



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

INSTALLATION AND REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
OF THE 2016 UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
COURTROOM OF THE HONORABLE KAREN M. CASSIDY, ASSIGNMENT JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COUNTY OF UNION, 2 BROAD STREET, ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016 AT TWELVE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

The Honorable Karen M. Cassidy, Assignment Judge, Superior Court of the County of Union, called the meeting to order at 12:07pm.

Honorable Judge Cassidy introduced herself and said it was an honor to have the Installation and Reorganization Meeting held in her courtroom. She thanked Sheriff Cryan for his extraordinary efforts he has made the courthouse security. She stated Sheriff Cryan had his officers trained with a terrific active shooter drill and other security training that she witnessed through closed circuit television. She said the officers protect everyone that enters the courthouse and thanked him for the security cameras and making the public feel safe. She said it gives the judiciary peace of mind along with the public who enter the building. She wished everyone a happy and healthy 2016.

The Honorable Karen Cassidy turned the meeting over to the Master of Ceremonies, the Honorable Jerry Green, Chairman of the Democratic Committee of Union County.

Master of Ceremonies, the Honorable Jerry Green, New Jersey State Assemblyman, 22nd District and Chairman of the Democratic Committee of Union County thanked everyone who was in attendance along with the Freeholder Board for their hard work. He said it is his honor to stand as the democratic leader. He said he feels that Union County is the best in the State.

Chairman Green asked Senator Scutari to help with the day's Agenda. He said everyone in the room is important and it is imperative that the courthouse and all of Union County are kept secure. He asked that everyone keep their comments to 2 minutes. He thanked the Board for their efforts and hard work, adding that the Union County residents put a lot of trust in them.

Clerk of the Board James E. Pelletiere called upon Reverend Dr. Carol Pierce of the First Baptist church of Lincoln Garden to give the invocation.

Chairman Green called upon Rabbi Hess stating it is the first time a Rabbi has been part of the Ceremony.

Rabbi Hess stated that on behalf of the Jewish community, not only Linden, but the Greater Union County, he congratulated all the new honorees. He said he will give the Benediction at the end of the program.



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Rabbi Hess stated that he was happy to be in attendance and be a part of such a great event. He thanked the Freeholders for all the work they do, not only for the Jewish community but the County of Union and the State of New Jersey.

HONORED GUESTS

The Honorable Karen M. Cassidy, Assignment Judge, Superior Court of the County of Union

The Honorable Robert Menendez, United States Senate, New Jersey

The Honorable Albio Sires, U.S. Representative, 8th Congressional District

The Honorable Donald Payne, Jr., U.S. Representative, 10th Congressional District

The Honorable Bonnie Watson-Coleman, U.S. Representative, 12th Congressional District

The Honorable Raymond J. Lesniak, New Jersey Senator, 20th District

The Honorable Annette Quijano, New Jersey Assemblywoman, 20th District

The Honorable Jamel Holley, New Jersey Assemblyman, 20th District

The Honorable Jon Bramnick, New Jersey Assemblyman, 21st District

The Honorable Nicholas P. Scutari, New Jersey Senator, 22nd District

The Honorable Jerry Green, New Jersey Assemblyman, 22nd District

The Honorable James Kennedy, New Jersey Assemblyman, 22nd District

The Honorable Joanne Rajoppi, Union County Clerk

The Honorable James S. LaCorte, Union County Surrogate

The Honorable Joseph P. Cryan, Union County Sheriff

The Honorable J. Christian Bollwage, Mayor, City of Elizabeth

April Bauknight, Esq.

Rev. Dr. Carol Mitchell-Pierce, First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens

Rabbi Joshua Hess, Congregation Anshe Chesed



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

The Presentation of the Colors was performed by the Union County Sheriff's Honor Guard which was led by the Honorable Joseph P. Cryan, Sheriff of the County of Union.

The Honorable Joseph P. Cryan, Union County Sheriff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Marie Oakie sang our National Anthem, the Star Spangled Banner.

Union County Sheriff Cryan asked the Honor Guard to Post the Colors.

Honorable Joseph P. Cryan, Union County Sheriff asked the Honor Guards to Post the Colors

Clerk of the Board James E. Pellettiere recognized the elected officials that were in attendance and thanked them for attending the Reorganization Meeting. Clerk of the Board Pellettiere called upon Senator Scutari.

Senator Scutari also recognized several elected officials.

