

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

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

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

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 BY THE BOARD

Chairman Jalloh invited Freeholders Mirabella and Wright to join him for the evening's presentation. Chairman Jalloh made comments relative to the talents of the young people in Union County and was honored to call upon Miss Alyssa Chacon.

Chairman Mohamed S. Jalloh read the Resolution aloud which acknowledges her accomplishment in appearing on the Food Network's national television shows "Chopped Teen Tournament." He noted that out of the 3,000 applicants, Alyssa was one of sixteen contestants.

Freeholder Mirabella stated he has known Alyssa since she was just a baby, and has been following her talents and career for some time. He wished her the best.

Chairman Jalloh invited Alyssa to say a few words.

Freeholder Wright congratulated Alyssa said she has known her family for a long time, and wished her much success.

Alyssa Chacon stated that being on Chopped was the best experience of her life. She thanked her friends, family and the Union Township community for their support.

Freeholder Christopher Hudak entered the meeting.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

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

Note and File

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Thursday, March 12, 2015 - Agenda Meeting
2. Thursday, March 12, 2015 - Regular Meeting
3. Thursday, March 19, 2015 - Agenda Meeting
4. Thursday, March 26, 2015 - Regular Meeting

Chairman Jalloh called for a motion to approve the Minutes. On a motion made by Freeholder Carter and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative for the Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2015 Agenda and Regular Meetings and the March 19, 2015 Agenda Meeting; and six members voting in the affirmative for the minutes of the March 26, 2015 Regular Meeting, with three Freeholders Carter, Kowalski and Mirabella abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

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

Pat Mochetti, of New Providence, made comments or inquiries on a number of Resolutions: Relative to Resolution Number 2015-795 (of Draft Resolution), inquired what were the 2013 and 2014 expenses for office paper. He inquired as to whether or not the County has an inventory tracking system for paper. Mr. Mochetti estimated the County is spending \$1,400 in a work day on paper and asked if they are looking to reduce the amount spent on paper. Relative to Resolution Number 2015-798 (Draft Agenda), he inquired as to when will the litigation be over. Relative to Resolution Number 2015-799 (Draft Agenda), he inquired as to why the County is settling this matter, stating the money could have been used to buy 133,000 summer lunches. Relative to Resolution Number 2015-800 (Draft Agenda), he inquired as to the purpose of the shared service and questioned the funding.

With reference to Resolution Number 2015-795, Director Granziano stated that this is a state contract, and is not just for copy paper, rather for all print services throughout the county. He stated that the 2014 costs for this service was approximately \$300,000. He noted that he did not have any financial numbers for 2013 readily available.

With reference to Resolution Number 2015-798, County Counsel Barry stated he does not have any idea when the litigation will end, but noted that the plaintiffs' counsel has finally agreed to enter into mediation, which he believes was scheduled for the week after next. He stated that it is impossible to predict when this litigation is going to end.

With reference to Resolution Number 2015-799, County Counsel Barry stated that it was his recommendation to discuss this matter in executive session as there were a number of factors that went into the recommendation of this settlement. He added that if the settlement is accepted by the plaintiff and a confidentiality agreement is executed, he would be at liberty to discuss, within limit, the settlement.

With reference to Resolution Number 2015-800, Director Guzzo stated there should be a correction on this agenda, noting that "architectural services" should not be listed as part of the scope of work. He advised that this is a "space utilization" study through a Shared Services Agreement by and between the County of Union and the Union County Improvement Authority. He advised that the reason there is no dollar amount, is due to the fact that the Authority is performing these services for the County at no cost.

He explained that with the construction of the new Family Justice Center and the movement of courts from other construction in the courthouse rotunda and the Annex (where the courts are presently), there will be space available. He stated that it is proper for the County to look to see how this space is going to be used in the future and assess the needs of both the County and the courts. He made comments relative to the requirements of the state takeover agreement that specifies how many spaces the courts must have and this study will ensure the County complies with those requirements, and also affords the County the opportunity to study all of the County's buildings' utilization compared to the various lease agreements to better maximize its space.

John Bury, of Kenilworth, made comments or inquiries on Resolutions: 2015-799 and 2015-800. Relative to Resolution Number 2015-799, he inquired if any outside counsel was used for this case; and relative to Resolution Number 2015-800, he inquired as to who is being hired to actually do the study and the need for the resolution if there is no money involved.

