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COUNTY OF BERGEN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 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
- THOMAS J. SULLIVAN
- STEVEN A. TANELLI
- TRACY SILNA ZUR

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

- RAFAEL MARTE

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 L. RODRIGUEZ
CLERK TO THE BOARD

STEVEN SPOTO
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

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 silence their cellphones.

5 Thank you.

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

8 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: 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 Sullivan, Tanelli,
25 Voss, Silna Zur, Vice Chairwoman Amoroso, and

1 Chairwoman Ortiz present, with Commissioner Marte
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 remain standing
8 for a Moment of Silence.

9 Commissioner Amoroso, would you like to
10 lead us.

11 VICE CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Thank you.
12 Please join me in honoring America.

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

16 Moment of Silence

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Let us honor the
18 memories of five remarkable individuals who will be
19 missed as part of our Bergen County community. Elsa
20 Marte, Mary Wiley, Elias Ghassali, Faith Ringgold,
21 and Barry Winston.

22 Elsa Marte, mother of Commissioner
23 Rafael Marte, whose lifelong commitment to education
24 and faith touched the hearts of many. We extend our
25 deepest sympathies to the Marte family.

1 Mary Wiley was an employee of the
2 county for more than 21 years and passed away
3 unexpectedly last week. Mary's unwavering dedication
4 and infectious positivity brightened the lives of
5 everyone she encountered. Many will be remembered
6 her for her brisk walks in the building and back and
7 forth from the courthouse. She was a dedicated,
8 hard-working employee who will be missed.

9 Elias Ghassali's dedication to his
10 community and family leaves behind a legacy of
11 selflessness and compassion. Montvale Mayor Michael
12 Ghassali is the son of Elias. We offer our heartfelt
13 condolences to the family.

14 Faith Ringgold was known for her
15 groundbreaking artistry and unwavering activism that
16 challenged societal norms and inspired change, paving
17 the way for future generations. Her vibrant
18 paintings, evocative quilts, and powerful children's
19 books defied convention, leaving an indelible mark on
20 the art world. Despite facing adversity, her
21 commitment to racial justice and feminism remains an
22 inspiration to all advocating for equality and
23 representation. Let us honor her memory by
24 continuing to champion inclusivity, diversity, and
25 social change.

1 Barry Winston led a remarkable life,
2 leaving a profound impact on his community as a
3 devoted leader, political activist, and beloved
4 family man. His passionate advocacy and leadership
5 enriched countless lives, extending far beyond his
6 local community. As a Past Grand Chancellor of the
7 Knights of Pythias, his legacy of compassion,
8 integrity, and civic engagement endures. Let's
9 remember Barry for his significant contributions and
10 the kindness, generosity, and passion he embodied.
11 May his memory inspire us to carry on his legacy of
12 service, striving for a more just and compassionate
13 world.

14 May their memories live on, guiding us
15 with their example of resilience, compassion, and
16 creativity.

17 (Whereupon, a Moment of Silence is
18 observed.)

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

20 Presentation in Recognition of BCA Students - DECA
21 National Participants

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: This evening we are
23 happy to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our
24 DECA team from the Bergen County Academies. Among
25 the 84 talented students who competed at the New

1 Jersey State DECA Competition in Atlantic City, 52 of
2 our very own emerged victorious, securing their spots
3 in the DECA National Competition in Anaheim,
4 California.

5 Tonight, we are honored to have 19 of
6 these exceptional students, along with two advisors,
7 in attendance. Their dedication, hard work, and
8 exemplary performance have earned them recognition
9 across various categories, with 25 students placing
10 in the top three. We are all so proud of your
11 achievements and wish you the best of luck in your
12 upcoming trip to the national competition.

13 Would any of my colleagues have any
14 words?

15 COMMISSIONER SILNA ZUR: Sure,
16 Chairwoman. Thank you so much.

17 I, first of all, want to say
18 congratulations not only to the students but a huge
19 heartfelt thank you to the advisors and to our school
20 that inspires this kind of passion towards learning
21 and being able to compete at this amazing level.
22 Every penny that comes before us in our budget that
23 we spend on our county school system, on the
24 academies and our tech schools, this is the dividend
25 that it bears. It's an incredible investment in

1 these kids' futures that are going to be so bright.

2 Congratulations. Thank you to all the
3 parents who put in so much love, energy, and effort
4 and making sure these kids get schlepped to all the
5 places, and for the encouragement that really sows
6 the seeds for learning and that is really on display
7 here. So congratulations and good luck to you guys
8 in Anaheim.

9 [APPLAUSE]

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Anyone else?

11 We're good.

12 Okay. I think we've distributed all
13 the commendations. We would love to have you all
14 come forward so we can take a picture right here in
15 front of the well.

16 (Whereupon, the presentation is made.)

17 Hearing of the General Public

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I now move we open
19 the Commissioners meeting to the general public.

20 Second?

21 COMMISSIONER SILNA ZUR: Second.

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now have a
3 Hearing of the General Public, with a three minute
4 time limit in effect, in accordance with Bergen
5 County Commissioner bylaws.

6 For those members of the public who
7 would like to participate during the public comment,
8 please come up to the podium when your name is called
9 or raise your hand. Prior to speaking, spell your
10 first and last name for the record.

11 Would the counselor please explain the
12 process by which the public will be recognized.

13 MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Chairwoman.

14 If you are recognized by the Chair to
15 speak, please come to the podium, state your name,
16 spell your last name. Before you get there, please
17 fill out one of these sheets so we can keep track of
18 our speakers. I'll let you know when your time is
19 up.