Senator Scutari wished everyone a Happy New Year and congratulated the Democratic Party and Chairman Green for his efforts. He stated that it has been 20 straight years without a loss. He also acknowledged Chairman Green as his running mate for the 22nd District. He congratulated the newly elected Freeholders, adding they do a tremendous job on a daily basis. He said they make tough decisions every year and they deserve to be re-elected every year.

Senator Scutari recognized and called upon Senator Raymond Lesniak.

Senator Lesniak wished everyone a Happy New Year and acknowledged Chairman Green and the Republican leaders who were in attendance. He also recognized Congressman Leonard Lance and Assemblyman Jon Bramnick who always attend the County's Reinstallation and Re-organization meeting. Senator Lesniak stated that Senator Thomas Kean attends often. He stated that they work closely together and they have a great Republican relationship with their Republican colleagues.

Senator Scutari congratulated County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi on her re-election. He congratulated Congresswoman Bonnie Watson-Coleman for being the first woman elected from New Jersey to Congress.

Congresswoman Watson-Coleman wished everyone a Happy New Year. She said she was pleased to represent the County in congress. She wished the Chairman of the Board and the individuals who have been re-elected by the "authority of the people" and those who are performing the swearing-in that day.

Senator Scutari called upon Senator Leonard Lance.

Senator Lance stated he represents most of the towns. He said we work together and he wanted to make the public aware that the County representatives go to Congress in Washington to lobby on the residents'



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

behalf on a regular basis. He said he represents most of the municipalities and is happy to say his office is in Union County.

Senator Lance congratulated Joanne Rajoppi's son for being awarded the Bronze Award from the Department of Commerce at the Federal level for his important work in Washington. He hopes for peace and prosperity across the globe, in particular the United States of America.

Senator Scutari called upon Congressman Payne.

Congressman Payne stated it was a great honor to serve the people of the 10th congressional district at the House of Representatives. He said he grew up in Hillside and is well aware of the issues in our community. He said he is happy to be a part of the Union County family and the Installation and Reorganization Meeting.

Congressman Payne addressed the Freeholders and said he was an Essex County Freeholder and understands it is a difficult job being the "man in the middle." He congratulated all who were re-elected and elected.

Congressman Payne said in terms of working with the delegation, he and Congressman Lance have worked on many issues together in a bi-partisan manner, and said they are honored to have a new addition; a first African-American woman, Bonnie Watson-Coleman. He said it is a working-type atmosphere and they do the best they could for the State and our Constitution. He wished everyone a happy and blessed new year.

Senator Scutari recognized the Constitutional Officers and congratulated County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, County Surrogate James LaCorte and Sheriff Joseph Cryan. He also congratulated the Freeholders and Chairman Green. He thanked Chairman Green for all of his efforts. He said they had a strong Democratic Chairwoman in Charlotte DeFillipo and said that Chairman Green has done a tremendous job. He wished the Freeholders and the Jets good luck.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTIONS

The Certification of Election of Joanne Rajoppi to the Office of the County Clerk of the County of Union was made for a five year term was read by Joanne Rajoppi, Union county Clerk. She stated that Joanne Rajoppi received the highest number votes and she was duly elected for a five year term at the General Election on November 3, 2015.

The Certification of Election of Freeholders Alexander Mirabella, Mohamed S. Jalloh and Bruce H. Bergen to the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders received the highest number of votes for a three year term was read by Joanne Rajoppi, Union County Clerk. She stated that Union County Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh and Freeholder Bruce H. Bergen received the highest number of votes and were duly elected for three years at the General Election on November 3, 2015.



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO COUNTY CLERK JOANNE RAJOPPI

James E. Pellettiere, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, called upon County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi for the administration of her Oath of Office.

The Honorable Assemblyman and Union County Democratic Senator Nicholas Scutari introduced County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi.

Senator Scutari stated that County Clerk Rajoppi has done a great job and congratulated her on being elected for another five year term.

The Honorable Karen M. Cassidy, Assignment Judge, Superior Court of the County of Union, administered the Oath of Office to County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi.

Holding the Bible for County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi was her family, Peter and Claire Pappas, Andrew and Jackie Pappas and her granddaughter, Arianna Leigh.



County Clerk Rajoppi thanked Judge Cassidy and said she is honored to have the Assignment Judge administer her Oath of Office in the beautiful historic courtroom. She said she was elected in 1977 as a Freeholder, three times as a Registrar of Deeds and five times as County Clerk, in total 35 years. She said she is honored to serve another term as County Clerk.

