

BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019
COMMENCING AT 4:33 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

GERMAINE M. ORTIZ, CHAIRWOMAN

MARY J. AMOROSO, VICE CHAIRWOMAN

DR. JOAN M. VOSS, CHAIRWOMAN PRO TEMPORE

DAVID L. GANZ

THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

STEVEN A. TANELLI

FREEHOLDERS ABSENT:

TRACY SILNA ZUR

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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2
3
4 ALSO PRESENT:

5 JAMES J. TEDESCO III
6 BERGEN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

7 LARA RODRIGUEZ
8 CLERK TO THE BOARD

9 LAURIE BIANCHI
10 DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD

11 JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQUIRE
12 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

13 MICHAEL V. BELLUCCI
14 DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

15 WILLIAM J. MASLO, ESQUIRE
16 COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

17 MICHAEL SHEINFELD
18 DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

19 STORM WYCHE
20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

21 JARED LAUTZ
22 SENIOR STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISOR

23
24 KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.
25 P.O. BOX 213
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I N D E X

	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
<u>ROLL CALL</u>	4
<u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u>	5
<u>MOMENT OF SILENCE</u>	5
<u>PRESENTATION IN RECOGNITION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH</u>	8
Dorothy Blakeslee, Trustee	
Quest Autism Foundation	
Lisa Goldstein, Vice President of Development REED Foundation for Autism	
Cathy Walsh, President and CEO ARC of Bergen and Passaic	
Dr. John Winer, Executive Director Jewish Association for Developmental Disabilities	
<u>REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS</u>	28
Cesar Guerra, Director Division of Information Technology	
Robert G. Esposito, Director Division of Community Development	
<u>REVIEW OF ORDINANCES</u>	37
<u>PRESENTATION OF THE 2019 COUNTY BUDGET</u>	37
Joseph Luppino, CFO County Treasurer	
Melissa Howard, Assistant Treasurer	
Marlene Golden, Budget Examiner	
<u>CLOSED SESSION</u>	77

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The meeting is
2 called to order at 4:33 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 Sen.
8 Byron Baer Open Public Meetings Act.

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

21 ROLL CALL

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

24 (At this point in the proceeding roll
25 call is taken with Freeholders Ganz, Sullivan,

1 Tanelli, Voss, Vice-Chairwoman Amoroso, and
2 Chairwoman Ortiz present, with Freeholder Silna Zur
3 absent.)

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

6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will you please all
8 rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

9 County Executive, please lead us.

10 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you,
11 Freeholder Chairwoman.

12 Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in
13 honoring America.

14 (At this point in the proceeding all
15 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,
16 led by County Executive Tedesco.)

17 MOMENT OF SILENCE

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Please remain
19 standing for a Moment of Silence.

20 We remember Bergen County business
21 owner and a decorated Navy veteran of World War II,
22 Joseph "Lucky" Brammer.

23 Lucky was an active member of multiple
24 organizations throughout Bergen County, having strong
25 ties to the American Legion Post #876 in River Edge,

1 American Legion Post #170 in Rochelle Park, and
2 working with the Mounted Patrol Division of the
3 Bergen County Sheriff's Office.

4 For 65 years, Lucky held the title of
5 Master Mason of Euclid Lodge #136 in Hasbrouck
6 Heights, and later was awarded the high honor of
7 being a recipient of the Distinguished White Apron.

8 Joseph "Lucky" Brammer passed on
9 Monday, March 11th, at the age of 94, a loss that was
10 felt deeply throughout a multitude of Bergen County
11 communities.

12 We also remember Army veteran, Alan
13 William Sugarman. Dr. Sugarman dedicated his life to
14 education in all forms; from being an entrance
15 examiner for Boston University, to becoming the
16 principal at New York Junior and Senior High Schools.

17 Dr. Sugarman also had memberships in a
18 multitude of educational organizations.

19 From 1980-2000, Bergen County got to
20 witness and be part of Alan Sugarman's passion and
21 dedication for the youth and their education when he
22 served as Fort Lee Superintendent.

23 On Saturday, March 16, 2019, Alan
24 William Sugarman passed away at the age of 94. His
25 passing will not only be remembered by Bergen County,

1 but every community throughout the country he has
2 graced with his service.

3 Last Thursday in Christchurch, New
4 Zealand, 50 people were murdered and 39 more were
5 seriously injured, some critically, in a mass
6 shooting at two mosques during Friday prayer. These
7 losses were senseless and driven by hate.

8 While there is no specific or credible
9 threat toward mosques or other houses of worship in
10 Bergen County, we understand that many people are
11 feeling sadness, fear, and shock.

12 We thank the Bergen County Sheriff's
13 Department for increased patrols around houses of
14 worship at this time, and, as always, we stand with
15 our community against hate and violence.

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

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

19 Our next on-the-road meeting this year
20 will be held in Little Ferry on Wednesday, April 3rd,
21 at 7:00 p.m., at the Borough Hall Council Chambers,
22 215-217 Liberty Street. The 4:30 p.m. Work Session
23 that day will be held, as usual, in the Calabrese
24 Caucus Room at One Bergen County Plaza.

25 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Madam Chairwoman, may

1 I say something?

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Of course.

3 FREEHOLDER VOSS: I worked with Dr.
4 Sugarman for over 20 years in Fort Lee High School,
5 and he was, without exception, one of the most
6 wonderful superintendents.

7 Fort Lee was one of the top ten schools
8 in the state under his leadership, and it's a most
9 beautiful school, which he was very, very proud of.
10 At one point, we were the most beautiful school in
11 the State of New Jersey, and he loved to keep that
12 going.

13 He was very innovative. He was a
14 wonderful person to work for. And, at Fort Lee, the
15 athletic field is named the Dr. Alan W. Sugarman
16 Athletic Field.

17 He passed away at the Veterans Home in
18 Paramus, and he was 94-years-old, and he had a
19 wonderful life.

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

21 And I agree, it is a beautiful school.
22 I was there yesterday for a press conference.

23 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Yes.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

25 PRESENTATION IN RECOGNITION OF DEVELOPMENTAL

1 DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: In honor of
3 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, we are
4 honored to have with us today:

5 Ms. Dottie Blakeslee, Trustee at the
6 Quest Autism Foundation and also Trustee of Bergen
7 Community College.

8 Ms. Lisa Goldstein, Vice President of
9 Development, REED Foundation for Autism.

10 Dr. John Winer, Executive Director,
11 Jewish Association for Developmental Disabilities.

12 And Ms. Cathy Walsh, President and CEO
13 of ARC of Bergen and Passaic.

14 All of the organizations are
15 instrumental in providing awareness and educating our
16 communities of the issues affecting people with
17 developmental disabilities.

18 Would you please join us at the table
19 so you can accept our commendations, please.

20 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Hello. Hello.

21 TRUSTEE BLAKESLEE: How are you?

22 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Welcome
23 aboard.

24 TRUSTEE BLAKESLEE: Very exciting.

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Is John here?

1 TRUSTEE BLAKESLEE: I don't see him.

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you so much
3 for coming today.

4 And, Dottie, I've known for, wow, maybe
5 close to 20 years.

6 TRUSTEE BLAKESLEE: Let's not state
7 that.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We sat together at
9 Bergen Community College.

10 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: You sat together
11 in kindergarten.

12 TRUSTEE BLAKESLEE: Thank you,
13 Freeholder.

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I know you've always
15 been an advocate for the disabled and autism. You've
16 just been so good, especially as a trustee,
17 especially when we were trying to get the grant from
18 the state.

19 TRUSTEE BLAKESLEE: Yes.

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: And you were behind
21 and you were a crucial part of Turning Point, which
22 turned out to be an exceptional program.

23 TRUSTEE BLAKESLEE: It has been.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: And I can't thank
25 you enough for everything you did at Bergen and

1 you're still doing at Bergen.

2 TRUSTEE BLAKESLEE: I'm very proud of
3 what Bergen Community College does. I'm equally
4 proud of what Quest Autism Program does. If it's
5 okay, I'd like to circulate this to you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Certainly.

7 TRUSTEE BLAKESLEE: Quest Autism
8 Program is an adult day program, but it's more than
9 just a day program. When the foundation was formed
10 in 2005, it was formed around the idea that adults
11 with autism should be a full partner in the
12 community.

13 So our participants don't just come to
14 the program and just stay there all day, they come to
15 the program and then they are out immediately for
16 work or volunteer opportunities in the morning and
17 again in the afternoon.

18 From a personal point of view, I
19 started looking at places to put my daughter back in
20 2007, and, at the time, there weren't a lot of
21 opportunities. I went to see one program where it
22 was literally in the basement of a church with no
23 windows, and the people stayed there all day. I went
24 to another program where people stayed there all day,
25 and I said, "Well, what happens after they learn a

1 few things?"

2 And they said, "Well, they don't really
3 go anywhere, we just keep them here until they get to
4 age 45 and they can qualify for Medicare, and then
5 they'll go into a senior facility."

