

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2024
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:19 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon, Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr, Commissioner Joseph C. Bodek, Commissioner Michèle S. Delisfort, Commissioner Sergio Granados, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, 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

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Leon, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

- 849-2024 **MODIFY THE UNION COUNTY DISTRICT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN TO: (1) INCLUDE THE WASTE MANAGEMENT OF NEW JERSEY, INC. FACILITIES IN ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY, AS THE COUNTY'S DESIGNATED FACILITIES TO WHICH SOLID WASTE TYPES 13, 13C, 23 AND 27 ARE DIRECTED FOR DISPOSAL; (2) INCORPORATE THE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE UNION COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT OF NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR THE PROVISION OF DISPOSAL SERVICES FOR SOLID WASTE TYPES 13, 13C, 23 AND 27; AND (3) DIRECT ALL SOLID WASTE TYPES 13, 13C, 23 AND 27 TO THE WASTE MANAGEMENT OF NEW JERSEY,**

**INC. FACILITIES IN ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY FOR DISPOSAL,
PURSUANT TO REGULATORY WASTE FLOW CONTROL.****PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION**

The meeting was opened for the purposes of commenting on Ordinance Number 849-2024 only.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, asked for additional information related to the types of waste cited. He also asked about these items being disposed of using Rahway's incinerator.

John Napolitano, Solid Waste Counsel for the Union County Utilities Authority, advised that the following waste types would be disposed of: 13) bulky waste; 13c) construction and demolition waste; 23) vegetative waste; and 27) non-hazardous, dry, industrial waste. He further advised that unrecyclable items would be transported to the waste management facility for proper disposal. He noted that the majority monies would be allocated to the waste management facility with an administration fee paid to the UCUA. He noted that these items could not be incinerated.

There were no additional questions or comments.

FINAL READING STATEMENT

Commissioner Sergio Granados, Union County Utilities Authority Liaison, moved Ordinance Number 849-2024 for Final Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law.

On a motion made by Commissioner Granados and seconded by Commissioner Mirabella, roll call showed nine votes in the affirmative.

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.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, made comments relative to the State Comptroller's Office and County Manager Oatman. Relative to Reso Nos. 2024-210, 2024-222, 2024-23, & 2024-232 he asked for additional information. He also made comments relative to Reso No. 2024-233.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-210, Acting Director Policay advised that this item would be used to purchase equipment and materials for various HVAC systems throughout various County facilities.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-222, Director Durbin-Drake advised that this vendor had been secured through a public bid, adding that services would be used as needed. She noted that this two-year contract was executed to assist with the management of weeds and algae in various County ponds, lakes, and lagoons, noting twenty-nine bodies of water in Union County. She advised that last year the Department had spent \$43,000.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-231, County Manager Oatman advised that counsel had been secured to defend County Clerk Rajoppi who was named in a lawsuit filed U.S. Representative Andy Kim.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-232, County Manager Oatman advised that this vendor had been secured through a fair and open process, adding that Director Taylor had no professional involvement with her husband's firm.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-233, County Manager Oatman confirmed the County's commitment to provide resources to residents in need. He added that the County would continue to prioritize providing resources and services to residents facing challenges of self-sufficiency.

Relative to Reso No. 2024-233, Commissioner Granados responded to Mr. Paterson's comments. He reaffirmed the County's Commitment to helping the residents of Union County address the many challenges they face by providing meals and other important resources.

There were no additional questions or comments.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The following resolutions are being offered for adoption:

2024-205 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Paramus Ford, Inc. pursuant to the Educational Services Commission of NJ (formerly known as Middlesex Regional-#65MCESCCPS), Somerset County (#2-SOCCP), and Cranford Police CoOp (#47-CPCPS) cooperatives for the purchases of six (6) vans for the Union County Sheriff's Office in the amount of not to exceed \$346,173.67.

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

2024-206 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Amending Resolution 2024-68, a contract with Spec Rescue International, Virginia Beach, Virginia, to provide exercise support and training to members of the Metro Urban Search and Rescue (MUSAR) Task Force from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Region, to reflect a change in the account number only.

