

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Williams presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:11 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chair Rebecca Williams, Vice Chair Christopher Hudak, Commissioner James E. Baker Jr., Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, Commissioner Sergio Granados, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, and Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded were present, with Commissioner Alexander Mirabella and absent.

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

Chair Williams called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded and seconded by Commissioner Garretson roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Thursday, April 7, 2022 - Agenda Setting Session
2. Thursday, April 7, 2022 - Regular Meeting
3. Thursday, April 28, 2022 - Agenda Setting Session
4. Thursday, April 28, 2022 - Regular Meeting

Chair Williams called for a motion to approve the April Minutes. On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Leon roll call showed six votes in the affirmative for the April 7th Agenda Setting and Regular Meeting Minutes with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Leon abstaining and Commissioner Mirabella absent; and seven votes in the affirmative for the April 28th Agenda Setting and Regular

Meeting Minutes with Commissioner Garretson abstaining and Commissioner Mirabella absent.

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.

Jennifer Colon, of Roselle, spoke relative to her employment with the County of Union as well as ongoing collective bargaining agreement negotiations.

Chair Williams advised that the related negotiations were still ongoing.

There were no additional questions or comments from the public.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The following Resolutions were offered for adoption:

2022-422 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Resolution modifying the 2022 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$53,720.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse for a program entitled: DMHAS Youth Leadership Grant.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

2022-423 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Resolution modifying the 2022 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$4,000,000.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs for a program entitled: Clark Reservoir Dredging and Pollution Remediation Phase III Project.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

2022-424 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Resolution modifying the 2022 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$663,643.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness for a program entitled: Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

2022-425 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Resolution modifying the 2022 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$810,000.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of State for a program entitled: UCBOE 2022 Poll Worker Pay Reimbursement (Primary and General Elections).

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

2022-426 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution sponsoring the Elmora Youth League's Parade Day held on April 2, 2022 in the amount of not to exceed \$1,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

2022-427 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution supporting 1 Community Family's Pre-Mother Day Bingo held on April 30, 2022 in an amount of not to exceed \$500.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

2022-428 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution supporting the City of Rahway's following events in the total amount of not to exceed \$10,000.00: Hot Rods & Harleys (May 14th), Ready Set Glow 5K (May 26th), 4th of July Firework Celebration (July 3rd), Drive in Movies (July 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th), Halloween Spooktacular (Oct. 29th), & Holiday Tree Lighting and Santa Parade (November 25th).

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

2022-429 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution sponsoring the Portuguese Instructive Social Club's Outdoor Cultural Festival on May 21st, June 5th & June 25th in the total amount of not to exceed \$2,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Granados abstaining and Commissioner Mirabella absent.

2022-430 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution sponsoring the Elizabeth Portugal Day Parade Committee's Portugal Day Flag Raising on June 3, 2022 and Portugal Day Parade on June 5, 2022 in the total amount of not to exceed \$4,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Granados abstaining and Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-431 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring the Queen City Film & Television Workshop's Queen City Film Festival held between October 21, 2022 and October 23, 2022 in the total amount of not to exceed \$2,500.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-432 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring the Township of Scotch Plains' 2022 Independence Day Fireworks being held on July 2, 2022 in the amount of not to exceed \$4,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-433 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring the Township of Cranford's 2022 Independence Day Fireworks Celebration being held on July 2, 2022 in the amount of not to exceed \$4,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-434 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring the City of Plainfield's 2022 Independence Day Concert and Fireworks Celebration being held on July 4, 2022 in the total amount of not to exceed \$4,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-435 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring Groundwork Elizabeth's Tour De Elizabeth being held on May 22, 2022 in the amount of not to exceed \$2,500.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-436 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring the Portuguese American Civic Association's Festival on June 3rd & June 4th, 2022 in the amount of not to exceed \$2,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-437 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring the Portuguese American Association of Hillside's Festival being held on June 26, 2022 in the amount of not to exceed \$2,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-438 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring the Club Cubano of Elizabeth's Cuban Parade held on May 22, 2022 in the amount of not to exceed \$1,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-439 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution 2020-881 to allow for the increase in the amount payable to both RATAN HOTEL Plaza LLC – D/B/A Ramada Hotel, located in East Orange, New Jersey, and the RATAN Hospitality Group D/B/A Travelodge Motel in Parsippany, NJ, both for-profit vendors of the Code Blue Emergency Initiative, which will now exceed the Pay to Play threshold of \$17,500 for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The total contract amount for Code Blue Emergency Initiative remains unchanged.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-440 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution 2021-767 to allow for the increase the amount payable to RATAN HOTEL Plaza LLC – D/B/A Ramada Hotel, East Orange, New Jersey; the JAI Shree Ram Inc. D/B/A In Town Motor Lodge, Elizabeth, NJ and the RATAN Hospitality Group LLC., D/B/A/ Travelodge Motel Parsippany, NJ, for-profit vendors of the Code Blue Emergency Initiative, which will now exceed the Pay to Play threshold of \$17,500 for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. The total contract amount for Code Blue Emergency Initiative remains unchanged.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-441 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution Number 2021-767 for the addition of Govan LLC Travelodge by Wyndham Hotel Group Jersey City, NJ; G.I.F. Corp., Days Inn Jersey City, NJ; South Hackensack Hotel LLC Travelodge South Hackensack, NJ; and Magrat LLC Rodeway Inn Jersey City, NJ to the list of

