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BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021
COMMENCING AT 7:02 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- STEVEN A. TANELLI, CHAIRMAN
- TRACY SILNA ZUR, VICE CHAIRWOMAN
- DR. JOAN M. VOSS, CHAIRWOMAN PRO TEMPORE
- MARY J. AMOROSO
- RAMON M. HACHE, SR.
- GERMAINE M. ORTIZ

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

- THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

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

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ALSO PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

LARA RODRIGUEZ
CLERK TO THE BOARD

JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQUIRE
ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQUIRE
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

MICHAEL SHEINFELD
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

JAMES A. DARLEY
AIDE TO CHAIRMAN TANELLI

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

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1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The meeting is
2 called to order at 7:02 p.m.

3 Before I begin our meeting, normally
4 when we are in-person it matters, but keep your phone
5 on vibrate or silent to not interrupt the meeting.

6 Would the Clerk please read the Sen.
7 Byron Baer Open Public Meetings Act, please.

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 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

21 ROLL CALL

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can you please call
23 the roll.

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

1 Ortiz, Voss, Vice-Chairwoman Zur, and Chairman
2 Tanelli present, with Commissioner Sullivan absent.)

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

5 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Would everyone
7 please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

11 MOMENT OF SILENCE

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Tonight we remember
13 Kenneth R. Armwood, the Deputy Director of the
14 Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners, who
15 passed away on March 26th at the age of 49.

16 Commissioner Armwood began his career
17 in public service at the age of 19, he was elected to
18 the Piscataway Board of Education. He later served
19 nine years on the town's council and eight years as a
20 commissioner.

21 Regarding his career in public service,
22 I think Gov. Murphy stated it best at Monday's
23 Celebration of Life, "Kenny was not about using the
24 power of office for his own ego or purpose. What he
25 was about was using the power of public office to do

1 good for others in this community for which he
2 dedicated himself."

3 Commissioner Armwood was dedicated to
4 education, job training, and supporting small
5 businesses. We send our condolences to Commissioner
6 Armwood's family, the community of Piscataway
7 Township, and Middlesex County as a whole. He will
8 be sorely missed.

9 We also want to remember Hackensack
10 City Manager Ted Ehrenberg, who passed away on
11 March 31st at the age of 64.

12 Mr. Ehrenberg had a long history of
13 public service, including working in Morris County's
14 Washington Township Police Department for 28 years
15 before retiring as the town's chief. He became
16 Hackensack's city manager in 2016 and had been
17 overseeing the city's redevelopment plans.

18 Throughout his career, he has impacted
19 many areas of New Jersey with his service. His loss
20 will be felt deeply throughout the communities he
21 served. The Commissioners send their condolences to
22 his family and colleagues.

23 Please join me for a Moment of Silence.

24 (Whereupon, a Moment of Silence is
25 observed.)

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

2 COVID STATISTICAL UPDATE AND CLAP-OUT

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: So to go over some
4 of the COVID statistics for this meeting, we
5 recognize the passing of 24,700 residents of the
6 State of New Jersey; 2,750 from Bergen County;
7 933,738 individuals in the State of New Jersey have
8 tested positive; 94,130 of those individuals reside
9 in Bergen County.

10 As always, we are humbled by the
11 efforts of the medical community, first responders,
12 essential workers, and the educational community.
13 Please join me in a clap-out for all those doing so
14 much for so many.

15 [APPLAUSE]

16 BERGEN COUNTY VETERAN OF THE WEEK

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We have a packed
18 agenda.

19 Tonight, we also recognize and honor
20 Bergen County Veteran of the Week recipient, Adam
21 "Bear" Kerr. Adam was one of our first honorees.
22 Adam is best known for being the "World's Largest
23 Veteran" and the best pro wrestler in Northern New
24 Jersey.

25 A United States Army veteran, Adam

1 served as a communications soldier. He was deployed
2 in support of Operations Enduring Freedom with the
3 Automatic 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery from
4 2011-2012.

5 After serving in the U.S. Army, Adam
6 obtained both his bachelor's and master's degrees in
7 psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University.
8 Currently, Adam is a professional wrestler and an
9 advocate for Bergen County, Hudson County, and New
10 Jersey veterans.

