



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2016  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bruce Bergen presided and called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

### ROLL CALL

Roll call showed, Vice Sergio Granados, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Christopher Hudak, Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Alexander Mirabella and Freeholder Vernell Wright were in attendance. Freeholder Linda Carter was absent.

Also present were County Manager Alfred Faella, County Counsel Robert E. Barry, Esq. and Clerk of the Board James Pellettiere.

### PRAYER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Prayer and Salute to the Flag were led by the Clerk of the Board.

### STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was led by the Clerk of the Board.

### PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

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A Presentation will be made by recipients of the Community Development Block Grant program, as the County acknowledges "CD Week."

Chairman Bergen acknowledged the importance of Community Development Block Grant funding, noting the many CDBG projects throughout the County. He called upon Acting Director Amy Wagner to lead the presentations.

Acting Director Amy Wagner provided the Board with background of the CDBG program, noting that it started in 1974. She added that thirty years ago the National Community Development Association, of whom County Manager Alfred Faella is a past President, established a "Community Development Week". She advised that in recognition of that week, some of the recipients of the program will briefly speak on the work their organization has accomplished in part of the CDBG funds. She recognized her staff members in the audience and asked them to stand and be recognized for their hard work in implementing the program in an efficient and effective manner.

Mrs. Wagner introduced Randall Wood, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Plainfield, noting that the Authority received \$120,000 in CD funding for the demolition of the Elmwood Gardens project.

Mr. Wood thanked the Board for the funding of \$120,000 (10% of the total demolition costs) for the demolition of the Elmwood Gardens; a former 120 unit public housing site, which housed over 600 residents. He noted that after a viability study was done, it was determined that the facilities were neither structurally nor financially sound. He spoke to the negative effects of a "hallway-housing project". He made comments as to their successful use of a Section 8 voucher program that allowed the Authority to safely move residents to new housing while undergoing the demolition project. He made comments of their future plans, which include a tax-credit developmental project for the site, noting that they are still in negotiations.

Mrs. Wagner introduced Dennis McNany, Senior Vice-President and CFO of the Gateway Family YMCA, noting they received \$45,000 in CD funding for their roof replacement project.

Mr. McNany thanked the Board on behalf of their Board of Directors, their staff and those they serve. He noted the pictures on display which identified the roof project. He thanked the Board for previous support of their window project and the elevator project. He noted that the County's CDBG staff is professional and very helpful.

Mrs. Wagner introduced Geleen Donovan, Executive Director of Family Promise of Union County, noting they received \$9,000 for the transportation for their Homeless Families Transportation program.

Mrs. Donovan thanked the Board for their support. She advised that they are a national organization based out of the City of Summit. She stated that she oversees the Homeless Families Transportation program which services homeless families throughout Union County. She advised that 65% of their participants are children, noting the Transportation Program supported by CDBG funds transports these children to school. She made comments relative to the overall Shelter Volunteer program in Union County; serving about 20 homeless families through the shelter each year and 20 more families through the 3 rental-assistance programs. She made comments relative to the continued efforts with those families after they graduate from the other programs. She made comments regarding their Literacy Program and other workshops administered through the agency.

Mrs. Wagner introduced Ruben Shaw, the program coordinator for Roselle Park Senior Center, noting that they received \$18,000 for Senior Transportation.

Mr. Shaw thanked the Board for their support. He made comments of the bus trips made possible for the seniors who participate the Borough's Senior Nutrition program.

Mrs. Wagner introduced Angel McGill, President of McGill Real Estate Holdings and Affordable Housing Company, noting that since 2003, McGill's company has received \$2.3 million in Home Investment Partnership funds to build 50 units of affordable housing.

Mr. McGill made comments relative to his thirteen year partnership with the County. He spoke to the true sense of the word "partnership" in the development of affordable housing that exists between his company and the County of Union. He made comments relative to the Boards creation of a landscape for partners to join the County towards a common goal.

Mrs. Wagner introduced Melissa Cornejo - Medical Case Manager/ Licensed Social Worker- Neighborhood Health Services Corp. (NHSC), noting they received \$5,000 for their domestic violence program.