Code Blue Shelters and motels for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

2022-442 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Re-appointing the following members to the Union County Cultural and Heritage Advisory Board: Ruby Contreras, Darius Tullis, and Maria Carvalho to a term beginning on January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023; and reappointing Veronica Sala Baez, Nicole DeAugustine, Clara Fernandez and Nancy Piwovar, for a term beginning on January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

2022-443 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON: Resolution granting permission to the Township of Scotch Plains to close Park Avenue from East 2nd Street to corner of Front Street and a portion of Front Street from Park Avenue to Senger Place on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm for Patrick's Downtown Race to Summer5K.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

2022-444 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON: Resolution granting permission to the City of Linden to hang a banner across Wood Avenue between Gibbons Street and Curtis Street from May 10, 2022 to May 23, 2022 to host the Polonia 5K run in association with the Polish American Sports Association taking place on Sunday, May 22, 2022.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

2022-445 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON: Resolution granting permission to the Township of Berkeley Heights, Downtown Beautification Committee to hang a banner on Plainfield Avenue from August 15 to September 20, 2022 to advertise Restaurant Month; and to hang a banner on Plainfield and Springfield Avenues from November 1 to December 5, 2022 for the Winter Walk.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

2022-446 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON: Resolution granting permission to the Township of Springfield's First Aid Squad to hang a banner across Mountain and Meisel Avenues from May 23, 2022 to June 23, 2022 advertising the First Aid Squad.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-447 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Bridgeway Rehabilitation, Elizabeth, New Jersey for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 for reimbursement in the amount of \$7.00 per one-way trip to the County of Union for the provision of transportation service through the Union County Paratransit System for Partial Care Clients attending their programs. Transportation will be provided by the County based upon scheduled trips on Monday through Friday.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-448 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a revenue generating agreement with SAGE Eldercare, Summit, New Jersey, for the provision of transportation services through the Union County Paratransit System for Adult Day Care clients attending their programs based upon scheduled trips provided by the County on Monday through Friday in the reimbursement amount of \$6.00 per one-way trip for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-449 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Authorizing the County of Manager to enter into a revenue generating agreement with Inroads to Opportunities, Roselle, New Jersey for the provision of transportation services through the Union County Paratransit System for Partial Care clients attending their programs based upon pre-scheduled trips provided by the County on Monday through Friday in the reimbursement amount of \$6.00 per one way trip for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-450 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Amending Resolution 2022-137, authorizing the County Manager to enter into an Agreement for the acquisition of property from 735 Springfield Avenue, LLC in the amount of \$2,585,000.00, to reflect an additional amount not to exceed \$50,000, for a new total amount not to exceed \$2,635,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-451 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Amending Resolution 2021-890, authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with certain non-profit agencies to provide a range of programs and services for Union County youth and families involved or at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system with the goal of delinquency prevention and intervention under the Union County Youth Services Commission Spending Plan, to reflect a change in account number only. (All other terms remain the same.)

