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BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2018
COMMENCING AT 7:37 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

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

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQUIRE
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

MICHAEL SHEINFELD
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

STORM WYCHE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF POLICY & RESEARCH

JARED LAUTZ
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The meeting is
2 called to order at 7:37 PM.

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

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, Silna Zur, Vice-Chairwoman Ortiz, and
3 Chairman Sullivan present.)

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

6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

9 County Executive Tedesco, would you
10 please lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

11 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Ladies and
12 gentlemen, please honor America.

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

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

17 Our second meeting-on-the-road this
18 year will be held in two weeks, on Wednesday,
19 May 2nd, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. in Lyndhurst, at the
20 Lyndhurst Township Hall, in the Council Chambers, 367
21 Valley Brook Avenue.

22 The 4:30 Work Session on that day will
23 still be held, as usual, here in Hackensack in the
24 Calabrese Caucus Room.

25 Before we begin tonight's meeting, we

1 have three presentations.

2 PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATION TO LINSEY
3 LAM, WINNER OF THE FOOD NETWORK'S "KIDS BAKING
4 CHAMPIONSHIP"

5 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The Freeholder
6 Board would like to recognize the winner of the Food
7 Network's "Kids Baking Championship," Linsey Lam, a
8 student at Tenafly Middle School and a resident of
9 Closter.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I'll ask my
12 Freeholder colleagues to come down and celebrate this
13 wonderful occasion for Linsey.

14 In honor and recognition of winning the
15 fourth season of the Food Network's "Kids Baking
16 Championships" presented April 18, 2018, from the
17 Board of Chosen Freeholders.

18 So, you know what that means, right,
19 you have to cook for the Freeholders now, and I like
20 to eat.

21 (Applause.)

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Congratulations.
23 We congratulate you on such a wonderful, wonderful
24 accomplishment.

25 (Whereupon, the presentation is made.)

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The County
2 Executive would also like to present you with
3 something.

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

6 Linsey, on behalf of how well you cook,
7 the people of Bergen County would like to say thank
8 you and congratulate you on what you have
9 accomplished.

10 Let me just read a couple little things
11 in here.

12 It says:

13 Whereas, in the finals, Ms. Lam's
14 chocolate cake was soaked in coconut cream and
15 frosted with raspberry butter cream.

16 In honor of Food Network Magazine's
17 10th anniversary, earned the title of "Kids Baking
18 Championship," and \$25,000.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: And a
21 feature in Food Network Magazine.

22 Now, therefore, be it resolved that I,
23 James J. Tedesco, III, Executive of the County of
24 Bergen, in the State of New Jersey, do hereby
25 recognize Linsey Lam as the Food Network Magazine

1 cook.

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Also what
4 we'd like to do is the Freeholders and I would like
5 to give you a pin that represents the seal of Bergen
6 County and the million people that live here. We
7 hope that you wear it proudly as a resident of Bergen
8 County.

9 Thank you so much.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Linsey's family,
12 please come up to take a picture with the Freeholders
13 and the County Executive.

14 MISS LAM: Thank you so much.

15 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Congratulations
17 again to Linsey and her family.

18 PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATION TO CSPAN'S NATIONAL

19 STUDENTCAM DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION WINNERS

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Next we would like
21 to recognize the winners of CSPAN's National
22 StudentCam Documentary Competition.

23 And the winners are: Phoebe Om and
24 Helena Merker for their film "Free Press Free
25 People."

1 Mary Castillo and Jamie San Antonio for
2 their film "Immigration in the Constitution."

3 Your hard work and talent was on full
4 display within your documentaries.

5 I'd like to invite you forward for a
6 presentation, along with your family members that are
7 here tonight.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I would like the
10 Freeholders to come down as well again.

11 Jamie, Mary, Helena, Phoebe, from the
12 Bergen County Academies, in honor and recognition of
13 winning an honorable mention prize in CSPAN's
14 National StudentCam Competition, presented by the
15 Freeholder Board this evening.

16 Congratulations to all the winners.
17 It's great.

18 (Whereupon, the presentation is made.)

19 (Applause.)

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I'd also like to
21 ask the County Executive to come up and make a
22 presentation as well.

23 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you,
24 Freeholder Chair.

25 There were 3,000 entries nationwide.

1 This competition was open to middle school and high
2 school students. There were 150 winners, so these
3 young ladies are four out of 150 across the United
4 States. They're the only four from Bergen County,
5 and they're all from the Bergen County Academies.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: The Bergen
8 County Academies, myself and the Freeholders, it's
9 one of the educational institutions that we're
10 extremely proud of here in Bergen County. It's
11 ranked in the top five in the nation in high schools,
12 as our other Academy is ranked within the top 25 high
13 schools in the nation. So the commitment that we
14 have to education will continue, but this is the
15 outgrowth of us supporting that education. So
16 congratulations on behalf of the people of Bergen
17 County.

18 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Yes.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: We also
21 would like to present you with the pin of Bergen
22 County. Hopefully you wear it proud on behalf of the
23 million people that live here along with you.

24 Congratulations.

25 (Applause.)

1 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Congratulations.

3 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO:

4 Congratulations.

5 (Applause.)

6 PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATION TO THE VOLUNTEERS AND

7 FOSTER FAMILIES OF THE BERGEN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

8 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Well, for
9 the larger group of folks that are here tonight.

10 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: You mean they're
11 not here for the budget?

12 (Laughter.)

13 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Sure,
14 they're here for the budget, because they're not
15 going to get a tax increase if they live in Bergen
16 County, at least the county tax increase.

17 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I'll have the
18 County Executive go first this time.

19 Our last presentation is recognizing
20 the hard-working volunteers and foster families of
21 the Bergen County Animal Shelter. These individuals
22 go out of their way to open their homes to these
23 needy animals until they are adopted into their
24 forever homes.

25 I'd like to invite you forward for a

1 presentation with the County Executive.

2 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: We want to
3 say thank you, because, without you, we would not
4 have the space in our shelter to house all these
5 wonderful animals. I talk to Deb on a regular basis,
6 and what an outstanding job she does running the
7 shelter.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: And thank
10 you, thank you for making a difference, because not
11 only are you making a difference in the lives of
12 animals, you're making a difference in the lives of
13 people. Because when the dogs and animals that you
14 foster get adopted eventually, you're making a family
15 happy or you're making a person happy, so you're
16 making a difference in people's lives. The shelter
17 does that on an hour-by-hour basis, as people come in
18 and need our help and our assistance, but all of you
19 are volunteering your time to do this and your place
20 of residence.

21 On behalf of the people of Bergen
22 County, I want to say thank you. Thank you for
23 making a difference. That's what makes Bergen County
24 special. That's what makes Bergen County the place
25 that people want to live in and work in, because of

1 people like you, so we get to say thank you. I know
2 we don't get to say it enough. I hope this piece of
3 paper will transcend into how much we really care
4 about what you do for us here and the people of
5 Bergen County, but on behalf of the million people
6 that live here, thank you. Thank you for making a
7 difference in Bergen County and in people's lives.
8 You truly do. Thank you so much.

9 (Applause.)

10 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Debbie, can you
11 come forward. I am going to ask that you give all
12 the commendations to everybody. We want to say thank
13 you so much for everything you do, to your staff, I
14 know the Freeholder Board, we recognize what you all
15 do and we're so appreciative. We know we couldn't do
16 it without all of you.

