 3,000
16 electricians in Bergen, Hudson, and Essex counties.
17 It doesn't matter if there's 3,000, 300 or there's
18 one, he treats everybody the same, he treats
19 everybody fairly, and that's how I strive to be.

20 Dan took over a tough situation with
21 our union, and he turned it around with hard work and
22 determination and foresight, and, Dan, I thank you
23 for that. I thank you for allowing me to do this
24 everyday, the members of my local thank you. I
25 appreciate everything you do, and I'm going to

1 embarrass you, could you please stand up and be
2 recognized here tonight.

3 (Applause.)

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: It's going to snow
5 tomorrow, and I want to get in late, so I had to
6 brown nose him a little bit.

7 We're a great team, similar to the team
8 we have here, and I'm going to go back to it again,
9 it's teamwork. It's all about teamwork, and that's
10 really the crux of it.

11 I especially want to thank my County
12 Executive, maybe I mentioned it a few times already,
13 but what a wonderful, wonderful job that he's done.
14 And I don't need to sit here and blow kisses at him,
15 I'm just stating facts. I'm stating a fact that the
16 guy takes on challenges that people say can't be done
17 and he gets it done, and he doesn't care if you're a
18 Democrat or Republican. Members of his
19 administration that have been appointed are
20 Republican and Democrat, it doesn't matter to this
21 guy, and this is what we need, and we need to
22 continue. We need Jim Tedesco. I need Jim Tedesco.
23 He got me here.

24 So, again, thank you to all the labor
25 organizations, the law enforcement. Everyone knows

1 that I'm a labor guy through and through. I'll never
2 change who I am. I appreciate everything that's
3 done. The people in the trenches that are working
4 out in the 0-degree weather, maybe you don't realize
5 what they're doing, but every day they're doing the
6 work for us.

7 I've gone on enough.

8 I want to congratulate Germaine and
9 Mary on their titles as Vice Chair and Pro Tempore.
10 I ran with them, so I know what it's like to work
11 with them, and I know this Board is in for a good
12 ride. They are very passionate people.

13 And I'll end with that.

14 He's giving me cues already. I love
15 this guy.

16 So I am done with my report. I want to
17 say thank you to everyone. I want to thank you all
18 again. I wish everyone a healthy and happy new year.

19 You have my word that I'll do my best
20 in this position for the residents of Bergen County.

21 (Applause.)

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you very
23 much.

24 Remarks from the County Executive

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I'd like to ask our

1 County Executive to please say a few words as well.

2 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you,
3 Tom.

4 First, Tommy, congratulations.

5 For the last three years, I've had the
6 pleasure of working with Tom as a colleague, and all
7 the people up here are my colleagues. Just because I
8 am the County Executive doesn't make me any better
9 than any of my colleagues sitting up here, I just
10 have a different title and a different role, but we
11 all work together.

12 And, so, Tom, my commitment to you on
13 behalf of the administration is, we're going to
14 continue to work together and do the things that the
15 people of Bergen County expect us to do. So
16 congratulations.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: To my
19 friends, Joan and David, who I got to sit with as a
20 Freeholder, but also know as a mayor, both when Joan
21 was in the Assembly and David was a mayor,
22 congratulations on returning to this Board. You're
23 the glue that holds this Board together, and the
24 knowledge that you bring is really important to this
25 Board. So I thank you for wanting to run again and

1 for winning and for continuing to help the people of
2 Bergen County. So, congratulations.

3 Germaine and Mary, congratulations on
4 your two new leadership roles. I look forward to
5 working with you, and the administration looks
6 forward to working with you in your two roles.

7 A lot's been said tonight, but let me
8 just say a few things.

9 The Prosecutor, who will soon be the
10 Attorney General, said it, and it's worth me
11 repeating, that in all the time that I believe the
12 Sheriff, the Prosecutor, and the County Executive
13 have been together in this form of government, I
14 don't believe there's been a better relationship and
15 better accomplishments than the time that we've been
16 together and the things that we've accomplished.