6 Things have changed, and you'll hear
7 that from the other agencies that will make a
8 presentation.

9 My daughter had severe autistic
10 behaviors when she was in school. I put her in
11 Quest, and I can tell you now that she works, she
12 gets paid, she volunteers, she is a full part of our
13 community, and I'm just so glad that there's a place
14 for her.

15 In the packets that you'll see, there's
16 some generic information on autism, but I think all
17 of you know what the numbers are. I think the
18 Freeholders in total have done a great job educating
19 the public on what's happening, and I really thank
20 you for doing that.

21 I know most of you were there a few
22 weeks ago, when Sen. Menendez came to announce his
23 effort to reauthorize the CARE Act, which is a very,
24 very important act. So I thank you for your
25 participation. I think you all had an opportunity to

1 see the program. I know Freeholder Chairwoman Ortiz
2 actually took a tour of the facility, so you know
3 what we're doing there. This is not a program that
4 takes place to a basement, this is a program where
5 people learn to be a part of the community. They
6 have lots of space.

7 I know Freeholder Voss has been a
8 significant advocate for people that autism for many
9 years, and you have a personal connection --

10 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Yes, we do.

11 TRUSTEE BLAKESLEE: -- with autism.

12 And Freeholder Ortiz, Freeholder Amoroso, you've been
13 wonderful in supporting Quest. Actually, Germaine --

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I've gone to
15 fundraisers as well.

16 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: That's right,
17 comedy nights.

18 TRUSTEE BLAKESLEE: Yes, you've been
19 supporting Quest for many, many years.

20 In that packet, you'll also see a list
21 of what our events are. Clearly the reimbursement
22 rates that we get from the state are not sufficient
23 to produce the kind of program that will help our
24 people with autism become a full part of the
25 community, so we do have to fundraise. So we are

1 still having comedy night. It was such a sold out
2 event that we actually had to have two, but we're
3 coming back to one. We also have jazz night coming
4 up. There's a little list within the brochure that's
5 in the packet. New this year is our event with Steel
6 Wheel Restaurant. Steel Wheel Restaurant is donating
7 20 percent of whatever they take in that day on
8 April 18th. You know, I think everyone who you'll
9 hear from knows that our work is not possible without
10 having great partners in the community. We count
11 you, our Freeholders, as our partners and people like
12 the Steel Wheel Restaurant. Moe's also is a site
13 that employs our people. Wegmans employs two of our
14 people. Interestingly enough, two weeks ago two of
15 our guys started there. They got letters from
16 customers saying this is a fantastic thing that
17 you're employing people with disabilities, and I will
18 shop here forever, so it's good business. We also
19 have a terrific partner at BD, Becton Dickinson, and
20 a number of other sites.

21 So what I'm asking for you is to
22 continue being our partner, spread the word that
23 people with autism are just people who need
24 accommodations. A lot of people need accommodations.

25 If you hear of a business entity that

1 might want to employ people, give us a call or give
2 any of the other agencies a call, because we can
3 certainly use more partners.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

5 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Welcome.

7 MS. WALSH: My name is Cathy Walsh.
8 I'm from the ARC.

9 I just bought two things around, but
10 these are the most fun. You can pass these this way.
11 I'll talk about what those are in a minute.

12 So I just have to say, Quest is a
13 fabulous program. I had the great honor to be on the
14 board when we got Quest started. The ARC and Quest
15 have been a partner from the very beginning, and
16 they've just done a tremendous job. I think that is
17 something in this developmental disabilities
18 community, we do work together, because no single
19 agency can meet every single need, so we have to
20 partner with different folks so that we can serve
21 everybody. Everybody has a little niche, and
22 together hopefully we create a good system.

23 But back to the ARC. So the ARC is the
24 oldest organization. We were started in 1947 by a
25 group of parents, and back at that time, there was

1 nothing. You either had your kid at home with
2 nothing or you sent them to an institution.

3 And our founder, who I always like to
4 talk about, because I think she was an amazing woman
5 and an amazing parent, Laura Sparks Blossfeld, she
6 got other parents together, and, from that, they
7 created the ARC right here in Bergen and Passaic
8 Counties. And that small organization created ARCs
9 across the state, and, eventually in 1950, the ARCs
10 nationally.

11 So we're the local chapter. We are our
12 own organization. We're pretty much the service
13 provider, but then our state chapter provides a
14 tremendous amount of advocacy, and our national
15 chapter provides research and advocacy on the
16 national level.

17 We are a full range program. We start
18 when the babies are born. Some of you have been up
19 to our child center and met the families who are just
20 finding out that their child has a disability or a
21 delay. We serve over 600 kids every year with
22 occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical
23 therapy. We have a social worker who does counseling
24 for the families, and we go into the homes and we run
25 support groups for the families so that they can

1 start to learn about whatever the diagnosis is that
2 their child has and prepare them for what's going to
3 happen when they go into the school system.

4 And not everybody gets to go to the
5 great REED Academy, so we have to prepare them how to
6 be a good advocate when they get into the school
7 system.

8 While the kids are in school, we
9 continue to provide support for families. We have
10 our summer camp up at Ramapo College in the summer,
11 which the county is a huge partner with us on. The
12 Freeholder has been there, you've been there. We do
13 a show every summer. We'll invite you again. It a
14 lot of fun. We serve about 100 kids, and we have an
15 adult component up there as well for six weeks. One
16 of the key things is that we provide door-to-door
17 transportation. A lot of camps are out there, but
18 they don't pick the kids up. So if parents have to
19 go to work and you have to be at work, how are you
20 going to be driving your kid to Ramapo? It just
21 doesn't work. So we're picking the kids up, we're
22 bringing them, we have them there during the day,
23 they're swimming, they're doing art, they're doing
24 all kinds of fun stuff, and then we're dropping them
25 off at the end of the day so parents can continue to

1 work during that six weeks in the summer.

2 We also have an after-school program
3 that actually is called "Special Quest" because it
4 was started with the same families that started Quest
5 as a partnership. We see about 40 kids every day.
6 They're going out to the community, going swimming,
7 going bowling, going to different things. They come
8 into our center, but they're out there, because,
9 again, as Dottie said, we want to get people out into
10 the community, we want to get them used to being part
11 of the community and the community being used to
12 them, so that once they're adults, that's going to be
13 really easy for them to do.

14 Then when they become adults, we have
15 our vocational programs. And what I handed out to
16 you, this is one of our products. We can make any
17 product with your company logo on them. We also have
18 a screen print embroidery operation. We can do hats
19 and cups and mugs and shirts and tee shirts and all
20 that kind of fun stuff, and folks are learning a
21 skill and they're getting paid for the work that they
22 do and we're moving them out into jobs.

23 In our vocational center in Hackensack,
24 we're doing all kind of packaging and assembly. We
25 provide soap to the State of New Jersey. If you wash

1 your hands in the Statehouse, that soap came from us.
2 If you work for the federal government and you take
3 out a staple, that stapler came from us. They order
4 hundreds of thousands of staplers and staple
5 removers. I have the same one from when I started at
6 the ARC in 1981. I don't know what they do with
7 them, but we are happy, we hope they throw them out,
8 because they order more from us and that gives jobs
9 to our folks.

10 Then we're placing folks out and we're
11 doing very similar things to what Dottie is talking
12 about, out into the community, into real jobs, folks
13 being productive and happy members of the community.

14 We also have adult day programs where
15 we serve folks that are significantly challenged. So
16 folks that need tube feeding, folks need a lift, have
17 to have a diaper change, that type of stuff. So
18 we're really looking at the whole range for those
19 folks. And then we have our residential program,
20 which is everything from 24/7 supervised group homes
21 to people who will are living independently and we
22 have to stop in once a day and make sure they're
23 preparing a healthy meal or take them to the
24 supermarket or the doctors, but, again, the whole
25 range.

1 Through all of that, we have family
2 support, respite and other kinds of things, but we
3 also have guardianship and trust management, because
4 a lot of what families say is everything is going
5 great but what is going to happen when I'm no longer
6 here, my child has no siblings, all my siblings are
7 the same age, what's going to happen?

8 So we created that so we can take over
9 for that function for them and there will be somebody
10 there to monitor. They don't have to be in our
11 service, they might be somewhere else, but we can
12 check, we can be sure everything is going well after
13 that parent is no longer there, and that's just a
14 huge relief. I have parents crying in my office all
15 the time when they know that somebody's going to be
16 there.

17 So that's pretty much who we are.

18 Folks with developmental disabilities,
19 we serve folks with autism, folks with cerebral
20 palsy, folks with intellectual disabilities, we serve
21 the whole range. We're so happy that the county has
22 been our partner, probably for close to 50 years. In
23 fact, there was a time when the county budget, the
24 line item said the ARC, it didn't say like the
25 service, so that's how far we go back with the

1 county. We couldn't do what we do without your
2 financial support, plus you come to all of our
3 activities. I don't know how you sleep, I was saying
4 this to you the other day.

