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BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021
COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

COMMISSIONERS 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 VIRTUALLY:

LARA RODRIGUEZ
CLERK TO THE BOARD

JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQUIRE
ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQUIRE
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

MICHAEL SHEINFELD
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

JAMES A. DARLEY
AIDE TO CHAIRMAN TANELLI

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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HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The meeting is
2 called to order at 7:00 p.m.

3 I ask everyone to please take a second
4 to put your phone on vibrate.

5 Would the Clerk please read the Sen.
6 Byron Baer Open Public Meetings Act.

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

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

20 ROLL CALL

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

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

1 Chairman Tanelli present.)

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: So I would be remiss
3 if I didn't mention that that was probably the first
4 roll call we've done through the entire pandemic that
5 nobody was on mute.

6 Evidently a quorum is present.

7 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

8 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Would you please
9 rise for the Pledge.

10 Dr. Voss, would you please lead us.

11 COMMISSIONER VOSS: Thank you.

12 Please join me in honoring America.

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

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

17 COVID STATISTICAL UPDATE AND CLAP-OUT

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Some COVID
19 statistics and updates.

20 We recognize the passing of 25,206
21 residents of the State of New Jersey, 2,801 from
22 Bergen County. 983,875 individuals in the State of
23 New Jersey have tested positive; 98,913 of those
24 individuals reside in Bergen County.

25 As always, we are humbled by the

1 efforts of the medical community, first responders,
2 essential workers, and the educational community.

3 Please join me in a clap-out for all of
4 those who do so much for so many.

5 [APPLAUSE]

6 BERGEN COUNTY VETERAN OF THE WEEK

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. So tonight I
8 would like to recognize and honor Bergen County
9 Veteran of the Week recipient, Yahaira Padilla.

10 Jahaira is an Army veteran, who served
11 almost 15 years of active duty during her service.
12 She had multiple overseas assignments, including one
13 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She achieved
14 the rank of staff sergeant and served as a 12Y
15 Geospatial Engineer.

16 Currently, Mr. Padilla works as
17 executive assistant to the Director of Bergen County
18 Veterans Services. She is responsible for
19 coordinating and organizing outreach events, such as
20 the Military Appreciation Month ceremony, the PTSD
21 Awareness Seminar, and the POW/MIA Recognition Day
22 ceremony.

23 Her dedication is one of the reasons
24 that the Division of Veterans Services continues to
25 excel in its excellent level of service to almost

1 30,000 veterans that call Bergen County home.

2 She has previously served on the New
3 Jersey SOS Veterans Stakeholder Women's Subcommittee,
4 an organization which champions to get more
5 healthcare access to female veterans, and was
6 instrumental in advocating for New Jersey Assembly
7 Joint Resolution 183, which as of 2019 designates
8 June 12th as Women Veterans Appreciation Day in New
9 Jersey.

10 For her hard work and community
11 advocacy, she was a Woman Veteran Honoree at the 37th
12 Annual QuikCheck New Jersey Festival of Ballooning.

13 Thank you for your service to our
14 country and for continuing to serve the people of
15 Bergen County.

16 We don't need to ask to have her
17 brought in, she's already in. It's very nice to see
18 you again.

19 MS. PADILLA: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We all, as a board,
21 would like to thank you for your dedication and for
22 your service to our country and now to the residents
23 and veterans of Bergen County.

24 MS. PADILLA: Thank you so much.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I'm going to ask you

1 to stay on with us, because we also have a resolution
2 tonight.

3 COMMISSIONER RESOLUTIONS

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: At this time we'd
5 like to highlight two resolutions from tonight's
6 agenda.

7 I make a motion to place Resolutions
8 #300-21 and #299-21 on nonconsent.

9 May I have a second, please?

10 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

12 All in favor?

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

15 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it.

18 Okay. So our first nonconsent
19 resolution is #300-21. It's in recognition of the
20 Month of the Military Child.

21 Would Commissioner Ortiz please present
22 the resolution.

23 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Resolution #300-21
24 is in recognition of the Month of the Military Child.

25 April marks the Month of the Military

1 Child, a month in which we acknowledge the strength
2 and tenacity of military children.

3 From a young age, children of service
4 members endure untold hardships. They face long
5 separations from their parents. They spend holidays
6 and key moments apart from their brave heroes as they
7 serve to keep our nation safe.

8 For many career service members, their
9 children change schools up to nine times between
10 kindergarten and high school graduation. With each
11 move, they grapple with difficult goodbyes and the
12 challenge of making new friends.

13 It is for this reason that tonight we
14 pass Resolution #300-21 to celebrate the Month of the
15 Military Child in Bergen County. It is the Board's
16 small way of showing our appreciation for military
17 children, who support their brave parents during the
18 most difficult of times.

19 On tonight with us is Bergen County
20 Veteran of the Week recipient, Yahaira Padilla, a
21 brave service member who served in Iraq and the
22 mother of a military child.

23 Thank you, Yahaira.

24 MS. PADILLA: Thank you. You're
25 welcome.

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Would you like to
2 address the Board at all? If not, we can just move
3 to pass the resolution.

4 MS. PADILLA: No, I'm good. Thank
5 you.

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: It's nice having you
7 with us so we can personally congratulate you and
8 personally thank you for your service.

9 MS. PADILLA: Thank you so much.

10 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: May I have a motion
12 to accept Resolution #300-21?

13 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: So moved.

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

15 May I have a second?

16 How about Body of the Whole?

17 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Yes.

18 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Call the roll,
21 please.

22 (At this point in the proceeding roll
23 call is taken and Resolution #300-21 is passed by a
24 unanimous vote.)

25 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: #300-21 passes

1 unanimously.

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, Madam
3 Clerk.

4 Our second nonconsent resolution,
5 Resolution #299-21, is in recognition of Sexual
6 Assault Awareness Month.

7 Would Commissioner Amoroso please
8 present the resolution.

9 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Thank you,
10 Chairman.

