

## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bruce Bergen presided and called the meeting to order at 7:23pm.

### ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Bruce H. Bergen, Vice Chairman 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 present, with Freeholder Linda Carter absent. Freeholder Hudak was joined by his daughter Catherine "Catie" Hudak in participation of "Brings Your Kids to Work Day".

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

### 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.

### APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Note and File

Oath of Office: Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund: Maria Carvalho, Rose Checchio, Charles Eke and Arthur Kobitz; Voter Accessibility Advisory Board: Richard Barry, John Becker, John DeSimone, Clara Hareluk and Mary Ellen Harris.

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

### ADOPTION OF THE COLA / CAP BANK RESOLUTION

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The meeting is open to the public for the purposes of commenting on Resolution Number 2017-339 only.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, encouraged the Board to vote against the resolution, stating that County shouldn't go over the Cap. He asked if the County will be exceeding the tax levy limit. He asked if this correlates in any way with the caps of the elections and prosecutor's

offices. He asked how much is already in the Cap Bank, noting the County's already large surplus.

Director Taylor advised the County is not exceeding the County tax levy limit. She stated that this resolution allows the county to utilize these funds in the succeeding two years' budget. She advised that the County has available \$5,048,476.51 in 2016's Cap Bank. She advised that the 2017 CAP Bank to be carried over will be \$7,327,649.24; totaling \$12,376,125.75.

Chairman Bergen asked Director to confirm that the Cap Bank amount does not impact the budget or taxes.

Director Taylor stated that he was correct, noting that it is a financing tool that gives the County flexibility in subsequent years for planning purposes.

Director Taylor stated that this resolution is not related to the Constitutional Cap as per Public Law 2015, Chapter 249. She advised that those increases were addressed by a previous resolution, noting they affected the Tax Board and Prosecutor's Office.

**2017-339 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution to exceed the County tax levy limit and to establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.14).

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

#### **PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2017 COUNTY OF UNION BUDGET**

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The meeting is open to the public for the purposes of commenting on Resolution Numbers 2017-340 and 2017-341 only.

Prior to opening the meeting for public comment on Resolution Numbers 2017-340 & 2017-341, Chairman Bergen asked Freeholder Mirabella, Chairman of the Fiscal Committee, to offer some remarks on the 2017 County Budget. Fiscal Chairman Mirabella's remarked:

Thank you Chairman Bergen, and through you: following our review of the 2017 budget over the past few months, we are now set to pass it tonight.

Since the County Manager presented his executive budget in February, the Fiscal Committee was able to reduce the tax levy by an additional \$724,000. This was done without any loss of jobs or impact to our services.

The overall result is a tax increase of just 2.75 percent, and this is an average tax increase of \$53. (I would note, the Governor's proposed budget is at a 2.9% increase.)

Overall, the County's fiscal position has continued to improve. This year, the County achieved a Aaa bond rating from Moody's—the highest attainable. This rating affirms the County's strong financial standing, with Moody's citing Union

County as having “a very strong management team that has worked hard to turn around the County’s finances.”

Union County’s growth was evidenced by another dramatic increase in our ratable base, this time by 2.7 percent or nearly \$1.8 billion in net valuation over 2016. This is the largest increase since 2007 and our third consecutive annual increase. The strong real estate market also resulted in the highest growth in nine years from fees realized through the County Clerk’s Office, which totaled \$40 million.

In terms of management, we were also able to cut costs in certain areas, most notably the Corrections Department, where we reduced overtime by \$1 million through our continued focus on efficiencies at the jail.

Moody’s also cited the County’s manageable debt levels. Net debt expressed as a percentage of the equalized valuation basis is 0.887 percent, substantially less than the maximum of 2 percent authorized by the State.

Our strong budgeting practices and government services continue to keep Union County as one of the one of the best places to live in New Jersey. This was confirmed this week once again by a quality of life report in Niche.Com, which gave A grades to 10 of our 21 towns. The others also scored well, averaging in the B category.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Fiscal Committee, Freeholder Vice Chairman Granados, and Freeholders Carter and Jalloh for their work along with our County Manager, our Department heads and our Finance Director Bibi Taylor and her staff.

