

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh presided and called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Roll call showed Vice Chairman Bruce H. Bergen, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Sergio Granados, Freeholder Christopher Hudak, Freeholder Alexander Mirabella and Freeholder Vernell Wright were in attendance. Freeholder Linda Carter was absent.

Also present were County Manager Alfred J. Faella, County Counsel Robert E. Barry, Esq. and Clerk of the Board James E. Pellettiere.

The Prayer and Salute to the Flag were led by the Clerk of the Board.

The statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by the Clerk of the Board.

PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

Chairman Jalloh invited the Honorable County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi to the podium to make her presentation.

County Clerk Rajoppi made comments relative to a revision made to the Union County election ballots, noting that the changes are the first major revision in over ten years (since they instituted optical scanning). She stated she brought two November General Election sample ballots with her; the first an English sample ballot for Springfield and the other a bilingual sample ballot for Rahway. She noted the most significant change in the ballot is the orientation of the ballot, stating that the ballots are now horizontal and color coded, whereas in the past they were vertical. She stated that this change correlates with the horizontal orientation of the machine ballot. She stated that this is the third year that school board elections are to be held in November and they have noticed a significant drop off in voter participation from the general election vote to the school board vote. She advised that the new ballots will be color coded to clarify and differentiate between the two elections on the ballot. She made comments relative to changes to the increased font size of the Absentee Ballot only, noting they could not make this change on the machine ballot due to state statute. She said that her office is very excited for the changes and believes they will offer voters more clarity and ease of voting.

Freeholder Estrada asked what is the criteria, and percentage, for a specific district to require another language, other than English.

County Clerk Rajoppi advised that Federal law dictates whether a district must be provided with an alternate ballot. She stated that it is based on the federal census, and requires any district with ten percent or more of surnames that they consider to be Spanish or Portuguese, or in the case of Bergen County, Korean with an alternate ballot. She noted that Bergen County must publish their ballots in English, Spanish and Korean.

County Clerk Rajoppi stated that Union County has 428 districts. She advised there are five towns that are all English-speaking (like Springfield) and there are eight towns that are all bilingual. She advised that the ballots of the towns have certain districts which are designated to be bilingual, and only in those district does her office print the calendar bilingually, noting that she doesn't print them for the whole town.

Freeholder Estrada made comments regarding the historical relevance of the bilingual ballots, noting that in the early 1900s, Jersey City had numerous districts that were published in German. He thanked her for her presentation and dedicated work.

Freeholder Mirabella inquired as to how the Clerk's office will be publicizing these changes for the general public.

County Clerk Rajoppi stated these changes will be noted on the County's website, along with her office's "County App" and that it would be sent to the press tomorrow morning.

Freeholder Hudak inquired if her office had a definitive number in the voter drop off in the School Board elections, as noted in her presentation.

County Clerk Rajoppi stated that her office did a small sample. She advised that there were significant drop off in last year's elections, noting many towns, for example, had a 30% turnout in the general election but only 9% or 10% in the school board election.

Freeholder Hudak stated the first year Linden held a school board election in November was the Presidential Election of 2012, and expectations for school board voter turnout were high. He noted that Superstorm Sandy had impacted the outcome of the overall turnout, but they were surprised that voters either missed the school board election or were confused. He inquired if her office has spoken to other County Clerks as to how they are addressing this issue.

County Clerk Rajoppi stated that every County Clerk designs their ballots differently. She stated that there is no uniform way to design the ballot. She stated that while it's at the Clerk's discretion, that it is everyone's goal is to make it easy. She made comments relative to clarifying between the partisan elections and political elections.

Freeholder Hudak made comments relative to the newness of holding the non-partisan elections in November and of some problems that may come of it. He stated that holding the non-partisan elections in November make sense from a "dollars-perspective," noting that the County is not sending out staff, equipment and machines for a second election. He commends County Clerk Rojappi for trying to come up with a solution to make people more aware of the school board elections. He stated that he thinks the state should make this work universally for the State of New Jersey.

County Clerk Rajoppi made comments relative to school board elections and educating voters that school board members vote on the school board budgets, which represent a larger portion of their overall taxes.

Chairman Jalloh thanked County Clerk Rajoppi for her efforts in developing a creative way to assist Union County voters and address any potential voter confusion.

County Clerk Rajoppi stated that the ballots for the general election will be available on September 19, 2015 in her offices in Westfield and Elizabeth.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Chairman Jalloh called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting is open to the public for the purpose of commenting on Resolutions being offered for adoption only.

Dominic Prophete, of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of Union County, spoke in support of Resolution Number 2015-710 and the impact of the HEART Grant. He stated that CASA has been a benefactor of the Heart Grant for a number of years. He stated the HEART Grants have been instrumental in the work that they do in serving youth in foster care. He stated that the HEART Grant has been used to help develop an art therapy which helps address the loss of hope and trust within the community. He stated that art therapy helps these victimized youths to communicate and express themselves. He noted that as a direct result of the art therapy program, supported by the HEART Grant, youths have sought out careers in art.

Sister Judy Mertz, of Josephine's Place in Elizabeth, spoke in support of Resolution Number 2015-710 and the impact of the HEART Grant. She thanked the Board for their support of the HEART Grants. She described Josephine's Place experience with the HEART Grant as a total integration of poetry, art, music and oral expression. She noted that she provided a DVDs for all freeholders. She stated that she was grateful that the Board has helped their women (whose language is 98% Spanish) to move towards English and establish self-confidence and to be able to discover their own artistic abilities.

David Arminio, of the Union Township Historical Society, spoke in support of Resolution Number 2015-710 and the impact of the HEART Grant. He made comments relative to the importance of Reverend James Caldwell as an instrumental figure in our fight for freedom during the Revolutionary War of Independence. He stated that through the HEART Grant, a former high school graduate and professional actor is reenacting Reverend Caldwell's story to the fourth graders of the five elementary schools within the Township of Union. He noted that the students will have an opportunity to learn about New Jersey as the crossroads of the Revolution and the part played by the citizens of Elizabeth, Connecticut Farms (Township of Union) and Springfield. He stated that this is an opportunity for the children to take pride in their town and better appreciate the freedoms they have today bought with the sacrifices of those that gave their lives long ago.

Morrow Wolf, of Mountainside, spoke in support of Resolution Number 2015-712 relating to the improvements at the Watchung Stables. He asked for all the young children in the audience that will benefit from the improvements to stand. He advised that the support is not limited to the four corners of the building, but rather their support of the character of

the children standing. He made comments relative to how riding builds confidence, especially for young girls, and spoke to the benefits he has seen with his daughter's participation at the Watchung Stables. He stated that he applauded the Board's vision and what they have done for the community.

Diana Knight, of Summit, spoke in support of Resolution Number 2015-712 relating to the improvements at the Watchung Stables. She spoke to her experience as a veterinarian and her experiences specifically at the Watchung Stables, noting that she boarded a horse at the stables. She made comments relative to her passion regarding the relationships that people can build with animals. She stated that she is impressed with how the horses are being cared for at Watchung Stables, commending Rachel's (Director of the Watchung Stables) passion and dedication. She stated that Watchung Stables is the nicest facility she has toured in the area, including stables that are four times the cost. She spoke to the benefits of the program; instilling the children with more confidence and sees future veterinarians coming out of the program.

Eleanor (inaudible), of Mountainside, high school senior and President of the Watchung Jr., Hunt Club, spoke in support of Resolution Number 2015-712 relating to the improvements at the Watchung Stables. She stated that the Hunt Club has 130 members, ranging from age 9 through 18 years of age. She stated she's very excited about the planned improvements for the facility. She spoke to their familiarity with the horses and how they consider the Watchung Stables their second home. She spoke to her personal experiences at Watchung Stables, noting that she leases a horse named Sky. She thanked the Board for their support of Watchung Stables.

Emma Ready, of Westfield, spoke in support of Resolution Number 2015-712 relating to the improvements at the Watchung Stables. She spoke to her personal experiences at the Watchung Stables, noting that she has been riding since for five years and leases a horse by the name of Rookie. She stated that she participates in many of the programs offered by the Watchung Stables and is excited for the opportunity to ride all year round. She thanked the Board for their support.

Tom Ameid (inaudible), of Clark, spoke in support of Resolution Number 2015-712 relating to the improvements at the Watchung Stables. He stated that he is an active member of the Watchung Jr., Hunt Club and has been riding for five years. He spoke to the benefits of being a part of the "Watchung community," and of the programs offered at the Watchung Stables. He made comments on the dedication of Rachel (Director of the Watchung Stables). He thanked the Board for always being supportive of the Watchung Stables.