11 Every 73 seconds, an American is
12 sexually assaulted. We may think first of the rapist
13 as a stranger, but as the MeToo movement has made
14 amply clear, people are assaulted and harassed by
15 those who have power over them, at work, in social
16 settings, at home, in the military.

17 Kids are sexually assaulted by those in
18 positions of trust: Parents, stepparents, coaches,
19 ministers, counselors. People are assaulted when
20 their ability to give consent is diminished and
21 someone takes advantage of them.

22 Most, but not all, of the victims are
23 female. One out of every six American women will be
24 the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her
25 lifetime.

1 Our heightened consciousness has
2 coincided with the drop in cases. The number of
3 assaults has declined by half since 1993.

4 Even so, only five out of every 1,000
5 rapists will end up in prison. It is our
6 responsibility, as government leaders, to shine light
7 on the very real and prevalent phenomenon of sexual
8 assault, to believe and support victims, and connect
9 them to legal, medical, and psychological services,
10 and to educate, especially our young people, that you
11 have the right to say no at every stage and no means
12 no.

13 Chairman, I would like to place for a
14 vote and move our resolution memorializing Sexual
15 Assault Awareness Month.

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
17 Commissioner.

18 And those numbers are staggering, to
19 say the least. So if it's okay with everyone, we'll
20 do second as a Body of the Whole.

21 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the
23 roll.

24 (At this point in the proceeding roll
25 call is taken and Resolution #299-21 is passed by a

1 unanimous vote.)

2 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With seven yeases,
3 #299-21 passes unanimously.

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

5 HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I move we open the
7 meeting to the public.

8 May I have a second?

9 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
11 Commissioner Sullivan.

12 We will now have the Hearing of the
13 General Public, with a three-minute time limit in
14 effect, in accordance with the Bergen County
15 Commissioner bylaws.

16 Those members of the public who would
17 like to participate during the public comment, please
18 look to the bottom of your screen and click the icon
19 that reads "Q&A."

20 On the screen that pops up, provide
21 your full name, your municipality, and the topic you
22 wish to discuss.

23 Would the counselor please explain the
24 process by which the public will be recognized.

25 MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Chairman.

1 A member of the public who is
2 recognized to speak by the Chair will be prompted to
3 unmute and a chat box will appear, which will allow
4 you to unmute yourself.

5 After you've unmuted, please spell your
6 name and say the town where you live. You'll have
7 three minutes to speak.

8 After three minutes, the host will
9 unmute you.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
11 counselor.

12 Is there anyone wishing to speak?

13 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, at this time,
14 Jon Moscow wishes to speak.

15 John, before you speak, please spell
16 your first and last name for the record and state
17 where you live. Thank you.

18 MR. MOSCOW: Yes. Hi.

19 My name is Jon, J-O-N, Moscow,
20 M-O-S-C-O-W, and I live in Teaneck. I'm also the
21 co-chair of the Northern New Jersey Sanctuary
22 Coalition.

23 I want to speak again, as I have in the
24 past, to ask some questions about the ICE contract at
25 the jail and to respectfully ask that the Board

1 members, Commissioners respond, because it's very
2 disconcerting to listen to other people speak very
3 passionately and with great deal of detail, and you
4 feel like you're facing this blank wall.

5 I don't know any of you personally.
6 I've heard great things about a number of you.
7 Others I just don't know anything about. But I get
8 no feeling of a discussion back and forth on a
9 critical public issue.

10 What I want to ask is: Have you
11 responded to the letter from Sen. Weinberg and from
12 Gordon Johnson and Valerie Huttler about the ICE
13 contract? Have you taken or will you take a position
14 on the current legislation that would ban future
15 renewals of the ICE contract? And would you in fact
16 take a position and act on ending the ICE contract
17 under very reasonable terms?

18 I think that Kathy O'Leary and other
19 people have sent you a letter with a proposal of how
20 this could be done in a way that doesn't jeopardize
21 any of the detainees and protects their rights.

22 The fact is that the only kind of very
23 vague answers that we've gotten have to do with
24 claims that these are people who are dangerous. But,
25 as you well know, ICE is a civil process and that

1 whatever criminal issues may have arisen, people have
2 dealt with. ICE doesn't have a power to hold people
3 for criminal reasons. And, you know, there's been
4 this explanation, that explanation, which are very,
5 very vague but not clear responses.

6 The fundamental question is: Why are
7 you continuing, as progressive people, to support a
8 horrendous detention policy that reflects terribly on
9 the United States, on Bergen County, and is a misuse
10 of our money?

11 Again, what I really appreciate would
12 be a dialogue. I mean, even if you disagree with me,
13 there's no way to have a dialogue if there's no
14 answers. I'm sure you don't mean it to be that way,
15 but that's the way it comes across. So thank you for
16 your time.

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

18 So before I bring the next caller in, I
19 want to try to answer at least a couple of your
20 questions.

21 We may seem that we're not answering
22 and responding, but we've gone over this numerous,
23 numerous times for well over a year with the same
24 response, and what we usually get back is that we're
25 saying the same response. It's not the response that

1 anyone wants to hear, but at the end of the day, I'm
2 going to answer your question regarding the letter.

3 I did not respond to the letter that
4 was written to us by the District 37 legislators.
5 There was no call to action in that letter, as far as
6 for a response from us.

7 No. 2, the contract has no termination
8 date with the agreement between the Marshals Service
9 and the Sheriff's Office. It would be up to the
10 Sheriff to cancel any agreement that he has with the
11 Marshals Service.

12 And just as a way of information, the
13 numbers are extremely low in comparison to what we've
14 had in the past. I think a lot of that is due to the
15 fact that the Sheriff has been very cooperative with
16 us, because, like we've said many times, we all talk
17 to him on a regular basis and we were very much
18 opposed to having anyone being held strictly for
19 their crime being undocumented. I think when those
20 parameters were placed to the Marshals Service, I
21 think that's what now has started our numbers to
22 drastically decline in our prison. I don't know what
23 the exact number is, so I don't want to misstate it,
24 but our numbers are decreasing every week.