Chairman Bergen, I thank you for your time.

Chairman Bergen advised that the Board will open meeting up for Resolution Number 2017-340 only and will follow up with a separate hearing and vote for the 2017 Budget Resolution.

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, asked for clarification relative to the language of the resolution “the public hearing conditions”.

Chairman Bergen advised that this resolution allows the county to read the budget by title as opposed to reading word for word in the record, and that the County complied with the public notice requirements to do so.

**2017-340 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Resolution determining that the 2017 Union County Budget shall be read by title and declaring that the public hearing conditions set forth pursuant to N.J.S.A.:40A: 4-8(1a)(1b) have been satisfied.

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

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

Chairman Bergen opened meeting up for Resolution Number 2017-341 for public comment and a vote by the Board.

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, made a number of comments and questions relative to Resolution Number 2017-341 (2017 County Budget resolution). He inquired as to why there is no conflict of interest with a town manager overseeing a county budget. He inquired as to what warranted some directors to receive 5-6% salary increase. He inquired as to why and by how much the Prosecutor's Office and the Tax Board exceeded the Cap. He inquired as to the County's decrease in its revenue line-item from the UCIA from \$2 million to \$1 million. He inquired as to the County's plan for its surplus.

Mr. Patterson inquired as to why the County had \$59 million in unspent money. He made comments relative to labor costs. He made comments relative to the Sheriff's foreclosure costs. He made comments relative to Summit and Roselle residents' comments to county taxes. He made comments relative to the surplus generated by the sale of Runnells Hospital.

Mr. Paterson urged the Board to merge the UCIA with the County, noting that Morris County recently folded their IA with their County. He urged the Board to address the re-assessment costs of the 21 municipalities.

Director Taylor advised that the Board of Taxation was over the Cap by .56%, which equates to \$1,454 due to negotiated increases with their Council 8 members. She advised that the Prosecutor's Office was over the Cap by 3.13%, which equates to \$698,763 as a direct result to positions the County had to add as a direct result to Bail Reform which took effect in January.

Chairman Bergen noted that the County's Bond Rating was increased to AAa by Moody's due in part to the County's conservative fiscal policies; inclusive of the growing surplus.

John Bury, of Kenilworth, made a number of comments and questions relative to Resolution Number 2017-341 (2017 County Budget resolution). He made comments relative to the county entering into a contract with Moody's in the amount of \$40,000 to give their opinion.

Mr. Bury inquired as to the County's decrease in its revenue line-item from the UCIA from \$2 million to \$1 million; questioning if the County is in compliance with the agreement.

County Manager Faella clarified for the Board and for the edification of the public that the County did not pay Moody's for its Bond rating review. He stated that the only time Moody's is paid, is during bond offerings.

Director Taylor advised that the County realized \$2 million between 2011 and 2016 and that this amount has the approvals of the DEP and the LGS from the state and is in conformance with the agreement as far as the funding sources are concerned.

**2017-341 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution Adopting the 2017 County of Union Budget.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella, and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent. During roll call, Freeholder Estrada noted for the record that the vote on the County's capital expenditures is not part of this 2017 County Budget and will be voted on later in the year.

## **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.

Nancy Piowar, of Plainfield, made comments or inquires relative to a two resolutions. Relative to Resolution No. 2017-356, she thanked the Board for replacing the bridge. Relative to Resolution No. 2017-358, she commended the Board for recognizing the historical significance of the battle, and inquired as to where the reenactment was taking place.

Chairman Bergen advised that the reenactment will take place at Oak Ridge Park.

