

BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
REORGANIZATION MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018
COMMENCING AT 6:10 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

GERMAINE M. ORTIZ, CHAIRWOMAN

MARY J. AMOROSO, VICE CHAIRWOMAN

DR. JOAN M. VOSS, CHAIRWOMAN PRO TEMPORE

THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

TRACY SILNA ZUR

DAVID L. GANZ

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
2
3 ALSO PRESENT:
4

5 LARA RODRIGUEZ
6 CLERK TO THE BOARD

7 JULIEN X. NEALS
8 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

9 EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ.
10 COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

11 MICHAEL SHEINFELD
12 DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

13 STORM WYCHE
14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY
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20
21
22
23

24 KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.
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1 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The meeting is called
2 to order at 6:10 p.m.

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

5 Thank you.

6 1. Reading of Open Public Meetings Act

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

19 2. Attendance - Roll Call

20 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I will now call the
21 roll alphabetically.

22 (At this point in the proceeding roll
23 call is taken with Freeholders Amoroso, Ganz, Ortiz,
24 Sullivan, Tanelli, Voss, and Silna Zur present.)

25 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With seven members

1 present, we have a quorum.

2 Will you please rise for a series of
3 events.

4 We ask you remain standing until it's
5 the appropriate time to sit.

6 (All rise.)

7 3. Presentation of Colors

8 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Would you now permit
9 the Presentation of Colors by the Bergen County
10 Sheriff's Department's Color Guard.

11 (At this point in the proceeding is the
12 Presentation of Colors.)

13 4. Pledge of Allegiance

14 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Please remain standing
15 as we get ready for the Pledge of Allegiance.

16 Would Daniella Ortiz please come
17 forward.

18 (At this point in the proceeding all
19 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,
20 led by Miss Ortiz.)

21 5. National Anthem

22 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Please remain standing
23 as we have Megan Fullam of Emerson High School --
24 please come forward -- she will be singing our
25 National Anthem.

1 (At this point in the proceeding Ms.
2 Fullam sings the National Anthem.)

3 (Applause.)

4 6. Invocation

5 MS. RODRIGUEZ: At this time I'd like
6 to have Rabbi David J. Fine of Temple Israel of
7 Ridgewood please come up for our invocation.

8 (At this point in the proceeding the
9 Invocation is led by Rabbi Fine.)

10 MS. RODRIGUEZ: You may now be seated.

11 7. Introduction of Dignitaries

12 MS. RODRIGUEZ: At this time I would
13 like to introduce the many dignitaries attending
14 tonight's ceremony. If we miss anyone, we offer our
15 sincerest apologies.

16 Former Freeholder Linda Baer.

17 Former Freeholder Doug Bern.

18 Assemblyman Clinton Calabrese.

19 Councilman Chris Hillman.

20 Chief Cathy Madalone.

21 Sen. Joe Lagana.

22 Former Freeholder Bernadette McPherson.

23 First Lady of the State of New Jersey,

24 Tammy Murphy.

25 Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter.

1 Assemblywoman Lisa Swain.

2 Assemblyman Chris Tully.

3 Assemblywoman and former Freeholder
4 Valerie Vainieri Huttie.

5 A representative from the Secretary of
6 State Tahesha Way's office.

7 Lauren Zyriek, Director of
8 Intergovernmental Affairs.

9 Again, if we've missed anyone, our
10 sincerest apologies.

11 8. Announcement of Election Results

12 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Will Bergen County
13 Clerk John Hogan come to the well and announce the
14 formal results of the election.

15 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: Thank you. I'm at
16 the well.

17 (Laughter.)

18 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: 2018 was a
19 challenging year for anyone who had to deliver an
20 election in the State of New Jersey.

21 My first election was actually during
22 Hurricane Sandy. I said I'll never go through that
23 again, and then 2018 came about.

24 There were some enhancements made to
25 the vote-by-mail process. I can tell you those

1 enhancements, which added to our workload, made us
2 also break a record of the amount of vote-by-mail
3 ballots that went out. Over 100,000 vote-by-mail
4 ballots went out in the County of Bergen. I have a
5 staff of five.

6 Thank God the other election agencies
7 cooperated with us and they lent us some of their
8 staff.

9 And just as we took a deep breath and
10 we said, "Fine, we're going to deliver the election,
11 the Sheriff resigned," and then we were directed to
12 carry out a Sheriff's election, that normally takes
13 ten months, in six weeks.

14 As you can see tonight, we succeeded,
15 we elected the right man to be our Sheriff, Anthony
16 Cureton.

17 On Election Day, there were 567,568
18 registered voters in Bergen County.

19 Of those registered voters, 354,222
20 cast their ballots. That's a little over 62 percent,
21 which is a really good turnout.

22 192,143 Bergen County residents voted
23 to reelect Steven A. Tanelli.

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: And 189,672 voted

1 to reelect Tracy Silna Zur to the Bergen County
2 Freeholder Board.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: If you're a
5 numbers person, you'll know that theirs was a big
6 victory. They won by over 65,000 votes, which is
7 sizable.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: Tracy's
10 instrumental in encouraging and assisting female
11 candidates to run for office.

12 And you can sum up Steve by just saying
13 this, he's Mr. South Bergen.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNTY CLERK HOGAN: Together with
16 their Freeholder colleagues, they always do the right
17 thing for the people of Bergen County.

18 I hereby proudly certify the reelection
19 of these two fine leaders.

20 Congratulations. Congratulations,
21 Freeholders, successful year.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Before we proceed to
24 the Oaths of Office, there are some more dignitaries
25 that we would like to recognize.

1 We would like to recognize our County
2 Chairman and former Lyndhurst Councilman, Lou
3 Stellato.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. RODRIGUEZ: We have a
6 representative from Sen. Booker's office present.

7 We have Paramus Councilwoman Holly
8 Tedesco.

9 We have Mayor Anthony Suarez.

10 We will continue to update you as
11 others arrive. Thank you very much.

12 9. Oath of Office - Freeholder Elect Steven A.
13 Tanelli

14 MS. RODRIGUEZ: At this point we're
15 going to have the Oath of Office, the swearing-in of
16 Freeholder-Elect Steve Tanelli.

17 I would like to have Freeholder-Elect
18 Tanelli and Freeholder Counsel Ed Florio, who will
19 administer the Oath of Office, and Freeholder
20 Tanelli's family, join him at the podium.

21 The bible is being held by Freeholder
22 Tanelli's wife, Sharon.

23 (At this point in the proceeding the
24 Oath of Office is administered to Freeholder-Elect
25 Steven A. Tanelli.)

1 MR. FLORIO: Congratulations.

2 (Applause.)

3 10. Oath of Office - Freeholder-Elect Tracy Silna
4 Zur

5 MS. RODRIGUEZ: At this point we would
6 like to ask Freeholder-Elect Tracy Zur, Congressman
7 William Pascrell, and Tracy's family to please come
8 to the podium for her swearing-in.

9 After her swearing in, we invite
10 Congressman Pascrell to give us a couple of words.

11 The bible will be held by the Zur
12 family.

13 (At this point in the proceeding the
14 Oath of Office is administered to Freeholder-Elect
15 Tracy Silna Zur.)

16 CONGRESSMAN PASCARELL: Congratulations.

17 (Applause.)

18 CONGRESSMAN PASCARELL: What a great
19 event, and events like this have happened all over
20 the United States of America, beginning on
21 January 1st. Local government is where it starts,
22 county government.

23 And, so, when I was elected to the
24 Congress of the United States, one of my friends said
25 to me, "Man, you made it, you made it to the big

1 time."

2 Well, you know, a lot of people don't
3 understand, they think that this is like you're
4 moving up in the world. What I learned as a mayor,
5 what I learned as a state legislator, what I learned
6 as a member many moons ago at the Board of Education
7 will stay with me forever, and that is why we look at
8 our local officials to really glue us together and
9 the values that we hold strong in our hearts.

10 It is at the local level that the
11 American people either begin to trust or do not trust
12 their government, period.

13 You see what's going on beyond partisan
14 politics, which is usually meaningless, but you see
15 what's going on in Washington right now. People are
16 looking for strength, they're looking not simply to
17 follow. They're looking to feel relaxed so that
18 someone who they've elected can do the job for
19 everybody.

20 So, Tracy, good luck to you. You know,
21 she started out on my staff many moons ago and that
22 didn't hold her back.

23 (Laughter.)

24 CONGRESSMAN PASCHELL: If it did, I
25 apologize.

1 A lifelong Bergen County resident who
2 holds a law degree from Fordham University, that's of
3 special interest to me, and everything from being a
4 municipal prosecutor to a judge and as a public
5 defender, I think both in Englewood and Woodcliff
6 Lake. And you served on the board as a board member
7 both of the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey
8 as a women's philanthropic and executive board
9 member, as well as being an active member of the PTA.

10 When you go through her resume, which I
11 will not suffer you through, but when you go through
12 her resume, you know she's been in the community and
13 she didn't need an elected position, she was in the
14 community before then.

15 Thank you for your service.

16 And, Steve, thank you for your service.
17 You've been a great, great addition to the board.

18 This is a great board.

19 (Applause.)

