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BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018
COMMENCING AT 7:34 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

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

FREEHOLDERS ABSENT:

- TRACY SILNA ZUR

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:

LARA RODRIGUEZ
CLERK TO THE BOARD

JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQ.
DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ.
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

JARED LAUTZ
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

MICHAEL SHEINFELD
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF POLICY & RESEARCH

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.
P.O. BOX 213
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HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I call the meeting
2 to order at 7:34 p.m.

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

6 Thank you.

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

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

22 ROLL CALL

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Will the Clerk
24 please call the roll.

25 (At this point in the proceeding roll

1 call is taken with Freeholders Amoroso, Ganz,
2 Tanelli, Voss, Vice-Chairwoman Ortiz, and Chairman
3 Sullivan present, with Freeholder Silna Zur absent.)

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

6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

9 Mayor Ghassali from Montvale, will you
10 please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

11 MAYOR GHASSALI: Would everyone please
12 rise.

13 (At this point in the proceeding all
14 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,
15 led by Mayor Ghassali.)

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you, mayor.

17 HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
19 to open the meeting to the public?

20 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

21 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

22 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Second.

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: Unanimously
4 approved.

5 We will now have a Hearing of the
6 General Public with a three-minute time limit in
7 effect in accordance with the Bergen County
8 Freeholder bylaws.

9 The Board Attorney will keep the time.

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

13 Please fill out a slip of paper with
14 your name, address, and general topic you wish to
15 speak about.

16 Before we get going, I notice there are
17 a lot of speakers here regarding the pickleball, and
18 I just want to make a statement before we proceed.
19 Hopefully this will quell any nervousness in the
20 room.

21 We appreciate everyone who has come to
22 speak regarding the pickleball issues and have sent
23 us letters. We have been supportive on pickleball,
24 recognizing this growing sport and the importance to
25 the people of Bergen County who pay it. We have

1 committed and still remain committed to re-striping
2 tennis courts for pickleball, as has been discussed
3 and agreed upon.

4 This is slated to occur when the
5 weather warms up, as we cannot re-stripe courts in
6 weather like we see today.

7 We will continue to look for
8 opportunities to further expand pickleball
9 facilities, as we improve our county parks and start
10 to implement the Parks Master Plan.

11 With that being said, I just would like
12 to let you know that we have received your emails,
13 and I appreciate your emails, but if we continue to
14 get 800, it's not going to speed up the process. We
15 have things in effect that are going to take place.
16 They will be re-striped. We've had snowstorm after
17 snowstorm. It's been a deep freeze here for God
18 knows how long. So we are still committed to
19 re-striping some courts and addressing this in our
20 Master Plan.

21 That being said, Mayor Michael Ghassali
22 from Montvale.

23 MAYOR GHASSALI: Good evening.

24 This is my first time here.

25 I'm here to cheer on the Chairman.

1 He's from my town. We're very proud of him. And I'm
2 here to cheer you all on and thank you for all the
3 work you've done in my town. As you know, Wegmans
4 opened up last year, and because of all the good work
5 that your folks in the traffic department have done,
6 traffic has been calm, we have no issues with the
7 traffic. The stores are breaking all their records.
8 They hired 500 employees, a third of which are from
9 the surrounding towns, 40 from the high schools. So
10 I just wanted to pass that on and to tell you that
11 we're here at the local level, at the street level,
12 we can work together on things that are happening in
13 the county.

14 Looking at 2018, there's a lot
15 happening in the town at the last exit on the
16 Parkway. That's Montvale.

17 With Mercedes leaving and all the new
18 developments that are coming in, we'll keep you
19 posted on the changes, but I do want to thank you.
20 And if you can pass my thanks on to the traffic folks
21 because of all their good work. I get all the
22 compliments and all the credit, and you deserve it.
23 They should be getting it. So thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you, mayor,
25 and please pass on to your residents how great the

1 county is. We appreciate it very much.

2 Kimberly Nagelhout.

3 MS. NAGELHOUT: Hello, Freeholders. I
4 want to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year.

5 My name is Kim Nagelhout, and I'm from
6 Park Ridge. I'm a legislative district director with
7 the League of Humane Voters of New Jersey.

8 Many of us have been working with
9 Saddle River residents to help get a nonlethal deer
10 management in Saddle River since 2015. We've walked
11 door to door. We've done a lot in that town.

12 The town held a referendum in 2016, and
13 the results showed that the residents wanted a
14 nonlethal deer management plan only. However, there
15 are councilmen who are promoting hunting and dragging
16 their feet on nonlethal. There's also deer poaching
17 that has and is occurring that puts the public's
18 safety at risk. The time has come for us to ask for
19 county help. We want to work on you on a binding
20 ordinance to ensure that lethal deer management will
21 never come to Bergen County owned land. This will be
22 more effective and safer deer management. Education
23 is key.

24 There are many points we can discuss in
25 detail when we have more time, where I can sit down

1 and speak with you. There are deer resistant
2 plantings, fence options, including increasing
3 heights, helping lower fertility, decreasing
4 artificial feedings, lowering speed limits on
5 roadways, habitat modification on the roadways,
6 protecting habitat from overdevelopment.

7 Let's work together to keep Bergen
8 County humane for deer.

9 I also enjoy wildlife photography. I
10 spend a lot of time with deer. I brought this photo
11 with me today. How could this face not motivate you?
12 Please be their voice.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Doreen Frega.

17 MS. FREGA: Doreen Frega, Saddle Brook.

18 Happy new year to all. My name is
19 Doreen Frega. I'm with Bear Resources and Education,
20 and Animal Protection League of New Jersey.

21 The mission of our organization, the
22 bear group and Animal Protection League of New
23 Jersey, is to educate New Jersey residents about
24 black bear, deer, and other wildlife. We have
25 35 years of experience. Our groups do outreach

1 throughout New Jersey. We are the grassroots.

