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COUNTY OF BERGEN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024
COMMENCING AT 7:05 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- GERMAINE M. ORTIZ, CHAIRWOMAN
- MARY J. AMOROSO, VICE CHAIRWOMAN
- DR. JOAN M. VOSS, CHAIR PRO TEMPORE
- RAFAEL MARTE
- TRACY SILNA ZUR
- STEVEN A. TANELLI

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

- THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

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:

KENNETH R. EHRENBERG, ESQUIRE
DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQUIRE
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

LARA L. POLLITT
CLERK TO THE BOARD

JOHN DONNADIO, ESQUIRE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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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HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The meeting is
2 called to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

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

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

20 Roll Call

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk
22 please call the roll.

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

1 Chairwoman Ortiz present, with Commissioner Sullivan
2 absent.)

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Evidence of a quorum
4 is present.

5 Pledge of Allegiance

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will you please join
7 me for the Pledge of Allegiance and for a Moment of
8 Silence.

9 Commissioner Zur, would you like to
10 lead us?

11 COMMISSIONER SILNA ZUR: Thank you so
12 much, Chairwoman.

13 Please join me in honoring America.

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

17 Moment of Silence

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Please remain
19 standing.

20 Let us take a Moment of Silence to
21 honor Dolores Butler, a devoted public servant and
22 beloved family member, who passed away on July 21st.

23 Dolores served Bergenfield for over
24 three decades as a Councilwoman and Council
25 President, earning recognition from the New Jersey

1 State League of Municipalities and the Bergen County
2 Democratic Organization. She was an active member of
3 the Special Improvement District, Zoning Board of
4 Adjustment, and Rent Leveling Board, and served as
5 the Bergen County Elections Commissioner.

6 Dolores was also involved with the
7 Rotary Club, the Italian American Club, and the New
8 Jersey Education Association.

9 Her dedication to public service and
10 the love she shared with her family will always be
11 remembered and cherished.

12 (Whereupon, a Moment of Silence is
13 observed.)

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

15 Presentation - NJAC Scholarships

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We are thrilled to
17 be celebrating the outstanding achievements of our
18 2024 NJAC scholarship award winners.

19 Before we begin, I would like to take a
20 moment to acknowledge the incredible work that the
21 New Jersey Association of Counties does for our
22 students. Their commitment to fostering educational
23 opportunities is truly commendable.

24 We are honored to have NJAC President
25 John Donnadio with us tonight. Thank you, President

1 Donnadio, for your leadership and for your dedication
2 to our youth.

3 I would also like to extend our
4 heartfelt thanks to the generous sponsors of these
5 scholarship awards. Your support and investment in
6 our students' futures make a significance difference
7 in their lives.

8 Now it is my pleasure to introduce this
9 year's NJAC scholarship recipients from our Bergen
10 Tech School District, who will be attending college
11 this fall.

12 When I call our name, please come up to
13 accept your certificates and scholarship award and
14 remain standing so we can take a group photo.

15 From Bogota, we have Ann Shia,
16 recipient of the VMware scholarship.
17 Congratulations, Ann!

18 [APPLAUSE]

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: From Lodi, Neila Ali
20 has been awarded the AT&T scholarship. Well done,
21 Neila!

22 [APPLAUSE]

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: From Maywood, Shadi
24 Shahat is the proud recipient of the Amazon
25 scholarship. Great job, Shadi!

1 [APPLAUSE]

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Also from Maywood,
3 Mia Stinziano has earned the PSE&G scholarship.
4 Congratulations, Mia!

5 [APPLAUSE]

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: These students have
7 demonstrated exceptional dedication and hard work,
8 and we're immensely proud of their achievements. We
9 wish them the very best in their academic pursuits
10 and future endeavors. Please join me for a round of
11 applause for the 2024 NJAC scholarship award winners.

12 [APPLAUSE]

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: John, please say a
14 few words.

15 MR. DONNADIO: Sure. I appreciate
16 that.

17 Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. Again,
18 John Donnadio with the New Jersey Association of
19 Counties. I appreciate a couple of minutes.

