

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mirabella presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:22P.M.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present were County Manager Edward T. Oatman, County Counsel Bruce H. Bergen, Esq., and Clerk of the Board James E. Pellettiere.

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.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Chairman Mirabella called for a motion to approve Communications. On a motion made by Vice Chair Williams and seconded by Commissioner Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere advised that the Ordinance 826-2021 would not be presented for adoption until 5:30 in accordance with the publication notice. Given the time of the evening, Chairman Mirabella moved on to the Suspension of the Rules, Public Comment Portion and the vote on the adoption of Resolutions before opening the meeting for public comment and adoption on Ordinance 826-2021 at 5:51p.m.

**826-2021 CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY
AUTHORIZING THE PROVIDING OF FUNDING TO THE UNION
COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE
UNION COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMPLEX PROJECT IN, BY AND
FOR THE COUNTY, APPROPRIATING THEREFORE THE SUM OF**

\$16,750,000 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND AND CAPITAL SURPLUS OF THE COUNTY.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere read Ordinance 826-2021 by title.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting was opened to the public for the purpose of commenting on Ordinance Number 826-2021 only.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, thanked Director Taylor for her elaborate explanation relative to his initial questions regarding the 2021 budget. He inquired about how the \$16.75 million would be spent, noting he approved of not issuing debt for the project, but rather using capital surplus.

Director Taylor advised that all finances for the County were fully disclosed either in the AFS or annual audit, noting that annual budgets only reflected the current year's funding and did not include the capital improvement fund and or capital surplus. She added that when items were appropriated from this funding, the Board was required to authorize the spending by means of an ordinance. Relative to the new government complex, Director Taylor advised that of the \$16.75 million being appropriated, \$15 million would be issued to GMP for the proposed redeveloper to construct the project, with the remaining \$1.75 million to be using for administrative construction services.

FINAL READING STATEMENT

Commissioner Christopher Hudak, Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman, moved Ordinance Number 826-2021 for Final Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law.

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

Upon completion of the vote on Ordinance 826-2021, Chairman Mirabella moved on to Commissioner Reports and Comments.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

Suspension of the rules to allow for the joining of both Public Comments on resolutions being offered for adoption, and Public Comments on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

Chairman Mirabella called for a motion to Suspend the Rules. On a motion made by Vice Chair Williams and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll called showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting was opened to the public for the purpose of commenting on Resolutions being offered for adoption and any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

John Bury, of Kenilworth, submitted the following questions/comments to be read into the record by Clerk of the Board Pellettiere:

With regards to the amounts budgeted for county contributions to the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) the amounts listed on Sheet 21 are \$17,819,400 and \$17,004,791. However, per the state website (<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/2021-employer-billing.shtml>) the amounts billed and payable in April, 2021 were \$17,669,400 and \$16,688,596 respectively.

To where is the additional \$150,000 and \$316,195, respectively, budgeted?

Going back to the 2007 payments and including these for 2021 Union County has reported \$1,943,150 in payments greater than what the state billed. Who got this additional money?

Backup data attached: Appropriations pages on PERS and PFRS contributions going back to 2005; Listing of PERS deposits taken from check registry data compared to budgeted amounts by year; Listing of PFRS deposits taken from check registry data compared to budgeted amounts by year.