2 During outreach events for bears, we
3 saw a huge increase in support for the bears.

4 Residents want nonlethal solutions. Bow hunting and
5 all hunting horrifies residents. Residents are not
6 aware of the special 150 rule for bow hunters; they
7 want deer and all of the hunting stopped. Residents
8 love the deer.

9 To date, we have collected the
10 following number of deer petitions:

11 Statewide, 1,000.

12 Essex County, 435.

13 Flemington, Raritan, 175.

14 Cranford, 105.

15 Saddle River, 440.

16 Total, 2,155 petitions.

17 Please pass a binding ordinance against
18 deer hunting on Bergen County public parks and land.

19 These are all of the petitions that we
20 have collected throughout the state (indicating).

21 The residents love the deer. They do
22 not want deer hunting in Bergen County, and they do
23 not want deer hunting or hunting throughout the State
24 of New Jersey.

25 Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

3 Pamela Sturt.

4 MS. STURT: Hi. Yes, you got it right.
5 Most people don't.

6 I'm sorry, I have to read this, because
7 otherwise I'll forget what I wanted to say.

8 I would like to ask for your help to
9 make sure that deer hunting does not come to our
10 county.

11 I understand you can only control the
12 county parks system, but I know that any town that is
13 looking to bring hunting to their town will be coming
14 to the Freeholders to expand that hunting throughout
15 the county.

16 I would ask you to be a stopgap for any
17 lethal wildlife management. Please pass an ordinance
18 to ensure that only nonlethal deer and other animal
19 management is used in our parks. I enjoy our
20 wildlife, and I do not want animals harmed in our
21 community.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I think at this

1 time I just want to let everyone know that there are
2 no weapons allowed on any county property, so I don't
3 know what the misconception may be. We have never.
4 I mean, if that was to change, it would have to be
5 done by ordinance. And, as of now, we have an
6 ordinance that says there are no weapons allowed on
7 county property. So I appreciate everyone's
8 comments, but I just wanted to put you at ease.

9 Did I miss anything?

10 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: No.

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

12 With that, another animal wildlife
13 commenter, Mark Nagelhout.

14 MR. NAGELHOUT: Second time was a
15 charm. I've heard much worse, believe me.

16 Happy 2018, everyone. Hope everyone
17 has a wonderful year ahead.

18 My name is Mark Nagelhout. I am a
19 Park Ridge resident, and also with the bear group and
20 the League of Humane Voters of New Jersey.

21 It's my pleasure to be here in front of
22 you all tonight. I want to thank you again for your
23 support of animal cruelty issues, starting with the
24 circus ban that you guys did. That was a trend.
25 That continues to be a trend, if you look at what our

1 state legislature is doing now with Nosey's Law.
2 Once that gets approved statewide, you guys started
3 that.

4 Another trend is nonlethal wildlife
5 management.

6 There are more and more places, towns,
7 counties, private areas, looking into nonlethal
8 wildlife management and it's growing, but our state
9 wildlife agency continues to try to ignore it, but
10 they can't ignore it forever.

11 I've attended Saddle River Mayor and
12 Council meetings for over two years now.
13 Saddle River Mayor and Council meetings, I've had to
14 go to these meetings for two years now. It's not
15 been the most fun thing, but I did, because once I
16 heard that they're considering deer hunting, it was
17 very concerning to me.

18 What's become obvious to me is there
19 are a few council members and an ex-councilwoman in
20 Saddle River pushing for hunting, and that's not
21 responsible, to me. I even did a local traffic study
22 in Saddle River and the surrounding towns, which
23 revealed there are accident hotspots in the area,
24 including Route 17 and county roads.

25 Saddle River claimed that they asked

1 for speed limit reductions on these roads; however,
2 with our conversations with the county, we're not
3 sure that was officially done or not. That was not
4 clear.

5 So, some in Saddle River are trying to
6 sabotage nonlethal methods, even though the residents
7 do want nonlethal methods, per the referendum.
8 Hunting is ineffective and an unsafe way to control
9 deer populations. Hunting and poaching is always
10 dangerous, especially in densely populated areas like
11 ours. Unfortunately, our state wildlife agency is
12 funded by hunting licenses, so their decision makers
13 are pro hunt, they're biased. That's why the state
14 needs to hear from towns and counties statewide that
15 we want nonlethal wildlife management. Not just one
16 town, one county, they need to hear it from
17 everywhere. We need to put the pressure on them.
18 This is why I'm asking you to pass an ordinance.

19 I'm hearing weapons are already banned
20 on the county land, but it would be great to go even
21 a step further and have a firm ordinance that says no
22 lethal deer management on county land.

23 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes,
24 Mr. Nagelhout.

25 MR. NAGELHOUT: Okay. I'm almost done,

1 I got one more sentence.

2 And also help push a regional nonlethal
3 plan, with the towns and the county working together.
4 So we would love to meet with all of you
5 individually, do a presentation at a Work Session.

6 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

7 MR. NAGELHOUT: Thank you for your
8 time.

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All right. Thank
10 you very much.

11 (Applause.)

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Claude Bienstock.
13 Long time no see, Mr. Bienstock.
14 Happy new year.

15 MR. BIENSTOCK: Happy new year.

16 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Happy new year to
17 you.

18 MR. BIENSTOCK: Claude Bienstock,
19 Fair Lawn.

20 My first comment is, I oppose the
21 legalization of marijuana. It's a dangerous drug. I
22 know Murphy has proposed it. It's wrong. It will do
23 a lot of damage to our state.

24 Those are my personal views, and I
25 believe in what I'm saying.

1 I would like to know the status of the
2 William Carlos Williams Center in Rutherford. I
3 support the arts and entertainment and the motion
4 picture business and theater and television and radio
5 and commercials, all that.

6 What is happening with the William
7 Carlos Williams Center? It's been closed for so
8 long. When will it reopen? And what is the county
9 doing to restore it? I would like to know, and I
10 think the public would like to know also.

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay.

12 MR. BIENSTOCK: That's all my comments.

13 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay.

