

BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018
COMMENCING AT 7:37 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

GERMAINE M. ORTIZ, CHAIRWOMAN

MARY J. AMOROSO, VICE-CHAIRWOMAN

DR. JOAN M. VOSS, CHAIR PRO TEMPORE

THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

DAVID L. GANZ

TRACY SILNA ZUR

STEVEN A. TANELLI

FREEHOLDERS ABSENT:

NONE

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

1 ALSO PRESENT:

2
3 LARA RODRIGUEZ
4 CLERK TO THE BOARD

5 JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQUIRE
6 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

7 EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQUIRE
8 COUNSEL TO THE BOARD
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24 KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.
25 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 7:37 p.m.

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

6 Thank you.

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

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

22 ROLL CALL

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk
24 please call the roll.

25 (At this point in the proceeding roll

1 call is taken with Freeholders Ganz, Sullivan,
2 Tanelli, Voss, Zur, Vice-Chairwoman Amoroso, and
3 Chairwoman Ortiz present.)

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

6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Would everyone
8 please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

9 Fire Chief Ferry, would you like to
10 lead us.

11 (At this point in the proceeding all
12 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,
13 led by Chief Ferry.)

14 MOMENT OF SILENCE

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Please remain
16 standing for a Moment of Silence as we remember
17 Albert Burstein, Former Assembly Majority Leader;
18 Essex County Freeholder Lebby Jones; and the Founder
19 of Bergen Volunteers Medical Initiative, Dr. Samuel
20 Cassell.

21 Former Assemblyman Burstein represented
22 the 37th District in the General Assembly from
23 1972-1982, and served as its Assembly Majority Leader
24 from 1977-1979. He also served as a commissioner of
25 the New Jersey Election Law Commission until he was

1 in his eighties.

2 Freeholder Lebby Jones of the Essex
3 County Board of Chosen Freeholders was first elected
4 in 2014 and reelected in 2017. She is remembered as
5 a longtime educator and a community activist.

6 Dr. Samuel Cassell was the founder of
7 Bergen Volunteers Medical Initiative located in
8 Hackensack. In 2014, he received the American
9 Medical Association's Award of Excellence in
10 Volunteerism.

11 Our thoughts and prayers go out to
12 their family and loved ones.

13 PRESENTATIONS

14 We are honored to have with us tonight
15 Chief Elizabeth Ferry. Ms. Ferry is the first female
16 fire chief in Wood-Ridge and the third overall in
17 Bergen County.

18 Would you please join us at the podium
19 to accept your commendation from the Board.

20 First of all, I want to thank you for
21 your service. I'm extremely proud of you. If so
22 many more women can follow in your footsteps, it's
23 unbelievable. To be the first in your town, the
24 third in the county, that's excellent. Thank you so
25 much for everything.

1 So on behalf of the Bergen County Board
2 of Chosen Freeholders, we have a commendation in
3 honor of being appointed Fire Chief in the Borough of
4 Wood-Ridge and recognition of being the first female
5 to hold this critical position.

6 We congratulate you on behalf of the
7 nearly one million residents of Bergen County.

8 Congratulations.

9 (At this point in the proceeding, the
10 presentation is made.)

11 (Applause.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Does anyone want to
13 say a few words?

14 CHIEF FERRY: Thank you all very much.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Any of the
16 Freeholders have any comments?

17 FREEHOLDER ZUR: Madam Chair, if I may?

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Sure.

19 FREEHOLDER ZUR: First of all, to all
20 of the Wood-Ridge firefighters who are here in
21 support, I want to thank all of you for your service.
22 What you do every day to protect our communities, we
23 are grateful, so grateful.

24 And Chief, congratulations on this
25 appointment. It's wonderful to see women stepping

1 forward into these roles of leadership and being
2 acknowledged as being the best for this position and
3 being the one to lead the department is really a
4 tremendous honor. Thank you for modeling for our
5 daughters that they can do anything, and thank you
6 for modeling for our sons that we can do anything.

7 So thank you very much, Chief.

8 CHIEF FERRY: Thank you very much.

9 FREEHOLDER VOSS: I'll say a few words.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay. Sure.

11 FREEHOLDER VOSS: I'm very, very close
12 to the fire department in my town. I served as
13 liaison to the fire department for over 10 years, and
14 I can't tell you how fantastic volunteer fire people
15 are. We have four companies in my town, and we have
16 52 high-rises, so I know the danger that everyone is
17 in.

18 Again, I'm so proud of women finally
19 getting the acknowledgement that they are just as
20 able and sometimes more able than some of their
21 counterparts, and, so, congratulations. I'm very
22 proud of you and I'm proud of all of our volunteer
23 fire people.

24 God bless.

25 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: If I may, I just

1 want to add, as a father of three daughters, thank
2 you. Seriously, you know, there's no bar that can't
3 be reached, and thank you for what you do. Thank you
4 to all of the volunteers of your town, the first
5 responders. You all make the world go round, and
6 thank you for it. And a special congratulations on
7 achieving your accomplishment.

8 Thank you.

9 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Chief, if I
10 may ask, you said you have a 16-year-old --

11 CHIEF FERRY: Sister.

12 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: -- sister,
13 okay, who has expressed interest in being a junior
14 firefighter?

15 CHIEF FERRY: She's already joined.

16 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: She's doing
17 it!

18 CHIEF FERRY: Well, like I said, we're
19 a firefighting family. My father started in 1978. I
20 joined in '94. I have another -- well, I have three
21 brothers who all joined, and actually the oldest of
22 them is currently serving as the chief in Highland
23 Lakes, Vernon Township.

24 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Wow, you're
25 all over the place!

1 CHIEF FERRY: That's where he went to
2 raise his three girls so that he had a little bit
3 more land. If somebody likes to mow the lawn,
4 somebody's got to go do that, so...

5 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: We really are
6 very proud of you.

7 CHIEF FERRY: Thanks so much.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Freeholder Tanelli.

9 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Congratulations,
10 Chief.

11 I'd also like to thank the families as
12 well. You know, we appreciate you stepping up the
13 ranks. We know it's a 24/7 commitment, but it's also
14 a commitment for families of all of our volunteers,
15 especially with mutual aid, how quickly you guys
16 respond to other towns that are in need of help and
17 while your parents, your family is home worrying
18 about your safety, you guys are running out the door
19 in the middle of the night, all different times of
20 the day. So we have a tremendous volunteer fire
21 service in Bergen County, especially down south. I
22 have family members that have served as chiefs, and
23 it's amazing what you guys do as volunteers. So I
24 want to thank you all for your commitment to the
25 residents of Bergen County and to your communities.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you again, and
3 God bless your family for giving your time and
4 volunteering.