Relative to Resolution Number 2015-799, County Counsel Barry stated that there was no outside counsel in this matter.

Relative to Resolution Number 2015-800, County Counsel Barry explained that any and all legal contracts proposed by the County Manager, regardless if there is a cost associated, have to be approved by the Board through a resolution.

Director Guzzo added that the Union County Improvement Authority (UCIA) utilizes various professionals for on-call services obtained through the RFP (Request for Proposals) process by the Authority. He stated that within 90 days the Board will receive a report from the UCIA.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions are being offered for adoption:

- 2015-781 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing competitive contracting to procure services for Farrier Services, (specialist in equine hoof care and horseshoeing) on the County's horses at the Watchung Stables, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:11-4.3(a).

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

- 2015-782 FREEHOLDER SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution No. 2015-628, a resolution extending a contract awarded to Professional Farrier Services, Inc., Elizabeth, New Jersey, for farrier service (specialist in equine hoof care and horseshoeing for the County's horses at the Watchung Stables) in the amount not to exceed \$75,000.00, to extend a contract for the period of October 1 through November 30, 2015 and to further amend the amounts charged to the account numbers at no increase to the contract cost.

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

- 2015-783 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: Jamali Developers, LLC, of Monroe Township, for the purpose of providing the installation of a Handicapped Accessible Fishing Dock at Warinanco Park, Borough of Roselle, in the amount not to exceed \$173,355.00.

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

- 2015-784 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, Division on Aging/Nutrition Kitchen: Acme American Repair, Inc., for the purpose of providing Kitchen Equipment Maintenance & Repair, one (1) twenty-four (24) month extension for the period of October 24, 2015 through October 23, 2017, in the amount of \$32,016.

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

- 2015-785 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2015-303, a resolution approving the Ryan White Spending Plan in the total amount not to exceed \$117,530, to allocate additional Ryan White funds in the amount of \$12,090 for a new total allocation of \$129,620.00 And Thereby Amending The Spending Plan for the period of March 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016 to provide services to people with HIV/AIDS.

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

- 2015-786 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2015-304, a resolution approving the Ryan White Spending Plan in the total amount not to exceed \$1,393,163, to allocate additional Ryan White funds in the amount of \$529,682 for a new total allocation of \$1,922,845, thereby amending the Spending Plan for the period of March 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016 to provide services to people with HIV/AIDS.

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

- 2015-787 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award 2015-2016 Homeless Trust Fund (HTF) subcontracts pursuant to the recent Request for Proposal (RFP) procurement process for the six month budget period of October 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016 in the total amount of \$200,000 to deliver services as permitted by the Homeless Trust Fund regulations (P.L. 2009 Chapter 123 State Law); further authorizing the transfer of funds among the various agencies during the contract period should service needs change and/or if any of the 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, with Vice Chairman Bergen abstaining.

- 2015-788 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2015-169, an amending resolution entering into agreements with various community based organizations for the provision of shelter night stays, to reflect a New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development (DFD), Work First New Jersey Emergency Assistance (EA) per diem rate increase of 5% granted to Department of Community Affairs licensed emergency shelters for the purpose of providing shelter night stays and crisis intervention services for TANF, GA and/or Emergency Assistance recipients for the period of September 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Agencies will be reimbursed directly by the State of New Jersey based upon Individual per diem rate(s) per family per night as agreed upon by said community based organizations and the State of New Jersey. (No appropriation of County funds).

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

- 2015-789 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Resolution authorizing the County to apply for, and if awarded, accept funding from the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor, New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, in the amount of \$250,000 for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 for the purposes of continuing the efforts of insurance fraud investigation in Union County.

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

- 2015-790 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Optimum Lightpath for the provision of long distance, toll and regional telephone service over their fiber optic network for the period of twelve consecutive months commencing October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$46,300.

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

- 2015-791 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution 2015-10 which approved state contract use to add contract # 85857 awarded by the state to W. E. Timmerman Co., Whitehouse, New Jersey for a not to exceed amount of \$64,000 for the purpose of providing street sweeper OEM parts and service for the Department of Public Works.

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

- 2015-792 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution Number 2015-191, a Professional Engineering Service Contract with Matrix New World Engineer of Florham Park, New Jersey to provide additional Stormwater Investigation Services in an amount not to exceed \$42,000.00, for a new contract amount not to exceed \$62,500.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2015-008)

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

- 2015-793 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to apply for, and if awarded, to enter into an Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), FY 2016-2017 Local Safety Program for the following projects: Intersection Improvements at Morris Avenue and Mountain Avenue, City of Summit and Intersection Improvements at East Front Street, City of Plainfield.