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, made comments or inquires relative to a number of resolutions. Relative to Resolution No. 2017-344, he inquired if there is a conflict of interest in appointing Assemblyman Kennedy to the Board. Relative to Resolution No. 2017-350, he asked for clarification as to what the GAP Spending Plan was and who it serves. Relative to Resolution No. 2017-352, he asked if it is involved with resolution number 2017-358. Relative to Resolution No. 2017-358, he asked if it had to do with another event in the Township of Union. (Chairman Bergen advised that it does not) Relative to Resolution No. 2017-360, he asked for an overview of the settlement and asked if this would be paid by insurance.

Relative to Resolution No. 2017-350, Director Guzzo advised that a number of agencies will be receiving those funds; Bridgeway House, Central Jersey Legal Services, Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, Jewish Family Services, Turning Point, Urban League of Union County, YWCA of Eastern Union County.

Relative to Resolution No. 2017-352, Director Zuber advised there is no correlation between the two resolutions (2017-358).

Relative to Resolution No. 2017-360, County Counsel Barry advised that Mrs. Eggers is one of the fifty-two plaintiffs in the matter stemming from claims made by nurses, nurse aides and attendants relative to wages, over-time pay and fair labor claims. He noted the negotiated settlement amount is a settlement for all claims and counsel fees for the fifty-two plaintiffs.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

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The following Resolutions are being offered for adoption:

- 2017-342 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-349, to increase and authorizing the County Manager to expend an additional sum not to

exceed \$7,800.00 with Funeral Services of New Jersey, Inc., Hillside, New Jersey, for the contract period ending March 31, 2017.

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

- 2017-343 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Appointing Pam Capaci to the Mental Health Advisory Board as an At-Large member to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2018.

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

- 2017-344 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Resolution concurring with the City of Rahway's Resolutions No. AR-27-17 & No. AR-28-17, re-appointing James Kennedy to the Union County Utilities Authority for a term expiring January 31, 2022 and Roy Eastman to the Union County Utilities Authority for a term expiring January 31, 2021.

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

- 2017-345 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution concurring with the Township of Springfield granting permission to St. James the Apostle Church to close South Springfield Avenue between Mountain Avenue and Shunpike Road from May 2, 2017 – May 5, 2017 between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and May 6, 2017 between the hours of 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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

- 2017-346 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution concurring with the Borough of Roselle Park to close Chestnut Street from Grant Avenue to Webster Avenue and Grant Avenue from Chestnut Street to Sheridan Avenue on Monday, May 29, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the Memorial Day Parade.

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

- 2017-347 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution concurring with the Borough of Roselle Park, granting permission to close Chestnut Street from Williams Street to Clay Avenue from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 17, 2017, (rain date Saturday, June 24, 2017) and Tuesday, August 1, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., (rain date Tuesday, August 8, 2017) in order to hold "Crusin Night Car Shows."

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

- 2017-348 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution concurring with the City of Linden to hang a banner over Wood Avenue near Curtis Street and Elizabeth Avenue from April 21, 2017 to May 10, 2017 to promote the Police Unity Tour which will be held on May 9, 2017.

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

- 2017-349 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to extend the awarded contract BA 15-2015 obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law: NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq. to Motivated Security Services, Somerville, N.J., for the purpose of providing security coverage at Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital for a not to exceed figure of \$83,518 for an additional period of twelve consecutive months commencing May 11, 2017 through May 10, 2018.

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

- 2017-350 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to approve the 2017 GAP Spending Plan in the total amount not to exceed \$295,905 for subcontracted services to be provided during the 8 month budget period of May 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017; further authorizing the transfer of funds among the agencies during the contract period should service needs change and/or if any of the agencies fails to meet its contractual obligation.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed seven (7) members voting in the affirmative, with Chairmahn Bergen abstaining and Freeholder Carter absent.

- 2017-351 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2017-183, FY2014 SuperNOFA Continuum of Care (CoC) Spending Plan, to award a grant extension to the Covenant House/Supportive Housing subcontract 15-SUP-105 for the extension period of December 1, 2015 through May 31, 2017, as approved by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), allowing services to continue and funds to be fully expended with no change in funding and no other changes to spending plan.

