



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mirabella presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:34P.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, 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 Staten, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

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 Commissioner Hudak and seconded by Commissioner Kowalski 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.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, made comments and asked questions relative to several Resolutions. Relative to Reso No. 2021-327, Mr. Paterson made comments relative to the cost of the new UC Dispatch Center. He asked for an overview of Reso No. 2021-328. Relative to Resolution Nos. 2021-332 through 2021-335, he noted that he was happy to see progress being made on the replacement of the Gordon Street Bridge. Specific to Reso No. 2021-332, he asked Director Graziano to elaborate further on this item and inquired about railroad construction on-site. Relative to Reso No. 2021-341, Mr. Paterson asked about the status of the existing furniture and what would become of it once the Red Knot was redesigned. Relative to Reso No. 2021-343, he asked why an outside vendor was needed for this project. Relative to Reso No. 2021-347, Mr. Paterson asked about potential election-related cost savings given that Governor Murphy had authorized the Primary June Election to be held as customary. Relative to Reso No. 2021-348, he commented that he approved of the \$150,000 in State funding to be used towards the project.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-327, Director Moran advised that the initial UC Dispatch Center project had cost the County approximately \$1.2 million, noting that this item would bring the total spent on dispatch facilities to \$4.4 million. He confirmed the importance of this upgrade as it relates to consolidating dispatch services, adding that it would allow the County as well as the participating municipalities to improve services, promote efficiency, and reduced the need for expensive equipment purchases by municipalities as well as reduce staffing. He added that the County currently provided full dispatch services—Fire, Police, EMS-- to five municipalities, with other towns opting for only one or two select services.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-328, Commissioner Hudak advised that this \$3.6 million related to Chapter 12 college bonds that had been certified by The Board of School Estimates back in March of 2019. He added that the \$3.6 million amount had been adopted via Ordinance 808-2019 on July 25th and that the County had received the award letter from the State Treasury Department for the cited amount. He noted that the County was going to bond the \$3.6 million as part of the 2020 bond sale, but had subsequently been advised by the state in May 2020 that the program had been suspended and funding was no longer guaranteed. He advised that the County had received notice in September of 2020 that the bond had been reauthorized for use by June 30, 2021, adding that the item was scheduled for June 3rd, 2021 for the authorization for the bid sale, which would be done electronically as customary.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-332, Director Graziano advised that this item related to the funds exchange program with the DOT. He noted that this item reflected an agreement between the County and State for the allocated \$9.5 million for the Gordon Street Bridge replacement project. Director Graziano confirmed that

railroad construction continued on site and would be performing the construction of the cited project. Relative to the cost of this project, he advised that the County's financial obligation was exclusive to the relocation of utilities on site.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-341, Recreational Facilities Director Sanchez advised that the existing furniture at the Red Knot would be stored and distributed throughout other County buildings as needed.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-343, Director Zuber advised That the Azalea Garden, originally designed and constructed by the Olmsted Brothers in 1946, had fallen into disrepair following the elimination of the County's Horticulture Department back in 2012, which had been tasked with the upkeep of the area. He advised that the respective Resolution increased funding by approximately \$7,900, noting that the Department had roughly \$80,000 to be applied toward the project. He added that once The Azalea Garden had been restored to its former glory, the County would look into utilizing local garden clubs to maintain the area.

Relative to Reso No. 2021-347, Administrator DiRado advised that her office had spent approximately \$700,000 last year on seasonal employees and overtime due to the primary employment of mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She added that her office had received CARES ACT funding, reimbursements from the State's Election Division, and \$8.1 million in grant funding from a non-profit organization that helped offset certain costs. She noted that she did not know how Governor Murphy's decision to hold an in-person election for the June Primary would affect the County Clerk's Office and their budget.

Quaney Chambliss, of Rahway, wished all the educators a Happy Teacher Appreciation Day, noting that everyone was a product of educators. She spoke relative to her role as the President of the NAACP, Rahway Branch, noting that the organization was crafting a wonderful Juneteenth celebration, sponsored in part by a grant secured through the County of Union, and invited the Board to attend the weekend celebration. On another note she spoke relative to New Jersey's troubled history relative to slavery. She also spoke relative to youth recreational employment opportunities within the County and the number of black students in local trade schools and how this would be affected by President Biden's infrastructure plan. On another note, she inquired about how potential savings from the closing of the UC Jail would be used. To close, she noted a new local initiative "What is the 411 on the 5-0?" which would aim to educate young people on the proper guidelines to follow during an encounter with police and asked the County for their support.

