

BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM
WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021
COMMENCING AT 7:03 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.

THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

GERMAINE M. ORTIZ

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.D.R.
P.O. BOX 213
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213
201-336-6200

1
2
3 ALSO PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

4 LARA RODRIGUEZ
5 CLERK TO THE BOARD

6 JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQUIRE
7 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

8 EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQUIRE
9 COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

10 MICHAEL SHEINFELD
11 DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

12 JAMES A. DARLEY
13 AIDE TO CHAIRMAN TANELLI

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21
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23 KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.D.R.
24 P.O. BOX 213
25 ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213
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HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The meeting is
2 called to order at 7:03 p.m.

3 If everyone would please turn off their
4 cellphones, before we start the meeting.

5 Will 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 you please call
22 the roll.

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

1 Chairman Tanelli present, with Commissioner Ortiz
2 absent.)

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Evidence of a quorum
4 is present.

5 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Will you please join
7 me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

8 Vice-Chairwoman Zur, would you please
9 lead us.

10 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank you,
11 Chairman.

12 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 Vice-Chairwoman Silna Zur.)

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

17 COVID VACCINATION UPDATE & CLAP-OUT

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Getting the COVID-19
19 vaccine will help us all get back to doing the things
20 we love, while protecting our friends and loved ones.

21 As of today, 38 percent of New Jersey
22 residents 18 and older have been fully vaccinated.
23 Bergen County continues to lead the state in doses
24 administered, and has 41 percent of all residents
25 fully vaccinated.

1 We thank all our county employees,
2 medical personnel, soldiers, and volunteers who are
3 working tirelessly to ensure that we reach herd
4 immunity. Thank you for your hard work!

5 If we can please give them a clap-out.

6 [APPLAUSE]

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

8 BERGEN COUNTY VETERAN OF THE WEEK

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: So I'm very excited
10 tonight. We are honoring quite a few people. So if
11 you'll just bear with me.

12 So tonight's Veteran of the Week, we
13 recognize and honor Bergen County Veteran of the Week
14 recipient Jeffrey Bock. Also present is his
15 principal, Joy Dorsey-Whiting of Hillers Elementary
16 School.

17 Michael, if you could please bring them
18 in.

19 Jeffrey Bock grew up in Pennsylvania
20 and graduated from Oley Valley High School. Upon
21 graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army and
22 proudly served as a paratrooper from 1992-1996 with
23 the 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment,
24 82nd Airborne Division, a unit with a long and
25 distinguished history.

1 Following his honorable discharge, he
2 enrolled in the College of Education at the
3 University of Central Florida in Orlando.
4 Afterwards, he taught in Orlando for two years,
5 before moving to New Jersey. Since 2005, he has
6 taught third grade at the Fanny Meyer Hillers School
7 in Hackensack, New Jersey.

8 In many ways, Mr. Bock is the epitome
9 of what a teacher should be. He goes above and
10 beyond to help and accommodate his students. Thanks
11 to his work, Hillers School has a fourth grade Honor
12 Guard whose duty it is to raise, lower, and fold the
13 American flag. For his dedication to his students,
14 Mr. Bock was named Governor Educator of the Year.

15 Mr. Bock, thank you so much for your
16 service and all that you continue to do for your
17 community.

18 Mr. Bock, we normally to this in-person
19 in our public room, so I have a resolution here
20 honoring you.

21 MR. BOCK: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I want to thank you
23 not just for your service to our country, but
24 educating the next generation of young men and women
25 that are going to be leading our country. It's a

1 noble profession, and I just want to thank you so
2 much for all that you do.

3 MR. BOCK: I appreciate it. Thank you
4 very much.

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We would like you to
6 stay, because we're also recognizing a few other
7 teachers, if you wouldn't mind staying on.

8 MR. BOCK: Of course.

9 COMMISSIONER RESOLUTIONS

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All right. At this
11 time we'd like to highlight two resolutions from
12 tonight's agenda.

13 I make a motion to place Resolutions
14 #346-21 and #347-21 on Nonconsent.

15 May I have a second, please?

16 I read your lips, Tracy, second.

17 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

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

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it.

24 Michael, can you bring in Ms. Kalman
25 and Mr. Cook.

1 All right. There's one.

2 MR. SHEINFELD: I'm looking for Ms.
3 Kalman. If you would raise your hand on the list, I
4 can find you easier.

5 Oh, there we go. Got you.

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Great.

7 Welcome.

8 Commissioner Voss, would you please
9 present the resolution.

10 COMMISSIONER VOSS: Thank you,
11 Chairman.

12 As you know, education is my passion
13 and I see these three young people are as passionate
14 about education as I am.

15 This is our resolution:

16 "As teachers are our nation's heroes
17 who motivate and inspire young minds and enable
18 students to achieve extraordinary things, and
19 teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the
20 foundation for good citizenship and mold future
21 citizens through their guidance in education.
22 Teachers fill many roles, as listeners, explorers,
23 role models, motivators and mentors, and open
24 students' minds to ideas, knowledge and dreams,
25 continuing to influence us long after our school days

1 are over.

2 "New Jersey, and in particular Bergen
3 County, boasts some of the best teachers in the
4 country, who care about each student's education and
5 upbringing, teaching them skills that will help them
6 make their communities better.

7 "More than 20 public and nonpublic
8 schools in Bergen County have been named Blue Ribbon
9 Schools of Excellence by the United States Department
10 of Education since 1997.

11 "Teachers spend countless hours
12 preparing lessons, evaluating progress, counseling
13 and coaching students, and performing community
14 service.

15 "We are very, very proud of our
16 teachers, not only in Bergen County, but throughout
17 the United States."

18 And so this resolution is to honor you.

19 I just want to take an aside.

20 Having been a teacher for 41 years
21 myself, I am absolutely passionate about education.
22 And it's so good for me to see young teachers like
23 you, and anybody under 60 is a young teacher to me,
24 carrying on what I love so much. I am so passionate
25 about our kids learning about our government. Even

1 though I'm retired as a teacher, I still feel that as
2 a politician I am also a teacher, because people need
3 to know about their government, they need to know
4 about their rights. They need to learn, and they
5 should know, but sometimes they have to learn to love
6 our country above all else.

7 So it's very, very important for me to
8 see you young people, and I hope that you carry on
9 for as many years as I did, loving every minute of
10 the time that you're teaching the kids.

11 One of the reasons I'm successful in
12 politics is I taught over 9,000 kids, and I remember
13 most all of them, and thank God they remember me in a
14 positive way.

15 So keep on doing the good work, because
16 it's the best, best, best profession in the entire
17 world.

18 God bless you.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I can certainly
20 attest to the fact that there isn't an event we don't
21 go to that someone doesn't go up to Dr. Voss and say,
22 "She taught me."