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

21 We'll start with Gale Sikorski.

22 MS. SIKORSKI: It's Gale, G-A-L-E,
23 Sikorski, S-I-K-O-R-S-K-I.

24 Good evening. I'm Gale Sikorski from
25 Saddle Brook.

1 I would like to take a minute to
2 imagine and then reflect on the history of Saddle
3 River County Park.

4 Imagine you live in a home along the
5 beautiful park, but lose sleep every time there is a
6 major rainfall predicted. Imagine having to remove
7 30 inches of rain, silt, dirt, and fecal matter from
8 your basement when the county park floods. And
9 imagine having to consider leaving your family home
10 because no one seems to be taking flood mitigation
11 seriously.

12 Now you know how those of us living on
13 the park feel. We're fighting for our homes and for
14 our health. We are in discussions with state
15 officials about dredging the river. In the meantime,
16 dredging the Saddle Brook lake should be made a
17 priority because of the immediate benefit it could
18 provide to the county and to its residents.

19 The foresight of the 1950s Bergen
20 County Park Commission in creating the Saddle River
21 County Park was amazing. Their annual reports and
22 newspaper clippings document that the park was
23 created to serve the dual purpose of providing a
24 recreation area for the people of Bergen County while
25 at the same time reducing the flood hazard along the

1 river.

2 The Saddle Brook lake was created
3 specifically as a flood control basin with the
4 capacity necessary to protect the surrounding homes
5 and park. It began as a smaller lake, but after the
6 Garden State Parkway was built and the river
7 relocated, the lake was rebuilt as a 15-acre lake
8 with a depth of 12 to 15 feet.

9 Residents gave up land for the creation
10 of the lake, and families bought homes in Saddle
11 Brook and Rochelle Park believing the lake would be
12 maintained and would continue to protect them from
13 flooding. But accumulation of sand and silt have
14 reduced the depth and diminished the capacity of the
15 lake.

16 Maintenance of the Saddle Brook lake is
17 long overdue. The lake was next in line to be
18 dredged right after the completion of the Glen Rock
19 and Ridgewood ponds, but because of their budget
20 overruns, no funding was left for the Saddle Brook
21 lake at that time, despite recognition that it needed
22 to be done. The lake needs to be restored to or
23 beyond its original capacity to account for the
24 increase in flooding events. Doing so will reduce
25 flooding in and along the park, saving both the

1 county and homeowners from costly, time-consuming
2 cleanup and repairs.

3 Lastly, the Bergen County Master Plan
4 lays out the need for stewardship of our
5 environmental resources and the need for bioretention
6 and storm management plans. Our lake needs attention
7 now.

8 Why should we be forced to leave the
9 homes we love, when dredging the Saddle Brook lake
10 would reduce the chances of flooding in the county
11 park and residents' yards, basements and homes. We
12 are asking for your support in making dredging the
13 Saddle Brook lake a priority, and I thank you.

14 MR. FLORIO: That's three minutes.

15 MS. SIKORSKI: Thank you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Karen Burke.

17 MS. BURKE: Karen Burke, B-U-R-K-E,
18 formerly Schuitema, from Rochelle Park,
19 S-C-H-U-I-T-E-M-A.

20 I'm here to talk about the lake also
21 but specifically with the lake, the fact that it does
22 not have a functioning fountain. I'm sure,
23 Commissioner Tanelli, you're probably aware, I know
24 the parks people are aware, that the one fountain
25 that this 15-acre, that I believe is actually around

1 a ten-acre lake now, I think it's diminished
2 slightly, but anyway a 15-acre lake with no fountain
3 means very little water quality. The Ridgewood Duck
4 Pond, which is probably one fifth the size of our
5 lake, I think has at least two fountains that are
6 working in some areas. Our lake has been without a
7 fountain since March 5th. They say it's an
8 electrical problem, but it's been over a month, and I
9 don't know if the lake has been stocked. There's no
10 signs up saying that they've stocked the lake with
11 fish. I know they do that every year, but I think
12 it's unconscionable to put fish in that lake without
13 any aeration. I think it wouldn't have been a
14 problem before, when that lake connected with the
15 river on both ends and so water circulated
16 constantly, but water does not circulate constantly
17 and before you know it, you're going to have an algae
18 problem. The depth of that lake, originally, as Gale
19 said, was probably 12 to 15 feet.

20 My dog who loved the water, he's no
21 longer around, but when he went in there, this is
22 some years ago, he loved going after geese and he
23 would not go in water above his head. He didn't like
24 to swim. He stayed in the water as long as he could
25 touch ground. He went probably one third of the way

1 into the lake along the long side of the lake, so it
2 couldn't be more than four feet deep for a large
3 portion of that lake. So that lake is definitely not
4 as deep as it used to be.

5 And just to say that aeration of the
6 water helps with the fertilizer runoff from all the
7 development in the area. The oxygen combines with
8 compounds and fertilizer to make it unusable as food
9 for algae, so you actually help mitigate algae blooms
10 by putting aeration in the water and make the water
11 safe for fish.

12 So I'm just asking, maybe Commissioner
13 Tanelli, because they know about the problem, but I
14 don't know why it's not getting done, if you could
15 make a phone call as to why it's not getting done and
16 more aerators could be put in place.