11 He was a mainstay at Bergen County
12 Veterans Services outreach events, and is the
13 Sergeant-at-Arms for the Weehawken American Legion
14 and Hudson County American Legion.

15 Adam, welcome, and thank you so much
16 for your service to our country. We're so happy that
17 you were able to join us tonight.

18 MR. KERR: Thank you for having me.
19 Thank you for the recognition, everybody. I'm just
20 trying to do my part to make the world a little bit
21 better for not just veterans, everybody.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: From what we hear
23 and from your reputation, you're doing that in leaps
24 and bounds. We'll have to have another side
25 conversation outside of here about the wrestling

1 portion of this.

2 MR. KERR: Absolutely. I'm all ears
3 for it.

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I don't know if any
5 Commissioner wants to say anything.

6 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: As Chairman
7 Tanelli said, Adam, thank you for bringing your full
8 heart, your energy, and all of that into enhancing
9 the experience for our veterans. You know, it has
10 definitely been a priority since Steve and I were
11 elected back in 2012 to ending veterans'
12 homelessness, all the things that are so important,
13 the little bit that we can do to repay the sacrifices
14 that so many made to protect our freedom. Thank you
15 for doing that and for continuing to make sure that
16 no one is forgotten, that their service is
17 appropriately recognized, commended, and that all are
18 cared for. So thank you all very much.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I think what the
20 purpose of this is anyway, Adam, it's just another
21 opportunity for this Board, who has really been very
22 vocal and supportive of our veterans, to officially
23 say thank you one more time.

24 I just attended a Vietnam War
25 anniversary a week ago with Commissioner Amoroso, and

1 that was an entire generation of veterans that were
2 forgotten or not treated fairly when they came back,
3 so it's very important to us to say thank you to each
4 and every one of you who put your lives on the line
5 for our freedom. Again, thank you so much for being
6 here tonight and we look forward meeting you in
7 person.

8 MR. KERR: Thank you, and thank you all
9 for the support. It's not just me, we have to
10 support all our missions and everything we do. I
11 appreciate everything that you guys are about. We
12 all appreciate it greatly. Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. Thank you so
14 much.

15 MR. KERR: Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER RESOLUTIONS

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: At this time we'd
18 like to highlight four of our resolutions from
19 tonight's agenda.

20 To begin, I make a motion to place
21 Resolutions #247-21, #248-21, #249-21, and #250-21 on
22 nonconsent.

23 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
25 Vice-Chairwoman.

1 All in favor?

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

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it.

7 The first nonconsent resolution is
8 #249-21, in Recognition of April as National County
9 Government Month.

10 Counties are one of the America's
11 oldest forms of government, dating back to 1634, when
12 the first county government was established in
13 colonial Virginia. Today there are 37,984 county
14 elected officials in the United States representing
15 the residents of 3,069 counties.

16 While county organizational structures
17 vary throughout our nation, they all deliver vital
18 services to residents. Counties play a major role in
19 maintaining roads and bridges. In fact, they own and
20 maintain 46 percent of America's road miles. They
21 are a driving force in connecting communities and
22 strengthening our economy. They play a major role in
23 essential community infrastructure, like schools,
24 hospitals, jails, courthouses, parks, and sewer
25 systems.

1 In many ways, the importance and the
2 role of county government has been highlighted by the
3 current coronavirus pandemic. Counties, including
4 our very own, have been at the forefront in the fight
5 against the virus.

6 In Bergen County, our employees have
7 overcome challenges to ensure critical services have
8 not been hampered by the public health crisis. The
9 County Executive, administration, and Health
10 Department have spearheaded community mobile testing
11 in all of our 70 municipalities and currently, in
12 partnership with Bergen New Bridge Medical Center,
13 run the county's vaccination site.

14 During the month of April, which
15 celebrates county government, I not only want to
16 commend all of our county workers, but I'd also like
17 to thank my good friend, John Donnadio, who serves as
18 the Executive Director of New Jersey Association of
19 Counties and advocates for the needs of all 21
20 counties in Trenton.

21 John, thank you so much for joining us
22 tonight. Would you like to say a few words?

23 MR. DONNADIO: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
24 Chairman.

25 I appreciate you having me today, and I

1 just want to thank you and this board, and, of course
2 the County Executive for your leadership, not only
3 just for this past year, but as long as I've been in
4 this chair.