5 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: No need.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: And look behind you,
7 that's why I'm laughing, we're talking about our
8 budget today.

9 MS. WALSH: Good to hear.

10 Thank you very much. We appreciate it,
11 and we appreciate everything you do for the
12 population.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Cathy.

14 MS. GOLDSTEIN: Hi. My name is Lisa
15 Goldstein. I am from the REED Foundation for Autism.

16 Thank you for having me here today, and
17 thank you for the honorable mention.

18 And thank you, both of you ladies, for
19 doing everything that you do.

20 REED Academy was started a little over
21 15 years ago, when a group of families came together
22 because they could not find any appropriate services
23 for their children. We started in Washington
24 Township, in a church, and then in a synagogue in the
25 basement of a facility, and we have grown

1 tremendously since then.

2 We are now in an over 24,000-square
3 foot state-of-the-art facility in Oakland,
4 New Jersey.

5 REED Academy is one facet of our
6 program. We have students there from ages 3 to 21.
7 We currently have 41 students, and we're at max
8 capacity. We have a program that is 1:1 student to
9 teacher there.

10 Three years ago, we actually became the
11 REED Foundation for Autism, when we realized we're
12 missing a niche for children from diagnosis until age
13 three and then what to do when a child turns 21.
14 They're literally falling off the cliff, they say,
15 because they've gone to a program, you've invested
16 time and energy for 21 years or 20 years, whatever it
17 is when they enter the program, and they can
18 literally go home and sit in their homes and have
19 nothing to do.

20 So, first we started the Early
21 Intervention Program, and that is from diagnosis
22 until age three, and that's housed within REED
23 Academy, and currently we have three students there.
24 We are growing that program.

25 And then we started REED Next. REED

1 Next is for adults 21 plus, through their lifespan.
2 There are two facets of REED Next, one is the REED
3 Next Day Program, which is housed on the Ramapo
4 College campus that we started last year when our
5 first student turned 21. We have a very long waiting
6 list and we are --

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I can imagine.

8 MS. GOLDSTEIN: Yes. We've had a
9 couple of intake sessions so far at REED, and we've
10 had over 100 people interested in our program.

11 So that's one facet of REED Next.

12 The other facet is REED Next Residence.
13 We have partnered with Bergen County United Way, and
14 we'll be opening our first group home in Glen Rock,
15 hopefully within the year.

16 So that's REED Next.

17 Another program that we just started,
18 there's a shortfall between what Medicaid provides to
19 adults over 21 and what the family can provide, so we
20 started a for-profit business, it's called "Greens Do
21 Good," and it is located in Hackensack. It is an
22 indoor vertical farm. And, as I said, it's a
23 for-profit business, and that will makeup the
24 shortfall between what we cannot provide through
25 Medicaid services for REED Next. We open mid-April,

1 and I invite all of you, if you'd like a tour or if
2 you would like to come up to REED Academy to see our
3 program, we'd love to have you.

4 The beauty of the indoor vertical
5 farm -- I'm not sure if you all know what a vertical
6 farm is, it's hydroponic, so there's no soil, so it
7 is vegan/organic, and you can grow all year round.

8 We will be growing micro greens and
9 different types of lettuce.

10 MS. WALSH: Cool!

11 MS. GOLDSTEIN: So thank you for having
12 me, and we appreciate everything that you do.

13 Also, I have folders for all of you
14 that I will pass out.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you. Thank
16 you so much for coming, ladies, and for your hard
17 work and commitment. I commend you, because I can't
18 even imagine what you do on a daily basis and that
19 you do it from your heart, especially from your
20 heart. Thank you so much.

21 FREEHOLDER VOSS: I wish you had been
22 around when my son was young, because I went through
23 literally hell and high water getting services for
24 him.

25 MS. GOLDSTEIN: I'm sure.

1 FREEHOLDER VOSS: And fortunately
2 everything turned out well, but it was a tough road
3 to hoe, and thank God, and God bless you for what you
4 do.

5 TRUSTEE BLAKESLEE: Thank you for your
6 time.

7 MS. GOLDSTEIN: Thank you.

8 MS. WALSH: Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Before you go, I
10 know the County Executive also has commendations.

11 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: I actually
12 had a proclamation.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Oh, excuse me,
14 proclamation.

15 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: That's all
16 right.

17 Actually I have one for each of you,
18 and I'll give you each one and then I'll leave. I
19 won't read the whole thing, because I promised the
20 Freeholders that I wouldn't.

21 So this is in recognition of
22 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Let me
23 just read the last two paragraphs.

24 Whereas, individuals with developmental
25 disabilities can lead productive, self-directed, and

1 secure lives.

2 Whereas, I encourage all Bergen County
3 residents to learn more about developmental
4 disabilities in order to conquer the stigma
5 associated with these conditions and find
6 opportunities to support and advocate for those in
7 our communities who live with these conditions.

8 Now, therefore, be it resolved that I,
9 James J. Tedesco III, Executive of the County of
10 Bergen in the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim
11 March 2019 as "Developmental Disabilities Awareness
12 Month."

13 So, ladies, thank you.

14 TRUSTEE BLAKESLEE: Thank you.

15 MS. WALSH: Thank you very much.

16 MS. GOLDSTEIN: Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: And on behalf of the
18 Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders, we also
19 have commendations in honor of Developmental
20 Disabilities Awareness Month and in recognition of
21 the work the employees and volunteers of your
22 different organizations do every day for those who
23 are differently abled, including providing jobs,
24 coaches, and the instruction of life and behavioral
25 skills. Thank you so much. Presented March 19,

1 2019. And I'm sorry -- is this Mr. John Winer?

2 TRUSTEE BLAKESLEE: Oh, there he is.

3 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Come on
4 over.

5 MR. WINER: Quickly, two things.

6 John Winer, from Jewish Association for
7 Developmental Disabilities.

8 We really do work together, and I think
9 that's one of the biggest pieces that I can add to
10 what everyone else has said, without taking anymore
11 time, and that is that together we are better,
12 together we are stronger, and if we all work
13 together, we can progress what we do to serve
14 individuals with disabilities, because, really,
15 individuals with disabilities are individuals with
16 disabilities. And I think that is the biggest
17 message that we try and get across to our staff, to
18 our families, and, most importantly, to the
19 individuals, they need to be included in everything
20 that we do, they need to be provided individualized
21 services, they need to be as independent as possible
22 and productive members of society. And I think that
23 is the bottom line.

24 JADD provides residential. We only
25 provide a very small piece of the whole spectrum of

1 services.

2 That's enough said.

3 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

5 MR. WINER: Thank you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: And I like "uniquely
7 abled," because everybody has their own ability.

8 MR. WINER: Absolutely.

9 Thank you so much.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Come up for
11 pictures.

12 (Whereupon, the presentation is made.)

13 REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now review
15 the resolutions to be voted on tonight, Resolutions
16 #233-19 through #297-19.

17 Okay. Start with #233 through #236.

18 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Can we do #236 as
19 a Body of the Whole, Chairwoman?

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes.

21 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I have a question
22 on #237, flash drives.

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Cesar is coming.

24 MR. GUERRA: Good afternoon.

25 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Hi.

1 For the flash drives, it's \$20,800,
2 that comes out to about \$85 apiece?

3 MR. GUERRA: Yes.

4 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: That seems like
5 an awful lot, when you can get them from Staples for
6 eight bucks. I know they're encrypted, so it's that
7 much of a difference?

8 MR. GUERRA: Yes.

9 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Is that a state
10 contract or is this out for bid?

11 MR. GUERRA: This is on the state
12 contract.

13 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: It seems like an
14 awful lot of money.

15 MR. GUERRA: It is, but we got to
16 protect our data, it's expensive.

17 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: So I have a couple
18 of questions as well.

19 You're buying different sizes?

20 MR. GUERRA: Yes.

21 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Why wouldn't you
22 just stick with one larger disk than doing 8, 16, 32,
23 why wouldn't you do the larger ones?

24 MR. GUERRA: It's more money then, if I
25 do that.

1 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Understood, but
2 the files now, it's like eights are obsolete, they
3 don't really hold anything.

4 MR. GUERRA: Some individuals require
5 less, that's why I did it that way. If you want, we
6 can revise this.

7 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: No, I was just
8 curious.

9 One is, we want them to have encrypted
10 for internal use, so they're not bringing anything in
11 and out.

12 Is this for long-term storage or
13 short-term storage, just to move files?

14 MR. GUERRA: Short-term, just to move
15 files, and, if they lose it anywhere outside the
16 building or anywhere else, they can't get to the
17 data.

18 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: All right.
19 Thanks.

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

21 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Cesar tell
22 them it's better than ransomware.

23 MR. GUERRA: As the County Executive
24 said, it's better than ransomware.

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes, we don't want

1 to have that problem, absolutely not.

2 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Yes. Right.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Absolutely not.