17 I mean, supposing there is some
18 ecological restoration project that is long-term for
19 this lake, and I hope it does get done, it should be
20 a priority, not only for flood mitigation as Gale
21 mentioned, but for the sake of the wildlife and the
22 beauty of the park.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Pat Sayers.

25 MS. SAYERS: They're the best. I'm

1 glad I'm associated with them.

2 So here we are again, on a good rainy
3 evening, and the same old, same old issues. Okay.

4 I begin by saying how beautiful the
5 pickleball, tennis and basketball courts are and the
6 landscaping to die for. Those of us that love and
7 use the park on a daily basis truly appreciate the
8 thought, the funding, and the work that went into it.

9 With an all-inclusive playground
10 shortly on its way is another reason to take pride in
11 the park, although location still remains a sticking
12 point due to safety factors.

13 Now, how about focusing on Saddle Brook
14 lake? A beauty and a treasure, but in real bad shape
15 and almost nonfunctional. We remain on hold, on
16 hold, on hold, but we're ready to launch. We are
17 just waiting. When will that be?

18 Another question. Is it wise to put in
19 a playground before dredging the lake? That doesn't
20 seem practical.

21 It is said the little things, they
22 aren't so little. Quality of life issues at the
23 park. Take a look at the women's bathroom in
24 Rochelle Park. I have some pictures.

25 The groves by the pavilion, because of

1 tables that had to be lifted and whatnot, can break a
2 leg if you're running and you're a kid. And again,
3 people gather there, could break your foot, break an
4 ankle, and I have pictures of that.

5 Now, all the debris from the flooding
6 remains, which gives us less landscape, less grass to
7 work with or be able to enjoy a dog with. And the
8 paths are muddied, they're dirty where the flooding
9 is prevalent. The dust mobile can't do it, can't do
10 it. We need something better. We deserve better.
11 It's getting worse and worse. It doesn't get clean.
12 Let's understand that, it doesn't get clean.

13 We need a landscaping company to come
14 in and take care of the debris, because apparently if
15 it could be done, it would have been done. That's
16 what I'm assuming.

17 So as far as the trees that provide
18 shade and absorb huge amounts of water in a day,
19 these are the kind that we need, the kind that you
20 can sit under and read a book, the ones that we've
21 been losing, the kind that you can lay in the shade
22 with, not the cute little Christmas trees. They're
23 lovely and maybe they're hand-me-downs from Van Saun
24 Park, I don't know, but you know, we need trees
25 replaced, perhaps we need a tree commission for the

1 parks, if we don't have one. You're putting in the
2 wrong trees, folks.

3 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Ms. Sayers.

4 MS. SAYERS: Okay.

5 So, anyway, I have pictures if anybody
6 would like them. Would anyone like them?

7 MR. FLORIO: Give them to the gentleman
8 right there.

9 MS. SAYERS: Okay. And those are just
10 some. Thank you so much and we'll be back.

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

12 Isidor Farash.

13 MR. FARASH: Thank you, Madam

14 Chairwoman.

15 Farash, F-A-R-A-S-H. I'm in Emerson.

16 So last week I just presented a quick
17 prelude to what I brought today as far as a printed
18 handout. It's self-explanatory. Although it's
19 fairly basic, it does not include a ton of details,
20 but I think I covered the most important ones.

21 I want to make it clear that what I'm
22 proposing does not substitute for the most luxurious
23 health plans, the ones, for example, that the state
24 workers have or affluent people can afford. What is
25 explained in this handout is for people who are

1 struggling to stay on budget and also potentially for
2 small and medium-sized businesses that are being
3 forced to hire a lot of part-time employees so that
4 they don't have to provide health benefits. And by
5 switching to a less expensive form of health
6 insurance, "pseudo insurance" it's called, it makes
7 it affordable. So, for example, restaurants, small
8 stores, shops, and so forth can then provide benefits
9 to their employees. It also affords this commission
10 to attempt something I'm not sure has ever been done
11 before, maybe it has, which is to invite other County
12 Commissioners to join in a combined program to see
13 maybe five, maybe ten, maybe 20 want to get together
14 and engage this program together.

15 So what does it do?

16 It puts the weight of the government
17 behind what is otherwise something that's normally a
18 private and personal interaction between the
19 individual and the health insurance company. It does
20 not require a budget. It actually can produce a
21 surplus, because these health sharing companies have
22 arrangements whereby they can offer a commission. So
23 if the county is doing the promotion, the county
24 could arrange maybe a five percent commission that
25 goes to pay expenses and there may be a few percent

1 left over, which then could be devoted to other good
2 causes, whatever.

3 But the point is that if you look at
4 the page involving the pricing, you can see that the
5 costs of this program are considerably less
6 expensive.

7 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Mr. Farash.

8 MR. FARASH: Okay. Well, I said what I
9 had to say so thank you very much.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay.

11 Dr. Jeffrey Hering.

12 DR. HERING: Hering, H-E-R-I-N-G.

13 All right. So good evening. My name
14 is Dr. Jeffrey Hering. I am the president of the
15 American Federation of Teachers, Local 2222, at
16 Bergen Community College. We're here tonight to talk
17 to you about basically a travesty which is going on.

18 The county sends a good portion of
19 money to BCC, right? Their budget is close to
20 \$200 million. My poor adjuncts who have been out of
21 a contract for 32 months, we have been out of a
22 contract for 32 months, fighting with the college
23 over .2 percent. Not two percent, .2 percent.

24 The tens and thousands of dollars in
25 legal fees that this college has taken on to fight us

1 over .2 percent is appalling.

