



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Granados presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:38 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Sergio Granados, Vice-Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr., Commissioner Joseph C. Bodek, Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, and Commissioner Rebecca Williams were 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 Granados called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARING OF THE 2023 UNION COUNTY BUDGET

Chairman Granados recognized and thanked Finance Director Bibi Taylor, County Manager Ed Oatman, and Deputy County Manager Amy Wagner as well as the Fiscal Committee for their outstanding efforts relative to the 2023 Union County Budget. He also recognized his colleague and Fiscal Chairwoman Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded and asked her to say a few words relative to the budget.

Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded addressed the public:

Good evening.

As the 2023 Chairwoman of the Fiscal Committee, our committee has helped lead the review of this year's budget over the past few months and we are ready for a final vote tonight after the hearing.

As the Chairman mentioned, this is the fourth year in a row that we will be passing a zero percent tax increase.

We worked hard with our County Manager Ed Oatman and our Finance Director, Bibi Taylor to build a budget that would not only fund the programs and services we already have, but keep up and expand on others throughout the County for our residents. And even though it was not easy, we were able to do this again for the fourth year, all while maintaining our Aaa credit rating – the highest obtainable.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Fiscal Committee for their work in crafting the budget, including Commissioners Lourdes Leon, Alexander Mirabella and Rebecca Williams and all of those on the finance staff for their effort in bringing the budget together from start to finish. Once again, I would like to thank everyone involved for this collaborative effort and their hard work in the budget process.

Thank you.

The meeting was opened to the public for the official Public Hearing on the 2023 Union County Budget.

There were no questions or comments from the public relative to the 2023 Union County Budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

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

Maria Echeverria, of Elizabeth, made comments relative to several resolutions.

Hassanah Smith-Thomas, of Elizabeth, and advocate with the National Youth Council, spoke relative to the 1741 Project. She advised that in 1619 a Portuguese slave ship traveled across the Atlantic Ocean carrying cargo as well as captive, enslaved black people. She noted that her ancestors were denied the most basic of human rights and were treated as commodities, exploited and forced to submit to extreme instances of physical abuse which included rape, branding, and castration. She advised that the 1741 Project had been trying to get a monument erected at the current site of the Union County Courthouse for the last three years without any success. She noted that the Sheriff and Freeholders at the time had authorized the public execution of these three souls in light of rumors and claims that a rebellion was being organized. She once again requested a monument to be erected to honor these three fallen souls as well as educate the public about the history surrounding these events. She closed by confirming the 1741 Project's commitment to ensuring her ancestors get the recognition they deserve with the requested monument.

James Carey, of Elizabeth, and member of the 1741 Project and NJ Resistance Movement Organization, noted his concerns relative to the events that unfolded during the Commissioners April 27, 2022 Regular meeting. He advised that he had been deeply disturbed by a video he had seen online relative to what occurred. He noted his efforts in contacting Salaam Ismail and Chairman Granados to determine what had really occurred and serve as the voice of reason between the parties to prevent the situation from escalating further. He added that he was disappointed over claims that the cops had been summoned to remove Mr. Ismail who was simply sharing his concerns as a County resident. Contrarily, Mr. Carey noted that a former school teacher had similarly defied the rules of decorum at a prior meeting and no action had been taking. He asked whether there was a different set of rules for people of different races. To close, Mr. Carey requested a commitment from Chairman Granados and Mr. Salaam Ismail to discuss this matter in an appropriate and respectful manner.

Chairman Granados confirmed his continued willingness to meet with Mr. Salaam Ismail to discuss the 1741 Project and their proposed monument.

Basima Abdul Salaam, of Middlesex County, spoke relative to the events of 1741 and asked the Board why no action had been taken in three years to erect a monument as requested. She noted the brutality of the inhumane and heinous act committed against those three souls burned at the site of the Union County Courthouse, noting the importance of accountability relative to the events of 1741.