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

- 2015-794 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed open-ended contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities; Division of Facilities Management with FM Generator Inc., Canton, MA exercising the extension option to provide Emergency Generator Repair, Maintenance and Installation Service for an additional twenty four (24) months, for the contract period of October 28, 2015 through October 27, 2017 in an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00.

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

- 2015-795 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Approving an amendment to the state contract resolution 2015-10 previously passed by the board for the use of the Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities, Division of Facilities to increase the amounts for two vendors: Johnstone Supply(HVAC supplies) for an additional amount of \$30,000 for a new not to exceed estimate of \$110,000 and Xpedx (office paper) in an additional amount of \$50,000 for a new not to exceed estimate of \$350,000 for the calendar year of 2015.

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

- 2015-796 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Resolution granting permission to the Township of Scotch Plains to hang a banner across Park Avenue at the intersection of Front Street and Park Avenue from September 17, 2015 through October 5, 2015 to advertise Scotch Plains Day. Also, granting permission to close Park Avenue between Westfield Avenue and Grant Street from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 4, 2015.

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

- 2015-797 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Resolution concurring with the Township of Hillside granting permission to the Hillside Historical Society to hang a banner, from October 5, 2015 to October 19, 2015, across Liberty Avenue and Ryan Street for the Four Centuries in a Weekend event.

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

- 2015-798 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Amending Resolution 2015-693, a resolution awarding a contract to Palumbo & Renaud of Cranford for professional legal services in the matter entitled Shiquon Fowler v. UC, et als., to increase the appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for a sum not to exceed \$100,000.00.

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

- 2015-799 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** A Resolution approving the settlement of pending litigation entitled Diane McKerman (Estate of William Parisio) v. County of Union, et als, Docket No. 2:15-cv-01675 MCA JBC in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00.

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

- 2015-800 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Shared Services Agreement by and between the County of Union and the Union County Improvement Authority for Architectural Services for Strategic Facility Planning Services.

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

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2015-801 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Laudatory resolution acknowledging the many years of dedicated service of former Director of the Plainfield Public Library, Joseph Da Rold, and further wish him continued success and happiness upon his retirement.

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

- 2015-802 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution encouraging the federal government to embrace the joint request of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie to negotiate an equitable funding plan for the construction of the new Trans-Hudson Train Tunnels "Gateway Tunnel" project.

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

- 2015-803 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Laudatory resolution acknowledging the Columbus Parade Association of Union County "500th" INC., for their many efforts in supporting and enhancing Columbus related Italian-American Cultural Activities throughout the County of Union.

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

- 2015-804 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Laudatory resolution congratulating UNICO District X, and Plainfield's UNICO for co-sponsoring Union County's seventh annual Columbus Day Flag Raising Event on Friday, October 9, 2015.

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

- 2015-805 FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Laudatory resolution congratulating the 2015 Union Chapter of UNICO National's Annual Richard J. Galante, Sr. Humanitarian Award recipients: Sally Strauss and Suzette Cavadas.

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

- 2015-806 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH & FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Laudatory resolution recognizing and congratulating the sixteen (16) Honorees of the 2015 Plainfield Area NAACP "74th Annual Richard L Taylor NAACP Freedom Fund Awards" for the work they have done in helping to advance the mission of the NAACP and the role they have played in helping to promote its values within the community.

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

- 2015-807 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to family of Adele Carter, mother of Freeholder Linda Carter, during their time of sorrow.

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

- 2015-808 CHAIRMAN MOHAMED S. JALLOH & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Sean Patrick Westbury, son of Union County employee Linda Westbury, during their time of sorrow.

On a motion by Freeholder Hudak and seconded by Freeholder Wright, roll call showed nine 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.

Alison Fernandez (inaudible), of Clark, inquired if she could establish that Rahway Park is a Union County Park located in the City of Rahway. She made comments in opposition to the Rahway River Park project; citing concerns regarding health hazards, decreased property values, a major increase in traffic and noise, and concerns with the lighting of the project. She stated that the park is currently being fully utilized. She asked if the project will be placed on a referendum for residents to vote.