25 So hopefully that answers some of your

1 questions. If you have any others, please email me
2 and I'll do my best to get you a response back.

3 Is anyone else wishing to speak?

4 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, next is
5 Dominick.

6 Dominick, prior to speaking, please
7 spell your first and last name for the record and
8 state where you live. Thank you.

9 MR. SCALCIONE: Can you confirm that
10 you can hear me?

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Yes, Dominick.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. SCALCIONE: Thank you.

14 Dominick Scalcione, Elmwood Park, New
15 Jersey.

16 Again I want to speak on the issue of
17 COVID vaccinations in Bergen County.

18 The latest numbers from the COVID-19
19 dashboard this meeting show, according to the state,
20 425,000 Bergen County residents -- Bergen County
21 vaccine doses have been administered is how it's
22 stated there.

23 I've advised the County Executive's
24 Office, as well as the Commissioners, that if these
25 numbers are valid, that the state should have reports

1 supplied to the county by resident borough and
2 municipal address of those individuals who have been
3 vaccinated, but the response that I'm receiving is
4 that the state does not have such reports in the
5 COVID-19 dashboard. That's the response that I got.

6 Getting these reports by resident
7 address is going to be critical in the next phase of
8 vaccination, as we start to look for areas that have
9 low area of compliance and which may be underserved.

10 I've mentioned in an email to the
11 Commissioners that on December 4th, Gov. Murphy
12 signed Executive Order #207, which requires that
13 every person and every COVID-19 vaccination given in
14 New Jersey must be entered into the New Jersey
15 Immunization Information System. I also sent a copy
16 of that order and the information sheet on the
17 Immunization Information System.

18 Now things have dramatically changed in
19 terms of the availability of vaccines in Bergen
20 County. As of the second week of April, that has
21 dramatically changed. All of last week and right up
22 until tonight, any resident could go into the Bergen
23 New Bridge site and see that there are appointments
24 available for this week. So that's a very good
25 change, a lot of progress, I would say, from our

1 perspective anyway.

2 I'm sure everyone involved in the
3 efforts to get residents vaccinated realizes the need
4 for the state to supply us with vaccination reports
5 that are broken down by county, borough and
6 municipality.

7 My second issue is, I'm asking if you
8 are familiar with a significant outbreak of COVID-19
9 at the Board of Social Services? I was told that it
10 involved as many as 40 staff.

11 Has the Board of Health reviewed the
12 facility, evaluated the outbreak, and determined if
13 future outbreaks can be prevented?

14 Thank you for allowing me to speak
15 tonight.

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, Dominick.

17 So I just want to let you know, I've
18 read all of your emails. I've also have read all the
19 responses from the administration. The feeling I'm
20 getting is those numbers are not presented to the
21 county broken down in the way that you're requesting
22 them or the way that you think that they should be,
23 but I will tell you that your concern is our concern,
24 that we reach the hard to reach population throughout
25 the county. I think J&J has afforded us the

1 opportunity to start moving quickly into that area.
2 Obviously, the delay with the question marks with the
3 blood clots with the J&J and when it was pulled by
4 the federal government cost us a few weeks, but I
5 know that the County Executive, we've had many
6 conversations in regards to this, and he's as anxious
7 as everyone else is to get it to the people that are
8 homebound and the hard to reach communities with
9 mobile units with the J&J vaccination, because that's
10 what it's supposed to be used for in the first place.

11 So we are as concerned as you are that
12 we start reaching those populations sooner rather
13 than later, and I believe that the County Executive
14 and the administration has a plan and that plan has
15 been rolling out as we speak.

16 So thank you for your continued support
17 and your continued communication with the
18 Commissioners.

19 Anyone else wishing to speak?

20 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, no one else
21 wishes to speak.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I make a motion to
23 close.

24 May I have a second?

25 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

2 (All present Commissioners respond in
3 the affirmative.)

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it, we
7 are now closed to the public.

8 REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We will now review
10 the resolutions to be voted on this evening.

11 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: The resolutions to be
12 voted on this evening are: Resolutions #253-21
13 through #259-21, #261-21 through #267-21, #269-21
14 through #275-21, #277-21 through #290-21, and #292-21
15 through #298-21.

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, Madam
17 Clerk.

18 RESOLUTIONS OF CONSENT

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I move to accept the
20 resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

21 May I have a second?

22 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
24 Commissioner Sullivan.

25 Please call the roll.

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

4 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With seven yeases, the
5 Consent Agenda is approved.

6 RESOLUTIONS OF NONCONSENT

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. Are there any
8 resolutions of nonconsent, tabled, pulled or
9 previously voted on?

10 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

11 There are Resolutions #299-21 and
12 #300-21 previously entered on the record as
13 nonconsent.

14 I have three additional nonconsent
15 resolutions from Work Session. They are:
16 Resolutions #260-21, #276-21, and #291-21.

17 The host will remove Commissioner Hache
18 for Resolutions #260-21 and #276-21, and then the
19 host will remove Commissioner Zur for Resolution
20 #291-21.

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I apologize that we
22 don't have the two in order. If you could please
23 take Commissioner Hache out.

24 (At this point in the proceeding
25 Commissioner Hache exits the Zoom Public Meeting.)

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: May I have a motion
2 to accept Resolution #260-21?

3 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: So moved.

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER VOSS: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

7 Commissioner Voss.

8 Please call the roll.

9 (At this point in the proceeding roll
10 call is taken and Resolution #260-21 is passed by a
11 vote of six in favor, with Commissioner Hache
12 recused.)

13 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: #260-21 passes with
14 six ayes and one recusal.

15 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. So the next
16 one, we need Ramon back and Tracy out.