14 MR. BIENSTOCK: I'm within the
15 three-minute limit.

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: You did good.

17 MR. FLORIO: You have two more minutes.

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: You did good.

19 MR. BIENSTOCK: That's all I have to
20 say.

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All right. Thank
22 you, Mr. Bienstock.

23 MR. BIENSTOCK: Thank you very much.

24 (Applause.)

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Freeholder Tanelli

1 has been involved with that.

2 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Just to give a
3 brief update on the Williams Center.

4 Basically, we're waiting for the town
5 to come to us with a development plan for that area.
6 Until that happens, the county made it clear the
7 status of the building and the condition of the
8 building was in, so we're actually waiting for the
9 town to make some type of move or at least bring a
10 building plan to us.

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
12 Freeholder.

13 Daniel Clarke.

14 MR. CLARKE: Hello. Happy to be here
15 today.

16 I'm here on behalf of a fellow student
17 of mine, Denis, who has been, from what I understand,
18 here and soliciting support for River Road, in
19 particular a crosswalk between Martense and Ramapo
20 Road, in front of the library. In fact, I was struck
21 there last year, and, fortunately, I had no issues,
22 but a student before me was struck and died.

23 What has been done with the road so far
24 has been definitely great first steps. I'm very
25 happy to hear that they're moving the bus stop, which

1 I found was perhaps the primary hazard, but I still
2 think not enough is being done. In particular, I
3 went there just the other day, the stoplight that
4 they've put for pedestrians to cross, one side
5 doesn't work.

6 Still, even with both sides working,
7 I've seen students stand there waiting to cross for
8 up to 15 minutes with no one stopping for them.

9 This is a New Jersey law. I understand
10 that people are supposed to stop for pedestrians in a
11 crosswalk, but we can't depend on that, because it's
12 not working.

13 I think we need to put a true stoplight
14 that will actually stop traffic, this way students
15 can cross safely; not only at that crosswalk, but
16 indeed at potentially other places throughout the
17 road. It's a very long stretch of road with a lot of
18 places where people need to cross, there's a few
19 other bus stops, and, you know, there's the place all
20 the way by the highway, there's the place all the way
21 at Cedar Lane or there's the one in the middle, but
22 there's not enough places to cross, and, indeed no
23 place to cross safely.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We will be
2 addressing this issue tonight with our Resolution
3 #35-18 on tonight's agenda, which will relocate the
4 bus stop. There is a hybrid light there. I'll be
5 getting into that in a little bit.

6 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: From day one, we
8 have taken a pro-active approach, we have not sat on
9 our hands, but we will continue do so.

10 MS. BENZECRY: What is a hybrid light,
11 may I ask?

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Alice -- I can't
13 read your last name -- Alice on River Road crosswalk.

14 MS. BENZECRY: That's me.

15 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: How do you say your
16 last name?

17 MS. BENZECRY: Benzecry.

18 Again, with the same issue.

19 I am a Teaneck resident, and I am a
20 faculty member at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

21 We're trying to fight this for our
22 students.

23 Every day, we have issues with a
24 student either being hit or almost hit. It's very,
25 very difficult for them to cross that road. Right in

1 front of our library, the school entrance, there's a
2 bus stop, there's a park, and, again, no one stops.

3 The little blinking light you put on
4 there, the other day, two days ago, I stop, right, I
5 saw a student, I stop, they go around me, almost hit
6 the kid. It's not working. We need to do something
7 more, perhaps a full red light where students can hit
8 and stop or even suggest putting a camera, you know,
9 so maybe we can see what's going on there, because
10 too many of our students are being hit or not allowed
11 to cross that road. So I appreciate it if you can do
12 something else.

13 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We'll look further
14 into it. Like I just stated, we are so pro-active in
15 this, we are continuing to monitor it. If what
16 you're saying is true, we'll send more people to take
17 a look at it. We are moving the bus stop tonight,
18 which is the first step to safety.

19 MS. BENZECRY: Yes, absolutely. I
20 think that will help tremendously, that more than
21 anything, because it is like one and a half lights.
22 If I stop, like I said, they go around, so it's not,
23 you know --

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: That could be an
25 enforcement issue. We'll look into that.

1 MS. BENZECRY: Yes.

2 I appreciate that.

3 Thank you very much.

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: You are welcome.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Deborah Eliyahu.

7 MS. ELIYAHU: Hi. Happy new year.

8 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: How are you?

9 MS. ELIYAHU: Thank you. I'm well.

10 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Good.

11 MS. ELIYAHU: I am also from Teaneck,
12 and I used to work at Fairleigh Dickinson, and all of
13 my children have gone there, and my youngest child is
14 now there, and she tells me in a panic about almost
15 being hit on River Road.

16 She is extremely conscientious. She
17 wasn't feeling well tonight, so she couldn't come.
18 She's very conscientious when it comes to crossing
19 the road, and she has almost been hit at that
20 crosswalk.

21 We looked at the flashing lights.
22 They're very far away. One of them is more than
23 300 feet away, because there's a sign for a crosswalk
24 300 feet ahead.

25 These are very long distances between

1 crossing possibilities, and I would recommend an
2 actual stoplight where somebody can come push a
3 button and traffic will stop. Because it's not just
4 the fact that people go around somebody who stops,
5 it's also, I'm sure, that nobody -- I can't say
6 nobody -- I'm sure that many people are speeding on
7 that road. It's a nice, long stretch, and after the
8 stoplight, people tend to pick up speed. And I just
9 think that something needs to be done.

10 And I really appreciate the fact that
11 you are doing something. Relocating the bus stop is
12 a great first step, I just think it needs to go
13 farther. I commend you on what you're doing, and I
14 ask that you take this further, because to lose these
15 young lives is beyond heartbreaking, it's not just
16 this young life, it's all the potential that could
17 have been, and all the friends and family that will
18 hurt forever. And stopping that is worth everything.

19 So thank you very much.

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you for your
21 concerns.