4 Thank you so much.

5 MR. GUERRA: You're welcome.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Next page.

7 #243-19, do you want to do it as a Body
8 of the Whole? It's a grant.

9 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Yes, please.

10 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Yes.

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Oh, as well as --

12 FREEHOLDER VOSS: #244, grant, grant,
13 grant.

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes, #244.

15 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I'm sorry. Can I
16 just ask a question on #240, Community Development?

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: #240?

18 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Yes.

19 Are they here?

20 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Yes, he is.

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: He's over there.

22 He's coming.

23 MR. ESPOSITO: Good afternoon,
24 everyone.

25 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Good afternoon.

1 I just want an update how this program
2 is going? It's only \$35,000.

3 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Mary and I were with
4 them.

5 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: How much did you
6 give out last year?

7 MR. ESPOSITO: Let me try to put this
8 in perspective for you.

9 I think the Board knows that during the
10 last two and a half years, we have been working very
11 hard on restructuring and basically transforming the
12 Home Improvement Program. So, from that perspective,
13 to give you a quick analysis, which is something a
14 year ago I couldn't do, given all the changes we've
15 made, there are two essential pipelines with respect
16 to HIP, one are applications, and the second is
17 approved projects and their status.

18 So, as of March 11th, we actually have
19 99 applications in the hands of people who have
20 contacted us and who have passed our initial screen
21 in terms of income eligibility and mortgage status.
22 So 99 applications are out there right now waiting to
23 be turned in to us.

24 That is unprecedented during my tenure
25 here, in terms of that facet of things. We've done a

1 lot of work in terms of promoting the program, etc.,
2 and the proof is in the pudding relative to the
3 number I gave you, and I get this weekly report every
4 Monday.

5 Relative to our approved projects, of
6 which there are a grand total of 69, right now in
7 terms of the pipeline, there are 27 of those 69 that
8 are in various stages of preconstruction, with 12
9 currently in progress in terms of construction.
10 There are 18 projects completed since July 1st of
11 2018. We are looking to complete 40 projects a year.
12 Given all the projects in the pipeline that are in
13 some stage of development, including those in
14 progress, there are 27. Combined with our completed
15 projects to date of 18, that's 45. I don't know if
16 we'll get to 40, but we're going to get very close to
17 it. This program is becoming robust. It is working,
18 and it is a very good program.

19 And I want to thank the administration
20 in particular --

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

22 MR. ESPOSITO: -- in terms of Deputy
23 Administrator Bellucci and Administrator Neals for
24 their considerable help and the Board's support all
25 the way along this process. And of the many

1 interventions we made in terms of both staffing,
2 promotion and other changes, amongst the most
3 significant and what really brought the applications
4 was the elimination of the three percent interest
5 rate, but this program is working. It's taken time,
6 but we're really seeing the fruit of it now.

7 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Thank you so
8 much.

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: #248 through #250.

10 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Can we do #247 as
11 a body, along with #248?

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes.

13 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Okay.

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: #251 through #253.
15 #254 through #257.

16 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Chairwoman, it's a
17 grant.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: There's two grants.

19 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: #257, I was going
20 to sponsor it, but if everybody would like to do it
21 as a Body of the Whole.

22 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Yes, right.

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: And #255 as well.

24 #258 through #262.

25 #263 through #267.

1 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Chairwoman, I
2 would like to sponsor #267, which is the LiveSafe
3 app.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I will sponsor that
5 with you.

6 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Great.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes, the task force.

8 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Yes, from the
9 School Safety Task Force.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: #268 through #271.

11 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Chairwoman, #268
12 and #269 are shared services, Body of the Whole?

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes. Thank you.

14 #272 through #274.

15 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Same.

16 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Yes, #272,
17 shared services, Body of the Whole.

18 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I'd like to
19 sponsor #273, please.

20 FREEHOLDER VOSS: I'll co-sponsor that
21 with you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: #275 through #277.

23 #277 is a grant.

24 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Body of the
25 Whole?

1 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I'm sorry. Did
2 you say we're getting an update?

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes, in Closed.
4 #278 through #280.

5 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: I presume
6 #279 in Closed?

7 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: Yes.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We're going to go
9 over it in Closed, yes.

10 #281 through #284.

11 #282 we should do as a Body of the
12 Whole?

13 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Yes.

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: #285 through #287.
15 #288 through #290.

16 Also a grant, #289. Body of the
17 Whole?

18 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: No objection.

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay. Just
20 checking.

21 #291 through #294.

22 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: You have grants
23 here.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes, we have #293
25 through #295 are grants.

1 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So Body of the
2 Whole?

3 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Yes.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes. Thank you.
5 Okay.

6 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Chairwoman, I'd
7 like to sponsor #297.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Sure.

9 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: I'll
10 co-sponsor that with you.

11 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: You beat me to
12 it.

13 MR. FLORIO: You can jump in.

14 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: I was watching.

15 REVIEW OF ORDINANCES

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now review
17 the ordinances to be voted on tonight.

18 MS. RODRIGUEZ: We have a First Reading
19 and Introduction of Ordinances 19-07 and 19-08, and
20 we have Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinances
21 19-03, 19-04, and 19-05.

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay.

23 Everybody good?

24 PRESENTATION OF THE 2019 COUNTY BUDGET

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay. We will now

1 have a presentation of the 2019 County Budget from
2 County Executive James Tedesco, accompanied by our
3 CFO, Mr. Joseph Luppino; Assistant Treasurer, Melissa
4 Howard; Budget Examiner, Marlene Golden; and Deputy
5 County Administrator, Mr. Michael Bellucci.

6 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you,
7 Chairwoman, members of the Freeholder Board.

8 Good evening.

9 I'm here tonight to present the 2019
10 Bergen County budget.

11 With this budget, we continue to build
12 a better Bergen by continuing to invest in our
13 county.

14 For the last four years, we've sat and
15 worked together to allow us to get to where we are
16 today by not only getting our fiscal house in order
17 but building on the successes of each year. That's
18 what I mean by investment, investing in a strong,
19 fiscally sound budget that will pay dividends for
20 years to come.

21 Over the past four years, we have also
22 invested in our relationship, something my
23 predecessors didn't always believe in, and in working
24 together between the Executive and the Legislative
25 branches, and our cooperation on the budget shows

1 this. We continue to deliver responsible budgets.
2 Our AAA bond rating continues to be upheld by
3 Moody's, and, most importantly, we continue to take
4 care of our residents.

5 That's who this is all about, the
6 people that live and work in Bergen County.

7 This budget represents a continuation
8 of our shared priority to deliver necessary services
9 to our residents. Whether it's the county
10 infrastructure, mental health, as you heard today,
11 education, law enforcement, our parks, open space,
12 the environment, economic development, and our
13 employees' health and safety, this budget is a
14 statement of our priorities, a reasonable budget that
15 continues to provide services to our nearly 1 million
16 residents making this county a better place to live,
17 work, and play.

18 This budget is only possible due to the
19 fiscal policies we have put into place over the past
20 four years, working together with the Freeholders, my
21 partners, to meet the needs of the Bergen County
22 taxpayer. We continue to build a better Bergen
23 together and our work continues tonight.

24 As you see, I talked about the result
25 of our hard work. We continue to have the second

1 lowest tax rate in the State of New Jersey. Only
2 Cape May is lower.

3 When you look at our neighboring
4 counties, it's even a more drastic contrast. We are
5 less than half the tax rate of Hudson and Essex and a
6 third of Passaic County, with twice the
7 municipalities of those counties.

8 We've done this by properly managing
9 taxes with fiscal responsibility, combined with
10 strong real estate values.

11 I include this each year, because it
12 says something about who we are as a county.

13 The tax rate: Here you can see we've
14 kept the taxes stable over the past four years. In
15 three of those years, taxes have gone down. We are
16 close to flat again this year. This is without
17 cutting or losing any services.

18 We continue to add and enhance the
19 services that we all believe are important for the
20 people of Bergen County, and you heard some of those
21 just before.

22 We explore new partnerships, and make
23 county government more efficient and more effective,
24 and you'll hear about that more. Matter of fact,
25 some of them you'll vote on tonight at your meeting

1 with shared services and some of the other things.

2 If I'm going too fast, please just stop
3 me or if you have any questions, please just
4 certainly ask us.

5 I'm going to let the CFO talk a little
6 bit about this, but let me just read a quote.

7 "Bergen County has a history of strong
8 management and conservative budgeting. The county
9 has a longstanding debt and capital plan which has
10 enabled it to maintain stable debt service. In
11 addition, the county has a history of seeking shared
12 service agreements to reduce expenditures. The
13 county's fiscal position should remain strong in the
14 median term, as management continues to budget
15 conservatively."

