



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, MAY 25 2023
AGENDA SETTING MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Granados presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, and Commissioner Rebecca Williams were present, with Commissioner Angela R. Garretson and Commissioner Alexander Mirabella 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.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE BOARD

A resolution presentation was made by the Board to representatives of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America in recognition of June 2, 2023 as the 9th Annual Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Chairman Granados advised that the County Commissioner Board was honored to present a Resolution to representatives from the Moms Demand Action organization in recognition of the 9th Annual Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 2nd for their continued efforts and advocacy relative to gun safety and promoting meaningful change. He added that the Board was committed to working with organizations like Moms Demand Action to create a safer, more peaceful future.

Chairman Granados asked Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded to join him for the resolution presentation.

On behalf of the Board, Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded noted that she was pleased to be able to recognize the Moms Demand Action organization and thanked

them for their continued efforts, adding that everyone's life depended on changes to existing gun legislation.

Kathleen Doland, of Moms Demand Action, thanked the Board for their recognition of the Moms Demand Action organization and for allowing them to continue raising awareness on gun safety. She invited residents to attend the Moms Demand Action Peace Walk on June 3rd at Rahway River Park to honor victims and survivors of gun violence.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Chairman Granados advised that the Communications would be approved later during the Regular Meeting.

OFFICE OF THE UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR

William Daniel, Prosecutor

First Assistant Prosecutor James O. Tansey represented the Office.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and accept funding for the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program to support the Multi-Jurisdictional Gang, Gun, and Narcotics Task Forces for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$135,835.00. (No cost to the County of Union) **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
2. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, Division of Administration, Department of Law and Public Safety through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, FY 2021, Gunshot Detection Technology Initiative for the period of December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2024 in the amount of \$355,500.00. (No cost to the County of Union) **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

Commissioner Kowalski asked First Assistant Prosecutor Tansey to elaborate on this item.

First Assistant Prosecutor Tansey advised that this item related to a federal grant funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. He noted that if awarded, the grant would be used towards gunshot detection technology in the form of a shot-spotter to be used in conjunction with license plate readers. He added that this item would be of no cost to the County.

Commissioner Baker inquired about existing gunshot detection technology and asked if this was comparable.

First Assistant Prosecutor Tansey advised that shot spotters were placed in various locations to detect the sound of gunshots, adding that in such an instance, law enforcement would respond to the disturbance. He added that license plate reading technology could be used in conjunction with shot spotters to identify vehicles within the vicinity of a gunshot.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Amy Crisp Wagner, Deputy County Manager/Director

1. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and accept funding from the NJ Department of Transportation, Local Transportation Projects Fund 2023 for the NY Connects to Union County NJ East Coast Greenway Bikeway Project to create a safe bikeway corridor from the Goethals Bridge to connect to the East Coast Greenway at Centennial Avenue in Cranford, NJ. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

Commissioner Williams asked Deputy County Manager Wagner to elaborate on this item.

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that this item related to applying for and hopefully receiving grant funding from the NJ's Department of Transportation to fund the NJ East Coast Greenway Bikeway Project, adding that this greenway would connect Goethals Bridge to Cranford, running through the City of Elizabeth and Borough of Roselle. She noted that she was looking forward to the opportunity to provide residents with a safe bikeway corridor from Goethals Bridge to portions of Union County.

2. Approving the by-laws of the Union County Transportation Advisory Board (UC TAB), approved at the May 3, 2023 meeting of the Union County Transportation Advisory Board. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and to receive funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan on behalf of the Union County Community Development Block Grant Program, HOME Investment Partnerships Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant Program. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
4. Authorizing the County Manager through the Union County Department of Economic Development to provide required documentation to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to ensure the County's continued participation in the CDBG, HOME and ESG programs. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
5. Authorizing the County Manager to transfer \$25,000.00 in Plainfield Program Income from Plainfield account in association with the successful administration of the Community Development Block Grant Program by the City of Plainfield, to help offset the cost of demolition for two properties destroyed in a fire. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
6. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Lighthouse Collaborative LLC, Hillside, NJ for the implementation of a 2023/2024 School Gender and Sexuality Alliances (GSAs) Program in an amount not to exceed \$38,800.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

Commissioner Williams asked Deputy County Manager Wagner to provide an update on this program.

Deputy County Manager Wagner advised that last year, as part of Chair William's initiatives, the County had selected four schools to receive grant funding to implement a Gender and Sexuality Alliance program. She further advised that the vendor would be expanding the program to an additional four schools and creating a network of Union County schools with

GSA Programs. She noted that the program had been tremendously successful and well-received, adding that the County looked forward to expanding these programs throughout Union County schools to provide children with a safe, accepting space.

Chairman Granados recognized Commissioner Williams for her efforts in launching this initiative during her tenure as Chair of the Board.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Joseph Graziano, Director

1. Amending Resolution Number 2023-247 adopted March 16, 2023, BA# 1-2021, a contract awarded through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to Railroad Construction Company, Inc., of Paterson, New Jersey, approving Change Order Number 4 for the Gordon Street Bridge over "Out of Service" Conrail structure 2050150, Boroughs of Roselle and Roselle Park, County of Union, New Jersey. This change order will increase the original contract amount by \$154,151.60 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$7,859,502.33. Subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

Commissioner Bodek asked about the completion date for this project.

Director Graziano advised that the project was on schedule to be completed by late August of this year, adding that the sidewalks would be poured in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Kowalski inquired about the increase.