22 (Applause.)

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Iris Borman.

24 (Applause.)

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: You brought your

1 the courts.

2 And my colleague and I, Norman Levy,
3 who most of you have met, cannot be at the courts all
4 the time.

5 So that's the physical reality of why
6 just striping courts won't work.

7 In terms of safety issues: Again,
8 we'll be taking existing tennis courts, which will
9 agitate the tennis players, because we play the same
10 time as they do. So striping the courts is not an
11 answer to satisfying us or satisfying them, and the
12 same thing will happen again.

13 You cannot guarantee our security. We
14 were harassed. We were threatened with physical
15 violence. Striping the courts will not deal with
16 that, so we'll be right back exactly where we started
17 from last year when we first approached the Parks
18 Department. We need dedicated, permanent pickleball
19 courts. This is not an expensive proposition. There
20 are, just in Overpeck Park, about 18 tennis courts.
21 We're asking for three, just three courts out of the
22 18, but three contiguous tennis court, in other
23 words, all in the same spot. That's what we're
24 asking for.

25 The reasons:

1 It will eliminate all of the problems
2 that we have experienced. The problems of being
3 responsible for the nets, bringing them onto the
4 court.

5 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Ms. Borman.

6 MS. BORMAN: Thank you. I'm almost
7 done.

8 Setting up the courts, breaking down
9 the courts.

10 I want to go onto a tennis court with
11 my racket and ball, just like the tennis players do,
12 and I want to start to play pickleball when I want to
13 play.

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Can you wrap it up,
15 Ms. Borman.

16 MS. BORMAN: Just like the tennis
17 players do.

18 Again, thank you very much for the time
19 that you have spent, Joan and Michael, and your
20 assistants. Thank you. It's very much appreciated.

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

22 MS. BORMAN: We look forward to working
23 with you.

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Freeholder Tanelli
2 would like to be recognized, as he is the Parks
3 liaison.

4 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: We've all
5 championed with Parks regarding the pickleball
6 concerns. I have not heard anything about any shed,
7 and I've talked directly with the Parks Director
8 myself in regards to this. When I addressed him, it
9 was dedicated courts for you guys to use, not taking
10 things in and out. So I'm going to follow-up on what
11 you had said, because I know when Director Koth and I
12 spoke, it was not only designate permanent courts for
13 you at Overpeck, but also to look for areas elsewhere
14 in the county that we could actually construct it
15 from scratch.

16 AUDIENCE VOICE: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: I definitely have
19 your email, so I will email you.

20 MS. BORMAN: Perfect.

21 Thank you very much, Mr. Tanelli.

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
23 Freeholder.

24 Barbara Norton, pickleball.

25 MS. NORTON: Thank you.

1 Any pickleball players on the board?

2 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Not yet.

3 MS. NORTON: Okay. You know, it's a
4 game. You're thinking, "Oh, this is a game. They
5 want to play a game."

6 This is a growing game. This is a game
7 that seniors play. I retired, and I spend as many
8 hours as I can on the pickleball court. It's
9 exercise.

10 I'm a founding member of the New Jersey
11 Pickleball Association. I have people come to me and
12 say, you know, I just had my yearly checkup, I lost
13 ten pounds and my cholesterol is down.

14 There are real health benefits to
15 getting up off the coach and going out and playing a
16 game, and this is a very popular game in the South,
17 and it's creeping up.

18 I know people like numbers, so I
19 brought my numbers.

20 Our organization, the New Jersey
21 Pickleball Association, is just over two years old.
22 And it's a club. We join and we have no choice, we
23 have to play on private facilities. So we rent
24 courts at tennis facilities.

25 Right now, we have 427 active members.

1 Last week, between January 7th and the 13th, 287
2 people registered with us to play pickleball.
3 Whether they were taking a clinic -- some people
4 might have played more than once, but in seven days,
5 287. So there are a lot of people out there who want
6 to play this game. And I went back to August,
7 because we were talking about outdoor courts, last
8 August, from August 1st through August 31st, we had
9 1,119 people sign up to play, was with our
10 organization.

11 So, you know, again, those are the
12 numbers.

13 From two years ago until now, they keep
14 growing and growing and growing. Striping a court is
15 great, it's a temporary thing, but I really would
16 love you to look at it as a much longer term plan and
17 really being our advocates with the rec department to
18 get us permanent courts because there are people that
19 will be using them.

20 Okay. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you so much.

22 (Applause.)

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Ken Leung,
24 pickleball.

25 MR. LEUNG: Good evening. My name is

1 Ken Leung, and I've been a resident of Ridgefield for
2 five years.

3 I appreciate the opportunity to address
4 this Board of Freeholders regarding pickleball in
5 Bergen County parks. My remarks will be brief and a
6 little bit different than my two former predecessors.

7 To begin, I would like to cite a report
8 done by NBC News and U.S. News that says that
9 pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America.

10 From my perspective as a lifelong
11 racket player, I can understand. I played tennis for
12 60 years, and still play three times a week in the
13 summer.

14 I have played platform tennis for
15 40 years, and I still play three times a week in the
16 winter.

17 And I've played squash for 50 years,
18 and I play once or twice a week.

19 And I started playing pickleball in
20 February, and I now play 2 or 3 times a week all year
21 round.

22 Without question, of the various racket
23 sports that I've played, and I've named and unnamed,
24 pickleball is the most exciting and the most fun.

25 Other reasons for pickleball's

1 popularity:

2 No. 1. It's easy.

3 In fact, a 15-minute introduction can
4 get any of you on the court. It's not technical like
5 tennis and squash, no need for hours of lessons.
6 It's not strenuous. Two pickleball courts fit on one
7 tennis court, and almost all games are doubles. And
8 it's cheap, all you need is a \$10 paddle and the
9 balls never wear out.

10 While anyone can play, it has been
11 seniors in their late 50s, 60s, and 70s who have been
12 the impetus behind pickleball's growth in this
13 country.