Mrs. Cornejo advised that the Neighborhood Health Corporation, located in Plainfield, provides a comprehensive array of prenatal care and support services for all residents, including the uninsured, the underinsured and the especially vulnerable population; pregnant adolescence and those experiencing prenatal and/or post partum depression. She made comments relative to their Domestic Violence program; explaining the agencies guidance for patients through the complex services including shelters, family support and advocacy. She stated that the CDBG funds allow the agency to continue to proactively address the issues of domestic violence among its diverse and disadvantaged patient population. She thanked the Board for its support.

County Manager Alfred J. Faella thanked the CDBG staff and the partners of the CDBG program. He stated that while other states' officials are not as supportive of the CDBG program, that New Jersey's national leaders and elected officials recognize the importance and overall significance of the CDBG program.

Chairman Bergen stated that tonight's presentations represent just a small sample of the good work done through the CDBG funds and noted that Union County is lucky to have so many great organizations to partner with in order to provide the services to Union County residents.

A Presentation will be made by representatives from the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) to discuss their 2016 strategic goals and objectives.

Chairman Bergen noted that Union County is a member of the New Jersey Association of Counties, noting that Freeholder Wright is the liaison for the Board to NJAC. He introduced NJAC's Executive Director John Donnadio.

Mr. Donnadio noted Freeholder Wright's dedicated work on the Board and also noted previous Board Member and former Freeholder of the Year (2012) Freeholder Angel G. Estrada's dedication to NJAC's mission and efforts. He stated that he was raised in Union County and is a proud graduate of Union County College.

Mr. Donnadio made comments relative to their legislative goals and objectives for 2016; noting their efforts are advocated in a non-partisan and bi-partisan manner, with the intent to allow County Governments to operate more effectively and efficiently in saving tax-payer dollars while providing essential services. He spoke to four initiatives in which he asked the Board to assist in grass-roots activity.

He stated the first initiative concerned the ability of County governments to pay their bills electronically. He made comments regarding the second issue concerned the Pension System, stating that while the State pension system is funded at 50%, the local and county governments have been good stewards, meeting their obligations. He stated the NJAC would like each County (and municipality) to adopt a resolution urging the state not to have the local pension systems subsidize the state pension system. He stated that the third initiative concerned transportation. He advised that County governments receive a little over \$100 million statewide, which represent a little over 6.5% of the State's overall transportation capital program. He stated that County roads and bridges carry 35% of the State's overall traffic. They are looking to double the Counties' allocations from the Transportation Trust fund, when it is renewed. The last issue he

spoke on concerned criminal justice reform. He spoke to the unanticipated costs associated with staffing, capital and operational project; estimating such costs at approximately \$40-45 million among the 21 counties. He spoke of legislation NJAC is encouraging all Counties to support to assist the funding of these shortfalls.

He made comments relative to the NJAC Foundation's scholarships to County Vocational Technical School graduates, and the upcoming 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, noting the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Vo-Tech cook-off and the first ever County College acapella night.

Freeholder Mirabella thanked Mr. Donnadio for the night's presentation and spoke to the County's strong commitment to NJAC.

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#### **APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Note and File

Chairman Bergen called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

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#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Thursday, February 4, 2015 - Agenda Meeting
2. Thursday, February 4, 2016 - Special Meeting
3. Thursday, February 11, 2016 - Regular Meeting
4. Thursday, February 18, 2016 - Agenda Meeting
5. Thursday, February 18, 2016 - Regular Meeting

Chairman Bergen called for a motion to waive the reading and accept the Minutes. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter Absent, for the Minutes of: the February 4, 2015 - Agenda Meeting; February 4, 2016 - Special Meeting; and February 11, 2016 - Regular Meeting; and seven votes in the affirmative, with Vic Chairman Granados abstaining and Freeholder Carter absent, for the minutes of the February 18, 2016 - Agenda Meeting and February 18, 2016 - Regular Meeting.

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#### **ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION**

Chairman Bergen asked Clerk of the Board Pelletiere to read the Ordinance by title.

Clerk of the Board Pelletiere read the Ordinance by title.

**773-2016 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF TWO DEPARTMENT HEADS: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION**

The meeting is open to the public for the purpose of commenting on Ordinance Number 773-2016 only.

