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COUNTY OF BERGEN  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY  
PUBLIC MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021  
COMMENCING AT 7:03 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- TRACY SILNA ZUR, ACTING CHAIRWOMAN
- DR. JOAN M. VOSS, CHAIRWOMAN PRO TEMPORE
- MARY J. AMOROSO
- RAMON M. HACHE, SR.
- GERMAINE M. ORTIZ
- THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

- STEVEN A. TANELLI, CHAIRMAN

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

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ALSO PRESENT:

THOMAS J. DUCH, ESQUIRE  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/COUNTY COUNSEL

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQUIRE  
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

LARA RODRIGUEZ  
CLERK TO THE BOARD

MICHAEL SHEINFELD  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

JAMES A. DARLEY  
AIDE TO CHAIRMAN TANELLI

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.D.R.  
P.O. BOX 213  
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HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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(No one wishing to speak.)

1                   ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: The  
2 meeting is called to order at 7:03 p.m.

3                   Before we begin our meeting, I just  
4 want to ask that everyone please take a minute and  
5 silence their cellphones.

6                   Thank you.

7                   Will the Clerk please read the Sen.  
8 Byron Baer Open Public Meetings Act.

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

21 ROLL CALL

22                   ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Will the  
23 Clerk please call the roll.

24                   (At this point in the proceeding roll  
25 call is taken with Commissioners Amoroso, Hache,

1 Ortiz, Sullivan, Voss, and Acting Chairwoman Zur,  
2 with Chairman Tanelli absent.)

3 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank  
4 you.

5 Evidence of a quorum is present.

6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Will you  
8 all please join me as we pledge our allegiance and  
9 honor America.

10 (At this point in the proceeding all  
11 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.)

12 MOMENT OF SILENCE

13 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Can you  
14 please remain standing for a Moment of Silence.

15 Former Secretary of State and Chairman  
16 of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colin Powell, passed  
17 away Monday morning due to complications from  
18 COVID-19 at the age of 84.

19 Secretary Powell served under four  
20 presidents from both political parties. During his  
21 many decades in public service, he helped shape  
22 American defense and foreign policy. As a soldier,  
23 he earned 11 military decorations including the  
24 Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his actions  
25 during the Vietnam War. He was also a two-time

1 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

2 Let us now honor former Secretary of  
3 State Colin Powell with a brief Moment of Silence.

4 (Whereupon, a Moment of Silence is  
5 observed.)

6 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank  
7 you.

8 COVID VACCINATION UPDATE & CLAP-OUT

9 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Getting  
10 the COVID-19 vaccine and booster shot is essential in  
11 getting us back to a more normal and safer way of  
12 life, while also protecting our friends, neighbors  
13 and loved ones.

14 Colin Powell, the former Secretary of  
15 State, was fully vaccinated. He was successfully  
16 treated for multiple myeloma, a cancer of white blood  
17 cells that impairs the body's ability to fight  
18 infection, and yet he passed of COVID related  
19 complications.

20 According to the Centers for Disease  
21 Control and Prevention, even among seniors in their  
22 80s, who tend to have more underlying conditions that  
23 make them susceptible to the disease, the  
24 unvaccinated have died of COVID at six times the rate  
25 of those who got the shots.

1                   Secretary Powell was scheduled for a  
2 booster shot last week, but fell ill before he  
3 received it. According to state data, nearly  
4 80 percent of those eligible for a booster shot in  
5 New Jersey have not yet gotten one.

6                   It is extremely important for seniors  
7 and those with compromised immune systems to get a  
8 COVID booster shot.

9                   Those who qualify for the Pfizer  
10 booster include anyone 65 and older, as well as those  
11 18 and older who live in long-term care settings, who  
12 have underlying medical conditions such as cancer or  
13 diabetes, or who work in high-risk settings such as  
14 grocery workers and teachers.

15                   As of today, nearly 5,989,956 million  
16 New Jersey residents have been fully vaccinated and  
17 over 12,587,806 million total doses have been  
18 administered.