17 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Actually we have
18 #276, which relates to Mr. Hache.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: But I'm sure he's
20 going to vote on #268.

21 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: We put that back into
22 the Consent Agenda.

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. So #268 is
24 out?

25 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

1 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: We voted on
2 that already in prior consent.

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: So can I have a
4 motion to accept #276?

5 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Is Ramon
6 supposed to be out for this one?

7 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Yes, he's out for
8 this one.

9 COMMISSIONER VOSS: So moved.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
11 Commissioner.

12 May I have a second?

13 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.
15 Please call the roll.

16 (At this point in the proceeding, roll
17 call is taken and Resolution #276-21 is passed by a
18 vote of six in favor, with Commissioner Hache
19 recused.)

20 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: #276-21 passes with
21 six ayes and one recusal.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. Now we can
23 move Ramon back in.

24 (At this point in the proceeding
25 Commissioner Hache returns to the Zoom Public

1 Meeting.)

2 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: At this point we need
3 the moderator to remove Commissioner Zur.

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: See you, Tracy.

5 (At this point in the proceeding
6 Vice-Chairwoman Silna Zur exits the Zoom Public
7 Meeting.)

8 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Resolution #291-21
9 is a resolution to provide pastoral care and
10 counseling services for inmates.

11 May I have a motion to accept
12 Resolution #291-21?

13 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: So moved.

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

15 May I have a second?

16 COMMISSIONER HACHE: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

18 Please call the roll.

19 (At this point in the proceeding roll
20 call is taken and Resolution #291-21 is passed by a
21 vote of six in favor, with Commissioner Silna Zur
22 recused.)

23 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six yeses, #291
24 passes with one recusal.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Great. Thank you

1 very much Madam Clerk.

2 ORDINANCES

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We'll now go on to
4 our First Reading of our ordinances.

5 We need to bring Commissioner Zur back
6 in.

7 (At this point in the proceeding
8 Commissioner Silna Zur returns to the Zoom Public
9 Meeting.)

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We will now go on to
11 our three ordinances for First Reading and
12 Introduction: Ordinances 21-03, 21-04, and 21-05.

13 Will the Clerk please read Ordinance
14 21-03 by title only.

15 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 21-03 is a:
16 "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS
17 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE BERGEN COUNTY COMMUNITY
18 COLLEGE IN AND BY THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, APPROPRIATING
19 THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$4,100,000 THEREFOR AND
20 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,100,000 BONDS OR NOTES
21 OF THE COUNTY ENTITLED TO THE BENEFITS OF CHAPTER 12
22 OF THE COUNTY COLLEGE BOND ACT TO FINANCE THE COST
23 THEREOF."

24 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: May I have a motion
25 to introduce Ordinance 21-03 as read by the Clerk?

1 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: So moved.

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, sir.

3 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the
5 roll.

6 (At this point in the proceeding roll
7 call is taken and the First Reading and Introduction
8 of Ordinance 21-03 is passed by a unanimous vote.)

9 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With seven yeases,
10 21-03 passes First Reading.

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

12 Will the Clerk please read Ordinance
13 21-04 by title only.

14 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 21-04 is a:

15 "GUARANTY ORDINANCE SECURING THE BERGEN
16 COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY'S COUNTY GUARANTEED
17 POOLED LOAN REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS, TO BE ISSUED IN
18 ONE OR MORE SERIES OF BONDS, IN AN AGGREGATE
19 PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$56,500,000."

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

21 I'll make a motion to introduce
22 Ordinance 21-04 as read by the Clerk.

23 May I have a second, please?

24 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: I will
25 second that.

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
2 Commissioner.

3 Please call the roll.

4 (At this point in the proceeding roll
5 call is taken and the First Reading and Introduction
6 of Ordinance 21-04 is passed by a unanimous vote.)

7 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With seven yeases,
8 21-04 passes First Reading.

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

10 Will the Clerk please read Ordinance
11 21-05 by title only.

12 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 21-05 is a:
13 "REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR
14 THE REFUNDING OF OUTSTANDING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS
15 OF 2014 BY THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, APPROPRIATING
16 \$45,000,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF
17 NOT TO EXCEED \$45,000,000 REFUNDING BONDS OF THE
18 COUNTY TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF."

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

20 May I have a motion to introduce
21 Ordinance 21-05 as read by the Clerk?

22 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: So moved.

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: May I have a second,
24 please?

25 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
2 Commissioner.

3 Please call the roll.

4 (At this point in the proceeding roll
5 call is taken and the First Reading and Introduction
6 of Ordinance 21-05 is passed by a unanimous vote.)

7 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With seven yeases,
8 21-05 passes First Reading.

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

10 We will now go onto our ordinances for
11 Second Reading and Adoption.

12 The Clerk will read the proof of notice
13 statement once, as it applies to both Second Read
14 ordinances.

15 Will the Clerk please read the proof of
16 notice statement.

17 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: The Proof of
18 Publication and Notice of Public Hearing for
19 Ordinances 21-01 and 21-02 was published in
20 accordance with the law and is on file in my office.

21 A copy of the Notice of Hearing and
22 Ordinances 21-01 and 21-02 were duly posted, pursuant
23 to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17.

24 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

25 Will the Clerk please read Ordinance

1 21-01 by title only.

2 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: 21-01 is a:

3 "GUARANTY ORDINANCE SECURING THE BERGEN
4 COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY'S COUNTY GUARANTEED
5 LEASE REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2021 (TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
6 PROJECT), IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO
7 EXCEED \$27,500,000."

8 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

9 May I have a motion to open the public
10 hearing on Ordinance 21-01 only?

11 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: So moved.

12 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

14 (All present Commissioners respond in
15 the affirmative.)

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The public hearing
17 is now open for Ordinance 21-01. There will be a
18 five-minute time limit in effect to speak about
19 Ordinance 21-01 only. The board attorney will keep
20 the time.