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, asked who the two Directors are, how much are their salaries, when do the salaries become effective and why this is not done through a position control resolution.

Director Taylor explained the salary ordinance establishes the salaries of the Department Head for Administrative Services and Economic Development, adding the salary takes effect upon the adoption of the ordinance and the 20 day waiting period ends. She advised that by statute Department Head salaries must be fixed by ordinance, not by resolution.

#### **FINAL READING STATEMENT**

On a motion made by Freeholder Christopher Mirabella, Fiscal Chairman, and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, Ordinance Number 773-2016 was moved for Final Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law. Roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION**

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The meeting is open to the public for the purpose of commenting on Resolutions being offered for adoption only.

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, made comments and/or inquires on a number of resolutions. Relative to Resolution Number 2016-249, he asked for confirmation that the money would be spread around to whichever towns need the materials; relative to Resolution Number 2016-250, he asked if it is done in-house or is a contractor is hired; relative to Resolution Number 2016-252, he said he would make comments later; relative to Resolution Number 2016-253, he asked if the flags are made in the United States; relative to Resolution Number 2016-257, he said they seem to be a new company and made comments of political donations; relative to Resolution Number 2016-261, he asked the Board to quantify the success of the contract they received last year, relative to Resolution Number 2016-264, he asked who the special counsel is; relative to Resolution Number 2016-265 and 266, he made comments relative to political donations; relative to Resolution Number 2016-267, he inquired as to who is being qualified; relative to Resolution Number 2016-268 and 269, he asked how many employees are involved and explain the details of the health benefits.

With reference to Resolution Number 2016-249 and 250, Director Moran stated that 2016-249 involves the Neptune Fire Suppression System to be used by both Morris and Union Counties. He advised that the Hazardous Mitigation Plan stems out of the Disaster Mitigation Act which requires those counties and municipalities applying for FEMA aid to adopt a Hazardous Mitigation Plan in order to qualify for that aid. He advised that the Plan was paid for with a State grant and noted that Princeton Hydro was the contractor that was hired to prepare the plan.

With reference to Resolution Number 2016-253, County Manager Faella confirmed that the flags are made in the United States.

With reference to Resolution Number 2016-261, Acting Director Wagner advised Millenium wrote eight grant applications totaling \$1.1 million, noting that the County was awarded two

grants, are awaiting a decision on four applications and did not receive the remaining two grants.

With reference to Resolution Number 2016-264, County Counsel advised the resolution is a confirmation of an appointment made by the Union County Utilities Authority, which is the County's designated implementing agency. He advised the Department of Environmental Protection require the confirming resolution. He advised the firms are as follows: DeCotiis, FitzPatrick & Cole; Pawar, Gilgallon & Rudy; Weber Dowd. He advised their serves are to provide representation to the Authority as it relates to matters of solid waste inforcement.

With reference to Resolution Number 2016-267, County Counsel advised the County put out a request for qualifications and have found the firm of Genova Burns as qualified.

With reference to Resolution Number 2016-268 & 269, Acting Director Yuska stated that his backup does not indicate the number of employees, but noted that may be in part due to the fact the negotiations had been over the course of thirteen months. He advised the health plans negotiated are the same as those negotiated and offered to the other employees. He noted that it does go through the Joint Insurance Fund.

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## RESOLUTIONS

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The following Resolutions are being offered for adoption:

- 2016-246 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Authorizing the County Manager to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) for Fiscal Year 2016 State Aid to Counties (CA-2016 Union County - 00016) in the amount of \$4,155,600.00, subject to the inclusion of the 2016 Capital Budget. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2016-013).