20 If you don't mind, I just want to take
21 one second, before I talk briefly about the
22 foundation, to congratulate Commissioner Zur. She
23 had been named "County Commissioner of the Year" this
24 year.

25 [APPLAUSE]

1 MR. DONNADIO: And, most importantly,
2 for spearheading the Food Security Task Force, which,
3 by the way, won an achievement award at the National
4 Association of Counties about 2 or 3 weeks ago. So
5 congratulations to the Commissioner and to the county
6 for doing such a terrific job with the program.

7 With respect to the foundation, it's
8 probably my favorite thing to do, because I get to
9 give away other people's money. This year alone, we
10 gave away over \$90,000 to county vocational/technical
11 school graduates who are continuing their education
12 right here in the State of New Jersey. We're at
13 about \$700,000 in the past decade. We give away
14 100 percent of the money to, again, hard-working
15 students like those we have here today.

16 What I'll close with is that I get more
17 impressed every single year with the quality of the
18 students and the resumes. I had to take a typing
19 class in order to graduate from high school, and I
20 read some of their resumes and they have 4.25 GPAs,
21 and it's really impressive and it's really just an
22 honor to see. I just want to wish the students and
23 their families the best of luck and congratulate
24 them.

25 So thank you for the few minutes today.

1 I appreciate it.

2 [APPLAUSE]

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you so much.

4 Congratulations again to all the
5 scholarship recipients, great job. I wish you all
6 the best in the colleges that you'll be attending.

7 COMMISSIONER SILNA ZUR: They're all
8 staying in Jersey too, which is amazing.

9 Minutes

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk read
11 the minutes to be accepted.

12 CLERK POLLITT: The minutes to be
13 accepted:

14 June 5th - Work and Public Sessions;
15 all present.

16 June 11th - Work Session; Commissioners
17 Ortiz and Sullivan absent.

18 June 19th - Work and Public Sessions;
19 Commissioner Marte absent.

20 July 3rd - Work Session; all present.

21 July 17th - Work and Public Sessions;
22 Commissioners Ortiz and Zur absent.

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
24 to accept the minutes?

25 VICE CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Motion.

1 COMMISSIONER SILNA ZUR: Second.

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

5 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Unanimously
8 approved.

9 Hearing of the General Public

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I now move we open
11 the Commissioners meeting to the general public.

12 COMMISSIONER TANELLI: I'll second it.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now have the
19 Hearing of the General Public, with a three-minute
20 time limit in effect, in accordance with the Bergen
21 County Commissioner bylaws.

22 For those members of the public who
23 would like to participate during the public comment,
24 please fill out a sheet to be recognized.

25 Would the counselor please explain the

1 process by which the public will be recognized.

2 MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Chairwoman.

3 If you're recognized by the Chair to
4 speak, please come to the podium in the front of the
5 room, state your name, spell your last name. You
6 have three minutes to speak. I'll let you know when
7 your time is up.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We'll start with
9 Diego Maya.

10 MR. MAYA: Good evening. Diego Maya,
11 M-A-Y-A, 214 William Livingston Court, Princeton, New
12 Jersey.

13 Good evening, Chairwoman and
14 Commissioners.

15 My name is Diego Maya, a statewide
16 leader, founder of the Latino Spirit, and Executive
17 Director of the US Latino Affairs Initiative, a
18 501(c)(3).

19 My company is a simultaneous
20 interpretation broadcaster for the State of the City
21 Addresses for Mayor Ras Baraka in Newark and Mayor
22 Reed Gusciora in Trenton. My company also interprets
23 the broadcast of the Board of Education meetings for
24 the cities of Vineland and Camden.

25 It is an honor to be here tonight to

1 extend a special invitation to Bergen County for a
2 remarkable event celebrating the contributions of
3 Latinos in New Jersey, the "New Jersey Top Latinos".

4 The New Jersey Top Latinos is an annual
5 event that brings together a diverse array of Latinos
6 from across our state. These individuals have
7 excelled in various fields, including business,
8 government, community service, and cultural
9 preservation. This event serves as a platform to
10 recognize and honor those who embody the values of
11 leadership, vocation, community service, and cultural
12 heritage, while preserving the use of the Spanish
13 language.