Director Graziano confirmed that this project was being funded by the NJ Department of Transportation. He advised that the increase was related to additional materials, labor, waterproofing, and disposal needed as a result of a minor adjustment to the original placement of the bridge.

Commissioner Kowalski noted that this project had been on-going for quite some time, adding that she anticipated an increase as a result of rising prices.

2. Amending Resolution Number 2022-757, adopted on September 15, 2022 awarding a Professional Architectural Service Contract to USA Architects of Somerville, New Jersey to provide additional services for Space Study for 921 Elizabeth Avenue & 40 Parker Road, City of Elizabeth, New Jersey for an additional amount of \$89,062.50 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$109,062.50. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
3. Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Charles F. Connolly Dist. Co., Inc., North Arlington, NJ, for the provision of replacement pumps and supplies for the Division of Facilities Management in an amount not to exceed \$26,499.00. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
4. Granting permission to the Township of Berkeley Heights to hang a banner from August 15, 2023 to September 30, 2023 from the Downtown Beautification Committee to promote Restaurant Month. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

5. Granting permission to the Township of Scotch Plains to close Martine Avenue from Cooper Road to Raritan Road from 9:30 am to 12 noon on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 for Union Catholic High School Class of 2023 Graduation Ceremony. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dennis Burke, Acting Director

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with TriTech Software Systems (CentralSquare Technologies LLC), Lake Mary, FL, for maintenance/support renewal for the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS) for the Department of Public Safety and the Sheriff's Office for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$167,512.56. **(Commissioner James Baker Jr)**

Chairman Granados wished Acting Director Dennis Burke and Clerk James Pellettiere a Happy Birthday in the coming days.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

Bruce H. Bergen, County Counsel

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

1. Amending Resolution 2023-142 to increase funds to Weiner Law Group, LLP, Parsippany, NJ, to represent the County of Union in the matter of Susan Tamburri v. County of Union, et als. in an additional amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 for a total amount not to exceed \$75,000.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
2. Amending Resolution 2022-259 to increase funds to Gluck Walrath, LLP, Freehold, NJ, to represent the County of Union in the matter of Beverly D. Figueroa v. County of Union, et als. in an additional amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 for a total amount not to exceed \$12,500.00. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

1. Offering the board's deepest condolences to the family of Julia Jones in their time of sorrow. **(Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, & The Entire Board)**
2. Congratulating the following individuals from the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 104 on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout: Lika Culjak and Peter Reilly. **(Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski)**
3. Congratulating Elizabeth Councilman Frank Cuesta on his being honored as the Grand Marshal of the Elizabeth Cuban Day Parade. **(Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, & The Entire Board)**
4. Congratulating Mary Elizabeth Kinn (Biermann) Collis on the celebration of her 101st birthday. **(Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**

5. Congratulating Garret P. Hanlon of Boy Scout Troop 80 of Cranford upon earning Scouting's highest rank, the Eagle Scout Award, on Sunday June 4th, 2023. **(Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, & The Entire Board)**
6. Congratulating Shiloh Baptist Church in Plainfield upon celebrating their 115th anniversary on May 17th, 2023. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
7. Honoring and congratulating Elizabeth A. Urquhart, as Plainfield hosts the renaming of the City Hall Library in honor of Elizabeth A. Urquhart on May 20th, 2023. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
8. Recognizing best-selling author and activist George Johnson, author of "All Boys Aren't Blue," who will be taking part in Plainfield's LGBTQ Pride celebration. **(Commissioner Rebecca Lynne Williams, & The Entire Board)**
9. Sponsoring the Berkeley Heights Business & Civic's "Downtown Block Party" to be held on June 4, 2023 in the total amount not to exceed \$1,000.00. **(Vice Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, & The Entire Board)**
10. Sponsoring Groundwork Elizabeth's Tour De Elizabeth held on May 21, 2023 in the amount of not to exceed \$1,500.00. **(Vice Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, & The Entire Board)**
11. Congratulating the John E. Dwyer Technology Academy on becoming the first AVID National Demonstration High School in North New Jersey. **(Chairman Sergio Granados, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, & The Entire Board)**
12. Recognizing the Elizabeth Cubanos Lions Club on their mission to empower local volunteers to serve their communities as well as encourage peace and promote international understanding; and further recognizing the impact the Elizabeth Cubanos Lions Club has had on our local Union County residents as they celebrated the Cuban community and culture with a Cuban Flag Raising Ceremony on May 18th, 2023. **(Chairman Sergio Granados, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, & The Entire Board)**
13. Amending Resolution Number 2023-3, designating Official Newspapers for legal notices of the County of Union for the Year 2023 in the amount of \$150,000, to reflect the inclusion of two additional account numbers needed in order to make payment to NJ Advanced Media and La Voz Newspaper for publishing the 2023 Springfield and Westfield Special School Election notices in the total amount not to exceed \$10,937.60, for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$160,937.60. **(Chairman Sergio Granados)**
14. Recognizing Maple & Monroe: Global Social Impact Think & Do Tank and Someone's Daughter, Inc. on their mission to promote mental health, and for their efforts in hosting "Self-Care Sunday" at Rahway River Park on May 21st, 2023. **(Chairman Sergio Granados, & The Entire Board)**

15. Proclaiming June 2, 2023 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day throughout the County of Union; and further acknowledging the efforts of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America for continued work to decrease gun violence and working towards reform legislation. **(Chairman Sergio Granados, Vice Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, & The Entire Board)**

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Granados asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded and seconded by Commissioner Williams a voice vote showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Garretson and Commissioner Mirabella absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 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.