2 I'm a Bergen County taxpayer. I've
3 lived here for 55 years. Now, I haven't paid taxes
4 for 55 years, but I would be appalled, if I'm a
5 Bergen County taxpayer, to hear that. You should be
6 appalled to hear that. We have reached out to the
7 Deputy Chief of Staff with Tedesco's office. We
8 expressed this to them. They didn't seem to feel
9 like it was any big concern, but when I see bills of
10 20 to \$30,000 a month that DeCotiis is billing Bergen
11 Community College, and I'm a taxpayer of Bergen
12 Community College, and you're fighting a union of 600
13 members who are mostly Bergen County residents over
14 .2 percent, that's appalling.

15 We're asking this Board to get
16 involved, reach out to President Friedman, tell him
17 you are concerned about the amount of money that's
18 being wasted fighting the union over .2 percent.

19 Now, we have been to PERC. There has
20 been a finding. We are now in fact-finding, which is
21 even farther into the process with the state, which
22 could cost anywhere from 20 to \$50,000 in legal fees.

23 Now, we have a pretty big war chest.
24 We don't care, we're going to fight it, but I'm not
25 using taxpayer money, I'm using members' money. You

1 guys are using taxpayers' money, so you should be
2 concerned over .2 percent. That's about \$5 an
3 adjunct. I've got 600 adjuncts. You figure it out.
4 Do you think it's worth spending \$50,000 for like
5 \$3,000? So somebody needs to make a phone call over
6 there. My adjuncts' budget is \$8 million out of a
7 \$200 million budget, and we are an at-will employee.
8 You only use what you need. If you need 600, great,
9 you hire 600. If you need 400, great, you hire 400.
10 We don't cost you anything. My people don't get any
11 benefits. We get no medical benefits at all. We're
12 like free labor, and to sit here --

13 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes.

14 DR. HERING: We're asking you to take
15 action. Thank you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Hank Bordowitz.

17 MR. BORDOWITZ: Bordowitz,
18 B-O-R-D-O-W-I-T-Z. I'm the vice president of
19 communications for Bergen Community College Adjunct
20 Unit, AFT 2222.

21 I want to make you aware of what being
22 an adjunct is, because we are the people at Bergen
23 Community College who are in front of 70 percent of
24 the classes at any given time. We teach the majority
25 of the classes. There are I think about at this

1 point less than 200 tenured track and tenured
2 professors who teach about 30 percent of the courses,
3 because that's all they can cover with what they are
4 allowed to assign them.

5 Bergen claims to be No. 1 in
6 associate's degrees, but they're No. 18 in the state.
7 We are the lowest paid adjuncts in the state, and we
8 live here. I live here. We live in this area, and
9 it's hard to survive on that kind of money. Even
10 with the other things we do, it's hard to survive on
11 that kind of money.

12 We've been fighting this actually
13 34 months at this point. The thing runs out in June.
14 This contract that we're negotiating for the last
15 34 months ends at the end of June, so we need a push.
16 We need you to help settle this, because it looks bad
17 for Bergen County. Just even the fact that we make
18 so little looks bad for Bergen County. It's a bad
19 optic.

20 Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

22 I move we close the hearing to the
23 public.

24 COMMISSIONER TANELLI: Second.

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 Review of Resolutions

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now review
7 the remaining resolutions to be voted on this
8 evening.

9 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: You have Resolutions
10 #277-24 through #440-24.

11 Resolutions of Unanimous Consent

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I move we accept the
13 resolutions as a Consent Agenda.

14 COMMISSIONER SILNA ZUR: Second.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

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

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

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Are there any

1 resolutions tabled or pulled?

2 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: There are none.

3 Ordinances

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now go on to
5 our ordinances for First Reading and Introduction.

6 Will the Clerk read the Ordinances
7 24-07 and 24-08 by title only.

8 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 24-07 is a:

9 "CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF
10 BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF
11 NEW SAFETY AND SECURITY CAMERA AND CARD READER ACCESS
12 EQUIPMENT IN, BY, AND FOR THE COUNTY, APPROPRIATING
13 THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$2,500,000 AND PROVIDING THAT
14 SUCH SUMS SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM THE
15 GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE COUNTY."

16 Ordinance 24-08 is a:

17 "CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF
18 BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF
19 TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT FOR THE BERGEN COUNTY TECHNICAL
20 SCHOOL AND BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES IN, BY AND
21 FOR THE COUNTY, APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF
22 \$675,000 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED
23 SHALL BE RAISED FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
24 FUND OF THE COUNTY."

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion

1 to introduce Ordinances 24-07 and 24-08 as read by
2 the Clerk?

3 COMMISSIONER TANELLI: So moved.

4 VICE CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

5 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

9 (At this point in the proceeding roll
10 call is taken and the Introduction and First Reading
11 of Ordinances 24-07 and 24-08 are passed by a vote of
12 six in favor, with Commissioner Marte absent.)

13 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six yeases,
14 Ordinances 24-07 and 24-08 have been introduced and
15 pass First Reading.

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Before we go into
17 our Second Reading and public hearings, will the
18 Clerk please state for the record the Proof of
19 Publication stipulation.

20 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: The Proof of
21 Publication of Ordinance Notice of Public Hearing for
22 Ordinances 24-02, 24-03, 24-04, and 23-06 was
23 published in accordance and with the law and is on
24 file in my office.

