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BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018
COMMENCING AT 4:35 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:

JAMES J. TEDESCO III
BERGEN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

LARA RODRIGUEZ
CLERK TO THE BOARD

LAURIE BIANCHI
DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD

JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQ.
ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

MITCHELL FAGEN, 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.

4:36 PM COMMENDATIONS PRESENTED TO
BERGEN COUNTY DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 5

Ralph Rivera, Jr., Director
Department of Public Safety

Christina A. D'Aloia, Esq., Director
Office of Consumer Affairs/Consumer Protection

Patricia Rodriguez, Administrative Staff

Denis Niland, Investigator

Allen Ust, Investigator

Richard Siniscalchi, Investigator

Steve Mercer, Investigator

Richard Vanderclute, Investigator

Christopher Giuliano, Administrative Staff

4:50 PM PUBLIC COMMENT 13

Joseph Dunsay 13

4:55 PM CLOSED SESSION 15

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I call the meeting
2 to order at 4:35.

3 Before we 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 Sen. Byron Baer Open Public Meetings Act.

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

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Will the Clerk
22 please call the roll.

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

1 Chairman Sullivan present.)

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

4 Would you please rise for the Pledge of
5 Allegiance, led today by Ron Subramaniam.

6 MR. SUBRAMANIAM: Please join me.

7 (At this point in the proceeding all
8 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,
9 led by Mr. Subramaniam.)

10 4:36 PM COMMENDATIONS PRESENTED TO BERGEN COUNTY

11 DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS OFFICE

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Before we begin our
13 meeting, the Bergen County Board of Chosen
14 Freeholders and the Bergen County Executive wish to
15 recognize a group of outstanding employees.

16 I am pleased to announce that the New
17 Jersey Attorney General's Office has recognized the
18 Bergen County Division of Consumer Affairs as being
19 the most successful in the entire state this past
20 year.

21 The Division handled 592 complaints and
22 was able to recoup \$133,142.46 in restitution and
23 savings for Bergen County residents.

24 What a remarkable job!

25 (Applause.)

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I would like to
2 invite our County Executive to say a few words.

3 Jim.

4 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman.

6 Freeholders and members of the Consumer
7 Affairs team, I just wanted to say thank you on
8 behalf of the people of Bergen County and the people
9 of Passaic County, because, really, those are the
10 folks that you've helped.

11 When we started down this journey
12 almost three years ago with looking at the effects of
13 Consumer Affairs and how we could positively impact
14 the people of Bergen County and Passaic County now
15 and protect their rights and ensure that the people
16 were getting what they deserved, and, if they
17 weren't, making sure that either restitution was paid
18 or the person that was not performing what they were
19 supposed to or delivering on the goods, we could do
20 something about.

21 Today you're here because of the work
22 that you all have done, and the State of New Jersey
23 has recognized that.

24 And for that, I thank you on behalf of
25 the nearly one million people that live here and the

1 hundreds of thousands that live in Passaic. I know
2 you all personally, and I know the dedication that
3 you have and the determination and the drive, and
4 that's what makes the unit such a great unit. So, on
5 behalf of my colleagues and on behalf of all the
6 folks, thank you for the work that you do everyday in
7 making a difference in the lives of the people of
8 Bergen and Passaic County.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Why doesn't
12 everyone just introduce themselves, stand up and let
13 us know who you are.

14 MS. D'ALOIA: I'm the Director of
15 Consumer Affairs, Christina D'Aloia.

16 MS. P. RODRIGUEZ: Patricia Rodriguez,
17 administrative staff.

18 MR. NILAND: Denis Niland,
19 investigator. I do the outreach programs too.

20 MR. UST: Allen Ust, investigator.

21 MR. SINISCALCHI: Rich Siniscalchi,
22 investigator.

23 MR. MERCER: Steve Mercer,
24 investigator.

25 MR. VANDERCLUTE: Rich Vanderclute,

1 investigator.

2 MR. GIULIANO: Chris Giuliano,
3 administrative staff.

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Let's give them a
5 round of applause.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: On behalf of the
8 Freeholder Board, we want to say thank you. We know
9 all the hard work and effort that you put into your
10 jobs, and it shows, and you guys do a wonderful job,
11 guys and girls. We couldn't be prouder here as a
12 Freeholder Board.

13 We're going to ask Ralph to come up and
14 the County Executive, and give you some
15 commendations. And then after that, if members of
16 the Freeholder Board want to speak, we will let you
17 speak.

18 Okay. Thank you.

19 (Whereupon, the presentations are
20 made.)

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We'd like to ask
22 Christina to come up and say a few words, if you
23 don't mind.

24 MS. D'ALOIA: I want to thank all of
25 you for recognizing the hard work of my investigators

1 and my administrative staff.

2 I would also like to thank my
3 investigators and my administrative staff, because,
4 without them, we wouldn't be here where we are today.
5 They work really hard for Bergen and Passaic
6 Counties. So thank you all.

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Mr.
10 Chairman, if you would, just give me a minute.

11 I want to recognize Christina for the
12 work that she has done. Christina came onboard to
13 oversee the Consumer Affairs Bureau after coming out
14 of the Law Department at County Counsel's Office.
15 And while she's still an attorney, she's accepted
16 this role and worked for us and really has helped the
17 team.

18 Part of the reason we got the letter
19 from the Attorney General's Office, to be honest with
20 you, is because of Christina. She interacted with
21 the AG's Office and turned some things around that we
22 needed some help with, and without her, I can't say
23 that we would be where we are today. I know the
24 investigators would still be investigating, but the
25 process and the procedures, I'm not sure would be

1 where they would be today without Christina. So I
2 just wanted to recognize Christina for the work that
3 she's done.