Nicole Morris, of Hillside, spoke in support of Resolution Number 2015-712 relating to the improvements at the Watchung Stables. She stated while she is involved in athletic training and plays soccer, her first sport is horseback riding. She spoke on the unfamiliarity of the sport in her high school and how she has been able to bring attention to the sport through the Watchung Stables. She spoke on her experiences at Watchung Stables and the great care the horses receive. She stated that the improvements of the facility will make for safer conditions for both the riders and the horses.

William Nierstedt, Garwood Councilman, spoke to Resolution Number 2015-711. He inquired as to how the Change Order reduced the original contract, noting how most change orders Garwood realizes equate to an increased contract amount.

Director Zuber stated the Change Order reduction was a result of the contract's estimate inclusive of the potential of tainted soil. He advised that in this case, there was no tainted soil, which reduced the contract amount.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, made comments or inquiries on a number of Resolutions. Relative to Resolution Number 2015-710, he inquired if the grant amount was increased by \$25,000; Resolution Number 2015-711, he inquired as to why a survey wasn't done prior to awarding a contract; Resolution Number 2015-712, he made comments relative to the \$2.2 million including measures to prevent the horses from escaping the facility; Resolution Number 2015-725, he inquired as to the overview of the internal position controls; Resolution Number 2015-726, he made comments relative to the vendor's political donations to the Republican candidates; Resolution Number 2015-730, he thanked the Board, noting that the Borough of Garwood is participating in this program; Resolution Number 2015-732, he made comments relative to the vendor's involvement with Mr. Gary Taffet and political contributions; Resolution Number 2015-734, he inquired as to the benefits of this outside counsel and made comments relative to political donations; Resolution Number 2015-739, he made comments relative to political donations; Resolution Numbers 752 through 2015-756, he inquired as to what type of dispatching service is being offered and inquired as to why Mountainside was not participating; Resolution Numbers 2015-757 through 2015-760, he made comments relative to political donations.

Chairman Jalloh, with regards to Resolution 2015-710, stated that it is an increase in funding and noted the benefits of the program to the County.

With reference to Resolution Number 2015-710, Director Zuber stated that a preliminary survey was done. However, it was decided to include this additional amount as a precaution since there were various oil tanks located under the old stadium and the fact that the County wanted to be sure that the whole property was untainted.

Chairman Jalloh stated that the Board agrees that the improvements will prevent future occurrences of horses breaking free of the facility.

With reference to Resolution Number 2015-725, County Manager Faella stated the internal position controls relate to the Sheriff Department.

With reference to Resolution Numbers 2015-752 through 2015-756, Director Moran stated the dispatcher services vary among the municipalities, depending on their individual needs. He stated that Fire and EMS dispatch services are provided for Hillside, Roselle, and Roselle Park. He stated that in addition to Fire and EMS dispatch for the Township of Springfield, the County is their primary dispatch for their 9-1-1 calls. He stated that the County dispatches Robert Wood Johnson's two paramedic units out of Rahway. He noted that Mountainside was inadvertently added to the agenda, but was taken off as their contract doesn't expire until next year.

John Bury, of Kenilworth, made comments or inquiries on a number of Resolutions. Relative to Resolution Number 2015-712, he inquired what is being built and questioned the project numbers, and regarding Resolution Number 2015-732, he questioned what is being covered through this insurance and questioned why Brown and Brown are no longer overseeing this contract.

With reference to Resolution Number 2015-712, Director Zuber stated that the scope of the project includes an indoor riding ring (\$900,000 of \$2.3 million), two miles of new vinyl fencing throughout the property, the construction of six new paddocks, improvements to rinks #2 and #3 to include all-weather dirt, improvements to the beginners rink, the inclusion of new barn doors and improved ventilation system of the Stables. He noted that the project was conceived in 2010 and the numbers reflect an internal project number.

With reference to Resolution Number 2015-732, Director Albert stated that services are for the health insurance consultant broker services and voluntary benefits. He stated that this award is done through a fair and open RFP (Request for Proposal) process to determine who to contract with.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions are being offered for adoption:

- 2015-710 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, to grant and execute any and all agreements for the 2015 (HEART) History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-711 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution Number 2013-1080, (BA#68-2013) 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 Flanagan Contracting Group of Hillsborough, New Jersey approving Change Order Number 1 (final) for the Warinanco Park Stadium Upgrades. This Change Order will reduce the original contract amount by (\$511,246.53) for a new contract amount not to exceed \$3,534,192.02. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2011-017)

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-712 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Parks & Recreation: JC Landscape Construction & Management Co., Inc., of Pequannock, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing Improvements to Watchung Stable Equestrian Center, Borough of Mountainside, County of Union, New Jersey, in the amount not to exceed \$2,237,913.30.. BA#33-2015; Union County Engineering Project Number 2010-020.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-713 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Appointing Marvin C. Gersten as an at-large member to the Union County Transportation Advisory Board for a term expiring December 31, 2015.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-714 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Resolution modifying the 2015 Budget in the amount of \$416,526 as a result of notification received from the US Department of Justice for a program entitled: Justice Assistance Grant - JAG.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-715 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Resolution modifying the 2015 Budget in the amount of \$263,615 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Labor and Workforce Development for a Program entitled: Workforce Development Partnership Program - WDPP.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-716 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Resolution modifying the 2015 Budget in the amount of \$18,000 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services for a program entitled: Office on Aging State Grant.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-717 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Resolution modifying the 2015 Budget in the amount of \$10,278 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Public Safety for a program entitled: Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-718 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Resolution modifying the 2015 Budget in the amount of \$39,830 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Health through County of Middlesex for a program entitled: Chronic Disease Coalition Grant.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-719 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Resolution modifying the 2015 Budget in the amount of \$311,424 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department Environmental Protection for a program entitled: County Environmental Health Act (CEHA).

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-720 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Resolution modifying the 2015 Budget in the amount of \$261,000 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety for a program entitled: State Facilities Education Act (SFEA).

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-721 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Resolution modifying the 2015 Budget in the amount of \$292,451 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Health for a program entitled: Local Information Network Communications - LINC.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-722 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Resolution modifying the 2015 Budget in the amount of \$16,401 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Health for a program entitled: Right to Know.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-723 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Authorizing the County Manager to establish an additional \$1,500.00 in the Department of Parks & Recreation's annual change fund to be used at Union County's Harvest Festival on September 27, 2015.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-724 FREEHOLDERS CHRISTOPHER HUDAK, ANGEL G. ESTRADA AND VERNELL WRIGHT:** Resolution opposing the Congressional proposed federal cuts in public pre-school funding.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-725 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Authorizes the County Manger to adjust and/or change the Internal Position Control Schedules.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-726 FREEHOLDER 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, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Human Services: HFT Management Inc., for the purpose of providing Advertising on Union County Paratransit System Vehicles, exercising the option to extend for one (1)

twenty-four (24) month period of November 1, 2015 through October 31, 2017, as a revenue generated contract.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-727 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to approve the 2015-2016 HEARTH Emergency Solutions (HES) Grant Program Spending Plan in the total amount not to exceed \$338,508 for subcontracted services to be provided during the period of August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016; and further authorizing the transfer of funds among the agencies during the contract period should service needs change and/or if any of the various agencies fails to meet its contractual obligation.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-728 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager through the Union County Prosecutor's Office to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners to serve as Independent Contractors as part of the Union County Sexual Assault Response Team for the period of October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 in the amount of \$22,530.00.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-729 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager, through the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey Police Training Commission for the 2015 Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Grant, Part 3 for the period of March 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$10,278.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-730 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager through the Union County Prosecutor's Office to enter into an agreement with Taser International, Scottsdale, Arizona to purchase body worn cameras at a cost not to exceed \$850,000, obtained through the use of New Jersey State Contract #A81321.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-731 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to extend the Third Party Claim Administration contract for general liability, professional liability, and employment practices with Dietz and Hammer Risk Solutions for the contract period of August 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 (month-to-month contract) in an amount not to exceed \$16,247.34 while the RFP for same and new contract period is finalized by the evaluation committee.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-732 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Business and Governmental Insurance Agency ("BGIA") and Acrisure LLC dba Doyle Alliance Group both of Woodbridge, NJ for the provision of: Health Insurance Consultant/Broker Services and Voluntary Benefits Services from October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-733 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to renew the Third Party Claim Administration contract for Workers' Compensation, Auto and Property Claims with PMA Insurance Company from August 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 (month to month) in an amount not to exceed \$40,333.34.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-734 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution Number 2015-458, a contract with Bauch, Zucker, Hatfield, Springfield, New Jersey, special counsel for labor negotiations to increase the cap for legal services in the amount of \$125,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$350,000.00.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-735 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution 2014-1065, a contract awarded to Practice Associates Medical Group of Clark, New Jersey, to increase the amount by \$8,000.00 for the provision of 2015 Pre-Employment Exams for the Sheriff's Department, for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for a total amount not to exceed \$65,000.00.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-736 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to designate the following two (2) vehicles as surplus vehicles and no longer needed for County purposes: Two (2) 2008 - Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid SUVs; VIN# 1GNFK13518R229884 with 95,701 Miles and VIN# 1GNFK13508R230458 with 107,247 Miles.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-737 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to donate the following vehicles: Two (2) 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid SUVs to the Borough of Roselle Park as they are no longer needed for County purposes pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:11-36(2). VIN# 1GNFK13518R229884 with 95,701 Miles VIN# 1GNFK13508R230458 with 107,247 Miles.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-738 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to approve the Housing Assistance Payment Program Annual PHA Plan (Section 8) as required by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-739 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to award contracts to the following four (4) agencies; B&M Consultants award amount \$255,000, Urban League of Union County Inc. award amount \$94,000, Venture & Venture Human Skills Training Center award amount \$94,000, and Workforce Advantage award amount \$400,000, and to further authorize the County Manager to transfer funds among the listed agencies during the contract period should service needs change and/or if any of the listed agencies fail to meet its contractual obligations during the Ten (10) month period from September 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 under the WorkFirst New Jersey Program, total amount not to exceed \$843,000.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Freeholder Granados abstaining.