5 I think Bergen County, as you know, was
6 hit particularly hard and early on with COVID, and
7 this Board and the County Executive really led the
8 way in protecting the public health, safety, and
9 welfare of residents in Bergen County and just really
10 was a model that I know other counties across the
11 state followed. So I appreciate to play just a small
12 part in that, and really just want to take also a
13 second to commend just an outstanding professional
14 staff that you have in Bergen County, and I know you
15 know this and it really all starts with the Hon.
16 Julien Neals, your County Administrator. I see Lara
17 Rodriguez on this video conference as well. And
18 whether it's your finance officer, your engineer,
19 your planner, whoever, you just have a tremendous
20 professional staff there that provides a terrific
21 resource for me, and, again, counties across the
22 state.

23 I think this public health crisis
24 certainly underscored the significant role that
25 county government has to continue to play in, again,

1 protecting and serving the residents across the
2 state.

3 So again thank you for your time.
4 Thank you for your leadership and your support as
5 well. I appreciate it a great deal.

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, John. I
7 know my colleagues are fully aware of the efforts
8 that you put in with the legislation that we're held
9 accountable for in a lot of instances. I know you're
10 down there fighting for us every day and we just want
11 to thank you for your efforts, know you have our
12 backs.

13 COMMISSIONER HACHE: I have to say,
14 John, I want to commend you for the wealth of
15 knowledge, for all the information that you send.
16 When I see your emails, I open them right away
17 because I know it is going to be very informative,
18 very educational stuff, and I always want to know all
19 the recent developments and everything that is coming
20 down the pike. So thank you.

21 MR. DONNADIO: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thanks again, John.
23 I appreciate it.

24 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thanks,
25 John.

1 MR. DONNADIO: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Have a good night.

3 Okay. So I move that we accept
4 Resolution #249-21. I'd like to request the Body of
5 the Whole as a second, if there's no objections.

6 COMMISSIONER HACHE: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Great.

8 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you very much.
9 Please call the roll.

10 (At this point in the proceeding roll
11 call is taken and Resolution #249-21 is passed by a
12 vote of six in favor, with Commissioner Sullivan
13 absent.)

14 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: #249-21 passes with
15 six ayes.

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Great. Thank you
17 very much, Madam Clerk.

18 Resolution #247-21 is a Resolution in
19 Recognition of Autism Awareness Month.

20 Dr. Voss, would you please present the
21 resolution.

22 COMMISSIONER VOSS: I would love to.

23 Over the past year, we have learned
24 just how vital the field of public health is and what
25 a significant difference its leadership can make in

1 the help and safety of our communities.

2 I'm reading actually the resolution for
3 public health, I do not have any comments on Autism
4 Awareness Month, but I can certainly do something
5 extemporaneously.

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: You're on. Let's
7 see how fast you are on your feet.

8 COMMISSIONER VOSS: Okay.

9 Autism awareness is very, very close to
10 my heart. I have a son with Asperger's syndrome,
11 which is on the autism spectrum, so I've been dealing
12 with autism awareness for over 40 years.

13 Someone asked me what was the most
14 important thing I did in my years in Trenton in the
15 state Assembly, and that was to bring many, many
16 advocates for autism awareness down to Trenton to
17 speak with Joe Roberts, who at that time was the
18 Speaker.

19 Very few people knew very much about
20 autism and how prevalent it is. There is no cure,
21 but there are ways of dealing with the issues through
22 therapies and through various teaching techniques.

23 I don't know exactly at the present
24 moment the percentage of people, but autism
25 unfortunately hits boys more often than girls, and

1 it's very important that people who enter into
2 special education learn how to deal with children on
3 the spectrum. Most of the children on the spectrum
4 are extremely intelligent, their problem is with
5 social cues. They don't understand sarcasm. They
6 don't understand facial expressions that may be
7 derogatory toward them. They do not read body
8 language.

9 Most kids learn their socialization by
10 observing their parents and their schoolmates, but in
11 the case of autism, this is not something that these
12 children learn. Many, many successful people, many
13 geniuses have been on the autism spectrum. I can go
14 on and on about this, but I won't bore you. Just be
15 aware, look for the signs of autism, because the
16 earlier you get intervention, the better it is for
17 the child in the long-term. As I said, many of the
18 people on the spectrum are geniuses and yet their
19 social skills are a little remiss. So please be
20 aware.