14 I've played pickleball throughout New
15 Jersey, in New York, and in Florida.

16 Several observations.

17 Most pickleball venues are municipally
18 owned facilities or in public parks. Outdoor venues
19 are free; indoor venues, a couple of dollars. All
20 venues have lined courts and nets. Scheduled
21 sessions are generally three hours or more. All
22 skill levels are accommodated: Novice, intermediate,
23 and advance. And, again, most players are seniors.

24 By supporting pickleball with
25 established dedicated lined courts and nets, Bergen

1 County can be in the middle of this fast growing
2 sport and, perhaps, more importantly, serve a
3 heretofore ignored group of mostly sedentary seniors
4 who go to the park.

5 With the help of the New Jersey
6 Pickleball Association, Bergen County can have a well
7 run organization to assist in making pickleball a
8 successful endeavor.

9 Finally, I'd like to note that NJPA is
10 a welcoming organization. Anyone who came to
11 Overpeck Park this summer found a site coordinator
12 willing to introduce the game, lend a paddle, and get
13 you involved in play. And there was never any
14 overtures to join the association.

15 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Mr. Leung.

16 MR. LEUNG: Thank you for your
17 attention.

18 If there are any questions or comments,
19 I'd be happy to elaborate.

20 (Applause.)

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Looks like we have
22 a lot more pickleballers tonight.

23 Michael Tillman.

24 MR. TILLMAN: Chairman Sullivan and
25 honored Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders,

1 thank you for entertaining our discussion on
2 pickleball.

3 It's not only played, as Ken said, by
4 seniors, it's played by high schools. The high
5 schools now are finding it to be conducive to a
6 gymnasium.

7 I volunteer at the Ridgewood YMCA.
8 We've taken our gym and turned it into three
9 pickleball courts thanks to the North Jersey
10 Pickleball Association. That group is all volunteer.
11 Nobody takes a salary. Everybody pays to play. When
12 I volunteer for the Ridgewood Y or when I volunteer
13 for the North Jersey Pickleball Association, there is
14 nothing coming back to me.

15 Today I taught a first-timer how to
16 play pickleball. It took an hour and a half. He was
17 able to master his shots, and he's now ready to do
18 some development programs from the pickleball
19 association and then go on to enjoy getting 10,000
20 steps, breaking a sweat, and having fun. Also, it's
21 a social event playing pickleball. All these people
22 are my friends, all the pickleball players. My new
23 friends will be the people who are talking about
24 Teaneck and the issues addressing them.

25 But thank you for listening to our

1 comments. We appreciate your attention. This is an
2 important sport.

3 My last comment is, in Long Island,
4 Riverhead, I have a summer house. They've taken a
5 hockey court, which is used in the winter, people
6 don't play outdoors, the hockey court in the
7 summertime has six pickleball courts set up on it.
8 The town comes and sets up the nets, and everybody
9 just shows up and plays. It's a real event for the
10 town.

11 Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you for your
13 time.

14 (Applause.)

15 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Lori Oliff.

16 MS. OLIFF: First of all, I'd like to
17 say thank you for serving everybody.

18 I'm here to say also that it's not just
19 for seniors. I started playing in August with my
20 husband. We've made a lot of new friends. We love
21 playing!

22 My family and friends play throughout
23 New Jersey. And when I explain to them what needs to
24 be done when we play, I need to set up, they can't
25 believe that we don't have dedicated courts here.

1 Every other county in New Jersey has dedicated
2 courts.

3 Down at the New Jersey Shore, they have
4 courts all set up and they play over the summertime.

5 What we're asking for is to have the
6 dedicated court so that we don't have to set up and
7 go through the process of doing all that work to play
8 such a wonderful game.

9 So I just want to speak briefly, but
10 thank you for listening, and we hope that we can get
11 our dedicated court soon.

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Yes. Thank you.

13 Do you have data on that? I'm not
14 trying to call you out and tell you that's not true,
15 but I don't think every county has pickleball.

16 MS. BORMAN: All but five.

17 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: So not every.

18 MS. OLIFF: I'm sorry.

19 MS. BORMAN: 16 out of 21.

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

21 John Nicola.

22 MR. NICOLA: Good evening, ladies and
23 gentlemen. Thank you.

24 I'm John Nicola from Cliffside Park,
25 been there for ten years, started playing pickleball

1 a couple of years ago. It's a great game, especially
2 for seniors.

3 Anybody who's never seen it played,
4 tune into the CBS Sports Spectacular Network. It's
5 on there all the time, the nationals, and you can see
6 just exactly what people eventually turn into when
7 they start with pickleball.

8 I'd also like to emphasize the safety
9 aspects of not just re-lining courts, but having
10 dedicated pickleball courts where tennis players will
11 not show up and start to verbally and physically
12 potentially abuse pickleball players. It's very
13 important.

14 Down south in Florida, we resurfaced
15 tennis courts to pickleball, and it was not
16 expensive. It really wasn't. And I understand that
17 in new Overpeck, there are some tennis courts that
18 are starting to crack already and would easily be
19 susceptible to re-lining.

20 So thank you for hearing me and good
21 luck.

22 Thanks.

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Is my mayor

1 still there?

2 MR. FLORIO: No.

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: My mayor left, but
4 I would urge you guys to go to your towns as well.
5 He left. I was going to pin something on him, but...

6 Lauren Olin.

7 MS. OLIN: Lauren Olin. I live in
8 Fort Lee.

9 I just want to say, I really love
10 Overpeck Park. It's a great park. I bring my
11 grandchildren there. I enjoy going there. I've
12 played tennis there.

13 I started playing pickleball a year
14 ago, and it's a great sport and it's a really fun
15 group of people. And the people seem to be growing
16 day by day that more people are interested. It's an
17 easy sport to pick up. And it makes the park that
18 much more attractive to bring pickleball as a
19 dedicated sport, to Overpeck. It brings more clout,
20 I think, to Bergen County, and it brings more
21 interest in coming to the park.