- 2015-740 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Concurring with the Township of Clark's Ordinance Number 15-14 adopted on July 20, 2015, to install and operate a Traffic Control Signal on Raritan Road (CR607) at Driveway for Hyatt Hills Golf Course and Clark Commons Shopping Center.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-741 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution Number 2014-192, (BA#4-2013) a contract awarded through advertised public bidding process in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq., to Rencor, Inc., of Somerville, New Jersey, approving Change Order Number 1 (final) for the Replacement of Raymond Avenue Bridge, City of Plainfield, County of Union, New Jersey. This Change Order will reduce the original contract amount by (\$18,645.17) for a new contract amount not to exceed \$1,917,163.24. This project was funded by the New Jersey Department of Transportation FY-11 Local Bridges, Future Needs (\$1,000,000.00) and New Jersey Department of Transportation County Aid 2013. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2011-004)

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-742 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution Number 2014-503, (BA#19-2014) a contract awarded through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq., to Black Rock

Enterprises, LLC, of Old Bridge, New Jersey approving Change Order Number 1 (final) for the 2014 Road Resurfacing Project - Various Municipalities, County of Union, New Jersey. This Change Order will reduce the original contract amount by (\$166,193.68) for a new contract amount not to exceed \$2,786,964.96. This project was funded by the New Jersey Department of Transportation - County Aid 2013. (Union County Engineering Project 2013-022 Phase I)

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-743 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Engineering, Public Works and Facilities Management, Division of Engineering: Montana Construction Corporation of Lodi, New Jersey, for the purpose of providing the Replacement of Madison Hill Road Bridge, RA-28, Township of Clark, City of Rahway, County of Union, New Jersey, in the amount not to exceed \$2,717,904.00. This project is being funded by the Local Bridges Future Needs Program - 2013 (\$1,000,000.00). (Union County Engineering Project Number 2012-016)

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-744 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Engineering, Public Works and Facilities Management, Division of Engineering: Ritacco Construction, Inc., of Belleville, New Jersey, for the Replacement of Short Hills Culvert, SP39, Township of Springfield, County of Union, New Jersey, in the amount not to exceed \$427,000.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2010-006C)

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-745 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Resolution concurring with the Borough of Fanwood granting permission to the Fanny Wood Day Committee, to close Martine Avenue from South Avenue to La Grande Avenue and South Avenue, from First Street to Second Avenue on Sunday, September 27, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to hold the 2015 Fanny Wood Day Celebration and to display a banner across Martine Avenue announcing the event.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-746 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Resolution concurring with the City of Linden granting permission to close Wood Avenue, between Elizabeth Avenue to Gesner Street from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. for the Street Fair "A September to Remember" which will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2015, with a rain date of Sunday, September 27, 2015. Also concurring with the City of Linden granting permission to hang banners across North Wood Avenue, between Curtis Street and Gibbons Street and one at Elizabeth Avenue from August 20, 2015 through September 30, 2015.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-747 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Resolution granting permission to the Township of Scotch Plains to close Park Avenue, between Front Street and Westfield Avenue on Thursday, September 17, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for the Scotch Plains Cultural Arts Committee car show.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-748 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Resolution concurring with the Township of Springfield granting permission to the Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Township of Springfield to close Mountain Avenue between Morris Avenue and Caldwell Place on Sunday, October 4th from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., with a rain date of Sunday, October 18, 2015 for the Fall Festival and Car Show. Also, granting permission to hang a banner across Mountain Avenue at the intersection of North Trivett Avenue from August 22, 2015 to October 19, 2015.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-749 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to accept and expend a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, County Environmental Health Act (CEHA) Grant Funds in the amount of \$311,424 to support CEHA activities for the contract period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 and match in the amount of \$233,264 through in-kind funds.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-750 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to accept and execute a Sub-Grant Agreement with Middlesex County for inclusion in the New Jersey Department of Health, Chronic Disease Coalition Grant Program in the amount of \$39,830.00 for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-751 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract obtained through advertised public bidding, in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Public Safety: Air & Gas Technologies, Cliffwood Beach, New Jersey for the purchase of an Air Cylinder Recharging Station in the amount not to exceed \$63,550.00.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-752 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution 2012-415, exercising the option to extend dispatching services with the Township of Hillside for two (2) additional one (1) year terms.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-753 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution 2012-369, exercising the option to extend the dispatching services with the Borough of Roselle for two (2) additional one (1) year terms.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-754 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution 2012-484, to add two (2) additional one (1) year terms for Dispatching Services with the Borough of Roselle Park.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-755 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution 2012-761, exercising the option to extend the dispatching services with the Township of Springfield for two (2) additional one (1) year terms.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-756 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway, in accordance with Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq., for the provision of advanced life support dispatching services, for the contract term of five (5) years.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-757 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** A Resolution appointing LaCorte, Bundy, Varady & Kinsella of Union, NJ to represent Brian Riordan in the matter entitled Marissa Taylor-Munger v. UC, et als. in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-758 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** A Resolution appointing Kologi & Simitz of Linden, NJ to represent Corrections Officer Kevin Burkert in the matter entitled Marissa Taylor-Munger v. UC, et als. in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-759 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution 2015-136, to increase the appropriation to Florio & Kenny, LLP of Hoboken, NJ in the matter entitled Shiquon Fowler v. UC, et als. in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for a sum not to exceed \$60,000.00.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-760 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution 2015-200, to increase the appropriation to Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt & Fader, LLC of Rochelle Park, NJ in the matter entitled Shiquon Fowler v. UC, et als. in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for a sum not to exceed \$60,000.00.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-761 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution 2015-240, to increase the appropriation to DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole of Teaneck, NJ in the matter entitled Shiquon Fowler v. UC, et als. in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for a sum not to exceed \$40,000.00.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-762 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing Governing Body Certification of the 2014 Audit.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2015-763 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Mr. Jessie A. Dixon, of Plainfield, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-764 FREEHOLDERS ANGEL G. ESTRADA, SERGIO GRANADOS, CHRISTOPHER HUDAK & ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Laudatory resolution proclaiming the week of September 13, 2015 through September 19, 2015 as "Child Passenger Safety Week", and further proclaiming September 19, 2015 as "National Seat Check Saturday".