17 We also have a special commendation for
18 Carol Mueller.

19 She's not here, okay.

20 The proclamations that I am going to
21 read, then the County Executive can do his, they're
22 all standard. And we just wanted to say, in
23 recognition of and with deep appreciation for your
24 fostering animals in need in the Bergen County Animal
25 Shelter and Adoption Center, we'd like to present all

1 of your members with a commendation and say thank
2 you, like the County Executive said. There's really
3 nothing else to say other than thank you. Thank you
4 very much, Deb.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you so much,
7 all of you.

8 MS. YANKOW: I will distribute them
9 later.

10 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Great. That
11 works.

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: So we're not going
13 to read all the names, but you know who you are.

14 (Whereupon, the presentation is made.)

15 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I'd like to take a
16 motion for a five-minute 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: We are recessed for
25 five minutes.

1 (A short recess is held.)

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Can I take a motion
3 to resume the meeting, please?

4 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

5 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: 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: The motion carried.

12 HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

13 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
14 to open the meeting to the public?

15 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

16 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

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

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Unanimously
23 approved.

24 We will now have a hearing of the
25 general public, with a three-minute time limit in

1 effect, in accordance with the Bergen County
2 Freeholder bylaws.

3 The Board Attorney will keep the time.
4 When the time of the speaker expires,
5 the Board Attorney will announce the time has
6 expired.

7 Please fill out the slip of paper with
8 your name, address, and general topic which you wish
9 to speak about.

10 County Executive James J. Tedesco III
11 would like to address the Freeholder Board.

12 Please come forward.

13 MR. FLORIO: Chairman, just as a point
14 of order, we're suspending the three-minute rule for
15 this presentation.

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

17 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you,
18 counselor.

19 Mr. Chairman, members of the Freeholder
20 Board, tonight on the agenda is Resolution #330-18,
21 which is the authorization on introduction of the
22 2018 budget.

23 I'd just like to take a few minutes to
24 thank all of you and to talk a little bit about the
25 budget.

1 First, I want to start by saying thank
2 you to the Freeholder Board for introducing this
3 budget tonight. I also want to thank Freeholder Ganz
4 for being the Chair on the Budget Committee and
5 running the budget hearings. I've had the privilege
6 and opportunity to sit with Freeholder Ganz to do
7 that, and I believe that Bergen County has one of the
8 best formulas in preparing a budget and then having
9 the Freeholder review the budget in the best
10 interests of the people of Bergen County.

11 So, Freeholder Ganz, thank you so much
12 for what you did on making the budget hearings move
13 forward in an expeditious manner, but also being fair
14 and just, as always. To the rest of the members of
15 the Freeholder Board, thank you for giving up your
16 time to come to some very early, 8:00 meetings, and
17 some late evening meetings. But on behalf of all the
18 Department Heads and all the Constitutional Officers,
19 the education community, we thank you for your
20 diligence in this budget.

21 The budget that you will introduce
22 tonight has no tax impact to the people of Bergen
23 County, so the portion of their tax bill that says
24 county taxes, they will not see an increase on that
25 portion of the tax bill. Not only that, but the rate

1 at which the taxes are calculated, that rate has gone
2 down for the second year in a row.

3 So, when you couple those two things,
4 the people of Bergen County, when they say they want
5 tax relief, well, we can say that we delivered.

6 We also delivered that while providing
7 the services that are required for the people here in
8 Bergen County.

9 As you know and as I know of you, our
10 job is to help those that need help the most. And
11 here in Bergen County, that's what we do. And even
12 those that don't need help the most, but those that
13 we know we want to help, we put money towards that.

14 You just heard me talk about the Bergen
15 County Academies, and how five years ago there was a
16 reduction in education funding by a previous
17 administration. Well, when this Freeholder Board
18 took the majority, they saw fit to change that. And
19 I'm proud to stand here with you tonight to say we're
20 continuing that, and we're continuing to fund
21 education at the highest level it's ever been, both
22 at the elementary and secondary level right through
23 community college.

24 And you just saw the results of our
25 efforts to fund the Academies, and that's just the

1 Academies. When you think about then our Special
2 Services School District and what you do for children
3 with unique abilities, we are a leader. And all of
4 you support that, and that makes a difference in the
5 lives of those children. As they grow up, we have
6 programs that we've brought forward that hopefully
7 will help them as they grow older and assimilate into
8 the communities.

9 We have health programs where we are
10 now funding to the tune of millions of dollars for
11 the opioid epidemic that the federal government has
12 cut back on here in Bergen County. But you see fit,
13 as well as I do, to know that we're going to continue
14 to fund and continue to help those that have this
15 horrible disease.

16 You've taken on the challenge of mental
17 health, and we're going to continue to fund those
18 mental health programs that mean so much to those
19 that need them.

20 Law and Public Safety, we've committed
21 to ensuring the safety of this community, but we're
22 not just saying it, we're funding it.

23 I spoke to the Sheriff tonight, he
24 wanted me to say to you "thank you," that he just had
25 his hearing, I guess he was the last of the hearings.

1 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: He was the last.

2 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: And he
3 thanked you for doing the due diligence that you do,
4 but making sure that he had enough money to protect
5 the people of Bergen County.

6 And even there, we have unique programs
7 within the four walls of our jail, where we're
8 helping people that have an addiction problem not
9 leave there with the addiction problem, by actually
10 helping them by putting them in a Vivitrol program,
11 so that when they leave there, we don't see them
12 again and we give them a chance. We're only one of
13 two counties in the state that is doing that program.

14 Our roads, bridges, which makes the
15 county go, the infrastructure, you've committed
16 additional funding for that. I'm happy to stand here
17 today and say the road resurfacing program started
18 three weeks ago in the middle of a snowstorm. You
19 can't make this stuff up. \$17 million is being
20 devoted to resurfacing the roads in Bergen County.
21 We have over 500 miles of roadways, and this will be
22 the biggest expenditure in road resurfacing ever.

23 Again, why do we want to do that?

24 We want to do that, because we want
25 people to be able to travel our roadways without

1 getting flat tires, whether they're going to work or
2 whether they're taking their child to school.

3 That has not been seen or done ever in
4 the history of this county to the level that we're
5 doing it.

6 You've continued to fund our Health
7 Department. And just two months ago, as the flu
8 epidemic spiraled out of control here in Bergen
9 County, we opened our doors and allowed anyone to
10 come in and be able to take advantage of a
11 vaccination program. Not only that, we brought a
12 pediatric doctor to be able to deliver those vaccines
13 to young children.

14 There are many, many more examples on
15 the health side of what your funding our Health
16 Department will do this year.

17 On the Human Services side, you've
18 continued to fund our veterans program. We now have
19 a robust veterans department. Every day they're out
20 now in the community working with our veterans to
21 ensure that everyone of them has a home, not only a
22 home but today New Bridge Medical Center had a
23 Veterans Affairs hiring job fair, and I'm happy to
24 report that they hired three veterans today.