19                   Bergen County continues to lead the  
20 state in doses administered, with 1,355,095 and  
21 76.5 percent of residents with at least one dose.

22                   We thank all of our county employees,  
23 medical personnel, and volunteers who are working  
24 tirelessly to ensure that we reach herd immunity and  
25 that we keep our community safe. I want to take a

1 moment to applaud all of them and thank them for all  
2 their hard work. Please join me in a clap.

3 [APPLAUSE]

4 RESOLUTIONS OF NONCONSENT

5 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Tonight  
6 we have two resolutions of nonconsent.

7 I make the motion to move Resolutions  
8 #916-21 and #917-21 of out of order.

9 Can I have a second?

10 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Second.

11 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: All in  
12 favor?

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

15 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Our first  
18 resolution of nonconsent is Resolution #916-21, a  
19 Resolution in Recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness  
20 Month.

21 Commissioner Ortiz, would you do us the  
22 honor.

23 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Thank you.

24 October is Breast Cancer Awareness  
25 Month, and this month we focus on informing the

1 general public about the dangers of this unfortunate  
2 but treatable disease.

3                   In the United States, 1 in 8 women will  
4 be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.  
5 Now, although that number is quite high, there is  
6 hope, as we know now, that the key to beating this  
7 disease is early detection. If it is detected at the  
8 localized stage, the five-year survival rate is as  
9 high as 99 percent. Readily accessible mammograms,  
10 clinical breast examinations and screenings are vital  
11 for early diagnosis and treatment, if necessary.

12                   Making sure these services are  
13 available for women of all socioeconomic backgrounds  
14 is a cornerstone of our beliefs here in Bergen  
15 County. That is why our Department of Health  
16 Services offers the Cancer Education and Early  
17 Detection Program, which provides comprehensive  
18 outreach, education, and screening services for  
19 multiple types of cancers. They provide breast  
20 cancer screenings for uninsured women who are 40 and  
21 over for free, to make sure screenings are offered to  
22 those who need it most. Unfortunately, COVID-19 led  
23 to a global setback in screenings and early  
24 detection, so this month we urge all women of Bergen  
25 County to be proactive and schedule a mammogram,

1 which has the potential to save countless lives in  
2 our county.

3 Thank you.

4 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank  
5 you.

6 Do you move that resolution,  
7 Commissioner?

8 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Yes.

9 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Can I  
10 have a second?

11 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Second.

12 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank  
13 you.

14 Roll call, please.

15 (At this point in the proceeding roll  
16 call is taken and Resolution #916-21 is passed by a  
17 vote of six in favor, with Chairman Tanelli absent.)

18 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: #916-21 passes with  
19 all six voting affirmatively.

20 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank you  
21 very much.

22 I'll introduce our final nonconsent  
23 resolution for this evening, it's Resolution #917-21,  
24 recognizing October 2021 as LGBTQ History Month.

25 In Bergen County, everyone is free to

1 be their authentic selves, and all are accepted.  
2 Education, though, is a vital piece to ensure that  
3 our county remains welcoming to individuals of all  
4 sexual orientations or gender identities.

5 This month we recognize LGBTQ History  
6 Month and celebrate the accomplishments of the LGBTQ  
7 community. This recognition began in 1994, when  
8 Rodney Wilson, a Missouri high school teacher, felt  
9 that the month should be dedicated to the observation  
10 and instruction of LGBTQ histories within his  
11 community.

12 Wilson's vision ended up transcending  
13 his small community borders and became recognized as  
14 a national movement.

15 In 2019, we made incredible progress in  
16 the recognition of LGBTQ history by the passage of a  
17 new law requiring boards of education to incorporate  
18 the rich political, economic, and cultural  
19 contributions of influential lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
20 transgender and queer people to go into effect in the  
21 beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. This  
22 monumental strive for diversity and inclusivity shows  
23 how far we've come in sharing LGBTQ+ stories and will  
24 continue to give students the opportunity to see that  
25 these stories are an integral part of the overarching

1 history of our country and our community.