20 CONGRESSMAN PASCARELL: They've done a
21 great job. They've done a great job.

22 And, Lou, I know you're very proud of
23 those people on this Board that you had something to
24 do with, all people of character. Take note, all
25 people of character.

1 That's more important than the votes.
2 That's more important than anything.

3 I know the families are very proud of
4 them.

5 I'm here with my brother Josh. There
6 is not a reason that they put us on different sides
7 of the aisle.

8 (Laughter.)

9 CONGRESSMAN PASCARELL: Josh and I have
10 two different perspectives on politics, yet we
11 basically love each other. We're not announcing our
12 engagement tonight, but we love each other. We
13 really do. He's a great guy to work with.

14 Sitting to my left is Bob Menendez, and
15 what a victory he had in November.

16 (Applause.)

17 CONGRESSMAN PASCARELL: What a victory
18 he had.

19 Tammy, thanks for being here. It's
20 best that you're here, let the Governor go some other
21 places. We're glad to see you.

22 I'm only joking.

23 Seriously.

24 But, anyway, God bless you all. God
25 bless you all. God bless the Board. God bless this

1 great county. And I'm honored to represent a good
2 portion of this county, truly. I mention it all the
3 time when I'm in D.C.

4 God bless you. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Before we transition to
7 the nomination for the chairperson, we are going to
8 acknowledge a couple more dignitaries.

9 We have Councilwoman Cristina Cutrone
10 from Fair Lawn. We will also see her later in a
11 presentation that she does for WEDO.

12 We have Mayor Yris Encarnacion from
13 South Hackensack.

14 Councilwoman Donna Spoto from Cliffside
15 Park.

16 Councilman Dan Park from Tenafly.

17 We have Balpreet Grewal-Virk, who is
18 the Vice-Chairwoman of the Democratic Committee for
19 Bergen County.

20 And we have Councilwoman Stephanie
21 McGowan from Rutherford.

22 And, again, if we've forgotten anyone,
23 we will advise you at a later time.

24 11. Nominations for Chair

25 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I hereby open

1 nominations for the Chairperson of the Board of
2 Chosen Freeholders.

3 Do we have a nomination?

4 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Madam Clerk, I'd
5 like to place the name of Germaine Ortiz to lead this
6 Freeholder Board for 2019. It was a pleasure working
7 with her as a Vice Chair, and I know that only better
8 things will come in 2019 with Germaine's leadership,
9 so I would like to nominate Germaine Ortiz.

10 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Freeholder
11 Sullivan.

12 Freeholder Sullivan nominates Germaine
13 Ortiz.

14 Do we have a second?

15 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Madam Clerk, may
16 I please second the nomination of Freeholder Germaine
17 Ortiz for Chairwoman of this Board.

18 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Freeholder
19 Zur.

20 We have a nomination and a second.

21 All in favor say "aye."

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

24 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Any opposed say "nay."

25 (No response.)

1 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The ayes have it.

2 Are there any other nominations?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Motion to close

5 nominations?

6 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

7 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

8 MS. RODRIGUEZ: All in favor say "aye."

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

11 MS. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The ayes have it.

14 I will now take a roll call to elect
15 Freeholder Ortiz as the Chairwoman of the Freeholder
16 Board.

17 (At this point in the proceeding roll
18 call is taken and the motion is passed by a unanimous
19 vote.)

20 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The vote total is 7/0,
21 and the new Chairwoman will be Germaine Ortiz.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. RODRIGUEZ: We would now like
24 Sen. Robert Menendez to swear in the
25 Chairwoman-elect.

1 Would Sen. Menendez, along with the
2 Chairwoman-elect and her family, please approach the
3 podium.

4 We also invite Sen. Menendez to say
5 some words after the swearing-in.

6 The bible will be held by her husband,
7 Willy, and their daughter, Daniella, and they are
8 joined by their family.

9 (At this point in the proceeding the
10 Oath of Office is administered to Germaine M. Ortiz
11 as Chairwoman of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.)

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. RODRIGUEZ: It is my pleasure and
14 honor to turn the gavel and the proceedings over to
15 our newly elected Chairwoman.

16 (Applause.)

17 SEN. MENENDEZ: With the Chairlady's
18 permission, may I address the Board?

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes.

20 SEN. MENENDEZ: All right. I know my
21 place.

22 Let me, first of all, say Happy New
23 Year to all of the residents of Bergen County. I am
24 thrilled personally that 2018 is over and that we can
25 put our television sets back on again.

1 So, let me say that today's an historic
2 day in Bergen County. New years, new beginnings are
3 always about expectation and excitement, but this new
4 beginning is truly historic, not only with Freeholder
5 Ortiz's ascension to the Freeholder Chairmanship,
6 and, Ms. Chairman, I was commenting on you, before
7 there was any possibility of a nomination for another
8 nominee, there was a vote already. If we do that in
9 Hudson, everybody talks about it, in Bergen nobody
10 says anything, it's very interesting, but in any
11 event, I appreciate the way it works here.

12 (Laughter.)

13 SEN. MENENDEZ: But it's an historic
14 day, because it is the first time that a Latina has
15 ever been the Chair of the Freeholder Board in Bergen
16 County.

17 (Applause.)

18 SEN. MENENDEZ: It's also historic,
19 because as I understand how the rest of these votes
20 will go, in the Year of the Woman, the entire
21 leadership of the Freeholder Board will be a female
22 leadership of the Freeholder Board.

23 (Applause.)

24 SEN. MENENDEZ: I know you're so
25 advanced, Freeholder Sullivan.

1 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I get it at home,
2 Senator.

3 SEN. MENENDEZ: But it's truly a great
4 moment for Bergen County. And I'll just take a
5 moment to talk about two sets of things.

6 No. 1, I campaigned with Freeholders
7 Zur and Tanelli. They're extraordinary public
8 servants, you can see it in the way the people of
9 Bergen County approach them at all of the events that
10 I was with them. Their work on behalf of making this
11 county an even greater place to live to create
12 opportunities for future generations of Bergen County
13 residents with a stellar education system, being good
14 stewards of the land for future generations of
15 residents, and one of the greatest parklands that any
16 county has in this state brings stability and
17 property tax bases is all successes that they've had,
18 and that's why they've had such an overwhelming
19 success. So I want to congratulate both Freeholders
20 Zur and Tanelli on their great victory and their
21 leadership.

22 (Applause.)

23 SEN. MENENDEZ: And, finally, when
24 Germaine asked me to do the swearing-in, I delayed my
25 return to Washington, because it's an honor.

1 We both grew up as the children of
2 immigrants in Hudson County. Only in America could
3 someone who is the son of immigrants raised poor in a
4 tenement rise to be 1 of the 100 United States
5 senators in a country of 320 million and only could a
6 daughter of immigrants rise to be the Chair of the
7 Board of Chosen Freeholders in the most populous
8 county in the State of New Jersey, but that's what
9 history is all about. That's what America is all
10 about. That's part of what we celebrate tonight with
11 Germaine's ascension. She's an extraordinary public
12 servant in her own right. The county has had the
13 privilege of having her not only as a local
14 councilwoman, but here at the Bergen County Utilities
15 Authority, and then at Bergen Community College,
16 where her passion for education came through in her
17 commitment to future residents of Bergen County to
18 achieve and fulfill their God given potential. And
19 it is her financial background that has helped in all
20 of that work, including helping this Freeholder Board
21 pass a budget that had no tax increase, and these
22 days that's an extraordinary achievement for any
23 board.

24 (Applause.)

25 SEN. MENENDEZ: So I know that her

1 family is proud, as are the families of all the
2 Freeholders who have been reelected. And to all of
3 the other soon to be officials of the Board of Chosen
4 Freeholders, we congratulate you on an historic
5 occasion, but, Germaine, because this is
6 history-breaking for you, I don't always do this, but
7 I've had a flag flown over the Capitol of the
8 United States to recognize this occasion. May it fly
9 proudly in your office and remind you of the
10 opportunity and the challenge and the commitment that
11 you have to the people of Bergen County.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you so much.

13 (Applause.)

14 12. Nominations for Vice Chair

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay. I hereby open
16 nominations for the office of Vice Chair of the Board
17 of Chosen Freeholders.

18 Nomination of Freeholder Amoroso.

19 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: I'd like to second
20 that.

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Are there any other
25 nominations?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: No?

3 Motion to close nominations?

4 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

5 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

7 (All present Freeholders respond in the
8 affirmative.)

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call on the
10 motion to elect as Vice-Chairwoman, Freeholder
11 Amoroso.

12 (At this point in the proceeding roll
13 call is taken and the motion is passed by a unanimous
14 vote.)

15 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The vote total is 7/0,
16 and the new Vice-Chairwoman is Mary Amoroso.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Congressman Josh
19 Gottheimer will administer Vice-Chairwoman Amoroso's
20 oath. Please approach.

21 The bible is to be held by her son,
22 Michael.

23 (At this point in the proceeding the
24 Oath of Office is administered to Mary J. Amoroso as
25 Vice Chairwoman of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.)

1 (Applause.)

2 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER: Madam
3 Chairwoman, may I address the audience?

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes, please.

5 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER: I certainly
6 know my place.