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-247 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: to Weldon Materials, Inc., 141 Central Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey, (BA – UCCP# 2-16) for the purpose of providing road materials for the Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management, Division of Public Works: \$536,920.00 and Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Park Maintenance, \$60,481.25 for a twelve month (12) contract in an amount not to exceed \$597,401.25.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-248 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for Tuberculosis Services with the University of Medicine of New Jersey - Rutgers, New Jersey Medical School Global Tuberculosis

Institute for a three-year period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018 in an amount not to exceed \$221,887.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed seven members voting in the affirmative, with Vice Chairman Granados abstaining and Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-249 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Petro-Dragon for the purchase of Twinstar Coupling Adapters for the UASI Neptune Hoses in an amount not to exceed \$30,278.08. (2014 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant funds)

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-250 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Adoption of the 2016 Countywide All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-251 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Jersey State Parole Board for the period of April 1, 2016 through October 1, 2018 to accept \$694,897.04 in federal Second Chance Act grant funding to provide housing, support services and case management for up to 100 former offenders returning to Union County from state prison.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-252 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution 2015-1042 adopting the 2016 Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Spending Plan, pursuant to a Request for Proposal, to amend the 2016 CSBG Spending Plan to reflect a shift in funds under account numbers only with no change in total dollars nor any other changes to terms of agreement.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed seven members voting in the affirmative, with Chairman Bergen abstaining and Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-253 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Human Services: Metro Flag Co., Wharton, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing 60,480 American Flags for the graves of Union County Veterans, for a 24 month period (2016-2017) in the total amount not to exceed \$50,198.40.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-254 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Amending the 2016 Temporary Budget Ch. 96 P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20).

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-255 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Amending Resolution 2015-307, awarding Contract Year 3 to SAGE Eldercare, Inc. for the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), to extend the contract period for the twelve (12) month period of April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 in the total amount not to exceed \$28,500 with no other changes to terms of agreement; further authorizing the transfer of funds during the contract period should service needs change and/or if the agency should fail to meet its contractual obligation.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-256 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Appointing Nathaniel Bullock, Jr. and Stacy A. Noonan as members to the Union County Council on Aging for a term beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2018.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-257 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a Professional Construction Management Service Contract to Cumming Construction Management, Inc., of Cranford, New Jersey to provide the design and construction management services for the proposed Ashbrook Golf Course Clubhouse located in Scotch Plains for an amount not to exceed \$600,000.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2015-035)

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-258 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Renewing the Accident Insurance policy for Directors and Public Officials with Hartford Insurance Company for the period of April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 in an amount not to exceed \$1,955.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.



- 2016-259 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Renewing the Public Official Bond with Travelers Casualty & Surety Company, Hartford, Connecticut for Bibi Taylor, for the period of April 15, 2016 through April 14, 2017 in the amount of \$952.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-260 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to award contracts to two (2) agencies (The Plainfield YMCA and Union County College) for the provision of comprehensive year-round youth programs for out-of-school youth (ages 16 - 24) that may include GED, High School Diploma Services and Occupational Skills Training as appropriate for the twelve-month period from April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in a combined total amount not to exceed \$580,000; and further authorizing the County Manager to transfer funds among the two (2) listed agencies during the contract period should service needs change and/or if any of the listed agencies fails to meet its contractual obligations.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-261 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Millennium Strategies, through a Request for Proposals process, for the provision of grant writing and procurement services for the period of April 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 in an amount not to exceed \$27,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed seven members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Estrada voting in the negative and Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-262 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Resolution concurring with the Township of Springfield granting permission to Springfield First Aid Squad, 10 North Trivett Avenue, Springfield, NJ to hang recruitment banners on Mountain Avenue and Meisel Avenue from March 15, 2016 to April 15, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-263 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Resolution concurring with the Borough of Roselle Park, granting permission to close Chestnut Street from Westfield Avenue to Grant Avenue from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24, 2016, Friday, July 29, 2016, Friday, August 26, 2016 and Friday, September 30, 2016 in order to hold "Cruisin Night Car Shows."

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-264 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** A Resolution appointing and designating Special Counsels for the Union County Solid Waste Management District for year 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-265 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution 2016-96 dated January 21, 2016 to increase the appropriation to Bauch Zucker Hatfield of Springfield, NJ in the matter entitled Kevin Buckley & Ryan Wilson v. UC, et als. in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for a sum not to exceed \$40,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-266 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution 2015-547 dated June 18, 2015 to increase the appropriation to Palumbo & Renaud of Cranford, NJ in the matter entitled Ronald Bonadies, Administrator of the Estate of Celestina Tsairis v. Runnells Specialized Hospital, et als. in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 for a sum not to exceed \$40,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-267 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution 2015-1094 dated December 17, 2015 approving additional qualified Litigation Defense Counsel pursuant to an additional "Request for Qualifications" (RFQ) issued on February 25, 2016 and responded to on March 9, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-268 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with PBA250 - Prosecutor's Detectives & Investigators Association effective January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-269 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the PBA250A - Prosecutor's Detective Superior Officers effective January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-270 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** A Resolution appointing BiBi Taylor, Amy Wagner and Claudia Martins as Commissioners to the Self-Insurance Fund for a term commencing January 15, 2016 and ending on January 14, 2018 or for the remainder of their service in office as officials, whichever is less.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