14 This year we are proud to announce that
15 Bergen County, with its vibrant Latino population of
16 216,000, would have five nominations in the Top 50
17 Latinos list. We hope these nominees will receive
18 citation awards from the County Commissioners at our
19 red carpet event, where we will also name the No. 1
20 Latino in the state.

21 In 2023, we hosted a spectacular red
22 carpet event at the State Theatre in New Brunswick
23 attended by over 200 people throughout New Jersey.
24 The evening was unforgettable. This year we are in
25 talks to host our red carpet in Princeton.

1 Additionally, we are excited to announce an
2 international panel of judges. These distinguished
3 figures are from Columbia, Mexico, Guatemala, and El
4 Salvador. They will evaluate the biographies of the
5 nominees, highlighting their exceptional achievements
6 and contributions of Latinos in our communities. The
7 Commissioner Chairwoman Germaine Ortiz helped us last
8 year by evaluating with other distinguished elected
9 officials.

10 As we celebrate the rich tapestry of
11 Latino culture and heritage, it is crucial to
12 acknowledge the vital role that Latinos play in
13 making the United States stronger.

14 I invite Bergen County to join us in
15 this statewide effort by acknowledging the nominees
16 from your county. This is an invaluable opportunity
17 to showcase the talent and diversity within Bergen
18 County and to honor those who are helping to shape
19 the future of New Jersey.

20 Thank you for your attention,
21 Commissioners.

22 I'm leaving a letter for everyone and
23 also a poster that we publish every year with all the
24 statewide top Latinos.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

2 Diego was also very helpful to me when
3 we did the census in 2020. He helped me with the
4 media and the outreach. He did an incredible job.

5 Thank you, Diego.

6 COMMISSIONER MARTE: I just want to
7 thank Diego as well. He has been very helpful
8 involving the community of Latinos and for
9 recognizing those Latinos that have been doing things
10 in our community. So thank you very much, Diego, for
11 everything you do.

12 MR. MAYA: Thank you, Commissioners.

13 If I could just add one more thing?

14 We were the first, and that's how we
15 started helping Bergen County, to broadcast the
16 Governor COVID-19 briefings in Spanish, because we
17 had a lot of people, of course, dying left and right
18 and the Spanish community wasn't aware of what was
19 going on. So we started simultaneously interpreting
20 what the Governor was saying on social media. So
21 that was our ticket to get known by all the counties.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

24 [APPLAUSE]

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Andrew Meehan.

1 MR. MEEHAN: Good evening. Andrew
2 Meehan, M-E-E-H-A-N, from Hackensack, New Jersey.

3 I have a question for the two sitting
4 Commissioners regarding flooding in the State of New
5 Jersey. David Refkin invited everyone from the Board
6 a few weeks ago to attend the July 29th meeting. My
7 colleague and I actually showed up. We wanted to
8 kind of learn more about the issues, and it was
9 actually a very informative meeting. They've
10 actually only been in existence for approximately six
11 months, I believe, based on the conversations that
12 transpired. So they talked about different ways of
13 recycling, some of the major issues with flooding.
14 And I know flooding is not something that's easy to
15 tackle, but I wanted to find out: Is there a plan in
16 place by the Commissioners to try to address it,
17 especially in light of the climate change?

18 There's been a lot more rain, and we
19 all know that the ground can't soak up the excess
20 water, so there are some ideas by David Refkin and
21 that group that I think would be affordable. I know
22 that there's over \$30 million of surplus. They're
23 requesting for some type of special pavement to be
24 put down, which does cost more, and then machines, in
25 order to clean it or something like that every so

1 often. So those machines cost about \$250,000.

2 But under your plan of shared services
3 that you all are proponents of, that would help save
4 everyone a lot of money. It solves that issue, at
5 least temporarily, to try to figure out a long-term
6 solution without costing the taxpayers too much
7 money, because every town is probably going to have a
8 different set of issues, the topography is going to
9 be different.