21 I'm so glad that 70 of our towns in
22 Bergen County are stigma-free, because kids on the
23 spectrum very often are the object of discrimination.

24 So thank you very much.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,

1 Commissioner.

2 Commissioner Zur.

3 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank you
4 so much, Chairman.

5 Commissioner Voss, we have spoken so
6 often about this, and highlighting everyone's unique
7 abilities has been certainly a priority of all of us
8 on this Board, whether it's been advocating for
9 Project Search, which gives our young adults with
10 autism and other disabilities portable job skills.

11 With one in 34 being diagnosed
12 throughout the State of New Jersey, this is an issue
13 near and dear. My nephew is on the spectrum, and I
14 am so grateful too so many in this county, especially
15 throughout this pandemic, who continue provide even
16 when we had to be in isolation, to continue to
17 provide services for those who are dealing with
18 autism.

19 As we're going to light up the building
20 blue, I also wanted to make a donation to BCCLS of
21 two books, "The Masterpiece" and "The Molding of
22 Clay," to raise awareness of our children of the
23 abilities and as well as the disabilities, the gifts
24 and unique abilities. I have donated this to BCCLS
25 just to honor autism awareness and really highlight

1 the gifts that so many of these young people have.

2 So thank you, Chairman, so much for
3 enabling me to have this time.

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
5 Commissioner. I appreciate that.

6 So I'm going to take a motion from
7 Chair Pro Tempore Voss and a second by Commissioner
8 Amoroso. Nod your head.

9 COMMISSIONER VOSS: So moved.

10 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can we please call
12 the roll.

13 (At this point in the proceeding roll
14 call is taken and Resolution #247-21 is passed by a
15 vote of six in favor, with Commissioner Sullivan
16 absent.)

17 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: #247-21 passes with
18 six ayes.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, Madam
20 Clerk.

21 The third nonconsent resolution is
22 #248-21, which is a Resolution in Recognition of
23 Public Health Week.

24 Vice-Chairwoman Zur, please present the
25 resolution.

1 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Thank you
2 so much, Chairman.

3 Over the past year, we have learned
4 just how vital the field of public health is and what
5 a significant difference its leadership can make on
6 the health and safety of our communities.

7 This week we acknowledge National
8 Public Health Week, not only to thank our public
9 health officials for providing vital information
10 about dangerous health risks to the population, but
11 for being at the forefront of this pandemic,
12 reporting the scientific facts as they become
13 available, and striving to keep us safe during this
14 global crisis.

15 Our public health workers in Bergen
16 County have indeed been on the front lines of this
17 pandemic since the very beginning, and we were here
18 at Ground Zero of this virus, from staffing our
19 mobile testing sites over the summer and continuing
20 to facilitate the testing program at BCC, to now
21 pivoting to distribute the vaccine at New Bridge
22 Medical Center.

23 Our Health Department staff, along with
24 many other individuals from the administration and
25 New Bridge Medical Center, have truly stepped up to

1 ensure that Bergen County residents have access to
2 the resources that they've needed throughout the
3 COVID-19 pandemic.

4 As we continue to navigate the vaccine
5 shortage, our public health workers have been working
6 tirelessly to staff our vaccine site, facilitate
7 confidential contact tracing, ensure that our at-risk
8 seniors have access and transportation to their
9 vaccine appointments, and take care of all of the
10 other behind-the-scenes work to keep our vaccine and
11 testing programs running.

12 If this has taught us anything, it's
13 that our own health depends on the health of our
14 surrounding community, and we all have to do our part
15 to keep ourselves and everyone else from getting
16 sick.

17 So on behalf of all of us on this
18 Board, I want to just give a wholehearted thank you
19 to all of our frontline essential workers for keeping
20 us safe and guiding us through this next wave of this
21 relentless virus. As I said, I think I speak for all
22 of us in saying, we all owe an immense debt of
23 gratitude to our public healthcare workers.

24 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
25 Commissioner.

1 May I have a motion to accept the
2 resolution?

3 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: So moved.

4 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the
6 roll.