5 CHIEF FERRY: Without their support, it
6 would be very difficult.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: That's true.

8 CHIEF FERRY: Very, very difficult.

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you again for
10 your service.

11 ANNOUNCEMENT

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The Freeholder Board
13 would like to announce that effective February 20th,
14 our Public Meetings will now start at 7 p.m.

15 MINUTES

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk read
17 the minutes to be accepted.

18 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The minutes to be
19 accepted are December 26, 2018 - the Sine Die
20 meeting; Freeholder Voss absent.

21 January 7, 2019 - the Reorganization
22 Work Session; all present.

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

25 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Move the minutes.

1 FREEHOLDER ZUR: Second.

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

5 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Unanimously
8 approved.

9 HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now have the
11 Hearing of the General Public, with a three-minute
12 time limit in effect, in accordance with the Bergen
13 County Freeholder bylaws.

14 The Board Attorney will keep the time.
15 When the time of the speaker expires, the Board
16 Attorney will announce the time has expired.

17 Please fill out the slip of paper with
18 your name, address, and general topic you wish to
19 speak about.

20 May I have a motion to open the meeting
21 to the public?

22 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

23 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

25 (All present Freeholders respond in the

1 affirmative.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay. Joseph
5 Dunsay.

6 MR. DUNSAY: Good evening.

7 In the past few years, there was a lot
8 of argument over the eruv construction in Mahwah and
9 I think a few other towns. I was just thinking,
10 maybe it's time to plan for a county-wide eruv and
11 that way we can save a lot of debating at the
12 municipal level.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

15 Shane Mitchell.

16 MR. MITCHELL: Hi, good evening. I'm
17 Shane Mitchell from Mahwah.

18 Although I'm here, my role is
19 Legislative Director to Sen. Loretta Weinberg.

20 She asked I read a quick statement from
21 her about an issue having to do with Area II,
22 Overpeck Park and Field Station.

23 She would like to be here herself, but
24 she's dealing with a family concern, thus my
25 presence.

1 Here we go.

2 And this is as her, so you'll have to
3 excuse all the I's.

4 (Laughter.)

5 MR. MITCHELL: Also, a little bit
6 shorter, blonder, a little feistier, and you can
7 imagine me as her.

8 Anyway, I have been overwhelmed by
9 scores of constituents who oppose Field Park Station
10 and its proposed future home in Area II of Overpeck
11 Park. They believe that Bergen County parkland
12 should be preserved for eco-friendly activities, and
13 that Field Station does not fit that description.

14 Recently, a group of constituents told
15 me that Area II, which had been open to the public,
16 was suddenly closed to the public with signage and
17 fencing.

18 I asked the County Executive's Deputy
19 Chief of Staff, Peter Botsolas, about the status of
20 Area II, and I wanted to thank him for his quick
21 response.

22 I'll read his response into the record.

23 "Senator, Area II has not suddenly been
24 restricted, Area II has always been closed to the
25 public. It is in need of remediation and is

1 off-limits and it is a public safety risk to be in
2 there.

3 "There are no accommodations for the
4 public within that site. There were signs that have
5 gone missing recently or have been vandalized;
6 however, there's no way to "police" if people are
7 actually going down there.

8 "Please don't hesitate to ask any
9 further questions you may have.

10 Peter."

11 In light of Mr. Botsolas' response as
12 to the status of Area II and since constituents are
13 questioning the progress of the Field Station project
14 on that site, can any of the Freeholders tell me -- I
15 guess tell Loretta -- if the remediation of this site
16 is in preparation to build a 300-car parking lot for
17 this dinosaur venue?

18 I would appreciate being kept apprised
19 of developments on this issue, as my office is
20 receiving regular constituent inquiries.

21 Thanks.

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Art Vatsky.

23 MR. VATSKY: Yes. Good evening. I am
24 Art Vatsky, Teaneck.

25 And I also want to speak about Area II.

1 And, you know, I think of politics as a discussion
2 between people with different views, but we're
3 entering a new stage of politics now. We have to
4 communicate with nature because nature is changing.
5 And I've looked at where this area is on the map, and
6 it's right above the intersections of Route 80 and
7 Route 95. And I mention that because instead of
8 putting a structure or a parking lot there, we need
9 to improve the wetlands situation.

10 The wetlands prevent expected storms
11 from flooding the area, the homes and the highways,
12 two highways, two major highways, and we really need
13 to see that.

14 Think 10 years ahead, what will people
15 be saying in front of this Freeholder Board if
16 something major, unprecedented like Superstorm Sandy
17 comes through our area and blocks the highways,
18 floods?

19 So I think we should leave Area II open
20 to nature and let the wetlands do their job.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Mr.
23 Vatsky.

24 Mary Walsh.

25 MS. WALSH: Mary Walsh, Hackensack, New

1 Jersey.

2 Last time I was here, I brought you
3 petitions with 1,635 names. This evening I would
4 like to give you another 150 and tell you that that
5 1,635 is now 1,976, plus several dozen calls that
6 have gone to the County Executive's office.

7 That brings the total to 2,200 names.
8 Maybe one or two off.

9 So, yesterday I was talking to Maude
10 Snyder, who is the Green Acres Legal Services Liaison
11 to Bergen County, and I told her about this and she
12 said -- first thing she said was "That's quite
13 impressive," and then she said the county needs to
14 address the concerns of the residents.

15 So you may ask, what does this have to
16 do with the contract that you're going to pass the
17 resolution on tonight? And what it has to do with it
18 is to make sure that that contract is only for
19 remediating areas and it is not destroying trees for
20 a parking lot or taking out other areas. And that
21 way, you can address the concerns of the residents
22 who really want nature.

23 So, I would like to ask you when that
24 contract does come up, that you would make sure that
25 it's only the parts that need to be remediated are

1 going to be remediated and not paved over.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Steve Quinn.

4 MR. QUINN: Steve Quinn, Ridgefield
5 Park.

6 Good evening. I hope you all got the
7 letter I sent on December 17th, and I hope you had a
8 great holiday season and Happy New Year.

9 And, Freeholder Sullivan, you were
10 chairman last year, and I thank you sincerely for
11 your written reply.

12 I'm just stopping by tonight to ask you
13 if there's any progress on the revised plan for Area
14 II? Has there been any progress? Are you aware of
15 its status? When we might see it? Nothing yet?

16 And I would also like to second Mary
17 Walsh's comment that we understand that the county
18 will be entering into a contract with Biohabitats, an
19 environmental engineer who will be doing or
20 overseeing the mitigation or remediation in Area I
21 and Area II and specifically regarding Area II, if
22 you can really monitor that contract and that
23 agreement closely to be sure that the work being done
24 -- we all want the remediation and the mitigation to
25 happen, but we don't want work that will damage the

1 viable environment in Area II and in any way prevent
2 it from being developed in the future as a nature
3 preserve.