25 That goes in conjunction with the 6, 7

1 veterans they hired in the first round that we did.
2 So 10 veterans today have permanent jobs with
3 benefits, because of the work done by the County of
4 Bergen.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: The shelter
7 that we have here across the street, again, we are
8 adding programs. We're working with Julia. When
9 they came in front of you, they laid out some of the
10 new programs that we're going to try there. Again,
11 while we can take credit for eliminating chronic
12 homelessness, there's still work to be done, and
13 you've funded so that we can continue that work on
14 behalf of those folks that need that help.

15 Tonight when you introduce that budget,
16 I will be proud to be able to say thank you, because
17 you've helped thousands and thousands of people and
18 you've made a commitment to the million people that
19 live here in Bergen County that you care about them.

20 And I say this all the time, and I
21 don't mean it in a demeaning way to my other county
22 counterparts, but that's why we're the best county in
23 the State of New Jersey. Not only are we the
24 largest, but we're the best. But it's because of the
25 help of you.

1 And, as I've said to all of you, this
2 is a team. While I am the County Executive, I have
3 seven friends and colleagues that think the same way.
4 And you don't see the bickering, you don't see the
5 fighting, what you see is progress. What you see is
6 New Bridge Medical Center being led in a new
7 direction, helping those that truly need help.
8 Rutgers Medical now having doctors in the hospital
9 helping people, having Integrity House and CarePlus
10 New Jersey as our partners.

11 A year ago, when I stood here, I didn't
12 know if I was going to be able to say those things to
13 you. I lost many a sleepless night. I knew in my
14 heart that I made the right decision to not sell that
15 hospital and to bring a new operator in, but I'll
16 tell you, the journey was long.

17 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Yes.

18 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: But in the
19 end, it was right, and the operator that we have
20 there today is making a difference already in six
21 months. And, you know, I had the opportunity to talk
22 about that today at an event, and I spent so much
23 time talking about New Bridge. Why? Because it's
24 the single most important thing that we've done as a
25 body in 25 years. And that decision that we made

1 will have effects long after all of us are no longer
2 here, but they'll have positive effects on so many
3 people. And, hopefully, along the way, those that
4 call that their home, 574 people call 230 E.
5 Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey, 07652 their
6 home, some people have been there over 20 years, but
7 we've made their home better. We've made their stay
8 better. And those that now come in to get services,
9 we've made it better for them. And now we're going
10 to offer more opportunity for them to get better.
11 And if that isn't the most remarkable thing, we now
12 can have veterans go there. Literally, men and women
13 that are hundreds of feet from the entrance in the
14 state run Veterans Home can now go to New Bridge
15 Medical Center and get diagnostic care, instead of
16 placing them in an ambulance or a van and driving
17 them to East Orange. Their quality of life just
18 changed, along with their families', and you all did
19 that. And, again, we've talked about it, but without
20 the money and without the confidence, we couldn't
21 have done it.

22 We've just finished investing
23 \$20 million there on IT infrastructure. Why?
24 Because it was never done before. And that was the
25 difference between the operator before and the

1 operator now. We're partners. The destiny is in our
2 hands and we control that. So when we get money, we
3 now determine where that goes and how we can make
4 better impacts, but we had to cleanup some messes.

5 So, \$20 million is a lot of money, but
6 I'm proud to say that it's now going to change the
7 quality of life and what we do for those folks that
8 ask for services. It's going to ensure that they get
9 the services they need. It's going to ensue that the
10 information that we have is correct.

11 So, as I started, I want to end by
12 saying thank you. Thank you for helping me as a team
13 member make a difference in the lives of the people
14 of Bergen County, because we have done a damn good
15 job, and we're going to continue to do that job.

16 So I thank you in anticipation of the
17 vote that you'll make tonight. But let me say, I
18 want to thank you on behalf of the million people
19 that call Bergen County their home, because, as I
20 stated, they asked for tax relief, we're giving them
21 tax relief, but we're also making do on the services
22 that they all asked for.

23 So, Chairman, thank you for giving me
24 the little more than three minutes.

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I was just about to

1 gavel you, sir.

2 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Yes.

3 (Laughter.)

4 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: And I look
5 forward to the vote on Resolution #330-18.

6 Thank you, Chairman.

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you, County
8 Executive.

9 (Applause.)

10 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Before we take the
11 next speaker, I just would like to say, on behalf of
12 the Freeholder Board, everyone, all my colleagues
13 will touch on their points during their vote, but I
14 just want to say, as the Chairman of the Freeholder
15 Board, it was a pleasure to work with you, and David
16 did a great job. You know, you included us in
17 everything, and we appreciate that, and we are a part
18 of it, but it takes a leader, County Executive, and
19 you are our leader, and you've led since day one.
20 Probably one of the best things you did when you had
21 me replace you.

22 In all seriousness, you said from the
23 beginning that we had some kinks to work out, and
24 down the line we were going to be more responsible
25 and be more in tune with the residents of Bergen

1 County, and this is exactly what happened. So I'm
2 sure all my colleagues will comment under the vote,
3 but I personally want to say thank you for a job well
4 done. Thank you very much.

5 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay.

7 Joseph Dunsay.

8 MR. DUNSAY: Good evening.

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Good evening, sir.

10 MR. DUNSAY: Thanks.

11 I noticed with Resolution #322-18,
12 you're providing the dental care to inmates at the
13 Bergen County Jail.

14 I hope the patients living at the New
15 Bridge Medical Center also get dental care, because I
16 remember Bergen Regional did not provide that
17 service.

18 I came here to talk about another
19 example of how mad people can be silenced.

20 I had a friend who I met at the
21 Wellness Center back when it was On Our Own. He was
22 in a war torn country when he was a child, and his
23 family eventually ended up in New Jersey.

24 He always strove to take care of
25 himself and his family, and he did not see himself as

1 crazy, but he had a lot of struggles and he faced a
2 lot of discrimination there on account of his culture
3 being different and the way he looked being
4 different. And it reached a point where, after many
5 months on the street and bouncing back and forth
6 between couches and the shelter, he went last fall to
7 the newly opened Wellness Center and sat on the floor
8 and, you know, expressed his disdain for everyone
9 there. It was peaceful but unpleasant. And instead
10 of calling the police to have him removed from the
11 property, the manager decided to call an ambulance to
12 have him taken to the hospital. And I know you can
13 wash your hands of what the Wellness Center does, but
14 when someone gets taken to the hospital, 262-help,
15 you know, rubber stamps that process. And the
16 employees at the New Bridge Medical Center decided to
17 keep him for a couple of weeks, and his placement
18 plan involved sending him out-of-county, which would
19 have disrupted his family life very much.

20 He ended up crashing on my floor for a
21 few days when he got out, so he could try to figure
22 out a better system. But it's another example of how
23 instead of calling the cops and seeing it as just
24 what normal people do sometimes in difficult
25 situations, they called an ambulance so that they

1 could portray it as a biochemical problem, not a
2 situation, you know, an environmental problem or
3 desperate times or a problem with social interactions
4 in the way people were treating him.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thanks, Joe.

7 Paul Nickels.

8 MR. NICKELS: Good evening.

9 Paul Nickels.

10 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Good evening.

11 MR. NICKELS: Good to be back and see
12 you all.

13 I am going to be brief. I just wanted
14 to introduce a concept that you may have heard of in
15 other states, similar to Code Blue, it's called "Code
16 Red," and it's just like our heat thing. You know,
17 one thing that annoys me sometimes, and we all watch
18 TV, and you'll see New York City and even anywhere,
19 like on the regular mainstream media, you'll see, oh,
20 it's getting hot, bring your pets and care for your
21 elderly.