Salaam Ismail, of Elizabeth, and Director of the United Youth Council, spoke relative to the history of slavery, George D. Carteret and Elizabethtown, noting that over 200,000 slaves had been brought to the area during that time. He noted the rumors of a supposed rebellion which led to the heinous acts of 1741. Specifically to Union County, Mr. Ismail claimed that former County Sheriff William Chetwood was responsible for carrying out the orders, adding that Freeholders had provided the wood for the public execution. He reiterated the 1741 Project's desire for a monument at the site of the Union County Courthouse.

Chairman Granados asked Mr. Ismail to conclude his comments as the allotted five-minutes had expired.

Omar Wilks, Pastor of the Unison Pentecostal Church in NY, spoke relative to the supposed treatment Mr. Salaam Ismail received during a previous Commissioners meeting, stating he found it disrespectful. On another note, Pastor Wilks advised that he had played a role in the African Burial Ground National Monument in New York. He added that he was now in Elizabeth to appeal to the Board to erect a monument at the Union County Courthouse to remember the three souls that were burned at the stake in 1741. He noted that the system of slavery was evil and illustrated crimes against humanity, adding that any reasonable person would agree. He spoke relative to the abuse and horrid treatment and conditions to which slaves were submitted, noting that now was the time to make the necessary strides to secure justice for these three victims. He added that the time was always right to do what was right.

Chairman Granados asked Pastor Wilks to conclude his comments as the allotted five-minutes had expired.

Pastor Wilks insisted on finishing his comments. Salaam Ismail made inaudible comments from the audience. Pastor Wilks continue his comments in defiance of the Board's instruction. Chairman Granados once again asked Pastor Wilks to conclude his comments and allow the business of the meeting to continue. Pastor Wilks made disparaging remarks about the Commissioners and Board.

Counsel Bergen reiterated the rules of decorum, advising that each member of the public was allotted five minutes to comment.

Salaam Ismail and Pastor Wilks became disruptive and unruly.

Chairman Granados called for a motion to Enter Recess.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

RECESS

Chairman Granados called for a motion to Return from Recess.

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

There were no additional questions or comments from the public.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The following Resolutions were offered for adoption:

- 2023-406 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Determining that the 2023 Union County Budget shall be read by title and declaring that the public hearing conditions set forth pursuant to N.J.S.A.:40A: 4-8(1a)(1b) have been satisfied.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-MouDED, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-407 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Exceeding the County tax levy limit and to establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14).

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-MouDED, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-408 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Adopting the 2023 County of Union Budget.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-409 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Spec International, Virginia Beach, VA, for the specialized construction build out of training props for the UASI MUSAR Team using FY21 UASI funds in the amount of not to exceed \$14,025.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-410 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Fire & Safety Services LTD, South Plainfield, NJ, for service on a UASI Decontamination light tower using FY20 and FY22 UASI funds in the amount of not to exceed \$30,736.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-411 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with AristaTek, Inc., Laramie, Wyoming, for the purpose of renewing annual tech support for Union County PEAC Windows version for the period of May 11, 2023 through May 10, 2024 in the amount not to exceed \$1,485.00 from the 2021 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant program.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-412 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Amending Resolution Number 2023-280, an open-ended contract pursuant to advertised public bidding (BA# 24-2021) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., with Johnston Communication, Springfield, NJ, for the provision of providing telephone/associated services systems equipment, installation, maintenance services, for various County Departments, to reflect an increase to the contract in the amount of \$13,076.33 for a new total amount not to exceed \$763,076.33.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-413 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 WE Timmerman Co. Inc., of Whitehouse, New Jersey for the purchase of a Trailer Hammer Mill Grinder in the amount not to exceed \$1,106,086.00 (BA# 19-2023)

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-414 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Michael Baker International Inc., Newark, NJ, to provide professional engineering and other services for the West Seventh Street (CR 601) Intersection Improvements Project, City of Plainfield, County of Union, New Jersey in the amount not to exceed \$95,000.00. (Union County Engineering Project# 2014-044)

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-415 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Amending Resolution Number 2015-035, a contract with Remington & Vernick Engineers, Cherry Hill, New Jersey to provide additional services for the Replacement of Irving Street Bridge, City of Rahway, New Jersey in an additional amount of \$193,475.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$546,629.76. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2015-018).