22 You know, a lot of people have said
23 this is a sport for seniors. My grandchildren play
24 this at school and they've been taught it. And they
25 would come to the park to play, it would be another

1 activity. So to have a dedicated court, I don't know
2 what the costs are involved, but certainly it would
3 add some additional interest for Bergen County.

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

5 MS. OLIN: So thank you for listening.
6 I appreciate it. And thank you for your efforts.

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Susan Eisin.

10 MS. EISIN: No, that's not really what
11 pickleball did to me, I just happen to have a bad
12 back.

13 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I wondered if it
14 was a pickleball injury.

15 MS. EISIN: No, I also was a tennis
16 player. And when I no longer played tennis, and I
17 moved here and I heard about pickleball, I said, "Oh,
18 I'll try it."

19 It's now become a passion. I have a
20 passion for this game. If I don't play, I really
21 like get upset. We play a minimum of 2 to 3 days a
22 week. It's fun. We have a great camaraderie with
23 other people that we've met. We've gone out to
24 dinner with them. We've had parties with them. And
25 it's just a wonderful, wonderful sport.

1 My grandchildren have also learned.
2 They live in the City and go to school at a private
3 school in the City, and they also are learning
4 pickleball. So, I mean, at first when you say
5 "pickleball," everybody laughs at you, but it's a fun
6 game and it's a great game, I don't think only for
7 seniors obviously, it's a great game for everybody.
8 I mean, there's not much more I can add to what has
9 already been said and I don't want to be redundant,
10 but we need the courts. We need to go there and feel
11 that we're wanted and there's not going to be any
12 kind of altercation. We want to feel that this
13 belongs to us too. I mean, being told that these are
14 our courts, which we were told last summer, they're
15 tennis courts, we've been playing here for 20 years,
16 and they wouldn't understand that they're not only
17 their courts, they don't own them, and we don't want
18 to have to go through that again.

19 I thank you very much.

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Almost there.

23 Alice O'Brien.

24 MS. O'BRIEN: I am also a pickleball
25 enthusiast. I play at least three days a week. And

1 I do want you to know that there was an attempt to
2 make some pickleball courts at the Glen School this
3 summer, and we were using those courts, and my only
4 comment is, I hope that you will consult with
5 pickleball players when you do give us the courts,
6 because when they did the lines, I guess they got the
7 guys that roll out the yellow lines for traffic, and
8 we called them "lasagna" lines, because they were at
9 least twice the width of what the lines should be, so
10 I hope you will consult with some of the pickleball
11 players for standard lines.

12 We also were given a tennis net, and
13 the tennis net's a little bit too high.

14 So, if we're going to do it, we'd like
15 to do it right, and, you know, use regulation courts,
16 so I hope you will consult with us when you are ready
17 to do those lines in the spring.

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Freeholder Tanelli
19 has got that all in his memo, how thick the lines are
20 supposed to be, so we'll definitely consult.

21 MS. O'BRIEN: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The last one,
23 Melanie Gluck.

24 MS. GLUCK: Thank you.

25 I have been here before, supporting my

1 sister.

2 First of all, I will be a senior in
3 three days.

4 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Congratulations.

5 MS. GLUCK: Thank you.

6 And I have been playing for a little
7 over a year now, and I love the game. It's like an
8 addiction. But given all of that, it's not just a
9 group of people who belong to a club, like the
10 New Jersey Pickleball Association, but it's a group
11 of people who get together a couple of days a week,
12 they don't have to be members. But they do get
13 together and they want to play. And what's happening
14 is, when you go there, these tennis players, they
15 don't want to move, and they're very disrespectful
16 and they don't want you to play there.

17 So I would really like you to seriously
18 consider this coming year that we can get out there
19 and play. Because at the beginning, when all of this
20 started, we were supposed to be playing through last
21 summer, but that didn't occur. So hopefully this
22 summer, and I realize -- I'm kind of familiar with
23 master plans and it takes a long time, if you can
24 kind of move that up a little bit so it's not a
25 ten-year deal, that would be appreciated.

1 And that's really all I have to say.

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
5 to close the meeting to the public?

6 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

7 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

8 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

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

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Motion carried.

15 Can I have a motion for a five-minute
16 recess.

17 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

18 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

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

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Motion carried.

25 (A short recess is held.)

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We're going to call
2 the meeting to order. If you don't mind, if you want
3 to take it out in the hallway, I'd appreciate it.

4 Thank you.

5 Can I have to motion to go back into
6 session?

7 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

8 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

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

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 RESOLUTIONS OF UNANIMOUS CONSENT

15 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Will the Clerk
16 please read the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

17 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Resolutions #21-18
18 through #54-18.

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
20 to accept the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda as
21 read by our Clerk?

22 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Move the Consent
23 Agenda.

24 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

1 (All present Freeholders respond in the
2 affirmative.)

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Roll call.

6 (At this point in the proceeding roll
7 call is taken and the Resolutions of Unanimous
8 Consent are passed by a vote of six in favor, with
9 Freeholder Zur absent.)

10 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With six yeses and one
11 absent, the Consent Agenda passes.

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Are there any
13 Resolutions of Nonconsent, pulled, postponed or
14 tabled? And if so, will the Clerk please read them.

15 MS. RODRIGUEZ: There are none.

16 COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM FREEHOLDERS

17 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We will now have
18 Freeholder Committee Reports.

19 Freeholder Amoroso.

20 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Okay.

21 On Friday, January 12th, a number of us
22 attended the commemoration of the 115th arrival of
23 the first Korean immigrants to the United States.
24 Korean Americans are a big presence in Bergen County,
25 60,000 people, about six percent of the population.

1 They constitute 52 percent of the population of
2 Palisades Park. We are so happy to have our Korean
3 neighbors with us.

4 On Monday, Martin Luther King Day, I
5 marched from Englewood City Hall to Ebenezer Baptist
6 Church with the County Executive, Freeholder Joan
7 Voss, and Ebenezer's congregation.