22 What about homeless?

23 So, just a concept to think about
24 maybe. Code Red is similar in a sense that like when
25 you have the heat wave thing, what is it, three days

1 with 90 degrees, and, you know, you open the cooling
2 centers, and I know the center does do stuff during
3 the day, but in the last few years, it's been getting
4 hot at night even sometimes for, you know, stretches
5 too. So just something to think about. And I know
6 New York does something, but they're a Right to
7 Shelter state, so they automatically, anytime someone
8 needs to go to the shelter, they can go there, the
9 center, or, you know, wherever, but, you know, a lot
10 of people that are homeless are on medications, and
11 medications and heat do not mix. I know when I go
12 out in the heat, I get very dizzy sometimes, I got to
13 drink a lot of water, and sometimes I just can't be
14 in the heat for too long. So it's just something
15 that we might want to think about.

16 It's nice to be back. I am so looking
17 forward to the next Care Fair. I'm hoping that every
18 spring, that will let me know it's springtime, that
19 there will be a Care Fair. Maybe we'll do it every
20 year. I still look at that video that I made, it
21 looked really cool. It was huge, and it's going to
22 be huger.

23 I'm really tired tonight. I have more
24 things to do, so I'll leave you, and thank you very
25 much.

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thanks, Paul.
2 Your haircut looks good, by the way.

3 MR. NICKELS: Oh, thank you. And
4 thanks for all your work on this budget.

5 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Kleidon Ndreu.

6 MR. NDREU: Those presentations were
7 amazing. I loved the County Executive's speech.

8 Thank you, sir.

9 What I came to talk about tonight was,
10 I'm at school. We've had an ongoing voter
11 registration drive, and we've gotten about 93
12 students registered, with some help from the Bergen
13 County Clerk. A wonderful visit from him. My
14 question that I have for you guys is: What are some
15 ways that we can increase voter turnout now? Because
16 I assume you've all run in elections.

17 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Yes.

18 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: That's a
19 good assumption.

20 MR. NDREU: I know the Governor signed
21 a motor voter law very recently, which might make the
22 process easier for registration. So, what are some
23 ways we can increase voter turnout numbers now?

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I don't think
25 you're going to have a hard time getting people out

1 in this election, but I guess the only way you can
2 increase that is through education. We continue to
3 post. We continue to try to get the word out. You
4 know, we send out press releases and all these kinds
5 of things. So, really, other than going to their
6 homes and taking them there, I don't know what else
7 you could do, but education in every aspect is always
8 the key.

9 MR. NDREU: Thank you. I appreciate
10 it.

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay.

12 Is there anyone else wishing to be
13 heard?

14 Oh, wait. Come on up.

15 MISS ESKE: Hello. I'm Annika Eske.
16 I'm part of the Bergen County Academies Environmental
17 Science Club. We all are.

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you for
19 coming.

20 MISS ESKE: And thank you for having
21 us.

22 Our goals are to help people attain a
23 healthier lifestyle and promote for a cleaner
24 environment.

25 We would just like to bring the issue

1 of single use plastic bags to your attention, these
2 plastic bags that are used all the time. Most people
3 are aware that they're detrimental to the
4 environment; however, while recycling and reusing
5 plastic bags is definitely a good start, and many
6 people do that, it's not nearly a good enough
7 solution, because the problem is not only the fact
8 that they end up as litter so frequently, which is
9 never a nice sight, but there also are emissions that
10 are released when these bags are manufactured.

11 So, as you'll hear, several towns in
12 Bergen County are already beginning to get onboard
13 with the idea of placing a \$0.05 charge on single use
14 plastic bags, in order to encourage the use of
15 alternatives, such as woven bags or canvas bags.

16 This type of single use plastic bag
17 charge is commonplace in many European countries
18 especially, as well as in many counties in the U.S.,
19 and there are also some statewide bans that have been
20 passed, such as in California. So we're just hoping
21 that you will join our cause and follow the example
22 recently set by, for example, Atlantic County, and
23 consider banning of plastic bags at county parks or
24 also bring this up in your own towns.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

2 MISS AL-SHEHAB: Good evening. I'm
3 Zareena Al-Shehab.

4 Many people ask us why we are aiming to
5 reduce the use of plastic bags in our communities.

6 So we have compiled a list of facts
7 that we thought are very surprising and have opened
8 our eyes to the damage that plastic bags have already
9 done to our environment.

10 Did you know that Americans use 100
11 billion plastic bags a year, which require 12 million
12 barrels of oil to manufacture? And it only takes
13 about 14 plastic bags for the equivalent of gas
14 required to drive one mile.

15 Target gives away enough plastic bags a
16 year to wrap around the earth seven times, and the
17 average American family takes home almost 1,500
18 plastic bags a year.

19 According to Waste Management, only one
20 percent of these plastic backs are returned for
21 recycle, and that means that the average family only
22 recycles 15 plastic bags a year; the rest end up in
23 landfills and as litter.

24 Up to 80 percent of ocean plastic
25 pollution enters the ocean from land, and at least

1 267 different species have already been affected by
2 plastic pollution in the ocean. 100,000 marine
3 animals are killed by plastic bags annually, and one
4 in three leatherback sea turtles have been found with
5 plastic bags in their stomachs. It takes 500 or more
6 years for plastic bags to degrade in our landfills,
7 and, unfortunately, they don't actually biodegrade
8 but they breakup into microplastics that absorb
9 toxins and continue to pollute the environment.

10 Two million plastic bags are used each
11 minute, meaning a trillion plastic bags are consumed
12 by the world in a year. So it's up to us, the
13 concerned youth of our generation, to put a stop to
14 this before plastic bags do even greater damage to
15 our environment.

16 If you have any questions, feel free to
17 email me.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

20 MISS MEMON: Hello. My name is Leena
21 Memon. I'm also a student at Bergen County
22 Academies, a freshman, and I'm part of the
23 environmental science club. I'm also a member of
24 Teaneck Girl Scout Troop 19, which, if you haven't
25 heard, last summer we convinced the Teaneck Town

1 Council to place a fee that is \$0.05 for every single
2 used plastic bag you buy at a Teaneck store.

3 So, you may wonder, after four years of
4 work doing the initiative in Teaneck, why am I back
5 again doing more plastic bags?

6 Well, it's simple. As mentioned
7 before, plastic bags don't completely decompose, they
8 just breakdown into microplastics, and they also
9 don't recycle easily. Even the one percent that you
10 put in the recycling bin at the store or in front of
11 your house for the recycling companies to pickup,
12 they don't always end up being recycled. They clog
13 up machines and end up as litter or in the landfill
14 anyway.

15 So this is why a ban or fee is
16 necessary. We need to reduce our use of plastic
17 bags. We hope that each and everyone of you try and
18 have similar legislation introduced in your town or
19 have a ban or fee on county parks here in Bergen
20 County, so together we can make an impact on our
21 environment.

22 Thank you.

23 MISS GAVRILOVA: Hello. My name is
24 Anna Gavrilova.

25 I'm also here to discuss the use of

1 single use plastic bags, and I'm going to
2 specifically focus on the impact that it has on the
3 economy.