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-416 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Amend Resolution Number 2022-752, a contract awarded through advertised public bidding (BA# 20-2022) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to Kyle Conti Construction, Inc., Hillsborough, New Jersey, for the Hamilton Street Bridge Scour Protection, City of Rahway, County of Union, New Jersey. This Final Change Order Number 1 will decrease the contract amount by \$130,980.40 for a final contract amount not to exceed \$524,614.60. (BA# 20-2022; Union County Engineering Project # 2018-008)

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-417 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Granting permission to the City of Linden to close Wood Avenue from Blancke Street to Knoft Street on Friday, October 6, 2023 from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm for the Annual Fire Prevention Night.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-418 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Granting permission to the City of Linden to hang a banner across Wood Avenue between Gibbons Street and Curtis

Street from May 22, 2023 to June 5, 2023 hosting the 8th Annual Polonia 5K run in association with the Polish American Sports Association on Sunday, June 4, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-419 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with New Jersey Transit to secure grant funding in the amount of \$385,000 with a 100% cash match in the amount of \$385,000 for a total of not to exceed \$770,000 for the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 for NJ Transit's Consolidated NJ- Job Access and Reverse Commute (NJ-JARC Round 10) Grant Program for SY2024.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-420 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding (BA# 13-2023) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund: PAX Mundus Enterprise, LLC, 7 Tamaron Court, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852, for the purpose of providing Phase II: Painting and Renovation of the UCPAC, in the amount of not to exceed \$162,000.00 (Union County Engineering Project Number # 2020-020).

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-421 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: Amending Resolution Number 2023-175, a contract with USA Architects, Somerville, New Jersey to provide additional design, construction administration and professional services to the Ash Brook Golf Course Clubhouse in the amount not to exceed \$32,000.00 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$92,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-422 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: Amending Resolution Number 2023-317, approving a contract with MAST Construction Services, Inc., for construction administration services, to reflect a change of categorization of the work to be performed only; all other terms and conditions of the prior resolution and contract remain the same.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-423 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Modifying the 2023 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$20,743.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Health for a program entitled: Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-424 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Modifying the 2023 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$137,822.00 as a result of notification received from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority for a program entitled: Subregional Transportation Planning (STP) Program.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-425 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Modifying the 2023 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$15,000.00 as a result of notification received from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority for a program entitled: Subregional Supplemental Support Program.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-426 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Modifying the 2023 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$145,000.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety for a program entitled: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Grant (VAG).