7 (At this point in the proceeding roll
8 call is taken and Resolution #248-21 is passed by a
9 vote of six in favor, with Commissioner Sullivan
10 absent.)

11 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six yes, #248-21
12 passes.

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you very much.

14 The fourth nonconsent resolution is
15 Resolution #250-21 which is in Recognition of
16 Resolution in Support of our Asian American and
17 Pacific Islander residents in the County of Bergen.

18 I'm presenting this tonight, but I just
19 want everyone to know that this Board wholeheartedly
20 believes and supports this. Any one of us could have
21 delivered this resolution tonight, so I just want
22 everyone to know that we all are like-minded in this
23 regard.

24 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: As one of the most

1 diverse counties in the United States, advancing the
2 inclusion of all races, national origins, and
3 ethnicities is critical in ensuring the safety and
4 security of all our residents.

5 Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic,
6 inflammatory and xenophobic remarks, including
7 references to the origin of the pandemic, have put
8 our Asian American and Pacific Islander communities
9 and businesses at risk. Those statements have stoked
10 unfounded fears and have contributed to increasing
11 rates of bullying, harassment, and hate crimes
12 against Asian Americans.

13 In Bergen County, we will not stand by
14 as our Asian American and Pacific Islander
15 communities are increasingly concerned about their
16 safety and security. We will proactively work with
17 law enforcement agencies and community partners to
18 foster open dialogue and ensure that Bergen County
19 remains a safe place for all of our residents.

20 I move to accept this resolution.

21 May I have a second, please?

22 Body of the Whole?

23 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Body of the
24 Whole.

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. Please call

1 the roll.

2 (At this point in the proceeding roll
3 call is taken and Resolution #250-21 is passed by a
4 vote of six in favor, with Commissioner Sullivan
5 absent.)

6 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Resolution 250-21
7 passes with six ayes.

8 That concludes our nonconsent
9 resolutions.

10 HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you very much,
12 Madam Clerk.

13 At this time, I make a motion that we
14 open the meeting to the public.

15 COMMISSIONER HACHE: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

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

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it.
22 We will now have the Hearing of the General Public,
23 with a three-minute time limit in effect, in
24 accordance with Bergen County Commissioner bylaws.

25 For those members of the public who

1 would like to participate during the public comments,
2 please look to the bottom of your screen and click
3 the icon that reads "Q&A."

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

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

9 MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Chairman.

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

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

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
19 counselor.

20 Is there anyone wishing to speak?

21 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, at this time,
22 Dave wishes to speak.

23 Dave, prior to speaking please spell
24 your first and last name for the record and state
25 your municipality.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. MARAIN: Can you hear me?

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Yes, we can.

4 Welcome.

5 MR. MARAIN: That's great.

6 My name is Dave Marain. I've been in
7 absentia for a year now, but some of you might know
8 who I am.

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Yes, we do.

10 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: We know you.

11 MR. MARAIN: Hi, everybody. And I hope
12 you've all been able to get your dose of vaccine, I
13 just finished mine, and I hope you're all well.

14 I think you know how passionate I am
15 about the topic of respecting all human beings and
16 their dignity, and the question that I am posing
17 tonight has to do with the letter you received from
18 Sen. Weinberg and Assemblyman Johnson and
19 Assemblywoman Huttler, who have sponsored new
20 legislation regarding the detention of immigrants.

21 I'm really asking for your reaction to
22 the passage that reads: "The State of New Jersey
23 does not have the power to set national immigration
24 policy, but we do have a choice in whether we
25 cooperate with federal authorities that seek to

1 breakup families, detain our neighbors, undermine the
2 fabric of our community. We sponsor this legislation
3 because we believe that no one should be detained in
4 New Jersey merely because of their immigration
5 status."

6 The second part of my question is, is
7 this letter enough to convince each of you to
8 recommend to Sheriff Cureton that the Bergen County
9 ICE contract be terminated, which only requires a
10 60-day notice?

11 As of now, I guess you know the
12 contract has no termination date. It's open-ended.

13 So those are my two questions: Your
14 reaction to the letter and that statement, and in
15 particular would you get together and recommend to
16 Sheriff Cureton that it's time to end the Bergen
17 County ICE contract?