16 That's a quote from Moody's Investors.

17 Joe, why don't you talk a little bit
18 about the AAA bond rating.

19 MR. LUPPINO: Thank you, Mr. County
20 Executive.

21 As you know, we're very active in the
22 market through the county and through the BCIA. We
23 go to market at least 2 to 3 times a year. So,
24 before we go out to market, we have to sit down with
25 Moody's, it's an extensive interview which usually

1 lasts between an hour, hour and a half. They send us
2 questions, and we send them projections, how our
3 fiscal position is right now, and we also, as the
4 County Executive mentioned, we sent them all the new
5 real estate developments, because that's part of the
6 formula of ratings. So we go through a very
7 extensive interview process with them. And as the
8 County Executive states here, and you're part of the
9 management also, along with the administration, that
10 we have strong management, conservative budgeting.
11 And that's very good in terms of the rating. And we
12 have a debt plan, and the big result is that when you
13 look at our net worth, our fund balance, then you see
14 through the years, for the last four years, our fund
15 balance, which equals equity or the net worth of our
16 financial position has increased almost 50 percent
17 since the County Executive has taken over the reins
18 of the administration.

19 So that's a big plus. That's our rainy
20 day fund. And, again, we have a great location and
21 our wealth is very favorable. That all goes into the
22 formula.

23 So I'll just leave you with this.
24 Moody's always tell us that if there was a four star
25 rating, we would get four stars or four A's,

1 quadruple rating, if there was, which makes me very
2 happy. So thank you again for your support.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you very much.
4 I know how hard you guys work.

5 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: So next is
6 something that we've looked at over the past few
7 years, and it's an example of the direction the
8 county is moving. It's the county's equalized real
9 estate values, and, again, this shows part of how
10 we've been so successful. Bergen County's real
11 estate values continue to grow. This is a big part
12 of the Moody's, as you just heard Joe.

13 But let's talk a minute and look at
14 what we've done.

15 So, we've expanded economic development
16 to look at trying to bring business here into the
17 county.

18 Fed Ex Freight Center in North
19 Arlington, 165 jobs. Amazon Fulfillment Center in
20 Teterboro, 1,200 jobs. Memorial Sloan Kettering in
21 Montvale, 120 jobs. McLaren Engineering in Woodcliff
22 Lake, 200 jobs. Konica Minolta expanded in Ramsey,
23 1,000 jobs. New retailers, Wegmans, i-FLY, iPic,
24 Uncle Giuseppe's, and, yes, a new Stew Leonard's at
25 Paramus Park Mall in Paramus, the center of the

1 universe.

2 So, again, it shows that Bergen County
3 is a place where people want to do business. Not
4 only do they want to do business, but we want them to
5 bring their workers here, right. So that's the way
6 we market Bergen County. We market Bergen County by
7 offering and telling the people what a great business
8 community that it is, but if you bring your business
9 here, we want you to bring your employees here, and
10 that your employees will have a quality of life that
11 I believe is the best in the United States.

12 And, so, how do we do that? How do we
13 make sure that the quality of life continues to be
14 what you all and we want?

15 That's investing in our infrastructure
16 to make companies want to do business here, right?

17 We want to make sure that people that
18 go to work and go about their day, that they see that
19 this is a good place to live.

20 Investing in our park system, in our
21 school systems, to enhance the real estate value.
22 That's what we do to show people why they should move
23 here, why they should move their companies here and
24 their employees should move here.

25 We think about if we were able to

1 include the value, so this is something that is
2 really interesting. If we looked at the southern
3 part of the county, where all of the New Jersey
4 Sports and Exposition property sits, none of that is
5 included in the \$178 billion, with a B, value.

6 But if you looked at that and you
7 looked at MetLife Stadium, Giants Training Facility,
8 the Izod Center, the racetrack, and soon American
9 Dream, if you added that value to the real estate
10 values we have, that 178 would go up dramatically.
11 They're tax exempt lands, but they still are part of
12 what we call "Bergen County," why the quality of life
13 here in Bergen County is so much different and
14 better. And they play a real value in the economic
15 impact to the State of New Jersey, and it's not been
16 part of what we've ever talked about, but it is part
17 of Bergen County. And I wanted to make sure that
18 everyone understood and understands that if that was
19 taxpaying property, the value that we would have
20 would be a lot greater than \$178 billion. And as you
21 see, this is the estimate, because we don't know what
22 it will be until June or July, so this is our best
23 guess as to where we stand right now.

24 The next slide is what Joe just talked
25 about before. One of the things that I truly

1 believe, and Joe helped reaffirm my belief in growing
2 the fund balance and making sure that our reserve is
3 appropriate for the size of the county that we have.

4 You can see that since we took office,
5 we've contributed \$15 million to that fund balance.
6 It's got us in a position now where Moody's is very
7 pleased, and it's part of our continuing dialogue
8 with Moody's that that's one of the things we've
9 done, that we'll continue to grow that fund balance.

10 What it does is it gives us protection.
11 God forbid something happens, we have an emergency
12 reserve, we have money that we could go to to be able
13 to take without it affecting any operation or
14 anything else.

15 And, so, I thank the Freeholder Board
16 for understanding this and supporting our mission on
17 growing the fund balance, that allows us to have the
18 AAA rating, but also a sense of comfortableness in
19 regards to should something happen.

20 FREEHOLDER VOSS: May I just ask?

21 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Sure.

22 FREEHOLDER VOSS: I know a lot of
23 budgets, like school budgets and municipal budgets,
24 have caps on the surplus. Do we have a cap on this?

25 MR. LUPPINO: No, we don't have a cap.

1 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Works for me. Okay.

2 MR. LUPPINO: We can grow it as big as
3 we want.

4 FREEHOLDER VOSS: I love it.

5 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: I would
6 pretty much venture to say that most municipalities
7 struggle to grow their fund balances, and I'm not
8 sure that their percentages to our percentages are
9 probably even close to that. But, again, it's
10 something that you have to want to do and make it
11 part of our financial plan, and that's what you've
12 all agreed to do with us over the last four years.

13 Some of the highlights now as we get
14 into the 2019 budget.

15 The cost of living increase here in the
16 State of New Jersey is at 2.5 percent. This budget
17 brings us in below that, at 1.99 percent.

18 Again, it's about investing in our
19 future, investing in our facilities, investing in our
20 people.

21 Investing: Repairs to county
22 facilities. We're investing in upgrades and repairs
23 to our parks, our golf courses, including new comfort
24 stations and other amenities.

25 We're investing in upgrading Garfield

1 and Midland Park senior centers so our seniors have
2 an investment.

3 This year's capital budget also
4 includes funding to upgrade the Culinary Learning
5 Center at Bergen Community College's Hackensack
6 campus. Again, an investment in education. You'll
7 see me talk about that in even more detail in a few
8 minutes.

9 We continue to make sure that this
10 building, One Bergen County Plaza, is maintained for
11 the residents who come here and seek services.
12 Again, it's about who we are as a county, ensuring
13 that this facility is the place that you all want,
14 that people come here and do their business. That
15 this is reflective of who we are as a county and who
16 you all are.

17 On the revenue side, there's some real
18 good news here. So, we're anticipating a 23 percent
19 increase in revenue this year. And, again, what is
20 that comprised of? Shared services, interlocal
21 agreements, park revenue, realty transfer fees, and
22 many others, and you'll see a pie chart in a few
23 minutes that represents that. But, again, those are
24 the things that you just voted on before, those are
25 the things that are part of our financial plan,

1 growing those things so that it brings in revenue.

2 For the last four years, I've talked to
3 you about I believe it's our obligation and part of
4 our ability to grow the business, grow the revenue
5 here, and this is showing that that's actually
6 happened.

7 But it doesn't come without spending
8 money, right? And that's what I said to you when I
9 started this journey, is that sometimes you have to
10 spend money to make money and invest money. And
11 that's what we're doing here, we're investing that
12 money, we're spending that money to get a bigger
13 return and a better return on our investment.

14 Capital upgrades include making sure
15 that our 911 dispatch center has the access and most
16 updated telephone and radio hardware available.

17 You heard me talk about that in my
18 State of the County Address. I believe that's
19 something that not only we should and that will be
20 talked about in more detail to all of you when
21 Director DelVecchio comes with the budget
22 presentation, but I believe that having a 911
23 answering, not dispatching, just a telephone. What
24 was put in the paper after my State of the County
25 Address kind of was misleading. I'm talking about

1 just answering 911 calls, not dispatching for
2 everybody in Bergen County. I believe that that will
3 help enhance 911 emergency services for the people of
4 Bergen County.

5 In the wake of last year's tragic bus
6 accident, I asked you to get involved with the
7 Paramus students. I asked you to allow us to put
8 more money into that budget so that we could buy more
9 buses. You all agreed to that, and we bought more
10 buses last year so that each student that rode in
11 that bus had a harness. We're asking the same thing
12 again this year. We're making a commitment to those
13 students in order to protect their safety.

14 We're also making a significant
15 investment in cyber security. The Freeholder just
16 asked about that. You all have heard about ransom,
17 and many Bergen County towns and governmental
18 agencies have been held hostage. We don't want to be
19 held hostage. We are in a position right now of
20 being ahead of the curve, and what you're going to
21 approve tonight is going to allow us to ensure that
22 that's going to happen. We're going to invest more
23 money this year in cyber security and make an
24 investment in safety, safeguarding our data and the
25 integrity of an election. That's another big issue.