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-427 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Modifying the 2023 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$66,950.00 as a result of notification received from Trinitas Regional Medical Center for a program entitled: Jail Diversion Project.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-428 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Modifying the 2023 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$16,401.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Health for a program entitled: Right to Know Grant.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-429 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Modifying the 2023 Union County adopted budget in the amount of \$433,038.00 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Health for a program entitled: Local Information Network Communications (LINCS) Grant.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-430 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Resolution authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the Union County Improvement Authority for the implementation of numerous park improvement projects; and further transferring existing funds to the Union County Improvement Authority in an amount not to exceed \$1,519,275.00 as per terms of the Agreement.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-431 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Sponsoring the Sharing Network Foundation's "5K Celebration of Life" being held on May 20, 2023 and June 11, 2023 in the total amount not to exceed \$1,500.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-432 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Sponsoring Someone's Daughter Inc.'s "Self-Care Sunday" being held on May 21, 2023 in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-433 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Sponsoring the Portuguese American Civic Association of Union's Portuguese Festival being held on June 2, 2023 and June 3, 2023 in the amount not to exceed \$2,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-434 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:**
Sponsoring the Urban League of Union County's Juneteenth Celebration being held on June 18, 2023 in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-MouDED, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-435 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:**
Sponsoring the Borough of Roselle Park's Annual Independence Celebration and Fireworks Display being held on July 1, 2023 in the amount not to exceed \$4,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-MouDED, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-436 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:**
Sponsoring the Township of Union's 4th of July Spectacular being held on July 4, 2023 in the amount not to exceed \$4,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-MouDED, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-437 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:**
Sponsoring the Township of Springfield's July 4th Celebration being held on July 4, 2023 in the amount not to exceed \$2,500.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-MouDED, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-438 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:**
Sponsoring the Puerto Rican Alliance of Elizabeth's Puerto Rican Flag Raising being held on June 9, 2023 and the Waterfront Festival and Parade being held on June 15, 2023 and June 16, 2023 in the total amount not to exceed \$2,500.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-MouDED, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-439 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:**
Sponsoring the Frank O. Mazza Civic Association's Peterson Cultural Festival being held between July 26, 2023 through July 30, 2023 in the amount not to exceed \$2,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-MouDED, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-440 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:**
Sponsoring the Independent Authors Book Experience's 10th Annual Independent Authors Book Expo being held on September 30, 2023 in the amount not to exceed \$1,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Moueded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-441 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:**
Sponsoring the New Providence Downtown Improvement District's New Providence Street Fair being held on October 29, 2023 in the amount not to exceed \$2,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Moueded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-442 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:**
Sponsoring the New Providence Downtown Improvement District's Holiday Festival being held on November 24, 2023 in the amount not to exceed \$2,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Moueded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-443 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Concurring with Resolution Number 2023-02 of the Union County Workforce Development Board approving the Union County Workforce Development Board Strategic Plan 2022-2026 for the Implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Moueded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-444 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Union County Workforce Development Board setting forth the respective roles and responsibilities of the parties pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Moueded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

- 2023-445 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award funding for the 2023 Infrastructure and Municipal Aid Grant Program to the twenty-one (21) municipalities in the County of Union in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Mirabella abstaining and Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-446 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution Number 2022-475, a contract with Maffey's Security Group, Elizabeth, NJ for Locksmith Services for Social Services, to reflect account number changes only; all other terms and conditions of the prior resolutions and contract remain the same.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-447 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and execute a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCa) in an amount not to exceed \$187,500.00 for the FY2023 Data-Driven Decision Marking: Organization Enhancement Program (3DM-OEP) for the period of August 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-448 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending resolution number 2023-225, the 2022-2023 HEARTH Emergency Solutions (HES) Grant Program Spending Plan, to reflect an increase in the contract amounts for Gateway Family YMCA and Family Promise agencies and a change in account numbers to reflect an overall increase in the Spending Plan in an amount not to exceed \$50,300.00, for a total sum not to exceed \$419,178.00; with no other changes to the spending plan or terms of the agreements.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-449 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to execute a Settlement Agreement in the matter entitled Darren Barno v. County of Union, et als, in the amount not to exceed \$77,000.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

