

**INSTALLATION AND REORGANIZATION MEETING
OF THE 2021 UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN COMMISSIONERS
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, 2021 AT TWELVE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

GREETINGS

Master of Ceremonies, the Honorable Nicholas P. Scutari,
New Jersey State Senator, 22nd District and Chair of the
Union County Democratic Committee (UCDC).

Honorable Nicholas P. Scutari welcomed everyone to the 165th Organizational Ceremony. He asked for a moment of silence in honor of those lost to COVID-19 in 2021. He called upon Sheriff Peter Corvelli to present the Posting of the Colors.

THE POSTING OF THE COLORS

Union County Sheriff's Honor Guard

The Presentation of the Colors was performed by the Union County Sheriff's Honor Guard, led by Honorable Peter Corvelli, the Union County Sheriff. He called for the presentation of the colors.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Honorable Peter Corvelli, Union County Sheriff

Union County Sheriff, the Honorable Peter Corvelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF HONORED GUESTS

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari acknowledged the many Honored Dignitaries that were present for the 2021 Installation Ceremonies. He thanked them for attending the ceremony, noting the difficult circumstances of the prior year relative to COVID-19.

HONORED GUESTS

The Honorable Governor Phil Murphy, New Jersey

The Honorable Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, New Jersey

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

The Honorable New Jersey Senator Joseph P. Cryan, 20th Legislative District

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

The Honorable New Jersey Assemblywoman Linda Carter, 22nd Legislative District

The Honorable Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi

The Honorable Union County Sheriff Peter Corvelli

The Honorable Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, City of Elizabeth

The Honorable Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, 20th Legislative District

The Honorable Raymond J. Lesniak, former NJ State Senator

The Honorable Mayor Patrick Giblin, Township of Clark

The Honorable Reverend Reginald Atkins, Zion Family Worship Center, Roselle, New Jersey and
former Acting Mayor of Roselle

Gwendolyn Ryan, Superintendent of the Union County Vocational Technical Schools

CERTIFICATIONS OF ELECTION

Honorable Clara C. Fernandez,
Union County Deputy Clerk

Joanne Rajoppi, Union County Clerk

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari called upon the Honorable Clara C. Fernandez, Deputy County Clerk to certify the election for Clerk Joanne Rajoppi.

The Certification of Election of County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi to the Union County Clerk was read by Clara C. Fernandez, Union County Deputy Clerk. Ms. Clara C. Fernandez, Deputy Clerk of the County of Union, certified that County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi received the highest number of votes and was duly elected to a term of five years as Union County Clerk at the General Election on November 3rd, 2021.

CERTIFICATIONS OF ELECTION

Honorable Joanne Rajoppi
Union County Clerk

Peter Corvelli, Union County Sheriff

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari called upon the Honorable Joanne Rajoppi, County Clerk to certify the remaining elections.

The Certification of Election of County Sheriff Peter Corvelli to the Union County Sheriff was read by Joanne Rajoppi, Union County Clerk. Ms. Joanne Rajoppi, Clerk of the County of Union, certified that County Sheriff Peter Corvelli received the highest number of votes and was duly elected to a term of three years as Union County Sheriff at the General Election held on November 3rd, 2021.

Angela R. Garretson, Union County Commissioner
Christopher Hudak, Union County Commissioner
Lourdes Leon, Union County Commissioner

County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi read the Certification of Election of the Union County Commissioners, stating that Commissioners Angela R. Garretson, Christopher Hudak, and Lourdes Leon received the highest number of votes and were duly elected to a term of three years as Members of the Board of County Commissioners at the General Election held on November 3rd, 2021.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO JOANNE RAJOPPI

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari introduced County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi and spoke relative to her achievements and success as Union County Clerk, including being the first female to be elected Clerk in the County's history and winning this election with the greatest plurality in recent history. State Senator Scutari congratulated Clerk Rajoppi on her successful re-election and thanked her for the support relative to the UC Democratic Committee. He called upon the Honorable Governor Philip D. Murphy to administer the Oath of Office to Clerk Joanne Rajoppi.

Holding the Bible for Joanne Rajoppi was her son Andrew Papas.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO PETER CORVELLI

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari spoke relative to Sheriff Peter Corvelli, noting his long and impressive career in law enforcement, having served as Assistant Director and Director of the Department of Corrections and UC Juvenile Detention Center respectively, prior to serving as Sheriff. He also noted Sheriff Corvelli's lengthy career in the Hillside Police Department from which he retired in 2016.

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari introduced Sheriff Peter Corvelli and called upon The Honorable New Jersey Senator Joseph P. Cryan, to administer the Oath of Office to Sheriff Corvelli.

Holding the Bible for Sheriff Corvelli were his wife Kelly and daughters Alyssa and Rylee.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari spoke relative to Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, who secured re-election to the Board of County Commissioners, and recognized her efforts relative to updating the term Commissioner to Commissioner. Senator Scutari commended Commissioner Garretson for all her continued hard work and efforts relative to community engagement, social justice, and economic stability, among other initiatives.

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari introduced Commissioner Angela R. Garretson and called upon the Honorable Governor Philip D. Murphy to administer the Oath of Office to Commissioner Garretson.

Holding the Bible for Commissioner Angela R. Garretson was her mother **Lorraine** Garretson.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari spoke relative to Commissioner Christopher Hudak and his efforts focused on infrastructure, substance abuse, and education and recreation opportunities, noting \$9 million awarded in infrastructure matching grants to the 21 municipalities throughout the County. He recognized Commissioner Hudak for his efforts this last year in ensuring access to testing, food distribution, and now vaccinations for residents in need. He also congratulated Commissioner Hudak for recently becoming a licensed attorney, noting him as a dear friend.