25 A copy of the Notice of Hearing and

1 Ordinances 24-02, 24-03, 24-04, and 23-06 was duly
2 posted, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now go to on
4 our ordinances individually for Second Reading and
5 Adoption.

6 Will the Clerk read Ordinance 24-02.

7 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 24-02 is a:
8 "GUARANTY ORDINANCE SECURING THE BERGEN
9 COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY'S COUNTY GUARANTEED
10 POOLED NOTE PURCHASE PROGRAM, SERIES 2024, IN AN
11 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
12 \$240,000,000."

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

14 May I have a motion to open the hearing
15 on Ordinance 24-02 to the public?

16 COMMISSIONER VOSS: So moved.

17 VICE CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The public hearing
24 is open, with a five-minute time limit in effect, to
25 speak about Ordinance 24-02 only at this time.

1 The Board Attorney will keep the time.

2 (Short Pause.)

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
4 to close the public hearing on Ordinance 24-02?

5 COMMISSIONER VOSS: So moved.

6 VICE CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Is there any board
13 discussion on Ordinance 24-02?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
16 to adopt Ordinance 24-02 as was read by the Clerk?

17 COMMISSIONER VOSS: So moved.

18 VICE CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

23 (At this point in the proceeding roll
24 call is taken and the Second Reading and Adoption of
25 Ordinance 24-02 is passed by a vote of six in favor,

1 with Commissioner Marte absent.)

2 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six yeases,
3 Ordinance 24-02 is adopted and passes Second Reading.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk read
5 Ordinance 24-03 by title only.

6 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 24-04 is
7 an:

8 "ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION
9 AND DELIVERY BY THE COUNTY OF BERGEN OF CERTAIN
10 AGREEMENTS IN RELATION TO PHASE II OF THE COUNTY'S
11 COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT AND THE FINANCING
12 THEREOF VIA THE BERGEN COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY."

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

14 May I have a motion to open the hearing
15 on Ordinance 24-03 to the public?

16 COMMISSIONER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

17 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Second.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The public hearing
24 is open, with a five-minute time limit in effect, to
25 speak about Ordinance 24-03 at this time.

1 The Board Attorney will keep the time.

2 MR. FLORIO: There are no speakers,

3 Chairwoman.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
5 to close the public hearing on Ordinance 24-03?

6 COMMISSIONER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

7 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Second.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Is there any board
14 discussion on Ordinance 24-03?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
17 to adopt as read by the Clerk?

18 COMMISSIONER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

19 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Second.

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

24 (At this point in the proceeding roll
25 call is taken and the Second Reading and Adoption of

1 Ordinance 24-03 is passed by a vote of six in favor,
2 with Commissioner Marte absent.)

3 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six yeases,
4 Ordinance 24-03 is adopted and passes Second Reading.

5 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk read
6 Ordinance 24-04 by title only.

7 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 24-04 is a:
8 "GUARANTY ORDINANCE SECURING THE BERGEN
9 COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY'S COUNTY GUARANTEED
10 LEASE REVENUE BONDS OR NOTES, SERIES 2024 (BERGEN
11 COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROJECT - PHASE II) IN AN AGGREGATE
12 PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000,000."

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

14 May I have a motion to open the hearing
15 on Ordinance 24-04 to the public?

16 COMMISSIONER TANELLI: So moved.

17 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Second.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The public hearing
24 is open, with a five-minute time limit in effect, to
25 speak about Ordinance 24-04 only at this time.

1 The Board Attorney will keep the time.
2 MR. FLORIO: There are no speakers,
3 Chairwoman.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
5 to close the public hearing on Ordinance 24-04?

6 COMMISSIONER TANELLI: So moved.

7 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Second.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Is there any board
14 discussion on Ordinance 24-04?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
17 to adopt Ordinance 24-04 as was read by the Clerk?

18 COMMISSIONER TANELLI: So moved.

19 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Second.

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

24 (At this point in the proceeding roll
25 call is taken and the Second Reading and Adoption of

1 Ordinance 24-04 is passed by a vote of six in favor,
2 with Commissioner Marte absent.)

3 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six yeases, 24-04
4 is adopted and passes Second Reading.

5 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now go on to
6 our ordinances individually for Second Reading and
7 Adoption.

8 Will the Clerk read Ordinance 24-06 by
9 title only.

10 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 24-06 is a:
11 "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS
12 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE BERGEN COUNTY COMMUNITY
13 COLLEGE IN AND BY THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, APPROPRIATING
14 THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$5,105,945 THEREFOR AND
15 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$5,105,945 BONDS OR NOTES
16 OF THE COUNTY ENTITLED TO THE BENEFITS OF CHAPTER 12
17 OF THE COUNTY COLLEGE BOND ACT TO FINANCE THE COST
18 THEREOF."

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

20 May I have a motion to open the hearing
21 on Ordinance 24-06 to the public?

22 COMMISSIONER VOSS: So moved.

23 VICE CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

25 (All present Commissioners respond in

1 the affirmative.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The public hearing
5 is open, with a five-minute time limit in effect, to
6 speak about Ordinance 24-06 only at this time.

7 The Board Attorney will keep the time.

8 MR. FLORIO: There are no speakers,
9 Chairwoman.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
11 to close the public hearing on Ordinance 24-06?

12 COMMISSIONER VOSS: So moved.

13 VICE CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Is there any board
20 discussion on Ordinance 24-06?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
23 to adopt Ordinance 24-06 as was read by the Clerk?