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

2024-207 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a ten (10) year Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Springfield for 911 Police, Fire and EMS Dispatching Services, commencing April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2034 in the amount of \$178,385.10 for the first year, with a 2% increase January 1st of each subsequent calendar year.

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

2024-208 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Pennoni Associates Inc. of Newark, New Jersey to provide professional services for Emergency Debris Management Plan (EDMP) and Temporary Debris Management Area (TDMA) in various locations in Union County for a contract amount not to exceed \$19,500.00.

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

2024-209 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: Amending Resolution 2024-79, a contract with French & Parrello Associates of Wall Township, New Jersey to provide On-Call MEP Engineering Services, to reflect an increase to the contract in the amount of \$8,700.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$13,700.00.

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

2024-210 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with French & Parrello Associates (FPA), Wall, New Jersey to provide HVAC Engineering and Consulting Services commencing on or about March 30, 2024 through approximately May 14, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$219,900.00.

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

2024-211 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: Authorizing aerial dispensing operation county-wide by the Bureau of Mosquito Control.

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

2024-212 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: Authorizing the Township of Berkeley Heights to hang a banner on Springfield Avenue from May 13, 2024 to June 10, 2024 to advertise the Berkley Heights Block Party on June 9, 2024.

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

2024-213 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: Authorizing the Township of Berkeley Heights (Kimberly Anne Wilson Foundation) to hang a banner on Springfield Avenue from August 12, 2024 to September 19, 2024 to promote the Kimberly Anne Wilson Foundation 5K.

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

2024-214 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: Authorizing the Township of Berkeley Heights to hang a banner across Springfield Avenue to promote Our House 4 Mile Run from April 28, 2024 to May 12, 2024.

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

2024-215 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: Authorizing the Township of Clark to hang a banner from May 22, 2024 to June 24, 2024 on Raritan Road advertising the Rock the Block Street Fair and to close a portion of Westfield Avenue on June 23, 2024 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm for the Rock the Block Street Fair.

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

2024-216 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK: Authorizing the Township of Springfield to hang a banner from June 3, 2024 to July 8, 2024 on South Springfield Avenue and Mountain Avenue to advertise the Township's 4th of July Festivities and to close Meisel Avenue on July 4, 2024 from 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm for the July Festivities with a rain date the next clear day.

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

2024-217 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Appointing Jill Schlossberg to the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

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

2024-218 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to authorize the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs to apply for private and public funding.

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

2024-219 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager through the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, to reallocate funds received from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to the following 44 Union County agencies and organizations as recommended and approved by the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board in the amount not exceed \$300,000.00.

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

2024-220 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Appointing the following member to the Union County Cultural & Heritage Advisory Board: Shirley Gazsi.

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

2024-221 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Amending Resolution 2023-995 to reflect adjustments to awards and an overall decrease in the original Area Plan Contract Spending Plan in the amount of \$28,146.79 to reflect a new total of not to exceed \$5,605,811.21 with no other changes to the terms or conditions.

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

2024-222 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding (BA# 5-2024) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Parks and Recreation: Lake Management Sciences of Branchville, NJ, for the purpose of providing a Aquatic Management Program for the period beginning upon the execution of the contract through December 31, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$240,048.00, with an option to extend for one additional 24 month period.

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

2024-223 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and execute a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for development, capital, and operating expenses for repairs to the Clubhouse at the Ash Brook Golf Course and the creation of an indoor skating rink at Warinanco Park in the amount of \$13,750,000.00.

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

2024-224 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and execute a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for dredging and pollution remediation at the Clark Reservoir in the amount of \$250,000.00.

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

2024-225 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and execute a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for dredging, pollution remediation and park development at the Clark Reservoir in the amount of \$20,000,000.00.

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

2024-226 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Appointing Elizabeth A. Fennik to the Advisory Council on Aging for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

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

2024-227 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Amending Resolution 2023-925, a contract obtained through advertised public bidding pursuant to 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, and maintenance services for various County Departments, to reflect an increase to the contract in the amount of \$14,625.00 for a new total amount not to exceed \$1,031,048.14.