7 Congratulations, Vice-Chairwoman;
8 congratulations, Chairwoman, and everyone else; and
9 my great running mates from last time, Steve and Mary
10 and everybody up here has become like family. If you
11 spend any time with us, and I think the Chairman who
12 helped create this family knows best, Mr. Chairman,
13 right, that we are really together and unified in our
14 love and commitment to Bergen County. And everyone
15 here has become such a good friend of mine, but,
16 also, I see it every single day, such a good friend
17 of Bergen County. We are very, very pleased to have
18 this Board.

19 (Applause.)

20 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER: You know, it's
21 tough to follow the great Bob Menendez, but I'll try.
22 I'm not really at his level of wisdom. I'm fighting
23 for the inches but I am close, Bob, but, Senator,
24 thank you for your friendship.

25 And Congressman Pascrell, it's a shame

1 he left, because I would take a few shots at him.

2 First Lady, thank you for being here.

3 And to our state senators and assembly
4 men and women, and our mayors and council members,
5 all the family members and the Sheriff, there's so
6 many people here who do so much that I'm grateful
7 for. You know, we are very blessed. It reminds me
8 every time I come in a room like this that I live in
9 the greatest country in the world. And it's such a
10 wonderful place to live. And, you know, I've got a
11 six-year-old and a nine-year-old, and when I wake up
12 with such optimism about the future, I know it's
13 because of the great work that's done behind me and
14 our first responders and our veterans who get up
15 every day and get our backs. But, more than
16 anything, I know we've just got wonderful people who
17 live here in our community and take care of our
18 community, and I just want you to know how honored I
19 am to have the opportunity to serve all of you. We
20 will keep working every day to make sure our streets
21 are paved and our taxes are lower, and this Board has
22 done a phenomenal job in keeping those taxes down,
23 which, as the senator mentioned, is so important, but
24 also looking out for our air and our water, making
25 sure that we're taken care of. And we need to keep

1 that up no matter what's happening.

2 Now if I can just speak for two seconds
3 about Mary, because I think she's just so wonderful.

4 It adds to the very long list, as her
5 husband knows well of all her accomplishments. I'll
6 mention a few.

7 Mary grew up in Bergenfield, and lives
8 in Mahwah now for more than 23 years, so no one knows
9 Bergen County just like Mary does. She can sing, if
10 you've ever heard her sing -- Mary, just give me a
11 little, come on, great example.

12 (Vice-Chairwoman Amoroso complies.)

13 CONGRESSMAN GOTTHEIMER: It was
14 excellent. She sings through the campaign trail.

15 Her family has four kids. Mike was
16 here today, and Tom, and Matt, and Maeve, who
17 couldn't be here, I know, but she wakes up, I know,
18 and thinks about them all the time. We're always
19 talking about our kids.

20 Before her life in politics, Mary was
21 an award-winning reporter for The Record and on TV,
22 highlighted by a series on a domestic violence
23 survivor from here in Bergen County. If you haven't
24 seen it, you should. She has been a passionate and
25 effective advocate for the county's women and

1 families in her career in politics and in government
2 and in service.

3 She also won an Emmy for the work she
4 did with her cable show on Channel 8. I don't know
5 if you've seen it, she's "Award Winning Mary," as we
6 like to call her. She's the only Emmy winner on this
7 Board, although Freeholder Sullivan has been, you
8 know, trying to get one now for years and has fallen
9 short time and again, But he's gunning for one.

10 But, really, Mary has been an excellent
11 public servant on this Board, and is Vice Chair now.
12 And, as the senator mentioned, we now have women
13 leading the way in every senior position, which is
14 the way it should be. And I know that she and
15 everyone else on the board will continue to do a
16 wonderful job for the people of Bergen County in the
17 greatest country in the world we're lucky to live in.

18 So, thank you and may God continue to
19 watch over us and bless our country.

20 (Applause.)

21 12. Nominations for Chair Pro Tempore

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I hereby open
23 nominations for Chair Pro Tempore of the Board of
24 Chosen Freeholders.

25 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: I would like

1 to nominate Dr. Joan Voss.

2 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Second.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Are there any other
7 nominations?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay. Motion to
10 close nominations?

11 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

12 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Second.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call on the
17 motion to elect as Chair Pro Tempore Freeholder Voss.

18 (At this point in the proceeding roll
19 call is taken and the motion is passed by a unanimous
20 vote.)

21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The vote is 7/0, and
22 the new Chair Pro Tempore is Dr. Joan Voss.

23 (Applause.)

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The Oath of Office
25 will be administered by Acting County Administrator

1 Julien Neals.

2 Would the Chair Pro Tempore and
3 Mr. Neals please approach the well.

4 The bible to be held by Freeholder aide
5 Christopher Chapman.

6 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS:
7 Apparently we've run out of federal officials to
8 administer the oath, so I will suffice.

9 (Laughter.)

10 (At this point in the proceeding the
11 Oath of Office is administered to Dr. Joan M. Voss as
12 Chairwoman Pro Tempore of the Board of Chosen
13 Freeholders.)

14 (Applause.)

15 14. Presentations

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: It is now time for
17 our presentations.

18 First Lady of the State of New Jersey,
19 Tammy Murphy.

20 (Applause.)

21 FIRST LADY MURPHY: Good evening.
22 Thank you. I feel a little funny with my back to all
23 of you, but, first of all, congratulations to
24 everyone. Great job.

25 There's something more to tonight than

1 just administering the oath. This is a night about
2 coming together and building partnerships that are
3 going to create stronger communities here in Bergen
4 as well as across the entire state.

5 This is going to take elected officials
6 and private citizens coming together as one to not
7 only protect the middle class but to invest in our
8 communities, to invest in our infrastructure, and to
9 build an economy that is going to take care of
10 everyone in our state. It's going to take leadership
11 that is honest, that's transparent, that's inclusive,
12 and that is optimistic.

13 I think that everyone up here has
14 proven that they can do that.

15 Particular congratulations, Germaine,
16 being the first Latina.

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

18 FIRST LADY MURPHY: Despite the many
19 challenges in our state, I know that we all can find
20 and feel that there is a great reason to have pride
21 in everything here. I know that's what my husband
22 thinks, and I am sure that he would wish the same
23 sentiment on everyone in this room, as well as the
24 elected officials who are here.

25 Finally, I guess what I would like to

1 say, I know this is a time of excitement and
2 enthusiasm, everyone is taking on new jobs, and
3 that's fantastic. This is a new journey, and we're
4 all in this together in moving our state forward.

5 The last thing I would like to say to
6 everyone, my husband is not here, but I will tell
7 you, he is open-minded and he has an open door, and
8 he will be there for every single one of you. If
9 anyone needs him, he's always available.

10 Thank you for letting me speak. I wish
11 you all tremendous success, and congratulations.

12 (Applause.)

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I would like to
14 mention other dignitaries that I see came in the
15 room.

16 Councilman Rafael Riquelme from Dumont.

17 Commissioner Karen Haggerty from
18 Lyndhurst.

19 Councilman Mark Goldsack and Tom
20 Mullahey from Rutherford.

21 Former Freeholder and Mayor of West New
22 York, Sal Vega, and Commissioner Cosmo Cirillo.

23 And Councilman Brian Downing from
24 Emerson.

25 Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Next presentation,
3 Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle.

4 (Applause.)

5 ASSEMBLYWOMAN HUTTLE: Good evening.
6 Happy and healthy 2019 to everyone here.

7 It's always emotional for me. I think
8 when, Lara, you said "Assemblywoman and former
9 Freeholder," that speaks volumes, because I told Joan
10 this a while ago, I said it is the best position of
11 public service in Bergen County.

12 And so with that, first of all,
13 congratulations to Tracy and to Steve, and
14 congratulations to an iconic trio of women, Germaine,
15 the first Latina Freeholder Chairwoman; Mary, Vice
16 Chair; and Joan, Chair Pro Tempore. And David, the
17 emeritus of the Board, because David and I served
18 together many years ago and you're still here. I
19 applaud your dedication and commitment for the people
20 of Bergen.

21 (Applause.)

22 ASSEMBLYWOMAN HUTTLE: Bernadette
23 McPherson is in the room, and we would always say
24 that we had the best Freeholder Board when we served
25 in 2003-2005, but you've surpassed us finally.

1 And just looking at the members of
2 Congress electing, I think, over 100 women to the
3 House last week, we made history in Congress. We
4 have so much diversity there now, but I will say that
5 when you look at this Freeholder Board, it reflects
6 everyone here in Bergen County. And I think we've
7 gone beyond what they've done in Congress, because
8 when I hear 7/0, that speaks volumes to the unity and
9 to the things that you do together in unity. Because
10 there may be disagreements, but you can agree on
11 what's best for the residents of Bergen County.

12 I think what Sen. Booker said, and I'll
13 repeat it because it's been repeated through the
14 swearing-ins, we can agree to disagree but not become
15 disagreeable.

16 When I look at the makeup of this
17 Board, there really is such unity and for the
18 betterment of the residents of Bergen County.

19 And with that, I will definitely
20 conclude to wish everyone a wonderful 2019 for the
21 residents of Bergen County, because I know each and
22 every one of you, representing 70 towns, is not easy.
23 Campaigning countywide is not easy. But you have
24 done it, you have surpassed it, and my hat is off to
25 each and every one of you.