2023-450 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Commending Gary Horan on his many years of dedicated service to public health and further congratulating him upon his retirement from Trinitas Hospital.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-451 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Garret P. Hanlon, of Boy Scouts of America Troop 80, of Cranford, on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout at their Court of Honor on Sunday, June 4, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-452 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Supporting United States House of Representatives Legislative Bill H.R. 1765; amending the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to repeal the limitation on the maximum deduction for shelter expenses allowable for determination of benefits under such Act.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-453 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing the tremendous work of the Jewish Education Center and congratulating the honorees of the Center's 82nd Annual Gala: Erika Sauerhoff, Grandparent of the Year; Rabbi Jeffrey Abel, Guest of Honor; Dr. Shira Hammerman, Professional Excellence Award; and Assemblywoman Annette M. Quijano, Distinguished Service Award.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-454 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing the 200 Club of Union County and further congratulating the 2023 Valor Award recipients honoring those first responders from Union County that have gone above and beyond the call of duty at their annual Valor Awards Luncheon on Friday, May 19, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-455 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing the tremendous work of the YWCA Union County and congratulating the honorees of the 2023 TWIN Awards Breakfast Celebration: Mansi Sanghvi, Waltasia Mansano, Jennifer Perez, Community Service Award; Lauren Hyland, Kathryn Lynch, Young Professional Award; Jackie Racer-DeSanctis, Michelle Somers, Katie Freund, Sonia Oberoi, Business and Leadership Awards; Armando D'Errico, YWCA Ally Award, and Debbie-Ann Anderson, Lifetime YWCA Ally Award.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-456 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Our Lady of Fatima Church in Elizabeth upon their 50th Anniversary celebration May 21, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-457 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing and congratulating the Westfield area YMCA as it celebrates its 100-Year Celebration & Reunion on May 18, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-458 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Proclaiming May 14, 2023 as "Apraxia Awareness Day" throughout the County of Union in an effort to raise awareness of apraxia, which is a neurological speech disorder wherein children have great difficulty in articulating language sounds and require intensive and long-term assistance with trained speech pathologists.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

2023-459 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Designating the last week of May as "Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Week" in an effort to educate people about hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; a chronic cardiac disease involving thickening of the heart muscle and can potentially lead to debilitating symptoms and serious complications including heart failure, atrial fibrillation, stroke, and in rare cases sudden cardiac death.

On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Kowalski absent.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Garretson spoke relative to the County's Fresh Start Program, adding that the mobile unit run by the County's Department of Human Services, would be at the Plainfield Public Library on May 19th. She noted that the County's Fresh Start Program aimed to connect residents in need with laundry and shower facilities, adding that Human Services staff would be on-site to provide information on other essential services provided through the Department of Human Services. She advised that the County's

Fresh Start mobile service recognized the importance of dignity and self-worth for those seeking to improve their situation and circumstances. On another note, Commissioner Garretson thanked Chairman Granados for his willingness to sit down with Mr. Salaam Ismail and discuss the 1741 Project, noting her willingness to join in on the discussion.

Commissioner Bodek spoke relative to the County's ASK program, noting that the Aging Services Kiosk aimed to provide important information about available resources to seniors and their caregivers. He noted that the ASK program would be visiting various local libraries and community centers throughout Union County including the Elizabeth Public Library on May 17th; the Roselle Public Library on May 19th; and the Plainfield Public Library on May 22nd. On another note, he noted an upcoming free scrap metal recycling event on May 20th at Rahway River Park at the Walter E. Ulrich Memorial Pool parking lot. He encouraged interested residents to visit the County's website for additional information.

Commissioner Leon spoke relative to several upcoming events at Trailside Nature and Science Center, including a Nature Photography Workshop on May 13th and an interactive learning experience featuring local birds entitled Who's That at My Feeder? on Saturday, May 20th. Also, on May 20th, she invited residents to the County's Touch-A-Truck event for children at Rahway River Park. Commissioner Leon also invited residents to attend the County's annual Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale & Garden Fair on May 21st. She noted that the Master Gardeners program was one of the County's most popular volunteer organizations, adding that this event would help support their community educational programs.

Commissioner Baker encouraged residents to visit two senior art exhibits currently on display at Union College in Scotch Plains and the Commissioners' Gallery on the 6th floor of the County's Administration building. He advised that the exhibit in the Commissioner's Gallery displayed the work of seniors from Springfield's Senior Citizen Housing during their Senior Day Out hosted by Hosing with Hope. Commissioner Baker recognized the efforts of the County's Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, noting that the County and Board were proud to support the talents of professional and amateur senior artists throughout Union County.