23 So in addition to Mr. Bock, we have
24 with us two additional Bergen County educators, Ms.
25 Dee Kalman and Mr. Brian Cook.

1 Dee Kalman is a middle school STEM
2 teacher at Hackensack Middle School. For the last
3 14 years, she has taught in New Jersey. She is
4 formerly a special education and mathematics
5 educator. Her focus is on building empowerment
6 through student choice, and raising the gender and
7 minority equity in the STEM field.

8 Brian Cook is a middle school STEM
9 teacher at Tenafly Middle School. His background
10 includes wildland and structure firefighting and
11 working as an EMT. He brings knowledge and
12 experiences from his life into the classroom to
13 assist students to become lifelong learners.

14 For Teacher Appreciation Week, we'd
15 like to honor Ms. Kalman and Mr. Cook for going above
16 and beyond to help the residents of Bergen County.
17 Both used their STEM background in the early stages
18 of the COVID vaccination rollout to assist hundreds
19 of senior citizens get their vaccination appointment
20 while also juggling their responsibilities as
21 teachers.

22 We want to thank you both for the work
23 you do as an educator and also the work you do for
24 the residents of Bergen County.

25 So I know we have with us two

1 principals, we have Anibal Galiana and we also have
2 Joy Dorsey-Whiting. So I guess whoever would like to
3 speak first, we would love to hear from you.

4 MS. DORSEY-WHITING: Good evening,
5 everyone. It gives me great pleasure to be here with
6 you this evening as the principal of Fanny Meyer
7 Hillers School, and also with my colleague, Dr.
8 Galiana, to congratulate Mr. Bock, Mr. Cook, and Ms.
9 Kalman, especially our Comet stars, Ms. Kalman and
10 Mr. Bock.

11 Mr. Bock, you are a Hillers School
12 star. We appreciate everything that you do for our
13 children. As an educator, as a veteran, you are a
14 humble servant, and your heart is as good as gold,
15 and we thank you for everything you do for the
16 children of Fanny Meyer Hillers School.

17 At Hillers School, we say we are the
18 "Academy on the Hill," where all our students are
19 stars. Mr. Bock, you definitely are a Hillers School
20 star, so thank you very much.

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you very much.

22 Dr. Galiana.

23 DR. GALIANA: Thank you. Thank you for
24 having me, it's an honor to be here on Teacher
25 Appreciation Week to honor three fabulous teachers.

1 I had the pleasure of working with Mr.
2 Bock a long time ago at Hillers, when I started my
3 career at Hackensack public schools as his vice
4 principal, so I echo everything Ms. Whiting says
5 about him, he's terrific.

6 Ms. Kalman is with me at Hackensack
7 Middle School. She is the ultimate professional that
8 goes out of her way to help every student, staff,
9 administrator be successful and do what's best for
10 the children. The best way to describe Ms. Kalman, I
11 always say, she's the teacher you want your children
12 to have because no matter what's going on, she's not
13 only there to teach them academics and STEM and the
14 fabulous stuff that goes on in her classroom, but she
15 makes sure that everyone is included, that everyone
16 feels that sense of belonging in her class. And I
17 can't help stopping by her class at least once a day
18 just to get some of that feeling the kids get,
19 because that's how good she is.

20 Congratulations to all of you and thank
21 you for making Hackensack Middle School special, Ms.
22 Kalman.

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you so much.

24 Giving certificates is never enough, I
25 just hope you know how much this board and the

1 residents of Bergen County appreciate all that you
2 do. So I'll open the floor to any of you, if you'd
3 like to say a few words.

4 Well, the recipients first,
5 Commissioner Zur.

6 MS. KALMAN: Thank you for the honor.
7 It's really wonderful. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

9 MR. BOCK: Thank you very much for the
10 honor as well. I love being in Hackensack. I love
11 Hillers. Thank you for the opportunity.

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you very much.

13 MR. COOK: I'm going to third bat.

14 Thank you very much, everybody. It
15 took a lot of work and energy, and Dee pushed me to
16 do a little bit more every time.

17 I miss you, Dee.

18 Thank you so much for honoring me.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

21 Commissioner Zur.

22 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: I just want
23 to add, this year especially all of our teachers have
24 been pushed beyond the limit of creativity, having to
25 innovate in ways that two years ago you couldn't have

1 even contemplated what a school year would look like,
2 and for you to kind of, you know, not just imbue that
3 love of learning in our kids virtually and hybridly
4 and however else you had to do it this year, has been
5 nothing short of miraculous. They say a teacher
6 takes a hand, opens a mind, and shapes the future of
7 the world, well, you have done that in such an
8 incredible way this year. Every year we appreciate
9 our teachers. I think for all of us who have kids at
10 home who we've had to home school for pieces of this,
11 I think everyone appreciates you even more, and
12 Teacher Appreciation Day should be, seriously, every
13 day.

14 We appreciate you and we appreciate all
15 the hard work you're putting in to planting the seeds
16 of future learners and future embracers of knowledge.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Commissioner
19 Amoroso, you're on mute.

20 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: So I sat in with
21 my six-year-old grandson Liam, who had a week of
22 virtual kindergarten two weeks ago. I could not
23 believe the chaos before the teacher got on, and she
24 organized them and wrangled them and they learned and
25 they did all kinds of things, plan math and writing.

1 I was so impressed.

2 Again, I have to thank and express my
3 gratitude to all teachers for doing what certainly
4 seems to me like the impossible, especially during
5 COVID.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Commissioner
8 Sullivan.

9 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Thank you.

10 I appreciate everything you do. My
11 wife and my daughter are both educators, so I know
12 the struggles, especially the last year and a half,
13 and I've seen it firsthand how hard you all work.

14 Some people think that you are just
15 sitting there on a computer. My goodness, my wife is
16 on the computer after she gets off the computer
17 planning lessons for the next day, making sure she
18 has everything fun for the kids to do to make
19 learning fun. Really, from the bottom of my heart I
20 appreciate all that you do and I say thank you.

21 Like Commissioner Zur said, to me
22 Teacher Appreciation Day is every day at my house, so
23 thank you, I appreciate it.

24 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Freeholder Hache.

25 COMMISSIONER HACHE: I just want to

1 echo some of the sentiments of my fellow
2 Commissioners here tonight. I have educators in my
3 family, and I have seen just how difficult this time
4 has been for them. I mean, they're working twice as
5 hard.

6 We entrust these teachers with the
7 future of our children. These are the people who are
8 really building the foundation of the next generation
9 of leaders, the folks who will run this country long
10 after we're gone, and I cannot thank them enough. It
11 takes really dedication and love for that profession,
12 and I admire and appreciate everything that you have
13 done. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
15 Commissioner.