Chairman Mirabella advised that local youth employment applications were usually handled through Councilman Brown's Office in Rahway. Relative to infrastructure, he advised that the County was still waiting for that assistance to be finalized as well as guidance on how those monies could be used. Relative to the initiative, "What is the 411 on the 5-0?", Chairman Mirabella advised that he would share the information with Acting Prosecutor Ruotolo for follow-up.

Acting Prosecutor Ruotolo thanked Ms. Chambliss for the opportunity, noting that her Office would be happy to collaborate with the NAACP's Rahway Chapter. She added that she would reach out the following day to discuss the initiative in detail.

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

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions were offered for adoption:

- 2021-323 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the use of the Competitive Contracting process, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1 et seq., for the provision of providing program operations for the Union County Intoxicated Driver Resource Center.

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

- 2021-324 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with JANUS Solutions, Ewing, NJ, to provide continued organizational assessment and improvements for the Division of Social Services in a total amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 for the period of May 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

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

- 2021-325 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Viken Detection Corporation, Burlington, MA, to purchase a Lead Paint Analyzer in an amount not to exceed \$19,730.00.

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

- 2021-326 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Thermo Scientific Portable Analytical Instruments Inc., Tewksbury, MA, to purchase an XRF analyzer machine for lead inspections in an amount not to exceed \$28,250.00.

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

- 2021-327 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Public Safety: H&S Construction and Mechanical, Inc., Elizabeth, New Jersey,

for the purpose of construction for the UC Dispatch Center, in the amount not to exceed \$3,283,000.00 (BA#27-2021; Union County Engineering Project #2019-025).

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

2021-328 COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK: RESOLUTION PRESCRIBING THE DETAILS AND BOND FORM THEREOF FOR \$3,600,000 COUNTY COLLEGE BONDS OF 2021 (CHAPTER 12 STATE AID) DATED JUNE 15, 2021, AUTHORIZING THE PUBLICATION, PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF A NOTICE OF SALE AND THE PUBLICATION OF A SUMMARY NOTICE OF SALE AND PRESCRIBING THE FORM THEREOF FOR SUCH BONDS, APPROVING THE PREPARATION, DISTRIBUTION AND EXECUTION OF A PRELIMINARY AND A FINAL OFFICIAL STATEMENT FOR SUCH BONDS, UNDERTAKING TO PROVIDE CONTINUING DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION, COVENANTING TO COMPLY WITH THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED, AND AUTHORIZING VARIOUS MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH ELECTRONIC BIDDING FOR THE BONDS.

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

2021-329 COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK: Resolution modifying the 2021 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$32,000.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services for a program entitled: State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP).

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

2021-330 COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK: Resolution modifying the 2021 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$182,930.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation for a program entitled: Gordon Street Bridge (ROW).

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

2021-331 COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK: Resolution modifying the 2021 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$150,000.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs for a program entitled: Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) Challenge Grant.

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

- 2021-332 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Funds Exchange Program – Cost Reimbursement Agreement in association with the Replacement of the 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 \$9,591,008.92, subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (Union County Engineering Project Number 2011-051).

On a motion made by Vice Chair Williams and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Moudou roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-333 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a Professional Engineering Service Contract to IH Engineering, P.C. of Hackensack, NJ, to provide Construction Administration and Inspection services 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 \$702,506.92, subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (Union County Engineering Project Number 2011-051).

On a motion made by Vice Chair Williams and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Moudou roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-334 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an Agreement with PSE&G of Springfield, NJ, for the Utility Relocation of their existing primary facilities 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 in an amount not to exceed \$275,000.00 (Union County Engineering Project Number 2011-051).

On a motion made by Vice Chair Williams and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Moudou roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-335 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2017-131 adopted February 9, 2017 authorizing the County Manager to enter into agreements, for the Right of Way with various owners in association with the Replacement of the Gordon Street Bridge over “Out of Service” Conrail Structure 2050150, Boroughs of Roselle and Roselle Park, County of Union, New Jersey for an additional amount of \$182,930.00 for an amount not to exceed \$386,650.00, subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (Union County Engineering Project Number 2011-051).

On a motion made by Vice Chair Williams and seconded by Commissioner Palmieri-Moudou roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2021-336 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2020-550, a contract awarded to Remington & Vernick Engineers, of Secaucus, New Jersey to provide additional Engineering Design Services, Construction

Administration and Inspection Services for the 2018 Bridge Improvement Program for the County of Union, New Jersey in an amount not to exceed \$27,270.00 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$251,077.00 (Union County Engineering Project Number 2017-024).