4 The use of single use plastic bags
5 poses a significant threat to the environment, and so
6 we know that measures need to be taken in order to
7 decrease their use.

8 We have spoken with several businesses
9 throughout Bergen County to gain an understanding of
10 their opinions of how a \$0.05 charge would impact
11 their business, and, to this question, the manager of
12 Jack Rabbit in Ridgewood has stated, "I don't see how
13 it would affect our business in anyway."

14 In addition, after the ban of single
15 use plastic bags in Rye, New York, a Rye Country
16 Store manager has stated, "We didn't have a decrease
17 in customers, and I think more people are happy to
18 help the environment," proving that this ban should
19 not affect business. In fact, also jurisdictions in
20 San Jose and San Francisco, which are locations where
21 plastic bags have been put to a ban, have reported no
22 sustained negative impact on local retailers after
23 implementing the charge.

24 So, with the ban of single use plastic
25 bags not posing a threat to business, and with

1 several cities globally and like in the United States
2 having begun to enforce \$0.05 charges on single use
3 plastic bags to save the environment against the
4 negative effects of them, we ask for your help now to
5 help us basically bring it out and put the \$0.05
6 charge to help our generation and the future
7 generations to come.

8 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you very
9 much.

10 How old are you guys?

11 MISS GAVRILOVA: 14.

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: You're all freshmen
13 in high school?

14 MISS GAVRILOVA: I'm a sophomore.

15 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: First I want to say
16 thank you for having the courage to come up here and
17 talk to us. We really appreciate it. So thank you
18 very much.

19 (Applause.)

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Is there anyone
21 else wishing to be heard?

22 Seeing none, may I have a motion to
23 close the meeting to the public?

24 FREEHOLDER GANZ: 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 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Carried.
7 The meeting is now closed to the
8 public.

9 RESOLUTIONS OF UNANIMOUS CONSENT

10 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Will the Clerk
11 please read the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

12 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Resolutions of Consent
13 are: #293-18 through #329-18, #331-18, #332-18
14 through #384-18.

15 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
16 to accept the resolutions on the Consent Agenda as
17 read by the Clerk?

18 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

19 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: 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: Roll call.

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

4 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Seven ayes for the
5 Consent Agenda.

6 RESOLUTIONS OF NONCONSENT

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Are there any
8 resolutions of Nonconsent, pulled, postponed or
9 tabled?

10 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, there is.

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: If so, would the
12 Clerk please read them.

13 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, there is. There's
14 one Resolution of Nonconsent, that's Resolution
15 #330-18, the resolution authorizing the introduction
16 of the 2018 budget.

17 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Before we vote on
18 this, is there any Freeholder who would like to speak
19 on this resolution?

20 Freeholder Tanelli.

21 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Thank you,
22 Chairman.

23 So, there's a lot of people to thank.

24 First of all, thank you, Freeholder
25 Ganz, for chairing the Budget Committee.

1 My colleagues, for the time and effort
2 that was put in going line-by-line on the budget.

3 I just want to build a little bit on
4 what the County Executive said earlier. The fact
5 that he's only mentioning the one accomplishment,
6 although it's a monumental accomplishment and it's
7 something that will, you know, 20 years from now,
8 like he mentioned, we're still going to be talking
9 about, what I want to focus on is I want to focus on
10 the work that's been done and the groundwork that's
11 been done and laid because of your leadership and
12 your efforts with the Department Heads, with the
13 County Administrator, and this Freeholder Board, that
14 has now set the groundwork where these budgets now
15 are coming in responsibly to the county. It's not by
16 accident that we're sitting here again tonight with
17 not only a budget that does not increase taxes but
18 actually a budget that's less than, that we're giving
19 them a reduction. That fact is not going to go
20 unnoticed by myself, and I know my colleagues won't
21 let it go unnoticed as well, but this didn't just
22 happen by accident, this was the groundwork that you
23 hit the ground running when you took over, the
24 realignment of departments to make them more
25 efficient. I mean, I could rattle off 50 things right

1 off the top of my head that we've done, that you've
2 done that have put this county in good financial
3 stead for not just last year and this year, but for
4 years to come. So I don't want you to just continue
5 to tell people that it's all about New Bridge Medical
6 Center, I want you to make sure you tell them about
7 all the other things that you've now set in place for
8 this county to thrive in years to come.

9 So, I will be obviously voting yes on
10 this budget. I know that my colleagues will have
11 individual things they wanted to say, but I think
12 it's very important to realize how we got here, not
13 just through the budget process, but all the steps
14 that were taken to put this county in the position
15 it's in now.

16 So thank you very much, County
17 Executive.

18 Thank you, Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
20 Freeholder.

21 Freeholder Zur, would you like to add
22 anything?

23 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Thank you,
24 Chairman.

25 You know, when I ran for office

1 initially, we talked about budgeting being a
2 description of priorities, that a budget reflect our
3 priorities, and this budget that we're going to vote
4 on tonight, I think, really does reflect the
5 priorities of all of us on this Board and this
6 administration, because not only are we delivering a
7 tax reduction, not only are we being great fiscal
8 stewards for the resident of Bergen County, but we
9 are making sure that we meet the needs, that we are
10 providing for the safety of our roads, the safety of
11 our law enforcement and first responders and
12 communities in general. We're providing for
13 increases in education and veterans services, job
14 skill creation, economic development, and we're doing
15 this because we've really held the line on our costs.
16 We've really made sure that we're delivering more for
17 less; that we're delivering efficiencies. And
18 that's, in part, by making sure we have cuts in
19 prescription drugs, and making sure that we had more
20 shared services and more savings in interest. These
21 are all of the nuts and bolts that came together
22 under Chairman Ganz's strong leadership on the
23 budget, and the administration and the County
24 Executive's leadership to really make sure that we
25 delivered a good budget, but, more importantly,

1 delivered good services for the residents of Bergen
2 County. I couldn't be more proud of what we have
3 accomplished in this budget process, but, really,
4 over the last four years, to make sure that we're
5 poised to deliver even better going forward for the
6 residents of Bergen County.

7 Thank very much, Chairman.

8 Thank you, County Executive.

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
10 Freeholder.

11 Freeholder Amoroso, would you like to
12 say a few words?

13 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Yes. Thank you,
14 Chairman.

15 We are all proud of this budget, and we
16 are proud to have worked with the County Executive
17 under the expert guidance of Chairman Ganz. No tax
18 increase, that's a great thing to be able to say.
19 And we did this while funding and celebrating the
20 priorities that define us: Education, mental health,
21 those with disabilities, veterans, keeping up the
22 fight on the opioid epidemic, and, as County
23 Executive Tedesco said, helping those who really need
24 the help, that's what county government can do.

25 A lot of this budget was about

1 streamlining and efficiencies.

2 County Counsel developed a strategy to
3 maximize our in-house legal staff and minimize long,
4 drawn out legal back and forth that doesn't result in
5 much, except expenditures.

6 Our financial guys went back through
7 the old books to find unused bonding that we could
8 apply to new projects. We centralized and
9 rationalized things like printing and advertising, IT
10 and the phone system, all little nuts and bolts that
11 keep county government running and that costs money.