24 COMMISSIONER VOSS: So moved.

25 VICE CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

5 (At this point in the proceeding roll
6 call is taken and the Second Reading and Adoption of
7 Ordinance 24-06 is passed by a vote of six in favor,
8 with Commissioner Marte absent.)

9 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six yeases,
10 Ordinance 24-06 is adopted and passes Second Reading.
11 Committee Reports from Commissioners

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: It's now time for
13 our Commissioners committee reports. Try to keep
14 them brief.

15 We'll start with Commissioner Tanelli.

16 COMMISSIONER TANELLI: Thank you,
17 Chairwoman.

18 So I only have one thing to report on
19 this month, and that is on Sunday I had the honor of
20 attending a park dedication in North Arlington,
21 Fisher Field, where the all-inclusive playground for
22 children was dedicated in the name of Det. Joseph
23 Seals, who was a North Arlington resident. During
24 his time at the Jersey City Police Department, Det.
25 Seals was tragically killed in the line of duty, so

1 the town basically renamed the park in his honor with
2 a plaque. His family was there and the Jersey City
3 Police Department and the North Arlington Police
4 Department. It was just a tremendous opportunity to
5 keep his legacy alive. He has five children in town,
6 and every time the children go to this park, they'll
7 know what Joseph Seals meant to this community.

8 That's it for my report. Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
10 Commissioner Tanelli.

11 Commissioner Sullivan.

12 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Thank you,
13 Chairwoman.

14 Tonight we passed Resolution 410-24,
15 which finalizes the replacement of the Magnolia
16 Avenue Bridge over Pascack Brook in Montvale.

17 Living in Montvale, I know how badly
18 this project is needed to be completed. For myself
19 and other residents in the area, we couldn't be
20 happier with a new bridge. I'm also proud that this
21 resolution is returning about \$90,000 back to the
22 county for future projects. Sanzari did the job on
23 time and under budget, so thank you to them, thank
24 you to our county, our engineers. It's always nice
25 to get money back.

1 Also, I'm excited to share that the
2 Borough of Lodi has now asked for a copy of our
3 resolution and implemented the placement of Narcan at
4 every defibrillator station. I anticipate they will
5 soon be following with a resolution of their own.
6 Last meeting I spoke of two other towns, Wyckoff and
7 Glen Rock. So we're just going to keep going, keep
8 going and keep going. Like I said, I plan on
9 branching out not only to Boards of Education but
10 Chambers of Commerce will be my next thing I tackle.

11 I will just tell you now, Montvale has
12 been recreated over the last 5 or 6 years. We have a
13 lot of restaurants and a lot of places to go now,
14 little strip malls. I think it's time to expand this
15 to every area that we can possibly can be at where we
16 can have people that might need help. So I'll
17 continue to push forward with that.

18 I was very happy to attend the Visions
19 of Hope Gala hosted by the Diabetes Foundation. Both
20 as a Commissioner and someone personally affected by
21 diabetes, I'm proud of the partnerships of the
22 foundation both in Bergen New Bridge Medical Center
23 and our county's Health Department. Commitment to
24 educating the public is truly inspiring. So let's
25 continue working together and raise awareness and

1 support those who have been impacted by diabetes. I
2 spoke with the woman who MC'd the event and we
3 exchanged cards and we're going to look for other
4 programs, not just diabetes, similar programs but of
5 course diabetes based, to expand these programs
6 outside of what we do in things that we do so far, to
7 get the outreach out even more. Everyone knows that
8 diabetes is No. 2 as far as the death rate. It's
9 called the "silent killer" for a reason.

10 When I got diagnosed, I had no idea I
11 had diabetes. I guess it's 25, 30 years ago. I
12 thought I had vertigo. They said your vertigo is
13 okay but your diabetes is out of control, and I had
14 no idea what they were talking about.

15 Now, anyone that knows about diabetes,
16 my A1c is 5.8, which is great.

17 Lastly, I had a wonderful evening
18 Monday night at the Bergen County Habitat for
19 Humanity gala, celebrating 30 years of Habitat in
20 Bergen County. Commissioner Zur was with me on that.
21 I applaud the Executive Director, Teri Capparelli. I
22 mean, what a ball of fire, and the Habitat team for
23 the incredible work they do in our community.

24 Also a special thanks to the honorees
25 Roseann Korockian Camayo and corporate sponsor Veolia

1 for their efforts. Habitat for Humanity is a
2 wonderful, wonderful program, I'm sure people have
3 heard of it. And everyone thinks because we live in
4 Bergen County, we don't need it. That couldn't be
5 further from the truth. So Teri and her team are
6 just pit bulls. It's not a free program, it's not a
7 handout. At the gala, one of the recipients said
8 "It's not a handout, it's a hand up." You have to put
9 400 hours of your own time into the building of a
10 house, and they have to go through a very stringent
11 application process. It is definitely needed in
12 Bergen County, and I applaud all their efforts.

13 So thank you, Chairwoman, and that
14 concludes my report.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

16 Commissioner Zur.

17 COMMISSIONER SILNA ZUR: Thank you very
18 much, Chairwoman.

19 Just to pick up, not only do they help
20 with houses, they helped rebuild the food pantry in
21 Fairview as well. Habitat is amazing. They do such
22 great work, so it was such a joy to be there.