18 Thank you very much for your time.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, Dave.

20 Anyone else wishing to speak?

21 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, next is Joe

22 Moscow.

23 John, please spell your first and last
24 name and state your town.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. MOSCOW: My name is Jon, J-O-N,
2 Moscow, M-O-S-C-O-W. I'm a resident of Teaneck. I'm
3 also the co-chair of the Northern New Jersey
4 Sanctuary Coalition.

5 I want to echo word-for-word what Dave
6 Marain has said and I'd like to add to it.

7 I want to congratulate you on this
8 being National County Government Month, and I think
9 that this is a perfect, opportune time for you to
10 exercise your judgment as County Commissioners, end
11 the ICE contract and ensure that the detainees are
12 released in a humane and responsible way, not
13 transferred someplace else.

14 I think also Chairman Tanelli's
15 comments on the resolution that you passed in terms
16 of the safe environment, where you were talking about
17 support for the Asian American and Pacific Islander
18 communities, I echo everything he said, but the fact
19 is where he said Bergen County should be a safe
20 environment for all our residents applies also to the
21 detainees in the jail.

22 So I have the same questions that Dave
23 Marain has, and I have an additional point which does
24 not depend on ICE in any way whatsoever.

25 In the course of working on this, it's

1 evident that detainees and other inmates of the jail
2 are paid a dollar a day for their labor. This, as
3 many of you may know, is a clear carryover from
4 slavery and from the southern backlash against
5 emancipation, it was a runaround against the
6 amendments to ban slavery by saying that you could in
7 fact have forced labor if it was justified by the
8 judicial system. The county government could at this
9 moment, all of you, vote to in fact while you have
10 detainees and other inmates in the prison or in the
11 jail, you could vote to pay the minimum wage. Yes,
12 it would reduce some of the profit to the county from
13 essentially unpaid labor but I'm sure all of you
14 would agree that that is not a legitimate source of
15 income to the county. It would also support the
16 families.

17 One of the hardships of being
18 incarcerated is that people can't support their
19 families, and this has implications well beyond the
20 individual.

21 So I'd urge you to answer Mr. Marain's
22 questions and also to answer my question about
23 whether you're prepared to vote for the minimum wage
24 for anybody in the County Jail.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

2 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, next is Whitney.
3 Whitney, please spell your first and
4 last name and state your town.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. STRUB: Sure.

7 My name is Whitney Strub. First name
8 is W-H-I-T-N-E-Y, last name is S-T-R-U-B. I'm a
9 resident of Newark, but I belong to North Jersey DSA,
10 the Democratic Socialists of America, which is also
11 based in Bergen County and has been very active there
12 in the struggle for immigrant justice.

13 I'd like to also support everything the
14 last two speakers said and also put a human face to
15 some of the structural questions around your
16 complicity in ICE's racist system of detention and
17 deportation.

18 Marvin Ventura Reyes is a man from El
19 Salvador who migrated to the United States in 1998
20 after witnessing the violent killings of his father
21 and brother. He was held in the Bergen County Jail,
22 which he described in his own words as "A dirty jail
23 cell with critters and mice. The food was terrible.
24 The Sheriffs were racist, and we were kept inside
25 22 hours per day, they only gave us two hours per day

1 to go outside."

2 Mr. Reyes went on a hunger strike, was
3 transferred to Krome in Miami, where he remains in
4 the hospital now actually because he's been on a
5 hunger strike for a month demanding his freedom.
6 There is absolutely nothing stopping any of you from
7 speaking out and it might carry a great deal of
8 weight as public officials. You could also demand
9 his release. You could publicly demand or ask that
10 ICE release him. There's nothing stopping you from
11 doing that, and in fact that would be one gesture
12 toward having some humanity while engaged in this
13 complicity while you are perpetuating it.

14 And I will say, with the time I have
15 remaining, that I do appreciate Commissioner Sullivan
16 engaging in a back and forth with me on Twitter over
17 the past few months, but he refused to answer the
18 question should people detained by ICE be released.
19 He kept hiding behind excuses saying, well, I don't
20 have the power to do that, which was not the
21 question, the question is, as elected officials this
22 is a question of paramount importance and I'm not
23 aware of any of you having a public stance on that.
24 So I was wondering if anybody on the Commissioner
25 board would simply confirm that you have a position

1 on this question: Should people detained by ICE be
2 released? Is anybody willing to speak to that and go
3 on the record advocating for the release of people?