Director Taylor advised that annual pension bills owed by the County, due every April 1st reflected the 2nd calendar quarter report of contributions for the prior two years relative to employee activity. To illustrate her point, Director Taylor noted that the bill due on April 1st 2013 was based on a March 31st, 2011 report contributions. She further advised that the County pays bills received on April 1st, as customarily done by all public entities. She noted that public entities also receive retro bills as a result of any settlements that occurred prior to the bill being rendered and due. She noted that such variances were typical and the County had a financial reserve in place to contend with those billing variations and satisfy their financial obligations to the state. Director Taylor added that the PERS buffer was \$150,000 and the PFRS buffer was approximately \$300,000. She added that the County did not know the charges cited on the retro bills until they were received, which customarily occurred following the adoption of the budget. She noted that any remaining balances from the PERS and PFRS would be transferred to a reserve set aside for exclusive payments to the State of NJ Department of Treasury, Division of Pension and Benefits.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, had questions and made comments relative to several resolutions. Relative to Reso No. 2021-271, he asked for additional details related to this item as well as why there was no associated cost. Relative to Reso No. 2021-272, he asked what the total cost of the project would be. Relative to Reso Nos. 2021-285 & 2021-286, he asked for an overview of these matters.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-288, Mr. Paterson asked if this Shared Service Agreement was associated with Park Maintenance Director Michael Brennan. Relative to Reso No. 2021-289, Mr. Paterson made comments regarding Terri Hudak's appointment to the Union County Improvement Authority. Regarding the 2021 Budget, Mr. Paterson questioned some of the calculations and made comments relative to cited line items and insurance costs.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-271, Director Moran advised that this item was meant to renew an existing 10 year agreement with the Union County Utilities Authority for solid waste disposal, noting that the Health Department was the enforcement arm for the DEP. He noted that under this agreement, the County of Union would be paid \$150,000 by the UCUA and would also be entitled to 50% of the collected fines.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-272, Division of Engineering Director Mineo advised that the cited project was a federal project funded through DPA. He noted that some of the costs funded scope of work and design services to name a few, as well as an on-site residential engineer during the actual construction. He advised that in addition to the approximate \$7.4 million cited, the total project was anticipated to cost \$10.6 million. He added that the cited bridge was considered an "orphan" bridge hence why the County assumed the project with the support of the Board of County Commissioners.

Relative to Reso 2021-285, Counsel Bergen advised that this item related to litigation by a former jail inmate and his claims that he was not afforded certain services. He advised that while the matter had no merit, the Department still had to assign and pay an attorney to handle the case. He added that the Department had filed a summary judgment motion to have the matter dismissed but the process had been delayed due to a personal tragedy that befell Federal Court Case Judge Salas. He added that the *et als* customarily included department heads and other parties within the County.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-286, Counsel Bergen advised that although this case had been settled months ago, the plaintiff's attorney had filed an unmerited ancillary action which was barred by the initial settlement. He noted that he expected this matter to be resolved quickly, but the original defense attorney had been rehired to defend the new development in the case.

Relative to Reso No. 2021- 288, County Manager Oatman advised that this item related to a 3-month extension requested by the Borough of Kenilworth, noting it was no different than other shared service agreement.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-289, Chairman Mirabella advised that Mrs. Terri Hudak, regardless of her relationship with Commissioner Hudak, was well-qualified and a great addition to the UCIA, noting that the Board and UCIA were fortunate to have her.

Relative to the 2021 Budget, Director Taylor advised that many of the concerns cited by Mr. Paterson regarding the budget were likely due to conflation of the

bond ordinance authorization with the capital budget. She noted that sheet 29, items A-F, reflected an itemization of projects that the County was planning and or reviewing for the upcoming budget year, noting it did not authorize an issuance of debt and bore no correlation to the capital noted in the evening's agenda. She advised that the capital ordinance on tonight's agenda was being funded as a result of all ordinances previously cancelled for completed project. She noted that if those projects were previously funded, the portion of the funded ordinances would lapse into capital surplus, noting that it was a customary County practice in order to build up surplus to prevent the County from having to issue debt for projects. Relative to the prospective Government Complex, Director Taylor advised that the project was anticipated to save the County approximately \$100 million as a result of the subsequent lease terminations for currently occupied facilities. She added that the debt authorized for this project was \$120 million dollars and the County had opted to use capital surplus and capital improvement funds in order to avoid the issuance of debt for the remaining \$16.75 million. Relative to the accumulated absence liability in the budget, Director Taylor advised that the liability last year was \$4,086,090.00, equating to 42,000 days that employees under collective bargaining agreements were entitled to relative to accumulated leave time. She advised that in 2021, the liability was \$3,209,000, equating to 31,410 days, noting a reduction of approximately 11,000 days. She added that by law, the County was responsible for disclosing liability and that the County was pro-active in reserving funds to meet these financial obligations without resorting to special emergency appropriations over the course of five years.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere confirmed there were no remaining members of the public wishing to comment.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions were offered for adoption:

2021-264 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to make a final payment to Westfield Veterinary Group for veterinary services and food for the Union County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit for the year 2020 in the amount not to exceed \$6,882.31.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-265 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement to authorize approval for participation in the Defense Logistic Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO), 1033 Program to enable Union County Sheriff's Office to request and acquire excess Department of Defense Equipment from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-266 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Bob Finkelstein & Associates Inc. ta BFA Food Service Equipment & Supplies of Warren NJ, to provide a pressure steamer to the Union County Division on Aging Kitchen for the Meals on Wheels program, in an amount not to exceed \$28,440.28.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-267 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2020-583 to extend the contract to Geographic Solutions, Palm Harbor, FL for continuation of Workforce Information Management Data Exchange System, for a period of five (5) months commencing January 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$24,625.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-268 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution Number 2020-647, to increase funds in the American Job Center 2020 Youth Comprehensive Career Services spending plan in the amount of \$100,000.00 to be awarded to the United Way of Greater Union County, for a new total spending plan amount not to exceed \$225,000.00 for in-school youth program services.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-269 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Michael A. Terpak, Sparta, New Jersey, to provide High Rise Command Training to 100 Fire Officers from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Region, through the 2020 UASI Grant, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-270 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Training Specialties Inc, Exton, PA to provide a fire suppression course to approximately 20 firefighters from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Region, through the 2019/2020 UASI Grant in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-271 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Shared Service Agreement with the Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA) and the Union County Office of Health Management (UCOHM) to carry out the applicable provisions of the Union County Solid Waste Control Work

Program component of the approved CEHA Work Program for a contract period effective from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2031.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-272 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to Railroad Construction Company, Inc. of Paterson, New Jersey for the Replacement of Gordon Street Bridge over "Out of Service" Conrail Structure 2050150, Boroughs of Roselle and Roselle Park, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$7,383,437.87, subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (BA# 1-2021; Union County Engineering Project # 2011-051).

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-273 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to utilize the County's only option to extend the open-ended contract awarded to Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc., Ewing, NJ pursuant to Resolution 2019-399 and originally obtained through advertised public bidding (B.A. # 15-2019), for the purpose of providing Construction Debris Disposal services for twenty-four (24) consecutive months from May 11, 2021 through May 10, 2023 in an amount not exceed \$80,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-274 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Advanced Lighting & Sound, Inc., Elmwood Park, NJ for the purchase and installation of multiple Audio Systems for various Courtrooms in the County of Union, in the amount not to exceed \$ 44,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-275 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Resolution authorizing aerial dispensing operation county-wide by the Union County Bureau of Mosquito Control.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-276 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Resolution granting permission to the Township of Springfield to hang a banner across Mountain Avenue at North Trivett Avenue from April 1, 2021 through April 26, 2021 for the Rotary Club

Food Truck Event to be held at Jonathan Dayton High School on Sunday, April 25, 2021.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-277 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN: Authorizing County Manager to execute an Amended Access Agreement Allowing T & F Industry to Enter Zimmerman Section of Elizabeth River Park, to install a New and/or Use an Old Existing Well for NJ DEP Required Testing.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-278 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN: Re-appointing the following members to the Union County Senior Citizen Disabled Resident Transportation Advisory Board for a term commencing January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023: Sonja Ash (Senior/Disabled); Ellen Steinberg (Senior); Robert Edwards (Senior); William Totten (Senior/Disabled); Tony Hall (Senior/Consumer); Theodore Freeman (Senior); Vera P. Roquemore (Senior) and Paula King (Senior/Disabled).

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-279 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN: Resolution re-appointing Tiffany Wilson to serve a three (3) year term as a member of the Mental Health Advisory Board (Justice Involved Services Representative).