1 So, again, those are things that we're
2 going to invest capital in to ensure that we don't
3 get held hostage, that students and children are
4 safe, that we can provide better services for our
5 county residents.

6 In continuing with that, I also
7 mentioned earlier about the infrastructure.

8 Let me just give you a number.

9 Last year, we filled 12,685 potholes.

10 FREEHOLDER VOSS: And I hit every one
11 of them!

12 [LAUGHTER]

13 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: And we
14 resurfaced 32.5 miles of county roadways with
15 95,000 tons of asphalt.

16 So, again, when you hear that we're
17 going to spend \$19 million, \$20 million in road
18 resurfacing and things like that, and you see as we
19 speak tonight, we have people working overtime until
20 it gets dark filling potholes. We have three crews
21 out there, because I believe that that's our
22 obligation, right? The roads, unfortunately, crumble
23 and we have an obligation to fix them.

24 So we are out there now spending money,
25 investing money in that infrastructure so that the

1 people's tires don't go flat and their rims don't get
2 bent, and their quality of life doesn't get impacted.

3 This budget includes, for 2019, over
4 \$20 million in road resurfacing. This will be the
5 biggest road resurfacing project in the history of
6 Bergen County, the biggest. We hope to resurface
7 40 miles of roads in 2019.

8 How do we do that?

9 That was part of the TTF. So when
10 people ask you about price that they are paying for
11 gas, we are reaping the benefits of that TTF by being
12 able to pave 40 miles of roads and do this work.

13 Four years ago, we did about
14 \$5 million, \$3 million in road resurfacing, because
15 we had no state funding.

16 So that change in the TTF has changed
17 our ability to do things dramatically.

18 We also have \$4 million in local aid
19 for ADA ramps that's not part of that \$20 million;
20 \$7.4 million to upgrade bridges, culverts and
21 drainage; and \$4.2 million to improve intersections
22 throughout the county.

23 So some of those 70 municipalities will
24 see activity in their communities using these funds.

25 The intersection of Kinderkamack and

1 Jefferson in Hackensack, by the old Zabriskie yard,
2 that will be improved.

3 Finally finishing the Hackensack
4 adaptive signaling project, where Main Street and
5 State Street will now have the control of the traffic
6 lights done so we can synchronize them, that will be
7 controlled by our folks here down at the control
8 center.

9 Work on River Road culvert in Bogota,
10 just across the river here.

11 And seven pipes bridges.

12 For those of you that live over the
13 east side of the county, towards the
14 Closter/Harrington Park area, we're doing a large,
15 large bridge and culvert project there.

16 We also invest to improve our parks.
17 Tonight you'll hear about Green Acres, that we will
18 be integral in rehabilitating the duck pond. We will
19 be investing a few million dollars in the Ridgewood
20 duck pond. They'll be a public hearing that you'll
21 have tonight on that project. That project is a long
22 time coming. You know, it was done years ago,
23 unfortunately, it wasn't designed optimally and it
24 never really worked to the way it was supposed to.
25 We've brought in a special engineering firm that does

1 just this work, and that work we believe will start
2 at the end of 2019 and go into 2020.

3 But, again, it's important because
4 that's one of our signature facilities, but it's also
5 a signature part of the town of Ridgewood.

6 We're also going to bring an exciting
7 new water park feature to Darlington Park, which
8 again we believe will help generate more revenue and
9 enhance that facility up there.

10 We're also going to bring a rowing
11 facility to Overpeck Park, and we're going to upgrade
12 the carousel at Van Saun Park and make that a better
13 amusement ride.

14 We're going to bring in some new
15 partnerships. We've already established a
16 partnership with Rutgers Medical for the Medical
17 Examiner's Office, and we're going to continue to
18 work with Rutgers and New Bridge to bring physician
19 training and research to Bergen New Bridge. And,
20 again, that is right in the beginning stages, but
21 it's a partnership, an investment that we've made in
22 the M.E. and in New Bridge Medical to enhance that.

23 And the Hackensack Riverkeeper: We are
24 going to open up the northern end of the Hackensack
25 River, and we are going to partner with the

1 Riverkeeper to put canoes and paddle boats into the
2 northern part of the Hackensack River so people can
3 enjoy the northern part -- it's actually the central
4 part of Bergen County but the northern part of the
5 Hackensack River up to the dam in Oradell.

6 So, again, these are investments,
7 they're partnerships.

8 And the last investment that I want to
9 talk about is in our employees. We've invested in
10 health and safety of our employees. We've invested
11 money in health programs, the wellness program, to
12 have our employees be healthier so that that
13 translates to less time out, less not being sick, and
14 being a more productive employee. That was all
15 supported and funded by us, by you, saying that you
16 truly care about our employees and you care about
17 their wellness.

18 The same thing with their safety. We
19 are instituting more safety programs. We will be
20 bringing in a person to do nothing but look at the
21 safety of our employees that are field-based and
22 ensuring that they have the right PP equipment,
23 personal protective equipment, make sure that their
24 safety plans, make sure that their work site
25 protection is all conforming to what is required to

1 ensure their safety and their health.

2 We don't want anybody to go home
3 different than they came to work. We want everybody
4 to go home the way they came, and so we're going to
5 be continuing to invest in our employees. And I know
6 that that's something that you all are onboard with
7 us and feel the same way.

8 So here's where we are with the budget.
9 So, \$545 million is what it takes to operate all
10 aspects of Bergen County government and provide all
11 the services we all believe that the county wants and
12 needs.

13 But let me just look at this graph a
14 minute. If you take liability, you take employee
15 benefits, pension, Social Security, and you take debt
16 service, that's about 42 percent of the budget, just
17 in those three buckets alone, 42 percent.

18 Then if you look at it and you turn and
19 you go to law enforcement and education, that equals
20 75 percent.

21 So 75 percent of the \$545 million is in
22 about five big buckets.

23 And, really, the debt service,
24 liability insurance, and all those insurances and the
25 employees, the pension, Social Security and

1 everything, those are pretty much fixed costs, right?
2 They're there. We're obligated to pay the people's
3 pension, right? We're not like the state, we pay our
4 full share of the pension. That's what I believe is
5 our obligation to the employees we have, and we
6 continue to do that.

7 So when you look at that, that
8 42 percent is hard, fast, that doesn't change, it
9 only grows.

10 And then you look at providing a safe
11 environment for one million people -- for actually
12 greater than one million people. When you think
13 about the daytime population of Bergen County, it's
14 probably well in excess of two million people.

15 And so there you have law enforcement.

16 And then we look at education, which is
17 part of how we all believe the value of our property
18 and the value of this county is tied to, and what we
19 believe in is the future leaders of this country and
20 this county and this state.

21 So when you take those five pieces and
22 you say that's 75 percent of the total of
23 \$545 million, we're delivering the rest of the
24 services to the people of Bergen County at about
25 \$106 million. So that, I believe, is something that

1 we should be proud of, that we could deliver all the
2 things that you had people sitting here talking about
3 today, things that you're voting on tonight, in that
4 one piece of pie.

5 And so I think this is an important
6 slide not only for you but for the people of Bergen
7 County to understand and see how \$545 million is
8 divvied up, but where those pots of money actually
9 are and what they're associated to.

10 I said we were going to talk a little
11 bit more about education.

12 Freeholder Voss, you and I attended and
13 the Freeholder Chair attended yesterday a press
14 conference with the Governor about additional aid to
15 local school districts and how important that was.
16 And you heard me talk about why I think education is
17 so important, and, as I said to you before, that
18 these students are the future leaders, they're going
19 to be the ones that find a cure for cancer, they're
20 going to be the ones that put us on a planet
21 somewhere, they're the ones that are going to be able
22 to protect this planet and find ways to stop the
23 ecological disasters that are happening and things
24 like that. So, how important is education?

25 I believe, and I know collective you

1 all believe that it's important, and we're going to
2 continue to invest in education.

3 This year, including capital operating
4 and debt service, we have increased the education
5 budget by almost \$5 million, or 6.5 percent.

6 My predecessor cut over \$5 million from
7 the education budgets. So, working together, not
8 only have we fully restored those \$5 million in cuts,
9 but we've grown, and we will continue to grow the
10 education budget, because that's the future of our
11 county, that's the future of our country.

12 This year, what we're adding is more
13 than what was cut.

14 The other thing that we're doing here,
15 while the municipalities enjoyed additional financial
16 aid, the county school systems didn't. So they were
17 held flat for the last two years, but your commitment
18 last year and your commitment this year to education
19 will allow us to continue to grow the amount of money
20 that we're giving to education. So we, as a county,
21 didn't see any of that extra financial aid, because
22 county school districts were not part of that.

23 FREEHOLDER VOSS: I have a question.
24 Bleshman does not fall under the county schools. Is
25 that correct? I mean, we don't fund Bleshman?