16 Listen, the only disappointing thing
17 for all of us tonight is that we're not able to be
18 together in a public room face-to-face where we can
19 thank you personally, but I guess this will have to
20 do, the same way we're teaching our kids. I just
21 want to thank you so much for taking the time tonight
22 to join us and giving us an opportunity to thank you
23 for your service and to honor you tonight. So thank
24 you very much for coming.

25 [APPLAUSE]

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. I'm going to
2 take a motion from Commissioner Voss, and I'd like to
3 see if the Board would be in favor of seconding it by
4 the Body of the Whole?

5 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER HACHE: No objection.

8 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Madam Clerk, could
9 you please call the roll.

10 (At this point in the proceeding roll
11 call is taken and Resolution #346-21 is passed by a
12 vote of six in favor, with Commissioner Ortiz
13 absent.)

14 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six yeses,
15 #346-21 passes.

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Great.

17 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. Resolution
19 #347-21 is a resolution in Recognition of Mental
20 Health Awareness Month.

21 Would the host please bring in our
22 invited guest, Valeri Guevarra.

23 Hopefully I pronounced that correctly.
24 When we're in-person, I usually have counsel sitting
25 next to me giving me the proper pronunciation.

1 So, Commissioner Hache, would you
2 please present the resolution.

3 COMMISSIONER HACHE: Thank you,
4 Chairman.

5 Every May, the Board of County
6 Commissioners recognizes Mental Health Awareness
7 Month. The National Alliance on Mental Illness
8 adopts a message each year during their awareness
9 campaign to destigmatize mental illness and encourage
10 those in need to seek help and educate others on how
11 to be an ally. This year the message is "You Are Not
12 Alone."

13 I don't need to remind anyone here
14 tonight of the struggles we have all been through in
15 the last very challenging year. Lives have changed
16 drastically and it can be difficult to imagine what
17 life will be like under the "new normal," whenever it
18 is that we get there.

19 Social distancing and other efforts to
20 curb the spread of COVID-19 have caused a tremendous
21 amount of strain on the personal networks and
22 relationships of many people, but it is important to
23 always remember that "You Are Not Alone," and the
24 county has several resources available to those who
25 are struggling, not only during these difficult and

1 strange times, but at all times.

2 At the county, we provide services to
3 ensure that everyone has access to help during a time
4 of crisis. If you or a loved one is experiencing the
5 signs or symptoms of a mental illness, you can always
6 call 201-262-HELP, trained crisis counselors are
7 available 24/7, 365 days a year to aid in getting
8 help.

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
10 Commissioner.

11 I'd like to welcome Valeri Guevarra, an
12 Indian Hills High School student and the founder of
13 TeenHealth101.org.

14 With her are her parents, Valter
15 Guevarra and Clarita Dario-Guevarra.

16 As mentioned by Commissioner Hache,
17 COVID-19 has strained many of our personal networks
18 and relationships. One of the groups most impacted
19 by the pandemic have been our adolescents. They have
20 faced numerous challenges from changes in route,
21 missing key life events, and the isolation from
22 friends.

23 It was with this in mind that Ms.
24 Guevarra created TeenHealth101, a website focused on
25 making mental health information more accessible to

1 teenagers by providing accurate, updated, and
2 relevant information to teenagers from teenagers.

3 Valeri, I understand that your website
4 has become a youth-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit media
5 organization.

6 Would you please tell us about yourself
7 and your nonprofit organization.

8 MISS GUEVARRA: I would love to.

9 First off, I just want to thank you for
10 the opportunity to be here. I'm Valeri. I'm a
11 junior at Indian Hills High School, and obviously I
12 founded TeenHealth101. Right now, over kind of the
13 last year, we've grown from a website to obviously a
14 nonprofit organization where we mainly focus on
15 creating reliable resources, so whether it be on
16 social media, on our website. We also do digital
17 magazines and podcasts. And these areas of content
18 are just ways that we create resources for the youth.
19 So just engaging, digestible, simple resources about
20 health for the youth to use to educate themselves
21 about health information. As we've seen, it's really
22 important, especially in our circumstances right now.

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Well, on behalf of
24 the Board of Commissioners and the nearly one million
25 people that live in Bergen County, thank you for all

1 seconded by the Body of the Whole.

2 Will the Clerk please read the roll
3 call.

4 (At this point in the proceeding roll
5 call is taken and Resolution #347-21 is passed by a
6 vote of six in favor, with Commissioner Ortiz
7 absent.)

8 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six yeses,
9 #347-21 passes unanimously.

10 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR:
11 Congratulations.

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: So, Valeri, what I
13 mentioned to the other guest that we had just prior
14 to you, the teachers, unfortunately we don't have the
15 honor of meeting you face-to-face to present you with
16 the certificate, so if you're okay with it, I would
17 love, when we open things back up, to have you come
18 back, if that would be okay.

19 MISS GUEVARRA: Yes, I would love to
20 come back and meet everybody in-person.

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Exactly. So thank
22 you so much for joining us tonight. We really
23 appreciate it.

24 MISS GUEVARRA: Yes, thank you so much
25 for the opportunity.

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Have a great night.

2 MISS GUEVARRA: Bye.

3 MINUTES

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. Will the
5 Clerk please read the minutes to be accepted.

6 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: The minutes to be
7 accepted are:

8 February 16th - Public Session; all
9 present.

10 March 3rd - Public Session; all
11 present.

12 March 3rd - Work Session; all present.

13 March 17th - Public Session; all
14 present.

15 March 17th - Work Session; all present.

16 April 7th - Public Session;

17 Commissioner Sullivan absent.

18 April 7th - Work Session; Commissioner
19 Sullivan absent.

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

21 I'll make a motion to accept the
22 minutes.

23 May I have a second?

24 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

1 All in favor?

2 (All present Commissioners respond in
3 the affirmative, with noted abstention by
4 Commissioner Sullivan on the April 7, 2021 Work
5 Session and Public Meeting minutes, and Commissioner
6 Ortiz absent.)

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it.

8 HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: May I have a motion
10 to open the meeting to the public?

11 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: So moved.

12 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

14 All in favor?

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

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it.

20 We will now have a Hearing of the
21 General Public, with a three-minute time limit in
22 effect, in accordance with the Bergen County
23 Commissioner bylaws.

24 For those members of the public who
25 would like to participate during the public comments,

1 please look to the bottom of your screen and click
2 the icon that reads "Q&A."

3 On the screen that pops up, please
4 provide your full name, your municipality, and the
5 topic you wish the discuss.

6 Would the counselor please explain the
7 process by which the public will be recognized.

8 MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Chairman.

9 A member of the public who is
10 recognized to speak by the Chair will be prompted to
11 unmute and a chat box will appear, which will allow
12 you to unmute yourself.