Walter Pomminitz, of Clark, made comments in oppositions to the Rahway River Park project; citing concerns regarding environmental issues. He questioned what the major benefit of this project is for the residents of Union County. He questioned the origin of this this project. He stated that this project should be placed as a referendum on a ballot. He questioned why Green Acres is getting involved in this project.

Thomas Smith, of Clark, made comments in opposition to the Rahway River Park project; citing two concerns: first, the issue of the stadium itself and secondly, a moral issue. He made comments relative to Bear Stadium in the City of Newark and made a correlation to the facility of Rahway River Park project, noting the concerns are similar.

He made comments relative to the noise that comes from the annual Fireman's Feast held in Winfield Park, noting the noise level coming from the football facility will be much greater. He stated that many people come to the park to relax and get a sense of peacefulness, noting that during the wintertime, after it snows, it looks like a winter wonderland. He urged the Board not to destroy this aspect of the park.

Maria Echamaria, of Elizabeth, made comments relative to her experiences with the county welfare office and the accuracy of her forms. She made comments relative the corrupt justice system and on her being a victim of rape.

Sam Mijeski, of Rahway, read a letter from the coalition in opposition to the Rahway River Park project; citing concerns with flooding, parking, traffic, increased taxes, pollution and health hazard concerns of artificial turf.

Chairman Jalloh thanked the resident for his comments and advised him that his time had elapsed.

Bill Baker, of Rahway and member of the Coalition to Save Rahway Park, made comments in opposition of the Rahway River Park project. He clarified the stance of the Coalition, stating that they are not against a stadium, rather against a stadium in the park. He stated that he would like to see why the sites suggested by the Coalition are not acceptable.

Susan Salamack, of Rahway, made comments in opposition to the Rahway River Park project. She stated that she agreed with all of the speakers on behalf of the Coalition who argued against the Rahway River Park Stadium.

She stated that she continues to research the path of this project and noted the joint agreement between Rahway and the County. She questioned a statement in the agreement relative to the improvement of amenities, claiming that the improvements will not be improvements, citing lack of bathrooms for the athletes and access of EMT vehicles for injured players.

Greg Robreck (inaudible), of Elizabeth, stated he's been coming to the meeting for months and all the information that has been provided has been questionable. He made comments in opposition to the Rahway River Park project; citing concerns regarding the changes in the number of seating from 5,000 to 1,200, He made comments on the need for lighting the field. He made comments relative to the use agreement, questioning how has the City agreed to allocate funding if the use has yet been determined. He made comments relative to the meeting at Hamilton Stage, as it related to offsite satellite parking.

Scott Aruda, of Clark, made comments in opposition to the Rahway River Park project. He stated they have a petition with over 4,400 signatures in opposition to the project. He said a referendum on this would be a great idea for the people of the County to have their say on how the park is used and how their money is spent. He disagreed with the idea that three public entities have the ability to dictate the use of a County park. He questioned whether or not plans existed from the onset of the shared service agreement. He questioned the numbering of the sheets in the plan.

John Bury, of Kenilworth, stated that if the Jets and Giants can share a stadium, the Rahway Student Athletes can share the stadium at Warinanco Park. He inquired as to the origins of this project and questioned if the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) has approved this project. He made comments relative to campaign contributions made by DeCottis to Rahway candidates.

Brian Truesdale, of the Westfield Leader, inquired if the County could provide any information relative to the McKerman lawsuit, citing County Counsel's earlier comments referencing that under certain circumstances he would be at liberty to discuss, within limit, the settlement.

Thomas (inaudible), of Clark, stated he has lived near the park for approximately 45 years and enjoys walking in the park. He made comments in opposition to the Rahway River Park project. He made comments relative to the safety and beauty of the park and the fact that he has come to meet many Union County residents at the park. He asked why there are no signs throughout the park regarding the football field.

Julie Holzer, of Clark, made comments in opposition to the Rahway River Park project. She made comments relative to the disruption and negative impact the football games will have on her family; specifically with regard to her husband's work hours. She made comments relative to her concerns regarding the wildlife of the park. She inquired if the project would be placed on a ballot as a referendum.

Patricia (inaudible), of Linden made comments in opposition to the Rahway River Park project; citing concerns regarding wildlife and traffic. She inquired if studies were done for either the effects on wildlife and traffic. She questioned who would be patrolling the parking and traffic. She inquired if there are plans for the installation of a street light on St. Georges Avenue or Valley Road.