10 So I'm not an expert in this, but I
11 would always go to the people that have the advice
12 and the knowledge of how to do that. I'm sure
13 Tanelli, sitting on the Flood Advisory Council,
14 probably is very aware of the issues himself.

15 So that's it. Thank you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Isidor Farash.

17 MR. FARASH: Farash, F-A-R-A-S-H. I'm
18 from Emerson.

19 Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

20 So I was here I believe two meetings
21 ago and I raised the question about the legal
22 resource center. Mr. Duch was in attendance that
23 day, and after I got done speaking, all I saw was
24 blank stares. I didn't even hear any crickets, they
25 were on vacation that evening.

1 So now Mr. Duch is not in attendance,
2 so I'm thinking whatever information there may be
3 resting with him, is there any additional
4 information?

5 MR. EHRENBERG: Sure. I do have an
6 answer for you. I knew you were going to be here
7 today and I knew I was going to be here today.

8 Do you want to finish your three
9 minutes or do you want me to answer?

10 MR. FLORIO: The clock is running while
11 this dialogue happens.

12 MR. FARASH: Can I tell a
13 personal musing for a moment?

14 MR. FLORIO: Mr. Farash, the clock is
15 running while you're having this dialogue, so I will
16 let you know in three minutes.

17 MR. FARASH: That's okay. I'm done.

18 MR. EHRENBERG: So I can answer you.

19 At this time, renovations are ongoing
20 and installation of security cameras are still being
21 worked on.

22 On the legal side here, they're working
23 on streamlining the resources here so everything is
24 in place. I do not have an opening date for you.
25 I'm sure Mr. Duch, in the next meeting, will be able

1 to actually give you an opening date.

2 MR. FARASH: Okay. Very good. Thank
3 you.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: You're welcome.
5 I move we close the hearing to the
6 public.

7 COMMISSIONER MARTE: Second.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 Review of Resolutions

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now review
15 the resolutions to be voted on this evening.

16 CLERK POLLITT: You have Resolutions
17 #818-24 through #874-24 and #876-24 through #899-24,
18 with Commissioner Zur abstaining on Resolution
19 #875-24.

20 Resolutions of Unanimous Consent

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Do I have a motion
22 to accept the resolutions as a Consent Agenda?

23 COMMISSIONER MARTE: So moved.

24 COMMISSIONER VOSS: Second.

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

4 (At this point in the proceeding roll
5 call is taken and the Consent Agenda is passed by a
6 vote of six in favor, with Commissioner Silna Zur
7 abstaining on Resolution #875-24 and Commissioner
8 Sullivan absent.)

9 CLERK POLLITT: With six yeses, the
10 Consent Agenda is approved.

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Are there any
12 Resolutions of Nonconsent, tabled or pulled?

13 CLERK POLLITT: There are none.

14 Ordinances

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We'll go on now to
16 the ordinances. We will now go on to our ordinances
17 for First Reading and Introduction.

18 Will the Clerk read Ordinances 24-23
19 and 24-25 by title only.

20 CLERK POLLITT: 24-23 is an:

21 "ORDINANCE PROHIBITING NO TURN ON RED
22 MOVEMENTS FROM SOUTHBOUND ON THE EIGHTH STREET BRIDGE
23 TO SOUTHWEST ON LOCUST AVENUE AND MAIN AVENUE IN THE
24 BOROUGH OF WALLINGTON."

25 24-25 is a:

1 "CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF
2 BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ROUTE 17
3 BOTTLENECK PROJECT (ROCHELLE AVENUE CORRIDOR
4 IMPROVEMENTS), BY AND FOR THE COUNTY, APPROPRIATING
5 THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$10,000,000 AND THAT SUCH SUM SO
6 APPROPRIATED SHALL BE FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM THE
7 STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION."

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay. Someone make
9 a motion.

10 COMMISSIONER TANELLI: I'll make a
11 motion.

12 COMMISSIONER MARTE: Second.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

17 (At this point in the proceeding roll
18 call is taken and the Introduction and First Reading
19 of Ordinances 24-23 and 24-25 are passed by a vote of
20 six in favor, with Commissioner Sullivan absent.)