4 That's it. Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

6 John Fesen.

7 MR. FESEN: Good evening, and Happy New
8 Year. John Fesen, Mahwah, New Jersey.

9 At the December 19th Freeholder
10 meeting, a resident of the Fardale section of Mahwah
11 -- the Fardale section is within earshot of the
12 firing range in Mahwah -- the resident appeared
13 before this board. He expressed his concern
14 regarding the excessive noise generated by the
15 newly-renovated firing range at the Law and Public
16 Safety Institute on Campgaw Road in Mahwah.

17 After the resident's comments, there
18 was response that the gun range is not a new
19 phenomena, it's been going on for 40 plus years, why
20 are you complaining about it now.

21 I would like to remind you that the
22 firing range has been almost totally changed. It is
23 not the old firing range. Obviously, that's gone.
24 The nearby residents tolerated the noise from the old
25 range for 40 plus years for the good of the county.

1 There's a new firing range where cement
2 and steel has been installed on more than an acre of
3 asphalt that has been put down.

4 Our focus is excessive noise generated
5 by the new range, not the old range. Please do not
6 equate the old range with the new range. We are
7 reacting to the renovation of the range and the
8 recent actions of replacing grass and dirt with
9 asphalt, cement, and steel, which obviously increases
10 the noise level.

11 On January 7th, our committee, called
12 Stop the Noise and Close the Range, held its first
13 public meeting for the Mahwah and Ramsey residents
14 who are concerned about the excessive noise. 50
15 residents attended the meeting, which was held at the
16 Ramsey Library in their meeting room. This is the
17 first of a series of meetings that we will hold. The
18 next one is scheduled for March 18th.

19 Our recommendation to you is to enclose
20 the range and convert it -- convert it into an indoor
21 range, which would completely solve the excessive
22 noise problem, plus it would provide some other
23 obviously important benefits, such as operating
24 during bad weather days, cold weather days, and being
25 able to do nighttime shooting during the day.

1 We believe that at some point in time
2 the firing range will be converted to an indoor
3 facility, because we think it's the right thing to
4 do, and doing so now is far better and less expensive
5 than doing the conversion at some future date.

6 Thank you for your time and attention.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

8 Laura Tracey-Coll.

9 MS. TRACEY-COLL: Hello, good evening
10 and Happy New Year.

11 I'd like to know who is the new park
12 liaison this year.

13 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: The same as last
14 year.

15 MS. TRACEY-COLL: Okay. Good.

16 I've e-mailed you all this week to
17 encourage you to be more proactive in the Overpeck
18 area and not just wait for the agreements to come to
19 your desk. Area II is assessed at \$10.1 million of
20 value, but its value as a preserve is priceless.

21 Tonight you will introduce two new
22 contracts for Area II and one remediation, and we do
23 ask you to please make sure that there's not
24 excessive tree cutting, especially around the parking
25 lot area.

1 We spoke at the Bergenfield meeting
2 about the parking lot area being an area that needed
3 remediation and capping. Well, I've sent you several
4 maps showing that there's very little remediation in
5 that area, and there's natural forest area in that
6 same parking lot area, so an asphalt driveway will
7 cut right through the forest.

8 The NJDEP state plan says that we've
9 lost 42,000 acres of forest, so we cannot be cutting
10 down more forest just to align with the Marriott's
11 driveway.

12 Can someone tell me who's negotiating
13 the contract now, the Parks Department or the
14 Executive or the Administrator?

15 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS:
16 Negotiating what contract?

17 MS. TRACEY-COLL: The Field Station
18 Dinosaur contract.

19 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS:
20 It's not currently being negotiated.

21 MS. TRACEY-COLL: Okay. Prior to that,
22 the Bergen County Improvement Authority negotiated
23 the first Letter of Intent. Who took that away from
24 the Bergen County Improvement Authority and
25 reassigned it to someone else? Because they said

1 they have nothing to do with that contract any
2 longer.

3 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: I
4 don't even understand the reference of who the "they"
5 is at BCIA who would have said they have nothing to
6 do with that.

7 MS. TRACEY-COLL: Mauro Raguseo. We
8 went to their meeting and we asked them, you know,
9 how they're doing on the negotiation, because they
10 hadn't negotiated the Letter of Intent, which is the
11 first part of the agreement for Field Station
12 Dinosaur. So they said, "Oh, no, we haven't seen
13 that agreement. We don't have anything to do with
14 that for years now."

15 But I didn't ask him who told you not
16 to work -- you know, work on that project anymore.

17 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS:
18 Well, your question was, if the administration is
19 negotiating it now?

20 MS. TRACEY-COLL: Yes.

21 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS:
22 It's not currently under negotiation. So as far as
23 the BCIA's previous involvement, they're not
24 negotiating it either, so it wasn't taken away from
25 anyone. It's at a pause now, because we don't even

1 have a final plan for Area II, so there's nothing
2 being negotiated at this point.

3 MS. TRACEY-COLL: And who decided that?
4 Like, how do those decisions happen? What office is
5 that?

6 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS:
7 With regard to who decided that --

8 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Ms. Tracey.

9 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS:
10 That is not a matter for public discloser.

11 In terms of who ultimately decides
12 things, it's either something that comes before this
13 Freeholder Board or it's the County Executive or the
14 administration. So if you're looking for the
15 individual, a person's name, you can direct whatever
16 inquiry you have on that line to the administration,
17 and I know you've called the County Executive's
18 office in the past as well, so we handle that.

19 MS. TRACEY-COLL: Okay.

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Christie Evens.

21 MS. EVENS: Christie Evens, Leonia.

22 I'm on the Leonia Environmental
23 Commission, and I came here with some good news
24 today.

25 We passed on December 3rd a ban of

1 Styrofoam food containers, and we're not the only
2 ones. Englewood now has an ordinance pending to also
3 ban Styrofoam food containers, and it's part of the
4 Bergen County environmentally-friendly Styrofoam-free
5 initiative. And this is going to be occurring around
6 Bergen County.

7 We have a four-part program. One is
8 education, that's called "The Science of Styrofoam."
9 It's really for kids. It's a STEM program. The next
10 one is going to be held in Ridgely Park on January
11 27th.

12 The second part is business awards.
13 So, any businesses that don't use Styrofoam food
14 containers get a Styrofoam-free Business Award. It's
15 quite pretty. I'll show it to you.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MS. EVENS: It looks like this. So
18 they hang this up in their windows and in their
19 doors.

