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BERGEN COUNTY  
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY  
WORK SESSION  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018  
COMMENCING AT 4:34 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

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

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:

LARA RODRIGUEZ  
CLERK TO THE BOARD

LAURIE BIANCHI  
DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD

JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQ.  
ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ.  
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

JARED LAUTZ  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

MICHAEL SHEINFELD  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.  
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I N D E X

PAGE NO.

4:35 PM PUBLIC COMMENT

5

Paul Nickels

6

4:40 PM REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

10

4:42 PM CLOSED SESSION

12

1                   CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The meeting is  
2 called to order at 4:34.

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

6                   Will the Clerk please read the  
7 Sen. Byron Baer 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                   CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Will the Clerk  
21 please call the roll.

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

1                   CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Evidence of a  
2 quorum is present.

3                   Will you please all stand for the  
4 Pledge of Allegiance.

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

7 4:35 PM PUBLIC COMMENT

8                   CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion  
9 to open the meeting to the public?

10                  FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

11                  FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

12                  CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

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

15                  CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

16                  (No response.)

17                  CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Unanimously  
18 approved.

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

22                  The Board Attorney will keep the time.  
23 When the time of the speaker has expired, the Board  
24 Attorney will announce that the time has expired.

25                  Anybody here wishing to speak?

1 Paul.

2 State your name.

3 MR. NICKELS: Good afternoon.

4 Paul Nickels.

5 I'm going to talk about Project  
6 Homeless Connect next week, because it was a really  
7 exciting event, but, you know, I've spoken to Joe,  
8 the union guy, several times --

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Joe Gautier?

10 MR. NICKELS: Yes. Thank you for  
11 pronouncing his name, I always mix it up.

12 You know, about the mental health first  
13 aid training and mental health stuff. And you guys  
14 have done a wonderful job getting a lot of the county  
15 trained, but I had been lately, which I won't go into  
16 too much, my own situation, where I've been a victim  
17 of a crime, and I've never been through the legal  
18 system. I've been talking to people today, and what  
19 I'm going to say is not bashing anybody or being  
20 negative towards, because they're very friendly, but  
21 in the court system, the people in the offices, like  
22 I got a ticket in Hackensack, they're very friendly  
23 but I don't think they understand people with mental  
24 health issues. And when I went there, I felt more  
25 uncomfortable. I kind of felt like a criminal, and I

1 actually have never been on the victim side before.  
2 So whoever does the liaison to that type of thing  
3 with the courts, and, I know, Freeholder Zur, you've  
4 been in the court system in one way or another, so I  
5 don't know if you've dealt with the people in the  
6 front, you know, the clerks and all that.

7 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Which  
8 municipality was this in?

9 MR. NICKELS: Well, this was in  
10 Hackensack. But whenever I go through situations, I  
11 always think: What about other people with similar  
12 mental health issues like myself or disabled and  
13 stuff like that?

14 So, again, they're not bad people, and  
15 I know they deal with a lot tickets and bad people  
16 and good people and people's situations, but another  
17 one of the union guys that I was speaking to kind of  
18 understood, like the same wavelength I'm on, dealing  
19 with the public. Remember, a few years ago I brought  
20 you guys complaints about the Board of Social  
21 Services, the people on the front lines over there,  
22 and I haven't had any complaints about people dealing  
23 with them in a long time, and a lot of them were  
24 trained in mental health stuff. Maybe it's as simple  
25 as empathy and sensitivity, but I didn't realize

1 this, again, until recently, that even the people in  
2 all these municipalities are part of the same union.  
3 And, again, I did speak to Joe about that avenue, you  
4 know.

5 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes,  
6 Mr. Nickels.

7 MR. NICKELS: Maybe it would be good to  
8 have them all trained, but maybe there's something,  
9 again, not Hackensack specifically, because they were  
10 very friendly, I just don't think everybody  
11 understands, you know what I'm saying?

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you. We  
13 obviously hear you loud and clear. You should know  
14 we take mental health very seriously. I'm sure we'll  
15 review our policies and make sure that things --  
16 maybe you ran into somebody that had a bad day.  
17 That's not our policy. That's not how we treat  
18 people in the county, as you know.

19 MR. NICKELS: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: And we are all into  
21 mental health.

22 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Just to clear  
23 for the record. This isn't us, this is Hackensack  
24 Municipal Court?

25 MR. NICKELS: Municipal court.



1                   FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Which we don't  
2 have control over.

3                   CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Understood.

4                   So this happened in Hackensack  
5 Municipal Court, right?

6                   MR. NICKELS: Yes.

7                   Again, they were very friendly. It's  
8 not against them.

9                   CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We don't control  
10 Hackensack Municipal Court, like the Freeholder is  
11 pointing out. Hopefully everybody would take the  
12 same initiatives we do, that's what Stigma-Free is  
13 all about.

14                   Thank you for your time.

15                   MR. NICKELS: Thank you.

16                   CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Is there anyone  
17 else who would like to speak?

18                   Mr. Powers, you're going to sit it out  
19 or what?

20                   MR. POWERS: I'll sit it out.

21                   CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All right. Seeing  
22 no one, may I have a motion to close the meeting to  
23 the public?

24                   FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

25                   FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

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

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

6 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Unanimous.

7 4:40 PM REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

8 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We will now review  
9 the Resolutions to be voted on tonight.

10 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Chairman?

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Yes.

12 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: May I sponsor  
13 #69-18, please?

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. We need the  
15 Clerk to read that first. I might pull it, but go  
16 ahead.

17 (Laughter.)

18 MS. RODRIGUEZ: For Freeholder  
19 Tanelli's benefit, Resolution #69-18 is a "Resolution  
20 authorizing payment of legal bill to the law firm of  
21 Florio, Kenny, Raval, LLP, for the provision of legal  
22 services."

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Freeholder Tanelli,  
24 you can beat me to it. Go ahead.

25 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: I'll second. You

1 can be the sponsor.

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: No, you can sponsor  
3 it.

4 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: I'd like to  
5 sponsor that, please.

6 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Sponsored by  
7 Freeholder Tanelli.

8 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I'm sorry, David,  
10 I'm going to take privilege on this, I'm going to  
11 second it.

12 MR. FLORIO: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We're all fighting  
14 over him.

15 MR. FLORIO: That's okay, I fight for  
16 you.

17 (Laughter.)

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Roll call.

19 (At this point in the proceeding roll  
20 call is taken and Resolution #69-18 is passed by a  
21 unanimous vote.)

22 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With seven ayes, it has  
23 passed.

24 MR. FLORIO: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Resolution #69-18

1 has passed.

2 Are there any Resolutions on  
3 Nonconsent, tabled or pulled?

4 MS. RODRIGUEZ: There are none.

5 4:42 PM CLOSED SESSION

6 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We will now go into  
7 Closed Session for approximately an hour and a half.  
8 Then we'll return to the Public Session.

9 Will the attorney briefly state the  
10 matters which we will be discussing in Closed  
11 Session.

12 MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Chairman.

13 It's my understanding we're going to  
14 receive an update on ongoing litigation and also a  
15 presentation related to a matter of contract.

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. May I have a  
17 motion to go into Closed Session?

18 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

19 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: 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: Okay.

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Closed Session at 4:42.

Thank you.

(Whereupon Closed Session is held.)

(Open Session resumes at 6:11 p.m.)

MR. FLORIO: On the record.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: There being nothing further to come before this meeting, may I have a motion to adjourn?

FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Second.

FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

(All present Freeholders respond in the affirmative.)

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Unanimous.

6:11 closes the meeting.

Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Work Session is adjourned at 6:11 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