13 After you've unmuted, please spell your
14 name and say the town where you live. You'll have
15 three minutes to speak. And after those three
16 minutes, the host will mute you.

17 Thank you, Chairman.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
19 counselor.

20 Is there anyone wishing to speak?

21 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, first is Emma.

22 Emma, prior to speaking, please spell
23 your first and last name for the record and state
24 your town. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Welcome, Emma.

1 MS. O'CONNOR: Thank you very much for
2 the opportunity to speak.

3 I'm Emma, E-M-M-A, O'Connor,
4 O'C-O-N-N-O-R from Upper Saddle River.

5 I wanted to tell a story about two
6 siblings from Oakland, New Jersey, who were
7 quarantined because there was one child on their
8 school bus who tested positive for COVID.

9 Their dad heard that in some districts
10 there's a seating chart for buses that only actual
11 close contacts need to quarantine instead of the
12 whole bus. He and his wife both work outside of the
13 home and simply cannot continue take off from work
14 for repeated two week periods at a moment's notice,
15 and he worries about the mental, emotional and
16 psychological health of his children, who really
17 struggle with the repeated isolation of quarantine.

18 Thousands and thousands of stories like
19 these are playing out all over Bergen County.

20 New Jersey and the CDC both define
21 close contact requiring quarantine as within six feet
22 for more than 15 minutes, yet throughout Bergen
23 County public schools quarantines of entire
24 classrooms, school buses, and sometimes grades are
25 frequent and prolonged. There's no uniform policy or

1 consistency.

2 I'm greatly concerned with school
3 exposure quarantine policy, and I have great respect
4 for the tragedy that COVID has caused. Here is my
5 story.

6 I am a nurse who witnessed much illness
7 and death from COVID last spring working at a
8 hospital in Newark. Furthermore, I lost my own
9 father-in-law to COVID on April 7, 2020, after he
10 spent 22 days alone in Hackensack Medical Center
11 without his wife of 50 plus years by his side, but
12 repeated lengthy unnecessary quarantines and
13 classroom closures are not protecting our vulnerable
14 county members. Ample scientific evidence, study
15 after study, has shown the transmission within school
16 settings is lower than levels of community
17 transmission. This is likely because younger
18 children end up getting passed around between
19 caretakers while parents are at work and high
20 schoolers socialize indoors.

21 It would sadden me greatly if a COVID
22 outbreak in our county caused by young children who
23 had been quarantined by their school being shuffled
24 between caregivers or grandparents led to the death
25 or illness of a vulnerable individual in our county.

1 Quarantining entire classrooms and
2 large groups of students for longer than necessary is
3 causing needless harm to children and families in our
4 county. This is the topic of a petition with 1,550
5 signatures from constituents all over Bergen County
6 that we have submitted to County Executive Tedesco
7 twice in March and twice in April. Sen. Schepisi and
8 Assemblyman DePhillips also contacted him on our
9 behalf on April 15th and also have received no reply.

10 We greatly appreciate his leadership
11 and hard work during these unprecedented times, but
12 are still waiting for him address our concerns.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you. I want
15 to thank you for your service during these difficult
16 times.

17 We, along with you, are concerned about
18 a lot of the things that you mentioned here today. I
19 know that there were some discrepancies that we were
20 hearing from school boards regarding the county
21 policy, the state policy, and CDC guidelines.

22 MS. O'CONNOR: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: And because we were
24 hit first and we were hit hardest, we believe that
25 the administration took the necessary steps in order

1 to safeguard against any issues.

2 Recently, I did see correspondence
3 where Bergen County is now following the CDC
4 guidelines, which means a lot of the quarantining of
5 full classes is not happening at the moment. So I
6 don't know if your comments were drafted up before
7 the state and county moved to CDC.

8 We're not going to have a back and
9 forth dialogue, but I will tell you if you send me an
10 email I will be more than happy to talk to you
11 offline and narrow down what your concerns are and
12 what the petition was all about, if you don't mind.

13 MS. O'CONNOR: I don't know if I'm
14 still unmuted.

15 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We can hear you.

16 MS. O'CONNOR: Okay. Thank you very
17 much. I would greatly appreciate that. And actually
18 can you tell me who it is who's talking, because I
19 can't see who is talking?

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Commissioner
21 Tanelli.

22 MS. O'CONNOR: Thank you very much,
23 Commissioner Tanelli.

24 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Sure. You have a
25 nice evening.

1 MS. O'CONNOR: You too.

2 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, next is
3 Dominick.

4 Dominick, prior to speaking, please
5 spell your first and last name and state your town.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. SCALCIONE: Hello. Can you confirm
8 that you can hear me?

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Yes, we can,
10 Dominick. Welcome back.

11 MR. SCALCIONE: Thank you.

12 Dominick, D-O-M-I-N-I-C-K, Scalcione,
13 S-C-A-L-C-I-O-N-E, Elmwood Park.

14 Good evening, Hon. Commissioners and
15 Hon. Julien Neals.

16 My question deals with the availability
17 of vaccination numbers for our local Bergen County
18 communities.

19 At his coronavirus briefing on Monday,
20 Gov. Murphy said the following, "We're going to try
21 to make vaccination numbers more localized and more
22 widely available, collating and releasing hyper-local
23 data giving local officials and community leaders a
24 clear look into what's happening in their
25 neighborhoods so they can work with us at the state

1 level and with their county partners to focus on
2 lagging areas. I'll show you this, for example..."
3 and he showed a slide. This slide showed 16
4 municipalities with populations over 10,000 where
5 currently fewer than 40 percent of eligible residents
6 have received an initial dose and where we are
7 currently deepening our engagement with local
8 officials to move forward together.

9 Apparently the slide the governor
10 showed was in error, but I found the corrected
11 PowerPoint slide in the local press. Still, it was a
12 disappointment to learn that two of our communities,
13 Fairview and Garfield, had initial dose levels of 36
14 and 39 percent respectively.

15 My question: Has the county received
16 any of the local vaccination numbers yet? And do you
17 expect to share them with local health borough and
18 municipal leaders?

19 Thank you for allowing me to speak to
20 the board this evening.

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, Dominick.
22 To my knowledge, the Board has not received those,
23 the numbers that you are looking for, so I would have
24 to check with the administration to see if they're
25 available.

1 Anyone else wishing to speak?

2 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, next is Jon
3 Moscow.

4 John, please spell your first and last
5 name prior to speaking and state your town.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Hi, Jon. Welcome
8 back.