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-765 FREEHOLDERS CHRISTOPHER HUDAK & BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Laudatory resolution congratulating the 2015 Linden General Pulaski Parade Grand Marshall: Richard Gerbounka, the 2015 Linden General Pulaski Parade Miss Polonia:

Aleksandra Scieszka; and 2015 Linden General Pulaski Parade Junior Miss Polonia: Madison Krowicki.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-766 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of, and the congregation of, Msgr. Bronislaw Wielgus, Pastor to polish congregations in Elizabeth and Linden, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-767 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Laudatory resolution congratulating Kathryn DiChiara on her retirement as president and chief executive officer of the Hillside-based Community Food Bank of New Jersey, and further congratulating the great success of the Hillside Community Food Bank over the past 40 years.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-768 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Laudatory Resolution congratulating Alyssa Chacon, who competed in the Chopped Teen Tournament on the Food Network.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-769 FREEHOLDERS ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, CHRISTOPHER HUDAK , ANGEL G. ESTRADA, SERGIO GRANADOS, LINDA CARTER & CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH,:** Congratulating the Honorees of the 3rd Annual Neighborhood Leaders Awards Reception hosted by the Elizabeth Development Company: The Gellert Family – Founders Atalanta Corporation, Frank Golon – Division President, Davidson –Wayne Development, Leslie Anderson – Executive Director NJ Redevelopment Authority and Patricia Perkins Auguste – Council President City of Elizabeth.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-770 FREEHOLDERS ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, SERGIO GRANADOS, LINDA CARTER, BETTE JANE KOWALSKI, VERNELL WRIGHT, CHRISTOPHER HUDAK, ANGEL G. ESTRADA CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Congratulating the Honorees of the YWCA of Union County Annual Empowering Women Cocktail Reception: Corporate Sponsor - Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery, Individual Honoree – Mary Phillips, Community Partner – Mayor J. Christian Bollwage and the City of Elizabeth, Legacy Board Honorees: Virginia Bodden, Maria Bordas, Teresa Iturralde Estrada, Janice Gossman, Josephine Hernandez, Elain Lux, Celia Mantia, Nicki Montaperto, Anne Russell and Maria Tsitsiragos, Esq.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-771 FREEHOLDERS ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, SERGIO GRANADOS, CHRISTOPHER HUDAK & ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Congratulating the 2015 Service Award Honorees for the Boy Scout of America: Maria Navedo, Assistant VP Branch Manager – Santander Bank, Amlicar “Mickey” Colon – Union County Under Sheriff, Sergio Granados – Union County Freeholder and Luis O. De La Hoz – VP Lending Team, The Intersect Fund.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-772 FREEHOLDERS ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, LINDA CARTER, CHRISTOPHER HUDAK & CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Congratulating Union County College Foundation for their 23rd Annual Scholarship Gala honoring the memory of Dr. Gerald Glasser.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-773 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Laudatory Resolution proclaiming October 23-31, 2015 as “RED RIBBON WEEK” in Union County.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-774 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Congratulating Golden Rule Lodge #24 F & AM P.H.A. on celebrating their Annual Community Day.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-775 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Congratulating Bishop Claude L. Campbell on celebrating his 50th Pastoral Anniversary on October 16, 2015.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-776 VICE CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Laudatory Resolution congratulating Courtney Dreyfus, of Scotch Plains, New Jersey, for placing 3rd in the Triathlon, Silver in the half mile swim finishing with the Bronze Medal with a time of 1:32:46 representing Team USA 2015 Special Olympics World Games.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-777 VICE CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Laudatory resolution recognizing the efforts of ShopRite and their "Help Bag Hunger Event" and further proclaiming the month of September as "National Hunger Action Month" throughout Union County.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-778 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's sincere condolences to the family of former Chief Lester Sargent formerly of the Sheriff's Office, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-779 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Laudatory resolution recognizing the 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March and further recognizing the efforts of the Plainfield Local Organizing Committee of the of All Roads Lead to Washington D.C. to promote justice and unity, regardless of class, race, creed, or color.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 2015-780 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Laudatory resolution congratulating Dr. Karen Thomas, of Roselle, on the opening of the Marion P. Thomas Charter School (MPTCS), the largest minority-led and independently operated free public charter school in Newark, on the opening of its newest facility in Newark, New Jersey.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

This meeting is open to the public for comment 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, stated that he would try to contain himself better than the previous meeting. He noted that the word "scumbag" he used was used by the "Under the Dome" television program. He claimed it may be "derogatory" but it is not "defamatory."

He made remarks relative to negotiations in general terms with the various collective bargaining units, specifically in relation to the high cost of health care costs. He stated that Union County should join the New Jersey Joint Insurance Fund, and spoke to the increased employee insurance "opt-out" costs.

He made comments relative to his removal from the last Regular Meeting.

Barbara Krause, of Cranford, provided documents (attached) to the Clerk of the Board to hand to the Board. She spoke to the mature landmark trees in Union County parks. She stated that she is a current 10-year member of the Shade Tree Advisory Board. She spoke to her concerns regarding the condition of a Sycamore tree at Sperry Park as a result of the reconstruction of the park. She said the tree is in decline and dying. She spoke to her

concerns regarding the condition of a tulip tree at McConnell Park and a Sycamore tree in Nomahegan Park.

Nicole Morris, of Hillside, made comments relative to the conditions of the two soccer fields at Conant Park. She cited her concerns regarding to the safety of the fields, citing injuries of soccer players.

Chairman Jalloh stated that he received a call on the condition of the field and had forwarded it along to the Director of Parks. He stated that he will look into the matter.

FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Freeholder Kowalski thanked all the speakers, especially the young residents, for coming out to voice their concerns and support of various programs. She made comments relative to the benefits of the HEART Grants, noting that the County is a model for the State for such programming.

Freeholder Kowalski made comments relative to increased revenues from property transaction fees by the County Clerk's office, noting a correlation to an improved housing market. She stated that a small portion of those fees is reserved for programs to prevent homelessness and stated that the County anticipates being able to provide more services to help struggling households get back on their feet. She noted that Ms. Rajoppi worked with the Freeholder Board to make this program available in Union County, and that the County is one of only eight counties to offer it and hopes that others will join this effort.

She also made comments relative to the County Clerk's UC Votes app, noting that it is a free app that gets important election information to residents through their mobile devices. She advised the public of a notary training session held by County Clerk Rajoppi.

Freeholder Estrada made comments relative to September 11th and Union County's 9/11 Memorial at Echo Lake Park, which honors the 60 Union County residents who lost their lives. He encouraged the public to visit to remember, reflect and pay their respects.

Freeholder Mirabella made comments relative to the details of the Union County September 11th candlelight vigil at Echo Lake Park from 6pm-9pm, noting that the Sheriff's Office will provide a uniformed Honor Guard to stand watch from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Freeholder Mirabella made comments relative to the POW/MIA Remembrance Day to be held on Friday, September 19th. He encouraged the public to join the event as the County takes time to remember and honor the personal sacrifices of our prisoners of war and military personnel missing in action.

Freeholder Hudak stated that September is National Preparedness Month, and offered information from the Ready campaign relative to a community-wide effort to cope with weather emergencies and other disasters. He encouraged residents to sign up for UC First Alert.

Freeholder Granados echoed the comments of Freeholders Mirabella and Estrada relative to the County's 9/11 vigil, and encouraged all to take some time out of their lives to reflect and remember those that were lost in the tragic event.

Freeholder Wright made comments relative to New Jersey's new child safety seat regulations which took effect on September 1st. She encouraged residents to visit the County's free Safety Seat Inspection Program to make sure their child's seat is properly installed. She stated that on Saturday, September 19, as part of "National Seat Check Saturday," trained technicians from our program will conduct child seat inspections at the Babies 'R' Us on Route 22 in Union.

Vice Chairman Bergen made comments relative to how the improvements at Watchung Stables fit into the County's overall plan for the Union County Parks System. He stated that the Union County public parks system was established almost 100 years ago as a democratic institution, to ensure that County residents from all walks of life could enjoy open space and healthy activities. He stated that from the beginning, that included public access to facilities that otherwise required membership in a private club, such as golf, tennis, swimming, ice skating, and horseback riding. He stated that through this new project, the County is carrying on a valuable public legacy in a fiscally responsible manner, while enabling more County residents to participate in a unique, enriching experience.

Vice Chairman Bergen made comments relative to the Jewish Holiday of Yom Kippur, the time of Atonement.

Chairman Jalloh stated that he had the pleasure of attending the grand opening of the UGG Store at the Jersey Gardens Mall. He noted that through the efforts of Union County's Workforce Innovation Center, UGG was able to hire many full-time and part-time employees, many of which were Union County residents. Chairman Jalloh stated that since the Board voted last year to approve the funding for this program, the Workforce Center has partnered with more than 20 regional employers to fill over 400 new jobs, with another 400 jobs on the way. He spoke to the vision and success of the County's Workforce Innovation Center. Chairman Jalloh advised that there are two more major employers, Clean Venture and Marshalls, that have agreed to partner with the Workforce Innovation Center to offer more than 200 new jobs.

Chairman Jalloh made comments relative to the "College Readiness Now" program at Union County College. He stated this is one of the new initiatives launched earlier this year. He stated that the "College Readiness Now" initiative is designed to test college juniors requiring remediation near the end of the academic year in an attempt to reduce the unnecessary time students have to stay in school and reduce the loans they have to pay when they get out.

Chairman Jalloh made remarks regarding the Art Outside the Box initiative, which provides for the covering of some of the traffic boxes that are considered eyesores throughout the County. He noted that the four towns that have been selected to participate are the City of Plainfield, the City of Rahway, the City of Linden and the City of Elizabeth. He stated that they are selecting five out of ten to be placed on the boxes and advised that residents will be able to vote online as to which art will be used.