4 Commissioner Tanelli?

5 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I mean, this Board
6 has been very clear in their position as far as we do
7 not believe that individuals that are being held
8 solely for being undocumented should be in jail
9 waiting for their hearings. This Board has been
10 clear for two years on that.

11 MR. STRUB: But of course everybody in
12 ICE is in civil detention, because everybody who has
13 been convicted of a crime has served their time
14 already, and so that's not a particularly meaningful
15 distinction because people are being held simply on
16 immigration status.

17 I don't know, would any other
18 Commissioner be willing to simply take a stand that
19 people detained by ICE should be released and we
20 should not advocate --

21 MR. SHEINFIELD: That's three minutes.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. STRUB: I guess that's a no.

24 MR. SHEINFIELD: Thank you.

25 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, next is Kathy.

1 Kathy, please spell your first and last
2 name and state your town.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. O'LEARY: Hi. My name is Kathy
5 O'Leary, K-A-T-H-Y, O ' L-E-A-R-Y. I live in
6 Millington. I am the coordinator for the New Jersey
7 Region of Pax Christi U.S.A.

8 While I don't live in Bergen County, we
9 have many members who do and have been active in this
10 state since about 1972.

11 I want to applaud you for your
12 resolution regarding the AAPI community and the
13 hatred and xenophobia and just general violence that
14 they've been subjected to; however, I do want to
15 point out to you that members of that community are
16 also undocumented and likely have been in your jail.

17 So I don't think it's a stretch for
18 you -- and, Commissioner Tanelli, I want to thank you
19 for restating your position with regard to the ICE
20 contract, that no one should be held simply for
21 immigration related offenses. But if you refer to
22 the letter that you received from Sen. Weinberg,
23 Assemblyman Gordon and Assemblywoman Huttler earlier
24 this week, they made it very clear that no one being
25 held in your jail for ICE is being held for any other

1 reason than their immigration status.

2 This is something that I wholeheartedly
3 agree with, my organization wholeheartedly agrees
4 with, and advocates have been here many times
5 explaining this particular point to you.

6 So I hope that you will answer Dave
7 Marain's questions, John Moscow's questions, and also
8 I believe it was the challenge posed to you by Sen.
9 Weinberg, Assemblyman Johnson, and Assemblywoman
10 Huttler to actually go farther than simply your
11 statement, Commissioner Tanelli.

12 When I was here at your last meeting, I
13 did ask you to pass a resolution, which I did share
14 with you, and I'll just read the resolve part of it.

15 "This public body rejects the racism
16 and xenophobia of the Trump administration and
17 particularly those policies that target black, brown
18 and Muslim immigrants. We fully support the Biden
19 administration and its efforts to undo the damage of
20 the Trump administration, particularly as they relate
21 to racism, anti-Muslim bias and xenophobia. We also
22 support the Biden administration in its effort to
23 eliminate the harm done to the many family members of
24 people in detention. We support the responsible
25 closure of New Jersey's ICE detention facilities and

1 the swift passage of A5207/S3361. We call on the
2 Bergen County Sheriff to terminate Bergen County's
3 contract with the federal government to house
4 detainees at the Bergen County Jail and support a
5 responsible closure of the Bergen County ICE
6 detention facility."

7 MR. SHEINFELD: Three minutes.

8 MS. O'LEARY: "We also support the
9 efforts of providing a pathway to citizenship for the
10 many undocumented residents of our county who now
11 live in constant fear of detention and deportation."

12 So my question to you is: Will you
13 pass this resolution calling for an end to the ICE
14 contract and the swift passage of S3361 and A5207?

15 Thank you.

16 MR. SHEINFELD: That's three minutes.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. O'LEARY: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Anyone else wishing
20 to speak?

21 MR. DARLEY: Chairman, there's no one
22 else.

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Motion to close.

24 Do I have a second?

25 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: All in favor?

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

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it.

7 I don't know if any of the
8 Commissioners would like to speak, otherwise we'll
9 move on to our resolutions to be voted on tonight.

10 (No response.)