17 While that's not saying anything about
18 those from the past, we've just been able to put
19 things aside and work together to accomplish things
20 that are truly important to the people of Bergen
21 County.

22 To Tracy, it was a wonderful year to
23 work together with you, and I thank you for
24 everything that you've done for the people of Bergen
25 County and leading this Board and working with the

1 administration. We've accomplished a lot of things,
2 and I know that we're going to continue to accomplish
3 those things as we go forward, so thank you for your
4 leadership for the board.

5 To the employees, they're the ones that
6 are out there every day. They're the face of the
7 county. To all of you, I want to say thank you.
8 Thank you for doing the good things that you do for
9 the million people that live here and the hundreds of
10 thousands that work here every day, because you're
11 truly the ones that make the difference every day.
12 You're out there in the trenches, as Tom said.
13 You're the ones that are filling the potholes.
14 You're the ones who are going to be at 2:00 this
15 morning plowing the snow with me. And you're the
16 ones that really make a difference here in Bergen
17 County. So to the employees of Bergen County, thank
18 you.

19 There's been a lot of successes, and
20 you've heard many of them, but I'm proud that we
21 could do some of these things for the residents and
22 for the employees.

23 You know, you heard that we passed the
24 \$15 an hour minimum wage for our 40-hour employees.
25 A \$15 an hour minimum wage here in Bergen County, it

1 didn't take a lot for us to know that that was the
2 right thing to do.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: A lot's been
5 said about New Bridge Medical Center. I just want to
6 say that that again was the right thing to do.

7 People may question it, people may
8 still say, "Well, is it going to work?"

9 I'm here to tell you it is working, it
10 will continue to work, and it will continue to get
11 better. And we're going to continue to do the things
12 for the people that need it the most here in Bergen
13 County, in Northern New Jersey, and the State of New
14 Jersey. That will be the fifth major medical center
15 for Bergen County.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: And although
18 the Prosecutor left and the two Undersheriffs are
19 here to join us tonight, but across the street we
20 opened the new building called "Two Bergen."

21 This administration came in as the
22 steel was going up and the building was starting to
23 take shape. This administration looked at that
24 building and made some changes to that building, made
25 some decisions that I believe will last forever and

1 allow for a better, more efficient government, and
2 I'm just very proud of all the work and effort on
3 behalf of many people to make Two Bergen the success
4 that it is and the beauty of that building here for
5 the people of Bergen County.

6 Lastly, let me just say to my fellow
7 emergency responders, police, fire, EMS, CERT, OEM,
8 thank you for everything that you do every day for
9 the people of Bergen County and the state, because
10 you truly make this a better place. Not only do you
11 make it a better place, you help save people's lives
12 every day, and that's not an easy thing to do, to put
13 yourself at risk for someone else. So let me say
14 thank you and always be safe.

15 And last let me say thank you. Thank
16 you to the Chairman of the Democratic Organization,
17 Chairman, thank you for driving that bus.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: You've
20 driven that bus extremely well for many years, and we
21 want to continue to have you drive that bus and be
22 with us along the way, and I look forward to it this
23 year with your help.

24 And to all of you that have come
25 tonight, thank you for taking time out of your busy

1 night to be with us and to support this fine group of
2 people up here. And it's my commitment and I know
3 it's their commitment, we're going to continue to
4 work for you, because that's who elected us, you, and
5 that's who we're going to keep working for.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you, County
9 Executive.

10 I think in my 15-minute speech I might
11 have forgotten to thank and congratulate Joan and
12 David on a job well done.

13 FREEHOLDER VOSS: We have to
14 congratulate you on a job that you're going to do
15 very well.

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Joan is the only
17 one who can talk back to me.

18 Is Adam Silverstein here? I also want
19 to recognize Adam for the great job he's done with us
20 as well.

21 Resolutions

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Will the Clerk
23 please read the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

24 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The Resolutions of
25 Consent are: #1-18 through #13-18.