1 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: So there's
2 state funding, but the oversight of that is
3 controlled by Dr. Lerner.

4 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Oh, I know that, but
5 I was just wondering about the funding.

6 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Right.

7 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Because it's an
8 issue.

9 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: The
10 commitment of investment in our students has led to
11 the highlights you'll see here.

12 The best community college in the State
13 of New Jersey, some of the best high schools in the
14 country, and a special services district that is
15 second to none when it comes to providing educational
16 opportunities for our students with differing
17 abilities. So that's the investment that we're
18 asking for your support in in this year's budget.

19 I had said that you'll see a little bit
20 more detail. So this is the revenue. This is where
21 I talked about having to spend money to make money,
22 and looking at some of the things you're going to
23 vote on tonight and stuff.

24 Having a strong revenue base that
25 continues to grow is also important when balancing

1 the budget and allows us to, again, invest in
2 building a better Bergen.

3 You can see from the chart, we have a
4 multitude of various revenue sources. Again, this is
5 about our financial plan. There never was a
6 financial plan before we took control. We now have a
7 financial plan.

8 So you can see that our financial
9 planning isn't just on the appropriation side, but
10 it's on the revenue side. And you can see here,
11 these are the different revenue sources that we now
12 have, and we're going to continue to grow them and
13 expand them as we go forward. So you can see,
14 \$125 million, almost \$126 million in revenue.

15 And in the next slide, you'll actually
16 see how that's happened. I think that this is a
17 pretty telling story.

18 So, we started in 2014 with just about
19 \$100,000 in revenue in general that came into the
20 county. And then when we started to look at growing
21 the revenue, you can see where we are today, but,
22 from 2014-2015, we grew it by \$1.3 million. From
23 '15-16, we grew it \$4 million. From '16-17, we grew
24 it \$7.3 million. And from '17-18, \$15.7 million we
25 grew it.

1 This year, we're up nearly \$25 million
2 from when I took office. And, again, this allows us
3 to do a lot of the things that we're doing, without
4 having to fund them from the taxpayer.

5 I just wanted to show you a breakout of
6 shared services and investment, you know, two parts
7 of this.

8 So, before we took office, there was
9 about \$3 million in shared services revenue, and
10 we're up to \$6,570,000.

11 Shared services have consistently grown
12 with new agreements with municipalities, up
13 85 percent from four years ago.

14 My philosophy is, if we have the
15 expertise and the ability here at the county, why not
16 offer it to the municipalities to help them save
17 money? Don't forget, we're making money, they're
18 saving money. It's a win/win.

19 We've seen a lot of this in our
20 mechanical shared service contracts with boards of
21 education, who often don't have the manpower to
22 maintain their own buses. We have a bus lift and we
23 can repair their equipment with skilled, certified
24 personnel, which translates to safe buses being put
25 on the road so that the students can travel safely

1 around their school district and keep the cost for
2 those school districts down.

3 I talked about investment, and that
4 includes real investment as well. This year, we
5 anticipate \$2.4 million in investment interest, up
6 352 percent from four years ago.

7 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Wow!

8 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Just on
9 having people focus on taking the money that we have
10 and investing it in safe but aggressive places.

11 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: That's great!

12 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Again, about
13 the financial plan, the financial picture.

14 I do have to say that the CFO, that's
15 one of his passions.

16 MR. LUPPINO: We beat the banks up.

17 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Our capital
18 plan for 2019 is about \$53.5 million.

19 Here's the breakdown. It shows the
20 investments.

21 Again, we never had a six-year plan
22 until we came here. I brought the six-year plan
23 here. Again, what does it do? It allows us to have
24 a picture of our finances over a longer period of
25 time so that we can do a better job of planning.

1 You can see from this chart that we're
2 investing in the priorities that we all believe in,
3 and it's in helping our residents: \$20 million of
4 infrastructure, we talked about that. \$10 million
5 invested in educational capital improvements.
6 \$8.3 million in capital investments in our parks.
7 \$8.7 million in capital for law enforcement.

8 Again, why? It's important that we
9 have a safe county, and so we want to make sure that
10 we help law enforcement agencies not only provide
11 safety, but they also do more.

12 We are working with the Prosecutor's
13 Office and the Sheriff on the opioid crisis, on the
14 opioid addiction.

15 In last year's budget, the Sheriff
16 added SROs to all of our schools, so that all of our
17 schools have armed SROs, Sheriff's Officers, not only
18 there to protect the students but interact with the
19 students, to show the students that law enforcement
20 can work together with students and with the
21 community.

22 So those are all things that we've
23 added to it to make sure that the things that are
24 important to us are taken care of.

25 You heard me talk before about the

1 73 percent of the total cost.

2 As you can see, the increase to the
3 budget is 1.99 percent, which is under the cap. On
4 average, the assessed home of \$465,000, this is
5 \$9.50. \$9.50 to continue providing all the services
6 that this county provides.

7 As you can see, 73 percent of the total
8 increase, that includes the contractual law
9 enforcement increases, education commitments, and all
10 the other things that, while we can say that we have
11 control, most of those things we don't have control,
12 but we have an obligation, and that's the difference,
13 we have that obligation. We have an obligation to
14 fund health care. We have an obligation to fund
15 pension. We have an obligation to fund law and
16 safety. We have an obligation to ensure that people
17 are safe, people are taken care of, that our
18 employees get what they deserve.

19 We've also been able to add a couple
20 key areas.

21 A 9.2 percent increase in mental health
22 budgets to help expand our stigma-free to our schools
23 and increase our efforts with mental health first aid
24 training.

25 A 19 percent increase to our senior

1 activities centers to provide additional activities,
2 meals, staffing, and transportation to help our
3 seniors age in place. We're actually buying more
4 trucks this year to help deliver more Meals on
5 Wheels, because we're --

6 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Great!

7 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: -- growing
8 that, so that the meals can get there either cold or
9 warm.

10 9.3 percent to Mechanical Services to
11 accommodate our new shared services, which helps
12 municipalities and school districts, as I talked
13 about before.

14 So, \$9.50 is all it takes to continue
15 offering all the county services to our residents.

16 That is less than the average cheese
17 pizza.

18 I know that you all have an appetite
19 for delivering good services, so I'm happy to deliver
20 to you this pizza, because I know you're all hungry
21 (indicating).

22 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Is that a Paramus
23 pizza, Jim?

24 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: You see that
25 each slice is only \$1.19. You can't go anywhere for

1 \$1.19 and get a pizza. So that's the cost of just a
2 plain pizza. All the toppings that are associated
3 with the pizza that you have that are available to
4 all of you doesn't cost a dime, because this pizza
5 costs more than the \$9.50 that the average taxpayer
6 is going to see this year.

7 So I thank you for allowing me the
8 indulgence of my prop. I know some of you may or may
9 not like surprises, may or may not like me doing
10 that, but it's part of who I am and I think that --
11 well, I did the coffee thing and everything.

12 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Donuts. No,
13 we appreciate that.

14 MR. BELLUCCI: Stay tuned.

15 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: I think a
16 pizza is kind of representative of who we are.

17 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Yes.

18 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Right, we all
19 share the pie, shared services, shared pizza.

20 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: So, there's
21 eight slices of pizza, which is seven Freeholders and
22 the administration. So that's the working together,
23 as I like to say.

24 So, in conclusion, I spoke earlier
25 about investments. What does that mean?

1 Investing in our students and education
2 and investing in our programs have led to increased
3 revenue and more robust services.

4 Investing in our capital planning and
5 our long-term planning has helped us save money in
6 the long-term and chart a sound fiscal course for the
7 county.

8 Actual investments: Leveraging our AAA
9 bond rating to refinance our bonds, which saves
10 millions in interest costs for the county and
11 municipalities. We're the only ones that are doing
12 this. We're actually helping municipalities with
13 their debt load and with their bonds.

14 And investing in our employees and
15 their health and safety.

16 I have to keep going back to our
17 employees, because they're our biggest asset.
18 They're our biggest investment.

19 New safety programs for 2019: A
20 dedicated employee to work with our employees to
21 ensure their health and safety.

22 Implementing a voluntary wellness
23 program, helping to make them healthier and happier.

24 Those are things that we've invested
25 in, that you, along with the administration, have

1 said we care about, we want to invest in those things
2 to make Bergen County a better place.

3 Before I get to the credits, let me
4 just go back to where I started, and that's to say
5 how much I appreciate the cooperation of the
6 Freeholder Board.

7 Five years ago, when I sat here with my
8 first budget, we had a split board, and I was proud
9 that that first budget was a unanimously passed
10 budget with Democrats and Republicans. Since then,
11 it's become an all Democratic board, but a board that
12 is independent in its thinking and has priorities
13 that each is different.