2 As a county, we strive to emulate this  
3 progression so that everyone who identifies as LGBTQ+  
4 knows that Bergen County is a safe place for them.

5 Five years ago, I spearheaded with all  
6 of you on this Board the formation of our very own  
7 LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee, only the second of its  
8 kind in the State of New Jersey.

9 Our committee went on to hold the first  
10 Bergen County Pride Flag Raising in 2016, as well as  
11 coordinate three consecutive LGBTQ Youth Summits,  
12 engaging students in GSA clubs to discuss ideas and  
13 increase inclusivity within our schools.

14 I'm so proud that the County of Bergen  
15 and this Board continues to acknowledge the  
16 importance of recognizing LGBTQ history as we honor  
17 the innumerable achievements and contributions of  
18 this community to our county.

19 Thank you.

20 I move the resolution.

21 Do I have a second?

22 COMMISSIONER VOSS: Second.

23 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Roll  
24 call, please.

25 (At this point in the proceeding roll

1 call is taken and Resolution #917-21 is passed by a  
2 vote of six in favor, with Chairman Tanelli absent.)

3 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With all six voting  
4 affirmatively, the resolution has passed.

5 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank  
6 you.

7 HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

8 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: I now  
9 move to open the Commissioners meeting to the general  
10 public.

11 Do I have a second?

12 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Second.

13 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: All in  
14 favor?

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

17 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: All  
20 right. We will now have a Hearing of the General  
21 Public, with a three-minute time limit in effect, in  
22 accordance with the Bergen County Commissioner  
23 bylaws.

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

1 please come up to the podium when your name is called  
2 or raise your hand. Prior to speaking, spell your  
3 first name and your last name for the record.

4 Would the counselor please explain the  
5 process by which the public will be recognized.

6 MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Chairwoman.

7 A member of the public who is  
8 recognized to speak by the Chair will come up to the  
9 podium. Prior to speaking, they will spell their  
10 first and last name, and after that, will have three  
11 minutes to speak.

12 Thank you, Chairwoman.

13 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Is there  
14 anyone from the audience would wishes to speak?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. FLORIO: There are none.

17 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Seeing  
18 none, I motion to close the hearing to the public.

19 COMMISSIONER HACHE: Second.

20 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: All in  
21 favor?

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

24 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Opposed?

25 (No response.)

1                   ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: The  
2 meeting is closed to the general public.

3 REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

4                   ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: We will  
5 now have a review of the remaining resolutions to be  
6 voted on this evening.

7                   CLERK RODRIGUEZ: The resolutions to be  
8 voted on tonight are: #878-21 through #915-21 and  
9 Resolution #918-21.

10 RESOLUTIONS OF UNANIMOUS CONSENT

11                   ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: I move  
12 that we accept the resolutions as a Consent Agenda.

13                   Do I have a second?

14                   COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Second.

15                   ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Roll  
16 call, please.

17                   (At this point in the proceeding roll  
18 call is taken and the Consent Agenda is passed by a  
19 vote of six in favor, with Chairman Tanelli absent.)

20                   CLERK RODRIGUEZ: The Consent Agenda is  
21 approved by the majority.

22                   ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Are there  
23 any resolutions tabled or pulled?

24                   CLERK RODRIGUEZ: There are none.

25 ORDINANCES

1                   ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: We will  
2 now go on to our ordinances for Second Reading and  
3 Adoption, Ordinance 21-28.

4                   Will the Clerk please read the proof of  
5 notice statement for the ordinance.

6                   CLERK RODRIGUEZ: The Proof of  
7 Publication and Notice of Public Hearing for  
8 Ordinance 21-28 was published in accordance with the  
9 law and is on file in my office.

10                  A copy of the Notice of Public Hearing  
11 for Ordinance 21-28 was duly posted, pursuant to  
12 N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17.

13                  ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Will the  
14 Clerk read Ordinance 21-28 by title only.