20 The third part is Styrofoam drives.
21 So, it turns out that Styrofoam packaging is
22 recyclable, it's reusable, and you can actually make
23 money off of it, but we don't currently recycle it
24 here in Bergen County, and we could. So the good
25 news is that we're going to have Styrofoam drives

1 throughout Bergen County. Leonia's had three of
2 them. There will be Styrofoam drives in Fair Lawn,
3 Glen Rock, Hillsdale, Oakland, Oradell,
4 Ridgefield Park, and Ridgewood. And there will be
5 also some other ones, like Tenafly I think is coming
6 onboard.

7 I guess I came here today just to pass
8 along the good news, but I'm going to be asking at
9 some point for your assistance, because we would love
10 to make Bergen County truly Styrofoam free. There
11 are over a hundred counties in the United States and
12 cities that are Styrofoam free, and New York City is
13 one.

14 We'd also like to step up EPS Styrofoam
15 packaging recycling. Our big dream is to get a
16 Densifier, that way we could re-sell the recycled
17 product.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Ms.
20 Evens. Thank you for all your initiative in the
21 education, and I know we're all for the environment,
22 and it's something that we'll definitely be looking
23 into. I know we've discussed this before. And I
24 thank you for leading the way, and we shall continue
25 conversation with that.

1 I don't know if Freeholder --

2 FREEHOLDER ZUR: It's something we have
3 been working on with the county. I don't know if you
4 saw us looking at each other as well. You and I have
5 had this conversation, and, just to clarify for the
6 record, it's not the little fluffy Styrofoam nuggets,
7 it's the dense stuff that comes in your TV that's
8 recyclable.

9 So, for the people out there who are
10 collecting stuff and holding it in their garage for
11 those recycling drives, they should know it's the
12 big, dense packaging, not the little peanuts, it's
13 not the peanuts.

14 MS. EVENS: Thank you. I'll leave this
15 with you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you so much.
17 Leah Roland.

18 MS. ROLAND: Hi there. Nice to see you
19 all again.

20 The new year is always a time for new
21 hope. Many of us from Bergen County municipalities
22 and towns have been coming here for several months to
23 express our concern about a project called a dinosaur
24 park.

25 Have you taken a ride in the big yellow

1 cab? You must have heard the song, don't pave over
2 paradise and build a parking lot with a pink hotel
3 and a boutique and the swinging hot spot.

4 Don't cut down our trees and make us go
5 to a museum and pay \$1.50 to see trees.

6 I'm speaking for myself and Joni
7 Mitchell.

8 We express our concern about what we
9 hear is the potential project of the dinosaur park,
10 and I hear there are contracts for remediation and
11 wondering what the status is of the project, if you
12 can tell me, of the dinosaur park that's been
13 discussed?

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We have not had any
15 project being discussed yet at all. So nothing has
16 come before us, and we have not made any decisions.
17 All we've discussed is any remediation to be done to
18 that Area II.

19 In regard to the dinosaurs, that has
20 not been presented to us.

21 MS. ROLAND: I'm somewhat perplexed,
22 because it seems to me there is concern, and I know
23 you've heard the concern, and perhaps I'm skeptical,
24 because as I live in Leonia, suddenly without the
25 community really knowing about it, suddenly there was

1 a dinosaur park, not on the grandiose scale that we
2 are concerned about in section II, but a dinosaur
3 park in Leonia that none of us were aware of.

4 Can you tell me, I'd be very interested
5 in knowing what the process was, how it came to be
6 that that dinosaur park spouted up in what Leonia
7 contributed to the County for wildlife and green
8 space?

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I was not a
10 Freeholder at the time when that was negotiated, but
11 I don't know, would you --

12 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: So
13 with regard to the --

14 MS. ROLAND: I'm sorry. I'm a little
15 deaf. Can I ask you --

16 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: I'm
17 sorry. Let me try to get closer to my mic also.

18 So, the initial dinosaur park is a
19 temporary permit that has been issued to them to use
20 the space there in the Leonia park. There was
21 discussion at that time about if the park would
22 continue at some point and have a more permanent home
23 in Area II --

24 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Chairwoman.

25 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS:

1 There was a public hearing that was held in Teaneck
2 under Green Acres rules with regard to getting public
3 comment and presenting to the public the idea of
4 whether the dinosaurs were to go to Area II, what was
5 the public reaction.

6 So, there is no definite final plan
7 with regard to the dinosaurs going to Area II at this
8 point. However, the requirement to remediate the
9 areas in Area I, Area II, and Area III eventually has
10 been an ongoing obligation that the county already
11 has.

12 So the Biohabitats contracts that are
13 on the agenda today, they're not new contracts,
14 because Biohabitats has already been involved in the
15 remediation that's been performed in Area I to this
16 point and they're the naturalist and environmentalist
17 who are advising the county as to how to go forward
18 with the remediation and cause the least amount of
19 disruption to the natural wildlife that's there and
20 the preferred flora and fauna that should be there,
21 not the invasive species that have shown up. So
22 that's what Biohabitats' charge is.

23 So, with regard to the initial proposal
24 that was done with the concept of putting a dinosaur
25 park there, Biohabitats was consulted with regard to

1 that as well. So when the prior hearings were held
2 and the idea of putting the parking in there and the
3 idea of putting a dinosaur park in there, all of
4 those things had to be in conjunction with
5 Biohabitats, that if it were to move forward, it
6 would have to be done in the most
7 environmentally-friendly way, and that's what the DEP
8 has required as well.

9 So, the contracts that are on now are
10 just for the remediation that's required in those
11 areas and is not planned around an eventual dinosaur
12 park or anything else, because if there is a final
13 plan to put the dinosaurs in Area II, that would have
14 to come before the Freeholders, and there would have
15 to be an agreement for that, and that would have to
16 be compensated for and accounted for with Biohabitats
17 or any other remediation efforts that are going on
18 there as well.

19 MS. ROLAND: Okay. I think I'm
20 following you, but I am not understanding why there
21 is --

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Time is up.

23 MS. ROLAND: -- this concern if you're
24 saying that a proposal is not actually being
25 considered.

1 MR. FLORIO: Ms. Roland, your three
2 minutes has elapsed.

3 MS. ROLAND: And it would seem to me
4 that the --

5 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS:
6 I'll answer that question --

7 MS. ROLAND: I'm sorry.

8 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: I'm
9 sorry, your time is up, but I will answer that
10 question.

11 MS. ROLAND: I appreciate it.

12 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: So
13 with regard to the concern, the concern is obvious
14 because there was a hearing that was held with regard
15 to the possibility of the dinosaurs going there. So
16 there are obviously residents in the area and other
17 residents who have concern about that, who want to
18 stay on top of the whole process to make sure that
19 their concerns are heard, like at the last hearing,
20 and they've sent information to the administration
21 with regard to the petitions and other names so that
22 we are on notice and aware that there's the ongoing
23 interest and concern that they're not in favor of the
24 dinosaur park going forward.