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-280 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County Manager, through the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to purchase software, equipment, and related training from Cellebrite Inc., Parsippany, New Jersey, for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-281 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of the Union County Prosecutor, to apply for and accept funding for the purpose described in the application from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, for Federal Fiscal Year FFY 2018 Addressing the Training Needs of Juvenile Prosecutors Grant Program in the amount of \$6,656.00 in federal funds for the period of January 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-282 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Amending Resolution number 2020-781 to Authorize the County Manager, through the Office of the Union County Prosecutor, to apply for and accept funding for the purpose described in the application from the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety for FFY2018 Stop Violence Against Woman Grant Program in the amount of \$36,534.00 in federal funds with a required match of not to exceed \$12,178.00 for a total project cost of not to exceed \$48,712.00 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (Subaward number VAWA 50-18.)

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-283 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Amending Resolution Number 2020-782 to Authorize the County Manager, through the Office of the Union County Prosecutor, to apply for and accept funding for the purpose described in the application from the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety for FFY2018 Stop Violence Against Woman Grant Program in the amount of \$40,540.00 in federal funds with a required match not to exceed \$13,513.00 for a total project cost of not to exceed \$54,053.00 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (Subaward number VAWA 50-19.)

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-284 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Amending Resolution number 2020-902, a contract with Kristen Balsamo-Kleinbach, to serve as a LIMS support analyst at the Union County Prosecutor's Forensic Laboratory for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, this amendment is at no additional cost to the County.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-285 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Amending Resolution 2021-114 dated January 21, 2021 to increase the appropriation to Javerbaum Wurgaft Hicks Kahn Wikstrom & Sinins, P.C. in the matter entitled Reginald Curry v. UC, et als. in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 for a total contract not to exceed \$45,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-286 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution appointing Hatfield Schwartz, LLC as special counsel to represent the County of Union and the Union County Prosecutor's Office in the matter entitled Justin Marranca v. UC, et als, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-287 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Amending Resolution Number 2020-632, authorizing funding to the Union County Improvement Authority for preliminary expenses in the planning, design and undertakings for the new Union County Government Complex, to provide additional funding in the amount not to exceed \$16,750,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-288 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Amending Resolution Number 2021-61, a Shared Service Agreement by and between the County of Union and the Borough of Kenilworth for the sharing of a Certified Public Works Manager, to extend the agreement by three (3) months from April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$5,500.00. (Revenue Generating)

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-289 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Appointing Terri Hudak to the Union County Improvement Authority for a five (5) year term commencing February 1, 2021 and ending on January 31, 2026.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Hudak abstaining.

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2021-290 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Kyle Abercrombie, of Newark, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-291 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Proclaiming the month of April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-292 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Proclaiming April 11-17, 2021 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week throughout

Union County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our citizens safe; further acknowledging five dispatchers for their outstanding service.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-MouDED roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-293 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution offering this Board's appreciation to Albeiro Orozco, of Brisas Colombianas Bakery in Elizabeth, for his donation of 2,000 empanadas to Union County's front line workers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in Union County on National Empanada Day, April 8, 2021.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-MouDED roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-294 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUDED & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Proclaiming April 13, 2021 as Equal Pay Day throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-MouDED roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-295 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution recognizing the month of April, 2021 as Alcohol Awareness Month (AAM) throughout the County of Union

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-MouDED roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2021-296 VICE CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON, COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Middlesex County Commissioner Ken Armwood during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-MouDED roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Leon spoke relative to Easter Sunday and hoped everyone had a nice holiday. She also recognized those observing Ramadan on April 12th. On a different note, she thanked the Union County family including Directors and staff for their ongoing efforts at the vaccination center and those volunteering at the food distribution drives. To close, Commissioner Leon recognized April as Autism Awareness month, noting the many affected by this condition and thanked the parents and teachers that work with these individuals for their incredible work.

Commissioner Kowalski also thanked the County administration and staff for their efforts relative to the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, noting that eligibility for vaccination was now open to people of all ages. She recognized the County of Union for making these sites and resources accessible and convenient to residents throughout the various municipalities. To close, Commissioner Kowalski recognized the many educators throughout the County and thanked them for their continued efforts in light of COVID-19.