#### **FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS**

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- 2016-271 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER, FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI AND FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Laudatory resolution acknowledging all events in celebration of the month of March as "Women's History Month" throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-272 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Laudatory resolution congratulating the Elizabeth Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as they celebrate their 82nd Freedom Fund Banquet.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-273 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Laudatory resolution recognizing the week of March 28, 2016 through April 2, 2016 as National Community Development Week, and further celebrating "Community Development Week" throughout the County of Union by recognizing the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs' many contributions to the viability of the housing stock, infrastructure, public services, and economic vitality of the Union County community.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-274 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Proclaiming April as National 9-1-1 Education Month throughout Union County and further urging the U.S. Congress and the governors of all states and territories to recognize April as National 9-1-1 Education Month.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-275 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Proclaiming April 10-16, 2016 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week throughout Union County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our city and citizens safe.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-276 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Laudatory resolution congratulating the Linden High School Basketball Team on winning tier 5th NJSIAA Boys Group 4 Championship; and further congratulating them on their successful run in reaching the finals in the Tournament of Champions.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-277 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Laudatory resolution congratulating Linden High School Basketball Coach Phil Colicchio on his 400th career win and congratulating Coach Colicchio on the honor on being named "2015-16 NJ.com Coach of the Year", and for being recognized for his efforts in developing the Linden High School Basketball program into one of the premier programs in New Jersey.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-278 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK & FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Congratulating Scott I. Kaiser of Scotch Plains, Boy Scouts of America Troop 104 on his achievements and service upon receiving the rank of Eagle Scout.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-279 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH, & THE THE THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Reverend Milton Mason, father of long-time Cranford Police Chief and current Union County John H. Stamler Police Academy Chief Eric Mason, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-280 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of William J. O'Donnell, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-281 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering the Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Joseph S. Bonaccorso, father of Clark Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-282 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Laudatory resolution congratulating Community Access Unlimited and the honorees of their Annual Awards Night Celebration to be held on April 5, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-283 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Extending the Board's heartfelt condolences to the Family of Domenica Paparatto of Mountainside who passed away on March 22, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-284 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Byron L. Douglas, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-285 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Laudatory resolution commending the Honorees of the Union Township Chamber of Commerce to be recognized at their 61st Annual Dinner Ball & Installation on April 8, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-286 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Laudatory resolution congratulating Patricia Guerra-Frazier for being honored at the Township of Union's Women's Month Celebration for her public service and dedication to the youth of the Township of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-287 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Proclaiming the month of April 2016 as National County Government Month and encouraging all county officials,

employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-288 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Laudatory Resolution proclaiming April 5, 2016 as "National Service Recognition Day" and encouraging Union County residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our county, and to further thank those who serve and find ways to give back to their communities.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-289 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Laudatory resolution congratulating the 12 Young Professional Honorees to be recognized by the Urban League of Union County.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2016-290 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN, FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Laudatory resolution congratulating and extending this Board's deep appreciation to the Clark ShopRite for their successful fundraising "Lend A Hand For Hunger" campaign to assist food banks in the communities ShopRite services.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent.

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#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION**

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This meeting is open to the public for the purposes of commenting on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

Salaam Ismial, Director of National United Youth Council and co-chairman of the New Jersey Study Commission on Violence, made comments relative to the State Commission report. He advised the Commission is a nine-member board commission to study violence in New Jersey. He advised that he will be visiting with all 21 counties to urge them to create a Division on Violence Prevention and Intervention as per the Commission's report. He made comments on the murder which took place in Elizabeth on Easter Sunday and how a Division would be of great benefit.

Chairman Bergen advised that he did receive his email and stated that he appreciated his addressing the Board this evening. He stated that the Board would look into his recommendations.