15                  CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 21-28 is a:

16                  "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS  
17 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY IN  
18 RESPONSE TO DAMAGE CAUSED BY HURRICANE IDA FOR THE  
19 COUNTY OF BERGEN, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT  
20 OF \$25,000,000 THEREFOR, INCLUDING ANY GRANT FUNDS  
21 EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY  
22 MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF  
23 \$23,809,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE COUNTY TO FINANCE  
24 PART OF THE COST THEREOF."

25                  ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: I motion

1 to open the public hearing on Ordinance 21-28 only.

2 Do I have a second?

3 COMMISSIONER HACHE: Second.

4 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: All in  
5 favor?

6 (All present Commissioner respond in  
7 the affirmative.)

8 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: The  
9 public hearing is now open for Ordinance 21-28.

10 There will be a five-minute time limit  
11 in effect to speak about Ordinance 21-28 only. The  
12 Board Attorney will keep the time.

13 Is there anyone who wishes to speak?

14 (No response.)

15 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Seeing  
16 none, do I have a motion to close the public hearing  
17 and adopt Ordinance 21-28?

18 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: So moved.

19 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Second?

20 COMMISSIONER HACHE: Second.

21 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Second.

22 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank  
23 you.

24 Roll call, please.

25 (At this point in the proceeding roll

1 call is taken and the Second Reading and Adoption of  
2 Ordinance 21-28 is passed by a vote of six in favor,  
3 with Chairman Tanelli absent.)

4 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six ayes,  
5 Ordinance 21-28 passes Second Reading and is adopted.

6 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank  
7 you.

8 COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

9 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: We will  
10 now have committee reports.

11 Freeholder Sullivan, why don't you kick  
12 us off.

13 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: I'll be brief  
14 tonight. Thank you, Chairwoman.

15 Tonight the Board entered into a shared  
16 services agreement with the Borough of Leonia for the  
17 county to provide 911 and police dispatch services.

18 This Board has prioritized investing in  
19 our Public Safety Operations Center and its  
20 technological capabilities. This has enabled us to  
21 offer these kind of state-of-the-art services to our  
22 municipalities that in most cases is more efficient  
23 but in all cases less expensive. When taxpayers save  
24 money while improving their services, my favorite  
25 line and I'll say it again, that's a win/win for

1 everybody. So we continually pursue shared services  
2 throughout the county. I've spoken to a few other  
3 towns that are looking to get on board with a few  
4 things. It's amazing how many towns don't know what  
5 is going on.

6 Commissioner Hache has taken to the  
7 streets, so to speak, and has allowed some of us to  
8 join in to do different parts of what we do. But I  
9 have spoken to a few towns on my own, and it's going  
10 to be something that continually saves the taxpayers  
11 money and allows us all to stay in Bergen County and  
12 live where we love. So towns really need to get on  
13 board and we really need to make sure that everyone  
14 gets the best bang for their buck.

15 As far as the opioids go, I have a  
16 meeting scheduled, I'm going to start getting some of  
17 these programs back into the schools, like the  
18 Prosecutor's Office did pre-COVID. It's a good thing  
19 to do. I've talked to a few people, and we're going  
20 to start making sure that we get the word out that  
21 the opioid epidemic is still alive and well. We need  
22 to do everything we can to combat it. It's a  
23 disease, people. It's a sickness. It's a mental  
24 health issue, and we need to understand that. When  
25 we approach it and the ways we approach it are very

1 critical to one's recovery.

2 So that concludes my report this  
3 evening.

4 Thank you, Commissioner.

5 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank  
6 you.

7 Commissioner Ortiz.

8 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Thank you,  
9 Commissioner Zur.