9 MR. MOSCOW: Yes, it's Jon Moscow,
10 J-O-N M-O-S-C-O-W, and I'm in Teaneck.

11 As I mentioned before, I'm the co-chair
12 of the Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition, which
13 was founded in 2006 by Dr. Joe Chuman of the Ethical
14 Culture Society of Bergen County and is now a
15 multidenominational organization with ten member
16 organizations, which works with asylum seekers and
17 recent asylees and also advocates for immigrants in
18 general.

19 At the last meeting, Chairman Tanelli,
20 you said that if I had further questions or wanted to
21 continue our conversation I should send you an email,
22 which I did. I hope you received it.

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I certainly did.

24 MR. MOSCOW: I haven't heard back, but
25 I'm sure that I will, and I'd ask you if you would

1 share it with your fellow Commissioners.

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Absolutely.

3 MR. MOSCOW: And I do want to make a
4 couple of points, but before that I do want to make
5 one critical point because there's this canard out
6 there that's really important to just stop. Not one
7 single person in ICE detention would be
8 incarcerated -- let's not use the word "detention,"
9 it's incarceration, you're in jail -- if they were a
10 citizen of the United States, if they have committed
11 a crime or have been convicted or have pled guilty,
12 and we all know the way the justice system works and
13 we know this in the case of many people in detention,
14 their lawyer will say to you, look, they're going to
15 get you anyway, plead something and I'll get you out
16 easier, and they do, and ICE picks them up.

17 So if those people have served time,
18 they are done with their time. And by the laws of
19 this country, with liberty and justice for all, they
20 are then on exactly on the same basis as everybody
21 else. So we don't want to hear all of this nonsense
22 about the most dangerous of the dangerous, about
23 protecting the county, because you're not.

24 Okay, that said, we were very pleased,
25 we understand from news reports, that the Sheriff

1 said that he's not going to accept any more ICE
2 detainees. He hasn't said whether this is temporary
3 or permanent.

4 Needless to say, we would like the
5 Commissioners to come out very strongly publicly that
6 this should be a permanent state of affairs, not
7 something that comes up and down with the budget
8 basically.

9 We also would like to see the
10 Commissioners strongly endorse and advocate for
11 Assembly bills #5207 and #722. #5207 would ban
12 renewal of ICE contracts or new ones, #722 would
13 address the outrageous charges that people who are
14 detained or in jail have to pay for videos with their
15 families. There is just no excuse for this
16 whatsoever.

17 We would also like to have you advocate
18 very strongly, until these laws are passed, that the
19 detainees who are currently still in Bergen be
20 released humanely and responsibly into the community.
21 The solution is not to have ICE send them off
22 wherever they feel like sending them far away,
23 because one of the things we've been told is that one
24 of the reasons for the jail is to keep people close
25 to home.

1 MR. SHEINFELD: That was three
2 minutes.

3 MR. MOSCOW: Am I done with my time?

4 MR. SHEINFELD: Yes, you had three
5 minutes.

6 MR. MOSCOW: Okay. Well, then I guess
7 that's it, but we would appreciate, Mr. Tanelli, a
8 chance to meet with you and with other members of the
9 Commission, if they would like to meet with us.

10 Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: So just my brief
12 comment on that is that in a lot of areas we do
13 agree, but we also do have knowledge of the fact
14 that, although you don't want to recognize it, some
15 of these individuals should not be released on our
16 streets because of the heinous crimes that they did
17 commit. Is it all of them? No, but we agree that
18 people should not be detained if they are not violent
19 criminals. We have so many areas where we agree, but
20 there are people that are being detained that should
21 be detained, so we're going to disagree on that
22 regard.

23 Is there anyone else wishing to speak?

24 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, next is Sherif.

25 Sherif, please spell your first and

1 last name and state your town, prior to speaking.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. IBRAHIM: S-H-E-R-I-F

4 I-B-R-A-H-I-M, North Bergen, New Jersey.

5 I just want to start off by saying that
6 there are currently 25 people detained in Bergen
7 County Jail who have COVID, so we need to consider
8 them first and foremost of the people who need care
9 and need attention.

10 I'm going to talk about an incident
11 that happened on May 3rd, this past Monday, around
12 lunchtime. There were 35 to 40 guards, including
13 lieutenants, sergeants, and officers, who came into a
14 cell block/unit to target two people who were
15 allegedly smoking. One officer immediately began to
16 pepper spray the area, another officer said "Lock the
17 fuck in," that was the verbatim language he used.
18 The command was given impromptu and with extreme
19 violence as officers and guards began beating
20 inmates, and one of the officers had his foot on a
21 detainee's neck. One person was dragged down 20
22 stairs by approximately eight officers, another was
23 in the process of putting his clothing away in
24 preparation for locking in when the guards demanded
25 he put down his clothes and put his hands behind his

1 back for the purpose of an arrest. Officers
2 handcuffed him and slammed him on the ground and
3 descended on him as well. At one point, an officer
4 had his foot -- yes, I mentioned that -- and guards
5 were punching and beating several other people. And
6 there are still now seven people that are in lockup
7 indefinitely with no estimation as to when they'll be
8 released, and they don't have access to their
9 commissary funds or phone calls to their loved ones
10 or lawyers.

11 These folks have demands.

12 The first is to release them.

13 The second is to release those in
14 solitary confinement.

15 The third is proper medical follow-up
16 to ensure no severe trauma.

17 The fourth is to end the lockdown
18 system.

19 Fifth is all dietary needs must be met,
20 including those observing the Ramadan fast.

21 And sixth is to end random searches and
22 strip searches that border on sexual harassment.

23 And seventh is to release the video
24 footage of the May 3rd incident that happened this
25 past Monday.

1 And, again, I just want to reiterate,
2 we, yes, have been going through quarantining but
3 it's nothing compared to what folks being locked up
4 for wanting to seek asylum in this country are facing
5 in terms of being exposed to COVID and dealing with
6 severe police brutality and prison abuse.

7 This needs to stop. You have the power
8 to end this contract. You have the power to free
9 these people. You can and must and should do that.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: You think very
12 highly of the authority that we have, so thank you.

13 I won't comment on what happened in the
14 detention center, because I'm sure it's under
15 investigation and I guess more facts will be released
16 as the investigation is concluded.

17 As far as the 20 people that had
18 contacted COVID this past week, they were not the ICE
19 detainees. They were asymptomatic. Two of the
20 individuals that had gotten the COVID virus also had
21 been vaccinated while they were incarcerated.

22 They're still going through the same
23 protocols they've gone through throughout the entire
24 COVID crisis, where they quarantine and they're
25 routinely randomly checked. So I just wanted to

1 dispel any ill facts.

2 Anyone else wishing to speak?

3 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, next is Whitney.

4 Whitney prior to speaking, please spell
5 your first and last name and state your town.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. STRUB: Sure thing.