1 Germaine being Freeholder Chairwoman
2 surpasses, as everyone here, I think, has had the
3 opportunity, the best position in the county. Lots
4 of luck. Really, best wishes, and you know we're all
5 together in this.

6 So thank you very much, and now I think
7 I have to go to Englewood, where I might see the
8 Governor there.

9 (Applause.)

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Next Cristina
11 Cutrone, Fair Lawn Councilwoman and also president of
12 WEDO.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN CUTRONE: Thank you.

15 Thank you, Chairwoman Ortiz, and to the
16 entire Freeholder Board for allowing me to be here.

17 Congratulations to Tracy and Steve.

18 And congratulations to all of you, and
19 a very successful 2019. I'm sure there will be
20 continued success in 2019.

21 WEDO, which stands for Women Empowered
22 Democratic Organization, is an organization whose
23 mission is to support, empower, and recruit women who
24 are interested in public service at the local, the
25 county, and the state level.

1 One of the things we do every year is
2 travel to all of the reorgs where women are being
3 sworn in to congratulate them and acknowledge them.

4 This year we were incredibly busy.
5 There were 33 women in Bergen County sworn in at the
6 local level.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN CUTRONE: Of course we
9 have Tracy tonight, and we had Lisa Swain at the
10 state level. So 35 in total.

11 And tonight is extra special, as you've
12 heard, because not only are we here to celebrate
13 Tracy, but to celebrate a board that is complete with
14 female leadership. So it is a really exciting night
15 to be here.

16 Just to say a few words about Tracy.

17 As many of you know, Tracy is
18 incredibly tenacious. She is intelligent. She is
19 caring and compassionate, and she is fierce.

20 As she tells many of us at our
21 swearing-ins, you know, she was told to put her
22 little toe in, but instead she dove right in when she
23 was elected, and that just speaks volumes to who she
24 is.

25 Her legacy will certainly be all of her

1 accomplishments on the Freeholder Board, but I think
2 her true legacy you can see in this room and you will
3 continue to see of the women who she has inspired and
4 served as a role model to. I certainly wouldn't be a
5 councilwoman and who I am today without Tracy's
6 support and guidance and her love, so I am eternally
7 grateful for that.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN CUTRONE: So the first
10 presentation on behalf of the entire organization, I
11 would like to present this Certificate of Achievement
12 and formally congratulate Freeholder Tracy Zur on
13 being reelected to the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

14 Congratulations.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN CUTRONE: And since it is
17 such a special night, again on behalf of the
18 organization, I have three yellow roses for our three
19 women leaders.

20 And for those of you who don't know,
21 during the fight for the 19th Amendment, those
22 Congressmen who were in support of the passage of the
23 19th Amendment wore yellow flowers in support.

24 So tonight I'd like to present
25 Germaine, Mary, and Joan each with a yellow rose to

1 acknowledge the trailblazers that fought, and some
2 died, for our right to vote to celebrate how far we
3 have come and to promise to keep going. I really,
4 really believe that they would be so incredibly proud
5 of Bergen County tonight. So congratulations and
6 thank you again.

7 (Applause.)

8 15. Remarks from Freeholders

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: At this time I would
10 like to ask our Freeholders if they would like to say
11 a few words, starting with Freeholder Sullivan.

12 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Thank you,
13 Chairwoman.

14 That sounds phenomenal.
15 Congratulations.

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

17 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I'd like to begin
18 tonight by saying that it was truly an honor to serve
19 as the Chairman of this Board in 2018. I could not
20 have asked for a better year, and I am proud of
21 everything we accomplished as a team.

22 I worked very hard to always do what I
23 felt was the best for the people of Bergen County. I
24 am grateful for all the cooperation and the help I
25 received from everyone along the way.

1 Steve and Tracy, I know it was a
2 campaign that you did not take lightly, and I commend
3 you and I congratulate both of you on your reelection
4 to serve the people of Bergen County. You have
5 served them well previously, and I know you will
6 continue do the same going forward.

7 I want to thank my biggest supporters,
8 my wife, Jody; my daughters, Kenzie, Jadyn and
9 Kerrin. I could not be where I am today without them
10 in my corner.

11 I would also like to thank my immediate
12 family as well for all their love and support.

13 I'd like to thank my other family for
14 the year we had, my colleagues here on the Freeholder
15 Board. I am proud to be a member of this family and
16 to serve on the board with each and every one of you,
17 especially Mary Amoroso, my buddy.

18 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: From
19 Bergenfield.

20 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: We have
21 Bergenfield ties. We go back.

22 We each bring our own individual
23 knowledge to the table, and I believe we have been
24 extremely successful working together every day for
25 the last four years, and I look forward to more of

1 the same in 2019.

2 I want to recognize Bergen County
3 Executive James Tedesco, who could not be here
4 tonight, for his leadership and support of this
5 board. It's been a pleasure working with him to help
6 make Bergen County better together.

7 I'd like to thank the extended members
8 of the family served by Mike Dressler, Clerk Hogan,
9 and Sheriff Cureton.

10 At the end of the day, all the aspects
11 of county government need to be cohesive and
12 cooperative. Working with John and Mike has always
13 been productive and easy, and I know Anthony will be
14 the same moving forward.

15 Anthony had to leave to go to
16 Englewood's swearing-in, but he's a welcome addition
17 to our family. His hard work and drive that I
18 witnessed this year during this election inspired me
19 for what lies ahead in 2019, and I thank him for
20 that.

21 I'd like to thank my fellow Bergen
22 County elected officials on the state and federal
23 level. It is really great to work with elected
24 officials who care so much about making our county
25 the best it can be.

1 Special thanks to Congressmen
2 Gottheimer and Pascrell and Senators Menendez and
3 Booker for always representing our county and state
4 proudly and honorably in Washington.

5 I'd also would like to thank the men
6 and women who work for Bergen County. You are the
7 backbone of what makes us so great, and I thank you
8 for that.

9 Thanks to our counsel, Ed Florio, and
10 all the staff of the Freeholder Office. So much goes
11 on behind the scenes that may go unnoticed, but it
12 never goes unrecognized.

13 I think we have a great team here, and
14 I thank you all for everything.

15 I'd like to thank a great friend and a
16 leader of our party, Chairman Lou Stellato.

17 Lou, I am grateful for the trust you
18 have put in me and I am grateful for your friendship.

19 Lou does so many things behind the
20 scenes, but until you know Lou as a man, you get to
21 understand why this county is so caring, because we
22 take our cue from a guy who cares. Lou, thank you
23 for everything you do.

24 I'd also like to recognize and thank
25 the volunteers and the workers of the Democratic

1 Committee of Bergen County. Under Chairman
2 Stellato's leadership, it has become the best
3 Democratic Organization in New Jersey. The hard work
4 and dedication is the main reason our Democratic
5 ideals and principles are possible.

6 Joan, congratulations again for taking
7 on another leadership role. You are my hero on this
8 Board, without a doubt. Thank you.

9 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: My wife has
12 warned me never to run against her. She's told me
13 she would vote for Joan.

14 Mary, I wish you the best of luck as
15 the Vice Chairwoman. Germaine is going to need
16 someone who lean on, and I know you will do a
17 wonderful, wonderful job in that role. Mary's
18 knowledge coming on here, just a year or two ago,
19 when we all ran together, the way she accepts her
20 role here on the board is phenomenal. Germaine will
21 have a great, great person to rely upon.

22 Germaine, last year it was very special
23 for me working with you. Willy called Germaine my
24 work wife.

25 She does like me more, Willy.

1 (Laughter.)

2 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Germaine is just
3 a fabulous, phenomenal, intelligent woman who gets it
4 done. She may not get there in your face like me and
5 Steve do, but she definitely knows how to get it
6 done. Germaine, what I witnessed this last year
7 working with you, Bergen County is in great hands.
8 Thank you for everything. I wish you all the best of
9 luck.

10 And to the residents of Bergen County,
11 I am proud to serve you as a Freeholder, and I will
12 continue to work hard for the county.

13 Thank you very much.

14 (Applause.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

16 Before I go on, other dignitaries, I'd
17 like to acknowledge.

18 Former Freeholder and former County
19 Executive Dennis McNerney.

20 (Applause.)

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: And newly-elected
22 Bogota Councilwoman Connie Carpenter. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 (Freeholder Sullivan exits the
25 Reorganization Meeting at 7:14 p.m.)

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Freeholder Zur.

2 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Thank you so
3 much, Chairwoman.

4 I can't tell you how humbled and
5 grateful and elated I was as I took that oath, and to
6 have the privilege to serve Bergen County residents
7 for another term. The fact that voters in
8 unprecedented numbers in a midterm election chose to
9 have Steve and I continue to work on their behalf,
10 their really aren't enough words in the Thesaurus to
11 really express how I'm feeling.

12 I know Congressman Pascrell scooted
13 out, but I want to put on the record how grateful I
14 am to have him swear in me tonight, but also how
15 grateful I am to have his example of being a public
16 servant. When I was on his staff, I learned a lot of
17 lessons. I learned how important relationships are.
18 I learned that you return phone calls immediately;
19 that you are there, you show up not only with words
20 but your deeds; that you value your municipal
21 leaders; and that you always fight hard for what's
22 right.

