

1 BERGEN COUNTY  
2 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
3 HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY  
4 PUBLIC MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM  
5 WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021  
6 COMMENCING AT 7:03 P.M.

7  
8 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

9 STEVEN A. TANELLI, CHAIRMAN

10 TRACY SILNA ZUR, VICE CHAIRWOMAN

11 DR. JOAN M. VOSS, CHAIRWOMAN PRO TEMPORE

12 MARY J. AMOROSO

13 RAMON M. HACHE, SR.

14 THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

15 COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

16 GERMAINE M. ORTIZ

17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23 KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.D.R.  
24 P.O. BOX 213  
25 ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213  
26 201-336-6200

1

2

ALSO PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

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4

LARA RODRIGUEZ  
CLERK TO THE BOARD

5

JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQUIRE  
ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

7

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQUIRE  
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

8

9

MICHAEL SHEINFELD  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

10

11

JAMES A. DARLEY  
AIDE TO CHAIRMAN TANELLI

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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.

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.

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

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.

3 COMMISSIONER HACHE: Thank you,  
4 Chairman.

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 that you do and for your leadership.

With all of the negativity that we hear about with social media and the Internet, it's so good to see somebody use it for such a positive and inspiring reason. So I want to thank you for your efforts, and I'm sure that everyone that uses this app is so appreciative. Thank you also for being here.

10 Go ahead, Tracy.

11 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: As a parent  
12 of teenagers, I can tell you how vital what you're  
13 doing is. You know, when we say something, it  
14 doesn't resonate the same way as teens talking to  
15 teens and accessing information in a way that's  
16 digestible for the way that you guys all communicate.  
17 It is so important what you're doing in taking the  
18 lead. These is such bizarre times, and being there  
19 for each other to support each other's mental health  
20 right now is so important, so thank you very much. I  
21 really appreciate what you're doing.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. So thank you,  
23 Valeri. So we're going to be passing that resolution  
24 now.

25 A motion made by Commissioner Hache,

1 | seconded by the Body of the Whole.

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.

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.

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.

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

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. SHEINFIELD: That was three  
2 minutes.

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

4 MR. SHEINFIELD: 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 Sheriff.

25 Sheriff, 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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:

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.

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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1           C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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4

I, KIM O. FURBACHER, License No.

5 XIO1042, a Certified Court Reporter, Registered

6 Diplomate Reporter, Certified Realtime Court

7 Reporter, and Notary Public of the State of New

8 Jersey, hereby certify that the foregoing is a

9 verbatim record of the testimony provided under oath

10 before any court, referee, board, commission or other

11 body created by statute of the State of New Jersey.

12           I am not related to the parties

13 involved in this action; I have no financial

14 interest, nor am I related to an agent of or employed

15 by anyone with a financial interest in the outcome of

16 this action.

17           This transcript complies with

18 Regulation 13:43-5.9 of the New Jersey Administrative

19 Code.

20

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22

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KIM O. FURBACHER, CRCR, CCR, RDR  
License #XIO1042, and Notary Public  
of New Jersey

23

24 My Commission Expires:

25 7/11/2024