14 And while I can't guarantee that we're
15 going to be able to meet the expectations of every
16 single one of those for each one of you, I will
17 commit that we will do as best we can to support each
18 and every one of those things. But, in the end, it's
19 about what the taxpayers expect and what the demand
20 is. And I believe all of you have met that challenge
21 and have delivered what they want. And I think the
22 testament to that is that we continue to get
23 reelected. That's the proof, that people continue.
24 And in this last election, by an overwhelming
25 majority.

1 So I believe we're doing the right
2 thing. We are doing the right thing. This isn't the
3 Executive branch and the Legislative branch, this is
4 both branches of government working together for the
5 betterment and the people of Bergen County.

6 I need to take a minute to thank the
7 people that really did the hard work.

8 Joe, thank you for everything that
9 you've done putting this budget together.

10 MR. LUPPINO: Thank you.

11 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Melissa,
12 Marlene, Michael, Julie, Sadie, Cathy, Kelly, thank
13 you for the time that you put in making this budget
14 the budget that it is.

15 Michael, you've spent a lot of hours
16 shepherding this, and I truly appreciate that. It's
17 not an easy task.

18 You know, there's only five counties in
19 the state that have County Executives, and I will
20 tell you that we are the only county that does it
21 this way. We're the only county where we sit around
22 the table, the budget is presented, and you all then
23 have an opportunity to do that. Even other counties
24 where there are County Executives, the County
25 Executive puts a book together, but it's pretty much

1 the Freeholders decide how that's done. I'm not
2 going to say it's not done collaboratively, but it's
3 certainly not done with the robustness that we do it
4 together.

5 Jared, thank you for putting up with
6 me, because sometimes I'm not the easiest, as you all
7 know.

8 And to the folks who are sitting out
9 here, especially the department fiscal people,
10 day-to-day they're the ones that are managing this,
11 the \$545 million, so I thank all the fiscal people
12 that are here as part of our administration in this
13 county for the work that you do every day, because
14 without you doing it, we wouldn't be able to put
15 together a budget like this. So I thank you all for
16 that.

17 Freeholder Chairwoman, thank you for
18 giving me this opportunity to present the 2019
19 budget.

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you. We
21 should give an applause.

22 [APPLAUSE]

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I want to thank Mr.
24 Luppino, the administration, and everybody who worked
25 collaboratively on this budget, everyone, because to

1 keep it under COLA, the cost of living, just to keep
2 it under the two and a half percent with the cost of
3 living and still keeping all our services, our
4 programs, and, at the same time, increasing some of
5 those budgets, I really commend you on that.

6 I'm especially happy, because I noticed
7 you spent more on education, which is always very
8 important to me, as well as our seniors, and safety,
9 cyber security, and, most of all, especially to the
10 safety of our employees, which is most important to
11 us and our residents in the county.

12 So thank you so much. I look forward
13 to the next 19 budget hearings.

14 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: We all do.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: But we will be
16 working hard together.

17 FREEHOLDER GANZ: We start Monday
18 morning.

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you so much.

20 I don't know if anybody has any
21 questions or comments.

22 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: This is
23 phenomenal, under two percent. We didn't have to
24 touch any CAP Bank or anything like that, yet you
25 increased 9.2 mental health, 19 percent in senior

1 activities, 9.3 in mechanical services, plus an
2 increase in education. All under two percent. And
3 that's really because of one of the things that you
4 pointed out, 23 percent in increased revenue due to
5 shared services, the things that we all do in common
6 together. And this is together, this is your side
7 and our side. And I firmly believe the way we do
8 things, and the way you include and we include and we
9 listen to each others' opinions here, this is what a
10 responsible budget is all about.

11 I thank you and your entire team. I'm
12 sure we'll beat it up a little bit, but you've done
13 such a great job with the way that the increase is
14 going in the state, that I don't think we need to do
15 too, too much, but we'll do our due diligence. But,
16 really, when you go around, this helps every single
17 municipality in the county. People need to realize
18 that even though it's at 1.99 percent, every
19 municipality in the county benefits from our budget,
20 because of the way we do it and the way we include
21 them and the way we save them money.

22 So I think it's a credit to you and
23 your team, and I'm sure the Freeholder Board will do
24 their due diligence with Freeholder Ganz at the helm,
25 but I want to say thank you to all of you. It's a

1 collaborative effort, and thank you for including us.

2 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you,
3 Freeholder.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Freeholder Tanelli.

5 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Chairwoman, thank
6 you.

7 I want to thank everyone else that took
8 part in the budget process, but I want to thank you,
9 Jim, for this is now my seventh budget, I haven't
10 been here as long as John and David, but what I've
11 had the pleasure and I guess the honor of watching
12 happen is your vision for the county start to show in
13 these budgets. Those giant steps that you asked us
14 to take early on where we created things and moved
15 departments and just changed the way the county was
16 structured, to be able to sit here now after winning
17 in November, to watch this budget come in and see all
18 of those things start to pay-off is really
19 unbelievable. I want to thank everyone that took
20 part in it, but I want to thank you specifically for
21 bringing your vision to the county and sharing it
22 with us, so that we're all now, including the
23 residents and all the employees, the wellness
24 program, just thinking out of the box that is savings
25 in the long run. So I want to thank you for bringing

1 all your great ideas and for sharing your vision with
2 us, because it's really amazing to watch it happen.

3 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: I'm going to
4 give Michael a chance to say something, but I thank
5 you for acknowledging me. While I do have some
6 ideas, there are many people that have many ideas
7 that bring them together, just like all of you. And
8 it's really because we all care about the people, and
9 I think that that's really what truly shows,
10 Freeholder, to the people of the county.

11 When 200 some odd thousand people voted
12 for me as the leader of the county, and the
13 overwhelming majority, to me that shows that the
14 people of Bergen County believe that what we're doing
15 is right on behalf of them.

16 Michael, why don't you just comment.

17 MR. BELLUCCI: What I just whispered to
18 the County Executive was, what you said there about
19 his vision coming out in the budgets, that was my
20 goal on this whole presentation. And, you know,
21 people think vision and they start saying, wow,
22 that's going to be expensive. To run his visions
23 parallel with the budget, extremely difficult as it
24 is and will continue to be, that's in this. And I
25 think that every Bergen County resident should be

1 extremely proud to know what's in this budget and
2 know what we're doing for them as a county. So thank
3 you very much.

4 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: It was the
5 votes that you all took when we wanted to restructure
6 some of the departments and things like that that you
7 just booked. We have some of the constitutional
8 representatives and officers here. It's working with
9 them on the budget to make sure that we're meeting
10 their needs, but they understand the financial
11 pressures that we're under. It's really a
12 cooperative effort that's allowing us, that I don't
13 believe maybe in the history of the county, the way
14 it's structured now with the County Executive form of
15 government, I don't know that it's ever been better,
16 where we can all sit around and work together and
17 accomplish this and do the things that really are
18 what people want.

19 MR. LUPPINO: I can just tell you, when
20 I first started, it was very difficult. There was a
21 war between the former Executive and Sheriff, and it
22 was just very difficult, but now, I have to say, we
23 have a great relationship with the Prosecutor, Ken
24 Ardizzone does a great job there, and Tom Brown at
25 the Surrogate's Office, and at the Sheriff's office,

1 Andy. It's a lot of teamwork going on, and I know my
2 counterparts in other counties don't even talk to
3 some of the constitutionals. I had to ask a
4 question, "How are you handling it on the Sheriff's
5 side?" to one of the CFOs in the county. He said,
6 "Well, I don't talk to them. They don't talk to me."

7 I said, "Well, how do you figure this
8 issue out?"

9 We were talking about bail reform or
10 court security reform, and there's no communication.

11 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Oh, my God!

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: And, by the way,
13 kudos to your prop, because that is an example what
14 you just said, we all come together like a pizza pie.

15 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: To me it was
16 about my Italian heritage, about a family and eight
17 slices of pie. So it's for all of you to heat up
18 later.

19 Again, thank you all.

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you so much
21 for everything.

22 CLOSED SESSION

23 MR. FLORIO: Motion to go into Closed
24 Session is in order.

25 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now go into
2 Closed Session for approximately 20 minutes, and then
3 we will return to the Public Session.

4 Will the attorney briefly state the
5 matters for which we will be discussing in Closed
6 Session?

7 MR. FLORIO: Chairwoman, we will
8 receive litigation updates on under Resolutions #275,
9 #276, #278, #279, #280, #286, and #287, and there
10 will also be updates on a couple of personnel
11 matters.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
13 to go into Closed Session?

14 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

15 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Second.

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We're in Closed at
22 6:15.

23 (Whereupon, Closed Session is held.)

24 (Open session resumes at 6:39 p.m.)

25 MR. FLORIO: We're on the record,

1 Chairwoman.

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay. We will
3 reconvene for our public meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

6 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: So moved.

7 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: So moved.

8 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Second.

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

10 (All present Freeholders respond in the
11 affirmative.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We are adjourned at
15 6:39 p.m.

16 (Whereupon, the Work Session is
17 adjourned at 6:39 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

My Commission Expires:
7/11/19