23 I am so thankful for all those lessons
24 and for so many more. I only hope to do him credit
25 as I sit up here on this Board for the next three

1 years.

2 The other day my daughter came into my
3 Freeholder Office, and we were looking at the
4 pictures on the wall. I hadn't done that in a while.
5 I think it kind of became background. And the one
6 that kind of caught my attention was the one from my
7 swearing-in in 2012. I have to admit, it made me a
8 little bit emotional. My kids were so little.
9 Logan, you were six. That's half a lifetime ago.
10 And, Kayla, you were so adorable at age 10 wearing
11 that striped dress that you can't believe I let you
12 wear. And, Coby, you were just a snarky 15-year-old,
13 clean shaven and baby-faced, and now you're an adult.

14 As I look back over the last six years
15 that I served the residents Bergen County, it often
16 feels like a blur, like it's gone by so fast, but
17 seeing the change in my kids, it underscored for me
18 all too clearly that time has passed.

19 Bobby, by the way, you and I, we never
20 changed at all, it's just them.

21 But my kids, they're a reality check,
22 which is fitting, because Colby, Kayla, Logan, you
23 guys are always around me. You're the reason that I
24 want to make the world a better place, why working
25 hard for the community matters.

1 When I see what you and your friends
2 are going through, it makes me more committed to
3 ensuring better access to mental health care,
4 especially for our teens, or hitting a pothole on the
5 way to school jarred in my passenger seat with my new
6 driver that makes me more aware of the need for safe
7 infrastructure, or feeling the struggles that so many
8 have to afford higher education that makes me dig in
9 and support our community college, our applied tech,
10 and applied health high schools and our Workforce
11 Development Board. You guys remind me every day why
12 all this matters, so thank you, not only for
13 tolerating sharing my time but for being in this with
14 me wholeheartedly.

15 And, Bobby, I couldn't be doing all of
16 this without you. I won't embarrass our children
17 right now by breaking out into a version of Bette
18 Midler, but you really are the wind beneath my wings,
19 you make all of this work. And without your
20 encouragement, your support, your love, and your
21 sanity checks, I couldn't be doing this public
22 service, which I'm so passionate about.

23 Also on that picture back in 2012 were
24 my parents. Mom and dad, you were beaming with pride
25 that day. You walk the walk. You have lived a life

1 to Kehilla, which is preparing the world and trying
2 to make this a better place, and you have shown by
3 example that it's our responsibility to do our part.
4 Thank you for always being 1,000 percent in my corner
5 and for being here tonight, which I know, mom, wasn't
6 so easy.

7 I can't tell you how much you both mean
8 to me. I am definitely a very lucky daughter.

9 Amy, Bill, Ezra, Zoey, Noah, thank you
10 all for loving me, despite this craziness.

11 So, looking at the picture, I
12 remembered exactly how I felt that day. I was so
13 excited, I couldn't wait to get to work, and I was
14 ready for the challenges that lay ahead. I was
15 hopeful and I was grateful to each and every one of
16 you who helped me with my election. Honestly, I have
17 to say, I feel the same exact way today. I am so
18 excited and so grateful and so hopeful for this next
19 chapter serving alongside my colleagues on this
20 amazing board. The only difference is that now I can
21 look back at six years of accomplishments with so
22 much pride.

23 We have 40 kids who graduated from
24 Project Search, young adults who are differently
25 abled who have portable job skills, most of whom are

1 without all of you, without all of your hard work.
2 You went to the phones, you put up signs, you
3 harassed your friends and your kids and your kids'
4 friends to go out and vote. You donated time and
5 money and energy, and you helped us get through the
6 noise and the tweets and the frustration to get
7 people to the polls.

8 We saw energy in our grassroots and
9 from our brothers and sisters in labor and our
10 teachers, and we all on Election Day stood up for our
11 values.

12 In the wake of Pittsburgh and
13 Sandy Hook and Washington, we came together to serve,
14 but not only is diversity our strength, but that we
15 here in Bergen County will continue to build bridges
16 and care for our neighbors.

17 We saw new people and so many new woman
18 in this audience running for office, and I'm thrilled
19 to be 1 of 35 Democratic women sworn into office
20 throughout Bergen County.

21 I am so proud of WEDO, and JOLT and NJ5
22 Coalition, and so many other groups, but I am most
23 grateful to the Bergen County Democratic Committee
24 and especially our Chairman Lou Stellato and our
25 Vice-Chair Dot Friedberg.

1 Chairman, you encouraged me to get into
2 this fray seven years ago and have supported all of
3 us every step of the way. I couldn't be more
4 appreciative for all that you have done to make sure
5 that we all have a voice in guiding the direction of
6 the county for the next three years. Your
7 leadership, insight, and dedication have done far
8 more than just drive the bus.

9 And, Steve, I couldn't ask for a better
10 running mate. You said seven years ago that we would
11 be tied at the hip for the rest of our lives, well,
12 for the last six on this board we have pushed each
13 other, been the sounding board for each other and had
14 each other's back. You care so much and you throw
15 your whole self into making our community better.

16 Sharon, thank you for sharing him with
17 us. And to Jaxon and Landon, thank you for giving
18 him so many reasons to smile, and not fake smile like
19 the ones in our TV commercial in our first year in
20 2012. I think they definitively reminded him and all
21 of us why our service is so important.

22 Tom -- he left, but I was going to tell
23 him he was an incredible chairman. He really was an
24 incredible chairman this year. He handled challenges
25 both with his unique brand of humor and with profound

1 determination to get us to the right place. He made
2 sure that we had answers to our millions of questions
3 and that we worked through things to get to the point
4 of consensus. He led us well.

5 And, Germaine, I know that you are
6 going to do the same and push us to serve the nearly
7 one million residents in Bergen County.

8 To everyone, thank you. Thank you so
9 much. Now we get back to work.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I also would like to
12 welcome Bergenfield Police Chief Cathy Madalone.
13 Thank you for coming.

14 (Applause.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Freeholder Dr. Voss.

16 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you,
17 Chairwoman.

18 My motto in life is "I get by with the
19 help of my friends."

20 As you can see, I have a very, very
21 small family, one son and that's it, and so this has
22 become my family. The people that I serve are my
23 extended family, but the patriarch of that family is
24 Lou Stellato. He is, he likes to say, the bus
25 driver, but he really is a great deal more than that.

1 And I can't thank you for all that you have done for
2 Bergen County, for the Democratic Party, and for me,
3 because I really, really appreciate everything, and I
4 love, love, love being a Freeholder.

5 I've been in politics, this is going on
6 my 27th consecutive year in politics. Seven years
7 ago, my friend and partner, David Ganz, said to me,
8 "Joan, the best job you're ever going to have is
9 being a Freeholder."

10 You are 1,000 percent correct. This
11 is, without a good occasion, the best job that I have
12 ever had.

13 I have to say that 27 years ago, when I
14 first got started in politics, I was like the only
15 woman pretty much in everything that I did
16 politically. And it is so gratifying to see -- I
17 mean, I love men, don't get me wrong, absolutely love
18 men, but --

19 (Applause.)

20 FREEHOLDER VOSS: But having lived
21 through a great deal of, what should I say,
22 difficulty getting elected, I've been very, very
23 fortunate, because I taught over 4,000 young people,
24 and, as I said, I get by with the help of my friends,
25 and it is so wonderful. I call Germaine, Mary and

1 myself "The Three Caballeros," I've been singing that
2 song, and I don't think there has been another
3 Freeholder Board who had three women to be the
4 leadership.

5 I can't tell you how wonderful this
6 Board is in terms of cooperation and working
7 together. You know, we have our disagreements about
8 things, but, at the end, we all come together, all
9 for one and one for all, which is really, really
10 important.

11 As I said, I'm so proud of what we have
12 accomplished.

13 I want to thank Julien so much for
14 swearing me in. I have so much respect for you, and
15 I really appreciate you giving me the Oath of Office
16 of Chair Pro Temp. They used to call me shrimp
17 tempora, but, anyway, it is just wonderful to see us
18 be able to work so well together and to have so many
19 great people.

20 I asked if I could go as quickly as
21 possible. As I said a minute ago, I taught 4,000 --
22 actually more than 4,000, probably close to 9,000
23 young people in my 40-year career in teaching, and
24 tonight two of my former students are being inducted
25 or sworn in as members of the Leonia council.

14 Anyway, thank you all. I wish you a
15 happy and healthy New Year, and please forgive me
16 while I scoot out to give the Oath of Office to two
17 of my very favorite students. God bless.

19 (Freeholder Voss exits the
20 Reorganization Meeting at 7:27 p.m.)

22 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: It can't be
23 anything I said, because I didn't speak yet.

25 | Thank you so much for being patient and

1 hanging in there.

2 Before I begin my remarks, I just
3 wanted to say how thankful I am that my grandson was
4 able to come tonight, and what the power of prayer
5 is, and Fr. Scott is here tonight. My grandson
6 suffered some issues before he was even born, and
7 Fr. Scott rushed to the hospital and blessed him
8 before he went into surgery, and that's the result.
9 So, I just want to tell everybody how blessed I feel
10 and how the power of prayer is successful. He's a
11 rambunctious two-year-old, one of the loves of my
12 life.