12 We are not tax and spend. We are
13 hold-the-line on taxes and still spend wisely to do
14 good for our constituents, our municipalities, and
15 our community organizations.

16 Thank you.

17 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Here, here.

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
19 Freeholder Amoroso.

20 Freeholder Vice Chair Ortiz, would you
21 like to say anything?

22 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Sure.

23 Thank you, Chairman.

24 I'd first like to thank Freeholder
25 Ganz. Thank you for leading us. This was definitely

1 a nice, smooth budget. What I appreciate most of our
2 budget hearings, and I know they're long and tedious,
3 but we get to not only do our due diligence and go
4 line-by-line, but we get to speak to the Department
5 Heads, have them update us in all their departments
6 and educate us in all their initiatives and their
7 goals. So it's an education process at the same
8 time, and yet we can do all our due diligence. And
9 this did not happen overnight, this was a four-year
10 commitment to bring a budget that we have today.

11 I have to thank you very much, County
12 Executive, to your administration, to my colleagues
13 and all of us that worked together to bring a budget,
14 not only a budget that there's no increase, but also
15 preserving and enhancing existing services to our
16 most vulnerable. And especially education, I'm very
17 happy to see the college back to where it is, and to
18 all of our mental health and our opioid epidemic.

19 And, like you said before, this team
20 works together, and that's why we have progress, and
21 I really look forward to all the years to come.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
24 Freeholder Ortiz.

25 Freeholder Dr. Voss.

1 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you, Chairman.
2 This budget was very well thought out
3 and very well executed. And, Chairman Ganz, this was
4 what, your 12th budget? And so we had very good
5 leadership.

6 But my passion in life is education,
7 and I think tonight, right in this chamber, you have
8 seen the fruits of our labor. Those young ladies who
9 spoke last, sophomores and freshmen, so articulate,
10 so well informed -- I mean, I just can't tell you how
11 pleased I am -- and the young ladies who also were
12 the producers of films. These are the product of our
13 Bergen County Academies. We have so much more. We
14 have the vo-tech school in Teterboro. We have the
15 vocational school in Paramus. These are schools that
16 are training kids for viable careers. And God bless
17 all of the teachers at the special needs school,
18 because those children are going to need a lot of
19 care in the future.

20 I think most of us went to a luncheon
21 at Bergen Community College, which is the gem of
22 Bergen County and the gem of all the community
23 colleges. And here I think they have 167 programs,
24 all of which are designed to prepare people for jobs.

25 I'm so proud. As I said, I'm

1 passionate about education and I'm passionate about
2 telling the people of Bergen County what wonderful
3 things our County Executive is doing to make life
4 better.

5 I want to make sure that everyone knows
6 about the Care Fair, which is May 6th. Because when
7 I speak to people, so many people don't know the
8 services that are available to us, and so it's sort
9 of our job to educate. So, from my perspective,
10 education is everything, and educate the people in
11 your school about how important it is to vote. And,
12 as I said, education is the key to everything.

13 Thank you, Chairman.

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

15 Freeholder Ganz, do you want to speak
16 on this?

17 FREEHOLDER GANZ: I'm going to say very
18 little.

19 It occurred to me that I --

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: You're going to
21 speak on the budget?

22 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Only on the budget?

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Correct, we're on
24 the budget right now.

25 FREEHOLDER GANZ: I'm going to speak

1 only on the budget, Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Are you in that
3 photo?

4 FREEHOLDER GANZ: I'm in there.
5 Amazing that I'm in that picture that was taken
6 50 years ago. It's what the budget is all about.

7 Most importantly, I want to say how
8 important each and every Freeholder was and each and
9 every Freeholder aide was to the budgetary process,
10 and the administration as well. This was not a
11 singular effort of one person, one man, one woman.
12 This was an effort that was made by everyone who
13 participated in the process. I know that you didn't
14 want to get up for an 8:00 a.m. meeting.

15 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: No.

16 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Believe me, I know
17 that.

18 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Talk to Joan about
19 that.

20 FREEHOLDER GANZ: I didn't want to do
21 it either, and I didn't want to go to the evening
22 meetings, and for a while I thought we would have to
23 have Saturday and Sunday meetings as well.

24 This wasn't about having back-to-back
25 no budget increase, this is about the philosophy of

1 Jim Tedesco, which is going to set policy for a
2 generation. I'm very proud to be part of this team,
3 and that's actually all I have to say, Chairman,
4 about the budget.

5 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
6 Freeholder Ganz.

7 I will say thank you to you once again.
8 Thank you for running a smooth ship during the budget
9 hearings. I want to thank everyone that was involved
10 in the budget: Our Administrator, Julien Neals, who
11 did a great job; Mike Bellucci; Joe Luppino.

12 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you.
13 I forgot to say that.

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I got your back,
15 Jim. No problem.

16 Of course, the County Executive, I mean
17 we're delivering a zero budget, but I think people
18 need to realize it's a second year in a row where the
19 tax rate is not increasing. Obviously, this is a
20 culmination of the work that we started when we all
21 got together four years ago. We did all of this, and
22 we still were able to increase spending on mental
23 health education and addiction services, things that
24 really affect the quality of life in Bergen County.

25 So, we maintain what we do and add to

1 it, and yet we don't add to the tax increase, and
2 that's because we do a lot of other things. We do
3 shared services. We renegotiate contracts. We
4 renegotiate the bonds that are out. I mean, again,
5 like this was said already, it's not an accident,
6 these things happen for a reason, and the reason is
7 that this Freeholder Board, with the leadership of
8 our County Executive and our Freeholder Chairman of
9 the Board for the budget, along with everyone up
10 here, really takes it seriously, and we couldn't have
11 asked for better professionals that we've added
12 throughout the years. This guy sitting right next to
13 me is a phenomenal, phenomenal guy. We all know how
14 intelligent he is. And it's great to have people
15 like that guiding you through the process, but he'll
16 be the first to tell you that it's a team, it's not
17 just him, it's not Jim, it's not us, it's a team.
18 And the best part that I like about the way we work
19 together is, the County Executive said a lot of times
20 we have the same ideas, we do have the same ideas, a
21 lot of times we don't though, but we work together to
22 come to something that needs to be done for the
23 county in the best interests of the county. So even
24 if we don't have the same ideas, we have the same
25 goal. And how we go about getting there, we make

1 sure we get there for the residents of Bergen County.
2 This isn't about us, this isn't about anyone other
3 than the residents of Bergen County.

4 So, I thank my Freeholder colleagues,
5 all the staff that was involved, the County
6 Executive, and that's why I will be voting in favor
7 of a zero budget. I don't know how anyone could vote
8 against it, but I will certainly cast my vote in the
9 positive.

10 Thank you.

11 One other thing. The last thing I did
12 forget, County Executive, is, another reason that
13 we're able to do what we do, we have a five-year look
14 ahead plan for capital improvements, something that
15 you gave to us. And without that, we really don't
16 know where we're going, but when we have an idea of
17 where we're spending the money five years down the
18 line, it helps us put together a budget that is
19 responsible and that works for the residents, so
20 thank you for that, sir.