21 Does anyone wish to speak from the
22 public on Ordinance 21-01?

23 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, no one wishes to
24 speak.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

1 Seeing nobody wishing to speak, may I
2 have a motion to close the public hearing and adopt
3 Ordinance 21-01?

4 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: So moved.

5 COMMISSIONER HACHE: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

7 Before we take the roll call, I
8 understand Commissioner Amoroso would like to
9 comment.

10 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Yes.

11 I just wanted to point out that this is
12 for Mahwah's new DPW building, and by utilizing the
13 Bergen County Improvement Authority, Mahwah was able
14 to save the five percent deposit that they would have
15 had to do if they did this bond ordinance on their
16 own, which is about a million dollars. So this is a
17 prime example of how shared services is such a good
18 thing for our municipalities.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
20 Commissioner, and I'm glad that you pointed that out,
21 as does Commissioner Sullivan on a regular basis with
22 our BCIA and how much money can be saved by working
23 collectively with our boards of education and our
24 municipalities. So thank you very much for pointing
25 that out. Please call the roll.

1 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Chairman,
3 before we call the roll, I just want to state, going
4 back to the other resolution we passed, this is
5 exactly why the other resolution was on there about
6 the Bergen County Improvement Authority and
7 continuing to fund it for reasons like this. So
8 thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Right.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
11 Commissioner.

12 Please call the roll.

13 (At this point in the proceeding roll
14 call is taken and the Second Reading and Adoption of
15 Ordinance 21-01 is passed by a unanimous vote.)

16 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With seven yeases,
17 Ordinance 21-01 is adopted.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you very much.

19 Will the Clerk please read Ordinance
20 21-02 by title only.

21 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: 21-02 is an:

22 "ORDINANCE PROHIBITING RIGHT TURN
23 MOVEMENTS FROM FOREST AVENUE TO REPETTI STREET IN THE
24 BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD."

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: May I have a motion

1 to open the public hearing on Ordinance 21-02?

2 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: So moved.

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,

4 Commissioner.

5 Second?

6 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,

8 Commissioner.

9 All in favor?

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

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The public hearing
13 is now open for Ordinance 21-02 only. Does anyone
14 wish to speak on Ordinance 21-02?

15 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, no one wishes to
16 speak.

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

18 Seeing nobody wishing to speak, may I
19 have a motion to close the public hearing and adopt
20 Ordinance 21-02?

21 COMMISSIONER HACHE: So moved.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

23 Second?

24 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

1 All in favor?

2 (All present Commissioners respond in
3 the affirmative.)

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the
5 roll.

6 (At this point in the proceeding roll
7 call is taken and the Second Reading and Adoption of
8 Ordinance 21-02 is passed by a unanimous vote.)

9 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With seven yeases,
10 21-02 is adopted.

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Great. Thank you
12 very much, Madam Clerk.

13 COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: That brings us to
15 our favorite part of the meeting. Don't you worry,
16 Commissioner Zur, we are having reports tonight.

17 So just for that reason, maybe you
18 should go first.

19 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Good thinking.

20 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank you
21 so much, Chairman.

22 It has been a busy time for the Food
23 Security Task Force. We did a major diaper
24 distribution at the end of March. Forty nonprofit
25 agencies came to Dumont to pick up a total of 180,000

1 diapers to benefit families across Bergen County.
2 This is all thanks to the County Executive's
3 commitment to the Task Force. We are going to be
4 able to provide over a million diapers over the next
5 several months to alleviate the cost burden for so
6 many families. With the average child going
7 through 8 to 12 diapers a day, that costing over \$80
8 a month, this will alleviate the pressure and enable
9 there to be more dollars available for food. Diapers
10 are not covered by WIC or food stamps, so this is an
11 invaluable service that the County of Bergen is
12 providing to our families who are struggling. And
13 just going forward, I want to make sure people know
14 that diapers are a very needed donation at all of our
15 food pantries throughout Bergen County, and hygiene
16 products and feminine hygiene products are vital to
17 those pantries and those who are serving those who
18 are struggling throughout our community.

19 We distributed tents to many of our
20 agencies. This will enable them to provide temporary
21 shelter during our spring weather, which has so much
22 rain. It will come in handy during the summer months
23 as well to protect those from the heat and really
24 enable those who are on the front lines every single
25 day helping our neighbors in need to do so in a way

1 that is safe, dry, and comfortable. So thank you to
2 all who were involved in that as well.

3 Over the weekend, I joined the River
4 Edge cub scouts and boy scouts troop, who did their
5 forging for food, collecting bags of food donated all
6 across town at a central site and then donated to the
7 Center for Food Action. I was so encouraged by this
8 model. There was such enthusiasm by our young people
9 and by our community as a whole to step up and meet
10 the needs. I urge other towns to follow River Edge's
11 model and go forward and forage for food and meet the
12 needs of our local food pantries.

13 I met with a group of students from
14 Bergen Tech who started this club "Donate, Don't
15 Dispose," which rescues food donated from Apple Spice
16 Catering Company and drops it off to a local food
17 pantry.

18 I want to thank Apple Spice for so
19 generously partnering with these conscientious young
20 people. I commend these student organizers for being
21 part of the solution of not only alleviating food
22 waste, but really meeting the needs of those who are
23 struggling in the community.

24 Ridgewood Feed the Frontlines program
25 has surpassed 50,000 meals served since the beginning

1 of this program and is on track to bring 100,000
2 meals and a million dollars of business to Ridgewood
3 restaurants by May 30th.

4 I had the privilege of doing a
5 distribution at Englewood with Bergen Family Center
6 last week, where 1,000 meals go out to families in
7 need in under two hours. It is amazing the joy that
8 is brought by tremendous volunteers feeding the front
9 lines who connect meals from the restaurants to our
10 pantries and who are stepping up to help our
11 community in such an amazing way, and our restaurants
12 who are benefiting by the finance of it but doing
13 this with a loving heart as well. It has really been
14 a mood lifter and really meeting a need for our food
15 pantries within Bergen County.