4 (Applause.)

5 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: Mr.
6 Chairman, can I also point out that Christina has
7 maintained her responsibilities with the Law
8 Department --

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Oh, wow!

10 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS -- at
11 the same time while managing the Consumer Affairs
12 Office, as well as being a wife and a mother and an
13 all around great person. So a lot of kudos to her,
14 because nothing has slipped and she's excelled at
15 everything she's done, so I think it's important that
16 we note that.

17 MS. D'ALOIA: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Freeholder Tanelli.

19 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: I'd like to thank
20 you all for the great job that you're doing. We
21 appreciate it and all of the taxpayers in Bergen
22 County and Passaic County appreciate it.

23 I just want to give kudos, I know we do
24 it every meeting, but give kudos to the County
25 Executive, because when he took over, this area had

1 gotten pilfered by the previous administration. It
2 just really truly shows where the priorities are of
3 the County Executive and this Board, where all we
4 want to do is look out for the best interests of the
5 taxpayers and the consumers in Bergen County. So
6 thank you all for the hard work that you guys do.

7 I remember Denis and a few of the guys
8 that first started doing this, and I can't believe
9 how big the department's gotten. That's why we're
10 getting such great work done, because it's properly
11 staffed with the right people and with the initiative
12 to do what you guys are doing. So thank you very
13 much.

14 And, County Executive, every month it
15 seems that we're coming here and telling you what a
16 great job you're doing, but this is just proof for
17 the pudding.

18 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: A great
19 example.

20 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: A great example.
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Anyone else?
23 Freeholder Zur.

24 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: You know, I got
25 to see firsthand, when I was a judge in Central

1 Municipal Court, how vital it is what you are doing
2 to protect those who are being taking advantage of in
3 our community. You know, we get to hear the feedback
4 on our Board, but when you give somebody back the
5 money they've been defrauded, first of all, you are
6 making them feel whole and have that feeling of
7 efficacy, but what you're really doing is protecting
8 those who can't protect themselves.

9 So thank you so much, all of you, for
10 your efforts every single day on behalf of our
11 residents.

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

13 Anyone else?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Well, thank you.

16 And, again, like I said before, like everyone said
17 here before, a wonderful job by all you. We couldn't
18 do it without you people, and we appreciate
19 everything you do everyday. Thank you very much.

20 MS. D'ALOIA: Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. I would like
23 to remind everyone that our first on-the-road meeting
24 is scheduled for next Wednesday, March 7th, at the
25 Bergenfield Municipal Building, 198 N. Washington

1 Avenue, Bergenfield, in the Council Chambers at 7:30.

2 4:50 PM PUBLIC COMMENT

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
4 to open the meeting to the public?

5 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

6 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

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

10 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We will now have a
13 hearing of the general public, with a three-minute
14 time limit in effect, in accordance with the Bergen
15 County Freeholder Bylaws.

16 The Board Attorney will keep the time.

17 When the time of the speaker expires, the Board

18 Attorney will announce the time has expired.

19 Anyone from the public wishing to
20 speak?

21 Mr. Dunsay, step forward, my friend.

22 MR. DUNSAY: Hi.

23 So the last time I was here --

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: State your name.

25 MR. DUNSAY: I'm sorry.

1 Joseph Dunsay. I live in Hackensack.
2 The last time I was here, I tried to
3 play an audio but it wasn't loud enough, so I got a
4 speaker to amplify it. It's the conversation that
5 happened on a sidewalk where one of the members of
6 the Wellness Center warned me that if I criticized
7 Christie, they would go after me. I think it's
8 important you hear about it so you know the kind of
9 retaliatory culture, because the same population that
10 goes to the Wellness Center also goes to the New
11 Bridge Hospital and the shelter.

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I happened to hear
13 it when I watched it on the tape. I don't know if
14 everyone else got a chance to watch it. So if you
15 feel the need to play it, you have three minutes.

16 MR. DUNSAY: Right.

17 The clip is about two minutes. It will
18 only take a moment to synch it to my phone.

19 MR. FAGEN: It's been approximately one
20 minute. It's 4:51 now.

21 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Just start now.

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: You can start the
23 clock now.

24 MR. FAGEN: So I'll start now.

25 (Whereupon, Mr. Dunsay plays an audio

1 recording.)

2 MR. DUNSAY: Thanks for your time.

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you, Joe.

4 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Take care.

5 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Is there anybody
6 else wishing to speak?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: If not, I'll take a
9 motion to close the meeting to the public.

10 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

11 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: 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: The motion carried.

18 4:55 PM CLOSED SESSION

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We will now go into
20 Closed Session for approximately 20 minutes, and we
21 will return to the Public Session.

22 Will the attorney briefly state the
23 matters which will be discussed in Closed Session.

24 MR. FAGEN: The purpose of the Closed
25 Session is for an update on contract negotiations and

1 legal matters regarding Resolutions #153-18, #154-18,
2 #155-18, and #157-18.

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
4 to go into Closed Session?

5 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

6 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

7 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

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 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Closed session at
15 4:55.

16 (Whereupon, Closed Session is held.)

17 (Open session resumes at 5:14 p.m.)

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: There being nothing
19 further to come before this Board, may I have a
20 motion to adjourn?

21 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: So moved.

22 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

23 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

25 (All present Freeholders respond in the

1 affirmative.)

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Adjourned at 5:14.

5 (Whereupon, the Work Session is
6 adjourned at 5:14 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