Commissioner Hudak thanked and commended the many volunteers at the County's vaccination sites, noting that these efforts would continue to expand. With the weather improving, he encouraged residents to engage in outdoor activities at County Parks and other open spaces while reminding them to continue social distancing and adhering to masking protocols. He noted that the finish line was in sight relative to overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic, but asked residents to be respectful and behave responsibly as the County continued its vaccination efforts.

Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded had no comments.

Commissioner Garretson had no comments.

Commissioner Granados echoed the sentiments of Commissioner Leon relative to Autism Awareness Month. He also thanked those involved in volunteering efforts for their contributions and willingness to make a difference in their communities. On a different note he thanked Brisas Bakery & Restaurant in Elizabeth for their generous donations of empanadas to several departments throughout the County, including the UC Sheriff's and Corrections Department, the Kean Vaccination Center and other local police and fire organizations.

Commissioner Staten congratulated colleague Commissioner Garretson on her acquisition of a doctorate degree.

Vice Chair Williams also extended her congratulations to colleague Commissioner Garretson for her tremendous academic achievement. On another note, she thanked the many volunteers throughout the County for their efforts relative to COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and food distribution drives. To close, she recognized National Poetry Month, and encouraged residents to visit the County website to learn more about the related activities scheduled.

Chairman Mirabella recognized the tremendous efforts and hard work of those involved at the Kean Testing Site and Vaccination Center as well as the Food Distribution drives. He thanked President Biden, Governor Murphy, and State Senators Scutari, Cryan, and Kane for their support and push in getting additional doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. He also recognized County Manager Oatman, Deputy County Manager Wagner as well as Public Safety Director Moran, Human Services Director Anderson, Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Administration Victoria Durbin Drake and Chief of Staff Jessica Cohen and thanked them for their continued efforts. He also thanked the labor unions in the area for their willingness to provide volunteers to assist the County. He noted the approaching challenge of convincing reluctant resident to get vaccinated, adding that the County would be pro-active and enhance efforts to boost

vaccination rates. He thanked Vice Chair Williams and Commissioners Garretson and Staten for their participation in a previous forum aimed at educating people about the COVID-19 vaccines. On another note, he encouraged residents to continue supporting small businesses, noting his recent visit to the Ashbrook Golf Course with his family, noting an enjoyable evening.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Mirabella asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 P.M.

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2021 MEETING SCHEDULE**

**REORGANIZATION MEETING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021 at 12:00 pm
Courthouse Plaza, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ & Remotely
Through Teleconference via Zoom Webinar**

2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 21, 2021

February 4, 2021
February 18, 2021

March 4, 2021
March 25, 2021

April 8, 2021
April 22, 2021

May 6, 2021
May 20, 2021

June 10, 2021
June 24, 2021

July 22, 2021

August 12, 2021

September 2, 2021
September 23, 2021

October 7, 2021
October 21, 2021

November 4, 2021
November 18, 2021

December 2, 2021
December 16, 2021

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 21, 2021

February 4, 2021
February 18, 2021

March 4, 2021
March 25, 2021

April 8, 2021
April 22, 2021

May 6, 2021
May 20, 2021

June 10, 2021
June 24, 2021

July 22, 2021

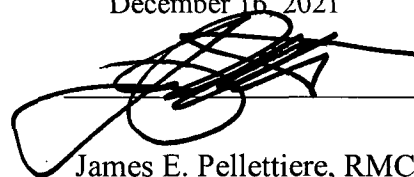
August 12, 2021

September 2, 2021
September 23, 2021

October 7, 2021
October 21, 2021

November 4, 2021
November 18, 2021

December 2, 2021
December 16, 2021



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

Please note that the County Commissioners' meetings are to be regularly held on Thursday evenings and are scheduled to be held on the same evening, with the Agenda Setting Session to commence at 5:00pm and the Regular Meeting to commence as soon as possible after the Agenda Setting Session, unless otherwise noted.