23 One of the things that I put together
24 this week with the Bergen County Prosecutor is as
25 we're seeing more of our members of law enforcement

1 die by their own weapons rather than in the line of
2 fire, we need to do more and more to support their
3 mental health and make sure they have the emotional
4 resilience. One of the things brainstorming with the
5 Prosecutor, we decided to provide mental health first
6 aid training to all the chaplains. Because so many
7 of our men and women in blue don't feel comfortable
8 to go for therapy, they are worried about the stigma
9 that is associated with it, but they're turning to
10 the chaplaincy within each department. This training
11 was an eight-hour training available to the chaplains
12 throughout the county to make sure that they have the
13 tools to better support our men and women in blue.
14 So it was really an impactful day. I am so grateful
15 to the Bergen County Prosecutor for making this a
16 priority and I was so thankful to see almost a dozen
17 chaplains throughout the county taking the time out
18 to be better educated and have more tools to deal
19 with the challenges they're seeing every day so our
20 men and women who serve can also be better equipped
21 for what they're seeing every day.

22 We also had the grand opening of the
23 first Choice Pantry from the Center for Food Action
24 up in Mahwah. It's been something that the Office of
25 Food Security has been working with them tirelessly

1 on for over two years. Choice model means that
2 people can go in and choose the food that they want,
3 like a food shopping experience, and choose things
4 for their dietary needs, their cultural preferences,
5 and make sure that they also feel empowered. It also
6 gives the staff the opportunity to connect with them
7 on a different level, get to know people so they can
8 connect them to the other services they need.

9 I am so grateful for the partnership of
10 the Center for Food Action. I look forward to what
11 this food pantry is going to become and how it's
12 going to model service for other food pantries
13 throughout the county as well.

14 I wanted to remind everyone that we're
15 in the middle of our feminine products drive. May is
16 Feminine Hygiene Products Awareness Month, where
17 there is a big need in all of our food pantries.
18 When you think about how much that takes off a table
19 for a family to provide for feminine hygiene
20 products, those products are massively in demand. So
21 if you can, we're collecting at the county building,
22 many Girl Scout troops throughout the county are also
23 collecting as well, and I encourage you to make a
24 donation.

25 Finally, I want to say a thank you to

1 the administration because this week they brought in
2 Rutgers for their Executive MPA program to talk to
3 our employees who might be interested in pursuing
4 further education and getting a master's degree.

5 As a graduate of Rutgers MPA program, I
6 would tell you it equipped me every single day for
7 better decision-making, looking at data, the way we
8 put in applications to help our residents. So thank
9 you, Mr. Duch, and thank you to the administration
10 for bringing that possibility to our employees so
11 that we can have even more opportunity for employee
12 development and better service for our residents as a
13 whole.

14 To everyone who is going to be
15 celebrating Passover in the coming week, I wish you
16 all a ziessen Pesach.

17 And to all who finished celebrating
18 Ramadan, it was a joy to celebrate with so many
19 different faiths. It's a great opportunity for all
20 of us to celebrate together our cultural differences,
21 but all about being a part of this wonderful
22 community that is Bergen County.

23 Thank you very much, Chairwoman.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

25 Commissioner Amoroso.

1 VICE CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Thank you,
2 Chairwoman.

3 Commissioner Steve Tanelli and I
4 attended the annual Bergen County Caregivers
5 Conference and we met the Sheriff's new bloodhound
6 dog, K-9 Troy, who is part of the new initiative to
7 prepare for those with dementia or other issues who
8 might wander away and get lost.

9 This initiative, it's simple but it's
10 brilliant, it involves swabbing your loved one under
11 the arm and then taking the swab and putting it into
12 a glass jar that is sealed. And if anything should
13 happen to your loved one, K-9 Troy and his handler,
14 Sheriff Officer Solaris, can track. They have been
15 certified as a tracking, trailing K-9 team to handle
16 noncriminal missing persons cases. He can scent
17 discriminate, which means he can pick up this
18 person's scent from 100 people and track long
19 distances as well.

20 Also, Bergen 250 is underway, an
21 initiative spearheaded by the county Division of
22 Cultural and Historic Affairs. Bergen 250 aims to
23 commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American
24 Revolution through Bergen County's diverse lens of
25 people, places, and culture. We had so much

1 Revolutionary War history here in Bergen County. We
2 are looking forward to the programming leading up to
3 the anniversary, including live reenactments in our
4 county parks and local businesses.

5 As part of the run-up to Bergen 250, I
6 attended one of these monthly lectures that the
7 county Historic Division is conducting. This one
8 featured Ricardo Herrera, a visiting professor at
9 the Army War College, and he talked about how Gen.
10 Washington chose Valley Forge as his base camp.

11 These roundtables will continue once a
12 month. For more information you can go to
13 Bergen250.com.

14 Finally, I want to take a moment to
15 honor the memory of artist Faith Ringgold of
16 Englewood, who died at the age of 93 on April 12th.

17 Faith was an internationally celebrated
18 artist and activist who was born and who lived in
19 Harlem until she came to Bergen County to live and
20 found herself embroiled in a controversy with
21 neighbors over whether she could build an art studio
22 on her property.

23 Always the artist, she created a series
24 of works called "Coming to Jones Road" that explored
25 the theme that almost everybody comes from someplace

1 else, including her relatives on the Underground
2 Railroad. "Almost everybody comes from someplace
3 else" is a very real theme in our diverse Bergen
4 County.

5 Faith's "Coming to Jones Road" exhibit
6 was installed at Bergen Community College last year
7 and featured her story quilts, which use a mix of
8 textiles and paints, to tell a story. She said she
9 liked quilts because they were light enough for her
10 to carry and transport by herself.