16 This week we also celebrated Yom
17 Hashoah with the Jewish Federation, and the Armenian
18 Genocide, and we've seen the verdict in the Chauvin
19 case this week. There are so many issues of social
20 justice that are so important and underscored during
21 this time, all of us at the rallies protesting
22 against the increase in Asian hate that we've seen.
23 And I want to commend the dialogue that needs to
24 continue to go on to heal our communities and to
25 really bring us all together during these struggling

1 times.

2 I have two other little things.

3 I'm now on this organics work group
4 through Sustainable Jersey to exchange ideas about
5 community level composting to reduce food waste.
6 Guys, get ready, we have more ideas yet to come.

7 The Ridgewood Styrofoam drive, and I
8 just want to underscore the need to not throw
9 Styrofoam in the garbage, to recycle it. There's a
10 market for it. We cannot fill our landfills and we
11 should be making sure that we're disposing of it in a
12 safe way.

13 And last but not least, I want to wish,
14 I think we have another opportunity to say this, but
15 16-year-olds and older became eligible for the COVID
16 vaccine this week. I want to encourage all of us to
17 get the vaccine, everyone. There's no excuse not to
18 get vaccinated. We need to continue to bring these
19 numbers down in our community. Wash our hands, mask
20 up, and do our part. New Bridge is available. It's
21 an amazing partner to help get all of our folks
22 vaccinated.

23 So, Chairman, that's all. Thank you so
24 very much.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Commissioner

1 Sullivan.

2 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Thank you,
3 Chairman Tanelli.

4 First I'd like to start by recognizing
5 Resolution #260-21, a shared service agreement
6 between the Hackensack Housing Authority and Bergen
7 County for the maintenance of a county facility in
8 the city. Another win/win, as always.

9 I was going to touch on the shared
10 service with Mahwah, but Commissioner Amoroso was so
11 kind to point it out, being that she is a Mahwah
12 resident. So there's another shared service.

13 Bergen County continues to lead the
14 way, and it's definitely an example for
15 municipalities as a way to save money for the
16 taxpayers.

17 I'd like to welcome back and
18 congratulate our Human Services Advisory Council
19 members. I thank them for their service to the
20 residents of Bergen County. We really do appreciate
21 everything that you all do.

22 I also want to congratulate A.J. Luna,
23 our veterans director, who will be leaving at the end
24 of the month, for all his years of service to Bergen
25 County and to our country.

1 A.J. was instrumental, along with the
2 County Executive and Julia Orlando, for ending
3 veterans homelessness in Bergen County. It is now
4 zero. Something to be very proud of.

5 Apparently he got an offer that he
6 couldn't refuse, he's going to be the Director of
7 Veterans Services for the Department of
8 Transportation -- is that what it was -- something
9 along those lines, but he will still remain in
10 government and he still will continue to help people.

11 And A.J., for anyone who knows him,
12 knows that he put his heart and soul into that job
13 and every veteran should be proud of him. We all are
14 here.

15 I would just like to take a moment to
16 comment on yesterday's events. I know it's a touchy
17 subject for some. For me, it's really not.

18 Almost a year ago I watched in horror,
19 like many others worldwide, at the murder of George
20 Floyd. It was an unspeakable tragedy. Despite
21 yesterday's result, it remains an unspeakable
22 tragedy. It's something that should never ever
23 happen again.

24 Conclusions like yesterday don't bring
25 loved ones back, but I hope they can offer some

1 semblance of closure. In the end, justice was
2 served.

3 Lastly, I'm sure most of us are aware
4 that there is a very bad storm coming our way
5 tonight, particularly in the northern parts of Bergen
6 County. To anyone in these areas especially, please
7 take precautions. I get regular updates and I will
8 post them to my social media as they become
9 available.

10 That's all I have. I didn't want to
11 outshine Freeholder Zur.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Commissioner Voss.

14 COMMISSIONER VOSS: Thank you,
15 Chairman.

16 As most of you know, I love, love, love
17 to talk and talk about history and politics. I've
18 had the opportunity to speak to several Rotary Clubs
19 and other organizations, because it's amazing that
20 most people never knew what a Freeholder was and they
21 don't really know what a Commissioner does, and so
22 it's kind of like my job to tell them all the
23 wonderful things that we do in Bergen County and how
24 many services we have. It really has been an
25 enlightening situation for many, many people. And,

1 of course, I always like to have a dialogue where
2 they can ask questions and I'm very happy to answer
3 them. And if I don't have the answer, I know where
4 to get the answer, so it's a very good situation.

5 I was up at New Bridge yesterday and I
6 have to say that the vaccination -- I personally was
7 very reluctant, but enough of my friends harassed me
8 enough so that I finally got a shot. And I have to
9 say, the efficient way that they handle everything up
10 at New Bridge, it's unbelievable. And if you haven't
11 gotten your shots, I am now one of the people who
12 will tell you please do so. It's very, very
13 important.

14 I always like to inform people about
15 some of the historical things that sometimes we
16 forget, and Monday was Patriots' Day. And in
17 previous years, the Boston Marathon has been kind of
18 a spectacular thing to watch, but people don't really
19 know what Patriots' Day is all about. It's about in
20 1775, Paul Revere ran from Lexington to Concord to
21 tell them that the British were coming, and that was
22 kind of the start of our United States of America. I
23 think that it's very important that we remember our
24 history and learn from our history.

25 Last month I mentioned Greek

1 Independence Day, and it was very sad because of the
2 fact that this year was the 200th anniversary of
3 Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire, and of
4 course they couldn't have all the occasions that they
5 wanted to celebrate. Hopefully next year we will be
6 able to celebrate it in style, even though it'll be
7 the 201st anniversary.