8 Whitney Strub, W-H-I-T-N-E-Y S-T-R-U-B.

9 I live in Newark, but I'm a member of North Jersey
10 Democratic Socialists of America, which is also based
11 in Bergen County. I'm also a teacher at Rutgers
12 Newark, where I teach U.S. history. So I want to
13 thank you all for Teachers Appreciation Week, but I
14 feel there are some lessons you're missing from it.

15 You know, as a teacher, some things
16 that I've learned in my study of U.S. history are
17 that the U.S. criminal justice system and/or our
18 immigrant detention system are founded on racism, and
19 silence and complicity in the face of this racism is
20 essentially assenting to it. And that is exactly
21 what I've witnessed you doing for years here.

22 In fact, Mr. Tanelli, I cannot tell
23 whether you are being willfully ignorant or whether
24 you are simply lying, but in framing immigrant
25 detainees as violent criminals, you are willfully

1 disregarding the fact that anybody who has committed
2 a crime has already served their sentence. They are
3 not being held there for anything that they've done.
4 Whether they've done horrible things or not is
5 completely irrelevant to the civil detention that ICE
6 puts them in. Somebody who's been a murderer, a
7 rapist, whatever your worst case examples are that
8 you want to use to demonize these people, they've
9 done their time. Either you believe in our criminal
10 justice system or you don't. And if you do, that
11 means they have done their time. You need to stop
12 using that rhetoric, it is deliberately inflammatory
13 and pleasing to all of the Donald Trump style racist
14 tropes about immigrants.

15 So I would welcome any response you
16 have to that, because it's very infuriating to hear
17 you use these tropes year after a year.

18 Beyond that, I am just echoing
19 everything Jon Moscow and Sherif said. You know, I
20 think we're seeing continued violence in the
21 facility. We saw that this week. There is reporting
22 that there is a gulf between what the Sheriff's
23 Office says and how detainees are recounting it. I
24 know that I personally believe the detainees more
25 than I believe the Sheriff's Office, but of course

1 you could help settle this by releasing the video.

2 And so the two questions I'd like to
3 leave you with are:

4 1. Will you publicly commit to the
5 immediate release of the video, which would help
6 clarify that incident?

7 2. Will you publicly commit to
8 Assemblyman Johnson's bill to end ICE contracts in
9 New Jersey with an amendment to immediately end all
10 existing contracts?

11 I hope as Democrats that you will,
12 because of course Bob Menendez, Cory Booker, numerous
13 other Democrats are all on the side of justice now
14 calling for an end to these contracts, and you really
15 are the last holdouts and that needs to change.

16 I yield my time. Thank you.

17 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, next is Susan.

18 Susan, prior to speaking please spell
19 your first and last name and state your town.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. SHEINFELD: Please raise your hand
22 so I can find you on the list.

23 I have Jessica.

24 MR. DARLEY: No, it looks like Susan
25 left.

1 So next on the list is Purbita.

2 Purbita, please spell your first and
3 last name prior to speaking and state your town.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. SAHA: Hi. My name is Purbita
6 Saha, P-U-R-B-I-T-A, last name S-A-H-A. I'm from
7 Ramsey, New Jersey.

8 I'm calling in tonight in support of
9 those who were assaulted at the Bergen County Jail
10 this past Monday, I guess it is, but still being held
11 in solitary confinement. I am calling in support of
12 their demands to be released, for there to be
13 accountability on how the guards attacked them, and
14 for them to receive the proper medical attention and
15 resources that have been denied them.

16 This incident is just another example
17 of the series of abuses and harms we've heard from
18 immigrants in ICE detention at the Bergen County Jail
19 throughout this past year, and, again, that's only
20 because we've been reaching out and listening, so who
21 knows what has been happening even before that. But
22 it's clear that this facility and Sheriff Anthony
23 Cureton cannot continue to house these immigrants.

24 As a resident of Bergen County, I would
25 like to see more transparency on what the Sheriff's

1 Office means when they say that they're not taking in
2 any more ICE detainees. I think as the commission,
3 you can call for that, as you can continue to call
4 for the end to this contract.

5 This past week has been very busy on
6 the movement against cooperation with ICE in North
7 Jersey, and Bergen County is the one last facility
8 that hasn't responded in re-evaluating its contract
9 with the agency. So this timing is perfect, but also
10 we need to continue to think about the safety and
11 also continue to think about the immigrants.

12 Thank you for the time.

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

14 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, next is Jessica.

15 Jessica, please spell your first and
16 last name prior to speaking and state your town.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. BERROCAL: Hi. Good evening. My
19 name is Jessica Berrocal. I'm a resident in
20 Fairview, New Jersey, which is in Bergen County.

21 It's very -- applying the fact that,
22 you know, no one understands the mental health that
23 happens when someone is actually confined. That
24 someone could be under pressure, and, you know,
25 going, inflicting, you know, hunger during the time

1 that is the most sacred time for Muslims.

2 We call ourselves, you know, diverse
3 and inclusive, and, you know, one day we will
4 actually face someone that all of us will be judged
5 upon everything we do and who we stand for.

6 I come here to ask all Commissioners
7 the end the contract, to end the contract that was
8 actually brought after 2001. ICE was created in
9 2003, and it was just to make more money and make
10 money off of underserved communities that come from
11 already countries that already are suffering.
12 Central America is in chaos, and during the pandemic
13 as well.

14 I'm a Latino Muslim, 21 years being
15 Muslim, and it is most ridiculous to understand and
16 to know that people that are actually practicing
17 their religion under the government's watch, they're
18 not able to break their fast. That is absolutely
19 absurd.

20 Hudson County allows other communities
21 and organizations, which I was a part of, Freeholder
22 Anthony Romano knows this, we will be cooking and
23 bringing in food during Ramadan. And, if it wasn't
24 for COVID, it would have been seven years we
25 celebrated Eid for all the detainees, not only in the

1 ICE detention center but also everyone that is Muslim
2 to break their fast. We'll bring in food and cook
3 and give it to them.

4 Now, I understand the restrictions
5 because of COVID, but I would say that, you know,
6 we're all humans. How come, as humanity, we cannot
7 like be decent among each other?

8 So I find it very shameful, as we are
9 during a month that is very holy for a particular
10 religion, which is people have practiced Muslim,
11 Islam, not to be able to break their fast and people
12 that are confined, people that are actually being
13 harassed in almost a sexual, like sexual -- would you
14 like to be in that situation? Can you imagine
15 yourself, if you had a family member in those same
16 conditions?

17 MR. SHEINFELD: That's three minutes.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

20 Anyone else?

21 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, next is Jeff.