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

- 2017-352 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, to apply for, and if awarded, execute, the NJ Historic Trust grant in the total amount of \$50,000.00.

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

- 2017-353 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring the WallynZavy's Autistic kids Can Do! Inc. Autism/Disabilities walk in Plainfield on April 29, 2017 in the amount of \$1,000.

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

- 2017-354 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring Linden Soehl Middle School's Peer Leadership Together We Ball Tournament on May 5, 2017 in the amount of \$500.

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

- 2017-355 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring Melly Mell Productions' Elizabeth Waterfront Latin Festival held on May 27, 2017 in the amount of \$5,000.

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

- 2017-356 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution Number 876-2015, (BA#34-2015) a contract awarded through advertised public bidding process in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et se., to T.R. Weniger, Inc., of Piscataway, New Jersey, approving Change Order Number 1 (final) for the Replacement of Two (2) Pedestrian Bridges, Green Brook Park, City of Plainfield and Rahway River Park, City of Rahway, County of Union, New Jersey. This Change Order will reduce the contract amount by (\$30,750.00) for a new contract amount not to exceed \$422,800.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2010-015)

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

- 2017-357 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution Number 2015-1026, (BA#74-2015) a contract awarded through the Public Bidding Process in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq., to Applied Landscape Technologies of Montville, New Jersey, approving Change Order Number 1 (final) for Rahway River Park Turf Field Project, City of Rahway, County of Union, New Jersey. This change order will reduce the contract amount by (\$461.99) for a new contract amount not to exceed \$3,538,863.01. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2011-019).



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

- 2017-358 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Resolution to have County Manager Execute a Licensing Agreement with the Brigade of the American Revolution to Conduct a Reenactment of the Battle of Short Hills on the Weekend of June 24-25, 2017 and to Act as Co-sponsor of this Event at a Cost Not to Exceed \$50,000.00.

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

- 2017-359 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into agreement with SOE Software Corporation (dba Scyt), Tampa, Florida, for the purpose of providing software licensing and maintenance for the County Clerk's Election Night Reporting Program for a contract period of April 15, 2017 through April 14, 2020 in an amount of \$25,500.

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

- 2017-360 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** A Resolution approving the settlement of pending litigation entitled Barbara Egger v. Runnells Hospital, et al, Civil Action 2:14-cv-03904 WJM MF, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00.

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

#### **FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS**

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- 2017-361 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Congratulating Channon Hendricks for being the recipient of the 2017 Stand Out Volunteer Award at the Salvation Army's Volunteer Dinner.

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

- 2017-362 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Congratulating the recipients of the Union County Club of National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. at their 45th annual Founders' Day Award Luncheon on April 22, 2017.

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

- 2017-363 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA & FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Congratulating and extending the Board's gratitude to the recipients of the YWCA Union County awards.

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

- 2017-364 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA, VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH, FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution supporting the Community Development Block Grant Program; calling upon the continued funding of this vital program within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at a level no less than formula funding in Fiscal Year 2016.

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

- 2017-365 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK, FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER & FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution congratulating the nine (9) Girls Scouts from five troops who are being recognized with the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award attainable, at the First Congregational Church in Westfield on May 25, 2017.

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

- 2017-366 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Congratulating Linden High School Navy JROTC Cadet Daniel Tarnawski on his acceptance to the United States Naval Academy.

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

- 2017-367 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Acknowledging the efforts of the Union County Human Relations Commission (UCHRC); and further congratulating the 14 recipients of the 2017 UCHRC Unity Achievement Awards.

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

- 2017-368 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution recognizing the month of May, 2017 as "National Community Action Month" throughout Union County, and further commending the many Union County community agencies for their role in helping low-income families to move out of poverty and achieve economic security.

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

- 2017-369 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Proclaiming May 4th as International Firefighters' Day throughout the County of Union.