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari introduced Commissioner Christopher Hudak and called upon former State Senator the Honorable Raymond J. Lesniak to administer the Oath of Office to Commissioner Hudak.

Holding the Bible for Commissioner Christopher Hudak were his wife, Terri and his children Catherine and Jackson.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari spoke relative to Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon and her background in education, having served 27 years in the Elizabeth School District. He noted that Commissioner Leon started her career as a teacher's aide and moved up until becoming the Principal of Donald Stewart School No. 51, which she helped open in 2003. He recognized her tremendous efforts relative to education and administration, noting that Commissioner Leon had been recognized with the Educators Award for Outstanding Performance in 2003 and 2004. He thanked Commissioner Leon for her support to the UCDC and Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage over the years, noting that he looked forward to her joining the Board of Union County Commissioners.

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari introduced Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon and called upon Elizabeth Mayor the Honorable J. Christian Bollwage to administer the Oath of Office to Commissioner Leon.

Holding the Bible for Commissioner Leon were her two nephews, Christopher and Nicholas Leon.

GENERAL REMARKS

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari turned the Installation Ceremony and Reorganizational Meeting of the 2021 Union County Board of County Commissioners over to the Honorable Governor Philip D. Murphy.

The Honorable Governor Philip D. Murphy thanked NJ State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari for his tremendous leadership and for his friendship. He congratulated everyone being sworn in today as well as all the election winners throughout the State, noting that he was honored and humbled to be in Union County, a place with great legislative representation and a place he considered a home away from home. He congratulated Commissioner Alexander Mirabella and Commissioner Rebecca Williams on their appointments to the position of Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Board of Union County Commissioners and paid special mention to Commissioner Garretson for being outspoken and proactive relative to updated the term Commissioner. On another note, Governor Murphy spoke relative to COVID-19 and the current cases, noting that 1,400 Union County residents had been lost to the pandemic. He closed by once again issuing his congratulations to County Clerk Rajoppi, Sheriff Corvelli, and Commissioners Garretson, Hudak, and Leon and thanked Union County for extending the invitation and welcoming him so warmly.

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari turned the Installation Ceremony and Reorganizational Meeting of the 2021 Union County Board of County Commissioners over to Clerk of the Board James E. Pellettiere.

ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE 2021 BOARD OF CHOSEN COMMISSIONERS

ALL TO ORDER

The Clerk of the Board called the Re-Organizational meeting to order at 12:32 P.M.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk of the Board called the roll.

Roll call showed Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, Commissioner Sergio Granados, Commissioner Christopher Hudak, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, Commissioner Andrea Staten, and Commissioner Rebecca L. Williams were present.

PRAYER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The prayer and salute to the flag were led by Clerk of the Board Pellettiere.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

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

ELECTION OF A CHAIR OF THE 2021 BOARD OF UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The first order of business was the election of a Chair.

The Clerk of the Board called for a nomination for the election of a Chair Pro-Tem of the Board of Chosen Commissioners for the year 2021.

Commissioner Hudak approached the podium and nominated Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski noting that it was a privilege to be able to nominate friend, colleague, and former Chair Commissioner Kowalski to serve as Chair Pro-Tem.

On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Staten, roll called showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative for Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski to serve as Chair Pro-Tem.

Chair Pro-Tem Bette Jane Kowalski called for nominations for the election of a Chair of the Board of Union County Commissioners for the year 2021.

Commissioner Granados approached the podium wished everyone a Happy New Year and nominated Commissioner Alexander Mirabella to serve as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. He recognized Commissioner Mirabella as a great leader especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that he look forward to continuing the Board's efforts under Commissioner Mirabella's tremendous leadership.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, roll called showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative for Commissioner Alexander Mirabella to serve as Chairman of the Board of Chosen Commissioners for the year 2021.

Chair Pro-Tem Bette Jane Kowalski introduced the 2021 Chairman Alexander Mirabella and called upon the Honorable New Jersey State Senator Scutari to administer the Oath of Office to Chair Alexander Mirabella.

Holding the Bible for Chairman Alexander Mirabella were his wife Phyllis, son Alexander and daughter Micayla.

Chairman Mirabella thanked his colleagues for the nomination, noting that he looked forward to continuing the good work, in particular the efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic.

ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIR OF THE 2021 BOARD OF UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The next order of business was the election of a Vice Chair for the Board of Union County Commissioners for the year 2021.

Chairman Alexander Mirabella called for nominations for the election of a Vice Chair of the Board of Chosen Commissioners for the year 2021.

Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded approached the podium and nominated Commissioner Rebecca Williams, noting Commissioner Williams as a well-respected member of the community and recognized her for her hard work and tremendous efforts, especially this past year relative to COVID-19.

On a motion made by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded and seconded by Commissioner Kowalski, roll called showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative for Commissioner Rebecca L. Williams to serve as Vice Chair of the Board of Chosen Commissioners for the year 2021.

Chairman Alexander Mirabella introduced the 2021 Vice Chair Rebecca L. Williams and called upon the Honorable State Senator and UCDC Chair Nicholas P. Scutari to administer the Oath of Office to Vice Chair Williams.

Joining Rebecca L. Williams was her partner Veronica Taylor.

RECESS

Chairman Mirabella advised that the remaining portion of the meeting, including comments would be conducted virtually in observance of COVID-19 regulations and to allow for the participation of the public.

Chairman Alexander Mirabella calls for a motion to recess at 12:46 PM.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Garretson, roll called showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.