13 (Applause.)

14 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: I'll try and be
15 quick.

16 Honored guests, fellow members of the
17 Board of Chosen Freeholders, First Lady Murphy,
18 New Jersey Legislators, county employees, residents
19 of Bergen County, I stand before you to accept the
20 responsibility of serving as your advocate on the
21 Board of Chosen Freeholders.

22 My reelection was not just a victory of
23 party, but a mandate for us to continue providing
24 responsible governance taxpayers want and deserve.

25 I am humbled by the privilege to

1 continue to serve, and I have many people to thank
2 who assisted me along the way.

3 I'd like to thank Mr. Florio for
4 honoring me tonight by swearing me in. Ed's daily
5 advice and counsel to this Board is invaluable.
6 Thank you, Ed.

7 Campaigning and being involved in
8 government are time-consuming, to say the least, and
9 take you away from normal family life. So I would
10 first like to thank my wife, Sharon; my three sons,
11 Brian, Danny, and Nicholas; my daughters-in-law,
12 Stephanie and Therese, and Melanie; my two new loves
13 of my life, my grandsons, Jaxon and Landon; and my
14 extended family and friends who are here tonight for
15 supporting my public service. I feel truly blessed.

16 I'd like to mention how proud I am that
17 two of my sons everyday put on the uniform and chose
18 to serve the public as police officers. Now, more
19 than ever, we need to support those who step up each
20 and everyday to keep us safe. God bless you both.

21 I want to thank Democratic
22 Bergen County Chairman Lou Stellato for his guidance
23 and unwavering support. All you need to do is look
24 around this room and into all the 70 municipalities
25 around the county to see the impact that Lou has had

1 on our party since he began driving the bus.

2 Thank you so much, Chairman, for
3 continuing to have the confidence in me to serve the
4 residents of Bergen County; my Municipal Chairman,
5 Nick Antonicello, who always supported me. Nick
6 could not be here tonight. Unfortunately, Pat
7 Antonicello, Nick's wife of 60 years, passed away
8 yesterday. I'd ask that all of you join me in
9 keeping Nick and his family in our prayers during
10 this tough time.

11 I would like to thank the many elected
12 officials from across the state for their
13 enthusiastic help. I would like to thank the unions
14 for their confidence in us and their continued
15 support of good government. You have had my back and
16 I will always have yours.

17 I would also like to thank all those
18 who helped us with our campaigns, Conor Gorman, Tara
19 Chatterjee, Derek Sands, Adam Silverstein, and the
20 hundreds of people who made phone calls, made late
21 night sign runs, did late drops, and canvassed all of
22 Bergen County to get every single vote out. It
23 worked. We can't thank you enough.

24 I'd like to thank my county running
25 mates, County Executive Tedesco and Sheriff Cureton.

1 Thank you for your friendship as we navigated this
2 county facing at times some strange circumstances in
3 this election. In the end, it was our hard work,
4 confidence and trust we shared that bonded us and
5 carried us to victory.

6 Most importantly, I'd like to thank now
7 three term county Freeholder Tracy Zur. I consider
8 myself incredibly lucky that back in 2012, when the
9 Chairman gave me this opportunity, he also paired me
10 with Tracy. I joked telling Tracy that we would be
11 attached to the hip forever win or lose, but let's
12 make sure we win.

13 I will tell you, getting the team up
14 with somebody who works as hard and cares as much as
15 Tracy helps bring out the best in all of us every
16 day. I want to recognize Tracy, and I look forward
17 to continuing to serve and delivering our shared
18 goals and objectives.

19 I would also like to thank Bobby,
20 Logan, Kayla, and Coby for sharing Tracy with me for
21 the last six years and counting.

22 The campaign is now over, the Democrats
23 have again been charged with the responsibility to
24 lead, and we will do exactly that. We will lead and
25 work ahead with our department heads, employees,

1 Constitution Officers, as well as the County
2 Executive to ensure Bergen County continues to be the
3 envy of New Jersey. That's good politics as well as
4 good government.

5 Good government, that means a community
6 college system that prepares our kids for a better
7 future, ensuring that each student, whether they are
8 there for an associate's degree going to a four-year
9 college or there for specific job re-training will
10 become a productive, active, and contributing member
11 to the job force.

12 Good government means protecting and
13 investing in county infrastructure that keeps our
14 roads cleaned, paved, plowed, and safe to move people
15 and goods. Those roads move our vibrant economy
16 making sure people get to work on time and
17 productivity is not lost in traffic, and that people
18 get home in time so that they don't miss doing
19 homework with their child or catching the entire
20 game.

21 Good government that offers our parents
22 and children the kind of open space and recreation
23 destination that makes Bergen County so special and
24 unique. We have some of the most unique open space
25 opportunities in the state, from the mountains of the

1 Ramapos to the marshes of the Meadowlands and all the
2 rivers and lakes in between. We have fully committed
3 to funding open space and aggressively protecting our
4 natural resources, like the acreage we were able to
5 preserve last year.

6 Doing all these things and working to
7 keep a flat budget can only happen when we have the
8 right priorities and make the tough choices. It is
9 overwhelmingly clear that we have done just that and
10 that you have put your faith in me and this
11 administration once again.

12 Thank you for this opportunity to serve
13 this county and its nearly one million residents.

14 May God bless the great County of
15 Bergen to provide us with the wisdom and good
16 judgment to ensure the taxpayers are always first.

17 May you all have a happy, healthy and
18 safe 2019.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

22 Freeholder Amoroso.

23 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: I am joined
24 here today by my husband, Jim, and my son, the
25 lawyer, Mike.

1 My kids in their 20s are at graduate
2 school upstate. My kids in their 30s have the often
3 joyful, sometimes maddening responsibilities of wives
4 and children, mortgages, and property taxes. So my
5 husband and I are empty-nesters, still wondering what
6 happened to our crazy life of school, after-school
7 activities, weekend youth sports leagues, and
8 breaking up sibling fights. All of a sudden, it is
9 quiet, very quiet at our house, which is why I am
10 grateful, so very grateful for my second family at
11 Bergen County.

12 As a Freeholder, I have come full
13 circle. You see, when I was a cub reporter at The
14 Bergen Record in the mid '70s, I covered the Bergen
15 County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

16 The director of the Board at that time
17 was Jeremiah O'Connor, who is now the husband of
18 Deputy Bergen County Superintendent of Elections,
19 Teri O'Connor. This was a long time ago. We did not
20 even have the County Executive form of government,
21 which was approved by referendum in 1985. That vote
22 also reduced the number of Freeholders from 9 to 7.

23 Back in the '70s, the County Jail was
24 still in that round medieval building next door that
25 was completed in 1912 and not decommissioned until

1 1993. Now we have a new jail and a new Sheriff in
2 town, Anthony Cureton.

3 We used to shelter our homeless in
4 church basements and in trailers in a parking lot
5 near River Street. Now we have a beautiful homeless
6 shelter that requires all clients to develop a plan
7 to become permanently sheltered. It's not charity so
8 much as bootstraps.

9 Bergen County has ended veterans
10 homelessness and chronic homelessness.

11 When I was a cub reporter, Bergen Pines
12 was a dinky county hospital with a bad reputation.

13 Freeholders of the past threw up their
14 hands and let a private for-profit operation suck out
15 as much profit as they could.

16 Now, under the guidance of Jim Tedesco,
17 Julien Neals, and our county administration, Deb
18 Visconi, Freeholders like Tracy Zur and Tom Sullivan,
19 Mauro Raguseo, and our hospital workers, we've got
20 New Bridge Medical Center. This is a major hub
21 focusing on acute care, mental health, opioid
22 addiction, and nursing home care. We even have a
23 clinic for veterans.

24 When I was a cub reporter, the Bergen
25 County Democratic Chair was Barbara Werber and her

1 brash young assistant was a guy named Bob Torricelli.

2 Now we have a Democratic Chairman, Lou
3 Stellato, who has breathed new life into our party.
4 Lou is a guy with excellent people skills, laser-like
5 political skills, and he also has a gift for standup
6 comedy shtick. I know Lou stays up nights thinking
7 up comedy bits. For example, Lou calls Josh a
8 "congressional action figure," which infuriates Josh
9 every single time.

10 Lou and his strategists and fundraisers
11 and our able Democratic boots on the ground have
12 worked to get Josh Gottheimer elected and then
13 reelected in a district too long represented by a
14 small-minded congressman who didn't connect with his
15 constituents. Now we are blessed to have Josh, the
16 peripatetic problem-solver and constituent service
17 advisor.

18 Because of Lou and the team,
19 Sen. Menendez was able to survive a challenging
20 election against a candidate who had more millions
21 than ethics. Sen. Menendez will not only survive, he
22 will thrive. And when he thrives, so will the state
23 and the county and the country.

24 Lou and the team helped with the
25 reelection of Congressman Albio Sires and Congressman

1 Bill Pascrell. Of course, Bill all by himself is a
2 force of nature. This is a guy who goes around with
3 a copy of the Constitution in his breast pocket. He
4 speaks at every flag raising, every wreath laying,
5 every swearing-in. He was in, I think it was
6 Little Ferry in the summer and he fainted dead away
7 in the heat, and he was back up at flag raisings and
8 reclaims the next day. We all love the man.