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

2024-228 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Authorizing the County Manager to utilize the County's option to extend the contract with Johnston Communications, Springfield, NJ, pursuant to Resolution 2022-224, originally obtained through advertised public bidding, (BA# UCCP 8-2022) for an additional twenty-four (24) months for the purpose of providing IT Infrastructure, Fiber Optic Network Advanced Applications and Services for all County buildings and County parks beginning March 18, 2024 through March 17, 2026 with no change in the contract amount.

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

2024-229 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and enter into agreement with the NJ Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) to secure grant funding for the Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG), for a total project amount of \$100,000, with no County match required, for a twelve (12) month project period beginning June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025.

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

2024-230 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with FSL Public Finance, Reading, PA, to provide financial advisory services in connection with special projects for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in the amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

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

2024-231 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Genova Burns LLC, Newark NJ, as Litigation Counsel for Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi in the matter of Andy Kim et al v. Union County, et al in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00

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

2024-232 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDE: Appointing Taylor Law Group, LLC , New Providence, NJ, to represent the County of Union as special counsel providing general counsel services concerning current and future leasing of County cell towers in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

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

2024-233 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDE: Authorizing a 2024 MOU between the County of Union and Union College of Union County for an American Rescue Plan Act grant award to help fund an existing Food Insecurity Program that serves the nutritional needs of the College's most needy full-time students in the amount of \$250,000.00 for the period of July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

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

2024-234 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDE: Appointing Gina Iosim (Justice Involved Services) to the Mental Health Board for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

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

LAUDATORY RESOLUTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCES

2024-235 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the following honorees of the Appreciation Award of the Annual Women's High Tea Women's History Month Celebration on Saturday, March 16th, 2024: Marilyn Coplan, Renée Marino, Antoinette Modrak and Lisa Ormon; further recognizing the many contributions each of the honorees have provided the City of Linden.

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

2024-236 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Ms. Carvalho's 4th Grade class at Grover Cleveland Elementary School for achieving an impressive 85% average on their iReady Challenge math and reading lessons.

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

2024-237 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Resolve Community Counseling Center on their 50th Anniversary

providing essential mental health and counseling services as we celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month in May 2024.

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

2024-238 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating The Elizabeth High School Boys Basketball Team upon winning the 2024 State Championship Tournament.

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

2024-239 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the China Ministry of Education's establishment of Wenzhou-Kean University on Monday, March 25, 2024.

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

2024-240 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the Westfield High School Boys Swim Team on their recent accomplishment at the IHSAA High School State Championship, making it back-to-back years as State Champions.

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

2024-241 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Elizabeth Public Schools Athletic Director Ben Candelino on his induction to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) Hall of Fame Class of 2024.

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

2024-242 CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Offering the Board's deepest condolences to the Union County Sheriff's K9 Unit for the passing of retired K9 Marco on March 8, 2024.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Bodek reminded residents that County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi would be hosting a notary training seminary on Friday, April 12th at the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains. He advised that the deadline for registration was April 3rd, adding that space was limited to the first fifty participants and a registration fee of \$10

would be required. He added that the training seminar would include featured speaker, First Deputy County Counsel, Moshood Muftau, and would provide participants with important information and guidance relative to the duties and responsibilities of the office of notary public.

Commissioner Delisfort advised that the County of Union was seeking volunteers for the County's Rape Crisis Center to provide guidance and support to victims of sexual violence. She noted that volunteers had to be 18 years of age or older, possess a valid driver's license and own personal transportation. She added that volunteers would be required to undergo a personal interview and participate in a 40 hour state-mandated training program. She advised that spring training would be held on May 2nd – June 25th every Tuesday and Thursday evening at the County's Rape Crisis Office, located in the Colleen Fraser Building at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield. She encouraged interested residents to volunteer, adding that bilingual volunteers were also welcomed. To close, she wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Commissioner Mirabella spoke relative to his recent visit to Union County Vocational Technical School alongside several of his Commissioner colleagues to celebrate Career & Technical Education Month and National FFA Week. He recognized the students of UCVTS for their exceptional academic achievements and thanked Superintendent Gwendolyn Ryan for graciously hosting the Board and providing a tour. On another note, Commissioner Mirabella noted his recent attendance of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Union and thanked the Parade Committee for their efforts in hosting a great event. He also spoke relative to a Law Enforcement Job Fair that took place earlier that day at Kean University. To close, he responded to Mr. Paterson's comments.