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
2 to accept the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda?

3 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Move the Consent
4 Agenda.

5 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

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

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Motion carried.

12 Roll call.

13 (At this point in the proceeding roll
14 call is taken and the Resolutions of Unanimous
15 Consent are passed by a unanimous vote.)

16 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With seven ayes, it has
17 passed.

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Are there any
19 Resolutions of Nonconsent, tabled or pulled?

20 MS. RODRIGUEZ: There are none.

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

22 Hearing of the Public

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I will now
24 entertain a motion to open the meeting to the public.

25 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: So moved.

1 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

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

5 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Motion carried.

8 The meeting is now open to the public.

9 Anyone in the public wish to say anything?

10 There is a three-minute time limit in
11 effect. The Board Counsel will keep the time. When
12 the speaker's time expires, the Board Attorney will
13 announce that the time has expired.

14 Is there anyone?

15 Julie O'Connor of Tenafly.

16 MS. O'CONNOR: Hello. Happy New Year.

17 Congratulations.

18 For those of you who don't know me, I'm
19 Julie O'Connor, a resident of Tenafly. I'm also the
20 Regional Legislative Director of the League of Humane
21 Voters of New Jersey. Many of you know us from when
22 we worked together to ban the wild animal acts on the
23 county land, so congratulations to all the people we
24 have worked with as well. And before that, when we
25 banned the lethal geese management as well on county

1 land.

2 We come to you today because another
3 act of cruelty threatens us again. There are some
4 communities in our county who, in spite of the
5 opinion of the majority of the residents, they're
6 pushing to bring deer hunting to their towns.

7 While we understand that the
8 Freeholders do not have control over local town
9 decisions, we know that some of these same people who
10 want to bring hunting to their community will want to
11 have an opportunity to expand it countywide.

12 I'm also a member of the gun safety
13 advocacy group Moms Demand Action.

14 Did you know that in New Jersey,
15 children as young as 10 can obtain hunting licenses?
16 And presently the state does no criminal background
17 checks on hunters?

18 So, you know, these weapons are lethal,
19 and they don't belong in residential communities.

20 We're asking for a binding ordinance to
21 ensure that lethal deer management will not come to
22 county-owned land. This will ensure that when you
23 are approached, that our region-wide management
24 solutions will only be nonlethal. It will be more
25 effective and safer.

1 So I look forward to working with you
2 on this ordinance this upcoming year. We're a humane
3 county and an educated county, and we should not
4 entertain the insanity of bringing hunting to one of
5 the most densely populated areas of the country.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Jan Schwartz.

8 MR. SCHWARTZ: Good evening. Happy new
9 year, and congratulations on your new legislative
10 session and your new positions.

11 I'm Jan Schwartz from Ridgewood.

12 Dr. Voss graciously met with us last
13 week and invited us to speak to you all. I thought
14 I'd take this occasion, although it seems that I'm
15 pulling away from some of the festive atmosphere, but
16 time is of the essence on this, so if you'll indulge
17 me for just a few minutes here.

18 I'm the only nonresident of Saddle
19 River appointed by their Council to one of their
20 committees. The nonlethal deer management committee
21 was formed last year after Saddle River residents
22 voted 838/611 in a 2016 referendum to support a
23 nonlethal only solution to their growing deer
24 population.

25 The Council has been debating how to

1 handle the deer for three years.

2 I became involved when The Record
3 reported Saddle River intended to be the first town
4 in Bergen County to permit hunting.

5 Not long ago, one of their residents
6 stepped forward with a radical solution. Dean Cerf
7 is a regionally renowned veterinarian. He offered to
8 spay their deer free of charge. He also announced he
9 had access to an endowment, so taxpayers would be
10 largely off the hook.

11 He should have been welcomed as a hero.
12 But even an all-Republican borough council can be
13 fractious, and everything today, as you know,
14 involves partisanship.