Pat Mochetti, of New Providence, made comments relative to former governor James McGreevy who is now receiving life-time health benefits through the County of Hudson. He stated that Hudson County has changed their policy relative to the requirements for lifetime health benefits. He inquired as to what is the policy for Union County relative to lifetime benefits for its employees. He suggested that an employee should be required to work a minimum of ten years.

He made comments suggesting the Board redistribute the \$80,000 used for festivals and parades to fund the summer lunch program in the 2016 budget. He said in doing so, the Board could buy 53,300 lunches.

He made comments relative to the Freeholder sponsorship of the business resolutions.

FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Freeholder Kowalski thanked the residents for coming to express their concerns at the evening's meeting. She assured the audience that the Board does listen to, and considers, their concerns and points of view. She made comments relative to the Hearts Grant awards, noting that there are 54 recipients this year.

Freeholder Kowalski congratulated Community Access Unlimited (CAU) on the opening of their newest property in Fanwood, noting that she was joined by Freeholders Mirabella and Wright, along with Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr and CAU Executive Director Sid Blanchard at the grand opening of this mixed-use building, which will become the home of both people with developmental disabilities and people without disabilities. She spoke to the mission of CAU and how this project will assist them in their endeavors.

Freeholder Kowalski stated that Freeholders Granados and Wright joined her at St. Josephine's Place to recognize the expansion of their facility. She spoke to the mission of St. Josephine's Place and said it was a privilege to partner with them.

Freeholder Carter stated she attended “Hooked on Fishing, not on Drugs” event in Plainfield on Saturday. She stated that she is glad that Resolution Number 2015-784 passed unanimously this evening, noting that there was a need for a disabled-friendly fishing dock at Warinanco Park. She said that she will push to expand this throughout all the County’s parks.

Freeholder Carter made comments relative to the County’s Public Safety Department partnership with AAA to conduct a CarFit event at the Garwood First Aid Squad, on September 30, 2015. She noted that the County’s CarFit team is the same team that runs the free Child Safety Seat Inspection program, which has helped literally thousands of County residents over the years.

Freeholder Estrada started his comments by welcoming Pope Francis to the United States, noting that he traveled from his homeland, Cuba, and spoke to the importance of his visit. He made comments relative to this year’s successful Rolling Thunder event, which begins in Union County at Warinanco Park. He said he was proud to be joined by Freeholders Mirabella, Granados and Vice Chairman Bergen to meet and speak with the veterans.

Freeholder Estrada made comments relative to the Boys Scouts of America honoring Freeholder Granados and Sheriff Colon, noting that the Boy Scouts are recognizing individuals who excel in our society.

Freeholder Estrada made comments in reference to the Rahway River Park project. He stated that this is strictly a replacement of a field that is presently in the park. He said that he is listening to all the speakers’ comments; noting that he spoke to Walter, someone who has volunteered many years as Master Gardener for the County and has spoken in opposition to the park project, on this topic at length. Freeholder Estrada spoke to the many upgrades over the years at all the County parks. He stated that after deep thought and meditation, he is in favor of the Rahway River Park project.

Freeholder Mirabella addressed Mr. Mochetti’s inquiry relative to Freeholder sponsorship of resolutions, advising him that the Chairman appoints Freeholders to serve on various committees, which correlate towards the Freeholder sponsorships. He assured the audience that every Freeholder is very active.

Freeholder Mirabella made comments relative to the “Rock the Skyline” fundraiser for the Love Hope Strength cancer foundation, and provided some details of the international organization founded by Welsh rock artist Mike Peters. He spoke from his personal experience, noting that he felt fortunate to meet up with Mike and Susan Striffolino of Kenilworth. He explained that Susan signed up to be a donor at Musicfest in 2008, and in 2013, five years later, her cells went halfway around the world to save the life of a leukemia patient in Scotland. He urged residents to join Susan, and others like her, by listing their name on the Bone Marrow Registry.

Freeholder Mirabella made comments relative to the Union County Vocational Schools information sessions, noting that five schools are nationally ranked. He made comments relative to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s issue of a Drought Watch for 12 counties, including Union County. He spoke to the efforts of the New Jersey Water Savers program.

Freeholder Hudak made comments relative to the City of Linden's September to Remember Festival held on Saturday, September 26th from 11am to 9pm. While he noted that it is not a County event, he urged residents to visit and enjoy the Festival.