Commissioner Kowalski also noted her recent attendance of Union's St. Patrick's Day Parade. She also spoke relative to the Board's participation in Read Across America Week and thanked the schools and teachers for hosting the Commissioners. On another note, she advised that March 2024 had been designated as Radon Action Month and the County, in cooperation with NJ's Department of Environmental Protection, would be providing residents with free Radon Test Kits, by request, through the County's Office of Public Safety. She noted the risks of radon and the importance of testing in order to mitigate said hazards.

Commissioner Baker announced an upcoming healthcare job fair, hosted by the County's American Job Center, taking place on March 20th at Warinanco Sports Center. He encouraged job seekers to attend and bring their resumes, adding that interviews would be conducted on-site. He added that job opportunities included registered nurses, practical nurses, and certified medical assistants, among others.

Commissioner Williams announced that the County of Union, in collaboration with the 102nd Cavalry Family Readiness Group, would be collecting essential items for military women from Union County stationed overseas. She advised that the collection would run until March 30th, adding that the County had designated four drop-off locations in various County facilities, including the County Administration Building, Social Services in Elizabeth, Public Safety in Westfield, and Engineering in Scotch Plains. She referred residents to the County's website for a full list of acceptable donations.

Commissioner Granados announced the return of the County's Fresh Start Program for the 2024 season. He advised that the County's Fresh Start Program provided residents in need with restroom, shower, and laundry services in addition to referrals for resources and programs provided through the County's Human Services Department. He further advised that the Fresh Start vehicle would be visiting the Elizabeth and Plainfield Public Libraries once a month during the 2024 season. He added that the first visit would be to the Elizabeth Public Library on April 4th. On another note, he spoke relative to a recent job fair at Newark Airport, adding that over 1,000 job seekers and 20 job vendors had participated in the event.

On behalf of the Board, Commissioner Williams wished every woman a Happy Women's History Month, recognizing the invaluable sacrifices and contributions of women throughout history.

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded advised that nominations for the County's 2024 SHERO Awards were now open. She noted that the SHERO Award aimed to recognize remarkable women in Union County who epitomize the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion while driving positive change in Union County. She noted that the deadline for nominations was May 3rd. On another note, she thanked Dr. Hargrove and Dr. Segal for their continued efforts aimed at improving the lives of the students of Union College. She added that the Board was proud of this partnership. She also noted her participation in Read Across America Week, adding that it was a wonderful experience. To close, Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded congratulated Commissioner Williams on being honored by the Women's Political Caucus of NJ with the Social Justice Award. She wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 P.M.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE


REORGANIZATION MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Union County Courthouse- 2 Broad Street. Elizabeth

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

Thursday, January 25, 2024
 Wednesday, February 7, 2024
 Wednesday, February 21, 2024
 Wednesday, March 13, 2024
 Wednesday, March 27, 2024
 Wednesday, April 10, 2024
 Wednesday, April 24, 2024
 Wednesday, May 8, 2024
 Wednesday, May 22, 2024
 Wednesday, June 5, 2024
 Wednesday, June 19, 2024
 Wednesday, July 17, 2024
 Wednesday, August 14, 2024
 Wednesday, September 11, 2024
 Wednesday, September 25, 2024
 Wednesday, October 9, 2024
 Wednesday, October 23, 2024
 Wednesday, November 13, 2024
 Wednesday, December 4, 2024
 Wednesday, December 18, 2024

REGULAR MEETINGS

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 Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024
 Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024
 Wednesday, October 9, 2024
 Wednesday, October 23, 2024
 Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024
 Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024
 Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024



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

Please note that the County Commissioners' meetings, with the exception of the January 25, 2024 meetings, are to be regularly held on Wednesday evenings. These meetings 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. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 908-527-4140.