15 His idea is this: Spaying female deer
16 and returning them to nature keeps out emigrating
17 deer. Females tend to stay put in a one mile radius,
18 as long as there is a food supply. The birth rate
19 then drops. Thus, spaying, as the county currently
20 does with feral cats, creates a long-term solution
21 through natural attrition.

22 With Dr. Cerf heading our committee, we
23 submitted a detailed medical plan to the Council.
24 After their 4/3 vote, we sent our application to the
25 state for a permit that would introduce for the first

1 time in New Jersey a 21st century science-based
2 approach to deer population management, one being
3 used successfully in Staten Island,
4 Hastings-on-Hudson, and elsewhere.

5 It went to the Division of Fish and
6 Wildlife, and therein lies the rub.

7 The DFW is under the aegis of the DEP,
8 but is primarily funded from hunting and fishing
9 licenses.

10 Stating the obvious: They're in the
11 business of promoting hunting. Their "Community
12 Based Deer Management Manual" specifically promotes
13 hunting in suburban communities.

14 They also send a woman named Carol
15 Stanko from town to town showing PowerPoint
16 presentations attacking nonlethal solutions and
17 promoting hunting.

18 It was Ms. Stanko herself who returned
19 our application for additional hoops to leap through.
20 We are in the process of resubmitting.

21 Let me be clear: She advocates for
22 hunting in the suburbs. She will also be the arbiter
23 of the viability of our alternative approach.

24 Because it would seem ours is a lost
25 cause, the Council is now drawing up a lethal

1 solution.

2 The mayor has repeatedly stated other
3 mayors in nearby towns are awaiting Saddle River's
4 action before they go forward with their own
5 approach, because if they start killing in Saddle
6 River, animals will flee to other towns, and they'll
7 need to respond.

8 There will then be a domino effect:
9 Panicked animals, more deer/vehicle collisions, more
10 carcasses lining Route 17.

11 New Jersey DOT states the county has
12 jurisdiction over 25 percent of Saddle River's
13 roadways.

14 And last month, the mayor announced he
15 was reaching out for cooperation on county land, and
16 here's where you come in.

17 MR. FLORIO: It's three minutes,
18 Mr. Schwartz.

19 MR. SCHWARTZ: One more minute.

20 You can create firewalls. You can
21 authorize the use of county land for nonlethal
22 purposes only, as was the intent of Saddle River
23 residents. You can protect both human and nonhuman
24 lives in this county from bullets and razor-tipped
25 arrows flying through the air.

1 Your firewalls can help mitigate a
2 metaphorical firestorm of deer racing to Ho-Ho-Kus,
3 Waldwick, Allendale, Woodcliff Lake, and beyond.

4 Repeating Julie's request, please
5 codify that only nonlethal population control methods
6 can be used when using county land, period.

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
8 Mr. Schwartz.

9 MR. SCHWARTZ: If you're an animal
10 lover or not, please support our better solution.

11 Thank you, and, again, happy new year.

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Is there anyone
13 else who wishes to be heard?

14 Approach the microphone.

15 MR. MAY: Good evening. David May,
16 Mahwah.

17 Congratulations to everyone tonight.

18 Good evening.

19 I want to start by commending the
20 county on the new snowplow plan that's been put in
21 place for this winter season. Being up in Mahwah,
22 I've seen a big difference so far in snow removal
23 this year from last year on county roads, and you
24 should know that your efforts are appreciated, so
25 thank you.

1 The main reason I'm here for tonight is
2 to make a request to the county. I'm sure you all
3 are aware of the issues taking place in Mahwah, Upper
4 Saddle River, and Montvale. I know for sure that
5 Ms. Amoroso also is aware, as she's a resident of
6 Mahwah and a semi-regular attendee of the Mahwah
7 Council meetings.

8 I believe that these issues have arisen
9 due to a lack of knowledge and experience in each of
10 these towns in regards to the subject matter, which
11 is an eruv.