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

- 2017-370 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Recognizing the month of May as Older Americans Month throughout the County of Union.

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

- 2017-371 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Congratulating the Jeanette Shell Book Scholarship Fund, Inc. upon their 20th anniversary celebration and its award recipients.

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

- 2017-372 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Congratulating the recipients of the 2017 Freedom Fund Awards by the Roselle Branch NAACP on April 21, 2017.

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

- 2017-373 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Recognizing and extending the Board's appreciation to the women who are "Baking it Forward," in search of peace and friendship.

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

- 2017-374 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER & FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Resolution recognizing the week of Monday, May 8, 2017 through Friday, May 12, 2017 as "Teacher Appreciation Week" throughout Union County, while embracing this year's theme "Teachers Deliver".

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

- 2017-375 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Recognizing the Elmora Youth Little League's efforts in spreading awareness of Autism, as they host their "Autism Awareness Weekend"; inclusive of a "Home Run-A-Thon".

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

- 2017-376 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Recognizing the Elmora Youth Little League Boys and Girls 10U District Champions and Girls 14U Sectional Champions.

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

- 2017-377 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Congratulating the winners of the 2017 Arbor Day Poetry Contest.

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

- 2017-378 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Congratulating the Rotary Club of Elizabeth upon their 100th birthday celebration on April 21, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Kowalski and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, 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 comment on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

Catie Debello, 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at Columbia Middle School in Berkeley Heights, made comments in support of mountain biking. She stated that she is a member of National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA), and spoke of NICA's first New Jersey event in Chester, NJ, where she finished 1<sup>st</sup> in her class. She said mountain biking would be a healthy and safe activity she could do with her family.

Steve Rabb, of Berkeley Heights, noted that he was joined in attendance by his daughter, who like Catie Debell is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at Columbia Middle School and is in favor of mountain biking. He mentioned he emailed the Board and made comments in support of mountain biking.

Glenn Mortgage, of Woodbridge, made comments relative to his work as a sculpture and to the fact that he has not been paid the \$5,000 he has invoiced for the installation of a metal sculpture behind the Union County Performing Arts Center in September of 2013. He noted

that the sculpture is on County property and has been maintained by the County. He noted that another sculpture of his was purchased and paid for by the UCPAC and is hanging in the Hamilton Stage.

John Bury, of Kenilworth, made comments relative to the UCPAC spending \$250,000 towards the historic organ. He made comments relative to Moody's receiving money over the years and questioned if there is a conflict of interest.

Tom Gigkal (inaudible) , of Westfield, made comments in support of the proposed mountain biking trails. He stated that the local JORBA's President (Jamie Meiselman) has requested to have a joint meeting with those that oppose the mountain bike trails to resolve this issue amicably. He stated that the County has already included large budgetary items (\$2.3 million on in-door horse riding arena), and the County should incorporate mountain biking.

Freeholder Jalloh left the meeting.

Ann DeCamp, of Scotch Plains, congratulated Catie DeBello on her accomplishments. She made comments relative to the importance of outdoor activities, but made comments in opposition to the proposed mountain bike trails. She cited her concerns over the desecration of wilderness for the creation of mountain biking trails. She spoke to the expansion of NICA, which would increase usage of the proposed trails to train for the NICA races; noting stringent requirements for their NICA coaches.

William Toth, of Plainfield, made comments in opposition of the proposed mountain bike trails. He stated his concerns that the Master Plan does not include either a Wetlands nor an Environmental Impact Study. He noted that the plan does include an Environmental Assessment that identifies the south-west corner of the Reservation as the most fragile environment in the entire reservation. He provided photos of his walk on April 14, 2017 through the Reservation to the Clerk of the Board which depicts the cutting of many trees. He stated that the reservation was set aside as a Nature Preserve for the benefit of future generations.

Freeholder Jalloh returned to the meeting.