21 CLERK POLLITT: With six yeses,
22 Ordinances 24-23 and 24-25 are introduced and pass
23 First Reading.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

25 Committee Reports from Commissioners

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now go on to
2 the committee reports from Commissioners. So we will
3 start --

4 COMMISSIONER TANELLI: Commissioner
5 Voss would like me to make a motion to suspend
6 reports.

7 COMMISSIONER SILNA ZUR: No.

8 COMMISSIONER VOSS: I will second it,
9 but I don't think you have enough votes.

10 MR. FLORIO: We have a motion and a
11 second.

12 Roll call.

13 (At this point in the proceeding roll
14 call is taken and the motion is denied by a vote of
15 two in favor, with Commissioners Marte, Silna Zur,
16 Vice Chairwoman Amoroso, and Chairwoman Ortiz voting
17 nay, with Commissioner Sullivan absent.)

18 CLERK POLLITT: You have now voted for
19 your committee reports.

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay. We will start
21 with Commissioner Voss.

22 COMMISSIONER VOSS: Well, I hope
23 everyone is enjoying the summer. We live in the best
24 county in all of New Jersey, because we have so many
25 events that you can attend, concerts, movies in the

1 park, many cultural events, and they continue all
2 through the summer. I hope you come to some of our
3 flag raisings, and, of course, take advantage of our
4 beautiful Overpeck Park and our Van Saun Park and the
5 many other enjoyments that we have provided for the
6 people of Bergen County.

7 I'm crazy about animals. I just love,
8 love, love animals. One of the things we have in
9 Bergen County is a terrific zoo. Mary and Germaine
10 and I visited the zoo last week, and it is
11 unbelievable. The people who work there just love
12 animals as much as I do and they take such good care
13 of them. It was such a pleasure to find out, like
14 I'm sure you've seen those commercials on television
15 feed your dog real food, you know like people eat,
16 well, that's exactly how they treat the animals at
17 the zoo. It was such a learning experience, but it's
18 so nice to work with people who really love their
19 jobs.

20 One of the things that they've
21 reinstated out there are pony rides. I think they're
22 going to extend it, but right now they're pretty much
23 open from ten in the morning till three in the
24 afternoon. It's just a wonderful experience for
25 children who don't live on farms to have an

1 experience with a large animal who loves them. So
2 take advantage of that.

3 The only other thing I want to mention
4 is that there are so many good cultural events. My
5 town, Fort Lee, for almost 100 years has had a
6 festival called the St. Rocco's Festival. It is a
7 blast. I watched the weather every single night to
8 make sure that we don't have a lot of rain, hopefully
9 we'll only get a little bit of rain, but Sunday is
10 when the big parade happens. It's like being in
11 Little Italy, it's just wonderful. So if you get a
12 chance on Sunday, come to see the St. Rocco's parade,
13 but they will also have events on Thursday, Friday
14 and Saturday. It's really worthwhile to go to see it
15 and have some fun.

16 I hope you're all enjoying the summer
17 as I am.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
20 Commissioner.

21 Commissioner Amoroso.

22 VICE CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Thank you,
23 Chairwoman.

24 Yes, indeed we were agog at the
25 different kinds of food provided by the zookeepers

1 for all the variety of animals, from bugs to
2 carcasses. It was really something. We celebrate
3 our zookeepers. We truly do.

4 Another thing Joan said, we have a
5 series of flag raisings next week, Pakistani, Indian,
6 and Korean, so check that out online.

7 At the end of last month, \$20 million
8 that was cut from the state budget was put back into
9 the budget for community colleges, and I say thank
10 God.

11 You will remember that County Executive
12 Tedesco and Bergen Community College President Eric
13 Friedman testified in Trenton against the budget cut.
14 We are all so glad that they have seen fit to restore
15 this money, because our community colleges are an
16 affordable and excellent way for a lot of our
17 students to get their higher education.

18 I also did a podcast with Don Torino of
19 the Audubon Society, talking about butterflies and
20 native plants. We had a butterfly day down in South
21 Bergen, which Steve Tanelli also attended.