County Clerk Rajoppi introduced her family and thanked them for their support. She said she is proud that her sons are in public service. She also was excited to announce that she will be a grandmother for the second time. She thanked Assemblyman Green for his support, especially in the past year. She said she served with him on the Freeholder Board. She thanked him for the outstanding job he did for her and the re-elected Freeholders. County Clerk Rajoppi also thanked Sheriff Cryan and Surrogate LaCorte for their support and Bonne Watson Coleman for her support and especially coming forward when campaign fund was low. County Clerk Rajoppi congratulated her running mates Freeholders Mirabella, Jalloh and Bergen.

County Clerk Rajoppi stated that she is looking forward to serving with the Freeholders again and added that she is blessed with a loyal staff. County Clerk Rajoppi recognized and commended Alexis Minus for celebrating 41 years in her office. She said she will be retiring and starting a new chapter in her life.

County Clerk Rajoppi also acknowledged Deputy County Clerk Nicole DiRado, stating that she has always been a help and supportive. She said she had to recuse herself of her duties because she was on the ballot and thanked Deputy County Clerk Dirado for taking over and said she did a great job. She acknowledged



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

her staff who were in the audience, adding that without them they would not be the best Clerk's office in the State.

County Clerk Rajoppi said her office follows the law and represents without bias. She stated that the Union County Votes Application is the first in the nation. She the efforts of her office will make voting accessible and easier. She hopes it will continue on that path.

Senator Scutari thanked the Honorable Judge Cassidy for the use of her courtroom.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA

The Honorable Assemblyman and Union County Democratic Senator Raymond Lesniak introduced Freeholder Alexander Mirabella.

James E. Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, called upon Freeholder Alexander Mirabella for the administration of his Oath of Office.

The Honorable Raymond J. Lesniak, New Jersey Senator, 20th District, administered the Oath of Office to Freeholder Alexander Mirabella.

Holding the Bible for Freeholder Mirabella was his wife Phyllis and their children, Alexander and Micayla.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH

The Honorable Assemblyman and Union County Democratic Chairman Jerry Green introduced Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh.

James E. Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, called upon Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh for the administration of his Oath of Office.

April Bauknight, Esq. administered the Oath of Office to Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh.

Holding the Bible for Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh was his wife, Dr. Maria Jalloh, and his parents, Abdulai Ben Jalloh and Bernice Martina Jalloh.



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO FREEHOLDER BRUCE H. BERGEN

The Honorable Senator Nicholas Scutari introduced Freeholder Bruce H. Bergen.

James E. Pellettiere, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, called upon Freeholder Bruce H. Bergen for the administration of his Oath of Office.

The Honorable Joanne Rajoppi, County Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to Freeholder Bruce H. Bergen.

Holding the Bible for Freeholder Bergen was his wife Jodi, his daughter, Stefanie, and son, Ross.

PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- The Honorable State Senator Nicholas P. Scutari, 22nd Legislative District, on behalf of the Union County Democratic Committee, will make gift presentations to Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh, Chairman Bruce H. Bergen, and County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi.
- The Honorable County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi made a gift presentation to Freeholder Alexander Mirabella.
- The Honorable County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, the Honorable County Surrogate James S. LaCorte and the Honorable County Sheriff Joseph Cryan, on behalf of the Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey, will make a presentation to Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh, Chairman Bruce H. Bergen, and Vice Chairman Sergio Granados.
- Lenore Scurry, President of the Union County Women's Political Caucus, made a gift presentation County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi.

On behalf of Chairman Green, Senator Scutari presented gifts to the newly elected Freeholders.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere called upon Joanne Rajoppi to present Freeholder Mirabella with a gift.

Joanne Rajoppi called up the Constitutional officers. She said they work for the residence of the County and said they have a great relationship, unlike other counties.

Surrogate LaCorte agreed that other counties do not have the kind of relationship that the Constitutional Sheriff Cryan stated that when everyone works well together it makes for a better government. He thanked everyone for their support and wished everyone a Happy New Year.



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

County Clerk Rajoppi presented gifts to Chairman Bergen and the newly elected Freeholders.

President of the Union County Political Caucus Lenore Scurry made a gift presentation to County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi.

President of the Statewide Political Caucus Michele Bitritto said it was an honor to present County Clerk Rajoppi.

The Clerk of the Board called upon Deputy Chairman Colleen Mahr to present a gift to Freeholder Mirabella. She congratulated the newly elected Freeholders.

The Clerk of the Board congratulated each of the elected officials and called the roll. There were nine members of the Board present.

The Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by the Clerk of the Board.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2016 UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
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The first order of business was the election of a Chairman.