21 Okay. Anyone else have anything else
22 to add?

23 Julien?

24 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: Well, just
25 briefly, and it's been said, but the County

1 Executive, first and foremost, vision. And I think a
2 lot of people take it for granted that there's not
3 vision in government, but I think what this body, and
4 I say this "governing body," meaning the Freeholders
5 and the County Executive, should really take a lot of
6 pride in is that the vision has always been what is
7 truly in the best interests of the taxpayers, and,
8 literally, putting your money where your mouth is by
9 the benefits that we've seen, the advancements we've
10 made, the revenues we've been able to bring in. This
11 year's a culmination of a reinvestment in the
12 taxpayer to see the benefit of that. We didn't
13 squirrel it away for future years to show some
14 artificial fruits or success, but where the taxpayer
15 can actually walk away from it and feel it in their
16 pocket and show that government is actually working
17 for them, and that zero there is clearly evidence of
18 that. And I just say, another point the Chairman
19 made, it is truly a team effort, but the team always
20 needs a leader and a visionary, and thank you for
21 that. It's been a pleasure just to be a part of it,
22 and it's going to be exciting just to see where we go
23 from here.

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

25 Can the camera just zoom in on that

1 zero real quick for everyone to see at home? Can
2 anyone get that?

3 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: This is a
4 masterpiece.

5 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Look at that, this
6 is what we're introducing tonight for the residents
7 of Bergen County.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a roll
10 call on #330-18, please.

11 MR. FLORIO: You need a motion and a
12 sponsor, a sponsor and a second.

13 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: I would love to
14 make the motion to move the budget.

15 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: I'll second it.

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

17 (All present Freeholders respond in the
18 affirmative.)

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Now a roll call.

20 Thank you.

21 (At this point in the proceeding roll
22 call is taken and Resolution #330-18 is passed by a
23 unanimous vote.)

24 MS. RODRIGUEZ: That would be seven
25 yeses.

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Are there any
4 resolutions pulled, postponed or tabled?

5 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, Resolution
6 #335-18. It was a resolution that was a duplicate
7 from a prior meeting.

8 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

9 COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM FREEHOLDERS

10 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We'll now have
11 Freeholder Committee Reports. I'm sure there's maybe
12 one or two other things we'd like to add.

13 Freeholder Tanelli, why don't you go
14 first. Do you have anything?

15 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Thank you,
16 Chairman.

17 So, just a few quick things.

18 One is, last Sunday I attended North
19 Arlington's Access for All. It was the third annual
20 Light it up Blue event. I know this Board is really
21 proud of the work that's been done by the County
22 Executive and this Board with the Stigma-Free Zones
23 and the Access for All committees that have opened up
24 in many, many municipalities in Bergen County.

25 So it's really great to be invited to

1 these events and celebrate with the individuals, as
2 they raise money and awareness for autism. So it was
3 a great event, very well attended.

4 The only other thing is, I just wanted
5 to mention #308-18 and #309-18, two resolutions where
6 we received some Green Acres funding to pretty much
7 come close to completing Overpeck County Park. Those
8 renovations needed to be finished so some of those
9 areas that were not accessible hopefully some day
10 will be accessible.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

13 Freeholder Zur.

14 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Thank you,
15 Chairman.

16 Many of you know that I am terrified of
17 heights, yet last week I managed to repel down a
18 building to raise awareness for autism.

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: And I have it on
20 film!

21 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: It was one of
22 the scariest things I've ever done, but kids with
23 autism overcome far bigger challenges every single
24 day. Alpine Learning Group does tremendous work, and
25 I was really pleased to raise money for autism, and

1 also I was really touched by the support of my
2 colleagues on this Board and the many people who
3 encouraged me to overcome this fear. I know now I
4 can check that off the bucket list and never do that
5 again.

6 Next week, as we all vote on a
7 resolution for autism awareness and we also -- are we
8 lighting the building blue this year?

9 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Yes.

10 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Yes, we are.

11 As we also are lighting this building
12 up blue, it's important for us to realize that
13 there's a lot of work that still needs to be done to
14 provide services for those uniquely abled in our
15 community.

16 That being said, right now we are also
17 accepting Project Search applications at
18 www.BergenWorkforce.org/ProjectSearch. It is an
19 opportunity for young adults with disabilities to
20 have unique internship opportunities immersed in a
21 work environment where they get portable job skills.
22 So, if you or someone you know is looking for an
23 amazing experience, this is the time to get it into
24 your IEP, this is the time to make it into your
25 applications.

1 FREEHOLDER GANZ: What is the email
2 address again?

3 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: It is
4 BergenWorkforce.org/ProjectSearch.

5 There were two people who were honored
6 this week that I just want to bring attention to.

7 Freeholder Voss was honored at the New
8 Milford Education Foundation, well deserved for her
9 lifetime advocacy for education.

10 My parents were honored this weekend by
11 Temple Emanuel in Woodcliff Lake for their lifetime
12 of leadership and community service. It certainly
13 was something fed to me with my Wheaties of the need
14 to give back to our community and build the community
15 stronger. So I was very proud of them and proud of
16 their acknowledgment, and, you know, it was really a
17 meaningful experience for our family.

18 And, this morning we were at the
19 Bergenfield Senior Center thanking all the volunteers
20 at the appreciation breakfast.

21 We have a lot of volunteers, as we saw
22 here this evening for the Animal Shelter. There are
23 so many people who really enhance the services that
24 we provide here in Bergen County, and we all need to
25 say thank you to them on a daily basis.

1 And also one thing I forgot to say
2 during the budget presentations. I want to thank
3 every single Division Head and Department Head who
4 came before us. County Administrator, you paired a
5 great team in giving us all the information and
6 providing all the details. We asked hundreds of
7 questions, requiring a lot of backup information.
8 They really not only explained it to us, but were
9 passionate about the work they are doing on behalf of
10 the residents of Bergen County. So please pass along
11 our gratitude for their role in this process.

12 And that's the end of my committee
13 report.

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All right. Thank
15 you.

16 Freeholder Amoroso.

17 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Okay. Well,
18 again, applause to our wonderful Freeholder, Dr. Joan
19 Voss. We were there for her award from the New
20 Milford Education Foundation, and, you know, she is
21 the teacher to all of us and can speak on any topic
22 at the drop of a hat, which is wonderful.

23 Also, Freeholder Ortiz and I were there
24 when we saw Freeholder Zur at the top of a six-story
25 building with a harness around her, you know, the

1 fear in our hearts, but she did it. She got down and
2 helped to promote autism awareness.

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: She said you were
4 doing it next year.

5 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Yeah, right.

6 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Joan too.

7 FREEHOLDER VOSS: I'll go with you,
8 Mary.

9 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Today we went to
10 the Northwest Bergen Senior Center to commend all the
11 many volunteers up there. Our senior centers are
12 such wonderful places and everybody's happy, I guess,
13 when they're having their lunch, unless they're there
14 to complain about too much salt in the meat or
15 something. And among the volunteers was a woman who
16 teaches line dancing, so we'll have to get her in
17 after the budget for us.

18 Also, I want to point out that Paul
19 Aronsohn of Ridgewood, he was just named New Jersey's
20 Disabilities Ombudsman. And as Dr. Voss said, Bergen
21 County Care Fair is coming so soon, May 6, 225
22 exhibitors expected, maybe 1,300 or more attendees,
23 and it's a way of marketing all of the services
24 provided both by Bergen County, our community
25 organizations, and our hospitals.

1 That's my report.

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
3 Freeholder.