11 REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

12 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Would the Clerk
13 please read the resolutions being voted on this
14 evening.

15 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: We have Resolutions
16 #194-21 through #246-21 and Resolution #251-21.

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I move to accept the
18 resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

19 May I have a second?

20 COMMISSIONER VOSS: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please call the
22 roll.

23 MR. FLORIO: Chairman, before we have a
24 roll call on this, I think Commissioner Hache is
25 going to recuse on #216.

1 Am I correct on that?

2 COMMISSIONER HACHE: Correct.

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: I thought we removed
4 #216.

5 MR. FLORIO: It's not listed as removed
6 on my list.

7 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: May I restate the
8 numbers?

9 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please.

10 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Resolutions #194-21
11 through #215-21, Resolutions #217-21 through #246-21,
12 and Resolution #251-21, hence omitting Resolution
13 #216-21 from the Consent Agenda.

14 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you, Madam
15 Clerk.

16 RESOLUTIONS OF CONSENT

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We already have a
18 first and a second, can you please call the roll on
19 the consent.

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

24 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six yes, the
25 consent agenda is approved.

1 RESOLUTIONS OF NONCONSENT

2 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Are there any
3 Resolutions of Nonconsent, tabled or previously voted
4 on, please?

5 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Yes, there were four
6 resolutions, Nos. 247, 248, 249, 250 previously
7 entered on the record as nonconsent, and at this
8 moment we have added a request for a fifth
9 nonconsent, Resolution #216-21.

10 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Please eliminate
11 Commissioner Hache from the meeting, please.

12 MR. FLORIO: Only for this item.

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Yes, exactly.

14 (At this point in the proceeding
15 Commissioner Hache logs off of Zoom and is no longer
16 present.)

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a motion
18 for #216, please?

19 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: So moved.

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Do I have a second?

21 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Second.

22 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

24 Call the roll, please.

25 (At this point in the proceeding roll

1 call is taken and Resolution #216-21 is passed by a
2 vote of five in favor, with Commissioner Sullivan
3 absent and Commissioner Hache recused.)

4 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: #216-21 passes with
5 five ayes and one refusal.

6 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you very much.
7 Could you please bring Commissioner
8 Hache back in.

9 (At this point in the proceeding
10 Commissioner Hache returns to the Public Meeting.)

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Welcome back.

12 ORDINANCES

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: We'll now go on to
14 our ordinance for First Reading and Introduction,
15 Ordinance 21-02.

16 Will the Clerk please read the
17 ordinance by title only.

18 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 21-02 is
19 an:

20 "ORDINANCE PROHIBITING RIGHT TURN
21 MOVEMENTS FROM FOREST AVENUE TO REPETTI STREET IN THE
22 BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD."

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: May I have a motion
24 to introduce Ordinance 21-02 as read?

25 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: So moved.

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you.

2 May I have a second?

3 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,

5 Commissioner.

6 Please call the roll.

7 (At this point in the proceeding roll
8 call is taken and the First Reading and Introduction
9 of Ordinance 21-02 is passed by a vote of six in
10 favor, with Commissioner Sullivan absent.)

11 CLERK RODRIGUEZ: With six yeses, 21-02
12 passes First Reading.

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Okay. I've had some
14 interest in pausing reports tonight.

15 Do I have a motion to suspend reports?

16 COMMISSIONER VOSS: So moved.

17 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Can I have a second?

18 COMMISSIONER AMOROSO: Second.

19 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you. That was

21 a tie. We'll give the tie to Mary, because she

22 raised her hand.

23 All in favor?

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

1 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it, so
4 we are suspending reports.

5 Administrator Neals, would you like to
6 suspend your report as well or would you like to
7 address the crowd?

8 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS:
9 Chairman, the administration will suspend as well.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Very good.

12 ADJOURNMENT

13 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: There being nothing
14 further to come before this meeting, may I have a
15 motion to adjourn?

16 COMMISSIONER HACHE: So moved.

17 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SILNA ZUR: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Thank you,
19 Commissioners.

20 All in favor?

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

23 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 CHAIRMAN TANELLI: The ayes have it, we

1 are adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

2 (Whereupon, the Public Meeting is
3 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 Merit 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, RMR
License #XIO1042, and Notary Public
of New Jersey

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