8 Tomorrow is Earth Day, so everybody,
9 you know, be aware of the things that are happening
10 in our world and do all of the things that you
11 possibly can to correct them.

12 The most important thing I want to talk
13 about today, and I will end with this, is my first
14 piece of legislation when I was in the Assembly was
15 for New Jersey to recognize the Armenian Genocide.
16 It was very, very important. This genocide occurred
17 in 1915, and it was unbelievably horrible. The Turks
18 literally tried to massacre all of the Armenians.

19 We here in the county have a monument
20 to remember the Armenian Genocide and the Day of
21 Remembrance is April 24th. It's so important that we
22 remember history, because when the Holocaust happened
23 in World War II, one of the things that Adolph Hitler
24 said to the Nazis was we are going to exterminate the
25 Jews. And they said, oh, we can't do that. And

1 Hitler said, do you remember the Armenians, and
2 nobody did, and that's what he said was going to
3 happen to the Jews.

4 We have got to study history. There
5 haven't only been 1 or 2 genocides, there have been
6 many, and God forbid there are more in the future,
7 but we have to learn from history.

8 That is my sermon for the day.

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Amen.

10 Thank you, Commissioner.

11 Commissioner Hache.

12 COMMISSIONER HACHE: Thank you,
13 Chairman. Just a couple of things to report.

14 On Saturday, April 10th, I joined the
15 Ridgewood community to denounce the uptick in
16 violence against the Asian community and to stand in
17 solidarity with our Asian American/Pacific Islander
18 brothers and sisters.

19 The keynote speaker was our very own
20 County Executive Jim Tedesco, and he gave a very
21 moving speech. He had the crowd going, as he usually
22 does, and he brought the kids up and got everybody
23 involved. It was a wonderful service. There was
24 over 300 people attending. It was very special and I
25 think a moving moment to see everybody in that

1 audience coming together for this. It's unfortunate
2 that we have to come together for these things again,
3 but it's so impressive that we get everybody
4 involved, and we have so much of our community coming
5 to stand together, so wonderful an event.

6 I want to thank all the organizers, as
7 well as my fellow Commissioners who attended and the
8 local officials who attended from the Village of
9 Ridgewood.

10 Last Saturday, I joined Rob Esposito at
11 the Bergen County United Way headquarters to give
12 brief remarks for the first virtual Homeowners Fair.
13 This was to showcase our American Dream First Time
14 Home Buyer program.

15 And beyond our mortgage and down
16 payment assistance initiative for Bergen County first
17 time home buyers, the American Dream program has also
18 provided new home buyers with educational seminars,
19 fairs, and workshops, like the ones that we had on
20 Saturday, for many decades.

21 All together the program lasted about
22 90 minutes. We had about 60 participants. We have
23 another session scheduled for this Saturday,
24 April 24th at 9:00 a.m., and the details of which are
25 on the website.

1 I want to thank Tom Toronto for
2 allowing us to use his facility; Rob Esposito,
3 obviously for his leadership as a Director of the
4 Bergen County Division of Community Development;
5 Jacqui Atkins for her leadership in leading this
6 program; and also to India Delgado of Lakeland Bank,
7 not just for the sponsorship but also for being the
8 technical producer and having a program that looked
9 great. So I'm looking forward to it again. This is
10 something that I think it's tremendous for the role
11 that the county plays in this, working closely with
12 the Division of Community Development and playing a
13 roll in fulfilling its important mission to improve
14 the quality of life and extend opportunities for all
15 Bergen County residents, especially for those who are
16 most in need. So I am very proud of the work that
17 they're doing.

18 That's it. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
20 Commissioner.

21 Commissioner Ortiz.

22 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Thank you,
23 Chairman.

24 So this week was our first week of the
25 Latino vaccination drive, our initiative that I have

1 started with the County Executive and with the Chief
2 of Staff Michele DiIorgi and Rodyn, my aide. So what
3 I've been doing is visiting the pastors and the
4 religious leaders throughout the county. I worked
5 with four churches this first week, and I was happy
6 to say yesterday we had approximately 50 vaccines
7 that were given at the four churches.

8 I am currently talking to another four
9 churches, and I've been going to quite a few Sunday
10 masses throughout the county. I've had, like this
11 past week, I was able to speak to the parishioners of
12 St. Anastasia Church. This week I will be going to
13 two other churches this Sunday.

14 I feel like if I go there and I tell
15 them my story and what I've experienced, not only
16 will they understand why it's important, No. 1;
17 No. 2, I've been asking all our religious leaders to
18 please speak about the vaccine and how important it
19 is for our communities and especially for Latinos.
20 They are like front lines, they work in the
21 healthcare industry, they work in the restaurant
22 industry, they're just out there with the public, so
23 it is so important to really close that vaccine
24 inequity in that community.

25 So I'm looking forward to all these

1 Tuesdays that we will be bringing all our
2 congregations to Bergen New Bridge Medical.

3 And on that note, I would also like to
4 thank everyone there. They do such an incredible
5 job, from the nurses, to the volunteers, to all our
6 employees, I mean, and some of them I'm just
7 impressed, even our own Tara Chatterjee, who I never
8 thought could speak Spanish, was one of our
9 translators.

10 So it's really a group effort, and I
11 can't thank them enough for this, and I'm so excited
12 just to get the Latino community vaccinated going
13 forward in the next few weeks.

14 In our HSAC meeting we discussed about
15 our Senior Services, how they are currently working
16 with the state for the homebound individuals and
17 they're trying to work on a program on how to get to
18 the homebound individuals and how we're going to get
19 them vaccinated. So that's in process right now. We
20 have a meeting next week, and we'll probably be
21 getting an update with that.

22 New Jersey Family Care, they have given
23 more than \$4.7 billion in state funding that has been
24 allocated to provide comprehensive healthcare
25 coverage to most of our low income residents.