Commissioner Mirabella advised that registration for the County's Sensory Summer Camp for youth ages 12 to 21 from August 22 to August 26 at Trailside Nature and Science Center would open on May 22nd. He noted that the Sensory Summer Camp began last year and aimed to ensure that everyone in Union County, regardless of their abilities, could enjoy inclusive, enriching public recreation resources in a supportive, judgment-free environment. He encouraged families with children and young adults with disabilities and special needs to sign up. He also spoke relative to numerous other recreation programming available for youth with special needs through the Office for People with Disabilities and Special Needs, including Special Needs Nights at Wheeler Spray Park in Linden and the Union County Performing Arts Center's Sensory Friendly Theatre series, among others. On another note, Commissioner Mirabella complimented County Manager Oatman, Deputy County Manager Wagner, Finance Director Taylor, and the various other Directors for their efforts relative to the County's 2023 Budget. He noted that for the fourth year in a row the County had presented a budget with a zero increase while also retaining its AAA bond rating. He added that this was no small feat

and spoke to the leadership and financial strength of Union County. On another note, Commissioner Mirabella expressed his frustration relative to what occurred during the public comment portion. He noted that the rules observed during the Commissioner meeting as outlined by Counsel Bergen earlier had been completely disregarded. He noted Chairman Granados' willingness to meet with the members of the 1741 Project privately to discuss the matter, adding that he hoped the parties involved could move forward and discuss the matter in a civil and professional manner. To close, Commissioner Mirabella recognized all the Mothers for the great job they do all the time and wished them all a Happy Mother's Day.

Commissioner Williams invited residents to attend the County's upcoming Rhythm and Blues by the Brook concert on Saturday, June 3rd at Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield. She noted that the concert would be headlined by Grammy-award winning artist Chrisette Michele, with DJ Bookeem serving at the Masters of Ceremonies. She advised that other entertainment would include performances by Shanice, Allure, Riff and Bone Daddy & the Hoochies as well as a Car Show Spectacular by G-Wiz Auto Entertainment. She further advised that Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc and Eta Omicron Zeta Chapter of Plainfield would also be hosting a Health & Wellness fair during the event. On another note, Commissioner Williams echoed the sentiments of Commissioner Mirabella relative to what had occurred during public commentary. She confirmed the rules of decorum as outlined by Counsel Bergen, noting that the five-minute time limit applied to all speakers equally. She noted the importance of African-American history, adding that she took an annual field trip with her students to the African Burial Ground Monument in New York. Likewise, she recognized the importance of the 1741 Project, adding that she hoped future discussions between the parties involved could be more civil and respectful. Commissioner Williams noted Chairman Granados' willingness to meet with Mr. Salaam Ismail of the 1741 Project privately to discuss the matter, adding that the Chairman maintained an open-door policy with everyone, including those he disagreed with. Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded had no comments.

Chairman Granados wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day, noting the important role played by mothers and other female caregivers in the lives of children. On another note, he expressed his disappointment over the events that took place during the public comment portion. He noted Counsel Bergen's initial reiteration of the rules, including the five-minute time limit, adding that the County and Board were committed to being respectful of everyone's time and comments and expected the same courtesy to be afforded to them and others in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2023 MEETING SCHEDULE
REORGANIZATION MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023 at 6:00 pm
Union County Courthouse- 2 Broad Street. Elizabeth

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 26, 2023
February 9, 2023
February 23, 2023
March 16, 2023
March 30, 2023
April 13, 2023
April 27, 2023
May 11, 2023
May 25, 2023
June 8, 2023
June 22, 2023
July 13, 2023
August 17, 2023
September 7, 2023
September 21, 2023
October 12, 2023
October 26, 2023
November 9, 2023
December 7, 2023
December 21, 2023

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 26, 2023
February 9, 2023
February 23, 2023
March 16, 2023
March 30, 2023
April 13, 2023
April 27, 2023
May 11, 2023
May 25, 2023
June 8, 2023
June 22, 2023
July 13, 2023
August 17, 2023
September 7, 2023
September 21, 2023
October 12, 2023
October 26, 2023
November 9, 2023
December 7, 2023
December 21, 2023



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 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 this 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.