25 MS. ROLAND: Can I ask one final

1 question? What would be the -- we've talked about
2 all the disadvantages from an environmental and
3 traffic and livability point of view. What would be
4 the potential advantage of having such a project?

5 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: So
6 what I will say with regard to that, I'm not going to
7 go through all the potential advantages, what I'm
8 going to say is what the administration is taking
9 into consideration is not just what your concerns are
10 going forward, but also the concerns of those people
11 who don't have the time or opportunity to come to
12 these Freeholders meetings, but who have attended the
13 Leonia side where the dinosaur park is now and has
14 said they like it as a feature to get their children
15 to go to the park and they have appreciated the
16 entertainment value.

17 So there are people who have opinions
18 that may be different than yours that have to be
19 considered as part of this, because it is Bergen
20 County, it's all one million people, and it's not
21 just the ones who favor X or favor Y. So we have to
22 take all those things into consideration.

23 MS. ROLAND: I thank you.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Jonathan Ross.

25 MR. ROSS: Good evening and thank you

1 for your comments. It does give me some education as
2 far as the whole process of Area II.

3 I'm the Democratic Committee person for
4 District 1 in Teaneck, which borders Area II or
5 actually how I think it should be called, it should
6 really be called the Southern Teaneck Wetlands. Area
7 II is very -- it doesn't mean anything, it doesn't
8 mean anything to anybody. Okay? It just -- I mean,
9 you can dispose that. Area II is disposable. The
10 Southern Teaneck Wetlands are not disposable. They
11 reduce pollution and fumes and sounds and light from
12 Route 95.

13 I live about two blocks away from it.
14 I hear the sounds. I see the lights. During the
15 winter, it gets brighter than when the trees are in
16 full. Once the trees get full, the sounds get less,
17 the light goes down. It's very important for the
18 lifestyle and the quality of life for the people that
19 live in southern Teaneck.

20 And I would also ask, have any of you
21 ever been down there? You've all walked it?

22 Okay. I would like you to just
23 consider your impressions of how beautiful it can be,
24 and I think that the whole remediation process that
25 you talked about, if it is done responsibly and with

1 full discloser, I can probably get behind it. I
2 think that would be good.

3 The dinosaur park is a different point.
4 For me it's really an environmental issue and a
5 quality of life for the people of southern Teaneck
6 and southern Bergen County.

7 Thank you very much.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

9 I wanted to just address also a comment
10 that the gentleman in the back made for Sen.
11 Weinberg.

12 That area has never been open to the
13 public. As matter of fact, there's been trespassers
14 and they knocked down the sign where it says "Do Not
15 Enter."

16 MR. ROSS: I still have two seconds.

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: No, your time -- may
18 I have a motion to close to the public?

19 FREEHOLDER ZUR: So moved.

20 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

22 (All present Freeholders respond in the
23 affirmative, with Freeholder Ganz voting nay.)

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

25 MR. FLORIO: One opposed.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: One opposed.

2 I was just addressing that it's not a
3 public area. There's a "No Trespassing" sign that
4 was taken down. I know it was put back up on Monday
5 morning, if I'm not mistaken, and it's dangerous.
6 It's waste, debris. No one should be in that area.

7 When the gentleman asked if I have
8 walked that area, I've seen Area I. I have not been
9 able to go into Area II yet. I would like to go to
10 see more, but we're not supposed to be there. It's a
11 dangerous area. There shouldn't be anyone there. So
12 I'm not understanding why she would say that it's
13 closed to the public when it's never been open to the
14 public.

15 So I just wanted to address that.

16 RESOLUTIONS OF UNANIMOUS CONSENT

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk read
18 the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

19 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Resolutions of Consent
20 are: #16-19 through #79-19.

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
22 to accept the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda as
23 read by the Clerk?

24 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Move the consent.

25 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

7 (At this point in the proceeding roll
8 call is taken and the Resolutions of Unanimous
9 Consent are passed by a unanimous vote.)

10 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With seven ayes, the
11 Consent Agenda has passed.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Are there any
13 resolutions pulled, postponed or tabled?

14 MS. RODRIGUEZ: There are none.

15 ORDINANCES

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now go on to
17 our Ordinance for First Reading and Introduction -
18 Ordinance 19-01.

19 Will the Clerk read Ordinance 19-01 by
20 title only.

21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 19-01 is an
22 "ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARIES OF THE
23 CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS."

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
25 to introduce Ordinance 19-01 as read by the Clerk?

1 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

2 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

4 (All present Freeholders respond in the
5 affirmative, with Freeholder Ganz voting nay.)

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

7 FREEHOLDER GANZ: No.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: One opposed.

9 Roll call, please.

10 (At this point in the proceeding roll
11 call is taken and Ordinance 19-01 is passed with a
12 vote of six in favor, with Freeholder Ganz voting
13 nay.)

14 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With six ayes, one nay,
15 Ordinance 19-01 passes First Reading.

16 COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM FREEHOLDERS

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now have the
18 Freeholder Committee Reports.

19 Start with Freeholder Voss.

20 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you, Madam
21 Chair.

22 Very interesting week. We had our
23 Reorganization on the 7th, and I was so happy because
24 two of my former students who graduated from Fort Lee
25 High School in 1988 were both sworn in as councilmen

1 in Leonia. It gave me great joy to go down there and
2 commend them and give them, you know, all accolades.
3 I'm so proud of the 9,000 young people that I had an
4 opportunity to teach, because many of them have
5 become very, very excellent public servants, and I
6 want to encourage everybody to get involved, because,
7 you know, we all have a voice and we should use it.

8 On the 13th, Sunday, a very large crowd
9 came to see the swearing-in of the new president of
10 the NAACP. It was wonderful. And Jeff Carter has
11 taken the place of Anthony Cureton, who is now our
12 Sheriff. So everybody was very supportive and it was
13 a very wonderful afternoon.

14 We had Korean American Day, and I
15 always like to give a little history lesson, because
16 I think that people need to appreciate each other.

17 Back in 1903, the first Koreans came to
18 America, they settled in Hawaii, there were just
19 about 102. And now we have a very, very large, very
20 productive Korean population, and they make many,
21 many contributions to our society.

22 We have our first Korean mayor now in
23 Palisades Park and, you know, we are very diverse and
24 we should share in and appreciate everybody's
25 contributions.