Chairman Jalloh made remarks regarding the Union County Advancing Community Theatre (UACT) program. He reported that the performances of Legally Blond and Hairspray were immensely successful, bringing over 2,000 people into Rahway. He advised people to buy tickets to the next performance, Wild Party, but noted that it is for mature audiences.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Jalloh called for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative. Meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

Please note that meetings are regularly held on Thursday evenings. Agenda Setting Sessions and Regular Meetings are held at 7:00pm in the Freeholders' Meeting Room, Administration Building, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, 6th Floor, Elizabeth, New Jersey, unless otherwise specified. In the event an Agenda Setting Session and Regular Meeting are held on the same night, the Agenda Setting Session will commence at 7:00pm and the Regular Meeting will commence as soon as possible after the Agenda Setting Session. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 908-527-4140.

REORGANIZATION MEETING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2015 at 12:00pm
Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth,
NJ

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 15, 2015

February 5, 2015
February 26, 2015March 5, 2015 *
March 19, 2015April 9, 2015
April 23, 2015May 7, 2015
May 28, 2015

June 11, 2015

July 9, 2015

August 6, 2015

September 3, 2015
September 17, 2015October 1, 2015
October 15, 2015

November 5, 2015

December 3, 2015
December 10, 2015**REGULAR MEETINGS**

January 29, 2015

February 19, 2015
February 26, 2015March 12, 2015
March 26, 2015April 16, 2015
April 30, 2015May 14, 2015
May 28, 2015

June 18, 2015

July 16, 2015

August 20, 2015

September 10, 2015
September 24, 2015October 8, 2015
October 15, 2015

November 12, 2015

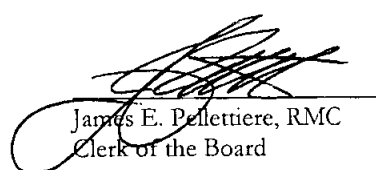
December 3, 2015
December 17, 2015**Notice**

Regular Meetings of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Public Comment Portion

Pursuant to the provisions of the N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(a) and the By-Laws of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders the "Public Comment Portion" of Regular Meetings is reserved for public comment on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

*Postponed due to inclement weather.

JEP



James E. Pelletiere, RMC
Clerk of the Board

September 10th 2015

Union County Board of Freeholders

County Administration Building

Elizabeth, NJ

To the Board:

Re: Mature landmark trees in Union County Parks (2 pages of photos enclosed)

As a current 10 year appointed member of the Cranford Township Tree Advisory Board, it is recognized that our treasured trees are my deep concern. Recently I have observed landmark or historic trees that stand in Union County parks located in Cranford. I am aware these trees are not the responsibility of the Cranford Tree Advisory board, however as a Union County resident, they are my legitimate issue.

1. Sperry Park. During the reconstruction of Sperry Park about three or four years ago, I spoke at this Freeholder Board to voice my complaint over the way the contractor, under supervision of the county, was not following proper tree protection policies regarding the 200 year old or more Sycamore tree on the eastern bank of the Rahway River. As you know this park was the location of General George Washington's cantoned troops during the American Revolution. That young sycamore could well have been witness to that event. Today it has stood as a sentinel towering over the park and river.

In the faulty design of the park, the newly constructed black top path was positioned about a foot from the base of the tree. In addition I observed heavy construction excavation equipment constantly passing back and forth adjacent to the tree for weeks, compacting roots and soil. It is shameful that in your plans there was abundant area to relocate the path sufficiently away from the tree, but that was not done. There are professional formulas or best management practices to preserve tree health during construction. Your invited to Google (guidelines for existing

tree management in construction area) to sample the vast data put forth from reputable sources.

The result is that, as expected when a tree is abused and neglected, this beautiful tree is now in decline and dying. It is putting out small new growth, but the tree needs an independent qualified professional evaluation to advise this county on its future.

McConnell Park. A second landmark tree is located in the center of this park on the horseshoe turn of the Rahway River on Eastman ST. Again, this magnificent tulip tree is the jewel of the park, but it has sustained years of scraping and abuse of its bark at the base by close cutting maintenance equipment and other projects in the park. This continued bark degradation can lead to insect and disease infestation. The tree deserves identification and protection. These trees have bravely and steadfastly withstood decades of hurricanes, floods, and wars, but they cannot withstand the abuse and neglect of man.

Nomahegan Park. An immense Sycamore tree on the eastern bank of the lake off Park Drive was endangered during the revision work done about two years ago in the park. Orange construction fencing was not adequately placed away from the tree while construction equipment rolled around it for weeks. This tree forms the centerpiece of that portion of the lake and deserved proper protection of its roots and soil by the contractor and county. Adequate tree protection measures (fencing out to farthest limb distance) written into contracts can prevent problems.

You, the Freeholders may be "connected to us" as your theme says, but you are not connected to your park's trees. I suggest that a portion of the abundant taxes that you collect for the open space and recreation fund be allotted to our neglected parks and trees and that you retain the proper professional to prepare an historic and landmark tree inventory with the proper protective measures for these irreplaceable treasures in our county parks. Please be proactive in this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Krause". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barbara" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Krause".

Barbara Krause

20 Pittsfield St.

Cranford, NJ

07016

SPERRY PARK SYCAMORE TREE



MCCONNELL PARK TULIP TREE





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no. 7.420

Protecting Trees During Construction

by C. Dennis and W.R. Jacobi* (3/14)

Quick Facts...

- Soil compaction and grade changes adversely affect tree root health, and can lead to branch dieback and tree death.
- Prior to starting construction activities, evaluate existing trees in the area to see if preservation is worthwhile and feasible.
- Involve all parties associated with the construction project when determining which trees to preserve.
- Establish specific guidelines to prevent tree injury during the construction project.
- Minimize injury to existing trees with properly placed and properly sized barricades.

Why Preserve Existing Trees?

Shade trees add to the value of residential and commercial properties. During construction, established, healthy trees can be preserved with minimal effort or expense. Many trees are valuable enough to justify the extra concern.

The Preservation Planning Process

Many towns and cities in Colorado have tree protection specifications detailed in their land use code; property owners must adhere to the tree protection specifications spelled out in land use code of their town or city. Prior to beginning a construction project, the property owner should have a city forester, licensed arborist or certified tree appraiser, evaluate every tree in the proposed construction area to determine if preservation is worthwhile. For each existing tree, consider location, present size, future size, species, vigor, cost of

preservation, and cost of removal.

While evaluating trees for preservation, visualize the future landscape. If plans call for preservation of trees near buildings or in landscapes, the trees should be sufficiently healthy to justify preservation. Some large, mature trees may not be structurally sound or esthetically appealing to warrant preservation. Older trees do not adapt to environmental changes as well as younger trees, thus it may be more practical to protect a 2 to 20 cm (1- to 8-inch) diameter tree than a larger, more mature tree. Some existing trees (particularly the smaller trees) relocated with a tree spade. Tree species differ in their ability to adapt to environmental change (Table 1). It may be impossible to preserve every tree.

To avoid short- and long-term problems, consult all parties involved in the project early in the planning process, including the property owner, contractor, architect, engineer, and arborist.

Once trees are selected for preservation, prepare a preservation plan that contains specific tree preservation methods. Set contractor guidelines for tree protection within contracts. Such guidelines include: prominently mark protected areas; erect barricades around designated trees; avoid vehicular traffic or parking in these restricted areas; and prohibit material storage, grading, and dumping of chemicals and other materials in restricted areas. To ensure compliance, contractors should have tree preservation bonds to cover potential noncompliance fines. Noncompliance fines are based on trees species, tree value, replacement costs if required, and the amount and type of damage done. Tree preservation bonds create an additional incentive for compliance. All parties should be aware of and agree to the consequences for noncompliance.

Before construction begins, conduct an on-site meeting with all parties, with special emphasis on educating the project contractor. Provide a handout that outlines the preservation plans to everyone working on the project.

Table 1: Adaptability to environmental change.

Degree of Adaptability		
High	Moderate	Low
American elm	Aspen	Bolleana white poplar
Common hackberry	Black walnut	Black locust
Cottonwood (spp)	Boxelder	Colorado blue spruce
Ginkgo	Bur oak	English oak
Green ash	Linden	Lombardy poplar
Honeylocust	Norway maple	Northern red oak
London planetree	Pine (spp)	Norway spruce
Siberian elm	White oak	
Silver maple		
White ash		
Willow (spp)		

The Importance of Protecting a Tree's Root System

Tree root systems contain large, woody roots, and small, short-lived absorbing roots. Large, woody roots are perennial and grow horizontally and are mostly in the top 15 to 60 cm (6 to 24 inches) of the soil (Figure 1). Their main functions include anchorage, water and mineral transport, and nutrient and water storage.

Smaller absorbing roots, averaging 0.16 cm (1/16 inch) in diameter, constitute the majority of the root system's surface area. These roots grow outward and upward from the large roots, near the soil surface where minerals, water and oxygen are abundant. Their major function is to absorb water and minerals.