10 So last week we attended, with the  
11 County Executive and Chairman Tanelli, and we were  
12 very excited to be at the ceremony where we unveiled  
13 four additional Volta electric vehicle charging  
14 stations. The new Level 2 EV chargers are located in  
15 the Ridgefield Park section of Overpeck Park and  
16 offers visitors free public charging for up to two  
17 hours. The expansion comes at no expense to Bergen  
18 County taxpayers thanks to an existing public/private  
19 partnership between the County of Bergen and Volta.  
20 The additional charging stations more than double the  
21 county's public charging capacity, which to date has  
22 already been utilized over 2,800 times powering  
23 nearly 40,000 miles of free EV driving so far. Our  
24 first unveiling was at Van Saun Park by the zoo, and  
25 now with the addition of Overpeck Park, this just

1 shows our commitment to renewable energy and  
2 sustainability in Bergen County. So we're very  
3 excited about this, and I'm so excited to see all our  
4 parks now have the Volta charging stations.

5 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: We're  
6 getting there. We're definitely getting there.

7 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Little by little.

8 I also wanted to expand a little bit in  
9 regards to the breast cancer awareness.

10 I really urge everyone to please go to  
11 the Bergen County health site in which you'll find  
12 the patient declaration of income and insurance under  
13 the New Jersey CEED program. It's for the people  
14 that don't have the insurance to be able afford it,  
15 so it's mostly for our most vulnerable, and any woman  
16 over the age of 40, so, please, I urge all women and  
17 men, because men as well are diagnosed with breast  
18 cancer, to please, please go get checked and save so  
19 many lives.

20 Thank you, Chairwoman.

21 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank  
22 you, Commissioner.

23 Commissioner Voss.

24 COMMISSIONER VOSS: Thank you,  
25 Chairwoman.

1                   I just want to elaborate on what  
2 Commissioner Ortiz said about breast cancer  
3 awareness. It can strike at any age, and I know  
4 several people who were in their 20s and 30s who have  
5 gotten breast cancer. And many people sometimes, if  
6 they have a particular gene, can get mastectomies  
7 even before they have the cancer, because they have  
8 the propensity to get the cancer.

9                   As Commissioner Ortiz said, men can get  
10 breast cancer, so pink is the color of breast cancer  
11 awareness, and that's why this jacket is on me today,  
12 to make sure everyone knows and that they should get  
13 their mammograms.

14                   Tomorrow is going to be Domestic  
15 Violence Day. I was talking to several people who  
16 deal in pharmaceuticals, and they were saying that  
17 depression and various things because of COVID have  
18 really gotten out of control, and that domestic  
19 violence is a byproduct of all of this.

20                   I hope that everybody knows that we  
21 have an extensive program here, free of charge, to  
22 help people who were victims of domestic violence.  
23 So please become aware of all of the services that  
24 you can get for free here from the County of Bergen.

25                   I had a wonderful experience about a

1 week ago observing my police department's use of  
2 drones. This is something that is really, really  
3 unbelievable and will save many, many lives. I saw  
4 they have drones that are \$5,000 that are about this  
5 big, and then a little bit bigger where they can do  
6 more extensive looking at problems (indicating). And  
7 then, of course, great big drones.

8           Interestingly enough, the smallest  
9 drone is so good. We're all aware of school  
10 shootings and public buildings being attacked, and  
11 these little drones can go inside buildings and  
12 really protect the police, because if there is a  
13 shooter in the building, the drone will locate it so  
14 that the police will not be caught off guard, and it  
15 is really unbelievable. But the thing that is most  
16 unbelievable is many people can afford to get little  
17 drones, I mean they're only about a thousand dollars  
18 or something like that, and people have their drones  
19 and they fly them around. There's very strict rules  
20 for the police in terms of the use of drones.  
21 Unfortunately, people who own their own private  
22 drones are not subject to all of these rules and  
23 regulations. And when you think about the fact that  
24 we have so many high-rises and that these drones can  
25 really go up quite high, we have to start thinking in

1 terms of the safety of the people that live near  
2 people who have their own private drones. But I have  
3 to say that my police department, the Fort Lee Police  
4 Department, is really in the beginning of the use of  
5 drones and I think that other towns will learn from  
6 them. The expense for these drones is not that great  
7 that we cannot afford it on a town by town basis.