Noriah Simms (inaudible), spoke in support of the Commission's report and of the creation of a Division on Violence Prevention and Intervention. She stated that she created a non-profit organization called "Michelle's Daughters Inc." for battered and abused victims. She made comments on two of the programs offered through the organization. She urged the Board to support the report's findings.

Sameria DeWalt (inaudible), spoke in support of the Commission's report and of the creation of a Division on Violence Prevention and Intervention. She stated that she is active in the community and provides motivational speeches. She spoke of the importance of bringing women in Union County together. She urged the Board to support the report's findings.

Chairman Bergen thanked the speakers for their comments. He advised that Domestic Violence is a key issue at the forefront of this Board's agenda. He advised that next Thursday, the County will be hosting a symposium on Domestic Violence.

Mike Wattick (spelling), of Summit, asked a County Redistricting Study has been commissioned, noting his concerns for under-representation in the western end of the County on the Board level.

John Burry, of Kenilworth, made comments relative to Redistricting, noting that he disagrees with the concept. He made comments relative to the comments made by the representative from NJAC. He disagreed with some of the representative's comments. He made comments relative to the Judges' pension, noting that money will be moved to ensure payments, asserting that the money will dry up. He suggested that the Board look at the plan and compare it to Detroit's plan before submitting a resolution.

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, he inquired who are the two Directors identified in the ordinance and their salaries. He made comments about Director Yuska's response as it related to the health insurance details. He made comments about CDBG program, noting that it is a great program, noting that Garwood uses CDBG funds for a handiman program. He advised that the County reduce the staffing levels of the CDBG division. He made comments relative to the replacement of handicapped ramping that were torn up due to federal guidelines and urged the Board to work with the Federal Legislators so funds are not unnecessarily waisted.

County Counsel Barry advised that the ordinance addresses the Department Head of Administrative Services and Economic Development, noting the new Director of Administrative Services is Michael Yuska at a salary of \$125,334.87 and the new Director of Economic Development is Amy Wagner at a salary of \$120,341.77.

Chairman Bergen thanked the resident from Summit for his comments, but stated that he disagrees that individuals on the western side of the County are under-represented by this Board. He further stated that there is no movement to consider Redistricting at this time.

Chairman Bergen stated that he vehemently disagrees with Mr. Burry's statements concerning the state of the pensions, noting his 17 years as a municipal attorney and his nearly 3 ½ years as Freeholder, stated that the municipal and the county pension funds are separate and apart from any of the state pension funds. He stated that Counties and Municipalities have been making their contributions to their respective pension funds on a regular basis, noting it is the State that has not been making their required contributions. He advised that Mr. Donnadio's (NJAC) statements of merging the two pensions systems would in fact be inequitable and inappropriate.

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#### **FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

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Freeholder Hudak responded to comments involving the CDBG and need for County Staff. He noted that the County has to monitor and administer 19 of the 21 municipalities (Union and Elizabeth administer their own CDBG programs), and commended the County's CDBG staff for the exemplary work they do in managing the large amount of projects administered through the CDBG program. He noted that he agreed with the speaker's comments relative to the fact that the CDBG program is inadequately funded. He added that he further believes that this is the result of a dereliction of duty of the United States Congress, adding that New Jersey is a "Donor-State"; noting that more money is provided into the program than it receives.

Freeholder Hudak made comments relative to the County's need for lifeguards at its County pools, noting that the County provides a training program for the certification of lifeguards. He also made comments relative to the County of Union's Car Seat Program and advised where residents can take advantage of the program. He noted that his son Jack had his 9-month checkup and weighed in at 24 lbs and 24 oz. and that his car seat needed to be adjusted. He advised parents have to adjust car seats as their children get older, and noted that the car seat law changed last year.

Freeholder Wright made comments relative to the Arbor Day Shade Tree Advisory Board Tree Program, noting that the County makes available free trees for schools to plant. She noted that this year's tree is the "Flowering Red Bud". She made comments relative to the free sessions offered in conjunction with Rutgers Cooperative Extension; noting that the sessions will cover topics on "tree planting and care".