James E. Pellettiere, Clerk of the Board, called for nominations for the election of a Chairman Pro-Tem of the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the year 2016.

Chairman Jalloh nominated Freeholder Hudak for Chairman Pro-Tem. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Estrada. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

Freeholder Hudak called for nominations for the election of a Chairman of the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the year 2016.

Freeholder Jalloh nominated Freeholder Bergen. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Wright. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.





UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2016 UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

The next order of business is the election of a Vice Chairman for the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the year 2016. Chairman Bergen calls for nominations for the election of a Vice Chairman of the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the year 2016.



The Honorable Assemblyman and Union County Democratic Chairman Jerry Green administered the Oath of Office to Vice Chairman Sergio Granados.

Holding the Bible for Vice Chairman Sergio Granados was his sister, Vanessa?

ANNUAL MESSAGE

Chairman Bruce H. Bergen delivered the Chairman's Annual Message as follows:

Honored Clergy, fellow Freeholders, elected officials, family, friends, and citizens of Union County:

Happy New Year to all, and thank you for being here today. In particular, thanks to the Jets fans who will be missing the beginning of their very important game against the Bills.

Thank you, Judge Cassidy, for once again lending us your Courtroom and for your participation in our reorganization.

I would like to begin by expressing my love and appreciation to my wife Jodi and our children Stefanie and Ross for their support and understanding for so many years.

I also want to thank my friends who have joined us today including, of course, the members of the Springfield Democratic party who have accompanied me through most of my 35 years in local politics and government, which has brought me here today. In particular I must mention my late friend Bill Cieri, former Springfield Mayor, who took me under his wing and taught me so much.

I would be remiss if I did not thank my friend and mentor, former Democratic County Chairman, Charlotte DeFilippo for all that she did to teach me and guide me over the course of more than 30 years of friendship.



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

I would also like to thank our Democratic Chairman, Jerry Green, someone else I have known and worked with for many decades, for his leadership of our party, which enjoyed another banner year at the polls all across our county.

Congratulations to my colleagues and running mates, Al Mirabella and Mohamed Jalloh, on their respective re-elections. We make a great team!

Also, congratulations to my dear friend from Springfield, and our distinguished County Clerk, Joann Rajoppi, for her overwhelming re-election.

I would like to acknowledge and thank my predecessor, Chairman Mohamed Jalloh for his leadership of the board in 2015. In fact, during my three years on the Board I have had the benefit of learning from three excellent Chairs, Freeholder Carter, Freeholder Hudak and Freeholder Jalloh, all of who are role models for me and have helped bring our County to where it is today.

I also welcome our new Vice Chairman, Sergio Granados. Your energy and enthusiasm continues to be an invaluable asset to this board, and I look forward to serving beside you.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues for electing me to serve as Chairman. I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the coming year as we continue the progress.

My story is not unlike others who have Union County roots with working class parents. I was born in Elizabeth, raised in Cranford and made my home in Springfield. I have helped build a long-standing business in Elizabeth and now Cranford, as my father once did.

I learned much from my parents about the importance of hard work and commitment to the community, and that helped inspire me into a life of public service.

As Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir said about public service, "I never did anything alone. Whatever was accomplished...was accomplished collectively." This Freeholder Board succeeds because we are a team that puts commitment to others and the community above individual interest.

With this in mind, I am announcing a set of initiatives entitled "One County, One Community," that demonstrates this board's commitment to all of our citizens. We will focus on initiatives impacting:



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

- transportation;
- economic development;
- services for seniors, women and Veterans;
- education; and
- parks and environmental programs.

My first initiative, entitled “Move, Connect, Grow” addresses one of Union County’s greatest assets—our transportation infrastructure.

As part of this, we are drafting an update to our Transportation Master Plan, which is perhaps one of our most important planning documents. After an opportunity for continued public comment a final report will be released by June.

Next, we will once again offer “Infrastructure Grants” to our municipalities. The grant program, which was originally envisioned by Freeholder Hudak, can be used to fund a variety of projects. But because maintenance of roads is a priority of our residents, we will ask municipalities to prioritize local road paving.

Residents have also asked for new bike paths. I am pleased to announce we will be working to create unique paths for cyclists, hikers, and horse riders in the Watchung Reservation. This plan will be unveiled soon.

Along with Freeholder Kowalski on the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition and Freeholder Estrada on the NJTPA, we will continue our advocacy to expand the one-seat ride to New York City and for the construction of the new Gateway Tunnel project.