1 Especially now what we've been going through with
2 COVID, it's definitely essential to all of them.

3 And in the child care budget, it was
4 added another \$60 million to our families, which is
5 so important to really move our economy forward. So
6 I'm really happy that this will be more affordable to
7 most of our families in need.

8 That's it. I kept it short, Chairman.

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

10 Leaving the best for last, Commissioner
11 Amoroso, please.

12 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Yes.

13 First of all, we are all so pleased
14 that Joan Voss got her vaccine shot. We are so
15 happy.

16 And also I cannot believe that Tracy
17 Zur is now giving out tents. There you go.

18 Anyway, it was a significant national
19 moment yesterday when a jury found former police
20 officer Derek Chauvin guilty on all three counts of
21 murder and manslaughter in the death of George Floyd.

22 The video evidence, which was taken on
23 a Smartphone by a teen-aged girl, seemed
24 indisputable, and the thin blue line cracked when
25 multiple fellow police officers testified that it

1 wasn't in their training or their ethos to kneel on
2 the neck of a handcuffed and subdued suspect for
3 nearly nine minutes.

4 Still, killings by police officers
5 continue at a rate of about 1,000 a year, most of
6 them justified, but we're all worried around the
7 nation and even in Bergen County where we certainly
8 respect and value our law enforcement.

9 There is a federal bill, the George
10 Floyd Justice in Policing bill, which would ban choke
11 holds, no knock warrants, it would prohibit racial
12 profiling, create a national misconduct registry for
13 police officers, and overhaul legal protections
14 afforded to law enforcement known as "qualified
15 immunity." That bill, it is not clear that it's
16 going to pass in the Senate.

17 On Saturday, a number of County
18 Commissioners and our Sheriff attended a Black Lives
19 Matter rally on the courthouse steps in Hackensack to
20 memorialize Daunte Wright, a 20-year-old Black man
21 shot and killed by a police officer who apparently
22 mistakenly opened fire with a gun when she thought
23 she had a taser.

24 NAACP president Jeff Carter, our Jeff
25 Carter, specifically said we need to change qualified

1 immunity which gives police a big shield against
2 accountability.

3 We also came together, and Tom Sullivan
4 was there, with Congressman Gottheimer and our union
5 brothers to support President Biden's \$2.3 trillion
6 infrastructure plan. That would include new spending
7 on roads, bridges and mass transit, including on
8 Amtrak's Northeast Corridor and the long planned new
9 rail tunnel under the Hudson.

10 Meanwhile this week Congressman
11 Gottheimer was out again agitating for inclusion in
12 that infrastructure bill SALT restoration, state and
13 local property tax, which under the Trump
14 administration you could not deduct any more than
15 \$10,000 of property tax from your federal return.
16 And of course in North Jersey the average tax bill,
17 according to Josh, is \$15,000. So we're hoping we
18 will get full restoration of our SALT deduction.

19 Meanwhile, I think Germaine was
20 alluding to it, President Biden is expected soon to
21 unveil the American Families Plan, which would expand
22 child care subsidies and make universal pre-K, paid
23 family leave, and free community college a reality.
24 That's another big plan he's got working.

25 Thanks to the new and reappointed

1 members of the county's Human Services Advisory
2 Council: Dr. Shukla, Kathy Walsh, Nina Bachrach,
3 Brian Fitzgibbons, and our friend, Jim Thebery. We
4 are grateful for all you do for our most vulnerable
5 citizens.

6 And finally thanks to our elections
7 queen, Superintendent of Elections Patti DiCostanzo,
8 who retires at the end of April.

9 Thank you, Chairman.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
11 Commissioner.

12 In Bergen County, we make it a priority
13 to take care of those who have taken care of us.
14 Most of us have experienced leaving a position,
15 moving to a new neighborhood or moving on to a new
16 phase in our life. Now, imagine facing all of those
17 changes at the same time. That's what many veterans
18 experience when they leave the military.

19 In order to support our veterans, both
20 the administration and the Board continue to expand
21 transitional housing and support services for at-risk
22 veterans. We continue to assist them in obtaining
23 federal, state, and local government entitlements and
24 linking them with support services. We know how
25 valuable veterans are to our community. Many are

1 still serving, which is the case with Dion Cucuta,
2 Jr., a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who was recently
3 named the 2021 Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award
4 honoree. Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has
5 impacted so many Bergen County residents, Chef Dion
6 created Hot Meals, a volunteer based food
7 distribution program that has provided more than
8 250,000 meals since March of 2020. He will be
9 presented with the prestigious award on May 7th for
10 his outstanding community service.

11 Chef Dion is just one of the Bergen
12 County veterans using their mission driven mindset to
13 work on key local projects and initiatives. As we
14 learn every week through the Bergen County Veteran of
15 the Week initiative, many of our veterans continue to
16 dedicate themselves to answering the call to serve
17 others in ways big and small.

18 While we can never fully repay our
19 veterans and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice
20 for our freedom, we can and will continue to remember
21 their service and commitment to our community by
22 supporting them and their loved ones through our
23 county programs, programs such as the annual Memorial
24 Day flag distribution, which I participated in with
25 Commissioner Zur and Commissioner Amoroso yesterday,

1 an annual event coordinated by the county that
2 distributes nearly 50,000 flags to veteran groups so
3 they can be placed on the graves of war veterans
4 buried in our cemeteries.

5 We will continue to ensure that our
6 veterans know that we are there for them every day
7 and not just a few times a year during special
8 holidays.

9 Thank you.

10 ADJOURNMENT

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: There being nothing
12 further to come before this meeting, I make a motion
13 to adjourn.

14 May I have a second?

15 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

17 All in favor?

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

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it.

23 We are now adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

24 (Whereupon, the Public Meeting is
25 adjourned at 7:59 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 Diplomate 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, RDR
License #XIO1042, and Notary Public
of New Jersey

My Commission Expires:
7/11/2024