Troy Dahl, of Summit, made comments in support of the proposed mountain biking trails. He stated that there is no evidence that the trails will be overrun by new bikers from all over the state and beyond. He made comments relative to the CME (Environmental) Plan. He made comments relative to the dangers of horseback riding, which far exceed the dangers of mountain biking. He stated that he would be open to a shared use trail.

Eric Moberg, of Summit, made comments in support of the proposed mountain biking trails. He stated that he would be open to a shared use trail.

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, made comments relative to the sculpture at the UCPAC.

Freeholder Estrada left the meeting.

Mr. Patterson made comments relative to his confusion on how the reduction of \$1 million line-item in the County Budget from the UCIA is in compliance with the agreements as

stated by Director Taylor. He made comments relative to the County's opinion that there is no conflict of interest in having a business administrator oversee the County Budget.

Chairman Bergen stated that the question of any (conflict of interest has been responded on a number of occasions by the Board and County Counsel that there is no conflict.

Chairman asked Mr. Patterson to remove himself from the meeting (as he was disrupting the ability of the Board to conduct its business).

Barbara Kraus, of Cranford, made comments in opposition to the proposed mountain bike trails. She stated her concerns of the inaccurate portrayal of those in opposition as fear mongers or "NIMBYs" (Not In My Back Yard). She stated her concerns over the potential for mechanical/motorized mountain biking and the policing of the trails. She urged the Board to find another location for the mountain bikers.

Freeholder Estrada left the meeting.

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## **FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

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Freeholder Hudak made comments acknowledging the county's state delegation (Senator Scutari, Assemblyman Green and Assemblyman Kennedy) in regard to their efforts with the Tremley Point Connector Road Project; which is a conceptual project that has been decades in the making to create an off-ramp off the New Jersey Turnpike. He made comments relative to economic benefits of the off-ramp to the area; promoting redevelopment to the Linden waterfront and to reduce truck volume through a residential area (specifically South Wood Avenue). He made comments relative to his trip to Washington, DC to meet with the Congressional delegation to ensure the \$14 million in earmarks towards the project remained allocated to this project. He made comments relative to the project moving forward with environmental studies with the implementation of the Transportation Trust Fund. He noted that Freeholder Estrada will be the President of the NJTPA and will keep a close eye on this project.

Freeholder Jalloh made comments relative to the sculpture at the UCPAC, noting that they are an autonomous agency. He stated that he was not on the UCPAC Board during this agreement was made and encouraged the gentleman to go before the UCPAC Board so that a reasonable decision on how to handle the situation can be made. He clarified that the UCPAC is not funded to an elaborate level, noting that there are laws in place that limit counties from funding performing arts centers. He stated that the bulk of any funds the county provides are through programing and maintenance, since it is the county's facility.

Freeholder Wright made comments relative to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Jeannett Shell Book Scholarship Fund, a nonprofit that provides support for Union High School graduates who wish to attend postsecondary institutions. She noted the Board is extraordinarily proud of the librarians, staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure that our local public libraries continue to uphold this important civic legacy.

Freeholder Kowalski thanked those who participated in the meeting, noting it is an important part of the process in Board's decision making. She made comments relative to the upcoming Arts programs available to Union County residents; noting the exhibit of

giclee fine arts prints of paintings by Gina Minichino and the selected paintings by art students of all ages from the JCC of Central New Jersey. She made comments relative to the Senior Citizens Art Exhibit to be on display from May 30, 2017 through July 10, 2017.

Freeholder Hudak left the meeting.

Freeholder Estrada welcomed all residents who came to the meeting and thanked them for coming out to voice their opinions and concerns. He made comments relative to his participation in a press conference regarding potential cuts to the Community Development Block Grants program; noting the importance of such programs as Meals On Wheels.

Freeholder Estrada made comments relative to his participation at an annual Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) commemoration at Kean University. He spoke on the event; which involved two twin brothers who survived the Holocaust. Freeholder Estrada spoke on the potential for such atrocities to happen in the future.