8 Many of us county elected officials
9 attended the commemoration at Mt. Olive Baptist
10 Church in Hackensack, along with Congressman Josh
11 Gottheimer and Prosecutor Grewal. And in the
12 evening, we went to the Unitarian Church in Paramus,
13 where we heard a stirring performance of Dr. King's
14 "I have a Dream" speech, and another stirring homily
15 about how Dr. King has been homogenized into just a
16 peaceful dreamer, when we should hold fast to his
17 example as a radical activist.

18 The next day, we attended the swearing
19 in of our new Governor, Phil Murphy, in Trenton.
20 Later that evening, we attended the Inaugural Gala,
21 which featured all kinds of New Jersey foods and
22 performances from the musical Jersey Boys.

23 Since we are so proud that we are a
24 woman majority Freeholder Board, we want to pay
25 tribute to another feminist first. Medieval Times in

1 Lyndhurst has just named its first female top royal,
2 Queen Erin Zapcic.

3 In the 28 years Medieval Times has been
4 in South Bergen, the ruler has always been a man. We
5 should point out that Erin Zapcic started as a wench
6 in the gift shop and has steadily ascended.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Freeholder Ganz.

9 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Thank you, Chairman.

10 I will try not to duplicate each of the
11 events that most of us went to.

12 I did, however, want to mention the
13 New Jersey Muslim Law Enforcement Association, a new
14 group, met, and we broke bread in Bergen County Plaza
15 No. 2. The first time that I've been to a meal on
16 the second floor there. It was really quite nice. I
17 had the opportunity to talk with a number of Muslim
18 leaders, including those from law enforcement.

19 This is the time of year when I take
20 the opportunity to break out a photograph. This is a
21 photograph of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the
22 thing that is remarkable about it to me is that I'm
23 in it. I was standing on the rear wall, and it was
24 taken in 1968, about three weeks before Dr. King was
25 assassinated, in my hometown of Rockville Center, New

1 York.

2 It was a remarkable experience to be in
3 the presence of Dr. King and to hear him speak.

4 I've looked many times to see whether
5 there were other photographs that were taken, but
6 this one was taken by Newsday, the Long Island
7 newspaper, and the clarity that the reporter was able
8 to get and the photographer was able to obtain,
9 really is something that is both unusual and for me a
10 distinct reminder of this great reverend and great
11 man.

12 I was also honored to speak at the
13 events at Ebenezer Baptist. I want to say that
14 Rev. Jackson and the Prosecutor were kind enough to
15 reveal the rather interesting story which I've not
16 spoken about previously, about how I was able to
17 bring them together over breakfast at the Land & Sea
18 Diner in Fair Lawn.

19 That concludes my report, Chairman.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,

22 Freeholder.

23 Dr. Voss.

24 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Just some brief
25 comments.

1 I have been very much involved with the
2 Korean American community because of my teaching
3 experiences, and I am so proud of all of the
4 accomplishments that they have made. We had a
5 wonderful program here in the public room on the
6 ninth. There was tremendous entertainment, it was
7 really fantastic, but also tremendous stories of how
8 the American Dream comes true for people who are
9 willing to work hard.

10 And then, of course, Mary and I
11 attended the 115th anniversary at the Korean American
12 Association, and so many people were there. And I'm
13 so proud, because, over the years, several of my
14 former students have become members of the Board of
15 Education, the Town Council, and more and more
16 Koreans are getting involved in the political system.
17 And this is so important, because I firmly believe
18 that everybody should have equal representation in
19 terms of if the population of many towns is more than
20 50 percent Korean, so they should have 50 percent of
21 the voice on making the decisions for the town. And,
22 as I said, I'm so, so proud of some of my former
23 students, some of whom I had a chance to swear into
24 their newly-elected positions.

25 Mary, and Jim Tedesco, and Bill

1 Pascrell and I were almost like frozen popsicles on
2 the day of the Martin Luther King's birthday, but it
3 was very important that we all come out and remember
4 what a wonderful man he was. My son has such
5 admiration for Dr. King that he has the "I have a
6 Dream" speech on his phone and it gives him
7 inspiration.

8 One of the last things I want to talk
9 about is, I had a meeting with the school
10 superintendent of Fort Lee, and I'm hoping that I'm
11 going to be able to meet with a lot of other
12 superintendents, because one of the sad things that
13 happened in education was the abolishment of
14 vocational training and culinary arts and things like
15 that. Today we need those programs, and they have to
16 be restored. And we were discussing the fact that,
17 you know, I think Boards of Education have to be kind
18 of re-educated as to the importance of auto shop,
19 culinary arts, wood shop, all of those things. Today
20 a really good craftsman makes a wonderful living, and
21 education is lifelong, so just because you may become
22 a technician of some sort doesn't mean that you can't
23 cultivate all your other interests. I am a lifelong
24 educator, I will never stop talking about education,
25 but we must restore vocational education into the

1 curriculum.

2 Thank you very much.

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,

4 Dr. Voss.

5 Freeholder Tanelli.

6 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Thank you,

7 Chairman.

8 I would just like to bring everyone's
9 attention to Resolutions #52-18 and #53-18. I just
10 want to congratulate the administration and the
11 County Executive for settling yet another two
12 collective bargaining agreements with county
13 employees. I know the work that goes into these, and
14 to see them get settled and fair on both sides, I'm
15 sure, I just want to congratulate you on a great job.

16 I just want to close my report by
17 congratulating Bergen Catholic, who was involved in a
18 nationwide tournament in Oradell this weekend, battle
19 for No. 1, where Bergen Catholic beat Blair Academy
20 and it is now ranked No. 1 in wrestling, major upsets
21 of kids beating kids that are ranked in the top five,
22 and almost the entire team are kids are from Bergen
23 County. I'm sure all my colleagues are as proud as I
24 am to say we have the No. 1 team in the country in
25 Oradell.