8 So, anyway, that was quite an education  
9 for me.

10 I just want to say the best wishes in  
11 the world to Joseph Luppino, who is retiring as our  
12 Chief Financial Officer. I've known Joe Luppino  
13 since he was a little, little boy, and so I'm very  
14 proud of the wonderful work that he has done over the  
15 past 28 years for this county. I will be going to  
16 his retirement party tomorrow to wish him well and  
17 see him off to his next adventure. I'm sure that all  
18 of you wish him the best, as I do.

19 So thank you very much.

20 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank  
21 you, Commissioner. We all do.

22 Commissioner Amoroso.

23 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Thank you,  
24 Chairwoman.

25 We are working to get fuller

1 participation by eligible Bergen County tenants for  
2 the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, our program  
3 ERAP, that can provide federal money to pay for back  
4 rent to improve the outreach for the program.

5 The Board of Commissioners has approved  
6 a resolution giving the Greater Bergen Community  
7 Action agency responsibility for the call center and  
8 direct application assistance.

9 To qualify for Bergen County CARES ERAP  
10 funding, applicants must meet the following criteria:

11 They have to be a Bergen County  
12 resident.

13 Primarily responsible for paying rent.

14 Make less than 80 percent of the  
15 average medium income of Bergen County, which is, for  
16 example, \$78,500 for a family of four.

17 And have experienced a loss of income  
18 since March 13, 2020 related to the COVID pandemic.

19 For more information, please go to  
20 [www.bergencountyCARES.org](http://www.bergencountyCARES.org).

21 Secondly, Election Day is coming and  
22 for some of us it can't come soon enough. The last  
23 day to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot is  
24 October 26th.

25 We also remember we have a new way to

1 vote early. Our County Commissioners have approved  
2 special voting machines for this. So if you're a  
3 Bergen County resident, you can go to any of nine  
4 polling places around the county between this  
5 Saturday, October 23rd, and Sunday, October 31st,  
6 Halloween, and vote early. The nine voting places  
7 are in: Fort Lee, Garfield, Hackensack, Mahwah,  
8 Paramus, River Vale, Rutherford, Teaneck, and  
9 Woodcliff Lake. And of course you can vote at your  
10 usual polling place on Election Day, November 2nd.

11 As Dr. Voss said, we wish our former  
12 Chief Financial Officer, Joe Luppino, the best as he  
13 moves to a career in the private sector. He said  
14 good-bye to a number of us today. He was wearing a  
15 very special leisure suit.

16 We also welcome aboard and we approved  
17 tonight the appointment of Jon Rheinhardt as our new  
18 county CFO.

19 I was able to attend the Prosecutor's  
20 Office swearing-in of four new hires and ten  
21 promotees. What a well credentialed crew with lots  
22 of expertise and experience in the field. Very  
23 exciting.

24 Finally, remember it is National Wolf  
25 Month. Yes, indeed, get out and support our two new

1 red wolves at the Van Saun Zoo.

2 Thank you.

3 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank you  
4 very much, Commissioner Amoroso.

5 Commissioner Hache.

6 COMMISSIONER HACHE: Thank you,  
7 Chairwoman.

8 I have to say I felt guilty with  
9 Commissioner Voss talking about wearing pink for  
10 Breast Cancer Awareness Month because I wore orange  
11 for Halloween, but Commissioner Amoroso also did, so  
12 I don't feel as guilty. Thank you for that.

13 As Commissioner Sullivan had mentioned,  
14 I took to the streets on September 28th, made a  
15 presentation before the council in Garfield, City of  
16 Champions, Mr. Duch, and we talked about the county  
17 services, particularly shared services, community  
18 development, economic development. And, again,  
19 that's a continued effort where we're going to try to  
20 reach all 70 municipalities and just increase the  
21 awareness of the programs that are available for  
22 municipalities and constituents.

23 This morning I joined the Bergen County  
24 Division of Community Development Director Rob  
25 Esposito and Jackie Atkins, who is the director of

1 the American Dream program, as we met with our bank  
2 partners this morning for the First Time Home Buyer  
3 Program.