The root zone extends horizontally from the tree for a distance at least equal to the tree's height. Preserve at least 50 percent of the root system to maintain a healthy tree. During summer construction, trees require adequate water, enough to saturate the soil, every one to two weeks.

Preventing Injury to Existing Trees

Preventing damage is less costly than correcting it. Post highly-visible and strong barricades and signs around the trees and areas to be protected (Figures 2 and 3). The optimal size of barricaded areas varies by tree species, size, and construction project. For recently planted trees (one to four years), the area under the branches (dripline) should be adequate. For minimal protection of trees older than four years, barricades should extend beyond the dripline; for each 2.5 cm (1 inch) of trunk diameter, extend the protection area an additional 30 cm (1 ft). For additional protection, a layer of wood chips 10 to 15 cm deep (4 to 6 inches) can be placed around each tree prior to placement of the barricades. Examine trees and barricades at least once a week during construction.



Figure 2: Highly visible tree protection barriers.

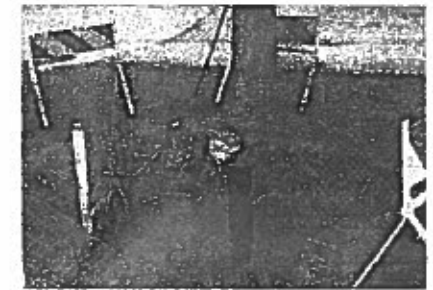


Figure 1: Roots lie in the upper 60 cm (24 inches) of soil and are easily damaged.

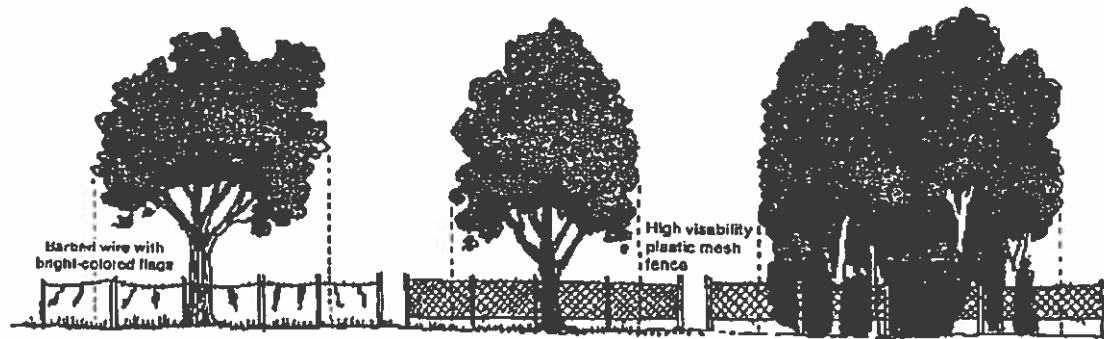


Figure 3: Ideally, the protection barriers should extend beyond the dripline. Reprinted with permission from *Tree City USA Bulletin No. 7*, National Arbor Day Foundation.

Avoid Direct Injury to Existing Trees

There are four general forms of direct tree injury caused by mechanized equipment: bark removal, branch breakage, surface grading and trenching injury (Figures 4 and 5).

Bark removal or "skinning" of the trunk can be caused by any type of equipment. This can easily kill the tree, because it cannot survive without bark. Breakage of lower branches may make the tree unsightly or remove too many leaves, causing stress. Surface grading removes surface vegetation and topsoil that contains many absorbing roots. Also, injury often occurs to the tree base. Trenching for utilities can also cause substantial root damage and should be done far away from existing trees. In new developments, this can be done easily. Where the trench must pass under or near a tree, avoid substantial injury by using a power auger to bore a tunnel under the roots. If trenching is unavoidable, place the trench as far from the trunk as possible (minimum 2.5 meters or 8 feet), cutting as few roots as possible. Cleanly prune cut roots and refill trenches as soon as possible to prevent excessive moisture loss. Wounds make the tree highly susceptible to root pathogens and decay fungi. Decline and death can result if more than 40 percent of the stem or roots are damaged or killed. Stressed trees are also more susceptible to insects such as bark beetles and borers.

Avoid Soil Compaction Problems

After a tree is established, any activity that changes the soil condition is extremely detrimental to its health. Construction traffic compacts soil most severely near the surface, the area where the majority of tree roots lie (Figure 6). Soil compaction decreases soil permeability and interferes with essential gas exchange processes as well as surface and subsurface drainage. When root growth is restricted by compacted soils, less nutrients and water are available for plant growth. These factors limit root growth, reduce tree vigor and can cause tree death. Decline and dieback may gradually appear over a period of years.

It is much easier to avoid soil compaction than to correct it. Keep construction traffic and material storage away from tree root areas. Apply a 10 to 15 cm layer (4 to 6 inches) of wood chips around all protected trees to help reduce compaction from vehicles that inadvertently cross the barricades.

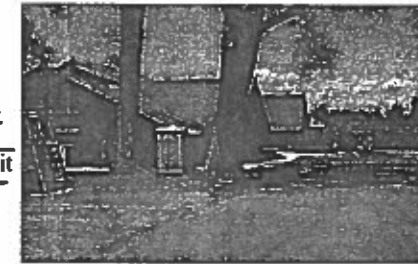


Figure 4: Surface grading severs many roots.

Avoid Soil Fills

When excessive amounts of soil are added around a tree base, the additional soil interferes with normal air and moisture circulation to the roots (Figure 7). Soil fills subject roots to improper gas exchange and can lead to carbon dioxide or toxic gas buildup. Minor fills with topsoil of less than 8 cm (3 inches) will not harm most trees. The topsoil should be high in organic matter and have good drainage properties—it should not be clay. Major changes in grading require an air supply to the roots. This can be accomplished with a drywell.

Early symptoms of decline from excessive fill are small leaf size and premature fall coloration. Dieback of twigs and progressive dying of larger stems in the upper crown also occurs. This dieback may not be noticed for several years, depending on tree species and initial tree health.

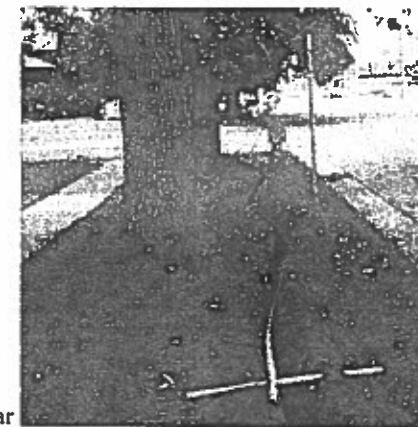


Figure 5: Trenching near trees can severely damage root systems.

Avoid Soil Cuts

Lowering the grade usually is less complicated than fills, but can be equally harmful. Where the grade has been changed near a tree, the most common damage is the complete severing of major roots in that area (Figure 8). This can cause decline, death or decreased stability to high winds. To protect the tree, terrace the grade (Figure 9) or build a retaining wall between the tree and the lower grade. Walls should encompass an area extending at least to the dripline.

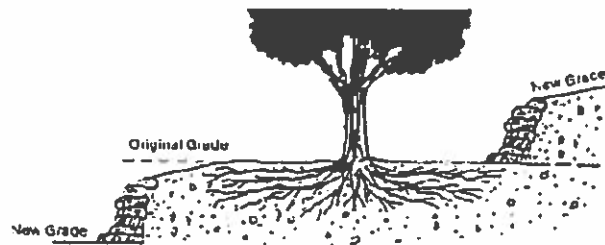


Figure 9: Terracing can substantially limit root injury. Reprinted with permission from *Tree City USA Bulletin No. 7*, National Arbor Day Foundation.

Pruning Injured Trees

Trees with injured roots may show branch dieback quickly or within a few months after the initial injury. Prune dying branches to reduce insect and disease damage to the rest of the tree. Also prune to reduce any hazardous conditions on preserved trees. It is better to wait until the tree exhibits branch die back to see how much to prune, rather than to arbitrarily remove parts of the crown because you assume the root system was damaged. Wildfire regulations may require pruning to a height of 3m (10 feet) of all trees around your home and outbuildings.



Figure 6: Construction vehicles can damage the existing soil structure by compressing soil particles.

Additional Information

Fact Sheets

- [2.926, Healthy Roots and Healthy Trees](#)
- [7.419, Large Deciduous Trees](#)

Planttalk Colorado™

- [1709, Hiring a tree care company](#)
- [1721, Why prune shade trees?](#)
- [1724, Pruning shade trees](#)

Websites

- Colorado State University Extension county office, <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/cedirectory/countylist.cfm>
- Colorado State Forest Service, csfs.colostate.edu/index.htm
- American Society of Consulting Arborists, www.asca-consultants.org/index.cfm
- Rocky Mountain Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, www.isarmc.org/pro/index.htm
- Colorado State Forest Service, Protecting Your Home from Wildfire: Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones, http://csfs.colostate.edu/pdfs/FIRE2012_1_DspaceQuickGuide.pdf

*C. Dennis, Colorado State Forest Service; and W.R. Jacobi, professor, bioagricultural sciences and pest management. 2/99. Revised 3/14.