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-452 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with HazMatt & Associates Training LLC, Point Pleasant, New Jersey, to provide training to members of the Decon Task Force from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Region, through the 2021 UASI grant, in an amount not to exceed \$27,275.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-453 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with SpinCube Inc., Jersey City, NJ, to provide Bitdefender services to the County of Union for a three (3) year contract period beginning May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$357,743.75.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-454 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Homefirst, Inc., Plainfield, New Jersey, to assist the nonprofit in a close-out and transition of programs to assure community residents continue to receive services in an amount not to exceed \$17,500.00 for the period June 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-455 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Mitchell Semsel Callen PC, of Teaneck NJ, to provide forensic accounting and expert witness services to the County of Union, related to the on- going litigation matter entitled H.C. Equities vs. County of Union in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-456 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Kingtson Coventry, LLC of Parsippany-Troy Hills, NJ., to provide General Counsel and potential litigation services to the County of Union, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-457 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Resolution granting the right of use request with the Eruv committee of Linden; and further entering into a right of use agreement with the Eruv committee of Linden defining the Sabbath bounds throughout Union County, in accordance with the Jewish religious law, for a period of fifty (50) years in the total amount of \$1.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-458 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Resolution awarding a contract to Mast Construction Services, Inc., Little Falls, NJ for the Ash Brook Golf Course Clubhouse remediation and construction investigation in an amount not to exceed \$62,700.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2022-459 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution congratulating Pastor R. Lenton Buffalo, Jr. on his 34th Pastoral Anniversary on June 12th, 2022.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-460 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's sincere gratitude to former President & CEO, Donna Lowe Alexander for 35 years of service and dedication to the Urban League Movement and the greater Union County community.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-461 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution welcoming Crystal A. Orr as the Interim President/CEO of the Urban League of

Union County; and further congratulating her on significant endeavors taken since her appointment in January, 2022.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-462 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution wishing to extend its congratulations to the New Jersey Lions Club upon its One Hundred and One years of service on May 20, 2022.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-463 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution calling on the United States Senate to adopt House Bill H.R.8; the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021, which was introduced by Rep Mike Thompson (CA-5) on March 1, 2021 and adopted by the House of Representatives on March 11, 2021 by a vote of 227-203. House Bill H.R.8 establishes new background check requirements for firearm transfers between private parties and, more specifically, prohibits a firearm transfer between private parties unless a licensed gun dealer, manufacturer, or importer first takes possession of the firearm to conduct a background check.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-464 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's most sincere gratitude to Elisse Glennon for all of her noteworthy contributions to the County of Union in her capacity as Executive Director of the Sharing Network, and further offering its best wishes on all her future endeavors.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-465 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution congratulating Len Vanderwende, Chief Financial Officer of the Union County Performing Arts Center, on his well-deserved retirement; and further thanking Len Vanderwende on his many contributions to the success of the Union County Performing Arts Center.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-466 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution honoring Reverend Howard Bryant, of Townley Presbyterian Church in Union and a lifelong resident of Hillside, for his many efforts promoting social justice and his commitment towards the eradication of all forms racism and discrimination within the greater Union County community.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-467 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing the month of June as LGBTQ Pride Month at their Pride Flag Raising Ceremony on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 to honor the history of the LGBTQ liberation movement and to support the rights of all citizens to experience equality and freedom from discrimination.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-468 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution recognizing the significance of Governor Murphy's signing of Executive Order No. 295 instructed the New Jersey Department of the Treasury to establish a state-backed certification program for LGBTQ+ owned businesses; and further acknowledging all LGBTQ+ businesses and business owners throughout Union County.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

- 2022-469 CHAIR REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's sincere condolences to the family of Union County's own, actor Ray Liotta, co-star of the movies "Goodfellas" and "Field of Dreams," during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Garretson spoke relative to her recent attendance of a community clean-up event in Hillside at Charlotte DeFilippo Park, noting that it was wonderful to see so many volunteers, including staff and students, participating. She thanked everyone involved for their efforts. She also spoke relative to an event in partnership with Urban League of Union County at Kean University that she attended, noting the many activities done in collaboration with organization. She advised that during that event she accepted a certificate on behalf of the Board in recognition of the

good work the County continued to do. She also noted her recent participation at a food distribution event in Rahway, organized by the County, to assist residents in tackling food insecurity. To close, she reminded residents about the upcoming Rhythm and Blues by the Brook concert on June 4th in Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield, encouraging residents to attend and to remain abreast of the many activities slated for the coming weeks.