1 Thank you, Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you
3 Freeholder.

4 Vice-Chairwoman Ortiz.

5 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

6 Last week, I attended the Bergen
7 Community College alumni dinner, which was a great
8 opportunity, since I was a former Trustee, to come
9 see all the professors and administration and my
10 former Trustees come together. It was a special
11 night, where they give awards to the alumni. This
12 year it was Ed Kochakji from Bergenfield, long-term
13 wrestling coach. He received a Living Legacy Award.

14 Goli Kocharian received the
15 Distinguished Achievement Award. He is a dental
16 hygienist.

17 And then there is the Rising Star
18 Award, which was awarded to Jon Silva, who received a
19 scholarship, he's currently a Rutgers student, and he
20 is excelling there as well.

21 So it was a great opportunity to see
22 everyone, and it was great to come back and honor all
23 the alumnus for Bergen Community College, especially
24 this year in particular, since it's the 50th
25 anniversary.

1 I also attended, it was a great Holiday
2 Spirit Luncheon that I attended with Freeholder Ganz.
3 It was just nice to come together with all law
4 enforcement and all the community leaders and discuss
5 all the programs that they're doing to educate a lot
6 of the schoolchildren from fifth grade on on how to
7 come together and accept all of us, because I think
8 education is more important than anything, because
9 ignorance could really hurt us and just break us
10 apart, so I'm very happy to see how they're all
11 coming together, bringing everyone together at this
12 luncheon.

13 It also was exciting to hear
14 Rev. Jackson from Mount Olive. He not only brought
15 us altogether, we prayed together, we held hands, it
16 was such a nice day just to celebrate Martin Luther
17 King and all his achievements. It was really nice to
18 see and sad at the same time.

19 It was very nice to see Prosecutor
20 Grewal was honored and given a plaque for all his
21 service here in Bergen County. We were lucky enough
22 to also go to his swearing in, where he also got
23 sworn in as Attorney General yesterday. I know it's
24 a loss to Bergen County, but I know he's going to do
25 great things for the State of New Jersey. I'm very

1 proud of him, and I wish him the best of luck.

2 Thank you. That's my report.

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
4 Freeholder.

5 So, I will start by saying that we had
6 the Korean American Day here. I was honored to give
7 closing remarks at that. As Dr. Voss said, they're
8 over ten percent of the population now in Bergen
9 County, and various people are getting involved in
10 politics, which is great, they represent their
11 community in such a positive way.

12 Myself and Assemblyman Gordon Johnson,
13 also attended the Korean tae kwon do event in
14 Cliffside Park, where the Korean tae kwon do
15 exhibition team came over and tutored the Korean
16 American team, and they ended it with a dinner over
17 at the Palisadium, and just a tremendous display of
18 what they do. I mean, it was amazing, the tae kwon
19 do and their discipline. It was really a great
20 event.

21 I'm going to also now talk about
22 transportation. Whereas, we spoke tonight about
23 Fairleigh Dickinson University, a little over a year
24 ago, a former student and current employee of FDU in
25 Teaneck named Denis Rozestwinski approached us, the

1 Freeholder Board, about the dangerous road conditions
2 surrounding this section of River Road that runs
3 through the campus.

4 After hearing his concerns, we acted
5 swiftly and appropriately to alleviate those
6 dangerous road conditions with two significant
7 changes.

8 The first was, I'm pleased to announce,
9 we have a hybrid light that has been installed. And
10 you heard some of the concerns tonight, that they
11 don't think that the hybrid light is an effective
12 way, but studies have shown it's 97 percent
13 effective. So if we have to have some enforcement
14 there in the beginning so people don't pass people,
15 that's what we're going to do. But that light,
16 statistics have proven, to be at 97 percent
17 effective. The system also allows for safe crossing
18 on River Road by students and the public. And,
19 according to Dennis, students have already applauded
20 the changes and they feel much safer.

21 It's only been a year since this has
22 come to our attention, and the amount of work that
23 we've gotten done and the amount of safety changes
24 that we've gotten in a year, to me, is unbelievable.

25 We've gotten so much help, and we

1 continue to champion the cause, and if we need to do
2 more monitoring, we will, but this is an issue that
3 came to public safety and public transportation, and
4 being the Chairman of the Transportation Committee, I
5 felt it was something on which we needed to act
6 swiftly, and my colleagues and I have done just that.

7 We also improved the safety of the
8 students and the public by eliminating the confusion,
9 and working with Teaneck and Fairleigh Dickinson to
10 educate the students in the new changes in the
11 crosswalks and the bus stops.

12 I want to thank all that had a hand in
13 the project, especially our County Engineer,
14 Joe Femia; Deputy Engineer Nancy Dargis.

15 I'm proud of the work that this Board
16 has done to address this issue. We've taken this
17 issue very seriously. Lives were at stake, and we
18 acted swiftly and appropriately, in my opinion.

19 In Hackensack, there's an adaptive
20 signaling program. Tonight the Freeholder Board
21 passed Resolution #32-18, accepting nearly \$3 million
22 in federal funding to install an adaptive traffic
23 signaling system in downtown Hackensack. This
24 promises to be a state-of-the-art system, only the
25 second of its kind in Bergen County, and will greatly

1 improve traffic flow through our county seat. We
2 will have more information on the project as we
3 continue on with the project.

4 And, lastly, I just want to close by
5 saying we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King's
6 birthday. I too was at many of the events, and you
7 hear his words from 50 years ago and it still
8 resonates today. It's good and it's bad. We thought
9 we've come a long way in bridging the gap, but when
10 you go to these events and things are pointed out to
11 you, you realize we still have a long way to go. I
12 was very proud to be there to honor Dr. King, and I
13 hope his words continue to resonate with people in
14 the future.

15 That concludes my report.

16 Thank you.

17 There being nothing further to come
18 before this meeting, may I have a motion to adjourn?

19 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

20 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

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

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

25 (No response.)

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CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The ayes have it.

We are adjourned at 8:45.

Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Public Meeting is
adjourned at 8:45 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