Both are so critically important to the economic vitality of this region.

This drive to improve our transportation network complements my second initiative “Union County: At Work and Play.” This initiative includes new jobs, business assistance grants, and quality of life improvements, as well as economic development programs.

First, we talk about jobs—and Union County has had a lot of success in this area. At the end of 2014, the Freeholder Board announced a \$2.3 million investment creating the Union County Workforce Innovation Center at the Mills at Jersey Gardens. This has resulted in well over 1,000 job opportunities for County residents in 2015. I am pleased to announce,



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

with the cooperation of the County College we will continue to create more job opportunities, as the Innovation Center becomes a regional hub.

Coming from a background in small business, I recognize that government has an important role to play in spurring growth with incentives and loans. Thanks in part to a match from the County, the UCEDC was recently awarded a \$1.3 million grant from the federal government to make loans ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000 to small businesses.

The New Year will also witness a series of ribbon cuttings and special announcements for our County College and our Parks system. You may have noticed various renderings of those projects on display outside the courtroom:

- We will cut the ribbon on the new Warinanco Skating Rink, where we will continue to make memories for future generations. I too have my own memories, as I learned to skate there, as did my son and daughter.
- We will also cut the ribbon on the expanded Watchung Stables, which creates an indoor ring to enable year-round use.
- Just down the road from the Stables, the Union County Trailside Nature and Science Center will be marking its 75th anniversary with a series of programs.

This July will also witness two prominent golf tournaments in Union County: The PGA Championship will once again be at Baltusrol Golf Course in Springfield and the 96th annual NJ State Golf Association Open Championship will tee off at the Galloping Hill Golf Course—marking the first time ever it has been held at a public course.

We should all take pride that our investment in our Golf Division continues to reap dividends.

With regard to Union County College, we expect to have two ribbon cuttings—one at the refurbished Plainfield Campus in June and then at the expanded Cranford campus in July. These drawings are in the lobby as well.

This past year, the College reported its highest graduation rate in over 20 years, and the largest group of graduates ever.

Union County College educates the largest number of Associate Degree-prepared nurses in the State, which brings me to my next point:



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

UCC has announced it is seeking to become the first Community College in the state to offer a bachelor's degree in nursing. I will ask my colleagues on the board to put forward a resolution at our next meeting, supporting that effort. Thank you Dr. McMenamain for your partnership with our board.

Our library grant program, which was envisioned by Freeholder Kowalski, began last year and proved to be wildly popular. This year we will double the amount of money we offer for grants, because all Union County communities deserve a great library.

My third initiative addresses the importance of digital technologies and governmental outreach. The past decade has witnessed a dramatic change in how governments communicate with their residents. While this outreach still involves traditional media, it also involves social and web-based media. The County of Union has been a leader in these areas, being one of the first in New Jersey to open a Facebook account, and the first to have an Instagram account.

With the expansion of the use of Apps, I am announcing the creation of the Union County App in 2016. This will help users stay informed and safe with the almanac of information and real-time data it will feature. In fact, today we are taking pictures which will shortly be posted on our social media. And, if you have not yet gotten our new card listing our social media accounts please make sure you get one before you leave.

Also, on Earth Day, the Union County App will feature a special new section on my fourth initiative, "Union County Means Green."

Even as we enjoyed the fabulous weather the past month, it is hard not to wonder if global warming could be at play, and not just the polar vortex.

Since the new millennium, Union County has worked to implement green initiatives through our Open Space Program, through LEED certified buildings, solar panels, recycling initiatives, and composting.

This year brings several new programs including a "Union County Means Green" seminar for businesses. This will be presented through our popular Union County Means Business series. Also, through our Recycling Bureau, we will introduce an educator who will visit our grammar schools to teach recycling in a program ironically titled "Talkin' Trash."



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Although we hear it less often, New Jersey is still known as the “Garden State,” because of its rich agricultural tradition. In acknowledgement of this history, UC Means Green will offer a “Community Garden Grant” program for new and existing gardens.

Having grown up in Cranford close to the Rahway River, and then buying a house in Springfield near the river, I know full well the devastation that flooding has created within our towns. As the Rahway River Flood Mitigation plan moves forward, my colleagues on the Freeholder board and I will continue to advocate for the plan and for Federal and State funding.

These initiatives have addressed many issues, but what about taking care of those most in need?

For as a great American and former Vice President, Hubert Humphrey, one of my personal heroes, once said, “The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life– the children; those who are in the twilight of life– the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life– the sick, the needy and the handicapped.”