4 Freeholder Vice Chair Ortiz.

5 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
6 Chairman.

7 I'm also going to discuss, Bergen
8 Community College last week had a lot of events on
9 the 12th. They are celebrating their 50th
10 anniversary at the college, and we started the
11 morning with some of our colleagues. They had the
12 Asian American presentation, and our keynote speaker
13 was our very own Attorney General Grewal. He gave
14 quite an inspirational speech, and he was
15 unbelievable. So sad to see him go, but yet an asset
16 to the State of New Jersey.

17 After that, Bergen Community College
18 had a legislative lunch. There were many mayors and
19 we had different legislators throughout the county
20 and the state that came to visit the college. We had
21 presentations by the president of the Council of
22 Community Colleges, Dr. Aaron Fichtner, and we also
23 had a presentation by our president, Dr. Redmond.
24 And they discussed, like Joe said, 167 programs. And
25 we were lucky enough to have a delicious meal

1 prepared by the students of the culinary school there
2 at the college, and then we also got a very nice tour
3 of the school, because it was also their open house
4 for all the students and the parents. So I'm very
5 proud of the college, and if you still haven't bought
6 your tickets, tomorrow is the gala for the
7 scholarships, I'm sure there's still some available,
8 at the Venetian, tomorrow 6:00, if you can make it.

9 I also attended the Northwest Senior
10 Center, and it was just so nice to see so many
11 volunteers, because they are truly the heart of the
12 center, because they could not function without them.
13 Andrea and Melissa, the director and her assistant,
14 they do just an unbelievable job. I always enjoy
15 going to our senior centers.

16 I think that's a wrap.

17 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
18 Freeholder.

19 Freeholder Voss, anything you would
20 like to add?

21 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Absolutely.

22 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: One more.

23 I just wanted to say, you could be the
24 new spider girl, Tracy.

25 And congratulations, Joan.

1 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you so much.

2 As many people know, I'm an animal
3 lover. Deb Yankow, from the Bergen County Animal
4 Shelter, does a fantastic job. I can't tell you how
5 wonderful. And there were so many volunteers here
6 this evening, and she said, "We actually have twice
7 as many."

8 A lot of these volunteers are foster
9 parents, until we can adopt out. And we had
10 one-day-old kittens here that this young lady was
11 nursing with baby bottles and stuff. And so my
12 advice to you, I have five cats, and if you don't
13 want to take tranquilizers, if you don't want to take
14 pills for anxiety, get a cat or a dog, but cats are
15 the best tranquilizer in the world.

16 I was very much taken aback when I got
17 a phone call a couple of months ago that the New
18 Milford Education Foundation, which is just a newly
19 formed organization, asked me to be their
20 Humanitarian of the Year. And I went wow! And it
21 was because of, well, several years ago, one of their
22 teachers, Colleen Cambusco and I were on the first
23 committee to write Holocaust education curriculum for
24 the state, and she still is taking tours for the
25 Holocaust education program. She's on her 18th at

1 this point in time. The State of New Jersey mandates
2 Holocaust education. The other person who nominated
3 me was a young man who ran against me for Freeholder
4 last year, Ray Cottiers. I was like wow! And I
5 said, "Good politician." And it was a really
6 wonderful event. Thank you, my colleagues, for
7 coming, because, you know, I always say I get by with
8 the help of my friends. They have a wonderful
9 superintendent out there, Mike Polizzi. All the
10 schools are really starting to pay attention to
11 vo-tech education, which is a passion of mine.

12 Just as an aside, Barbara Bush passed
13 away the other day, and her big thing as first lady
14 was literacy. And I have to say, I'm very much
15 involved with Project Literacy, which is teaching
16 adults to read, because in Bergen County we have over
17 100,000 adults who really don't read or don't read
18 well. So, this is only for adults.

19 Reading opens up the world to you. And
20 our mission in life is to educate everybody as much
21 and as often as we can.

22 On a personal note, I have to thank the
23 Fort Lee Volunteer Fire Department. Jimmy, these
24 firemen saved me literally on Monday. We had very
25 bad rainstorm, and I have a large house which is

1 built on rock. I went down at 8:00 in the morning
2 and literally waterfalls of water were coming through
3 the cement block of my house because the ground was
4 saturated, it had no place to go and it was gushing
5 in. And this is not the first time, this is the
6 worst time. And I've never called 911 in my life,
7 ever, ever, ever. And I called and I said, "I can't
8 stop the water from coming in."

9 Well, lo and behold, three fire engines
10 and 10 firemen -- most of whom I taught -- came to my
11 house to rescue me. They literally saved my house,
12 because I've never seen anything like this happen.
13 So when they said warning, flood alert, remember, we
14 get floods in New Jersey. So I just want to thank
15 the Fort Lee Volunteer Fire Department for saving me.

16 Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
18 Freeholder Voss.

19 Budget Chairman Ganz.

20 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Believe it or not, I
21 don't have a lot to say.

22 I just want to say, however, what a
23 pleasure it was to work with each of the Freeholders,
24 the staff, Mr. Bellucci, County Administrator. These
25 are the people who made the budget possible and who,

1 frankly, did the bulk of the work. I'm not saying I
2 wasn't there at 8:00, I was.

3 That's all I have to say.

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you, sir.

5 I don't want to rehash everything that
6 was said here, just thank you everyone again for the
7 work on the budget. We all worked together, and we
8 all worked for the residents in the county.

9 The county has also entered into a
10 shared service agreement with the Borough of East
11 Rutherford on a construction project in the borough
12 on Carlton Avenue. A large grant was awarded for the
13 project, with the county and East Rutherford
14 splitting a small remainder. Taxpayers are again
15 saving money while repairing infrastructure. This is
16 what we do here everyday. This is why we're
17 successful at what we do. These are the reasons, as
18 I stated before, how we help not only the county
19 portion of the tax bill but the municipal portion.
20 So all the residents should really be aware and
21 really speak to your mayors and councils. You know,
22 we offer many shared services, please get onboard.

23 I want to congratulate Joe Lagana, who
24 was sworn in in District 38. Joe is a friend, and
25 Joe has done a great job and he will make a

1 want to congratulate your parents, who are just
2 wonderful members of the community, on their award,
3 well deserved. So, you know, my best to them. They
4 raised a couple of good kids as well.

5 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: So congratulations
7 on that.

8 I wasn't here for the Work Session
9 tonight where you honored some heroes. They pulled
10 people out of a fire in Edgewater. I just want to
11 say on the record thank you to them. We need more
12 people in the world like these individuals, who
13 didn't even think about it, but just jumped into a
14 fire to help others. It's just an extraordinary
15 thing to do. I just want to say thank you to them.

16 Then the last thing I wanted to do is
17 congratulate my daughter, Jadyn, who struck out 13
18 today in Pascack Hills.

19 (Applause.)

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: She takes after her
21 father. And she also had a double. But I want to
22 thank her and her team who did a wonderful job today
23 in securing their fourth victory here.

24 And that concludes my Freeholder
25 report.

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Thank you.

Is there anything else?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I'll take a motion
to adjourn.

FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

(All present Freeholders respond in the
affirmative.)

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Motion carried.

Thank you.

Meeting adjourned.

(Whereupon the Public Meeting is
adjourned at 9:12 p.m.)

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