22 Don Torino of Audubon calls butterflies
23 the canaries in the coal mine when it comes to
24 climate change. When you see butterflies go away,
25 we're in trouble.

1 Mr. Audubon, Don Torino, said you can
2 fight climate change just having one native
3 butterfly-attracting plant in a planter on your
4 patio. You can do your part for climate change.
5 Species like violets, asters, hollyhock, milkweed,
6 coneflowers, passion flowers, and dill will attract
7 butterflies and keep our climate safer.

8 One last thing. As we were talking
9 about at the Human Services Advisory Committee the
10 other week, the state has just announced a new hub to
11 provide our citizens one-stop access to disability
12 services. You can get to it by going to
13 [www.NJ.gov\disabilities](http://www.NJ.gov/disabilities) or by phoning 888-285-3036.

14 Thank you, Chairwoman.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

16 Commissioner Marte.

17 COMMISSIONER MARTE: Thank you,
18 Chairwoman.

19 It is a fact that Bergen County's not
20 just the best place to live and raise a family, but
21 it is also the best place to have fun in the summer.

22 July 23rd, we hosted the Columbian
23 Independence Day celebration. It was a wonderful
24 event where we came together and celebrated
25 Columbia's triumph.

1 Also, we attended the Dumont Elk flag
2 retirement. We said farewell to our beloved flags
3 with the reverence they deserve.

4 Also on July 23rd, we went to
5 Congressman Gottheimer's press conference regarding
6 an announcement of a new initiative to promote grill
7 safety. We all know July is National Grill Month,
8 and it's important to grill smart and stay safe.

9 I went to the Bergenfield Senior Center
10 Summer Party. It was amazing to visit the seniors in
11 my hometown of Bergenfield.

12 I attended the Opioid Overdose
13 Awareness flag raising today at the Bergen New Bridge
14 Medical Center, and it was beautiful. I believe it
15 was the first time we raised that purple flag, and it
16 was a wonderful event in honoring those who did what
17 they did and came before us.

18 Thank you. That's my report.

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

20 Commissioner Zur.

21 COMMISSIONER SILNA ZUR: Thank you so
22 much, Chairwoman.

23 This summer we conducted our Annual
24 Food Security Food Pantry Summit and had over 49
25 pantries and so many community partners coming

1 together to exchange best practices, to learn from
2 each other, and to really bolster each other for the
3 marathon that is ahead. We had a 23 percent increase
4 in food security just in the past year. So even
5 though the pandemic is over, the challenge is still
6 here. As we head soon into Hunger Action Month,
7 which is September, we're going to be definitely
8 raising awareness to the fact that so many in our
9 community are still in need and that we really need
10 to change the definition of what is a good donation.

11 Over 83 percent of our food pantry is
12 refrigeration, and they can now accept produce and
13 the healthier foods and change health outcomes and
14 change lives here in Bergen County.

15 So it was really kind of, as John
16 mentioned, the fact that we won an award here in
17 Bergen County for the "no wrong door approach" that
18 we are pushing out in how we connect our food
19 pantries to our social service providers making sure
20 there's a seamless connection, there's a baton handed
21 off, and the burden does not fall solely on a person
22 dealing with trauma in their lives. It's really to
23 get to the heart of how we end hunger. It's not
24 putting food in people's trunks, it's giving them the
25 resources and the services that they need to change

1 their circumstances.

2 So that's something I'm super proud of,
3 and it was really meaningful to go down to Tampa to
4 the National Association of Counties meeting so we
5 could exchange ideas on how we can do things better.
6 We don't need to recreate the wheel, we can share
7 best practices and figure out how to think better and
8 smarter. It was really meaningful.

9 Speaking of meaningful, Bergen
10 Community College had their annual STEM Research
11 Summit. When you talk about the restoration of the
12 funding, and thank God that those cuts were not put
13 into place, when you see what these young people are
14 accomplishing, we saw projects ranging from studies
15 on hydroponic gardens, robotic arms, chemical
16 detecting lab noses, and so many other innovative
17 projects. These are the ideas of tomorrow, and our
18 students at Bergen Community are being exposed and
19 digging in deep to make sure they're expanding their
20 minds regarding STEM here in Bergen County.