In the past, in spite of cuts in state funding, this Freeholder Board has fully funded the safety net in Union County. We will continue to be prepared to take the necessary steps to restore funding to essential programs that may be cut this year by the state or federal government.

My fifth initiative therefore aims to assist those who have been there for us, and continue to play a vital role in our community: our seniors and Veterans, and also our Union County women.

Following the lead of Freeholder Wright, who has often focused on the needs of our seniors, we declare 2016 as the “Year of the Senior” through two programs last offered in 2000: Seniors in Motion, and the Senior Focus program.

Through Seniors in Motion, the County will provide municipalities with a passenger van to offer senior citizen transportation services. We are aiming to begin the application process through our Human Services Department by the end of March.

We will also re-offer the “Senior Focus” program, which is a grant program dedicated to improving and enhancing senior centers in each of our 21 municipalities. During the last round, Senior Focus awards were used for major brick and mortar projects. This time



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

around we anticipate funding for smaller items such as new kitchens, new doors, windows, or other interior objects or renovations.

Next, we will create the Union County Division on Women. This one-person office will help provide information women need to access government services and resources. It will also serve as a referral source, an advocate and to coordinate with programs such as “UC Women Means Business,” the Rape Crisis Center, and the UC Commission on the Status of Women.

As the final part of this initiative, we will launch the “UC HERO” program in honor of our Veterans, who have defended our Country. Administered through Human Services and Veterans Affairs, this program will partner with the Workforce Investment Board and the County College to assist our Vets with a variety of programs.

This includes:

- employment services, training and job fairs;
- encouraging businesses to hire-a-Vet; and
- connecting our Vets with the social services they may require.

A strong Union County community must also be a safe one, and we are committed to providing programs to further this objective in 2016. My sixth initiative, addressing public safety includes several items:

- We will shortly unveil a new GIS system that will actively assist first responders in emergencies;
- We will launch the “Fire Mutual Aide Radio project,” an effort to equip the County’s 20 Fire Departments with compatible radios to promote communication during emergencies;
- We will continue to install cameras in various County parks.
- And the Sheriff’s Office will continue to train for active shooter response at our county facilities to better protect our employees and the public.

My final initiative addresses the need for a regional animal shelter that would provide our municipalities with a consistent level of animal control services and promote humane treatment. Previously, the County commissioned a feasibility study for an animal shelter. With many municipalities struggling beneath the weight of this mandated service, we will



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

now revise this plan and move forward with design and siting. On today's agenda, we will vote to take the next step in the process.

The shelter will provide adoptive services and be run by the County, with volunteers. We are hoping to have plans in place and unveil them this summer during a new event "Bark in the Park" at the Union County Dog Park at Echo Lake.

Taken as a whole, "One County, One Community" initiatives are not only designed to create a vision and game plan for 2016, but also to challenge us to do better for our community. I look forward to working with our County family, our employees, our many private social service agencies and residents in bringing the community together in achieving these objectives.

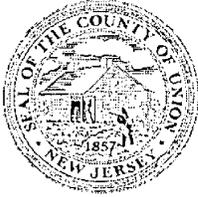
Once again, I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

BENEDICTION

Rabbi Joshua Hess of the Congregation Anshe Chesed gave the Benediction.

RECESS

Chairman Bergen called for a recess before starting the Business portion of the Meeting.



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016
MINUTES OF THE REORGANIZATION MEETING

Chairman Bruce H. Bergen called the meeting to order at 1:54 PM.

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

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

Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by the Clerk of the Board.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Chairman Bergen called for a motion to approve the Communications. The motion was made by freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. Thursday, June 11, 2015 - Agenda Setting Session
2. Thursday, June 18, 2015 - Regular Meeting
3. Thursday, July 9, 2015 - Agenda Setting Session
4. Thursday, July 16, 2015 - Regular Meeting
5. Thursday, August 6, 2015 - Agenda Setting Session
6. Thursday, August 20, 2015 - Regular Meeting

Chairman Bergen called for a motion to adopt the Minutes. The motion was made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Vice Chairman Granados. Roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Carter abstaining from the June 11, 2015 Agenda Setting Session; nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative for the June 18, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes; nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative for the July 9, 2015 Agenda Setting Session, seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative for the July 16, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes with Freeholder Hudak and Freeholder Mirabella abstaining; nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative for the August 6, 2016 Agenda Setting Session and nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative for the August 20, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

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

There were no comments.