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

2021-337 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Resolution authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with R.J. Sherman & Associates dba Vermeer North Atlantic Sales & Service, Lumberton, NJ for the purchase of various Vermeer parts and supplies for the Vermeer Compost Turner for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00.

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

2021-338 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Resolution granting permission to The Township of Berkeley Heights to hang a banner for the Berkeley Heights 5K Charity Road Race and Fitness Walk from August 16, 2021 thru September 20, 2021.

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

2021-339 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Appointing the following members to the Union County Transportation Advisory Board to represent various municipalities for a one year term ending December 31, 2021: Louis Demondo (delegate) Borough of Kenilworth; Francisco Ortiz (delegate) City of Elizabeth; Andre Luboff (delegate) Borough of New Providence; Natalie Chin (delegate) and Meera Rao (alternate) Township of Berkeley Heights; Ben Cohen (delegate) Township of Cranford; Nicholas Patina (delegate) and Joseph Chrobak (alternate) City of Linden; Robert W. Messler (delegate) and Michael Disko, Jr., (alternate) Borough of Mountainside; Valerie Jackson (delegate) and William Nierstedt (alternate) City of Plainfield; Jay Robaina (delegate) and Thomas Strowe (alternate) Borough of Roselle Park; John Morgan (delegate) Township of Scotch Plains; Harris Laufer (delegate) Township of Springfield; Harvey Davidson (delegate) and Mary Gersten (alternate) Town of Westfield; and Michael Ince (delegate) Borough of Garwood.

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

2021-340 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN: Amending Resolution Number 2021-306 to reflect an increase to the Aging Three Year 2019-2021 Area Plan - Year 3 Spending Plan in the amount of \$60,000.00 to reflect a new total of not to exceed \$4,702,891.00 for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

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

- 2021-341 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Jasper Seating Co. Inc., Jasper, IN, through NJ State Contract # A81718, for the purchase of furniture for the Red Knot at Galloping Hill Golf Course, in an amount not to exceed \$67,333.36

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

- 2021-342 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN:** 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 Paragon Restoration Corporation of Kenilworth, New Jersey for the Improvements at Building #4 and #7 at the Deserted Village of Feltville/Glenside Park, Township of Berkeley Heights, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$852,500.00 (BA# 25-2021; Union County Engineering Project # 2019-004).

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

- 2021-343 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN:** Amending Resolution Number 2019-263 adopted March 28, 2019 awarding a Professional Engineering Service Contract with Remington & Vernick Engineers, of Secaucus, New Jersey to provide design and construction administration & inspection services for an Azalea Garden located in Warinanco Park, Borough of Roselle, New Jersey for an additional amount of \$7,250.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$79,100.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2018-041)

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

- 2021-344 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and execute a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to carry out a project to implement a sedimentation testing phase for three lakes in the Clark Reservoir in the amount of \$250,000.00.

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

- 2021-345 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Authorizing the County Manager, through the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to enter into a contract with West Publishing Corporation, a Thomson Reuters Business, Eagan, MN for the purpose of providing a subscription for an intelligence database for a period of three (3) years beginning April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00.

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

- 2021-346 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Amending Resolution Number 2020-625 for the total project cost to reflect the full grant award of \$87,451.00 in Federal funds, the required match amount of \$21,863.00, and the existing budgeted salary and fringe costs of \$107,996.00 already associated with the project for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. Of the total project cost of \$217,310 the County remains responsible for \$129,859.00. Subaward number VS-41-19.

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

- 2021-347 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Amending Resolution Number 2021-99, a contract award to Royal Printing Service, West New York, New Jersey, to include a grant account only.

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

- 2021-348 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with and accept funding from the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, under the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) Challenge Grant, in the amount of \$150,000.00. The grant funds will be used to support the Union County Emergency Services Regional Dispatch Center.

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

- 2021-349 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution re-appointing the following individuals to the Union County Vocational Technical School Board of Education: Jean Perkins for a term ending October 31, 2023; and Jon-Henry Barr for a term ending October 31, 2024.

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

- 2021-350 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution re-appointing Kamran Tasharofi, MD as a member of the Union County College Board of School Estimate for a term ending June 30, 2024.

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

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2021-351 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest condolences to the family of Roselyn Jean Rush during their time of sorrow.

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

- 2021-352 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI) awareness month throughout the County of Union; and further recognizing the generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and are instrumental in its future success; and further denouncing the recent trend of bigotry, intolerance and prejudice against the Asian American/Pacific Island community.