11 Faith brought us art and insight, and
12 we thank her for coming to live and work here and
13 inspiring us.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
16 Commissioner Amoroso.

17 Commissioner Voss.

18 COMMISSIONER VOSS: Thank you,
19 Chairlady.

20 I'm very proud and happy to live in
21 Bergen County, because we are so diverse. We try to
22 pay honor to all the different ethnicities and
23 religious groups in Bergen County.

24 We recently celebrated Easter. Ramadan
25 has come to an end after a month. And now on the

1 22nd of April, Passover will begin.

2 I pray that this will be a peaceful
3 Passover for everybody.

4 I work very hard on things that mean a
5 great deal to me, and one of the things that I was
6 fortunate enough to be very much involved in was
7 April is Autism Awareness Month.

8 I don't know if most people realize
9 this, but one in 36 children are on the autism
10 spectrum, and no two cases are alike, there are
11 several levels.

12 I'm going to be making the keynote
13 speech at an affair on Saturday morning. I don't
14 like to get up in the morning, but for what I care
15 about, I will get up early and go, and it's basically
16 for people who work with young children. It's very
17 important that children who are on the spectrum,
18 children with any kind of a disability, are
19 incorporated into the mainstream. This is how they
20 learn. This is how they flourish. This is how they
21 develop. And so I'm very excited about speaking to
22 people who are interested in helping the people on
23 the spectrum. As I said, no two people on the
24 spectrum are alike, they're all individuals, and most
25 of them are very intelligent.

1 A group that I grew up with in my town
2 were Armenians. I'm pretty old, and so when I was a
3 little girl, some of the survivors of the Armenian
4 genocide were the grandparents of some of my friends,
5 and I heard an awful lot and I became very interested
6 in what they had gone through. One of the first
7 pieces of legislation I put on in Trenton was the
8 recognition that there was an Armenian genocide. On
9 April 24th, it will be the anniversary of that
10 genocide that started in 1915, and over 1.5 million
11 men, women, and children were executed.

12 I took a course once on genocides.
13 Genocides are nothing new, they have been around
14 forever. I think it's one of my duties to make sure
15 that people understand what genocide is and that it
16 can happen again. There are several movies. If you
17 watch television, one of the movies I recommend is
18 called "The Promise". It's very graphic. It's about
19 the Armenian genocide. The other night I watched one
20 called "The Hidden Map". It's amazing. People don't
21 really know very much about that genocide. We know
22 about the genocide from World War II, but there have
23 been many, many, many. And as a history teacher,
24 it's my duty to make people learn from history.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
2 Commissioner Voss.

3 I had the opportunity, unfortunately on
4 Tax Day on the 15th, which is a day we all love, I
5 had the opportunity to be at a press conference with
6 Congressman Gottheimer in which he was hosting this
7 press conference in Emerson, my hometown, in front of
8 H&R Block. He was basically really pushing the
9 Senate to pass the bipartisan tax cut bill to a vote,
10 because the House had already passed it in January.
11 It could give millions of families a tax cut,
12 especially with children, because it would expand the
13 children's credit to families. He continues to fight
14 and to restore the state and local tax deduction,
15 which he's been fighting for for the past few years,
16 which I did not know that it expires in 2024. So I'm
17 hoping that we will all be receiving that tax
18 deduction in 2025, which would definitely make a
19 difference to many families here in Bergen County.

20 I wanted to add a little bit on Habitat
21 for Humanity, which had an amazing event. There's
22 another way that we can also support Habitat for
23 Humanity, and that's by visiting their restore in
24 Westwood, here in Bergen County. They have an
25 incredible, incredible amount of furniture and

1 housewares and anything you can imagine. Some stuff,
2 it's brand new. It's a great opportunity not only to
3 purchase something you would need but would also help
4 because all the money is going toward Habitat. So
5 thank you to Teri for an incredible job she did on
6 Monday.

7 I would also like to congratulate Laura
8 Sutnick who was inducted as the 126th president of
9 the Bergen County Bar Association along with the
10 board of officers and trustees. I was very honored
11 actually to be able to speak and also present a
12 commendation to Laura and to our past president,
13 William Strasser. I did not know that the Bergen
14 County Bar Association is one of the largest Bar
15 Associations in the state and it's the most active.
16 There were over 600 members there on Monday, along
17 with Mr. Duch here. It was definitely a great
18 evening, and it was just great to see Laura become
19 president.

20 I also attended the Sheriff's
21 pre-Passover briefing that was held where he brings
22 in law enforcement, like all the chiefs, since we
23 have 70 municipalities, and also the religious
24 leaders, to discuss Passover and how basically be
25 vigilant, if you see something, say something, and

1 really to try to keep our community safe, not only
2 going to the synagogues, but in everyone's homes
3 celebrating Passover. Passover is definitely a
4 holiday which everybody gathers in their homes to
5 celebrate, like Thanksgiving, probably very similar.

6 On that note, I'd like to wish everyone
7 a happy Passover and wish everyone well.

8 I think that's a wrap for me.

9 Mr. Duch, did you have anything to add?

10 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DUCH: No. Thank
11 you.

12 Adjournment

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: There being nothing
14 further to come before this meeting, I move to
15 adjourn.

16 COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN: Second.

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We are adjourned at
23 8:03 p.m.

24 (Whereupon, the Public Meeting is
25 adjourned at 8:03 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