RESOLUTIONS

2016-1 **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Adopting the Bylaws and Rules of Procedures for the Year 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2016-2 **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Adopting the Meeting Schedule of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders for the Year of 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2016-3 **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Designating the following newspapers as recipients of legal notices of the County of Union for the Year 2016: Gannett NJ Newspaper (Home News Tribune, Courier News), Worrall Community Newspapers (Union County Local Source), La Voz, Westfield Leader/Fanwood Times, NJ Advanced Media (Star Ledger) and NJN Publishing (Suburban News), El Especialito, Vistazo Hispano, LLC, and further making available a sum not to exceed \$150,000.00 for the provision of said legal notices.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2016-4 **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Adopting the Temporary Budget for the Year 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2016-5 **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** To establish Change Funds for calendar year 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2016-6 **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Establishing Petty Cash Funds for Calendar Year 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2016-7 **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Designating depositories wherein all public monies and funds of the County of Union shall be kept for the year 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2016-8 **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Signatories for Calendar Year 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2016-9 **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Approving a list of pre-qualified financial advisors for the year 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2016-10 **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the use of NJ State, Somerset County, Middlesex Regional and Cranford Police cooperative contracts as exceptions to bidding pursuant to NJSA 40A:11-10,11 and 12 and NJAC 5:34-Subchapter 7 for 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2016-11 **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Awarding a contract to Rogut McCarthy, LLC, Cranford, New Jersey to provide specialized counsel services in connection with the issuance of bonds, or notes by the County of Union from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2016-12 **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Weber Dowd Law of Woodland Park, New Jersey to provide Credit and Collections services to Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County for the contract period January 1, 2016 through December 1, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2016-13 **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Awarding a contract to Bauch, Zucker, Hatfield, LLC to serve as Labor and Personnel Counsel from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-14** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Awarding a contract to Roth D'Aquanni, LLC to serve as personnel counsel from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-15** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Awarding a contract to Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC, Warren, New Jersey to serve as labor and personnel counsel from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-16** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Awarding a contract to James Jude Plaia, Esq., Verona, New Jersey to provide Worker's Compensation Defense Counsel Services for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 with any sums to be paid through the Third Party Administrator.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-17** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** A Resolution awarding a contract to Manuel R. Grova, Esq. as Special Counsel to the Union County Planning Board for the period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 at an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-18** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Continuum Voice and Data Systems, Inc., Syracuse, New York for the purposes of providing proprietary software maintenance services for the OnBase Records Management proprietary software system of the County, for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 exercising the County's option to renew using the exception to bidding NJSA 40A 11-15 (1) (dd), in an amount not to exceed \$26,240.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-19** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution Number 2015-466, adopted May 28, 2015 which awarded United Way of Greater Union County a contract to provide the necessary services for the Focus on Families Initiative, modifying the account number and extending the contract period from January 1, 2016 to February 29, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-20** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Resolution authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Professional Engineering Service contract with Harbor Consultants of Cranford, New Jersey to provide Conceptual Design Services and Site Investigation for a Union County Animal Shelter in an amount not to exceed \$44,000.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2015-037)

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-21** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Resolution granting permission to the Township of Scotch Plains to place a banner across Park Avenue at the intersection of Front Street and Park Avenue from January 8, 2016 to, on or about January 19, 2016 for the Martin Luther King Service which will be held on Monday, January 18, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-22** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Adopting the Freeholder Standing Committee Assignments for 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-23** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Appointing members of the Freeholder Board as liaisons to various Advisory Boards for the Year 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-24** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Appointing Freeholder Angel G. Estrada as the Union County Delegate to Meadowlink for a term commencing January 1, 2016 and expiring December 31, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-25** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Appointing the following as representatives to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority for the term commencing January 1, 2016 and expiring December 31, 2016: Freeholder Angel G. Estrada (Delegate) and Freeholder Sergio Granados (Alternate).

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-26** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Appointing the following as representatives to the New Jersey Association of Counties for the term commencing January 1, 2016 and expiring December 31, 2016: Freeholder Vernell Wright (Delegate); Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski (Alternate); and County Manager Alfred J. Faella (Second Alternate).

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-27** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Appointing Margaret M. McManus as an Alternate Commissioner (#2) to the Union County Utilities Authority to fill an unexpired term ending January 31, 2016; and subsequently reappointing Margaret M. McManus to a term Beginning February 1, 2016 through January 31, 2021.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-28** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Congratulating the following women for being chosen as the 2016 Women of Excellence: Maria Anderson (Law), Dr. Cynthia Atkins (Women's Advocacy), Nancy Benz (Mental Health), Margaret Chowdhury (Environmental Advocate), Elaine Coupe (Youth Advocacy), Kim Eason (Community Service), Barbara Arminio LaMort (Lifetime Achievement), Carmen Salavarrieta (Community Activist), Janet Siegal (Medicine/Health Care), Dr. Candace Wicke (Arts & Humanities).