1 I attended a conference. I've been
2 very involved with an organization called "SAAFE" and
3 that stands for "Save Abused And Frail Elderly." I
4 don't think that people are aware of the fact that
5 one of the biggest problems in society today is the
6 abuse of elderly, and there is an organization and
7 it's called SAAFE, and I'm going to give you two
8 telephone numbers, because very often elderly who are
9 being abused do not know where to turn. We have here
10 in Bergen County the Adult Protective Services of
11 Bergen County, and the telephone number is
12 201-368-4300.

13 We have many services here on the
14 county level, but SAAFE also has many, many resources
15 and SAAFE's phone number is 551-795-0471.

16 I'm one of the supporters of this
17 organization, and one of the big problems today is
18 this is a guide for senior citizens, it's called
19 "Money Smart for Older Adults." I don't know about
20 you, but I know I have received many, many phone
21 calls saying this is the IRS or this is, you know,
22 something, and, of course, they intimidate you, you
23 know, you owe a lot of money and stuff like that.

24 Never, never pay attention to these
25 phone calls. And, you know, if they ask you for any

1 information about your savings account, your Social
2 Security number, absolutely do not give any of this.
3 I can't tell you the number of people that I have
4 come in contact with that have been ripped off,
5 sometimes in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

6 So, if I can be of any assistance, I
7 have a lot of contacts, and if anybody needs to get
8 assistance for any of the elderly you feel may be in
9 trouble, give me a call here and I will put you in
10 contact with the proper people who can get you the
11 help that you need.

12 Very often seniors will give money and
13 they give it in cash, and there's absolutely no way
14 that that can be retrieved. So there's lots of
15 lessons that we have to learn and teach and to be
16 aware of.

17 Yesterday we swore in three new
18 Undersheriffs and there will be a more formal
19 swearing-in in the foreseeable future. Freeholder
20 Tanelli and I were there, and it was very
21 representative of the diversity that we have here in
22 Bergen County. This is a great county, and so even
23 though we may have some times that we don't agree on
24 everything, we have many things that we can agree on.

25 Thank you and Happy New Year,

1 everybody.

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Freeholder Sullivan.

3 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Thank you,
4 Chairwoman. How about that?

5 (Laughter.)

6 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I just want to
7 point out that tonight the Freeholder Board passed
8 Resolution #64-19, and Bergen County entered into
9 another Shared Services Agreement with the Township
10 of Washington to Purchase and Obtain Road Salt, which
11 will be housed at our County facility and available
12 to them at any time.

13 These types of agreements continue in
14 our promise to bring savings to the municipalities
15 and the county.

16 I hope that more and more of our towns
17 will come onboard with as many shared services as
18 possible. As you know, we continuously look for ways
19 to save the taxpayer money, and shared services is
20 definitely the way to go. We have a bigger
21 purchasing power than a municipality that stands
22 alone. If the towns come to us, we can help them get
23 a reduced rate on that. That's what we did here with
24 Washington Township.

25 Over the past weekend, I attended the

1 preview tour and grand opening of the ShopRite in
2 Wyckoff. I'm proud to say that this project was
3 built with union labor, and the quality of the
4 finished project really shined through. It was a
5 wonderful event run by the Inserra family, who is
6 wonderful to their community. Any community they go
7 into, the Inserra family knows how to give back, they
8 know how to treat their employees, and they know how
9 to treat workers. I want to thank them for bringing
10 another great business to the residents of Bergen
11 County. There's something to be said about a family
12 that understands that when they're in business, when
13 they employ people, that their job is to make sure
14 those people have a good salary and they're able to
15 pay health benefits. Not only do the Inserras do
16 that, but they continually give back to the
17 community.

18 I reported on last month that they gave
19 thousands of turkeys out over the holidays to people
20 that needed them, and just a great shout out. We
21 welcome all their projects in Bergen County.

22 I attended Governor Murphy's State of
23 the State Address yesterday. There were some good
24 points and some bad points. Hopefully, the good
25 points are that we will be moving the economy forward

1 and people will be starting to invest more in New
2 Jersey.

3 Congratulations to the new Bergen
4 County Undersheriffs that were sworn in this week,
5 along with the warden.

6 Sheriff Cureton has hit the ground
7 running. He's working as hard as he can, and he will
8 be filling our staff shortly, but it's a process, and
9 the diversity shines through again. That's what
10 Bergen County is made of.

11 I also visited our new Montvale Police
12 Chief, Chief Joseph Sanfilippo. He took over for
13 Jeremy Abrams up in Montvale, happens to be where I
14 live. He's a good guy with a lot of experience, and
15 the Montvale Police Force will continue to be run in
16 a positive direction, as it was under Chief Abrams
17 and will continue under Chief Sanfilippo.

18 As Freeholder Voss mentioned, good luck
19 and best of luck to Junius Carter, who is our new
20 president of the NAACP of Bergen County. We look to
21 work closely with him on any issue that we have.

22 And I want to, again, congratulate
23 Chairwoman Ortiz on her new title as Chairwoman. I
24 congratulate Freeholder Voss and Amoroso on their
25 leadership positions. I know Bergen County is in

1 good hands, and I look forward to working with
2 everyone, not just these three on the board, but
3 everybody on the board to continue to move Bergen
4 County, I think, in a positive direction that it's
5 taken over the last four or five years, starting with
6 Steve and Tracy and moving from the County Executive
7 on down. I think the proof is in the product, and I
8 think Bergen County is leading the way for all of
9 New Jersey on how they conduct themselves with
10 business.

11 Again, we can have disagreements like
12 we've had here over the dinosaur exhibit, but we are
13 environmentally friendly, we protect our parks. At
14 the end of the day, it may not be the same finished
15 product that everybody wants, but Bergen County cares
16 about its residents, cares about its open space and
17 will continue to do so.

18 Thank you, Chairwoman Ortiz.

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
20 Freeholder.

21 Freeholder Tanelli.

22 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Thank you,
23 Chairwoman.

24 January 9th was National Law
25 Enforcement Appreciation Day. So when you're out

1 there and you see police officers, please thank them
2 for their service having to get dressed every day to
3 protect and serve. It's not the same as it was 30
4 years ago. It's dangerous. It's a dangerous job,
5 and may God bless and keep them safe and keep
6 everybody that puts the uniform on safe.

7 I'd like to congratulate Jin Sung Kim
8 and David Brozotta, who were sworn in yesterday as
9 Undersheriffs as the Sheriff's Department starts
10 their reorganization process, and also Ms. Cora
11 Taylor who was sworn in as the Chief Warrant Officer.