Commissioner Leon expressed her sympathies relative to those that were killed in Uvalde, Texas, noting this event as a horrific and unacceptable heinous act of violence that has become all too familiar in the United States. She called upon the nation to do better to ensure the safety of school children everywhere. On another note, she announced the official opening of the County's pools and spray parks that weekend, noting that starting Saturday, May 28th, spray parks would be open from 11AM-6PM, with pools open from 12PM to 6PM. She further advised that they would remain open on weekends only until Monday, June 27th, and then would operate daily for the summer. She also spoke relative to the County's Memorial Day tradition in honor of every Armed Forces Veteran in the community. She added that the Commissioner Board was honored to provide the American flags to be placed on veteran gravesites, noting that this year, over 30,000 flags would be placed at veteran's graves in twenty different cemeteries. She thanked the members of local veterans' groups and other organizations for their upcoming tribute that weekend in recognition of those that made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. She closed by encouraging residents to observe Memorial Day by continuing to work for progress and for a nation that lives up to the vision of our founding fathers.

Commissioner Granados spoke relative to the tragedy in Uvalde, Texas, noting that the Board shared in the heartbreak of the unnecessary loss of nineteen children and two teachers during the heinous attack. He expressed his support for legislation prioritizing the safety of teachers and students, and thanked his fellow colleagues for their support of Reso No. 2022-463, calling for the U.S. Senate to pass H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, approved by the House of Representatives more than a year ago. He advised that this bill would expand federal background checks for gun purchases, adding that current federal legislation did not require unlicensed gun sellers to conduct background checks prior to facilitating the purchase of a gun. He expressed his outrage over this loophole, noting that the 50 Senators that refused to vote on this matter were responsible for the tragedy in Uvalde and the like. He advised that he would continue to advocate for and support policies calling for more stringent gun regulations, adding that Union County was dedicated to doing the same and would continue to fight for smarter gun sense laws in partnership with Mayors Against Illegal Guns and Moms Demand Action and continue to create initiatives such as the Gun Buyback/Turn-In Programs to combat against such senseless tragedies. He reaffirmed the Board's commitment to do everything in their power to safeguard residents against gun violence and ensure that future generations can live in a world that is peaceful and safe from violence.

Commissioner Palmieri-Mouled reminded residents about the upcoming 2022 Primary Election on Tuesday, June 7th. She advised that residents had the option to vote early at seven early voting locations, beginning on June 3rd until June 5th, on Friday and Saturday between 10 AM and 8PM or Sunday from 10AM to 6PM. She further advised that voters could also request a Vote-by-Mail from the County

Clerk's Office in Elizabeth or Westfield. She noted that there were 24 secure ballot drops boxes scattered throughout the County which residents could utilize to conveniently return their voted mail-in ballot to the Board of Elections. She encouraged residents to contact the Board of Elections with any questions they may have relative to voting in the Primary Election. To close, she expressed her sympathy and heartbreak over the tragedy that took place in Uvalde Texas.

Commissioner Kowalski offered her condolences to the Luzardo and Bravo families relative to their recent loss and the loss of members of the Union County family. She also spoke relative to the tragedy in Uvalde, Texas, noting that the time to act was now to prevent future tragedies of this nature. She noted that NJ had some of the most stringent gun laws in the country and expressed her desire for the remainder of the nation to follow suit. She also congratulated the graduates from Union County College, noting that the event was lovely and offered a chance to engage with students and inquire about their future educational pursuits. On another note, she reminded residents about several, upcoming paper shredding events in Clark, Cranford, and Scotch Plains. She added that there would also be a Household Hazardous Waste event on June 4th at Kean University in addition to Scrap Metal Recycling events on the first Thursday and third Saturday of each month in Cranford and Rahway. Commissioner Kowalski also spoke relative to a municipal mural project grant award being offered through NJ's State Council for the Arts, advising that municipalities would be receiving notice of this potential grant opportunity soon.