9 We also love, we really love, our
10 County Executive, Jim Tedesco, who was reelected this
11 year with a wonderful plurality. People ask: "Is he
12 really as nice as he seems?"

13 Well, he is.

14 He's also creative, always thinking
15 about how to make things better while watching the
16 finances and embracing all of the wonderful diversity
17 that is Bergen County. He also fights fires and
18 plows snow. He is the whole package.

19 And our newly-elected Freeholders,
20 reelected Freeholders, Steve Tanelli and Tracy Zur,
21 are valuable members of our Freeholder team and
22 mentors to Germaine and me.

23 Steve went mucking around in the
24 undergrowth at Overpeck Park with our friend Don
25 Torino recently to see the problems there. This is a

1 man who will get his boots dirty. He has worked hard
2 for transparency in county government and is
3 responsive to those who come to us with questions and
4 complaints.

5 Tracy is everywhere every day. She is
6 an advocate for the differently abled and for people
7 and families struggling with addiction. She is also
8 the unofficial godmother to the increasing number of
9 female elected officials in Bergen County.

10 And as for our new Chairwoman, Germaine
11 Ortiz, I am honored and delighted to serve with her.
12 She is my hermana Columbian, and I am her hermana
13 Gaelach.

14 Is that okay?

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes.

16 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Our wonderful
17 aides, Rodyn and Pat, have bonded as well, along with
18 the other aides, Tara, Conor, Colin, Chris, Mike,
19 Storm, Jared, and the ever-meaning Brian Clancy.

20 We are a good team, and that includes
21 Lara, Laurie, Ed, Kim, and the bocce playing ladies
22 of the front office. I have every faith that we will
23 go forward thoughtfully, vigorously, and kindly under
24 Germaine's leadership.

25 Some state lawmakers say "Get rid of

1 county government." They say it is superfluous and
2 unnecessary, but, in a state with the highest
3 percentage in the nation of people who are moving
4 out-of-state, people who are putting up "For Sale"
5 signs on their homes the day after the last kid
6 graduates from high school, in this state controlling
7 property taxes is job one.

8 County government can partner with our
9 70 municipalities and with other counties to share
10 services, everything from salt trucks to consumer
11 advocacy to municipal health vaccinations for kids
12 and pets, to police dispatching, and bonding money
13 through the BCIA. We need these partnerships to save
14 tax dollars and improve efficiencies. We have to
15 change the town-by-town way we provide services. We
16 can't go on this way. County government can be the
17 leader.

18 The Bergen Record building, where I
19 started out as a cub reporter and spent so many
20 decades, was just torn down in the past few months to
21 make way for fancy new housing on River Street in
22 Hackensack. I think the paper's old masthead motto
23 captures the role we in county government play, "We
24 are the friend of the people we serve."

25 Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Freeholder Ganz.

3 FREEHOLDER GANZ: I could not possibly
4 follow everything that Tracy has said, let alone
5 everything that everybody else has said.

6 This has been a wonderful Board to work
7 with, and I hope to continue to do so for many more
8 years to come.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
12 Freeholder.

13 I guess I'm the last one.

14 Welcome to the 2019 Reorganization
15 meeting. Welcome to family and friends. Welcome to
16 the elected officials who honor us with their
17 presence. Welcome to the staff who make everything
18 we do possible. And welcome to the members of the
19 general public who have come here this evening.

20 There are many people I want to thank
21 and recognize this evening.

22 First, my husband, Willy. Thank you
23 for your love and support. I can't imagine making
24 this journey through life with anyone other than you.
25 You know you're my rock.

1 My daughters, Dee-Dee and Alex.

2 Unfortunately, Alex couldn't be here
3 tonight as she's in school in Alabama. Roll Tide!
4 And good luck to them this evening.

5 Dee-Dee and Alex make Willy and I so
6 proud every day. You're both growing into woman we
7 always hoped you would become, and we love you so
8 much.

9 My mother, Marlene, whose life and
10 character have been an example and an inspiration to
11 me.

12 Gracias, mom.

13 My stepfather, Tony, who's always
14 supportive and a fabulous grandfather to my girls,
15 who always takes them out of school and they sneak
16 behind my back, they call him "Grandpa Tony."

17 My brother, Eric, who has been all a
18 sister could ever hope for, and I'm so proud of you,
19 Eric.

20 My mother-in-law, Christi, who is like
21 another mom to me and is always there for our family.

22 I see also by cousin Kimmie out there.
23 You do all my election reports.

24 I am so grateful to have an amazing
25 family. They are truly my pillars of strength.

1 Thank you to my fellow Freeholders who
2 have placed your trust in me by electing me your
3 Chairwoman. I will work hard every day to live up to
4 the trust that you placed in me this evening.

5 Thank you to BCDC, and I especially
6 want to thank Chairman Stellato. I would not be here
7 today accepting this gavel, if it wasn't for you,
8 and, by the way, thank you, it's a beautiful gavel.
9 Your trust and confidence in my candidacy is the
10 reason I'm standing here today. I thank you,
11 Mr. Chairman, for always being there for me, for
12 offering me your counsel, your guidance, and, most
13 importantly, your friendship. Thank you.

14 Although he couldn't be here this
15 evening, I wanted to thank County Executive Jim
16 Tedesco for this stewardship of this county. He's a
17 man of great vision and integrity. I have enjoyed
18 working alongside him these past several years and
19 look forward to working with him to make 2019 a great
20 year for the residents of Bergen County.

21 Our Board of Chosen Freeholders have
22 stood strong. That consistency has been immensely
23 beneficial in establishing a tremendous working
24 relationship among Freeholders and the County
25 Executive, and has allowed us to become successful in

1 solving difficult issues.

2 Thanks to the leadership of Chairman
3 Sullivan and County Executive Jim Tedesco.

4 Chairman Sullivan, unfortunately he's
5 not here, but he's been more than a Chairman, he's
6 been like a big brother to me. He's given me great
7 advice and guidance, and I can't thank him enough.

8 On that note, I also wanted to mention
9 all our Board members, because they're all so special
10 in certain ways and they all have so much input to
11 this Board. And since we're one of the younger ones,
12 we're no longer now, we're going into what we
13 consider our junior year Freeholders, Freeholder
14 Ganz, thank you so much. I know that you have
15 probably been here the longest and you're excellent
16 at the budget. I thank you for your guidance when we
17 go through our budget season. Thank you so much.

18 Tracy, as you said, she is definitely,
19 I call you the godmother of the Board, because, if
20 there's anything that we need to know about the
21 Freeholder Board, we ask Tracy, and definitely her
22 worth ethic. Thank you so much, Tracy, and
23 especially because Tracy was one of the first people
24 I met when I started in government. I was the only
25 female on the BCUA, and I was so excited when Tracy

12 I also want to thank Freeholder
13 Tanelli. If you need to know anything about parks,
14 you've got to ask Steve.

20 If you ever need a history lesson, just
21 ask Freeholder Dr. Voss, because with her every
22 speech, you will learn something about history.
23 That's one thing I like about Joan, you always have
24 something to learn.

25 I also want to thank Sen. Menendez for

1 taking time from your busy schedule to swear me in
2 this evening. You have always been an inspiration
3 and a role model. I've known you since I was a child
4 growing up in Hudson County, and I couldn't be more
5 proud of a senator who every day fights for the
6 rights of the working class, the elderly, the sick,
7 and many of those who are underprivileged in our
8 society.

9 As I take this mantle as the first
10 Latina chairwoman, I hope to represent and serve our
11 community as well as you have.

12 I would also like to thank our
13 Administrator, Julien Neals. Thank you for always
14 helping me.

15 Michael Bellucci, Michele DiIorgi, Joe
16 Luppino, Jared Lautz, and the rest of the
17 administration for all your guidance and assistance.

18 Our Clerk, Lara Rodriguez, and our
19 attorney, Ed Florio, for always assisting and
20 accommodating the Board, as well as our amazing staff
21 and aides.

22 I especially want to thank my aide,
23 Rodyn Sanchez. I can't imagine getting the job done
24 without you. Thank you, Rodyn.

25 In 2019, I look forward to building on

1 our previous achievements. I will find ways to
2 achieve greater transparency between this Board and
3 the people we serve. In addition, I will continue
4 expanding shared services with every municipality in
5 Bergen County to make government more effective and
6 efficient while also creating real financial savings
7 to our residents.

8 I will use the experience I've accrued
9 during my tenure at Bergen Community College to
10 fortify the college/high school partnership program
11 to further elevate it above its already admired
12 reputation. Bergen Community College means a lot to
13 me. It's definitely my gem. And I see a Trustee,
14 thank you for coming, Trustee Joe Baratta.

15 (Applause.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: This Board is
17 committed to expansion and preservation of open
18 space. We will continue to encourage our
19 municipalities to utilize the funds for their parks,
20 open space, and their recreational programs.

21 We'll continue our commitment to a fair
22 budget that maintains and expands essential services,
23 while limiting the tax burden further on Bergen
24 County residents.