12 Also, after tonight's comments, I'd
13 like to thank Sen. Weinberg for her remarks tonight
14 and her questions, and I'd especially like to thank
15 the administration for their quick response to her
16 questions and her inquiry, because it's very
17 important that the correct information gets out
18 there, just like the answers to her question. I
19 think that will help educate all the people that are
20 coming with concerns about what's going on in Areas I
21 and II, and the more people that get the correct
22 information out to the public, the more we could put
23 the public's mind at ease. Because as many of my
24 colleagues will know, a lot of the same people come
25 to our meetings, they ask a lot of similar questions,

1 and it's never with all the facts and it's not all
2 correct information. So the more people, the more
3 leaders of a community that we have that come here,
4 that get the correct information, the easier and more
5 opportunities we'll have to educate people with
6 exactly what's going on there.

7 I thought that Administrator Neals was
8 very articulate in the process, where it stands
9 currently. Thank you very much for spelling that
10 out. I think people left here tonight with a much
11 better understanding on what's gone on in that area.

12 Unfortunately, at the Reorg I didn't
13 get an opportunity to thank Tom for his leadership
14 last year as our Chairman. It's not an easy job to
15 wrangle everybody on this board, to get everybody to
16 get to a compromise and to work on issues that may be
17 a little more challenging to get everybody to feel
18 their input was added to it to make it a better
19 resolution, to make it a better ordinance, wrangling
20 everybody's personality and everybody's strong suits
21 up here is not an easy task.

22 And, Tom, you did an outstanding job
23 driving the bus.

24 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Thank you.

25 (Laughter.)

1 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: I know, Germaine,
2 you learned a lot from Tom, you learned a lot sitting
3 here, as we all do, from each other, but I just want
4 to wish you, Mary and Joan, all the best in the
5 upcoming year. I know that we're going to work great
6 together. We're going to do some fantastic things
7 and continue the progress that this county has made
8 over the course of the last six years.

9 Thank you, Chairwoman.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

11 Freeholder Amoroso.

12 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Good evening.

13 The Bergen County Prosecutor, through
14 the School Safety Task Force, has initiated a series
15 of school safety training for teachers,
16 administrators, and staff in schools throughout
17 Bergen County. The training is focused on
18 active shooter situations, school building safety and
19 assessment, and mental health assessments and
20 assistance for students.

21 When schools and school districts have
22 completed the trainings and done the assessments, the
23 idea is to have the schools and school districts
24 accredited as safe schools.

25 The longest government shutdown in

1 federal history is having its impact locally. Over
2 at the Bergen County Board of Social Services all
3 active SNAP or food stamp clients will be able to
4 receive their February benefits early, on January
5 17th. All new applicants will receive benefits up
6 until January 31st. After that, the continuation of
7 benefits will depend on the lifting of the shutdown.

8 On and after January 31st, the Board of
9 Social Services will continue to process SNAP, but
10 will advise new clients that their benefits will not
11 be available to them until the end of the shutdown.

12 The federal government, by the way, is
13 advising recipients to budget carefully, because they
14 may be getting their benefits early for February, but
15 they won't get anything else for February.

16 Our Director of the Board of Social
17 Services, Dina Yachoub, is very proud of her staff
18 for working overtime and getting those benefits
19 processed.

20 We also attended two ribbon-cuttings in
21 the past week, both spearheaded by local officials,
22 both genuinely, wonderful, impactful creations.

23 In Teaneck, using new state preschool
24 grants and with the assistance of a local Episcopal
25 Church, the school district expanded its part-time

1 preschool for ages three and four to full-time. They
2 also added 30 new seats. This is a result of
3 New Jersey's receipt of \$10.6 million in federal
4 funding for a new initiative called the "New Jersey
5 Preschool Development Collaboration."

6 So now there's full-day preschool,
7 pre-K in 110 districts across New Jersey. That
8 compares to 35 districts two years ago and 60
9 districts about a year ago.

10 Second ribbon-cutting of note, in
11 Franklin Lakes, the Mayor and Council bought a
12 14-acre piece of property off Colonial Road about six
13 years ago. Lo and behold, six years later, last
14 week, Franklin Lakes opened McCoy Place, which is a
15 beautiful complex of 39 one-bedroom units for
16 disabled citizens. This complex also offers a slew
17 of supportive services for residents on-site. This
18 is a noteworthy example of a town being proactive and
19 doing good for the community.

20 Again, as my other Freeholder
21 colleagues have said, congratulations to our new
22 NAACP Bergen County President, Junius "Jeff" Carter.

23 And just a word of remembrance for
24 District 37 Assemblyman Al Burstein. He died on
25 December 27th in Tenafly at the age of 96. I covered

1 him as a reporter in the 1970s. He was a scholar and
2 a gentleman, and he was part of a legacy of
3 exceptional legislative representation that has
4 contributed to the Bergen County and State of New
5 Jersey we enjoy today.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
8 Freeholder.

9 Freeholder Zur.

10 FREEHOLDER ZUR: Thank you very much,
11 Chairwoman.

12 First I want to just echo what
13 Freeholder Tanelli stated. Freeholder Sullivan, you
14 scooted out to get to a different swearing-in and you
15 didn't get to hear all the wonderful things that we
16 put on the record and thanking you for your service
17 and about the way that you steered this Board in the
18 last year. Thank you so much.

19 Thank you to the hundreds of people who
20 came to support and congratulate Steve and I at our
21 reelection and also on all the leadership moves that
22 have come here. I am very confident and thrilled
23 that we're going to have such wonderful leadership
24 this year going into 2019.

25 It was weeks of reorganizations

1 throughout the county when a lot of municipal
2 governments turned over a new page and brought in
3 their new and swore in their new council people and
4 mayors, and it's the time when the campaign stops and
5 the work begins. So I know that all of us who sit
6 here on this board stand committed to partner with
7 all of our municipal representatives and work
8 collaboratively to make sure that we can continue to
9 put forward shared service arrangements and continue
10 to make government more efficient and effective on
11 all different levels. We saw a lot of that tonight
12 in the resolutions that we passed, but all of us are
13 here as resources, as sounding boards, and as
14 partners to continue those conversations.

15 In addition to the ribbon-cutting in
16 Wyckoff, which was really wonderful and I'm very
17 happy to see the new Inserra project in our
18 community, we also got to congratulate, in addition
19 to the Undersheriffs, individuals who were promoted.
20 Freeholder Amoroso and I were at the promotions of
21 Joseph Savino, Leonardo Ariano, and Wilber Lloyd, who
22 became sergeants, and Robert DelCorpo who became a
23 lieutenant, adding to the rich batch of leadership
24 within the Sheriff's Department that will lead the
25 men and women of that department with dignity and

1 will continue to have the best not only first
2 responders in the county, but really wonderful
3 community advocates and first responders in so many
4 different ways.