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

- 2021-353 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing Tuesday, May 4, 2021 as National Teacher Appreciation Day and the week of May 2, 2021 through May 7, 2021 as National Teachers Appreciation Week throughout Union County; and further recognizing the extraordinary efforts taken by teachers during the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure the highest possible educational experience for our youth during this challenging school year.

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

- 2021-354 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution congratulating KEAN University on its designation by the federal government as a Hispanic Serving Institution.

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

- 2021-355 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution congratulating Daniel Gomez, of Cranford, on his 10 years of service as a volunteer with the Cranford First Aid Squad.

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

- 2021-356 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing the month of May as Older Americans Month.

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

- 2021-357 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing Thursday, May 8, 2021 as National Nurses Appreciation Day, and the week of May 6, 2021 through May 12, 2021 as National Nurses Week throughout Union County; and further recognizing the tireless hours and extraordinary efforts taken by nurses during the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure the health and well-being of the Union County community.

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

- 2021-358 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing the month of May as National Mental Health Awareness Month throughout the County of Union.

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

- 2021-359 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN, VICE CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Dii'jon Allen-Jordan, and the Plainfield community, during their time of sorrow.

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

- 2021-360 COMMISSIONER ANDREA STATEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing the week of May 2, 2021 through May 8, 2021 as Public Service Recognition Week; and further commending the work of public employees of the federal, state, county and municipal level that carry out the policies of elected officials throughout the nation.

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

- 2021-361 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's sincere condolences to the family of former Union County Board of Elections Commissioner, John DiSimone, during their time of sorrow.

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

- 2021-362 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's sincere condolences to the family of former Motor Vehicles Senior Mechanic, Vito Lombardi, during their time of sorrow.

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

2021-363 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Frank P. DiLollo during their time of sorrow.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Joined by Commissioner Granados, Commissioner Leon spoke relative to her recent participation in Paint in the Park sponsored by the Board and organized through the Department of Human Services, Office for Persons with Disabilities & Special Needs in honor of Autism Acceptance Month. She noted that the event was enjoyable and the cause was close to her heart and thanked Director Anderson and all those involved for facilitating the wonderful event. On another note, she congratulated Marie Verdon Noonan, nurse coordinator for the City of Elizabeth, for being awarded the school nurse of the year award by the UC School of Nurses' Association. She spoke relative to Ms. Noonan's background, noting that she had more than 50 nurses under her supervision in 40 different schools. She went on to thank all the educators for their consistent and phenomenal efforts, in particular, during the COVID-19 pandemic. To close, Commissioner Leon reminded residents that May was National Military Appreciation Month and thanked all military personnel for their service and sacrifice, noting the differences between her birth-country of Cuba and the U.S.A., while recognizing the instrumental role played by our military in protecting and preserving our invaluable freedoms.

Commissioner Granados congratulated Commissioner Leon for recently hosting her first Paint in the Park event as a County Commissioner, in partnership with the Department of Human Services. He noted that the event was a great success, with a tremendous turnout of over 100 youth and enjoyed by all. He thanked Manuel Ramirez and Nicole DeAugustine from the Office for Persons with Disabilities & Special Needs for their efforts in facilitating the event. On another note, he thanked all the nurses for their consistent efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as all the educators for educating our youth and setting them up for success. To close, Commissioner Granados recognized May as Military Appreciation Month and thanked our armed forces for the invaluable sacrifice they are willing to make in order to ensure we continue living in the greatest country the world has ever seen.

Commissioner Kowalski spoke relative to Reso No. 2021-342 and the Deserted Village and thanked Parks and Recreation Director Zuber for acquiring the cited grant that would fund some of the necessary improvements on site. She also spoke relative to an artwork display by Central American artist Roberto de la Selva currently housed by the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, she encouraged residents to visit the gallery when possible. On another note, she recognized Daniel Gomez of the Cranford First Aid Squad and congratulated him on his Resolution commemorating his ten years of service, noting him as a dedicated volunteer. To close, Commissioner Kowalski

noted the conclusion of the Arbor Day Poetry Contest and thanked everyone for their submissions as well as the Shade Tree Commission and other staff for their assistance. She read off the list of winners and congratulated them on their pieces, noting the importance and love for the environment as clearly reflected by the poetry submissions.

Commissioner Staten thanked the many nurses and educators for their service and sacrifice, noting that their efforts were greatly appreciated. On a more somber note, she extended her deepest condolences to Roselle's DPW relative to the recent passing of Kyle Stadford Jr, noting that he was a hardworking and valued employee that would be sadly missed. She also offered her condolences to the family of Plainfield resident and international basketball star Dii'jon Allen-Jordan relative to his recent and unexpected passing.

Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded congratulated Commissioner Staten's daughter Alexis on her recently acceptance to attend the University of Connecticut. She also echoed the sentiments of her Commissioner colleagues and recognized the many nurses and teachers for their continued hard work and sacrifice, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, she thanked all the nurses at the UC Vaccine Site for dedicating their time. On another note, she reminded residents that the Walter E. Ulrich Memorial Pool at Rahway River Park was hiring pool lifeguards for the summer season and encouraged all interested parties to apply.

Commissioner Garretson congratulated all the students being accepted to different colleges throughout the nation, noting that she would also be taking part in two of her own graduation ceremonies and extended an invitation to her Board colleagues to attend and join in the celebration relative to her academic achievements.

Commissioner Garretson encountered technical difficulties and resumed her comments before the conclusion of the meeting.

On another note, Commissioner Garretson thanked her fellow Commissioners for supporting Reso No. 2021-352, noting several important discussions she has been involved in with the Status of Minorities Advisory Board. She also spoke relative to her participation in a recent food distribution drive at Hillside's Conant Park, noting and thanked the many volunteers for their help.

Commissioner Hudak also congratulated Alexis Staten on her recent decision to attend the University of Connecticut. On another note, he spoke relative to The Azalea Garden, a staple of the UC Parks Systems, noting that he was happy to see the area would be restored and maintained. Relative to Reso No. 2021-327 and Director Moran's earlier comments, Commissioner Hudak noted the success and steady expansion of the UC Dispatch Center and the services provided to the various municipalities throughout the County of Union. He added that 14 municipal agencies currently used these services to some extent, with five of these municipalities enrolled in all the available dispatch services. He thanked Director Moran for being proactive and anticipating the future physical needs of the

dispatch center in order to continue providing and expanding upon these services. On another note, Commissioner Hudak recognized State Senator Nicholas Scutari for his leadership and efforts relative to the Clark Reservoir. He advised that Clark had previously sold the Clark Reservoir to the County for \$1.00 in hopes that the County could secure the means to remediate the issues on site and make the area safe and accessible to the public. To close, he wished a Happy Mothers' Day to all.

Vice Chair Williams echoed the sentiments of her Commissioner colleagues and congratulated Alexis Staten on her acceptance and decision to attend UCONN. She also extended her deepest condolences to the family of Dii'jon Allen-Jordan relative to his recent and tragic passing. On another noted, she wished all her fellow educators a Happy Teachers' Day and thanked them for their continued hard work. To close, Vice Chair Williams noted her attendance of the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Rushmore Recreation Complex in Plainfield. She thanked the County for their assistance in the completion of the project through the Kids Recreation Trust Grant.

Chairman Mirabella thanked Vice Chair Williams for her efforts alongside the Parks and Recreation Department relative to the inclusion of an LGBTQ safe space at Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield. In addition to the many nurses and educators, Chairman Mirabella recognized the Veterans, noting that Congressman Sires and Malinowski had made pins and other designations to honor Vietnam Veterans. He noted that municipalities had been advised to provide the names of eligible residents to be honored at an event later this month. He advised that the Board had arranged for another designation to be made during the Commissioner Meetings of May 20th in honor of Veterans. To close, Chairman Mirabella joined his colleagues in wishing all the moms a Happy Mothers' Day, paying special mention to his wife Phyllis.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To the extent known, the following item will be discussed in Executive Session:

- 1) Attorney client privileged discussions concerning potential litigation in relationship to the draft Union County ADA Audit and Transition Plan.

County Counsel Bergen stated that pursuant to provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, a public body may enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing certain enumerated subjects.

He stated that the Board wished to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Attorney Client privileged communications and discussions relative to 1) Attorney client privileged discussions concerning potential litigation in relationship to the draft Union County ADA Audit and Transition Plan.

He stated that the minutes of the Executive Session shall be separated from the minutes of the Open Public Session and that the minutes of the Executive Session, redacted as appropriate and necessary, shall be available in approximately 30

days. He stated that the Clerk of the Board shall retain the original minutes until such time as the confidential limitations have been removed, at which time they shall be made available.

He stated that upon affirmative vote of the majority of the members present, the Board may enter Executive Session and upon the Board's would not take formal action on the matter discussed.

Chairman Mirabella asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session. On a motion made by Vice Chair Williams and seconded by Commissioner Staten a voice vote showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

Chairman Mirabella asked for a motion to return from Executive Session. On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Hudak, a voice vote showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

County Counsel Bergen had no comments or reports relative to the matter discussed during the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 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.