25 Our residents have been facing an

1 opioid epidemic that has affected all walks of life.
2 We will continue to assist the Prosecutor's Office,
3 with Acting Prosecutor Calo, and the Sheriff's
4 Department, with our new Sheriff Cureton, in its
5 education, enforcement, and treatment. This Board is
6 committed to all three.

7 As Chairwoman, I stand on the shoulders
8 of the proven Chairs who have served before me. The
9 goals I've laid out this evening are only possible
10 because of the tremendous leadership these great
11 public servants have already provided to Bergen
12 County and this Board.

13 I would be remiss if I failed to note
14 that 2019 is the 100th anniversary of the
15 introduction by Congress and Senate of the 19th
16 Amendment to the Constitution which granted women the
17 right to vote.

18 In the past 100 years, we've come a
19 long way. In fact, for the first time in the history
20 of Bergen County, women hold all three offices of
21 leadership on the Freeholder Board.

22 In addition to me holding the title of
23 Chair, Mary Amoroso will serve as our Vice Chair,
24 Dr. Joan Voss will be our Chair Pro Tempore. I guess
25 it's chicks in charge again!

1 Women have made great strides, but all
2 of us, men and women alike, must never be complacent
3 when it comes to equality. There are many among us
4 who face discrimination in one form or another. It
5 up to us, as elected officials, to seek new ways to
6 ensure that we are all treated with dignity and
7 respect and that we all enjoy our equal rights and
8 protections.

9 I decided to run for public office to
10 improve the lives and opportunities of the people of
11 my community. These ideals will always guide how I
12 govern, as new challenges arise. I will not forget
13 why I decided to be a public official, to help those
14 less fortunate and create a better future for all in
15 our communities.

16 I want to thank everyone again for
17 coming out this evening, and I wish everyone a happy,
18 healthy, and prosperous new year.

19 Before I end, I also wanted to give a
20 big shout-out to my sister from another mister, I see
21 her back there, Ana, her husband, Tony, and to my
22 Emerson family who are back here supporting me, thank
23 you so much.

24 Thank you. God bless and have a great
25 evening.

1 (Applause.)

2 16. Hearing of the Public

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I will now entertain
4 a motion to open the meeting to the public.

5 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

6 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The meeting is now
13 open to the public.

14 Anyone in the public wish to say
15 anything?

16 There's a three-minute time limit in
17 effect.

18 The Board counsel will keep the time.
19 When the speaker's time expires, the Board Attorney
20 will announce the time expired.

21 MR. ROY: My name is Ryan Roy, autism
22 advocate, 167 N. Leswing Avenue, Saddle Brook, New
23 Jersey 07663.

24 I actually want to say congrats to
25 Tracy Zur, along with Steve Tanelli, as, you know,

1 they actually got their reelected terms in a good,
2 successful way. It takes a lot of courage and a lot
3 of prayers to make sure that necessary things have to
4 really be met accordingly.

5 And especially to the three amazing
6 women: Dr. Voss, as Chair Pro Tempore; and the first
7 Latino to ever be elected Chairwoman, Germaine Ortiz;
8 and last but not least, the Emmy award winning Mary
9 Amoroso.

10 I know that, you know, it's kind of
11 tough when we want to really do things for the
12 Township of Saddle Brook, but I know they're doing
13 new things as to building affordable apartments for
14 the seniors. We want to make sure this is totally
15 accessible and try to fight to make a difference to
16 really raise mental health awareness within the
17 township, because we suffered two huge losses last
18 year, one student, who was a sophomore at
19 Saddle Brook High School and the other who actually
20 was a former graduate of the class of 2016, and
21 especially to the son of the councilman as well.

22 We don't want to go too far with
23 politics, but we want to make sure that mental health
24 is necessary and preventive. We really want to
25 preserve it to the rightful place, as 70

1 municipalities are stigma-free and over 40 plus towns
2 have access for all as well.

3 I actually represent both of these
4 sectors, and I want to make sure that necessary
5 things go into place of promoting accessibility
6 universally and especially with mental health for
7 those with developmental or intellectual
8 disabilities. We want to make sure that we exist to
9 really be there as contributing members to society
10 and also to seek acceptance for those who really need
11 to understand about people with disabilities,
12 especially within the Autism Spectrum Disorder, and
13 to be an inclusive environment to the least
14 restrictive environment.

15 Thank you, Freeholder Zur, Freeholder
16 Tanelli, Chairwoman Germaine Ortiz, Dr. Voss, and
17 especially Freeholder Amoroso.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Mr. Roy.

20 The Freeholder Board is fully committed
21 and we thank you for your advocacy. We love the
22 Stigma-Free Program and we will continue to fight
23 this throughout the county.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. ROY: Thank you.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Anyone else?

2 MS. MURPHY: Hi. Good evening.

3 My name is Carinne Murphy.

4 I just want to say congratulations,
5 Tracy and Germaine, and, of course, Joan and everyone
6 else. Thank you for all the work that you do. It's
7 truly inspiring to see so many women in public
8 office.

9 I can personally say that especially
10 Germaine and Tracy, you have done so much for my
11 local community and my friends and family, so I
12 really appreciate it.

13 And Tommy is not here, but Tommy
14 Sullivan is a really wonderful man, and he's really
15 great for our county.

16 Thank you for all the work you do.

17 I just want to mention, it was so
18 wonderful that pretty much everyone up here was
19 talking about inclusivity, and I think it's so
20 important in our county. It's not enough just to be
21 diverse, which we clearly have in our county, but we
22 have to be inclusive.

23 I also want to say I really appreciate
24 all the work that you've done for women, Mary,
25 especially domestic violence. It's very important to

1 me, and we have that issue in our county as well as
2 all over New Jersey, all over the world. I really
3 appreciate all the work that you do, and thank you
4 for being an advocate.

5 Thank you and have a great night.

6 Happy 2019.

7 (Applause.)

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

9 CAPT. SHEEHAN: Good evening. I'm
10 Capt. Bill Sheehan. I'm your Hackensack Riverkeeper.

11 I want to congratulate all of you, and
12 especially your Chairman over here, for keeping the
13 team together.

14 You've been doing great things for
15 Bergen County, and I was very, very happy to see the
16 results back in November, and I'm even happier now to
17 see you all here together ready to give another term
18 of service to the county that needs it, the county
19 that appreciates it for all of the work that you do.

20 I would like to single out Steve,
21 because Steve has been our liaison on the Open Space
22 Trust Fund Committee, which I serve on. I've been
23 serving on it since the '90s, when it was first put
24 in, and, you know, to have him there at the table
25 with us when we're deliberating over how to spend the

1 county's money and then all the time when we send
2 those recommendations to the Freeholder Board and the
3 Freeholder Board accepts our recommendations and then
4 moves forward with those recommendations, it makes my
5 work that much easier.

6 Instead of fighting for everything, we
7 just work through the process and we get what we
8 need. So I want to thank you all for that.

9 And, Steve, looking forward to another
10 year.

11 Thank you.

12 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. ORGAN: Good evening. Laureana
15 Organ from Montvale, New Jersey.

16 I just want to congratulate all of you.
17 Every single one of you have done such a great job
18 for the county. I'm so proud being part of that
19 team.

20 David Ganz, I just remember when we
21 come together, and I remember when I started working
22 over here, and you were the Chairman at that moment
23 with us.

24 Tracy, I couldn't be more proud of you
25 as a woman.

1 Amoroso, your name say it.

2 Germaine, what can I say? I'm so
3 proud, especially because we are Latina and we know
4 what it means to us. Well deserved. Great job.

5 Steve, you know how much I love you.
6 So I would say to his wife, thank you for allowing
7 him to be a great man of the community to do the
8 great job with he's doing.

9 Thank you to all your family for being
10 cooperating with all of you to serve to the
11 community. That's what we are, what it means to be a
12 human being. If you are not good to serve, you are
13 not good to lead. So you're great, because you're
14 doing great service. Thank you so much for being a
15 great leader, and I am proud of all of you. God
16 bless you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: There being no
20 further business, I will now entertain a motion to
21 close the meeting to the public.

22 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

23 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

25 (All present Freeholders respond in the

1 affirmative.

2 17. Resolutions

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk
4 please read the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

5 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The Resolutions of
6 Consent are: #1-19 through #15-19.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
8 to accept the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda?

9 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Move the Consent
10 Agenda.

11 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

13 (All present Freeholders respond in the
14 affirmative.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

16 (At this point in the proceeding roll
17 call is taken and the Consent Agenda is passed by a
18 vote of five in favor, with Freeholders Sullivan and
19 Voss absent.)

20 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With five votes, the
21 Consent Agenda has passed.

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Any Resolutions of
23 Nonconsent, tabled or pulled?

24 MS. RODRIGUEZ: There are none.

25 18. Benediction

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Before I ask for a
2 motion to adjourn, I would like to ask Fr. Scott
3 Attansio of Our Lady Queen of Peace in North
4 Arlington to lead us in the benediction.

5 (At this point in the proceeding, the
6 benediction is led by Fr. Attansio.)

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Father.

8 19. Adjournment

9 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I will now entertain a
10 motion to adjourn.

11 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Moved.

12 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

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

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: This meeting is now
17 adjourned.

18 Please join us for refreshments out in
19 the lobby. Thank you.

20 (Whereupon, the Reorganization Meeting
21 is adjourned at 8:05 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