Commissioner Baker also offered his condolences to the families of those lost during the tragic events in Uvalde, Texas as well as the Bravo and Luzardo families on their loss. He expressed his desire for an equitable solution to prevent gun violence in the future, noting that he believed these tragedies did not reflect the values and morals of the USA and its citizens. He encouraged residents to support their local legislators relative to gun laws. On another note, Commissioner Baker reminded residents about the upcoming "Native Plant Swap and Shop" event on Thursday, June 9th at the Scout Camping Area in the Watchung Reservation. He advised that residents could use this opportunity to exchange invasive plants from their yard for three native varieties, adding that expert naturalists would be on-site to provide gardening information as needed.

Vice Chair Hudak advised that last Thursday he joined Chair Williams and Commissioners Baker, Kowalski, and Leon as well as Human Services Director Anderson and Rahway Mayor Raymond Giacobbe at the announcement of the new UC Community Resource Center in Rahway. He advised that this center would assist in delivering essential human services, including social, senior, youth, and veteran services, among others to residents in need and provide a pathway for them to achieve greater levels of independence. He advised that demands for such services were high and this new location would allow UC municipalities to readily access such resources. On another note, Vice Chair Hudak spoke relative to the shooting in Uvalde, Texas, adding that this was the 20th school shooting this year and the 7th mass casualty that has occurred in the USA since he became an elected official. He recognized the effectiveness of NJ's gun laws and called for action to be taken nationwide to prevent future tragedies. He noted that such occurrences filled him with grief and the lack of action taken in the wake of such tragedies was both

exhausting and frustrating. He added that it was important to remember these tragedies as a means to make meaningful progress as it relates to gun legislation.

Chair Williams spoke relative to the tragedy in Uvalde, Texas, noting gun legislation as a political issue. She noted Reso No. 2022-463 brought to the Board by Commissioner Granados and adopted earlier that evening which called for the US Senate to adopt H.R. 8 as a means to strengthen the requirements for legal gun purchases. She encouraged action on this issue, adding that she feared that without such action, this would not be the last tragedy of its kind. On another note, Chair Williams reminded residents that Pride Month would be kicking off with UC's annual Pride Month flag raising on June 1st in front of the Union County Courthouse. She noted the many events slated in honor of Pride Month and encouraged residents to visit the County Facebook page for more information relative to the scheduled activities and events. She advised that the County's LGBTQ Affairs Office was established in 2018 and was the first County government office of its kind in NJ and one of only four government offices in the nation supporting the LGBTQ community.

ADJOURNMENT

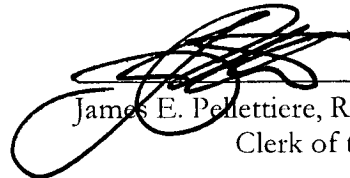
Chair Williams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded and seconded by Vice Chair Hudak, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative; with Commissioner Mirabella absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

REORGANIZATION MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022 at 6:30 pm
Administration Building, 6th Floor
Commissioner Meeting Room

<u>AGENDA SETTING SESSION</u>	<u>REGULAR MEETINGS</u>
January 20, 2022	January 20, 2022
February 3, 2022	February 3, 2022
February 17, 2022	February 17, 2022
March 3, 2022	March 3, 2022
March 24, 2022	March 24, 2022
April 7, 2022	April 7, 2022
April 28, 2022*	April 28, 2022*
May 12, 2022	May 12, 2022
May 26, 2022	May 26, 2022
June 9, 2022	June 9, 2022
June 23, 2022	June 23, 2022
July 14, 2022	July 14, 2022
August 11, 2022	August 11, 2022
September 15, 2022	September 15, 2022
October 6, 2022	October 6, 2022
October 20, 2022	October 20, 2022
November 10, 2022	November 10, 2022
December 1, 2022	December 1, 2022
December 15, 2022	December 15, 2022



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

* April 21, 2022 Agenda Setting Session and Regular Meeting have been rescheduled for April 28, 2022.

Please note that the County of Union's 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 6:00pm and the Regular Meeting to commence as soon as possible after the Agenda Setting Session, unless otherwise noted.

All meetings are to be held in the Commissioner Meeting Room within the Administration Building, 6th floor located at 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth New Jersey, 07207. Due to the Covid-19 coronavirus concerns, County Commissioner meetings may be held remotely via Zoom webinar under the procedures conducted, as published, in 2021. If said procedures are deemed necessary, the Clerk of the Board will revise said Public Notice according to law.

Persons requiring a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 908-527-4140.