4 Rob discussed some of the goals for the  
5 program going forward in 2022, took feedback and  
6 questions from our partners. We discussed the  
7 current market conditions and how the quick rise in  
8 real estate prices have made buying a home a bit more  
9 out of reach for our residents. We're working on  
10 some solutions to help ameliorate the impact of the  
11 rising prices.

12 As part of our commitment, and I tell  
13 folks this program and what the Community Development  
14 division does, it's really a sense of pride because  
15 it's really a true testament to the commitment of  
16 this Board to improve the lives of the residents of  
17 Bergen County. We want to make Bergen County a  
18 better place to live, work, and raise a family, and  
19 for some folks, you know, they need a little bit of  
20 help and that's where good government comes in. Good  
21 government works for the people, and good government  
22 finds ways to establish partnerships either with  
23 other agencies, with other elected officials, and the  
24 private sector, and that is a perfect example of how  
25 we can work together with the private sector to bring

1 solutions for our residents. So it was great to be  
2 part of the event, and I'm proud to say that we have  
3 added Kearny Bank as a new bank sponsor and we're  
4 hoping to add two more, so stay tuned.

5 Thank you.

6 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank you  
7 very much, Commissioner.

8 Kind of dovetailing off of that, there  
9 were many of us together last week as we cut the  
10 ribbon of a new housing development at Ridgewood  
11 Commons, which was developed by United Way and  
12 Madeline Corporation with significant funding from  
13 the Bergen County Division of Community Development.

14 The new building has two four-bedroom  
15 units, one two-bedroom unit, five one-bedroom units,  
16 and a community room, for a grand total of 15 rental  
17 units that will serve Bergen County residents with  
18 developmental disabilities. It is located right in  
19 the heart of downtown Ridgewood, which is just such a  
20 perfect spot. The public library is down the street,  
21 transportation by our train and bus, access to  
22 restaurants and job opportunities. It is really so,  
23 so perfectly located, and, once again, as Ramon just  
24 said, it really shows what can happen when we  
25 leverage other private partnerships with our

1 nonprofit partners, our banking community, and the  
2 county behind it to really accomplish some great  
3 things.

4 Last Saturday, I attended an event that  
5 was held by our Office of Alcohol and Drug Dependency  
6 for National Substance Abuse and Recovery Prevention  
7 Month. Tom, you're so timely. We've had 400 plus  
8 ODs already this year, 106 of which have resulted in  
9 death, but this display of the Black Poster Project  
10 which wove its way through Van Saun Park was so  
11 powerful. It was these large black posters of photos  
12 of folks who we've lost to addiction. It really put  
13 a face to what addiction is and to the lives, not  
14 just the death of those who are in the community. It  
15 was so heartbreaking to see the siblings, the parents  
16 and children, the veterans, the entire families who  
17 perished from this awful disease, and it only  
18 solidified how absolutely vital addiction services  
19 are, how they make a difference in saving lives. And  
20 I wanted to thank those behind us who turned their  
21 grief into something that was so beautiful and  
22 powerful and a wake-up call for those who are afraid  
23 to seek help.

24 We on this Board have done so much to  
25 draw attention to addiction services and to mental



1 note, can I take a motion to adjourn?

2 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: So moved.

3 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Second.

4 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: All in  
5 favor?

6 (All present Commissioners respond in  
7 the affirmative.)

8 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 ACTING CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: The  
11 meeting stands adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

12 (Whereupon, the Public Meeting is  
13 adjourned at 7:31 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, KIM O. FURBACHER, License No. XIO1042, a Certified Court Reporter, Registered Diplomate Reporter, Certified Realtime Court Reporter, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the foregoing is a verbatim record of the testimony provided under oath before any court, referee, board, commission or other body created by statute of the State of New Jersey.

I am not related to the parties involved in this action; I have no financial interest, nor am I related to an agent of or employed by anyone with a financial interest in the outcome of this action.

This transcript complies with Regulation 13:43-5.9 of the New Jersey Administrative Code.

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

My Commission Expires:  
7/11/2024