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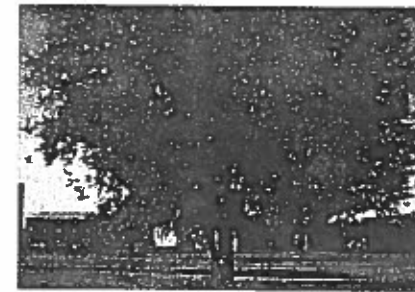


Figure 7: Within two years of adding 30 cm (12 inches) of soil, this tree died.

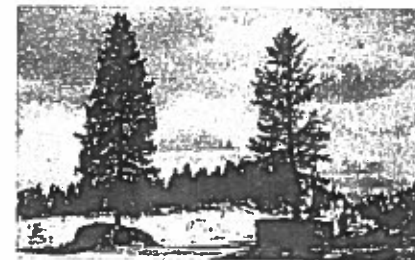
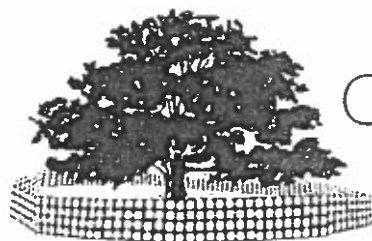


Figure 8: Lowering the grade severs roots and kills trees.



Construction and Tree Protection

Protecting trees during construction can yield big rewards. Planning and prevention are the keys to success. Achieve the best results by taking action to prevent tree damage during site development and construction.



Figure 1. Tree protection zone. A protected zone preserves roots and soil and keeps branches clear of contact with construction equipment and materials.

Before Construction

1. Take stock of trees on the site.

Hire a professional arborist or urban forester to inventory existing trees. An inventory records the variety, location,

size, and health of each tree. A proper tree inventory creates the foundation for a successful tree protection plan. A professional can identify valuable trees and those that need attention or removal.

Identify any stressed trees that need removal. Stressed, unhealthy trees have wilting leaves, dying limbs, thinning crowns or other signs of declining health. Always remove insect-, disease-, or storm-damaged trees prior to construction. This is fast, efficient, and saves resources.

2. Draw a base map. Include all the important site features such as existing vegetation, property lines, utility connections, slopes, and required setback distances before drawing in the proposed building(s):

- Map grading and drainage.
- Identify priority trees for protection. Mark their locations on the base map and sketch in approximate tree protec-

This publication describes some tree protection strategies that builders and developers can use before, during, and after construction to conserve healthy trees. Community actions to encourage tree protection and reduce the risk of injuring or losing valuable trees are highlighted.

Conserving the right trees can reap rewards for developers, homeowners, and communities. Healthy trees enhance property values and community development by providing shade, wildlife habitat, and beauty. Sickly, stressed trees reduce property values, discourage potential buyers and detract from a community. Post-construction maintenance and removal of trees is difficult and expensive. Replacing trees after construction can also be costly and time consuming.

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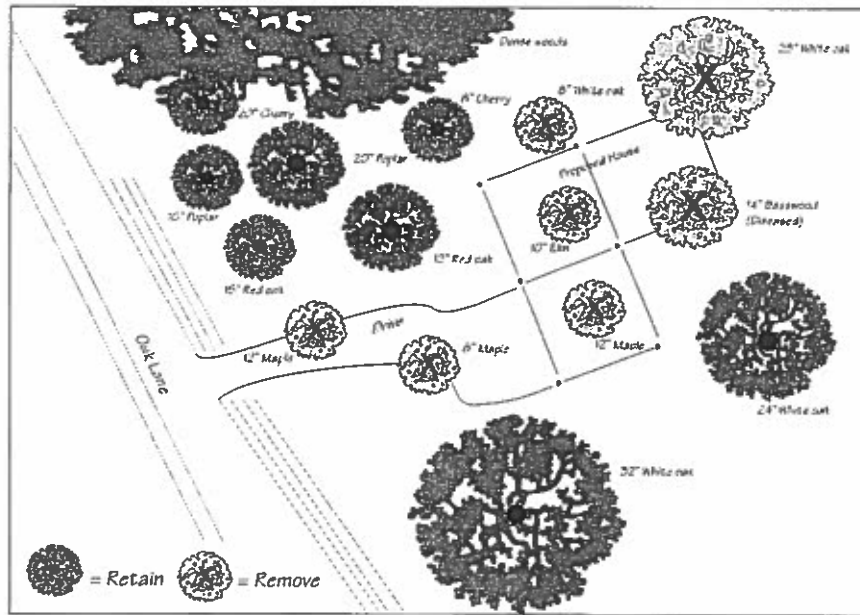


Figure 2. Simple tree protection plan. A plan identifies the size and species of existing trees, designates trees that must be protected, and marks trees to be removed. It also indicates planned structures, vehicle access, and excavation areas.

tion zones where temporary fences should be located around priority trees.

- Locate the building footprints: the areas where structures and their amenities will affect the landscape. Draw in the driveways, parking areas, and decks.
- Mark trees that need to be removed or pruned to make room for future structures and construction equipment.

3. Prepare a tree protection plan. A tree protection plan designates the valuable trees that must be protected during the construction process. Assemble a team to write a tree protection plan before ground is broken. The team should include the site managers as well as professionals who can provide tree protection advice (Table 1). Do not leave anyone out who should be involved. By working together, the team can identify potential conflicts between construction needs and tree protection, and identify compromise solutions.

Planning takes time, but it pays off during and after

construction. Using the base map, the team can plan for tree protection, foresee problems, and solve them. Early planning helps to keep construction on schedule, reduce costs, and avoid conflicts:

- Locate construction activities after considering the priority trees and the development requirements.
- Look for potential conflicts, and explore alternate solutions.
- Consider grading and stormwater drainage. Remember that cutting or filling around roots will weaken and eventually kill valuable trees. Weigh alternatives such as retaining walls to protect priority trees.
- Designate tree protection zones (TPZs). The protection plan should specify the location of temporary tree protection fences to protect trees and their root zones during construction. TPZ fences identify "exclusion zones" where construction and equipment use is prohibited.
- Identify techniques that will protect valuable trees. (See some of the TIPS mentioned later in this publication.) A tree professional can develop a schedule of tree maintenance activities, including watering, mulching, and fertilization. Stay committed to this plan throughout the project.

4. Erect TPZ fences. Restrict access to TPZs, with tall, bright, protective fencing. Most fencing is inexpensive and durable enough to last throughout most construction projects. Temporary tree protection fencing should be erected before clearing, deliveries and other construction activities begin on the site. Effective TPZs

Table 1. A Successful Tree Protection Team

Arborist
Architect
Builder or developer
Construction supervisor
Engineer
Homeowner
Landscape architect
Planner

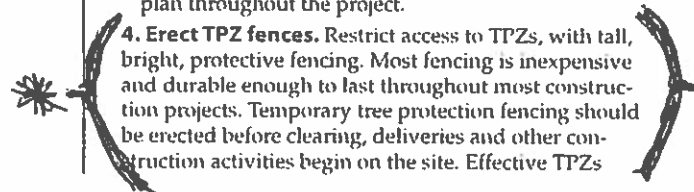


Table 2. Mature Tree Protection Zone Guidelines

Trunk Diameter	Mature Tree Protection Zone Radius		
	Good Protection	Better Protection	Best Protection
8 inches	10 feet	12 feet	20 feet
12 inches	15 feet	18 feet	30 feet
16 inches	20 feet	24 feet	40 feet
20 inches	25 feet	30 feet	50 feet

During Construction

1. Prohibit or restrict access to TPZs. All on-site workers should be aware of the TPZs and the restrictions on activities within the zones. Use these TPZ guidelines for the best effect:

- Post "keep out" signs on all sides of fencing. Do not store construction equipment or materials in TPZs.
- Prohibit construction activities near the most valuable trees, and restrict activities around others.
- Assess crew and contractor penalties, if necessary, to keep the TPZs intact.

2. Monitor trees. Vigilance is required to protect trees on construction sites. Use a tree professional or train your staff to monitor tree health during and after construction on a regular, frequent basis. Watch for signs of tree stress, such as dieback, leaf loss, or general decline in tree health or appearance.

3. Monitor TPZ fences. Assign a crewmember the weekly responsibility of checking the integrity of TPZ fences. Repair and replace TPZ fencing as needed.