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-29** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Appointing Margaret Bandrowski to the Shade Tree Advisory Board for a term beginning January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2016-30** **FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Resolution objecting to the dedication of public funds to case management at the expense of rental assistance, and urging the Department of Human Services to restore rental assistance as an effective, evidence-based homeless prevention strategy that has enabled our most vulnerable citizens to live in safety, and with dignity.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-31** **FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Laudatory Resolution congratulating Boy Scout Troop 67 on delivering items to the non-profit military support organization "Bonds of Courage" as part of its community service project.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-32** **CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Laudatory resolution proclaiming Monday, January 18, 2016 as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day throughout the County of Union in recognition of his contributions to the welfare of all mankind; and further embracing and commending all celebrations held in his honor.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2016-33 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Resolution supporting Senate Bill #S-63, which was pre-filed for official introduction in the 2016 legislative session, aims to prohibit the sale of pets from "puppy mills" in New Jersey, including commercial sales by pet stores of puppies and kittens from large-scale breeding facilities prone to overbreeding, inbreeding and neglect.

On a motion made by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

There were no comments.

FREEHOLDER COMMENTS

Freeholder Carter congratulated Chairman Bergen and Vice Chairman Granados for being elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Freeholder Board and wished everyone a Happy New Year. She also congratulated the winners and all the students who participated in the UC Step program. She explained that there were 5 teams and a record number of votes of more than 58,000, which is double the amount of the past. She explained that voting ended at midnight on December 30th. She asked if the winner could be announced at the next meeting.

Chairman Bergen responded yes, it will be announced at the next Freeholder meeting.

Freeholder Wright congratulated the newly elected Freeholders and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Freeholder Kowalski congratulated Chairman Bergen and Vice Chairman Granados along with her colleagues and thanked them for supporting initiatives, especially the library program, transportation, community gardens, women and seniors and all the important work that the Freeholders support throughout the year.

Freeholder Kowalski wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Freeholder Hudak congratulated all the newly elected officials and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Freeholder Mirabella congratulated Chairman Bergen and Vice Chairman Granados and said he is looking forward to their initiatives.

Vice Chairman Granados wished the residents of Union County a Happy New Year and thanked his colleagues for the vote of confidence as Vice Chairman for the year 2016. He said he is looking forward to serving Union County.

Chairman Bergen extended his sympathies to County Manager Faella and his family on the passing of his mother. He thanked everyone for their support and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bergen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:07 PM. The motion was made by Freholder Kowalski and seconded by freholder Carter. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2016 MEETING SCHEDULE

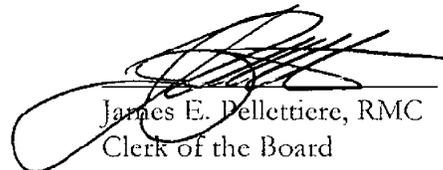
Please note that meetings are regularly held on Thursday evenings. Agenda Setting Sessions and Regular Meetings are held at 7:00pm in the Freeholders' Meeting Room, Administration Building, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, 6th Floor, Elizabeth, New Jersey, unless otherwise specified. In the event an Agenda Setting 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

<u>AGENDA SETTING SESSION</u>	<u>REGULAR MEETINGS</u>
January 14, 2016	January 21, 2016
February 4, 2016 February 18, 2016	February 11, 2016 February 18, 2016
March 3, 2016 March 17, 2016	March 10, 2016 March 31, 2016
April 7, 2016 April 21, 2016	April 14, 2016 April 28, 2016
May 5, 2016 May 19, 2016	May 12, 2016 May 26, 2016
June 2, 2016 June 16, 2016	June 9, 2016 June 23, 2016
July 14, 2016	July 21, 2016
August 11 2016	August 18, 2016
September 8, 2016 September 22, 2016	September 15, 2016 September 29, 2016
October 6, 2016 October 20, 2016	October 13, 2016 October 20, 2016
November 10, 2016	November 22, 2016 (Tuesday)
December 1, 2016 December 15, 2016	December 8, 2016 December 22, 2016


 James E. Dellettiere, RMC
 Clerk of the Board

JEP:mb