In response to one of the speakers comments suggesting that certain Freeholders are not active simply because they are not listed as a sponsor of resolutions on the agenda, Freeholder Hudak said it's an honor to serve with Freeholders Mirabella, Wright and Estrada. He added that they are smart, conscientious, hardworking, and extraordinarily involved in county government and are very active.

Freeholder Hudak provided an update of the Free County WiFi initiative, which he instituted as Chairman last year. He stated that the program is attracting more than 170 daily users which equate to 60,000 unique uses of the program this year, which has enabled Union County residents and guests to access email, social media, and browse the internet on their laptop, tablet, or cell phone at these six locations: the Colleen Fraser Building in Westfield; Warinanco Park Skating Rink in Roselle; Nomahegan Park in Cranford, Trailside Nature and Science Center; Wheeler Pool in Linden and Ulrich Pool in Rahway.

Freeholder Hudak made remarks in reference to the Rahway River Park project, stating that residents are mischaracterizing the improvements to the field as a "stadium" only as a way to attract attention to the project in a negative light. He stated that the improvements are an upgrade of an existing field and will not be for the exclusive use for anyone. He stated that this Board has invested in many recreational facilities over the past decade, noting such investments as Watchung Reservation, Snyder Field or Galloping Hill Golf Complex or Ashbrook. He stated that this project is about addressing a field that needed rehabilitation. He stated that all of the improvements to the park will enhance the quality of the facility for all residents. He stated that he understands the passion, but hopes that the misinformation will cease.

Freeholder Granados thanked Freeholder Mirabella for his efforts in continuing the County's POW/MIA event on the steps of the County's courthouse, and spoke to the importance of remembering our POWs and MIAs and their families. He noted that Hispanic Heritage Month will be celebrated between September 15 through October 15, and made comments relative to the Union County College's kickoff event. He acknowledged the start of the Islamic holiday of Eid al Adha and thanked those in the Islamic community for their contributions.

Freeholder Wright stated that it was her pleasure to stop by the WIB Center in Elizabeth on Tuesday, at the Mills at Jersey Gardens Mall. She made comments relative to the support of the WIB Center is providing to accommodate Marshall's retail clothing chain to train and hire a staff of 80 for its new store here in Union County. She thanked Union County for partnering with this program.

Vice Chairman Bergen thanked Freeholders Estrada and Hudak for their comments in response to some of the public comments relative to the improvements to the football field and track at Rahway River Park. He noted that it was unfortunate that most of the residents who spoke have left and hopes they will hear the Board's comments on television. He spoke to his frustration as to the large amount of misinformation in spite of good faith efforts to the Board to clarify and correct the facts. He lauded Freeholder Estrada's comments relative to the fact that the work that is planned will not have a major effect on the current usages of

the park and that there will not be a loss of usable open space, noting that the footprint of the field and the trace will not be increased. He stated that he has been out to the park a number of times and believes this is a good project.

He made comments relative to a number of programs of the County Clerk's office, noting that he will be presenting a training session for Notaries Public, noting that this is an opportunity to help our Union County Notaries achieve the highest standards of professionalism. He also made comments relative to the Clerk's Passport Day for Union County residents, noting that this event features free passport photos.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Jalloh asked for a motion to adjourn. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, voice vote showed eight votes in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

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

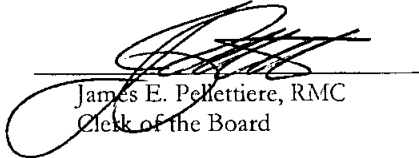
<u>AGENDA SETTING SESSION</u>	<u>REGULAR MEETINGS</u>
January 15, 2015	January 29, 2015
February 5, 2015	February 19, 2015
February 26, 2015	February 26, 2015
March 5, 2015*	March 12, 2015
March 19, 2015	March 26, 2015
April 9, 2015	April 16, 2015
April 23, 2015	April 30, 2015
May 7, 2015	May 14, 2015
May 28, 2015	May 28, 2015
June 11, 2015	June 18, 2015
July 9, 2015	July 16, 2015
August 6, 2015	August 20, 2015
September 3, 2015	September 10, 2015
September 17, 2015	September 24, 2015
October 1, 2015	October 8, 2015
October 15, 2015	October 15, 2015
November 5, 2015	November 12, 2015
December 3, 2015	December 3, 2015
December 10, 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.

*Meeting postponed due to inclement weather.


 James E. Pelletiere, RMC
 Clerk of the Board

JEP