Kowalski thanked the residents who addressed the Board tonight, in particular those that came to speak on the CDBG programs. She agreed with Freeholder Hudak's statement that the County's CDBG staff does an excellent job administering the program. She advised that the recipients of the SNAP benefits have doubled from 11,000 households in December 2007, to over 25,000 recipients; noting that many of those individuals have jobs but just cannot make enough money to feed their families. She advised that the State is cutting critical funding for essential services. She advised that she testified before the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on the impact of the State's budget cuts. She stated that the County will not turn its backs on our residents and will continue to advocate on their behalf.

Freeholder Kowalski made comments relative to the Teen Arts Festival, and noted the high level of energy and talent shown at the Teen Arts Festival. She thanked Union County College for hosting and all those involved for their efforts in producing the festival. She



advised that in May, they will host a "Showcase" of the highlights at the Union County Performing Arts Center.

Freeholder Estrada commended Director Wagner and her staff on their administration of the CDBG program. He made comments relative to Mr. McGill's partnership with the County of Union, noting that the 50 housing units have been leveraged hundreds of other units. He stated that whenever there was a commitment to build something, he did so on time.

Freeholder Estrada spoke to the needs of the community, noting that they often go unanswered and the Board must continue its dedication to filling those needs; in particular the needs of the County's children.

Freeholder Estrada made comments relative to the Federal Government's guidelines for handicapped street ramps and street curbing. He noted that there will be other changes as it relates to traffic signage. Freeholder Estrada made comments relative to the resident from Summit's comments regarding "redistricting". He advised that Freeholder Mirabella resides in Scotch Plains and that he, himself, responds to all constituent concerns without prejudice. He noted that some of the roads in the western side of the County are in better shape than those in Elizabeth.

Freeholder Mirabella made comments relative to the County's Recycling Event (Mobile Shredding Program) on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the County's Vocational-Technical School in Scotch Plains. He advised that this program helps protect residents from identity theft, as well as assists the County's recycling efforts and ties in perfectly with the Chairman's "green" initiatives.

Vice Chairman Granados congratulated Chairman Bergen for his recognition by Community Access Unlimited on April 5<sup>th</sup> for your dedication to community oriented initiatives.

Chairman Bergen congratulated Vice Chairman Granados for not only being recognized by Community Access as well, but for his recognition as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Young Professional's Award by the Urban League of Union County for your outstanding work in government and civil service.

Chairman Bergen made comments relative to the Union County Means Green initiative, noting the early success of the elementary education component. He advised that more than 600 students (grades 1-5) have received a free interact recycling and conservation lesson called: "Talking Trash".

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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Chairman Bergen called for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Vice Chairman Granados Linda, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2016 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Please note that meetings are regularly held on Thursday evenings. Agenda Setting Sessions and Regular Meetings are held at 7:00pm in the Freeholders' Meeting Room, Administration Building, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Elizabeth, New Jersey, unless otherwise specified. In the event an Agenda Setting Session and Regular Meeting are held on the same night, the Agenda Setting Session will commence at 7:00pm and the Regular Meeting will commence as soon as possible after the Agenda Setting Session.

Persons requiring a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 908-527-4140.

**REORGANIZATION MEETING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016 at 12:00 pm**  
**Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ**

**2016 MEETING SCHEDULE****AGENDA SETTING SESSION**

January 14, 2016

February 4, 2016

February 18, 2016

March 3, 2016

March 17, 2016

April 7, 2016

April 21, 2016

May 5, 2016

May 19, 2016

June 2, 2016

June 16, 2016

July 14, 2016

August 11, 2016

September 8, 2016

September 22, 2016

October 6, 2016

October 20, 2016

November 10, 2016

December 1, 2016

December 15, 2016

**REGULAR MEETINGS**

January 21, 2016

February 11, 2016

February 18, 2016

March 10, 2016

March 31, 2016

April 14, 2016

April 28, 2016

May 12, 2016

May 26, 2016

June 9, 2016

June 23, 2016

July 21, 2016

August 18, 2016

September 15, 2016

September 29, 2016

October 13, 2016

October 20, 2016

November 22, 2016 (Tuesday)

December 8, 2016

December 22, 2016

  
James E. Pelletiere, RMC  
Clerk of the Board

JEP:mb