21 The Commissioner mentioned the
22 Bergenfield senior celebration. I also went to one
23 in Englewood. We're doing so much over the summer to
24 keep our seniors engaged, involved and active and
25 living and thriving here in Bergen County. It has

1 VICE CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Yes,
2 congratulations.

3 COMMISSIONER SILNA ZUR: Thank you.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Commissioner
5 Tanelli.

6 COMMISSIONER TANELLI: It seems like
7 your anniversary always falls on the night of a
8 meeting, and Bobby is usually in the audience waiting
9 for you until after the meeting to go to dinner. So
10 tell him he's falling down on the job.

11 [LAUGHTER]

12 COMMISSIONER TANELLI: My report will
13 be very brief.

14 I just want to identify Resolutions
15 #826-24 and #829-24, two grants to continue the
16 funding for cancer education and early detection.

17 Having gone through it myself now for
18 the last year, I have not spoken to anybody that it
19 hasn't affected, whether a family member or a friend.
20 So these programs are crucial and that's what we do
21 here is we support a lot of crucial programs that
22 help Bergen County residents.

23 And that will conclude my report.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

25 I would first like to start by thanking

1 the Latino Advisory Committee that Commissioner Marte
2 touched on. We celebrated the 214th independence of
3 Columbia, and I just want to thank them for
4 organizing this event. I also would like to thank
5 Group Columbia who had an incredible festival also
6 celebrating Columbian independence. We had thousands
7 of people there. It was very well handled. I just
8 want to thank the parks and I want to thank the
9 Sheriff's Department, everybody, for making it
10 possible. It was a really, really nice event.

11 I also wanted to congratulate our new
12 Sheriff's Officers who were just sworn this past
13 week. They're going to go back to start their
14 academy training here at Bergen County Academy.
15 We're so excited for them to start this coming
16 week -- actually, they started last week.

17 MR. EHRENBERG: Last Thursday.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Last Thursday.

19 Thank you.

20 VICE CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: He runs the
21 academy.

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I also would like to
23 thank Congressman Josh Gottheimer. Last week, there
24 was a recent federal court decision ruling that New
25 Jersey's ban on the AR-15 is considered

1 unconstitutional.

2 I truly don't understand how that can
3 be. I mean, these are weapons of mass destruction.
4 They're only used in wars. There's no reason to have
5 them for hunting, unless you want chopped meat. I'm
6 not exactly sure why anybody would want to have an
7 AR-15, when they are used basically for all these
8 school shootings, mass shootings that we've seen
9 across the country where hundreds of people are dying
10 each year. So I thank the Congressman for being our
11 voice in Washington to continue this ban on the
12 AR-15. We had Moms Demand Action, Students Demand
13 Action. We had the Prosecutor, the Sheriff, the
14 County Executive, our colleagues, everybody was
15 there. We're all in this together to make our
16 community safer each and every day. So I thank him
17 for that.

18 On that note, I also wanted to, now
19 that we spoke about all our great seniors, because I
20 had the opportunity also to go to karaoke yesterday
21 with the Hackensack seniors. We're doing this
22 throughout all our senior centers. We love our
23 seniors.

24 I also want to remind everyone that on
25 September 12th, we will be having the Bergen County

1 Senior Festival, where we invite all our seniors
2 throughout the county to the park. They have a great
3 celebration with dancing and music, and we have every
4 resource available at the county there.

5 So on that note, I will end my report.

6 Adjournment

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: There being nothing
8 further to come before this meeting, I move to
9 adjourn.

10 COMMISSIONER SILNA ZUR: Second.

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We are adjourned at
17 7:42 p.m.

18 Thank you, everyone.

19 (Whereupon, the Public Meeting is
20 adjourned at 7:42 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, CR, CCR, RDR
License #XIO1042, and Notary Public
of New Jersey

My Commission Expires:
7/11/2029