4. Optimize tree health. Assign a trained crewmember or hire a professional to complete regular tree maintenance tasks, including watering, fertilization, and mulching to protect tree roots. Consult a tree professional for advice on these practices if needed. Survival of protected trees will increase if these practices continue during construction. Healthy trees require undisturbed healthy soils. Do not cause injuries to trees and roots. Do not change the soil, grade, drainage, or aeration without protecting priority trees.

After Construction

1. Continue to care for the site until the new owner takes possession. Take these steps after all materials and equipment have been removed from the site:

- Remove tree protection zone fences.
- Prune any damaged trees.
- Continue maintenance care. Pay special attention to any stressed, diseased, or insect-infested trees. Reduce tree stress caused by unintended construction damage by optimizing plant care with water, mulch, and fertilizer where appropriate. Consult your tree expert

- Thank and reward construction crews and contractors for their tree protection efforts.
- Share lessons learned about tree protection and maintenance with staff members for their use in the future.
- Inform the property owner about the measures employed during construction, why those measures were taken, and how the effort can be continued.

2. Advertise responsible construction practices.

Effective tree protection can be used to build a construction professional's reputation and encourage future business. A brochure or other handout that explains tree protection efforts to the new owner and the public advertises responsible construction practices and encourages efforts to protect and promote healthy trees.

Community Action

1. Tree injury prevention strategies (TIPS). TIPS are guidelines to help communities and construction professionals protect trees (Table 3). TIPS maximize the value of a site by minimizing tree injury from construction. Effective tree protection starts with "Tree Protector" practices. Protection advances to a higher level of conservation with "Gold Medal" practices, which represent research-based strategies that foster tree health during construction.

A Successful Tree Protection Plan

Draw a base map. Include all the important site features such as existing vegetation, property lines, utility connections, slopes, and required setback distances before drawing in the proposed building(s).

Identify priority trees. Identify priority trees and mark their locations on the base map. Sketch in approximate tree protection zones (TPZ) where temporary fences should be located around priority trees. Locate the building footprints: the areas where the building and its amenities will be located. Draw in the driveways, parking areas, and decks.

Optimize construction location. Locate construction activities after considering the priority trees and the development requirements. Look for potential conflicts and explore alternate solutions.

Map grading and drainage. Map potential grade changes, and consider storm water drainage. Remember that cutting or filling around roots can easily kill valuable trees. Weigh alternatives such as retaining walls to protect priority trees.

Plan tree protection measures. Identify techniques that will protect valuable trees. Try some of the TIPS mentioned later in this publication. With your arborist, develop a schedule of tree maintenance activities: watering, application of mulch, and fertilization. Keep committed to this plan throughout your project.

Table 3. Tree Injury Prevention Strategies (TIPS)

Who	Tree Protector	Gold Medal
Planners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate your staff about tree protection. • Orient buildings and driveways to minimize grading and site preparation. • Provide for soil and water management. • Minimize impervious surfaces. • Locate all utilities at the front of the development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cluster buildings and protect groups of trees. • Utilize natural drainage systems in your plans. • Promote the use of permeable pavement and concrete. • Locate utilities below ground.
Builders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict construction activities to least critical areas. • Budget for tree protection and maintenance from the start. • Chip nonpriority trees for onsite mulch. • Avoid cuts or fills within the drip lines of priority trees. • Never trench within 3 times the diameter of a tree, preferably never within 5 times the diameter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use engineered soils that provide structural support and allow root growth beneath pavement. • Tunnel as an alternative to trenching. • Protect the soil with a layer of geotextile material (permeable fabrics that protect the soil) covered by 4 - 6 inches of wood chips along the path of construction traffic. • Phase work units to minimize site disturbance.
Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct educational programs about tree protection. • Research policies from successful tree protection communities. • Provide incentives to developers for tree protection. • Prohibit the removal of trees prior to permitting. • Assign mitigation fees or actions for priority tree removal on construction sites. • Require a site visit by a tree care professional before construction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a detailed natural resource inventory of your jurisdiction. • Make their natural resource inventory publicly available. • Develop green infrastructure including a "no-net-loss" tree conservation plan based on avoidance, minimization of disturbance, site restoration, and offsite replacement of trees. • Require a tree protection plan for developments of a certain size.

2. Incentives. Research shows that builders, designers, and arborists have a relatively high level of knowledge about tree protection strategies. Most tree protection techniques, however, are used on less than half of all construction projects. To address this gap, policy makers and community leaders can consider using incentives to promote tree protection (Table 4).

3. Recognition. Communities can encourage tree protection during construction by recognizing builders and developers who conserve trees as environmental stewards. Recognition programs for those who consistently use tree protection measures can promote the importance of tree conservation throughout the community:

- Distribute a smart growth or "limited impact" newsletter that features builders and developers who implement tree protection and conservation activities.
- Use municipal Web sites to recognize builders who implement tree protection techniques.
- Create a community tree program that promotes tree conservation and informs the public about the value of trees in the community.
- Develop an urban tree protection tour that features developments and construction sites where tree protection techniques have been used properly and effectively.

Better public awareness and recognition of tree conservation efforts will ultimately lead to better business

Tree Protection Pays

Tree protection pays through improved curb appeal, enhanced reputation, and profit. Site development that preserves trees requires careful planning and communication among all members of the construction team.

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The authors acknowledge the following publication reviewers for their efforts:

- Lucy Bradley, Ph.D., Urban Horticulture Extension Specialist, North Carolina State University
 Leslie Chadwell, Urban Forestry Specialist, North Carolina Division of Forest Resources
 C. David Grant, Urban Forester, Union County, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service

Funding for this project was provided in part through an Urban and Community Forestry Grant from the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources, Department of Environment and Natural Resources,

Figure 3. Tree protection zone guidelines.
An effective zone encircles a radius of at least 1.25 feet of protected area for every inch of trunk diameter. A tree with a trunk diameter of 12 inches requires a protected radius of at least 15 feet and ideally 30 feet.

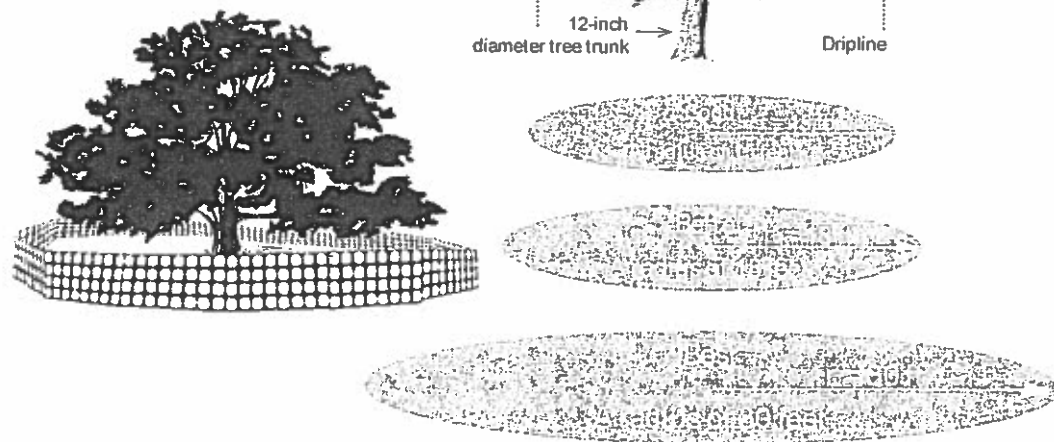


Table 4. Incentives and Recognition to Promote Model Tree Protection

Action	Incentive
Conduct a tree inventory. Create a protection plan.	Accelerate the review process for developments that include tree inventories and protection plans. Develop tree conservation credits and rewards.
Use TPZ fencing.	Provide free or loaner tree protection signs to developers who erect TPZ fences before groundbreaking begins.
Store soil outside the TPZ.	Recognize developers who protect tree root zones in a town newsletter or other recognized venue.
Avoid grade changes within or near the TPZ.	Recognize developers who minimize or mitigate grade change around trees.
Enforce the TPZ restrictions.	Recognize developers who protect the integrity of their TPZs.
Use geotextiles, wood chips, or both to construct temporary roads and protect tree root zones.	Provide free municipal wood chips to developers who want to construct temporary roads or mulch around TPZs
Provide off-site parking for site personnel and visitors.	Provide municipal parking permits or waive parking tickets near construction sites.
Minimize compaction by paved surfaces.	Recognize developer as having a "Gold Medal" track record for conserving soils.
Cluster utility trenches and avoid trenching in tree root zones.	Provide reduced setbacks and loosen other restrictions for cooperating developers.
Minimize foundation footprints by using pillars, canterlieving, and other structural techniques.	Recognize developers as having "Gold Medal" track records with regard to protecting the root zone.