22 Jeff, prior to speaking please spell
23 your first and last name and state your town.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. LEWKOWITZ: My name is Jeff

1 Lewkowitz, J-E-F-F L-E-W-K-O-W-I-T-Z. I'm a new
2 homeowner in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey. I'm a
3 union worker, a shop steward. I'm the son of
4 Holocaust survivors, and the kin of immigrants, and
5 the father of a young son.

6 I spend a lot of my time organizing
7 mutual aid in the community. I listen to a lot of
8 people and talk to folks in the neighborhood about
9 tough topics, about their needs not being met. And I
10 organize to help meet those needs with them and how
11 they can do that work with others.

12 To hear a lot of things like COVID,
13 food insecurity, housing insecurity, job insecurity,
14 those topics predominate these conversations. But
15 often these conversations lead back to the county
16 prison and the ICE contract there.

17 As we hear about other counties closing
18 their jails and prisons and ending their ICE
19 contracts, I want to urge us to follow suit. We in
20 Bergen are -- hello?

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Go ahead. I'm
22 sorry.

23 MR. LEWKOWITZ: We in Bergen are the
24 fourth wealthiest county in the state, but so many
25 people are still not having their needs met and

1 they're hurting from this facility.

2 You know, it's Teacher Appreciation
3 Week, and I'm reminded of something a teacher friend
4 told me. If teachers were being paid enough, they
5 wouldn't need a week for appreciation. And I think
6 what we could do for our teachers with fewer police
7 and less custodial structures like the jail and the
8 ICE contract and so on. You know, I heard about the
9 absolute horrors and violence in the prison that
10 happened on Monday, the people incarcerated there,
11 and that trauma reverberates within our communities,
12 you know, it doesn't just stay within those walls,
13 and we hear about it when we engage people in the
14 community and not prompted. You know, this kind of
15 trauma needs to be reckoned with. So in order to do
16 that, I think, please meet the demands of the people
17 inside.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

20 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, next is Mariama.

21 Mariama, please spell your first and
22 last name and state your town.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. DIALLO: M-A-R-I-A-M-A D-I-A-L-L-O.

25 And my county [sic] is North Bergen.

1 I am also echoing the comments and
2 questions raised by those who previously commented on
3 the violence experienced at the Bergen County Jail by
4 those detained in the New Jersey detainee immigration
5 unit, as well as ending the ICE contract at Bergen
6 County Jail immediately, especially in light of the
7 events this past week, with Essex County stating that
8 it would stop holding ICE immigrants in its jail,
9 Hudson moving to reevaluate its contract with the ICE
10 agency, and the owners of the Elizabeth Detention
11 Center suing to end the ICE contract as well. That
12 makes Bergen County the only exception.

13 County leaders must pressure Sheriff
14 Cureton to end ICE detention at the jail.

15 I'm also raising the demands of those
16 detained in the New Jersey detainee unit at the
17 Bergen County Jail who witnessed and experienced such
18 intense violence and trauma at this jail this past
19 Monday, where dozens of guards pepper sprayed,
20 assaulted, and put several Black and Hispanic
21 immigrants in solitary confinement.

22 Those in solitary have no access to
23 contact their loved ones or legal representatives,
24 and that's unimaginable in a system where their lives
25 can change in a moment's notice and they can be put

1 on a plane and detained or deported or put farther
2 south in Louisiana.

3 They're also being denied access to
4 medical attention and their religious allowances,
5 especially in light of this holy month of Ramadan.

6 I'm also demanding that the two-hour
7 lockdown that the entire unit is put under, where two
8 hours they're put in their cells and two hours has to
9 be outside of the unit end, and that they be
10 completely allowed to remain outside of that two-hour
11 lockdown.

12 I yield my time.

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

14 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, next is
15 Selaedin.

16 Selaedin, please spell your first and
17 last name and state your town.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. MAKSUT: Hello. Can you hear me?

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Yes. Welcome.

21 MR. MAKSUT: Okay. Thank you.

22 At this very moment, Muslims in the
23 tri-state area and the East Coast are actually
24 breaking their fasts, those that have the privilege
25 to do so at this time with their families and their

1 friends.

2 I want to echo what was mentioned by
3 many of the people that came before me, and I will
4 keep my time brief by mentioning the verse in the
5 Holy Quran. Muslims that observe the holy month of
6 Ramadan contemplate the verses of the Holy Quran day
7 in and day out. One of the very important verses
8 that stick to me and inspire my work is the verse
9 where God says all you who believe, be persistent in
10 standing firm for justice, even if it is against
11 yourself.

12 I ask that you all contemplate this
13 verse, and I ask that you contemplate the horrors and
14 the inhumane reality that is the reality within these
15 centers. I ask that you take whatever power that you
16 have that has been bestowed upon you to bring an end
17 to these centers, to bring an end to the inhumane
18 treatment of those that are inside.

19 A little about my work. So I serve as
20 the Executive Director of the Council on
21 American-Islamic Relations, New Jersey office. CAIR
22 is America's largest Muslim civil rights advocacy
23 group.

24 When I hear of these stories that have
25 been mentioned before, it pains me to hear Muslim,

1 non-Muslim. No matter who it is, they have a soul
2 and they have a right to freedom and they have a
3 right to live in a humane manner.

4 I ask that you please use your power in
5 order to bring an end to the tortures that they have
6 been going through.

7 Thank you and have a good day.

8 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you very much.

9 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, next is Joshua.

10 Joshua, please spell your first and
11 last name and state your town.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. STEINMAN: Yes.

14 Joshua, J-O-S-H-U-A, Steinman,
15 S-T-E-I-N-M-A-N. I live in Fort Lee, New Jersey,
16 where I work and also pay taxes.

17 I'm here to echo the sentiments of
18 other people who have spoken today, to tell Sheriff
19 Cureton to end the ICE contract and free all ICE
20 detainees.

21 Essex County will end their ICE
22 contract. The Elizabeth Detention Center is suing to
23 end its contract. Hudson County looks like it will
24 do the same. I mean, New Jersey senators are against
25 the contract as well. If Bergen continues its

1 contract, the optics of that won't be very good. All
2 right. It's clear that the contract is not
3 politically palatable, and imagine the heat that you
4 will get, Commissioners, if you're the only county in
5 the state that contracts with ICE. You can't stick
6 your heads in the sand any longer. You must tell
7 Cureton to end the contract now, and, you know, you
8 can't defend the indefensible.