12 I, for one, am not an expert at all on
13 this topic, although I have learned a lot these past
14 several months. I have found disheartening that this
15 Board has been silent on an issue that is affecting
16 so many of its residents. Many of your taxpayers
17 will be paying higher real estate taxes solely due to
18 this issue alone. The increase could be small or it
19 could be significant, depending on the various
20 outcomes. I'm sure that you could all agree that you
21 do not want to see your county residents' taxes
22 increase due to lawsuits that could potentially be
23 avoided.

24 My solution and my request of the
25 Bergen County Freeholders is that you take the

1 initiative and work with the various utility
2 companies and eruv associations throughout the county
3 and work towards a countywide eruv.

4 Why would a countywide eruv be the
5 right solution?

6 I believe it would take the potential
7 legal burden off of each individual town in Bergen
8 County, I think it would eliminate the burden of the
9 individual eruv associations of getting approvals and
10 putting them in place, and I think you could
11 eliminate the uncertainty surrounding the subject
12 matter of an eruv by raising the awareness of all
13 county residents.

14 I do hope that you consider my request,
15 and I believe this would show all Bergen County
16 residents that you have their best interests and
17 their town's financial stability in mind.

18 Thank you for letting me speak.

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

20 Is there anyone else who wishes to be
21 heard?

22 Please approach the microphone.

23 MS. ORGAN: Good evening.

24 Congratulations to all of the elected officials.

25 MR. FLORIO: Can you please state your

1 name for the record.

2 MS. ORGAN: My name is Laureana Organ
3 from Montvale, New Jersey.

4 I want to ask our Assemblywoman -- she
5 already left -- Valerie Huttler say over here in this
6 room was a few of the former leaders that was --

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Ms. Organ, can you
8 please address the Chair?

9 MS. ORGAN: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

11 MS. ORGAN: I didn't want to put my
12 back to the public.

13 As she was saying, there was a few
14 former leaders that was here from 16 years ago when
15 big fight start to bring all this Bergen County to
16 the wonderful leadership where we are today. Tomas
17 J. Padilla was here; Julie O'Brien, our Chair in
18 those days; Ralph Rivera, and our esteemed, wonderful
19 Freeholder, David Ganz, which some of them that was
20 the one that was doing the big wonderful job in those
21 days, which bring us to the 7/0 where we are today.
22 And this Freeholder room is full of the wonderful
23 leaders who worked to be inclusive, where you see
24 women and men working together to make the decisions.

25 But my idea over here, and I'm proud to

1 be here to congratulate our Freeholder Chairman, Tom
2 Sullivan, who is a Montvale resident, who is a former
3 Montvale Councilman.

4 I want to congratulate also our County
5 Executive, Jim Tedesco, for the great job you are
6 doing in this county.

7 And our Chairman who just left, Lou
8 Stellato, for the great job that he's doing to just
9 keep us all together doing this great job.

10 But the most wonderful time is to
11 congratulate also our great female leader, Germaine
12 Ortiz. Congratulations on your position as the
13 Vice-Chairwoman of the Freeholder Board.

14 Also congratulations to our Mary
15 Amoroso for her new position as Chair Pro Tempore.

16 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Thank you.

17 MS. ORGAN: And to Joan Voss,
18 congratulations to you.

19 I'm so proud to be here and
20 participating.

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

22 Seeing no one else wishing to speak,
23 I'd accept a motion to close.

24 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

25 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?
2 (All present Freeholders respond in the
3 affirmative.)

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?
5 (No response.)

6 Adjournment

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Being no further
8 business, I will now entertain a motion to adjourn.

9 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: So moved.

10 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Roll call.

12 (At this point in the proceeding roll
13 call is taken and the motion to adjourn is passed by
14 a unanimous vote.)

15 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The meeting is now
16 adjourned.

17 (Whereupon, the Reorganization Meeting
18 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.

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