5 I also played kind of tour guide and
6 organized a day with Israel Consul General Israel
7 Nitzan, who came to Bergen County to collaborate on
8 how we get a partnership with different Israeli
9 resources. They lead the way both in STEM, in
10 startups, and biomedical technology, and in public
11 safety expertise, and we've had a rich history of
12 having exchanges in the past where we have benefited
13 from that conversation. This is something that we
14 will definitely continue going forward.

15 He met with not only the Sheriff and
16 the Prosecutor's Office, but also Dr. Redmond at the
17 community college and Dr. Lerner, who is our
18 Superintendant of Schools, to figure out how our
19 students can benefit, how we can continue to have
20 conversations, whether it's courses in cyber security
21 or other different ways that we can move the dialog
22 forward. They are eager to partner with us and we
23 are eager to continue having those conversations.

24 And, lastly, I want to plug on Monday,
25 this coming Monday on Martin Luther King Day, We the

1 People, a non-profit that I am involved with and
2 started, will be bringing together fifth through
3 eighth graders, hopefully three to four hundred of
4 them to do community service projects in an
5 intercultural intercommunity way, realizing the fact
6 that our kids have a say and have an ability to make
7 an impact in the lives of others as well, and they
8 have also the ability to build bridges and learn from
9 each other as they go through the process.

10 So if you have middle school children
11 age fifth through eighth grade, you can sign them up
12 at wethepeople-eee.com and register them to be part
13 of what will be a really meaningful day of service.

14 Thank you so much.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
16 Freeholder.

17 Freeholder Ganz.

18 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Thank you, Madam
19 Chairwoman.

20 I have just a few remarks to make. The
21 first of which -- thank you -- I voted no with
22 respect to the introduction of a bill because the
23 version that I had was blank, nothing was filled in.

24 I understand from Freeholder Zur that
25 it was in our Dropbox. I was unaware of that fact,

1 and I'm confident that the officials in question who
2 are being named by position do, in fact, deserve the
3 raises for the hard work that they do. This was
4 simply, from my perspective, a vote against having
5 insufficient information to properly vote.

6 Over the course of the last two months,
7 we have gone to a number of flag-raising events all
8 designed to show the cultural aspects of a variety of
9 countries. This includes the Philippines, Poland,
10 and a number of other countries, all of whom had not
11 only good cultural information, but very, very good
12 food.

13 This is the time of the year where I
14 get to show off my pictures. We're coming up on
15 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, and a number
16 of events are being sponsored by the MLK Birthday
17 Committee and others.

18 This is something far more personal.
19 It's a picture of, among other people, a 14-year-old
20 kid from Rockville Centre, New York, which is where I
21 grew up, and this is meeting Dr. King. I'm in the
22 back row standing, and I have to say that it was a
23 thrill of a lifetime to listen to him speak, to hear
24 the rising voices, and I probably have walked
25 subsequently his path and I expect that I will be

1 participating at a number of events this coming
2 weekend.

3 Finally, take a moment and reflect on
4 Dr. King and what he could have achieved, and this
5 great man cut down at the prime of his life along
6 with others, Abraham, Martin and John, and you can
7 see just how significant a role each of these men and
8 especially Dr. King have had on all of our lives.

9 That concludes my remarks. Thank you.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
11 Freeholder.

12 I know all the Freeholders got a copy
13 of the Ordinance and the New Jersey Statute attached
14 to the Ordinance so you can read it, so I can get you
15 a copy, but I know we all received one. I just
16 wanted to make that clear.

17 I also attended the State of the State
18 and there were two things that the governor discussed
19 that are important to us at the county. He said he
20 continues to be committed to education and that he
21 will continue to expand the pre-K full-time program
22 that Freeholder Amoroso and I attended as well, and
23 how important it is to invest in the future of our
24 children and how they can get them prepared for
25 kindergarten in many ways, I mean, educationally,

1 socially, and I think it's great to implement this
2 throughout all municipalities throughout the county.

3 He also mentioned how he's committed to
4 continue with the community colleges, especially for
5 those that cannot afford it and that they will be
6 able to attend school free of tuition. So I'm glad
7 that he's giving the opportunity for those that want
8 to be educated and cannot attend college. And I'm
9 glad that we at Bergen Community College, which is
10 probably one of the best community colleges in the
11 state, and that our residents have that opportunity.

12 He also discussed the opioid epidemic
13 and how he continues to fight this epidemic, and how
14 he will continue to fund and help all the
15 municipalities and the counties, because this is
16 definitely a problem that continues to increase year
17 after year. I am so glad that we can work with the
18 Prosecutor's Office and the Sheriff's Office and with
19 the help of New Bridge Medical Center to really
20 tackle this issue that has really affected all of our
21 residents, especially our youth.

22 I also want to just discuss two grants
23 that were also in our resolutions, one for the Center
24 for Hope and Safety for \$35,000, that really -- it
25 really affects a lot of our families that are

1 affected by domestic violence and their dependents,
2 and that we have this opportunity to help those that
3 are just so vulnerable, as well as the grant
4 agreement for the Housing Authority of Bergen for the
5 tenants that can get rental assistance who are
6 getting evicted from their apartments as well. And
7 right now, with the federal shutdown, who knows how
8 many of those families will be affected throughout
9 our County.

10 I also had the opportunity to attend
11 Three Kings Day in Garfield. It's actually a great
12 event, and I'm glad that we still celebrate it,
13 because it was celebrated in my household as a
14 Latina. It's the Epiphany, they also call it, when
15 the three kings come to give the gifts, almost like a
16 baptism of gifts. It was Garfield United that
17 started the program. We had 150 children and their
18 families come together, and we gave toys, which most
19 of them came actually from Human Services and
20 different charities that were able to donate all
21 these toys. So it was great to be able to be part of
22 it, distribute it. We even had all the -- like a
23 whole little play with the three kings and the
24 nativity. It was really nice to be there. So I'm
25 glad we still keep some of that culture, you know, to

1 teach our children.

2 I also attended our Stigma Free annual
3 event, which we're very proud to have all 70
4 municipalities now to be Stigma Free. We have this
5 annual conference in which all the different
6 municipalities come together and they introduce all
7 different forms of how they approach Stigma Free and
8 mostly within their students. So we have all these
9 students from third grade up to high school give
10 different presentations on how they feel about
11 Stigma Free. So it was very educational. I'm really
12 glad with the program at the County that we're doing
13 to tackle also this issue.

14 That's all I have for this evening.

15 There being nothing further to come
16 before this meeting, may I have a motion to adjourn?

17 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: So moved.

18 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

19 FREEHOLDER ZUR: Second.

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We're adjourned at

1 8:47 p.m.

2 (Whereupon, the Public Meeting is
3 adjourned at 8:47 p.m.)

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

I, CANDICE CARUCCI, a Professional 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.

My Commission Expires:

8/26/2020

A Notary Public of the
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