9 Black and Latin immigrants are being
10 abused, and it's happening under your watch and under
11 Cureton's watch, and I don't know if my taxes help
12 fund this terror. I'm sure they do in some way. And
13 that's just absolutely awful to have to, you know,
14 pay for that, but, more importantly, the people are
15 suffering in this jail. I mean, people have been
16 dragged down the stairs, pepper sprayed, assaulted,
17 locked up in solitary confinement. Rats, pests have
18 been allowed to infest the jail. The jail has seen
19 COVID outbreaks. Hunger strikers have been
20 retaliated against. So I just want to echo one more
21 time what the ICE detainees are calling for, the
22 immediate release of everyone, no more solitary,
23 medical care, and end the lockdowns, meet all the
24 dietary needs of the Muslim detainees, and end the
25 searches that border on sexual abuse, and release the

1 video footage from May 3rd.

2 Thank you. I yield my time.

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

4 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, no one else
5 wishes to speak.

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I make a motion to
7 close.

8 May I have a second?

9 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

11 All in favor?

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

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it,
17 we're now closed to the public.

18 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Mr.
19 Chairman, may I just clarify one item, though, just
20 because I've been in consultation with clergy and
21 that all individuals at the jail who are of Muslim
22 faith are permitted to break their fast and observe
23 all the rituals of Ramadan. So I just want to put
24 that on the record.

25 I know there's other issues that were

1 addressed here this evening and some will need more
2 clarification, but that is something I just wanted to
3 emphatically state for the record.

4 Thank you, Chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
6 Commissioner.

7 REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

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

11 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: We have Resolutions
12 #301-21 through #345-21 and #348-21 through #353-21.

13 RESOLUTIONS OF CONSENT

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I move to accept the
15 resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

16 May I have a second, please?

17 COMMISSIONER VOSS: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

19 Please call the roll.

20 (At this point in the proceeding roll
21 call is taken and the Consent Agenda is passed by a
22 vote of six in favor, with Commissioner Ortiz
23 absent.)

24 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six yeses, the
25 Consent Agenda is approved.

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

2 RESOLUTIONS OF NONCONSENT

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Are there any
4 resolutions of nonconsent, tabled or pulled or
5 previously voted on?

6 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Yes, there are two
7 resolutions, Resolutions #346-21 and #347-21 were
8 previously entered onto the record as nonconsent and
9 voted on earlier tonight.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

11 ORDINANCES

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We will now move on
13 to First Readings of Ordinances.

14 Will the Clerk read Ordinance 21-06 by
15 title only.

16 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 21-06 is
17 an:

18 "ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BERGEN COUNTY
19 PARKS DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE TO INCLUDE A FEE FOR
20 USE OF THE WIBIT ATTRACTION AT DARLINGTON SWIM PARK."

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

22 I make a motion to introduce Ordinance
23 21-06 as read by the Clerk.

24 Do I have a second?

25 COMMISSIONER HACHE: 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 21-06 is passed by a vote of six in
7 favor, with Commissioner Ortiz absent.)

8 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six ayes,
9 Ordinance 21-06 has been introduced and passes First
10 Reading.

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We will now go on to
12 our ordinance for Second Reading and Adoption.

13 Will the Clerk please read the proof of
14 notice statement for Ordinance 21-03.

15 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: The Proof of
16 Publication and Notice of Public Hearing for
17 Ordinance 21-03 was published in accordance with the
18 law and is on file in my office.

19 A copy of the Notice of Hearing and
20 Ordinance 21-03 was duly posted, pursuant to N.J.S.A.
21 40A:2-17.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion
23 to open the public hearing on Ordinance 21-03 only?

24 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: So moved.

25 COMMISSIONER VOSS: 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.

7 The public hearing is now open for
8 Ordinance 21-03.

9 There will be a five-minute time limit
10 in effect to speak about 21-03 only. The Board
11 Attorney will keep the time.

12 Does anyone wish to speak on Ordinance
13 21-03?

14 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, no one has
15 indicated that they wish to speak on the ordinance.

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

17 Can I have a motion to close the public
18 hearing and adopt Ordinance 21-03?

19 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: So moved.

20 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

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

24 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the
2 roll.

3 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Chairman, may I read
4 into the record the actual wording of the ordinance?

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Yes, sure. I
6 thought you did already.

7 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very much.
8 Ordinance 21-03 is a:

9 "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS
10 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE BERGEN COUNTY COMMUNITY
11 COLLEGE IN AND BY THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, APPROPRIATING
12 THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$4,100,000 THEREFOR AND
13 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,100,000 BONDS OR NOTES
14 OF THE COUNTY ENTITLED TO THE BENEFITS OF CHAPTER 12
15 OF THE COUNTY COLLEGE BOND ACT TO FINANCE THE COST
16 THEREOF."

17 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Chairman, if I
18 could, could I just offer a few words on what this
19 ordinance will cover?

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Sure, Commissioner,
21 please do.

22 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Okay. Thank
23 you.

24 So this is for Bergen Community
25 College. It is part of our long-term Capital

1 Improvement Program, and it will cover facility
2 upgrades at Pitkin Educational Center, a walkway at
3 the tech building, parking lot improvements, and very
4 necessary improvements to the Culinary Learning
5 Center.

6 Thank you, Chairman.

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: So I just realized
8 what happened, Madam Clerk, I skipped right over you
9 reading the title. I apologize. It's been a long
10 night.

11 So where are we? So we need a roll
12 call, correct?

13 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Correct.

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the
15 roll.

16 (At this point in the proceeding roll
17 call is taken and the Second Reading and Adoption of
18 Ordinance 21-03 is passed by a vote of six in favor,
19 with Commissioner Ortiz absent.)

20 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six ayes,
21 Ordinance 21-03 passes Second Reading and is adopted.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: That was it for
23 Second Readings of ordinances tonight. You got off
24 easy, Madam Clerk.

25 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: So is everyone still
2 in favor of reports?

3 COMMISSIONER VOSS: Can we suspend them
4 this week?

5 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: I'll second
6 that.

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: What are you
8 laughing about, Commissioner?

9 COMMISSIONER HACHE: You read my mind.
10 That was great. How did you do that?

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: So if that's the
12 case, then I have a motion and a second.

13 All in favor?

14 (All present Commissioners respond in
15 the affirmative, with Vice-Chairwoman Silna Zur
16 voting nay.)

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

18 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Opposed.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it,
20 committee reports will be suspended this evening.

21 Does the County Administrator have
22 anything he'd like to add to tonight's meeting before
23 we conclude?

24 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: No,
25 Chairman.

1 ADJOURNMENT

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: There being nothing
3 further to come before this meeting, I move to
4 adjourn.

5 May I have a second?

6 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
8 Vice-Chairwoman.

9 All in favor?

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

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it, we
15 are adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

16 Thank you, everybody.

17 (Whereupon, the Public Meeting is
18 adjourned at 8:09 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, CPCR, CCR, RDR
License #XIO1042, and Notary Public
of New Jersey

My Commission Expires:
7/11/2024