Freeholder Mirabella made comments relative to a few upcoming events: the Wild Earth Festival at the Trailside Nature and Science Center, the "Touch A Truck" event at the Loop in the Watchung Reservation, and the Master Gardeners "Spring Garden Fair", the "Rhythm and Blues by the Brook" concert, the annual "Bio-Blitz" and the County's first ever "Family PRIDE CommUNITY" picnic, celebrating marriage equality.

Freeholder Mirabella commented on his participation in two Earth Day events, noting that residents should celebrate it each day, all year long. He noted some of the Arbor Day celebrations throughout the County.

Freeholder Mirabella mentioned a local event in Fanwood "Rockin for Autism", to help raise money and awareness for Autism. He made remarks relative to Zachary Brooks and his twin brother who has autism, noting that he will be hosting an Arts Show in Summit to raise awareness. Freeholder Mirabella encouraged residents to attend the Art Show.

Freeholder Hudak returned to the meeting.

County Manager Faella made comments relative to the opportunity for individuals to obtain summer employment with the County as lifeguards.

Vice Chairman Granados made comments relative to the announcement of 170 new jobs for County residents through the Workforce Business Innovation Center; noting that 100 jobs will be through OTG Management, a food service company; 50 new jobs through the PGK Clubhouse, which provides services for children; and 20 new jobs through Francesca's Collection store at Jersey Gardens Mall.

Chairman Bergen thanked Freeholder Hudak on his leadership with the Tremley Point issue; noting that it is an important economic and quality of life issue for Linden and the entire County of Union.

Chairman Bergen thanked Fiscal Committee Chairman Mirabella, the Fiscal Committee, the County Manager, all the department heads, and all of the staff who assisted in developing the 2017 County Budget.

Chairman Bergen made comments relative to the County's Vocational-Technical school, which was ranked #4 in the state of New Jersey and #105 in the nation by U.S. News And World Report. He noted that there are 20,000 schools are high schools are considered. He noted that the Allied for health Sciences was ranked #8 in New Jersey and #200 nationally. He also noted that the Union County Tech School was ranked #70 in New Jersey and #2,529 nationally. He noted that in addition to the County's Vocational-Technical schools, five other County High Schools were ranked: Elizabeth High School was ranked #5 in New Jersey, Summit High School was ranked #12 in New Jersey, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy was ranked #17 in New Jersey, Jonathan Dayton High School was ranked #29 in New Jersey, and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School was ranked #42 in New Jersey.

Chairman Bergen made remarks regarding two new facilities to be opened in the near future: renovated Warinanco Park Sports Center and the new Union County Family Courthouse.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, a voice vote showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter absent. Meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2017 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 7:00 pm 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.

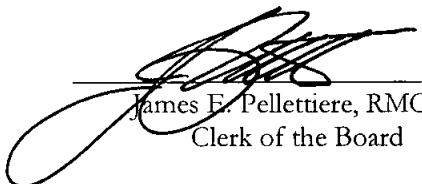
### REORGANIZATION MEETING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017 at 12:00 pm Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ

#### AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 19, 2017  
February 2, 2017  
February 23, 2017  
March 2, 2017  
March 16, 2017  
April 6, 2017  
April 20, 2017  
May 4, 2017  
May 25, 2017  
June 1, 2017  
June 15, 2017  
July 13, 2017  
August 10, 2017  
September 7, 2017  
September 28, 2017  
October 5, 2017  
October 19, 2017  
November 9, 2017  
November 30, 2017  
December 14, 2017

#### REGULAR MEETINGS

January 26, 2017  
February 9, 2017  
February 23, 2017  
March 9, 2017  
March 23, 2017  
April 13, 2017  
April 27, 2017  
May 18, 2017  
May 25, 2017  
June 8, 2017  
June 22, 2017  
July 20, 2017  
August 17, 2017  
September 14, 2017  
September 28, 2017  
October 12, 2017  
October 26, 2017  
November 21, 2017  
December 7, 2017  
December 21, 2017



James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA  
Clerk of the Board